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STAR



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No. 205

Sunday, November 8, 2009

Price \$1.00

TWO MORE ILLEGAL GUNS FOUND THREE PERSONS ARRESTED

**SAN IGNACIO TOWN,
Cayo, Wednesday, November
4, 2009:**

Recent direct hits in San Ignacio Police's anti-illegal arms and ammunition operations tends to indicate a dramatic improvement in the police's information gathering and intelligence processing capability. This improvement stands out given that recent successes are targeted maneuvers and not resulting from dragnet operations.

On Tuesday, November 3, a team of policemen from the San Ignacio Detachment, visited two specific locations within a half mile of each other on the Mountain Pine Ridge Road and they emerged with 2 illegal pistols and 39 rounds of live ammunition.

In the first instance, it was shortly after 5 o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, November 3, when a team of three policemen arrived at the Maya Ranch farmhouse located about 4 1/2 miles on the Mountain Pine Ridge Road from its junction with the Western Highway in Georgeville. The



**Isaquias Mai, 26, the 9mm Jericho Pistol
and all 33 bullets**



house was occupied by a male and female Belizean couple. A search of the house led to the



**Steven Edward Stults, 46, the .45 Colt Pistol
and the 6 bullets**



discovery, inside the bedroom, under the bed, of a Jericho brand, 941SF model, 9 mm

pistol bearing serial number 33307818 with an inserted

Please Turn To Page 11

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There Are Many Positive And Innovative Things Happening At St. Ignatius High School

Out of respect for readers of the **STAR Newspaper**, as a rule of thumb, when three or more persons visit us to express concern on a singular topic, as insignificant as it may seem to others, we take heed. This is one of those instances.

Over the past two weeks, we have received several expressions of concern about restrictions being imposed by the management of Santa Elena's St. Ignatius High School as it relates to food for students attending that school.

The general feeling on the part of those expressing concern is that, in an apparent effort to boost business for the contracted privately operated cafeteria on the school compound, the school's management is imposing, what they consider to be, unreasonable restrictions for the introduction into the compound of alternative food to students.

Some teachers and parents are of the opinion that, apart from being unfair, these restrictions border on violating their fundamental right to freedom of choice. They further contend that fostering a monopoly on food supply for the cafeteria, reduces the spirit of competition with the potential accompanying risk of increasing the cost of food and lowering the quality and nutritional value of the food which is important for students' health and, by extension, for the enhancement of their academic performance.

One parent contends that not even in a prison environment, where the fundamental rights of prisoners are severely curtailed, is food restrictions imposed upon inmates. Depending on their outside support base, food from relatives is accepted, an inmate can purchase food from the prison store and there are those who are even allowed to cook their own food inside the confines of the prison.

While there is hardly any doubt that St. Ignatius High School is providing an excellent alternative opportunity for otherwise underprivileged students to obtain a secondary school education, no effort should be spared at fostering the spirit of harmony between management, teachers, parents and students.

As a point of departure, the management might probably want to consider drawing from the positive experiences of any number of other similar secondary education institutions operating cafeteria services in the district or, in a wider sense, countrywide.

The board of director, management and staff, parents and students should, with a sense of urgency, put aside all personal considerations on this matter and come together as one to nip this riff in the bud thereby calming the waters so that they can all get on with the more important task of providing a solid educational foundation for the future leaders and productive citizens of the nation.

It would be remiss of us not the mention that, apart from this hiccup, there are many positive and innovative things happening at St. Ignatius High School. One of the most

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You Are Invited To Attend The Public Consultations On The Belize/Guatemala Partial Scope Agreement

BELMOPAN, Wednesday, November 4, 2009:

The Directorate for Foreign Trade in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, BAHA, Customs and representation from the Belize Agroproductive Sector Group will be conducting public consultations on the Belize-Guatemala Partial Scope Agreement.

During these consultations, the various Ministries and Agencies will brief the public on several important aspects of the agreement that governs trade as provided for under the agreement.

Several persons from the exporting private sector will share some of their experiences and how they expect trading conditions to change/improve under the Belize-Guatemala

Partial Scope Agreement.

Further, potential exporters will have an opportunity to address any concerns or queries on exporting to Guatemala.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

For Central and Northern Belize: Thursday, November 12th 2009, at the Belize Chamber of Commerce Conference Room in Belize City commencing at 9:00 a.m.

For Western and Southern Belize: Tuesday, November 17th 2009. At the George Price Center Belmopan City also commencing at 9:00am

The GENERAL PUBLIC is invited to this important event.

For more information and to confirm your attendance, please call the Directorate in Belmopan at 822-3263.

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recent such developments is the opening, just last Thursday, on campus, of a students' resource center.

It therefore goes without saying that we continue to wish this fledgling institution of higher education all the very best in its noble and vitally important undertaking.

STAR Newspaper

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 Santa Elena, Cayo,
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Publisher: Alberto August
 Editor: Nyani Azueta-August
 Circulation: Errol Gonzalez

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Pepso Laid To Rest

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Wednesday, November 4, 2009:

Funeral service was held today at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in San Ignacio Town for **Solomon Phillip "Pepso" Gordon Jr.**, who passed away quietly on Friday, October 30 at the Western Regional Hospital in Belmopan where he was hospitalized for several days from the effects of a stroke.

Pepso was born and grew up in the Red Creek Community on



Solomon Phillip "Pepso" Gordon Jr., 53
SUNRISE: Feb. 18, 1956
SUNSET: Oct. 30, 2009

the eastern outskirts of Santa Elena Town.

Pepso attended St. Andrew's Anglican Primary School, and from those early days his talent as a goalkeeper was obvious.

A relative who attended school with him recalled towards the end of the 1960's, with Pepso in the web, St. Andrew's hardly ever lost a primary school football game.

In the prime of his life Pepso was the STAR goalkeeper for the unstoppable Santa Elena Steels Football team playing alongside talented teammates like **Rowland Jex** in the striker position, **George Andrews**, brothers, **Weedy** and **Lorenzo "Junior" Gonzalez** and the powerhouses defense, **Willie "King Black" Wiltshire**.

In his senior years Pepso moved up to San Ignacio Town

and became like a fixture in the center of town in the area of Burns Avenue and Hudson Street.

A longtime friend, **Maestro Hernan Ochaeta Sr.** who operates Hangout El Che variety store near the Coronation Park in San Ignacio, remembers him as an honest and faithful handy person who was always on hand to assist with whatever chores and errands there was to do.

Solomon Phillip Gordon Jr. was laid to rest inside the Santa Rita Cemetery in San Ignacio Town.

He is survived by sisters: **Eleanor, Joyce, Janet** and **Geraldine Gordon**; one brother, **Jeffery Gordon** and a host of uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Brazilian Man Shows Up Alive At His Own Funeral

Published : Wednesday, 04 Nov 2009, 7:18 AM CST

A Brazilian bricklayer reportedly killed in a car crash shocked his mourning family by showing up alive at his funeral.

Relatives of **Ademir Jorge Goncalves**, 59, had identified him as the victim of a Sunday night car crash in Parana state in southern Brazil, police said.

As is customary in Brazil, the funeral was held the following day, which happened to be the holiday of Finados, when Brazilians visit cemeteries to honor the dead.

What family members didn't know was that Goncalves had spent the night at a truck stop talking with friends over drinks of a sugarcane liquor known as cachaca. He did not get word about his own funeral until it was already happening Monday morning. A police spokesman said Goncalves rushed to the funeral to let family members know he was not dead.

"The corpse was badly disfigured, but dressed in similar clothing," said the police spokesman, *"People are afraid to look for very long when they identify bodies, and I think that is what happened in this case."*

"My two uncles and I had doubts about the identification," a niece told O Globo Newspaper. *"But an aunt and four of his friends identified the body, so what were we to do? We went ahead with the funeral."*

The police spokesman confirmed there were doubts: *"His mom looked at the body in the casket and thought something was strange. She looked and looked and couldn't believe it was her son,"* Sampaio said. *"Before long, the walking dead appeared at the funeral. It was a relief."*

The body was correctly identified later Monday and has already been

buried in another state. Officials declined to release the dead man's name.



SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND TENDER NOTICE

Construction of Maya Center Rudimentary Water System Tank & Pumphouse, Stann Creek District

The Government of Belize has secured Loan #15SFR-OR-BZ from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of Water Projects and intends to apply part of the Funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for **Construction of Maya Center Rudimentary Water System Tank & Pumphouse, Stann Creek District.**

The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan City, Cayo District, hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

CONTRACT #001.0436 of 2009: Construction of a Rudimentary Water System for Maya Center, Stann Creek District (Construction of tank, pump house and fence)

Construction of a 20,000 gallon ferro-concrete elevated water tank measuring approximately 20'x20'x9'4" elevated by concrete 18" columns 43' off the ground at the tank base. The footings are 7'x7'x18" and are a maximum of 7'-6" below ground level. The structure will be enclosed by a concrete/chain link fence with the perimeter measuring 200' with vehicular and pedestrian gates strategically placed for easy access; and construction of a concrete ground level pump house measuring 10'x10' together with a generator pad and a concrete/chain link fence with a perimeter measuring 300' with vehicular and pedestrian gates strategically placed for easy access.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Social Investment Fund as of Monday November 2, 2009 at the address below during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday for a **NON-REFUNDABLE** fee of **BZE\$100.00 per package (cash only).**

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Quotation for Maya Center RWS Tank & Pumphouse, Stann Creek District."**

ADDRESSED TO:

**The Executive Director
Social Investment Fund
Constitution Drive
P.O. Box 459**

Belmopan City, Cayo District

Tenders will be received at the above address no later than **2:00 p.m. on Wednesday November 25, 2009.** A Public Opening will be held at the SIF Office in Belmopan at **2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, 2009.**

The Social Investment Fund reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

Philippa Griffith-Bailey Honored For Her Contribution To Softball

BELIZE CITY, Monday, November 2, 2009:

A release from the Belize Softball Federation informs that **Mrs. Philippa Griffith-Bailey, M.B.E., J.P** has been elected to the International Softball Federation's Hall of Fame in the Administrators' category.

The election was held during

the one week 14th World Softball Congress held on the island of Margarita, in the State of Nueva Esparta, Venezuela, between October 21-27, 2009.

Mrs. Bailey is the 8th Belizean to be elected to the International Softball Federation Hall of Fame. She now joins **Mr. Hilberto "Hilly"**



International Softball Hall of Famer elect, Mrs. Philippa Griffith-Bailey, M.B.E., J.P

Martinez and Ms. Patricia "Pat" Bennett as the only three Belizeans in the Administrators' category.

Mrs. Bailey's service in

softball dates to 1960 when she served as secretary of the British Honduras Amateur Softball Association. She witnessed the association's transition into the Belize Softball Federation where she remained as its Secretary until 1970.

She resided overseas for a few years and upon returning home in 1995, she was immediately re-elected to the post of Secretary General, a position in which she diligently served until 2007 when her position changed to Treasurer of the Federation being the position she currently holds.

The official Induction date will be announced shortly.

Mrs. Philippa Griffith-Bailey, MBE, JP, is the Secretary General of the United Democratic Party.

The Humane Society's "Thanksgiving In Belize" Fund Raising Dinner

BY: Cynthia Reece

SANTA ELENA, Thursday, November 5, 2009:

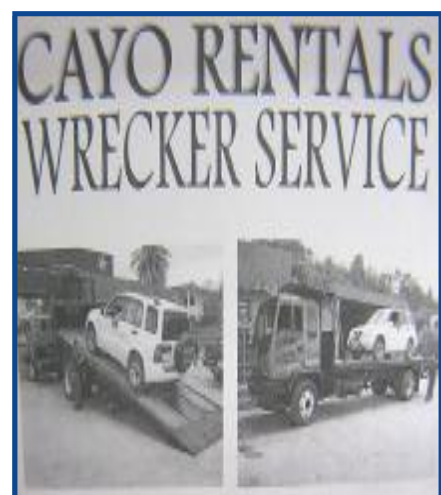
The San Ignacio Humane Society is sponsoring a **"Thanksgiving in Belize"** dinner on Saturday, 21 November, 2009, from 3:00 to 9:00 pm., at the fabulous Mahogany Hall Boutique Resort on the Paslow Falls Road, in Bullet Tree Falls.

This fund raising event is to support local efforts for spay/neuter clinics and the new Donna Hill Adoption Center.

Tickets are \$50 for a Thanksgiving Dinner with all fixings along with a glass of wine.

Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm, and seating is limited. There will be a cash bar.

Local sponsors for the event include: Chaa Creek Kennels, Birdwalk Builders, DuPlooy's Resort, Greedy's Restaurant and Galen University. Tickets are available from Humane Society Board members and at Greedy's Restaurant on Burns Avenue.



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SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND TENDER NOTICE

TRIAL FARM DRAINAGE PROJECT, ORANGE WALK DISTRICT

The Government of Belize has received funding through the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) towards the cost of Economic Infrastructure Projects and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for Trial Farm Drainage Project, Orange Walk District.

The Social Investment Fund, a Statutory Corporation, established under the Social Investment Fund Act No. 3 of 1996 and located at Constitution Drive, Belmopan City, Cayo District, hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

CONTRACT #003.0026 of 2009: Trial Farm Drainage Project, Orange Walk District

The project consists of the construction of an improved drainage system within the community of Trial Farm in order to alleviate flooding of the black water creek area situated on the west of this community.

This project consists of the following components:

- i) Construction of approx. 3,300 linear meters of earthen trapezoidal channels an average of 1.5 meters wide at the base and 2 meters wide at the top with 2 meters average depth,
- ii) Installation of pre-cast reinforced concrete culverts (30 units) being of 1.5 meters square in average size complete with inlets and outlets and reinforced concrete apron walls to the culverts,
- iii) Construction of 35 (4 feet wide by 7 feet long) reinforced concrete pedestrian access ramps as required across the new drains.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Social Investment Fund at the address below during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday for a **NON-REFUNDABLE** fee of **BZE\$150.00 per package** starting on October 20, 2009.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Trial Farm Drainage Project, Orange Walk District."** addressed TO: **The Executive Director, Social Investment Fund - Constitution Drive P.O. Box 459, Belmopan City, Cayo District**

Tenders will be received at the above address no later than **2:00pm Friday, November 13, 2009.** A Public Opening will be held at the SIF Office in Belmopan at **2:15pm Friday, November 13, 2009.** **Onsite meetings** with interested eligible bidders will be held at **2:00pm Wednesday, November 4, 2009 in Trial Farm Village, Orange Walk District** to address any queries that the contractors might have about the bidding documents. Contractors who have bought packages are urged to attend.

The Social Investment Fund reserves the right to reject any or all tenders.

★ STAR HUMOR ★

Hiding From The Man Above

A faithful church going man, who had reached the age of 105, suddenly stopped going to church.

Alarmed by the old fellow's absence after so many years of faithful attendance, the Pastor went to see him and found him in excellent health, so the Pastor asked, *"How come after all these years we don't see you*

at services anymore?"

The old man lowered his voice. *"I'll tell you, Pastor" he whispered. "When I got to be 90, I expected God to take me any day. But then I got to be 95, then 100, then 105. So, I figured that God is very busy and must've forgotten about me, and I don't want to remind Him!"*

Finding Miss Lady

Mr. Jones approached the very beautiful woman in the large supermarket and said, *"You know I've lost my wife here in the supermarket. Can you talk to me for a couple of*

minutes?"

"Why?" asked the woman "Because every time I talk to a beautiful woman my wife appears out of nowhere like bad breeze."

A Proud Product Of E.P Yorke Athina Swasey Does Her High School Well



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Belmopan, Monday, November 2, 2009:

The Ministry of Education and the CXC National Committee of Belize are pleased to announce that **Ms. Stacey Karyn Grinage** of St. John's College Junior College is the Most Outstanding Candidate in the May-June 2009 Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) and is therefore the recipient of the Belize Scholarship for 2009.

Ms. Grinage obtained six (6) Grade II's in the CAPE examinations in the following subjects: Caribbean Studies, Communication Studies, History Units 1 and 2, and Sociology Units 1 and 2. Besides being this year's Most Outstanding CAPE Candidate, Ms. Grinage also achieved first place subject award in History Unit 2, and Sociology Unit 1.

The Ministry of Education and the CXC National Committee of Belize are also pleased to announce that **Ms. Athina**

Swasey of Edward P. Yorke High School and **Ms. Virginia Hsu** of St. Catherine Academy are the first and second place students respectively in the May-June 2009 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) examinations.

Uganda School Exam Births Shock

Two schoolgirls have gone into labour during exams, given birth and then continued to sit their tests in the afternoon, shocking many in Uganda.

The BBC's **Joshua Mmali** in Uganda says some have been impressed by the determination of the teenage girls.

The first case happened in the rural area of Masindi on Monday and Ugandan papers say the baby girl was named **Nambuuzo**, meaning *"born during exams"*.

A boy was born in Kibaale the next day between the maths and science exams.

Both of the young mothers were taking their national primary school leaving exams.

Our correspondent says in principle the government does

A Canadian boy named Lar had heard stories of an amazing family tradition.

It seemed that his father, grandfather and great grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 21st birthdays, to the boat club across the lake for their first legal drink.

So when Lar's 21st came around, he and his pal Steven took a boat out to the middle of the lake.

Lar stepped out of the boat

and nearly drowned. Steven managed to pull him to safety.

Furious and confused, Lar went to see his grandmother.

"Grandma," he asked, "it's my 21st birthday, so why can't I walk across the lake like my father, his father, and his father before him?"

Granny looked into Lar's eyes and said, *"Because son, your father, grandfather and great-grandfather were born in December. You were born in July."*

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Ms. Swasey obtained eleven (11) Grade I's at the General/Technical Proficiency in the following subjects: Biology, English A, English B (Literature), Human and Social Biology, Mathematics, Spanish, Chemistry, Information Technology, Electronic Document Preparation & Management, Principles of Accounts and Social Studies. In addition to being this year's Most Outstanding CSEC Candidate, Ms. Swasey also achieved first place subject award in Human and Social Biology and English B.

Ms. Hsu, the second place student, attained ten (10) Grade

I's at the General/Technical Proficiency in the following subjects: English A, English B (Literature), Information Technology, Mathematics, Physics, Spanish, Biology, Chemistry, Human and Social Biology and Social Studies.

Other outstanding CSEC candidates for National Awards are **Ms. Leonie Eileen Magdaleno** of Stann Creek Ecumenical College who will be receiving Subject Group Award in Business, **Ms. Lila Estephan** and **Ms. Lilian Lai-Fung Shen** both of St. Catherine Academy who will receive Subject Group Awards in Humanities and Science respectively.

not condone pregnancies in school.

In rural areas, girls as old as 18 go to junior school, he says.

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Chef Adam Is Back In Town

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Wednesday, November 4, 2009:

The internationally renowned Eva's Restaurant is now under new management. **Chef Adam Thompson** and his wife **Karen** are now at the helm of the oldest restaurant in town located on Burns Avenue in the center of San Ignacio, Cayo.

With "**John**" behind the bar, we stopped by this past Wednesday evening for a brief chat with Adam to find out what his plans are for Eva's Restaurant.

Adam said that he will undertake major design improvements to the interior of the restaurant in order to make it more pleasing and comfortable for customers. Some of these changes were notably visible as we entered the restaurant.

With his intensive training in food and beverage management, Adam said that he is converting the restaurant into what he calls a Gastro Pub focusing mainly on food and



Chef Adam Thompson and Karen

food quality. He said that he will also be improving on the quality of service for which Eva's is internationally known and featured in several international magazines. As evidence of this endeavor, he has already come up with a new and affordable food and beverage menu. "*While Eva's of the past has relied mainly on tourist customers, we are moving more towards tapping into the local market,*" said Adam. "*Our operation is based on volume and so we are providing \$5 breakfast and entrée/lunch/dinner for only \$7. Except for fry jack and fries, all our foods are grilled as we focus on removing fat from the fresh and healthy food we serve our customers. We are*

also moving towards using 100% local products and organically grown fruits and vegetables. About 80% of the food on our menu is vegetarian optional. We also provide very affordable prices for families and large groups," said Adam.

In its endeavor to increase volume, the new management of Eva's Restaurant is linking up with smaller hotels whereby these hotels provide the bed and Eva's provide the breakfast. Adam said that this new undertaking is catching on rather quickly. Like a few other restaurants in town, Eva's also provides FREE internet and Wi Fi service to customers.

"*Other plans in the making include Thai Food Nights;*

Fine Dinning Nights and Seafood Nights. We will also be opening our own in-house bakery to make our own breads and desserts," concluded Adam.



Meet "John" behind the bar



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Your Horoscope & Lucky Numbers

ARIES: March 22 to April 20



This week is one that will require hard work on your part to achieve targets. There will be additional responsibilities to shoulder. You will also be looking at strengthening your relationships. Even if you set your heart on tough targets, you will still be able to achieve them. **Lucky Numbers: 09, 35, 71.**

TAURUS: April 21 to May 21



This is a time of peace and tranquility. You sit back and savour the good days. State of financial health and investments will have to be assessed properly. You may find that you have ignored your health and it will require some corrective measures in form of lifestyle changes. **Lucky Numbers: 06, 21, 93.**

GEMINI: May 22 to June 21



You may feel like withdrawing from all social contact. There could be a number of reasons for your feeling world weary but you need to understand that it is not healthy to give in to extreme feelings. Create time for yourself but draw a line when you need attend to your worldly responsibilities. **Lucky Numbers: 05, 19, 78.**

CANCER: June 22 to July 23



You are driven by your emotions more than anything else. You need to be careful about not allowing someone else's view affect your state of mind. If it is work related then you need to certainly make sure that you only give it as much importance as it deserves. **Lucky Numbers: 02, 30, 63.**

LEO: July 24 to August 21



There is good amount of peace stemming from inner confidence. You can see where you are headed in terms of your personal evolution as a human being and with regard to your worldly goals. You take things easy, but you need to discriminate between what is trivial and what is important. **Lucky Numbers: 01, 29, 54.**

VIRGO: August 22 to September 21



You acquire a charismatic edge. Your desire to remain aloof gets overtaken by one to dare those who doubted your capabilities. There will be increased opportunities to display your people skills. You will find yourself in a better position to cope with the demands on you. **Lucky Numbers: 10, 24, 44.**

LIBRA: September 22 to October 23



Material objectives occupy your attention. More money will be flowing in and you could be finding avenues for investing it wisely. Minor hitches at work or in relationships are not ruled out but with the general uncertainty prevailing, you are likely to dismiss them. **Lucky Numbers: 08, 50, 97.**

SCORPIO: October 24 to November 21



There will be obstacles posed by people where you least expected them to crop up, but you will at least display that you are unaffected by them. You could also have to deal with petty issues and narrow minded people. These will only strengthen your resolve to achieve what you have set your mind on. **Lucky Numbers: 04, 57, 81.**

SAGITTARIUS:

November 22 to December 21



There will be achievements that you can flaunt as feathers in your cap. It will be well earned but will be require a good measure of restraint to sustain them. People will try at malice and gossip to work you into a rage. However, it is a quiet confidence that will win the day. **Lucky Numbers: 03, 26, 49.**

CAPRICORN: December 22 to January 20



Get ready for a busy round of social activity. These activities could be reunion with old friends or family get-togethers. Make the best of this phase as there is a time when satisfaction and joy is to be had from work as well as personal relationships. **Lucky Numbers: 14, 61, 80.**

AQUARIUS: January 21 to February 19



You are likely to work harder towards consolidating the gains you have made. There will also be relinquishing of some hard line ideas and ego issues in order to draw the people you love closer to you. There could be demands on you to do your bit for the community. **Lucky Numbers: 23, 59, 84.**

PISCES: February 20 to March 21



There could be a sincere attempt at overcoming the depressive facts that are a part of life. You could be feeling quite sad at the current state of affairs. However, you could come out of it if you step out of yourself. Thinking about loneliness only strengthens that feeling. **Lucky Numbers: 37, 74 88.**

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Rudolph A. Bowman (Retired Research Soil Scientist)

ON Class, Race, Racism and Favoritism

A perusal of the writings in the Amandala appears in many instances, to address current sentiments about the state of affairs in Belize with a view towards ameliorating or, at least, exposing any adverse conditions that might exist.

One such view implicitly holds that white supremacists could be causing a downward spiral of the country because of their actions and/or inactions. Without knowing all the facts in Belize, I will venture to address this topic, but mainly in a broader global perspective as it relates to class, race, racism, and favoritism.

Firstly, some working definitions must be in order. **By class**, I refer to the capitalist's categories, (*not proletariat and bourgeoisie*) as in upper, middle, and lower classes, which are often defined in terms of quantitative income or wealth.

By race, I am referring mainly to the three broad categories encompassing primarily the European, the Africans and the Asians.

By racism, I am referring to a blatant and willful act to undermine, belittle or harm someone or a people, because of a belief that, that someone or people may be inherently inferior.

By favoritism I refer to a situation where someone or even a group of people are treated better than others for reasons other than merit or superior work performance.

I will begin with class and race.

The issue of class and race was intimately intertwined historically, but is in general, slowly unraveling in modern times. A consensus exists that the biggest inequity in the world today is among classes, not races. As education and opportunities increase among minorities, the data show that the income gap has been just as wide among rich and poor blacks as among rich and poor whites. An increasing number of upwardly mobile middle class blacks now live in the suburbs of many major cities. No less than **Professor Henry Louis Gates** (yes, *Professor*

Gates of the beer summit) and **Professor Orlando Paterson** (*Jamaican Sociologist also of Harvard*) have shown class to be a far more significant factor in human underdevelopment.

According to Paterson in a newspaper report, a survey found that a majority of black men attributed their plight to their own personal failures and attitudes rather than racism. They do not underplay the persistence of racism in the US, but they refuse to explain away their troubles by blaming the system. Many academicians, therefore, see the race struggle as less important since racism, hopefully, will slowly improve as people become better educated and more open minded. The main struggle then, is that of class since the laborer of all races faces the same problems and injustices.

Now a discussion on favoritism. What is referred to as racism or supremacy (*white or otherwise*) is first and foremost, in the majority of instances, favoritism, which exists in all races.

With respect to favoritism, plain and simple, this behavior is based on the inner circle concept of closeness: family (*nepotism*) at the center, close friends and compadres, then same tribes (*bro, homeboy, root Belizeans, paisanos*), acquaintances, and lastly, strangers and different tribes and races at the outer circle. Invariably, then, when one is refused a position, it may be not because he is disliked or hated, or consciously considered inferior, but primarily because someone else is liked more. The concept of likes liking likes (*except maybe for Sampson and Delilah, Romeo and Juliet*) is as old as prehistory. Its fairness is another matter, which is sometimes taken up legally by the State, but can still become a serious impediment where one race or culture is dominant (*Apartheid in the extreme*).

Does racism exist? Yes, it does, but it exists today much less than in the past.

Institutional racisms like Neo-Nazism, KKK, are still alive, but are slowly withering

on the vine. Blacks and Hispanics still are not well represented in the work force, and in the higher echelons of corporate America. They constitute a significant percentage of the incarcerated. But this situation did not occur because of a willful desire to restrain and to hold back as the British did in India and Africa, the Iberians in Latin America, and the French in parts of North Africa.

Our progress in the US is manifested by the fact that a majority of white folks voted for President Barack Obama (*my daughter even campaigned for him, and went to the Convention*).

A black man is the governor of Massachusetts, an East Indian of Louisiana, and numerous Black and Hispanic mayors exist across the country. Progress is sometimes slow, and we grow weary, but a country cannot legislate morality, ethics, and goodwill. It has to come from within!

It has also been shown historically, that even people that are alike and are not white can show tremendous dislike and peril towards one another. One needs only to think of Rwanda (*the Tutsis and the Hutus*) Darfur, the forced exodus of 80,000 Hindus in 1972 from Uganda, the Indians and Pakistanis, the Sri Lankans

(*same people different religion*), the Kurds and the Turks, the Kurds and the Iraqis, the Balkans, civil unrest in the Ivory Coast, Kenya, etc. Tribal differences many times trump so-called racial sameness. We like our own kind, and we protect them!

Finally, back to Belize, who are the white supremacists? Is there a dominant white population with a hidden agenda? Is it the Jesuits? On balance, have they caused more harm than good? Is it their fault that the British (*Cambridge exam*) forced us to take one year of Tudor history back in my times? I'm sure the Jesuits would have preferred for us to study Jeffersonian Democracy. Is white supremacy just symbolism for past and present American and European hegemony and dominance? Will we forever blame others if we do not progress? Can we move on in spite of these difficulties?

Let's be mindful of the past, but let's look forward to the boundless challenges and opportunities that lie ahead to make Belize great. Let's think, without prejudice, but fully informed, as one unified, albeit richly diverse, nation.

I hope my thoughts on the topic should not be taken as an affront to views expressed in the Amandala on white supremacy, but merely as another view, or opinion, that, I think, deserves exposure.

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Six Rear Lights For Police Bicycles Donated

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, October 30, 2009:

Just in case you see a police bicycle pass you by with a rear light flashing at night, you might want to know that a set of lights was donated to San Ignacio Police through the combined efforts of Pro-Belize and The Doroteia Pathways Foundation.

The six emergency rear lights were today handed over to the police by **Michael Martin** on behalf of Pro Belize and **Robert Trausch** for The Doroteia Pathways Foundation.

A release from the donor group informs that *"In serving the local community with scholarship programs, community service projects and environmental activities, Pro-Belize appreciates the work and contribution made by our local peace officers."*

The release goes on to inform that *"These lights will help ensure the safety and obvious presence of our bicycle mounted police patrols during the night."*

In receiving the donation,



L-R Michael Martin from Pro-Belize, Police Constable#918 Rupert Belle from the Police Tourism Unit and Robert Trausch from Doroteia Pathways Foundation

PC# 918 Rupert Belle, from the Police Tourism Police Unit, thanked Pro-Belize and the Doroteia Pathways Foundation for the donation. He assured them that proper care will be taken of the equipment as they are utilized in enhancing the

safety of his colleagues on night patrols while serving the community.

The Bureau Of Standards, Clamping Down On Bleach

BELMOPAN CITY, Thursday, November 5, 2009:

The Belize Bureau of Standards informs ALL importers, local producers and the general public that effective Tuesday December 1st, 2009 ALL imported and locally produced Liquid Household Chlorine Bleach must comply with the following **COMPULSORY** National Standards:

These **STANDARDS ORDER** were enacted by the Government of Belize and are enforceable through Statutory Instruments Nos. 116 of 1999, 117 of 1999 and 19 of 2001.

All stakeholders are informed that the requirements for Liquid Household Chlorine Bleach are as follows but not limited to:

- 1) Labeled in English, 2) Volume specified, 3) Name and postal address of manufacturer or producer, 4) Country of manufacture or origin, 5) product name, 6) Brand name, 7) Batch lot/number, 8) Common or chemical name, 9) Warning or caution, 10)

instruction for first aid treatment 11) *Keep out of reach of children* - Warning, 12) Directions for proper and safe use and storage statement of risks involved in use of substance

Special attention is drawn to Section 3.1.6 and Section 3.1.1 of the Belize National Standards for Labelling Parts 1 & 2: General Principles & Pre-packaged Goods (respectively) which states that *"It is the responsibility of any person who sells or distributes any goods to see that they are labelled as required by this standard."*

The Bureau informs all importers, producers, distributors and retailers that as of December 1st, 2009, it will treat non-compliant products as an infringement of the Standards Act.

The Bureau will monitor the market closely and hereby informs that failure to comply will result in detention at the point of importation and seizure at the retail level.

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Bateman Jr. Sentenced To 4 Years Imprisonment Common-Law-Wife And Father Relieved of Charges

SAN IGNACIO TOWN, Cayo District, Friday, October 30, 2009:

Last week we reported the arrest of **Simon Bateman Sr.**, 50, his son, **Simon Bateman Jr.**, 22 and the son’s 19 year old common law wife, **Christine Dawson**, on prohibited firearm and unlicensed ammunition charges. At the time when the article was published they were not yet brought before the court. However, around midmorning that same Friday they appeared before Magistrate Anna Rachel Montejo where Bateman Jr. pleaded guilty to both charges.

After confirming Bateman’s agreement with the facts as presented by the prosecution, Magistrate Montejo proceeded to sentence him to two years imprisonment on both charges. The magistrate further ordered for the sentences to run consecutively commencing October 29, 2009. Simon Bateman Jr., was therefore sentenced to 4 years imprisonment.

The charges against Christine Dawson were withdrawn by the prosecution. In seeking similar consideration, the father



Simon Bateman Jr., 22

informed the court that he is currently residing in Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District and that at the time of the incident, he was merely visiting his son. He said *“I was just visiting my son when he got me into this mess. I am a law abiding citizen. I work as a security consultant. I would never get involved in these kinds of things,”* said Bateman Sr.

After listening to the senior Bateman’s remarks, magistrate Montejo proceeded to dismiss the charges against him.

The incident occurred at around 7 o’clock on the morning of Thursday, October 29, when a police team comprising elements from the Belmopan based Anti-Drugs Unit along with officers from the San Ignacio detachment, conducted a search at a house

on Cemetery Road in Santa Elena Town, occupied at the time by the two Bateman and Christine Dawson.

A search of the residence led to the discovery of a 16 gauge shotgun with a sawed off barrel loaded with one cartridge of the same caliber. The prohibited firearm and unlicensed ammunition were reportedly found under some male clothes in a drawer inside the son’s bedroom.

All three occupants of the residence, present at the time of the discovery, were detained and transported to the San Ignacio Police Station where they were formally arrested and jointly charged for the crimes of keeping a prohibited firearm and possession of ammunition without a gun license.

When measured from the tip of the sawed off barrel to the end of the butt, the altered Harrington & Richardson Brand 16 gauge shotgun, with serial number AY 407998, measured a mere 20 inches. A shotgun of this brand and caliber is factory produced at 48 ½ inches. With a difference of 28 ½ inches, this particular shotgun was therefore reduced to less than half its actual length thereby converting it into a prohibited firearm under the laws of Belize.

TWO MORE ILLEGAL GUNS FOUND THREE PERSONS ARRESTED

Continued From Front Page

magazine containing 11 live rounds of ammunition of the same caliber. Nearby was an orange in color, Truper brand plastic container and when it was opened, it was found to contain an additional 22 rounds of live 9mm ammunition along with 5 expended 9mm casings and two lead projectiles. Neither the male nor the female occupants of the house were able to show a gun license when asked to produce one. They were subsequently identified as Isaquias Mai, 26, Belizean laborer and the common-law-wife, both of whom gave their address as San Antonio Village, Cayo. Mai and the female companion were informed of the offence committed and were tagged along to the next stop about half a mile down the road.

A few minutes later, the search party arrive at a house locate about 4 miles on the Mountain Pine Ridge Road from its junction with the Western Highway in Georgeville.

Inside the house at the time was a lone Caucasian male person. A search of the house led to the discovery, inside the bathroom of the elevated structure, of a black leather holster and when opened, a gun was found inside. The gun was removed from the holster and was found to be a Colt Brand, Government Model, point 45 caliber, pistol, bearing serial number 29768870, with five live rounds of ammunition of the same caliber inside the inserted magazine and one live round inside the chamber. When asked to produce a license for the gun, the lone

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occupant of the house was unable to present one. He was consequently detained and later identified as **Steven Edward Stults**, 46, US national. He told the police that he is a retired US army soldier.

All three persons were transported to the San Ignacio Town police station where the first set of accused, Isaquias Mai and the female companion were formally arrested and charged for: 1) Keeping unlicensed Firearm and 2) Keeping unlicensed ammunition - (33 rounds of 9 mm ammunition).

The second accused, Steven Edward Stults, was later arrested and charged for: 1) Keeping a

prohibited firearm and 2) Keeping prohibited ammunition - (6 rounds of point 45 ammunition).

They appeared before San Ignacio’s magistrate, **Anna Rachel Montejo** on Wednesday, November 4, where Isaquias Mai pled guilty to both charges and was sentenced to 2 consecutive for each offence, in effect he will serve 2 years in jail. Charges against the female companion were consequently withdrawn by the prosecutions.

For his part, Steven Edward Stults pleaded not guilty to both charges and was remanded to the central prison in Hattieville and ordered to return to court on Tuesday, December 15, 2009.

In Memoriam

In Loving Memory Of
**Raymond Albert
 Robateau**
 Better known as
"Pieto".



Sunrise: December 14th, 1976
Sunset: November 4th, 2007

Life threw a curve ball at us
 two sad years ago,
 Allowing our faith to be tested
 and questioned.
 You've been ripped from our
 lives;
 Words cannot express,
 How deeply saddened we felt,
 About your sudden disappear-
 ance.
 You've gone without a trace,
 But the LOVE we've all
 shared with you,
 Could never be erased.

**Sadly missed by: Dad, Mom,
 Brothers, Sister, Nieces,
 Nephew other relatives and
 friends.**
"We love you Pieto."

LIQUOR LICENSE NOTICES

Notice is hereby be given that, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **CAMERON BOYD** of Black Rock Expedition LTD is applying for the renewal of his **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2010 to operate **BLACK ROCK LODGE** located in the Negroman Area in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **ORLANDO CHUC** is applying for a **PUBLICAN SPECIAL LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **TEQUILLA TROPICAL** located in the village of Bullet Tree Falls in the Cayo District.

Notice is hereby be given that, under the Intoxicating Liquor License Ordinance Chapter 150 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, **HARESH HARJANI** is applying for **NIGHTCLUB LIQUOR LICENSE** for the year 2009 to operate **MUZIQUE** located on Buena Vista Street, San Ignacio Town in the Cayo District.



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