

# **St. Somewhere Times**

## **Daily Life in San Pedro Sula**

### **What happened to Volume 3?**

Well, readers and web fans, we let you down. September is long gone and there is no documentation to even prove that it existed. It was difficult to chose a number one, gold medal excuse, so we narrowed it down to the top ten.

1. It got lost in the hard drive.
2. A pack of dogs mangled it.
3. A gecko ate it.
4. A Honduran thief (a ladrón) broke into the file and stole it.
5. The internet and power have been out for the last month.
6. Bad diarrhea held us loyal to the toilet.
7. The heat has gotten to our creativity.
8. The keyboard was short circuited by mass amounts of sweat.
9. A coconut fell on the lap top and crushed it..
10. An epidemic of malaria put the editors out of commission.

Anyway, you get the point. I hope this newsletter makes up for our negligence.

### **What to do? What to do?**

What does a teacher do in a foreign country when he or she is not teaching? Well, it's to the beach, diving in the coral reef, and snorkeling off the coast of a tropical island. It's a hard life, we know, but would not be possible without our travel agent and school liaison, Jenny. Jenny is truly an angel when it comes to us traveling outside the city, giving us ideas on where to go, and getting deals on airline tickets.

~About a month ago, a group of us went to the Bay Islands. Ron, Lila, Cathy, Roan, and Greg, being already certified divers, spent the entire weekend diving. They were soon to be followed by estudiantes, Mike, Megan, and Amelia, who by the end of the weekend were certified as well. Ivan, Kathleen, Sara, and Sarah did a little snorkeling but spent most of their time enjoying the beach, eating, and relaxing. For great diving shots, check out the [pictures](#) page.

~Edyce, Randy, and Hal were able to take a short trip to Tela for a little golfing and snorkeling in the Caribbean. Haven't heard a recent report on how it went, but it's the Caribbean for goodness sakes! It had to have been a little bit enjoyable.

~Park and Kristin went to Copan and while there were able to engage in a bird watching expedition. Most of us would have to say that bird watching was not on our "Things To Do While In Honduras" list, but after hearing about the trip are rethinking our priorities.

~At the beginning of last month, a small group of teachers went to La Ceiba for an exciting rafting trip.

Those left here in San Pedro Sula were envious after hearing of the trip that following Monday.

A rafter reports- Dude, it was so awesome. I think I saw a shark. The waves were enormous. At one moment I thought I was a gonner. The undertow had me under for at least 30 seconds. At last it let go of me and the next thing I knew, I was floating down the river without my raft and the rest of my crew. But I still had hold of my paddle!

*Last words:* So much to do, so little time!

### **It's a hard enough life for us!**

Of course, driving to the beach after school is not very practical, but we're not far from Copantl Hotel. This happens to be a great after school activity. For a very low, consumer friendly price, you have a choice to lift weights in their small gym, cool off in the pool, or play an intense game of tennis. Kathleen has already invested in a new racket and taken on the boys, Randy and Bill. And don't miss dropping by for an occasional brunch. On Sundays they have a HUGE brunch for about 65 lems. (We'll give you a review when we have a chance to stop by.) It's paradise in a box, well, in a hotel, anyway.

Planning on visiting Honduras sometime soon? Copantl is only \$130 per night. (I think this costly amount is to make up for our very low club membership fee. After all, we are residents of Honduras now.)

### **How Safe is it?**

Not to scare you, but for the most part, it's not! Like any big city, there is danger everywhere. The fact that we are Americans in a third world country ups the ante, so to speak. Even if we don't have money, thieves think we do. This is a country of "haves" and "have nots". There are very few in between.

The school has warned us, from the beginning, that this is a dangerous place to live. We try to modify our routines, keep a low profile, and look out for each other at all times. Unfortunately, everyone knows where the Americans live and what our daily schedule is like.

Safety became a hot topic a few weeks ago. We had a short day of school in honor of Teacher's Day. Two of our teachers were held up at gunpoint in their apartment. The three thieves took everything! Thank God, the two women were not harmed. They listened to the intruders without any question. We were all startled upon hearing of the experience, but more than anything, we are all thankful our friends were not harmed.

Now the school is taking steps to provide better security. Each teacher's apartment will have either a security system or a guard. Most of us wonder why this was not done in the first place but the school is spending a lot of money and moving forward to make us safer. Special thanks goes out to the school board!

### **It was a learning experience for each of us!**

### **Taxis (The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly)**

There are about 4,000 taxis in San Pedro Sula (according to Mario).

**The good:**

1. Taxis are everywhere.
2. You haggle the single price before you get into the cab and then you're still ripped off.
3. Most of the time you can get to your destination for 30 lems. That is about \$2.00 US.
4. Taxis are safe (for the most part).
5. Several of us have left or forgotten something in a cab, but in each instance, the cabbi has returned the item the next day.

**The bad:**

1. Most of the little white cabs wouldn't pass an auto safety inspection in the states, let alone an emissions test.
2. The cabs are too small for us bigger gringos. (Shannon is about 6'5" and has to ride with his knees up to his chin. Hah!)

**The ugly:**

1. The carbon monoxide fills up the cab, but we're not sure if its coming through the floor or through the doors that sometimes don't quite shut.
2. Cabbies are fond of tweety bird. We think it is because cabs are usually yellow and tweety adds a lot of yellow to a white cab.

**Birds of a Feather**

We have found various ways to entertain ourselves when a trip to the beach is not an option. Not a week goes by without someone hosting a party or some get together. It is great!

Last week we all had a great time at Kathleen's Poker/Potluck Birthday party/dinner. (More of a visual person? Scope out the pictures of the party on picture page 5.) About fifteen of us descended on Kathleen and Sarah with a dish to pass. By this time it was already a great party- It had food!

Pictures

After inhaling the food, it was to the poker table. Time to yearn some cash. Tutoring just wasn't paying off for most of us. It didn't take long for Bill to take all of our money, but we all benefited from playing with Honduran coins. The coins really aren't used much because they have such minimal value. Many of us couldn't even identify the different coins before the games started. However, by the end of the night, the coins began to take value as we observed how many 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavo coins we had lost to Bill.

The evening was even fun for those that don't believe in gambling. The other table was host to a Honduran card game called "con quien" (with whom). Usually this game is used for gambling, but is plenty of fun without losing money.

It doesn't get much better than an evening of good food and great conversation with friends. There was even a bit of dancing!

This is just the tip of the iceberg. We are always going to each other's houses for a meal or game. Pretty soon it will be time for a Packer game BBQ!

## Addressing some Questions:

Dear Readers,

If you have any questions about life in Honduras or teaching at EIS, please email us. Answering questions will allow us to gear our newsletter toward you our viewer and it will add to the excitement of the website.

Thank you.

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