



"BROADCAST"

Newsletter of the Toronto Unit

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

Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

Vol. XXXI No. 1

Fall 2007



Panache members at their first international gig in Louisville, Kentucky.



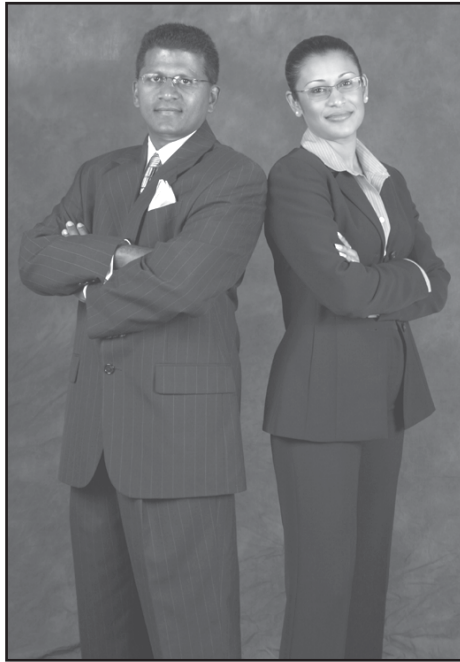
NAAC 2007/2008 Executive Members

*(Back Row L to R: Sharlene Seemungal, Vernon Dowlath, Ian Ramdial, Darise Crevelle, Vitra Mungal.
(Front Row L to R: Merle Ramdial, Selwyn Baboolal, Norma Ramsahai.*



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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' Training 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.

2007-08 NAAC Executive

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CREDITS

"Broadcast" is the newsletter of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada, Toronto Unit and is published twice a year. The views expressed in articles published are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Executive or of the Association unless specifically stated as such.

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CONTENTS

President's Message	2
From the Desk of the Editor.....	2
Finance Report	3
Communications Report	3
Bingo Report	4
Social Committee Report	4
Membership Report	5
Steelband Reports.....	6
NAAC Bursary Winner Update - Joy Sammy	7
Ian Angus Ali passes away.....	8
Arriving in Canada Stories.....	9
With Sympathy	10
Ralph Baney Sculpture.....	11
Quest for Doubles.....	12
Congratulations Joe Cullen.....	13
NAAC Membership List.....	14-16

President's Message

The long, lazy days of summer have ended and the kids are back in school. Life seems to get hectic in the fall, so to add some leisure, Aneesa, the kids and I decided to attend steelband classes at West Humber Collegiate. Thus far we have attended one class, but it was a fantastic experience. I truly regret that I never started these classes earlier. Imagine our very first class and we can already play *Amazing Grace*. We may not be able to play it well, but perhaps I should speak for myself and leave the children and Aneesa out of this, as they are more talented. It is a wonderful experience to go out as a family and participate in an activity that is so rewarding for each of us. Of course, none of this could be possible without the funding of these classes by the Alumni, the expert tutelage of Rustin Oree and many of the Panache performing members, who were more than willing to lend a helping hand to beginners. Learning to play steelpan in the company of so many friends is indeed a good experience. Now I wake up in the morning to the sound of steelpan music because the kids, both of whom play the piano, really like practicing on the steelpan.

Recently the Trinidad and Tobago Consulate invited the community groups to attend an information session. I attended on behalf of the NAAC and was informed that the Consulate's office is launching an event on September 23, 2007 celebrating Trinidad and Tobago's cultural gifts to the world and a celebration of the steelpan. I mention this to highlight the recognition that the steelpan is being afforded in Ontario.

The Consulate Office is having this event at the Palais Royale; obviously it is a "big do". I boast that the NAAC has been promoting steelpan for many years now. The second reason that I mention this meeting at the Consulate, is that I found out about another T & T group that boasts having their own building. Much to my chagrin, I could only ask myself "If they could do it, why not us?"

Regretably, the major source of our funding for steelpan and bursaries is grinding to a halt. We

have been advised that the Finch Country Bingo Hall will be closing soon (see Bingo Report). The Executive recognises the critical need to explore other avenues of funding. To this end, we have been brainstorming. Some of the ideas explored thus far are a Golf Tournament and a Boat Cruise. We would welcome your ideas and input in this regard.

Looking forward to seeing you and sharing a laugh at the Christmas Dance.

Selwyn R. Baboolal
President

Editor's Note:

I've been asked to be editor for this, the 2007-2008 term, which will include a special 30th Anniversary issue of *broadcast*. I started looking at past issues hoping to capture some highlights of the past ten years, and realized that I was the editor of the 20th anniversary issue, Rustin Oree edited the 15th and Ian Ramdial, the 25th. With this kind of experience close at hand, I've co-opted these two gentlemen to assist in producing the next issue.

In this, the Fall issue of *broadcast*, the appeal from Madeline Coopsammy (p.9) should encourage all you recent retirees, who have told me "*I should write things down before it is too late*", to do just that and submit their short stories to Madeline.

On page 12, *Quest for Doubles* is the second piece that we've published from Ruthven "Vince" Foster. Now that Vince has retired we expect to hear from him again.

We are extremely fortunate to be able to view another of Ralph Baney's beautiful wood sculptures (see p.11). His notes help us to better understand what goes into making a commissioned piece.

Although we extend our sympathy to the families of those for whom we have obituaries, we also celebrate their lives that were full with their involvement in family, friends and communities.

Merle Ramdial

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial affairs as at August 31, 2007.

Bingo Account

Bank Account (BNS) \$3,648

General Account

Bank Account (BNS) \$32,557

Arthur Siblal Memorial Fund:(Amount of \$413 transferred to the General Account)

NAAC Investments

Bank of Nova Scotia - Term Deposit
– Balance @ February, 28, 2007 \$ 1,137

Edward Jones – GIC @ 4.78%
Maturing July 26, 2008 \$10,436

Scotia McLeod - Inter Pipeline Fund:
1600 Units - B.V. per unit \$10.00 \$16,000

**Dividends earned on
Interpipeline Fund as at August 31/07 \$ 3,068

Total: Bank Accounts & Investments **\$66,846**

** Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund at July 31, 2007 was \$9.50. The fund continues to earn dividends at a rate of \$112 per month which gives us a return of 8.4 % per annum on that investment.

The Association will be financing its commitments to the schools in Trinidad in the amount of \$5,600.00 in September, 2007. The other donation made to date was to the Caribbean Canadian Literary Expo in the amount of \$150.00. This drop in donations is due to our decline in revenue from the bingo sessions.

For the current fiscal year the activities undertaken to date that contributed to the Association's revenue pool are as follows:

Casino Rama Trip	\$562.00
Donation in memory of Blake Stansfield from his friends and family to the CD Project	\$860.00
Revenue from 2 bingo sessions Apr/07	\$690.00
Panache Gigs net of Expenses	\$2,240.00
Panache CD Sales to date	\$7,985.00
*Panache CD Launch Fete	(\$1,530.00)

Subsidized by NAAC

A report showing sales less cost of the Panache CD will be produced at a later date.

Respectfully submitted
Norma Ramsahai, Treasurer

Communications Report

In preparation for next year's 30th Anniversary special issue of broadcast, we are looking for a sponsor. However, if an individual wishes to make a contribution to help defray the cost of the upcoming issue, please send your donation to NAAC at our mailing address.

We are also collecting appropriate bits of NAAC nostalgia from members and, as always, we are open to suggestions, ideas and submissions for the newsletter.

For those who have not visited our website, the address is: www.naactoronto.ca



NOTICE of NAAC's GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20th, 2007
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

at

The Montessori Teacher Training Centre
1050 McNicoll Avenue, Scarborough, ON

Bingo Report

Not so good news! On September 30, 2007 our bingo hall Finch Country Bingo will be closed as per a memorandum from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). This is due to poor profitability at this hall. However, there is a ray of hope in terms of fundraising for NAAC, in that we will be granted a reduced number of bingo sessions at another “profitable” bingo hall in the GTA. Currently there are only six bingo halls in operation in the GTA. We have seen a steep decline from the twenty-six halls in operation a few years ago.

For the current fiscal year to date, April 1st 2007 to August 31, 2007, NAAC was responsible for 15 bingo sessions. Revenue earned for the months January – April 2007 was approximately 4.0 K. This averaged out to about \$330.00 per session, a decrease of about \$30 per session, over the same time last year. Revenue for the period May 2007 to August 2007 is still owing to NAAC from the FCBA. We were informed by the FCBA that great uncertainty exists as to what revenue will be earned by the charities under the jurisdiction of the FCBA and that information will be sent to us sometime in October 2007.

This uncertainty as to the future flow of revenue from bingo sessions will affect both the funding of the steelband programs and the awarding of bursaries to graduating high school students in Ontario. We have had one NAAC member who has volunteered his company to help fund the bursaries. NAAC would like to thank that person for his kind assistance. As mentioned in previous reports, the executive is looking at other sources of funding for these programs. We encourage you to send us any ideas you may have.

For this fiscal year, bingo revenue was used for the printing of “Broadcast”, a donation to the Caribbean Canadian Literary Expo and honoraria to steelband instructors at West Humber Collegiate and Cedarbrae Collegiate.

Special thanks to all our volunteers and team leaders for their help and commitment in running the bingo sessions. We look forward to your continued contribution and support.

Norma Ramsahai
Bingo Coordinator

Social Committee Report

Although I am chairing the committee, the other members are the experienced Sharlene Seemungal, Vernon Dowlath, who is new to the Association, and Selwyn Baboolal, who is our special advisor for the 30th Anniversary Gala.

The next event is the Tea Party & Fashion Show. The Social Committee is in charge of the Fashion segments, while the Literary Awards Committee is in charge of the Tea & all other arrangements for this October 13th event. Tickets are available from the Literary Awards Committee members, Karma Naike, Ramabai Espinet, Myrtle Gopeesingh and Ian Ramdial or from any of NAAC's executive members.

Plans for this year's Christmas Dinner & Dance are all set, the tickets are printed and already in the hands of your favourite seller.

To celebrate our 30th Anniversary, we will be hosting a gala in May 2008. You will be hearing from us early in the new year with details. If there is something special that you think we should be doing for our 30th Anniversary, let us know.

How does a boat cruise on Lake Ontario with music by our own Panache steelband and a popular DJ sound to you for July 2008? We'll keep you posted.

Just so you won't forget the dates, see below:

Saturday October 13, 2007 – 2pm to 5pm

Tea Party & Fashion Show

Trinity Presbyterian Church

2737 Bayview Avenue, Toronto

Tickets: \$20 / \$10 (children under 13)

Saturday November 24, 2007 – 6pm to 2pm

Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance

Elite Banquet Hall • 1850 Albion Road, Rexdale

Tickets: \$45 members / \$50 non-members

May 2008

NAAC celebrates 30 years!

and we are celebrating in style.

Details to follow!

July 2008 • Boat Cruise

All aboard for the fete of the Summer!

Details to follow!

Respectfully submitted,
Darise M. Crevelle, Chair

Membership Report

Life Members – 170

Annual Members – 101

Honorary Members – 27

Total – 298

As the NAAC begins its 30th anniversary celebrations, I would like to remind you that this milestone has only been accomplished because of you the members. Some of you were there in the beginning and have continued to be active members. We thank you very much for your contributions.

In order to continue for another 30 years and beyond, we need to attract new members as well as have existing members become more active. The first step would be to renew your membership. Of the 164 annual members on record, only 61 have renewed for 2007. I am pleading with you to please renew your membership and your activity within the association.

Membership does have its privileges. Not only does it allow you reduced prices at events, such as the dances, it gives you a voice. Only as a paid up member, can you vote on matters that affect this association. As you can see from the other reports, the association's local source of income is going through some changes and we need to look at new initiatives. Your input is vital and there will be decisions to be made at our GM and AGM, so please renew.

In an effort to expand our membership and bring some new energy to the association, we are issuing a membership challenge. We will be giving a prize to

any member who brings in the most new members between October and December 2007. In addition to the satisfaction you will feel from expanding the association, there really will be a great prize awarded. So go out and encourage your family & friends to join and remind them to list you as their sponsor.

Members do not have to be persons who attended or taught at one of the Naparima schools, they can be anyone who shares NAAC's goals and objectives. The membership categories are as follows:

- Regular Membership (Former Student or teacher of a Naparima School)
- Student Membership (Any Student Interested in the Aims of the Association)
- Associate Membership (Recommended by a Regular Member in Good Standing)
- Regular Family Membership (Both spouses attended a Naparima School)
- Regular Associate Family Membership (Only one spouse attended a Naparima School)
- Associate-Associate Family Membership (Neither spouse attended a Naparima School)

Membership forms can be downloaded from our website – www.naactoronto.ca. So send in your renewals, encourage new members and we look forward to seeing you at our events.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitra Mungal,

Chair, Membership Committee

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

Christmas Dinner & Dance

— *Saturday November 24th, 2007* —



**at Elite Banquet Hall
1850 Albion Road, Rexdale**

Time: 6:00 p.m. • Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Dress: Formal Cash Bar



Music by: Panache Steelband & DJ Dynamic Sounds

Tickets: \$45 • Members / \$50 • Non Members

Steelband Report

School Support:

As reported elsewhere in the Bingo Report, the funding derived from bingo sessions licensed by the City of Toronto has sharply decreased and may very well disappear altogether. If we cannot find alternate funding from provincial government agencies, NAAC may have to go it alone. In any event, the steelband program will be adversely affected.

For the 2007– 2008 year, we hope to continue funding the steelband bursary and awards as well as helping to defray the costs for maintenance of instruments and other accessories in the steelband classrooms, but not for the purchase of new pans.

Community Steelband Teaching Program

Classes resumed at Cedarbrae C.I. under the tutelage of Randolph Karamath, while at West Humber C.I. we have a new tutor, Al Foster. Many of us know Al as a student at West Humber C.I. He is an accomplished player and arranger of pan music.

If you are interested in learning to play pan and having fun doing it, please contact:

Randolph at 416-283-4152 or ramachez@hotmail.com for East GTA

Ian Ramdial at 905-844-1254 or iramdial@cogeco.ca for West GTA

Panache Steelband

All 1000 copies of our first CD titled *Simply Panache* arrived and sales have been better than anticipated. We have fewer than 340 left. If you did not purchase your copy as yet, please contact Ian Ramdial at the address listed above. The members of Panache and NAAC would like to thank everyone who donated their time, effort and money to the successful production of this CD. The Panache Christmas party together with the special fund-raising efforts of Michael Theodore and Jacqueline Rouleau at Timothy's plus the donations made by our special friends and supporters covered all the costs of producing this CD.

Panache's formal launch of the CD took place on July 15th, with the majority of the 220 attendees being friends and relatives of the players. This was truly a celebration of the whole exciting process of recording the CD and a remembrance of our conductor, Blake

Stansfield, to whom the CD is dedicated. Our band members were quite emotional when we played one of Blake's favourite tunes, *My Way*, while showing slides of us in the music room and at other gigs. As I mentioned in the last issue of *broadcast*, Blake passed away in February.

Other than the CD Launch in July, since April we have performed at the following:

- The International Order of Foresters, Brampton (May 11)
- St. Clement's R.C. Church, Etobicoke (June 10)
- The Annual Canadian Cancer Relay, Etobicoke (June 17)
- Toronto Big Brothers & Sisters (June 23)
- Cooksville United Church (June 23)
- Canada Day on Kerr, Oakville (June 30)
- Private engagement party, Vaughan (July 15)
- Whiteoaks Tennis Club, Mississauga (July 27)
- Whitby Centrum (August 18)
- Caledon Knox United Rally (September 9)

In addition, throughout the months of July & August, Panache performed on Sundays at Wild Water Kingdom. Upcoming gigs include, Sammy Family Country Lime (Sept 23), Birthday Party, Louisville, Kentucky (Sept 29), NAAC Xmas Dance (Nov 24) & TD Insurance Xmas Party (Dec 7).

Ian Ramdial,

Steelband Liaison

NAAC - Sponsored Steelband Classes

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

Two venues:

West End: West Humber C.I.

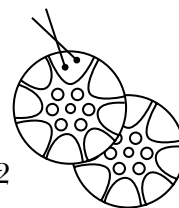
Ian Ramdial: 905-844-1254

E-mail: iramdial@cogeco.ca

East End: Cedarbrae C.I.

Randolph Karamath: 416-283-4152

ramachez@hotmail.com



Where are the early winners of NAAC bursaries now!

Here is an update from Joy Sammy who was one of them...

I was one of the first recipients of the NAAC Bursary many years ago in 1992! I was at the beginning of my university career as a Wildlife Biology undergrad at the University of Guelph.

I remember the night of the awards ceremony very well because I got lost trying to find it and never arrived! My Uncle accepted the bursary on my behalf and thankfully since then my sense of direction has improved considerably. I have managed to find my way to British Columbia and Botswana in order to complete a Masters in International Development, to Ghana as a volunteer teacher with Volunteer Service Overseas and even back to the University of Guelph where I am currently working towards a PhD with the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development.

While working as a teacher in northern Ghana at Bole Senior Secondary School, NAAC generously donated funds, which I used to purchase English text books and books from the African Writers Series for the school library. I am currently back in Ghana and have had the opportunity to return to Bole S.S. and am pleased to report that the school has new teacher housing, classroom blocks, dormitories, a new mosque and has grown from approximately 500 to 800 students. I spoke to the librarian who reports that the books are still in use and I have also had the pleasure of running into former students now all graduates working in different towns and villages throughout northern Ghana.



On tour in Ghana



Joy Sammy on right with a friend in Ghana

The \$500 of the first bursary purchased my text books for my first year at university and now I am working towards completing research for my PhD. I am currently living in the small

sister communities of Boabeng-Fiema in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana. The people here maintain a traditional belief system that has protected two species of monkey (the mona and the black and white colobus) since the founding of the villages sometime around the 1830s. In 1998, the communities became involved with the Nature Conservation Research Centre, a local non-governmental organization and have worked together to encourage community-based ecotourism. I am exploring the impacts of ecotourism on the traditional value-based system of conservation held by the communities and will be in Ghana for the next year.

I wish to thank the NAAC for supporting me in the early stages of my university education, which has enabled me to contribute to the education of others both in Canada and Ghana.

Joy Sammy

Ian Angus Ali passed away on August 16, 2007

Local television has lost another of its pioneers with the passing of Ian Ali, better known as “Uncle Ian”. Ali will be best remembered among those who were children in the 1980s, during which, as “Uncle Ian”, he hosted one of local TV’s most popular programmes, Rikki Tikki.

The 70-year-old media personality died of heart attack-related problems at about 7 p.m. on Thursday. Ali had an unrelated medical procedure at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Centre at Mt Hope on Wednesday. He complained of chest pains and was transferred to the Westshore Medical Facility, where he had a pacemaker inserted on Thursday. He died later that evening.

Rikki Tikki was one of the first local shows for children. As Uncle Ian, Ali’s warm, buoyant personality was not the only thing that had captured thousands of local children – he also accompanied his many stories and discussions with one-the-spot illustrations.

As a teacher and artist, Ali’s 40-year career, however, spanned several disciplines. In 1962 he won a government scholarship to study art in the United Kingdom, where he studied at Bath Academy of Art, Sir John Cass School of Art and Hammersmith College of Art and Building.

He was proficient in painting, sculpture, design, fabric work, jewelry, pottery, commercial art and illustrating. He was also a lecturer at the Government Training College for teachers and the University of the West Indies Summer Schools. He served at the Ministry of Culture and as a teacher at the Point Fortin Secondary and St Augustine Senior Comprehensive Schools. Ali also ran the Art Television Series.

For decades he was active in the Scouting fraternity and served as their National Commissioner for Communications. He was one of the original judges for the Prime Minister’s Best Village Competition, where he continued to judge for several years. His impact remains in the art arena, in education, in the development of Carnival designs and studies and in the pioneering of art training on television.

Ali’s love for his country was also clear in his work. His 1970s television series *Looking Around* was among the first to bring to the nation images of such wonders as the leatherback turtle, the scarlet ibis and local historical architecture. He would end each show with an enthusiastic “looking around”.

Left to cherish the memory of Ian Ali are his wife of 47 years, Carolyn, daughter Jo-Ann and son-in-law Hakeeb, daughter Tammy, son-in-law David and grandson Liam, daughter Patti, daughter Judi-Anne and son-in-law Michael, as well his brothers and sisters and relatives in Trinidad and Tobago and abroad.

(Reprinted from the Trinidad Express, August 18, 2007).

Editor’s note: NAAC recently auctioned four of Ian’s original paintings, which were donated by his sister-in-law, Dawne Mahabir, in support of the St. Augustine Girls’ High School Building Fund).



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 **PLATINUM AWARD**
2002



Arriving in Canada Stories

This is a preliminary “feeler” as to whether community response is positive enough to warrant going ahead with a publishing project we have in mind.

We invite contributions for a volume provisionally titled “Arriving in Canada Stories” that would record immigrant Caribbean Canadians’ experience of their early days in Canada. The intent is to place on record interesting, readable stories about the sights and sounds of Canada as experienced by new immigrants. Think of details such as the street on which you first lived, the people you met during the first month, places you went to, what was your first job or first apartment like? (if you were an adult immigrant); what do you remember of your first weeks at school? (if you were a child-immigrant). What is the funniest thing that happened? What is the most traumatic experience you had? Did you come to Manitoba straight from the islands or from some other part of this country or some other country? When did you first revisit your home back in the islands? After how many years, if at all, did you feel that Canada was home? What article or artifact do you now have that you had on the day you arrived? We would like each piece to also include where you are at now.

Please note: we wish to record both positive and negative, sad/angry/frustrated as well as happy, funny experiences. We are also looking for small details, such as the price of milk at the time, the size of your houses or apartment at the time, the material of the dresses worn, the colours in vogue.

We are looking for contributors from each decade since the 1950s.

We hope to collect fifteen to twenty pieces that collectively give a representation of the last six decades written by those who came as adults, and those who came as children. Each submission should be between 1000 and 3000 words. If you wish to submit an outline and a query as to whether your contribution might fit into our goals, please do

so and we will get back to you – please note, though, that this has to be in writing, not over the phone.

About our aims and methods:

We are solely interested in a volume that would be a keepsake of our early experiences that can be read by second generation immigrants and by non-immigrants as a piece of history, stories of life as lived.

Funding. We do not plan to ask any government agency for funding. We are volunteering our time as editors because we believe in the cause. We hope there are enough of us who might be willing to contribute to this cause of recording our experiences. We need six sponsors, each willing to contribute \$500 for this project. (We hope to make the rest of the costs through sales.) The sponsors will be acknowledged, in much the same way that the Canada Council is often acknowledged in print in volumes. In addition, each sponsor will get 20 copies of the volume.

Contributors whose work is selected by the editors will be given one copy of the volume. They may purchase volumes at an attractive discount – we hope it can be as high as 50%.

Please e-mail one of us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Madeline Coopsammy

e-mail: mcoopssa@shaw.ca

Uma Parameswaran

e-mail: u.parameswaran@uwinnipeg.ca

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— WITH SYMPATHY —

RAWLE NARAYANSINGH (1931 - 2007)

Rawle was born in Tabaquite, Central Trinidad. He attended Tabaquite Presbyterian School and then attended Osmond High School in Port of Spain. After graduation Rawle taught at the Riversdale Presbyterian School and then transferred to the Piparo Presbyterian School. He soon realized that teaching young children was his calling. He attended Naparima Training College for his Teacher Training and after certification taught at San Juan Presbyterian. In 1967 he migrated to Canada and lived in Kitchener, Ontario, with his wife Angela (nee Ramcharitar) and their two young sons, Dale and Kirk.

Rawle furthered his education in Canada graduating from Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Western Ontario. He taught with the Waterloo County Separate School Board in Kitchener and retired after twenty-five years of service.

Rawle played volleyball and cricket, and along with three of his fellow Trinidadian emigres, Owen Zachary Granger, Cecil Ramautarsingh and Michael Kelvin Ramkeesoon, formed the Kitchener Cricket Club. He was an avid promoter of the game of cricket and was an Executive Member of the Southern Ontario Cricket Association. Under his guidance and leadership he persuaded the City of Windsor and some cities in Michigan to form cricket clubs and to join the league. In his retirement years Rawle took up golf and enjoyed games on many courses with his sons and friends. He often went to Winnipeg, Manitoba in the summer to team up with his brother, Chanka and friends to enjoy golf at many of the Manitoba courses. When in Trinidad, the Pointe-a-Pierre Golf Course was his haunt.

Rawle was also a fan of horse races and would travel to the US to see the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness. He knew his jockeys and the statistics on most thoroughbreds and was known to have won big purses.

Raoul, as he was dubbed by many of his friends, Colbert, by some, was a gifted actor and an accomplished dancer. He loved and cared for people, young and old alike, and believed strongly in family values.

On the urging of his childhood friend, Harold

Naphtali, he joined the NAAC soon after its inception and was on the Executive Committee for many years. He was a Life Member and served as NAAC President in 1982-83.

After his stint on the NAAC Executive, he joined the Trinidad and Tobago Association in Toronto and spent a few years on their Executive. Rawle died on Monday July 2, 2007 at the Mississauga Trillium Hospital in the care and company of his sisters, brothers and sons.

Submitted by Milton Moonah

STEPHEN RAMSANKAR (1934 – 2007)

Stephen Ramsankar passed away on July 2, 2007 at the age of 72. Steve will be remembered by us for his part in NAAC's history when he sent a request to the Naparima Old Boys' Association in San Fernando asking for permission to establish an Old Boys' Association in Canada. He received authorization to do so in a letter dated October 25, 1976. This started a chain of events that led to the formation of the more inclusive alumni association, Naparima Alumni Association of Canada.

Steve "Vuns" Ramsankar migrated to Canada in 1954 and started his teaching career in Edmonton. For his work in education and for his community work with the underprivileged, he was awarded numerous honours, including the Order of Canada, a United Nations Global Citizen Award, an honorary doctorate from the University of Alberta and a Sir Frederick Haultain Prize for Education.

At 63, Steve became a citizenship judge with the Canadian government.

He was renowned for his interest in education and the welfare of West Indian immigrants living in Canada.

JOYCE POORAN (NEE TEELUCKSINGH)

passed away after a long illness on September 27, 2007. She was 72. Her husband Ramkissoon Pooran and three of her siblings, Desmond (Toronto), Clive (London, UK) and Merle Ramdial (Toronto) are Life members. The Executive extends heartfelt sympathy to all the family members.

Some Explanatory Notes about the Sculpture Presented to Sir Vidia on The Occasion of his 75th Birthday Celebration

For the first three months I experienced something like creative paralysis. In my recent work I have been making non objective or non representational forms in which emphasis has been on the formal elements of line, form, space, positive, negative, texture, mass, volume and so on. My problem was how to make a sculpture to represent some aspect of Sir Vidia's life and work while still working in my current style. Finally the ideas gelled. I thought about a few words: words like precarious, moving forward, journey, growth, penetrative vision and jewels. Sir Vidia's early days at the BBC and his choice to be a writer makes for a precarious living. So the sculpture is precariously balanced. Like Sir Vidia, the sculpture is on the forward move. The forms take a long winding journey as they move around and up. There is growth at the top and the openings are symbolic of Sir Vidia's penetrative vision especially the tiny opening at the top. I see recognition of the Knighthood and Nobel Prize for literature as the jewels in his career.

I had found this piece of wood under the Ministry of Education and Culture building on St. James Street in San Fernando. It was very heavy and very dark. It is at least 100 years old. I rescued it with the intention

of making a sculpture out of it and even brought it to the United States some 34 years ago. My guess is that it was a rejected off-cut from a pillar because builders of wooden structures in those days used very hard wood for pillars which had to resist termites and rot.

It was the hardest wood I have ever carved. I am still not sure what wood it is. My guess is that it is mora. It is mounted on a samaan base also taken to the US 34 years ago. So here we have Trinidad and Tobago wood, carved in the US by a Trinidad born sculptor presented to Sir Vidia, Trinidad born writer living in England and the presentation taking place in Trinidad and Tobago.

I have been engaged in making the block of wood come alive with what ever devices I could use. I used two pieces of colored glass: one for the Knighthood and on the opposite side a different piece for the Nobel Prize. I even put some tool marks which lead up to the jewels. I am personally very pleased with the sculpture.

It is hoped that it will hold Sir Vidia's attention for many years to come and that he will always discover something new about it.

- ***Ralph R. Baney***



***Photo taken at Naparima
College in 1957***

***Identify as many students
as you can in this***

***50-year-old photo and be
eligible to win a prize to be
drawn at the***

***Christmas Dinner Dance
on Nov. 24th, 2007.***

***Send your answer to:
mjramdial@hotmail.com***

Quest For Doubles

By

Vince Foster

At Naps it happened every day at about five minutes before recess. Dedicated “masters” began to detect a distracted gleam in the eyes of their students, young men suddenly impervious to instruction, information and enlightenment. Frustrated instructors coaxed, challenged, exhorted and threatened, finally accepting the inevitable – the boys had focused their collective imagination solely on the acquisition and consumption of “doubles”.

When the bell rang, hordes of ravenous lads dashed perilously down the stairs, dodging the slow, the unmotivated and the unfocused. The object of their quest, their source of sustenance and gastronomic delight, was mounted over the front wheel of a food seller’s bicycle, namely a large wooden box containing a pitch oil tin of streaming channa, dozens of warm saffron-colored barras, and a pungent and potent hot sauce. The vendor, Ali, middle-aged with graying chest hair, sweaty, feisty, gross and garrulous, instantly became the center of attention in the accumulating chaos surrounding his cart.

Amidst the mob and the shouting, clamoring, begging, pleading, pushing, jostling, the struggle to get and hold position, Ali reveled in the awesome power he wielded, verbally lambasting his famished clients with a ribald banter as his flying hands prepared their orders. To each sandwich he grandly applied the final touch – a sensual, ostentatious splash of aromatic hot sauce, a potion with the potential to ravage uninitiated throats, and to trigger gasping, wheezing, and guttural incoherence. The taste buds of some consumers, anticipating the tang of the comestible, involuntarily secreted flows of saliva, which drooled uncontrollably from the corners of slackened mouths, dangerously close to the heads, necks and shoulders of vertically challenged students.

As the press around Ali reached critical mass, as he dispensed a seemingly endless supply of snacks, he kept a vigilant eye on his coin box, in the event that a sneaky patron should “try ah ting”. Once when he appeared to be momentarily distracted, I proposed what I claimed was a perfectly reasonable tactic to save time – “Ay, Ali, ah go put meh shilling in de box and take meh own change, ok?” Ali, sensing skullduggery,

fixed me with a malevolent glare and calmly declared “if yuh put yuh hand in meh box, ah go buss a lash in yuh little red ass.” I was mortified by the ramifications of Ali’s retort – that my peers would remember me as a degenerate youth who furtively and shamelessly “try to put he hand in de barra man box.”

Constantly seeking to obtain nourishment without remuneration, I optimistically announced on another occasion “meh fadda say to open an account and he go pay.” The crowd was dumbfounded by this audacious proposition, but Ali, a master of repartee, was unfazed. He tersely and testily replied “Bring yuh fadda.” Other students tried different ploys to obtain speedy service. One wily youngster insisted that he was a buying agent for his teachers and was angrily shouted down, with an indignant voice ripping out of the mob – “Leh dem masters come for dey self, dey eh better dan we.” Another claimed that he was acting on behalf of H.C. girls, which was quite possibly true, since many Naps boys, in the throes of deep incurable infatuations with desirable La Pique invaders, were drafted by the girls as enthusiastic doubles carriers. His altruism was immediately subjected to scorn and ridicule “dem H.C. girls have yuh bazodee, not we, leh dem come an push like all ah we.”

As the bell for the cessation of recess loomed, panic set in and unorthodox methods to catch Ali’s eye began to be implemented. Diminutive but energetic youngsters, hopelessly trapped at the back of the press, began jumping up and down, seeking elevation and attention. Another, bold and enterprising, decided on a cunning but risky stratagem. Using stealth and the cover of tight quarters, he quickly grabbed and released the ample buttocks of the lad slightly to his front and side. The violated one, shocked, incensed, screaming profanities, leapt up and spun around, vengefully seeking the deviant perpetrator of this atrocity. The toucher, feigning impassive innocence, a perfect candidate for grope counseling, slid smoothly into the vacated spot.

After devouring their purchases, the scholars dashed to Herdes’ concession stand, which offered

(continued on next page)

Quest For Doubles (continued from previous page)

home-made beverages of bosco, peanut punch, grapefruit juice and seamoss (seasonal). The ingredients and methods of preparation of these concoctions were deliberately obscure. Herdes' youngest son, obese and lethargic, simply reassured hesitant buyers that the products were "what allyuh need. Dey does go dong good." This was not to be. As viscous liquid met spicy doubles in a vulnerable stomach, an irreversible chain reaction was activated. Molecular particles of incompatible substances roiled together in the intestines in an uneasy, quivering and volatile mass. The desperate stomach released anti-toxins to neutralize and assimilate its contents. These measures failed. The abdominal walls tensed and tightened. Gas, with an alarmingly high Methane toxicity, began to be emitted loudly and odoriferously. The stomach dispatched a frantic message to the brain that an explosive expulsion was imminent. Inexorably, key muscles of the anal region began to twitch and tremble.

Since the availability of toilet stalls at Naps was limited, the afflicted, staggering from unrelenting rectal pressure, were compelled to seek creative means of waste disposal. With purposeful but careful mincing steps to avoid an accidental disastrous discharge, they made their way to the windward gentle slope facing Farallon and the sea, spaced themselves out among the bushes and dropped their trousers. Making no attempt at fraternal conversation, they squatted and crouched, strained, trembled, sweated, whimpered, moaned, grunted, groaned, broke wind and defecated. However, each sufferer kept a firm grip on his individual bush, because one error in footing and/or balance would propel the unfortunate youth downhill at a rapidly increasing rate, unimpeded, unfinished and unwashed.



Ruthven "Vince" Foster has retired after 22 years with New York City's Department of Education. In Trinidad he was an elementary school teacher, and a Library assistant in the Public and Law Libraries.

In New York he worked in Banking and Health Services, and also served in the U.S. Army, stationed in military bases throughout the South. He plans to occupy his leisure time with Reading, Writing, the Arts, and Travel.

Congratulations Joe!

At the request of the members of Panache steelband, the NAAC Executive made an application to Pan Trinbago to grant honorary membership in their organization to Joseph Cullen. This was an easy task since everyone knew of Joe's work at WHCI as



Head of the Music Department. Over the past eleven years, WHCI has had the largest number of students registered in Grade 9 to 12 steelband music courses, more than any other school in Canada.

Joe, his wife Lisa and their two children are all members of NAAC. Although Joe has a hectic schedule and is unable to teach and conduct the NAAC after-school community steelpan classes any more, he continues to support NAAC as their liaison with the administration at WHCI. Not only is he a fulltime teacher, he also teaches two courses in steelpan at the University of Toronto and arranges music for pan. He still makes time to perform as a pan soloist and as a duo with Lisa, on flute, vocals and double second pans.

Joe has adopted pan and spread the music as far as Iqaluit, Nunavut, where he has held workshops and given performances for the past two summers.

Pan Trinbago did not hesitate to award Joe an honorary membership and we were very pleased to present the certificate to him at the newly renovated (by Holmes on Homes!) Cullen backyard picnic. Joe is deserving of this honour and was gracious in his short acceptance speech, ***"I am very honoured and thankful to have been given such a prestigious membership. It makes me very happy to be recognized and it inspires me to continue to promote the learning of pan everywhere. At music camps from Toronto to Nunavut, in High schools with students of all cultures and backgrounds, and in the University programs for future music teachers and professional musicians"***. (See photos on cover)

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Mrs. Joan Poon	905-824 3589				

LEGEND

HC	Hillview College
IHS	Iere High School
NC	Naparima College
NGHS	Naparima Girls' High School
NTC	Naparima Training College
SAGH	St. Augustine Girls' High School
SATC	St. Andrew's Theological College

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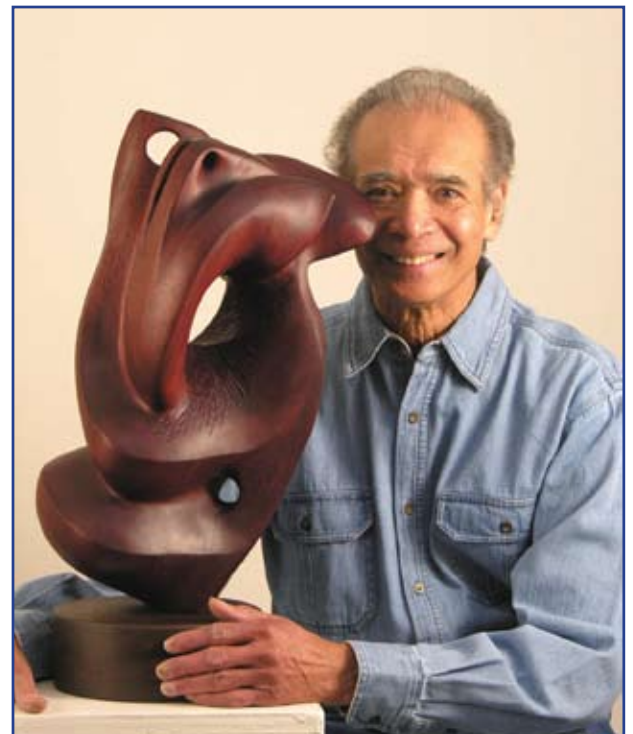


◀ *Naparima & Panache members at Cullens' Backyard Picnic. (See page 13 for story)*

Joe & Lisa Cullen with son Daniel and daughter Sarah ▼



▼ *Aneesa Oumarally, with children Omar and Zoe at their first Pan class at WHCI.*



Ralph Baney with his commissioned sculpture for Sir Vidia Naipaul (See page 11 for story) ▶