



“BROADCAST”

Newsletter of the Toronto Unit

Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

*Naparima Teachers' Training
St. Andrew's Theological
St. Augustine Girls'
Naparima Girls'
Naparima
Hillview
Iere*

Vol XXIX No.1

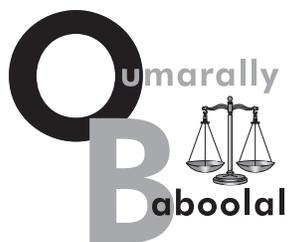
Fall 2005



*Steelband & Calypso Fun Run/Walk 2005. Some ran, some walked, everyone had fun.
(Photo: Ras Shreeram)*

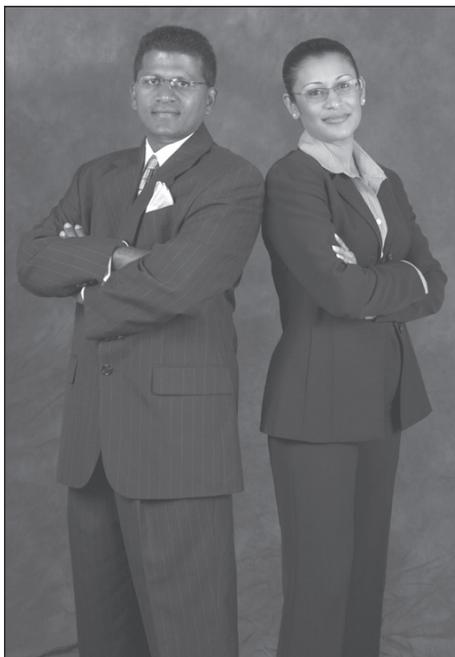


*Panache's closing performance at Wild Water Kingdom, August 2005.
(Photo: Merle Ramdial)*



OUMARALLY, BABOOLAL

Barristers and Solicitors



Aneesa Oumarally, B.A., (Hons.) LL.B.
Selwyn R. Baboolal, B.A., (Hons.) LL.B.

NEW ADDRESS

3351 Cedar Creek Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
L4Y 2X9

T: (905) 366-5400

F: (905) 366-5404

e-mail: aneesa@oblaw.ca

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The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (NAAC) was founded in Toronto in 1976 and includes graduates of Naparima College, Naparima Girls' High School, St. Augustine Girls' High School, Hillview College, Iere High School, Naparima Teachers' College and St. Andrew's Theological College. Among other things, it supports programmes at alma mater schools as well as a steelband programme in schools in the Toronto area. All graduates coming to Ontario are invited to join the Association.

NAAC Executive - 2005/2006

President	Vitra Mungal	416-537-2927	vitra@pathcom.com
1st Vice President	Selwyn Baboolal	905-366-5400	selwyn@oblaw.ca
2nd Vice President	Norma Ramsahai	416-283-0675	npramsahai@rogers.com
Secretary	Ian Ramdial	905-844-1254	iramdial@cogeco.ca
Assistant Secretary	Cynthia Ramdeen	416-499-7357	cynthia_ramdeen@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Glenda Ramsahai	905-275-8996	ramsahai@rogers.com
Executive Member	David Seemungal	905-420-0677	dcmungal@keybase.com
Executive Member	Anand Ramsahai	905-275-8996	ramsahai@rogers.com
Past President	Merle Ramdial	905-844-1254	mjramdial@hotmail.com

Board of Trustees

Executive	Norma Ramsahai	416-283-0675
Executive	David Seemungal	905-420-0677
Non-Executive	Howard Sammy	705-466-3480
Non-Executive	Krishna Nankisoor	905-568-1244

CREDITS

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Editor	Merle Ramdial
Advertising	Vitra Mungal
Layout & Printing	Bluetree Graphics Inc. (416) 754-1225
Contributions and Correspondence should be forwarded to: The Editor, "broadcast" NAAC, Bridlewood Mall Postal Outlet P.O. Box 92175 2900 Warden Avenue Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9	

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President's Message

For many of us, our lives are about the legacy we leave behind. Legacies can be different things for different people, for some it can be the physical things we amass while for others it is the kind and generous things we do. In times like these of tsunamis, hurricanes and devastating natural disasters we are reminded of how fragile life can be. It forces us to take a look at our lives and evaluate what is really important and what we would like our legacy to be.

For the Founders and those who have worked over the years to build the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada it is a fine legacy you leave. The accomplishments of the Association over the years are a testament to this. The support we give to our schools in Trinidad as well as to our partnership programs in Ontario such as the steelband program are fine examples. However, I think that one of the most important things we do is the awarding of bursaries. It is more than just financial aid, it is an opportunity to recognize each student's accomplishments and prepare them for the future. I am sure being a bursary winner gives you just a little more confidence as you enter your post secondary education. We are proud of all our bursary recipients over the years and would like to hear from you. Please write in and let us know where you and what you are doing as you are the future of this Association.

For the present, we continue to look for ways to generate the funds required to continue our programs. A big thank you to all the bingo volunteers and especially our bingo coordinator, Norma Ramsahai for their hard work and dedication. It would not be possible to continue our Ontario programs at this level without bingo funds. However, we have to come up with some innovative ideas to generate funding for our Trinidad programs. All of our schools in Trinidad are undergoing renovation, restructuring and expansion. In addition to funding our existing programs we would like to assist wherever we can. However, we must come up with ideas to raise these funds. I am asking each of you to come up with an idea and generate a proposal for a plan that you would be willing to spearhead.

One of the key elements of our Association is bringing people together. I look forward to seeing most of you at our general meeting and at the Christmas dance and at some of our bingo sessions. For those of you who are too far away to attend any of these events, I look forward to receiving your emails and letters.

Vitra Mungal
President

From the Desk of the Editor

It is great being an editor when there are exciting news items to share. The Naparima Alumni Association of UK/Europe was recently formed and we have a report from the Interim President, Ms Shirley Sookraj (pg. 13). From our Alumni to yours... Best Wishes! We have a promise from their executive to keep us informed of their progress and to liaise with us through Dr. Clarence Madhosingh, who resides in Ontario.

More good news...NAAC (Toronto) has a new website at naactoronto.ca. It was launched on October 17, 2005 (see back cover for a quick look at our homepage).

Please pay particular attention to the notice re:

Naps 100 Fund.

I received an email message titled "Yuh know it's time to burn that Trini Passport when..." A list of 20 items was attached and there is no reference to crime or criminal activities. Hope you get a few chuckles from these.

Our T & T liaison, Richard Kokaram, was only able to get reports from Naparima Girls' High School and Hillview College. The other bits and pieces that are reported in this issue were garnered from Trinidad online newspapers. It is our hope that the other institutions will keep us informed so that we can justify our continued support.

Finance Report

As of September 16, 2005, the status of the Association's financial affairs was as follows:

Bingo Account \$ 4,721

General Account

Bank Account (BNS) \$37,851

Bank of Nova Scotia - Arthur Sibal

Memorial Fund: Bank Account – \$ 413

Term Deposit – Balance @ Jun. 30/05 \$ 1,111

Inter Pipeline Fund: 100 Units

- Book Value \$10.00 \$ 1,000

*Edward Jones – GIC @ 2.75%

Maturing May 5/06 \$14,477

Total **\$54,852**

Naps 100 Account

Bank Account \$ 270

Inter Pipeline Fund: 1500 Units

- Book Value \$10.00 \$15,000

AIC Advantage 11

Book Value Cost per Unit \$8.64 \$15,000

*Edward Jones – GIC @ 2.75%

Maturing May 5/06 \$10,492

Total **\$40,762**

*Dividends earned from the Inter Pipeline fund in the amount of \$7,136 and matured Term Deposits in the amount of \$17,833 were combined and reinvested at Edward Jones.

Current market value of the Inter Pipeline Stocks is \$10.01 per unit and dividends received to date total \$8,536 Current market value of the AIC Advantage 11 Funds is \$9.26 per unit.

From the General Account, a total of \$5,660 was recently sent to the five schools in Trinidad to fulfill our commitments for 2005.

Net revenue of \$2,727 was contributed to the Association by the 5K –2005 Walkerton event and various gigs held by our performing steelband - Panache. Our participation in the Bingos continues to be a major source of revenue (see separate report).

As reported by the former Treasurer, Roy Bhopalsingh financial statements for the last fiscal year-end could not be presented at the last Annual General Meeting due to a glitch in the outdated software that was being used. Roy is in the process of rectifying the problem and we are hopeful that a complete set of financial statements would be submitted in the very near future. To alleviate this occurrence, the Association has purchased its own software – Quick Books –Basic 2005 to be used for the current and future years.

Respectfully submitted
Glenda Ramsahai, Treasurer

Please mark your calendars

Notice of NAAC Christmas Dinner & Dance 2005

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2005
AT ELITE BANQUET HALL

*Live Music supplied by the VIBES and DJ Raul
West Indian Menu*



Bingo Report

For the current fiscal year to date, April 1st 2005 to September 30, 2005, NAAC was responsible for 18 bingos. Revenue earned for the six months from Feb/05 to July/05 was approximately \$13,500. This averaged out to about \$750 per session, an increase of about \$50 per session, over the same time last year. Revenue for the period Aug/05 to Sept/05 is still owing to NAAC from the Finch Country Bingo Association. There were some changes in running bingo sessions for each of the charities involved, which resulted in us needing four volunteers to run each bingo session instead of the usual three volunteers.

Again, special thanks to all our volunteers and team leaders for their help in running these sessions. What a great move forward - we have added eight new volunteers to our team, namely, Roger Singh, Sheila Satram, Gerard & Marlyne Sinanansingh, Janet Sanayhie, Anand & Glenda Ramsahai, and Randolph Karamath. We extend a warm welcome to them and know they will enjoy the fun and camaraderie while contributing to the worthy causes.

Currently, the City of Toronto has approved the following charitable objects of NAAC for which proceeds are to be used.

- 1) Funding the steelband programs at the two high schools.
- 2) Bursaries for graduating high school students.
- 3) Cultural and Community Support.

We welcome new volunteers. Just helping at a couple sessions per year would be much appreciated. Please contact Norma Ramsahai at 416-283-0675 for more information.

Norma Ramsahai
Bingo Coordinator

Communications Report

This Fall 2005 issue of broadcast was mailed out to members in Canada during the week of October 17, 2005. We are always on the lookout for interesting and pertinent articles, so please share any important happenings with us.

We thank our advertisers, who have remained steadfast in support of our Association over the years. To place an advertisement in *broadcast*, the cost is \$50 for a quarter page, \$75 for half page while a full page costs \$100. Ads run in both issues of the year.

Website:

Thanks to Julian Sammy who hosted, designed and administered our old site. We appreciate the time and effort that Julian and Rustin Oree put into making our site interesting. We have since been able to acquire our own domain name "www.naactoronto.ca".

We launched our new naactoronto.ca website on October 17, 2005. As is the case with most websites, ours is a work in progress and we welcome feedback. Please note, however, when making suggestions for items to be included on the site, that we must abide by Canada's privacy policies, so there is need to carefully evaluate what information we share on our site. In a short while, we will be adding a picture gallery. If you have digital photos of NAAC events that you wish to share, please send them to me.

Pay us a visit at naactoronto.ca and send your comments to the site administrator (via the link at the bottom of our homepage) or to any member of our executive. (See colour screenshot on back page).

We are also hoping to communicate with you via email in the future, so even if you do not have comments about the site right now, send us a message anyway, so that we can verify your most up-to-date email address.

Merle Ramdial
Chair, Communications Committee

Membership Report

Many years ago, some of our past grads wanted an organization that would keep our grads and friends in touch with each other. It was a great idea! This year, as head of the Membership Committee, I would like to make an effort to draw all our former members back into the 'fold.' We have rallied through near to 30 years as an organization. NAAC surely was built on a very strong foundation so even though the membership dwindles the Association still survives. Hats off to those who hold the fort! As *Trinis* would say, "we pick up something hot and sweaty" and then "drop it like a hot potato."

If you have paid your membership fees, you should consider making a commitment to the Association to help in the decision-making. We value your opinion and would like to hear from you. This would now be facilitated through our website, so please take the opportunity to do so!

Those who live outside of the Greater Toronto Area — we hope that you could find ways of joining us at our General Meetings and other NAAC-sponsored events. One member's comment: "This could be an opportunity to come to Toronto together as a small group." Some members expressed a wish to meet for a musical evening. *Music binds people together.* We could form a small choir. Is anyone interested in forming a Scrabble group on a Sunday afternoon? These are fine examples of activities where we can meet in our own communities.

To this end, the Executive has agreed with my proposal to establish small informal groups by region. No new rules will be made, nor will there be formal meetings. These regional groups will not have their own executive bodies, but will simply be *Regional Representatives* co-opted to serve on the Membership Committee; to help with networking, to inform or remind members of NAAC meetings and other events. These Representatives will be given a list of names and telephone numbers of members and former members in their designated areas. If

you can volunteer as a representative in your region please let us know. The regions suggested are:

- Barrie/ Bolton/ Brampton / Caledon /Georgetown / Nobleton - (*Nola Jandejsek*)
 - London / Sarnia / Ingersoll - (*Dawne Mahabir*)
 - Kitchener/ Waterloo/Guelph.
 - Burlington / Hamilton /Mississauga /Oakville.
 - Maple/Markham/ Newmarket / Richmond Hill/ Unionville.
 - Ajax / Pickering/ Scarborough / Whitby
 - Toronto/ Etobicoke - (*Karma Naike*)
- (If your area has not been included. Please let us know)

This is a call to all members who know the whereabouts of former members to assist the Membership Committee in fulfilling our stated objective. If you are an Annual Regular member why not consider becoming a Life Member? This saves time from having to send \$10.00 every year. Please note that children presently covered under a Family Membership, on becoming 16 + years, should now apply for Student Membership. We look forward to the 'good old times together.'

MEMBERSHIP

Honorary	25
Life	152
Annual	80
Student	10
Family	5
TOTAL	272

Cynthia Ramdeen

Chair, Membership Committee

Steelband Report

As stated in its Constitution, one of the aims of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto) is *“To provide an avenue for education and cultural interaction with the society at large”*.

The current NAAC-sponsored steelband programs are accomplishing this key aspiration of the association. To better illustrate how far the steelband programs have progressed, the following is an excerpt from Rustin Oree’s steelband report that appeared in the Fall 1994 issue of the *broadcast*.

“What a nice dilemma to be in. Two years ago when we first started, I was begging members to come out to steelband. Now we have two full classes and people waiting to join. Now we are looking to expand into another school board and start classes in the east end as soon as someone can come up with a potential location.

The steelband is also getting to the stage that Howard and I initially visualized, and that is a NAAC steelband to perform publicly at our functions.”

Ten years later, the NAAC Steelband partnership school programs are still in operation at the Toronto District School Board’s Cedarbrae C.I. in Scarborough and at West Humber C.I. in Rexdale. Starting in September 2005, over 320 students are enrolled in a total of 12 credit classes (4 at Cedarbrae C.I. and 8 at West Humber C.I.) learning to play pan under the Ontario Ministry of Education music curriculum. Mr. Joe Cullen at West Humber C.I. and Mr. Randolph Karamath at Cedarbrae C.I. are responsible for the teaching programs at their respective schools. NAAC funding support to West Humber C.I. and Cedarbrae C.I. include tuning of pans, bursaries, academic awards, pan and accessory purchases.

The **NAAC-sponsored community steelband teaching programs** continue to exceed expectations. At Cedarbrae C.I., a Beginners program under the



*Panache at Halton Police Picnic, June 2005.
(Photo: Rudy Mohammed)*

leadership of Randolph Karamath, ended in June 2005 with 15 participants. At West Humber C.I., a Beginners and the NAAC Panache Performing Steelband under the joint leadership of Joe Cullen and Pat McNeilly, ended in June 2005 with 41 participants.

Since May 30, 2005, the 29 member Panache Steelband has performed at a number of charitable and fund raising events. The performances were at Mississauga’s Carassauga, NAAC Calypso Fun Run/Walk, Halton Police Charity Picnic, Canadian Cancer Society (Etobicoke) Relays, an 80th birthday party in Brampton and a late summer garden party in Oakville. The fund raising events added a gross amount of \$ 1,260.00 to the association’s general account.

In addition to the above events, the Panache Steelband practiced and performed weekly on Thursdays and Sundays at Wild Water Kingdom during the months of July and August 2005. The main benefits of the Wild Water Kingdom appearances were the improved quality of the band performances and exposure of NAAC’s work in the community.

The NAAC-sponsored community steelband teaching programs for beginners and the advanced (Panache) players resumed practices on September 8,

(continued on next page)

Steelband Report

(continued from previous page)

2005 at West Humber C.I. under the tutorship of Pat McNeilly. Persons interested in learning to play pan at the West Humber C.I. location and require more details on the program and available pan positions, are requested to contact Anand Ramsahai at (905) 275-8996 or by email: ramsahai@rogers.com.

Persons interested in learning to play pan at the Cedarbrae C.I. location and require more details on the program and available pan positions, are requested to contact Randolph Karamath at (416) 283-4125 or by email: ramachez@hotmail.com. Classes began on October 5, 2005.

Anand Ramsahai

NAAC Executive
Steelband Liaison



*Players and friends at BBQ party hosted by Rudy & Glenda Mohammed, August 2005.
(Photos: Ian Ramdial)*



NAAC - Sponsored Steelband Classes

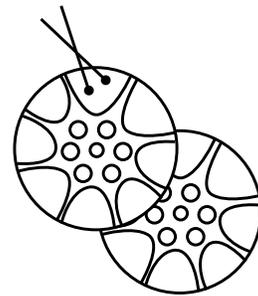
*Interested in learning to play pan
or in joining a Steelband?*

Two venues:

West End: West Humber Collegiate Institute

East End: Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute

Contact: Anand Ramsahai: 905-275-8996 • ramsahai@rogers.com
Randolph Karamath: 416-283-4152 • ramachez@hotmail.com





Kelvin Seepersad

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Steelband & Calypso Fun Run/Walk 2005

For us the organizers the day began quite early after months of fun planning and preparations. Up at sunrise, Ras came with signs in tow to be posted on the trail and all the last minute things to see to. As the help arrived we had to make sure that they knew their assigned tasks and their posts — organizing the food, water and snacks, registration and setting up the prize tables and keeping generally on top of things before the onslaught of the walkers.

The steelband played, the participants gathered carrying their bottled water and other thirst quenchers and dehydrators. The day was shaping up to be a hot one in Toronto. Little did we know that this Saturday June 11th would be a precursor to one of the longest and hottest summers on record with many climate records being set.

So we advised our participants on this day to keep cool and drink plenty of liquids as the big clock, compliments of The Running Room, counted down the start time at 9:30 a.m. Watches were synchronized for those who kept their own time and for the rest of us the synchronization was with our heartbeats and the mounting excitement within our bodies as the start signal sounded.

Some 20 minutes later and the first runners were in sight of the finish line - the faster younger athletic types who had conquered the Scenic West Humber Trail once more - settled in to encouraging the slower, older, not so athletic ones to bring it in. And bring it in we did with smiling faces and some in fine style, dancing across the finish line, children young and old and their parents and grandparents. Some of the over 60s covered the 5km course in under 60 minutes. Hooray for them! Ian and Merle, Howard and Kathy, congratulations, you did well.

There were no incidents, no complaints. We all had a great time. The steelband played some more. Some even danced in the open, others swayed and tapped their feet to the rhythm of the pan beat and then we had the awards and prize draws. Thanks to all the contributors and to our sponsors. Everyone got something, some even got more than one prize. Tell your friends and family and bring them next year.

Same place, same time and we would all have a grand ole time.

Ras, Rustin, Rio, Norma, Sandra and family, ETTY, Prem, Milton and Kathy and all the Naparima Alumni families, friends and supporters — THANKS for an eventful and wonderful day. See you all next year.

Submitted by
Milton Moonah, Event Co-ordinator



(Photos: Ras Shreeram)

Turton/Osborne Awards

The Val Turton/Carl Osborne Memorial Foundation held its annual Awards function on August 4. Her Excellency Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards, the First Lady of Trinidad and Tobago, gave the feature address and presented the bursaries.

In its first two years of operation the Foundation was able to provide ten thousand dollars in bursaries each year. In this, its third year, the Foundation provided bursaries totaling twenty thousand dollars. Andre Jeffers and Joel Richardson of Presentation College and Dezi Lara and Justin Edwards of Naparima College received cheques of five thousand dollars each.

In his address, Fred Thornhill, PRO of the Foundation and a former President of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada, said that The Val Turton/Carl Osborne Memorial Foundation was organized to honour the memory of Val Turton and Carl Osborne. The Foundation re-introduced an annual intercol football match between Naparima College and Presentation College as part of a double-header which includes a high school girls' game. It also gives financial support to the two colleges and provides bursaries to graduating students from both colleges to assist them in pursuit of tertiary education.

Naparima College has claimed the original Val Turton/Carl Osborne Memorial Trophy having defeated Presentation on three successive occasions.

A new trophy will be at stake for the game this year which takes place on October 22, 2005. Also at stake will be a girls' game between Pleasantville Senior Comprehensive and Moruga Composite for the "Her Excellency Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards Challenge Trophy".

David Sammy said that the Naparima Old Boys' Association is hoping to schedule the annual Naparima vs. Presentation football match on the Sunday October 23 so that visitors can take in the two events. Past students of Naparima and Presentation colleges living abroad are invited to plan their next visit to Trinidad to include these intercol matches.



*In the picture Her Excellency Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards shares a joke with the awardees.
L to R.: Justin Edwards, Andre Jeffers, Her Excellency,
Joel Richardson, Dezi Lara
(Photo courtesy of Fred Thornhill)*

Condolences to...

Pat McNeilly on the recent death of his brother, **Dr. Russell McNeilly**. Russell taught at Naparima College before coming to Canada. He taught at the University of New Brunswick from 1967-1996. His funeral took place on August 22, 2005 in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

And to

Members, Desmond & Clive Teelucksingh, Joyce Pooran and Merle Ramdial on the death of their brother, **Kelvin Teelucksingh**, whose funeral took place in London, England.

News from our T & T schools...

Hillview College

At the Ordinary Level, 81 of the 90 students who wrote these exams received full passes.

At the Cambridge A-Level Exams, 6 students received Distinctions in 3 Principal Subjects and General Paper. Of this group, Amrik Singh Kochhar was awarded the President's Medal. He placed 1st in the world in Physics and Mathematics.

Kochhar is the son of Deputy Principal of the University of the West Indies, Prof Gurmohan Kochhar.

Hillview will hold its Graduation and Prize Giving exercises on October 13, 2005. Later, on November 12, 2005, there will be a Golden Anniversary Awards Function. The 50th Anniversary celebrations will culminate with a service at Aramalaya Presbyterian Church on Sunday November 20, 2005.

The College's Parent Teacher Association has embarked on a building project to construct a two-storey multi-purpose hall next to the Sixth Form building. This project will commence in 2006.

Naparima Girls' High School

Once again the results of both "O" and "A" Level Exams were outstanding. So far 5 students have received private scholarships.

Alexa Gopaulsingh

- UWI Open Schol – Natural Sciences

Yashoda Sookram

- UWI Open School – Natural Sciences

Shivani Ramroop

- UWI Open School – Law

Sera Leigh Ghourlal

- United World College to China

Ashley Jhagroo

- United World College to Canada

NGHS Principal, Ms Patricia Ramgoolam, specially mentioned that of the Geosciences intake at UWI, 3 out of the 14 students accepted for the program are Naps Girls.

Naparima College

"Kris Singh, 17, of Naparima College, was awarded a national scholarship. Singh is studying actuarial science at the University of Waterloo, Ontario. His older brother, Kevin Singh, won a national scholarship in 2004".

Other than this small excerpt from a local paper, we have no further report on results from the college.

Submitted by:

Richard Kokaram

Science

Amrik Singh Kochar (Hillview College)
Tristan Ramcharan (Presentation, College, Chaguanas)
Kadra Banker (St Joseph's Convent, Port of Spain)

Mathematics

Shera Mungroo (St Joseph's Convent, PoS)
Surrin S Deen (Presentation, San Fernando)
Vivek Anup Maharajh (Presentation, San Fernando)

Business

Robert Martinez (St Mary's College)
Neshan Singh (El Dorado Secondary Composite)
Cyntra Raghubar (North Eastern College)

Languages

Jivaan Bennett (St George's College)
Caroline De Verteuil (St Joseph's Convent, PoS)
Solange S Khan (Bishop Anstey High School)

Modern studies

Anjali Maharaj (St Augustine Girls' High School)
John Peter Clarke (St Mary's College)
Natika Reddock (St Augustine Girls' High School)

Environmental studies

Nikita Sahadeo (St Joseph's Convent, St Joseph)
Tounesha La Rosa (Bishop Anstey High School)
Jabal Hassanali (Queen's Royal College)

Drama

Anna Lucie-Smith (St Joseph's Convent, PoS)
Denah Deen (St Augustine Girls' High School)
Aliyah Johnson (Bishop Anstey High School)

Trinis awarded UWC schools

THREE students have been awarded scholarships at the United World Colleges (UWC), which offers a unique pre-university experience for young people between the ages of 15 and 18, dedicated to boosting international understanding and cooperation.

The sponsors UWC (Trust) TT in collaboration with the Venezuelan Embassy, the CDB, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Schlumberger and CMMB said the process was highly competitive and was awarded based on merit alone.

The recipients are **Ashley Jaghroo** of **Naparima Girls' High School** who receives a full scholarship funded by the Schlumberger Foundation to the Lester B Pearson, UWC, Canada; **Khadija Watche** of North Eastern College who also received a full scholarship funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to the Simon Bolivar, UWC, Venezuela and **Sarah-Leigh Gouralal** a student of the **Naparima Girls' High School** who received a scholarship funded by Li Po Chun UWC and CMMB to the Li Po Chun UWC, in Hong Kong.

There are ten UWCs where students at nine of them study towards the International Baccalaureate (IB) for two years. At the college in Venezuela, students obtain an Agricultural Farm Management Diploma in three years. The IB is well recognised all over the world and gives access to universities in 110 countries, including the UWI.

(Reprinted from Newsday, July 18m 2005)

If you have something to trade or sell:

- Garage Sale • Furniture*
 - Cars • Exhibits,*
- consider a listing in broadcast!*

Yuh know it's time to burn that Trini passport when:

1. You require a straw to drink from a coconut...
2. You start tellin' people "hi" instead of "AYE BOY"...
3. Yuh cyar walk bare feet on the hot pitch like long time...
4. You don't know what "woi" and "mamaguy" mean
5. You say "Y'all" instead of "ALLYUH"...
6. You queue up in an orderly fashion...
7. Your accent changes by the time you land in the airport
8. You forget how to climb a tree
9. You start saying 'buck' instead of 'a red' or 'dollah'
10. You feel comfortable at 0 degrees celsius
11. You ask "Bunji who?"...
12. You start asking for "slight" on your doubles
13. You eat roti with a knife and fork...
14. You forget what month Carnival is in
15. You prefer grits, green eggs and ham, over two doubles or an aloo pie for breakfast
16. You say soda, softdrink and pop instead of sweetdrink or SwEEdRink
17. You start saying "how are you?" instead of "wha iz de scene?"...
18. You can't remember what is a "latrine" or "outhouse"...
19. Yuh start saying "give me a holla" instead of saying "gimmeh ah call dey"...
20. You forget what a clean-neck chicken looks like

Naparima Alumni Association of UK/EUROPE Launched

Our Alumni was born on Saturday 16 April 2005 in honour of Miss Meghu and to realise one of her wishes at the memorial service held here in London for her.

The Interim Executive Committee formed to plan our formal launch and to steer us until our membership allows us to have an Elected Committee is as follows :-

President

Shirley Sookraj

Joint Secretaries

Clive and Lenore Teelucksingh

Joint Treasurers

Jeanette Lalla-Maharajh and Patricia Jaggs

Public Relations Officers

Cannon John Metivier and Martin Sinclair

Public Relations(Canada)

Dr Clarence Madhosingh

On Sunday 11 Sept 2005, The Samaan Ball was held in the form of a 4hr River Thames Dinner/Dance Cruise on board "The Mayflower" Cruise Boat to officially launch our Alumni. The event was named after the Samaan Tree under which the 1st secondary school class took place on the grounds of the Susumachar Church. The Samaan Tree also symbolised for us small beginnings that led to great things i.e. the family of the 5 Naparima Colleges renowned for their academic excellence. This tree is also significant for us as its sprawling branches create room for many in exactly the way our Alumni will offer membership not just to graduates of Naps College, NGHS, SAGHS, Hillview and Iere, but also to all who attended any of the institutions created by the Canadian Missionaries. Associate Membership will also be open to relatives and friends recommended by these graduates.

It was a fun-filled memorable night for all who attended celebrating not just our launch but also the 50th anniversaries of both Hillview and Iere High Schools. Guests embarked at Westminster Pier in London near the Houses of Parliament to be greeted by a feast of a banquet...what an advert this spread was for our own NGHS Cook Book!!

The music too was an excellent reflection of the rich variety of the many cultures that is the fabric of our land...CDs specially compiled by San Fernando DJ Albert Lai Tan set feet dancing with delight and nostalgia and the tassa that rocked the Thames was truly the icing on this celebratory cake!

The feature address was delivered by Cannon John Metivier, a Naparima College graduate and the evening's events were guided by our Master of Ceremonies, Ansel Wong also a Naparima graduate. Guests were so delighted with the opportunity to reunite with old friends as many did at the memorial service, that several requests were made for this Ball to become an annual event...some even felt that they could not wait that long and wanted to get together for a spring Ball....needless to say we will be only too pleased to oblige!!

Our next event is on Sat 5th Nov courtesy Mr Merlyn Sinanan at his home. It will be a Bonfire Night B-B-Q (trini style, of course!) to be followed by an Xmas/New Year Dinner. Details to be announced.

As well as planning future events, the focus of our attention now will be on publicising the existence of our Alumni and to increase our membership so all assistance on your end will be greatly appreciated.

Shirley Sookraj

Interim President

Thank You

*NAAC would like to thank the
advertisers that appear in broadcast.
Their support is greatly appreciated.*

—

*For advertising information, please
call Vitra Mungal or any member of
the NAAC executive (p.2)*

Notice of Proposed Disbursement of NAPS 100 Fund

In November 1993, NAAC launched the Naps 100 project in support of the centenary celebrations of the founding of Naparima College to be held in 1994. Appeals were made to NAAC members and other graduates from Canada, USA & UK for contributions to a Naps 100 Fund which was intended for building a gymnasium at the college. Two years later the fund held assets of approximately \$30,000.

The original gymnasium project was stalled due to lack of funding in Trinidad and for the last ten years, NAAC kept control of the fund, investing the monies in interest-bearing vehicles. However, NAAC recently heard from the principal of Naparima College, Ms Maureen Atwal, that the project was still alive.

In November 2004, the Government of Trinidad & Tobago announced their approval to fund two-thirds of the cost of construction of the gymnasium facilities. With this assurance from the Government, Ms Atwal sent NAAC a letter dated May 24, 2005 requesting the release of the Naps 100 funds to Naparima College.

NAAC intends to release the funds, now valued at over \$40,000, subject to the following conditions:

- **That the monies be used for construction of the gymnasium facilities and for no other purpose.**
- **That construction of the facilities, beyond the ceremonial turning of the sod, has actually begun.**
- **That, upon completion of the facilities, a plaque engraved with the names of the Naps 100 donors and/or designates, be placed in a prominent site within the building.**

*NAAC will endeavour to contact all donors to the
Naps 100 Fund including non-members.*

Indian Arrival Day - Feature Address, London, UK (June 4th, 2005)

by Ansel Wong

*DEDICATION: To the memory of my sister, Gloria Euclin Wong
and*

*The pioneering spirit of our High Commissioner, Her Excellency, Glenda Morean-Philip
who has steered the T&T boat to several more destinations*

DEPARTURE, DISCOURSE & DESTINATION

Today's event is significant in many ways but the last thing that I wanted was for it to be overshadowed by unexpected happenings in Trinidad and Tobago. I hope that is not the case today. We are here today to observe in our own way and in our specific environment the arrival of our fore-parents in Trinidad and Tobago.

When offered the opportunity to speak today, I readily accepted even though my brief appeared to be daunting, challenging and even impossible. But the persuasive tactics of Romaine Maharaj and Professor Andrew Ramroop offered me no option but to accept. In a calabash shell, I was asked to speak to you for about 10 minutes but to make the talk challenging, interesting, witty and not too serious as it is a celebration.

I took counsel from a number of people and had several helpful suggestions but in the end I was left on my own to sink or swim. I will try to swim here today.

I titled my address, *Departure, Discourse and Destination*. And I hope it is obvious to you what the elements of this talk will be. We are aware of the arrival of Indians in T&T and hence the Departure. But I want to enter into a discourse with you on what that means for us here in the UK, and then to pose some ideas about what the next step is. Where are we heading? What is the next destination?

I have no illusions that I have been granted a privilege, an honour and given a challenge in delivering the feature address today.

It is a privilege to have been accorded the opportunity to speak on a subject that is both a personal passion and of professional interest. With a Hindu step-father since the age of three, a graduate and Head Boy of Naparima College, and several years of spending

school holidays in the cane fields of St Helena Village and the dense forests of Mundo Nuevo placed me culturally, politically and socially at a number of convergent points where India bounced its head with China, had tea and cucumber sandwiches with Europe and ramajay and caray with Africa.

It is also an honour to be part of an event that is a concrete testimony to the incredible revival of the London Mission since the arrival of HE Glenda Morean-Phillip. Fortunately, I had advanced warning of what was in store for us in London. I had some insider knowledge of how efficient her cocoyea broom was in sweeping away all the old cobwebs.

"All yuh better watch out. She ent easy", I was told. So I want to take some liberties by personally celebrating in this address the High Commissioner's own arrival day in London.

But haven't things changed? Not only the fabric of the building but the warmth and caring you get from the staff. Remember the old days, when entering this building was worse than queuing for a visa at the American Embassy?

We now have not only a rebirth but a resurgence of activity – a newsletter that you can read and see some colourful pictures, events that are a true testimony of our cultural heritage and history, an open door to all the various constituencies that make up our truly rainbow nation – a programme that has re-positioned and re-focused these lovely islands of T&T to make us all proud.

Perhaps, Your Excellency, having changed things here in the Mission, your next project should be BWee?

I also consider it a personal challenge to be so bold face to address you as a non-Indian on your special

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Indian Arrival Day

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event. As one of just two genuine non-Indians on the platform, I feel like a double. Not the barra. Not the channa but a “touch” of the pepper. And you can never enjoy a double without a “touch”. I am that touch here today trying to sign post some questions for us to consider as part of this observation and celebration.

The contextual and conceptual framework for my thoughts today is the need for a serious dialogue or discourse on the path we are taking to reach our destinations – as an individual, as an Indian, as a Trini, whether to the bone or just by association or marriage, as a resident in the UK and as someone whose connections are becoming more and more removed from the source.

That physical, generational and emotional distancing from home is something we must all confront. Being Trini to the bone is no consolation when that bone is becoming brittle, arthritic and full of marrow that is seasoned with a curry powder that was bought some 6 months since our last visit home. I do not want to be uncharitable to anyone but do you realise that many of us of my generation here in the UK have now lived more years outside Trinidad and Tobago than in it? This is no joke. We are physically, emotionally, culturally, politically and spatially divorced notwithstanding how many times we return for holidays, play Mas in London, put a Trini flag sticker on the car or attend Nationals meetings at the Commission.

We are looking at a very complex and intriguing position at the heart of which is an intricate and intense relationship. On the surface it is just recognising a historical fact of the arrival of descendants from UP and Bihar to Caroni, Debe and Penal. For us in the UK, there is an added ingredient. We, with a direct relationship with T&T and our children by an indirect association, are now twice and thrice removed from that relationship and so the discourse we need to initiate must address this conundrum.

We have not arrived at Caroni, Debe and Penal. We have arrived at Croydon, Bermondsey and Harrow. If this is our arrival day, what then is our destination?

This metaphor of a journey is essential to many of us. I therefore find it convenient to offer up my thoughts using the icon of us as travellers. We all know that there is the ultimate journey, the Mother of all journeys – from cradle to grave, birth to death. In this journey our destination is determined and unchanged. As Tiger said in Selvon’s **A Brighter Sun**, “*When the bodee vine finish bearing, it does dead. Everything does dead when it finish doing what it have to do.*”

But we undertake other types of journeys – geographical, emotional, psychological, cultural, metaphoric, etc.

And what is it we all have to do before we dead?

I think our literature offers us a most interesting framework for answering this question. The journey, the landscape and Sugar Cane are the most important metaphors that pepper our literature and so provide the portal for conducting our discourse today. There is no time for a detailed examination of all the literature but just look at the writings of the Naipaul brothers – Vidiadhar and Shiva, Samuel Selvon, Clyde Hosien and Balgobeen Ramdeen.

The metaphor of the journey is used to great effect by these Trinidadian writers. The journey from the country to the town, the travels to maturity and adulthood, from single person to a married couple, from innocence to experience, from politics to poly tricks, from Trinidad to England, and sometimes a return journey to the starting point refreshed and changed.

You can find evidence of various aspects and types of journeys in almost every piece of writing on the Indian experience in Trinidad. Naipaul in **Miguel Street**: “*I left them all and walked briskly to the aeroplane, not looking back, looking only at my shadow before me, a dancing dwarf on the tarmac.*”

Interestingly and not surprisingly, considering we are a nation of essentially external peoples that were brought to Trinidad and Tobago, the image of the boat dominates our landscape. At key stages of our history we have engaged with some sort of sailing vessel.

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Indian Arrival Day

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- The Fatel Rozack that brought Indians to Trinidad in May 1845
- The Amistad that brought African slaves to the new world
- The Clarendon that brought the Chinese to T&T in April 1853
- The Empire Windrush that brought Caribbean migrants to England

All of these boats occupy seminal positions in our historical and cultural consciousnesses. Yet over 75% of Trinis cannot swim! The boat is our life, but we 'fraid water.

So we have left. We have departed. We arrived in Trinidad and Tobago. And we have also arrived in the UK. What must we now do before we dead?

I cannot answer that question for all of us. What I can do is pose some scenarios to help us arrive at an answer. And I return to the literature to help us.

For Indians in Trinidad and particularly for those of us in the UK, we could benefit from exploring four seminal works to help us decide what we must do to reach our destination.

I prefer fiction than political treatise. I find narratives far more accessible and useful than a political speech. So I make no apologies for carrying out my discourses using stories.

And I want to do so using Naipaul's **A House of Mr Biswas** and Samuel Selvon's **A Brighter Sun** and its sequel, **Turn Again Tiger** and his short story, **Cane is Bitter**.

Kenneth Ramchand, Naps graduate and critic, calls **Biswas**, a "novel of rootlessness par excellence".

Biswas is a Trini who marries within his community. He inhabits this Trini Indian world and accepts that this Trini Calcutta is insulated and isolated from the outside world that itself is facing its own problems. He wants to escape. But he discovers that the future for him is not assured. The colonial society that he so covets is not willing to receive him with open arms. Ramchand says that there is thus a heroic struggle

between "the tepid chaos of a decaying culture and the void of a colonial society".

In **The Brighter Sun**, Selvon introduces us to the Hindu couple, Tiger and Urmilla, just married and leaving the sugar estate to start a new life in Barataria near the city. Selvon's juxtaposition of this Indian family with an African one of Joe and Rita enables him to sketch the journey from rural India to urban Trinidad, from boyhood to manhood, from planting and cutting cane in Chaguanas to market gardening in Barataria, from sugar cane to ochro, melongene and bodie.

In the follow-up to this novel in **Turn Again Tiger**, the hero's journey to maturity is sketched against a background of creolisation and in the metaphor of cane. His journey is to free himself of the psychological and physical indentureship to cane.

There is a similar theme in **Cane is Bitter**. The struggle of Ramlal and Rookmin coming hard against the modernity of Romesh as there is a clash with traditional values and expectations.

I concede that there is a historical distance about these themes as we can all argue that the situations depicted are in the distant past and in some ways we do cringe about the simplicity of its debates. But in these books, I believe that there are still lessons for us. I certainly believe that there is some resonance and similarity between these stories and our position here in the UK.

And we need to ask ourselves, as the descendants of indentured labourers, what is our relationship to these historical connections?

Like Tiger, who returns to his agricultural roots on the sugar estate with visions of being the overseer, are we in danger of merely modernising our situation with no real progress? Is our departure from T&T and arrival in the UK resulted in a repositioning of our status, our growth, and our relationship to the host society and to each other? We have departed from T&T but where have we arrived – as an individual, as a community and as a people?

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Indian Arrival Day

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We can draw strength from our ancestry and history. Who we are and where we come from are important. We are not discarding these links, connections and allegiances as we chart the future. But in charting this future are we clinging on for too long to the historical continuities that root us to India and the Indian Diaspora? And instead of a rigorous enforcement of this continuity, should we see it as a resource that influences and guides our development and our journey to the next destination? In other words, are we doing so exclusively as Indians, Africans, Chinese, Europeans rather than as Indians, Africans, Chinese, Europeans but each with a common link to a land by birth, marriage, culture, politics, generation and allegiance?

Are we swirling in “the tepid chaos of a decaying culture” if we continue this journey alone as Indians, Africans, Chinese and Europeans?

Tiger poses the question more succinctly:

“Everything confuse in my mind.....Joe, you know is a funny thing but I never grow up as Indian...I mean, it look to me as if everybody is the same. It have so many different kinds of people in Trinidad, boy! You think I should start to wear dhoti? Or I should dress as everybody else, and don't worry about Indian so much, but think of all of we as a whole, living in one country, fighting for we rights?”

In Trinidad the Indian community was faced with this political and cultural dilemma of whether they should “think of all of we as a whole”, what has been termed “creolisation”.

For Naipual, creolisation can only lead to the spiritual and physical exile of the Indian in the Caribbean. For Selvon, creolisation is the preferred portal or window through which the Indian can secure a place in the wider community with personal fulfilment and advancement.

I think we can extend this analysis to Indians in the UK, as they too face a form of creolisation – creolisation as Indians from Trinidad and Tobago in relation to other Trininis, assimilation and integration as residents of colour in the UK and second cousin

status with the rest of the Asian community in the UK. The challenge is to secure a comfortable place and a stable relationship for the Indo-Caribbeans as individuals or a community of interest in and with the wider British society whilst at the same time nurturing and retaining cultural roots and allegiances. These allegiances are not simply Indian, African and European – The Triveni of T&T culture. They are more complex, interlaced with a number of strands that criss crosses a number of constituencies and produces grafts, cocktails and douglars. It is the blending of these and the difficulties of trying to unpick this tapestry that will determine our destination.

In considering this I cannot help thinking of Dr Williams exhortation that there is no Mother India, No Mother Africa but only Mother Trinidad & Tobago.

So what we must do before we dead is to make sure we have a clear idea of our destination and that we undertake the journey to get there together, not as Indians, not as Africans, not as Creoles but as communities of interest working together and being bound together by all the things that still tie us to Mother Trinidad and Tobago, whether that is Carnival, Hosay, Diwali or Emancipation Day.

And as we renew that steady march to our destination, I am confident that we will succeed. I base my optimism on solid evidence of hope, anticipation and achievement.

I am not talking about the images of Boysie Singh like a magician making Thelma Hayes disappear, nor Dole Chadee killing us softly with white powder or even Nandlal wielding his cutlass freely in the rum shop.

What fires my optimism here in the UK is that of Madan, a dapper sagga boy from Tunapuna who sits well as a Black First; who weaves his threads to enchant British royalty and aristocracy and who professes to be an inheritor of Garfield Sobers but still makes a duck at wind ball cricket.

The artistic terrorism of Bob Ramdhanie, bombing

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Indian Arrival Day

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the British consciousness into recognising the artistic achievements of black people and nurturing acapella voices to ramajay in a sweet, sweet crescendo.

Ron Ramdin sifting facts, figures and fiction to retrieve a past so that no one forgets and still having time to accompany Rama on his voyage.

Clary and Michael Ramdeen making Notting Hill a worthy challenger to Port of Spain with their voluminous flights of fancy in mahogany, cerise, green and every colour of the rainbow.

Keith Khan whose dhotis float like a butterfly but sting you in the eye.

Ray Mahabir who actually made the journey back to his roots and put actions to the fine words.

Heidi Mirza winning the battle against malignant spores to emerge as a professorial doyen of equality and diversity and still managing beautiful smiles.

And, of course, the two beautiful young women today, Marsha Ramroop and Serena Maraj, whose achievements and talents make my optimism and hope well placed as they are the future Captains steering us steadfastly to our destination.

All of these individuals have had a very personal influence on my own consciousness and for that I am grateful. Not because they are Indians but they were Trinis pushing the boat to the ultimate edge and setting the destination far beyond the historical footprints that marked their emergence.

But we are here in London in June 2005 and so a more appropriate image for us to luxuriate in is that which happened at Lords Cricket Ground in June 1950 when two Caribbean gladiators – one the descendant of African slaves, the other of indentured servants from Bihar – took on the three lions and tamed them into meek submission.

I am talking of Ramadhin and Valentine that this month 55 years ago masterminded the first test victory against England at the home of cricket. Ramadhin,

from Esperance Village in South Trinidad, a short figure of a master spin bowler taking eleven wickets for 152 runs in the most memorable victory ever in West Indian cricketing history.

The image is then of two 20 year old boys – one Indian, one African, one from Trinidad, one from Jamaica – united in one goal, to be part of a team battling against the old enemy.

Together they enabled the West Indies to reach their destination – The first test victory in England.

Let us draw strength from this feat and pledge ourselves before we dead to achieve something just as significant, important and worthy. Together we aspire, together we travel, together we arrive and together we achieve.

Ansel Wong is a graduate of Naparima College. He attended Hull University where he received a B.A.(Hons) in English and American Studies. Ansel also holds a Master's degree in Education.



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Mr Ian Ramdial
Secretary
Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

Dear Mr Ramdial,

Greetings to you and Members of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada from the Executive and Members of the Naparima Girls' High School Alumnae Association.

We acknowledge receipt of your kind and generous donation of a cheque for \$500.00 (Canadian) in memory of the late Miss Beulah Meghu, former Principal of NGHS, towards the Centenary Fund.

Miss Meghu wanted us to produce an Anthology of Past Students' Writings as our Centennial Project. To this end, we have formulated a Committee which includes Ramabai Espinet. We are in the process of obtaining names and contact numbers for past NGHS writers who would be willing to submit their writings and to give permission for same to be published in an Anthology in memory of Miss Buelah Meghu. Any assistance your Association can give will be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations on all your efforts and successes of which we read in your Newsletter, "Broadcast".

We look forward to further communication with your Association.

Regards,
Mintee Ishmael,
President, NGHS Alumnae Association

May 17, 2005

Ms. Merle Ramdial
Naparima Alumni Association of Canada
Bridlewood Mall Postal Outlet
P.O. Box 92175
2900 Warden Avenue
Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9

Dear Ms, Ramdial

Thank you so much for the copies of the Newsletter – Broadcast.

From the activities highlighted it is obvious that the association is doing a great job promoting and maintaining the fellowship among past students and their families and friends.

We have just started another phase in our expansion programme which is in keeping with the Ministry's vision 2020 plan.

The project involves the construction of a staff lounge, conference room, multi-media room and two additional classrooms.

Of course this means that we will have to raise funds. All our Stakeholders are committed to the project which will hopefully be completed by the end of the year. Please find enclosed a copy of the plans.

School is hectic as usual. This year, our first batch of Lower Sixers will be writing the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations in Economics, Management of Business, Accounts, Caribbean Studies and Communication Studies. In addition, our Upper Sixers are writing Cambridge Advanced level while our Form Fives are into the CSEC Ordinary level examinations.

But life goes on and both staff and students are motivated to do their best.

Please convey my regards to everyone.

Sincerely

Patricia Ramgoolam
Principal 11

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*End of the term for Steelband classes at West Humber C.I., June 2005.
(Photo courtesy of Joe Cullen & Merle Ramdial)*