



## Editorial

**T**his week the Reporter is launching its **Freedom (of the Press) Fund** which will be used to protect and defend newspapers when they are threatened unfairly or because of their defence of a principle of free speech.

The Fund will also be used to promote journalism excellence and may in time be extended to provide bursaries and training programmes.

The fund will be duly registered in time as a trust, and we hope to have publishers from other independent newspapers serving on its Board of Directors. We also hope to attract grants from organizations and institutions at home and abroad, and to organize annual fund-raising events.

The first fund-raising event to be organized will be **Freedom Day** at the Belize Zoo on Sunday, November 28, being organized in association with the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center. On that day all the proceeds from entrance fees will be turned over to the **Freedom (of the Press) Fund**, which is to be strictly supervised and used only as a non-profit mechanism.



Most Belizeans realize that the strongest defenders of liberty and democracy in Belize is the free press, but the free press in our country is fragmented and weak.

It is hoped that **Freedom (of the Press) Fund** will give the media in Belize a renewed sense of identity and purpose, to report the news without fear or favour, to uphold freedom of expression at all costs, and to oppose injustice wherever it occurs in this fair land.