



“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. XXXIV No. 1

Fall 2010

Simply ...



Panache II ~ Fusion

Congrats Panache on the second CD



OUMARALLY, BABOOLAL

LAWYERS



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

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The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (NAAC) was founded in Toronto in 1978 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.

2010-11 NAAC Executive

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President's Message

At our Annual General Meeting which was held on May 15th, 2010, two new Executive members were elected by acclamation; Ramabai Espinet and Diane Thomas joined our team for the 2010-2011 term and we hope that the experience will be a good one and that they will volunteer for future terms.

The turnout at this AGM was small, and as you can see from the list of officers, the same "old" people are serving. Some like me, in the same position for a third term, and others like Cynthia Ramdeen and Ian Ramdial, returning to help in the absence of any new blood. And so one of the questions raised from the floor was quite relevant. *Where does NAAC see itself in 2020 and beyond?* Should we steer our Association in a new direction? If so, do we envisage a new constitution and a different association, and not an alumni association?

We are facing the reality of fewer and fewer high school graduates from Trinidad coming

to Canada, and those that have come are not prepared to, or able to give of their time at this point in their lives. The possibility of Associate members becoming the majority is very real. Remember that associate members are those who did not attend one of our alma mater schools, but agree with our aims and objectives.

I personally feel that keeping the ties and support of the schools is still a priority and fears that this would fade in the years to come is something to be dealt with sooner rather than later. My suggestion is to put a contingency plan in place that will preserve the funds that we have raised, and include in this plan the specifics of how much is to be disbursed to the schools in T & T on an annual basis. After all, the funds in our NAAC account were derived from the many fundraisers that you, our members, have supported in the knowledge that they would be used for particular projects and programs.

I urge you to ponder these scenarios and share your thoughts with me or any member of the Executive.

Merle Ramdial

From the Editor's Desk...

New fiscal year ... same old editor. But now that Ramabai Espinet has joined our team, I look forward to her submissions and comments.

At our last AGM, a committee was struck to spearhead fundraising efforts in support of the **La Pique 100 project**. This committee is chaired by Karma Naike. Her article (p.10) signifying the launch of the project states the goal of the committee and the time frame in which it is expected that they would raise an appreciable amount of money to help with the new NGHS Building Block. Although I received several copies of architect's drawings from NGHS, only one was

clear enough for publishing.

The letter of solicitation that you received as an insert in this issue of Broadcast is intended for anyone wishing to contribute. Please feel free to pass on a copy to others who are not members of NAAC, but would like to donate to the cause.

Merle Ramdial

**— REMINDER —
NAAC MEMBERSHIP**

*Please remember to renew your
NAAC Membership.
The membership year runs from
January to December.*

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial affairs as at August 31, 2010

Bingo Account

Bank Account (BNS) \$12,811.00

General Account

Bank Account (BNS) \$35,392.00

TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS \$48,203.00

NAAC INVESTMENTS

Bank of Nova Scotia - Term Deposit

- Balance @ August 31, 2010 \$ 1,204.00

Edward Jones - GIC @ 2.1%

- Maturing Aug 6, 2012 \$11,534.00

Scotia McLeod - Inter Pipeline Fund:

*1600 Units - B.V. per unit \$10.00 \$16,000.00

**Dividends earned - Jun/08-Jun/10 \$2,842.00

TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$31,580.00

*Market value of the Inter Pipeline Funds at Aug 31, 2010 was \$20,352. That's an increase of 27% over cost.

**The Fund continues to earn dividends at a rate of \$112 per month plus a premium of \$2.24 effective June/09 which gives us a return of 8.6 % per annum on that investment.

The Association will be financing its commitments to the schools in Trinidad in the amount of \$6,260.00 in September, 2010. This is the sum of the following amounts to each of the five schools : NGHS, Iere, & SAGHS in the amount of \$1320 each, Naparima College in the amount of \$1120 and Hillview College in the amount of \$1180.

For the current fiscal year to date the main events that contributed to the Association's revenue pool was the NAAC/Panache Spring Fling with a net profit of \$3,580 and revenue from bingo sessions with a net return of \$6,600. Thirty six percent (36%) of the proceeds from the NAAC Spring Fling, which was organized by the Panache members went towards the cost of uniforms for the members of the Panache Steelband.

Respectfully submitted
Norma Ramsahai
Treasurer

NOTICE NAAC GENERAL MEETING



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 2010

12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

at

Knox Presbyterian Church

4156 Sheppard Avenue East • Scarborough, ON

Bingo Report

Bingo sessions are run at Ultimate Bingo Charity Association, 2355 Keele St, Toronto, Ontario which started in January 2008. Effective December 2009, there were some changes in pricing and organization of the games played. These changes will be handled in a hands-on approach under the direction of the team leaders.

For the current fiscal period, April 1, 2010 to August 31, 2010, NAAC was responsible for 11 bingo sessions. Revenue earned for that period with an estimated projection for July and August, 2010 amounts to approximately \$6,600 K. This averaged out to about \$600.00 per session, and reflects an increase in revenue of 15% over the same period last year.

The increase in revenue per bingo session since the last fiscal year is good news and we hope that this profitability will continue and that NAAC would be granted more bingo sessions into the future. The Ultimate Bingo Charity Association has a membership of about 50 charities with NAAC being one of them.

For this fiscal year, bingo revenue was used for paying honoraria to steelband instructors at West Humber Collegiate and Cedarbrae Collegiate plus covering 50% of the cost of steelpan tuning at WHCI, also \$500 donation for steelpan cases at WHCI and bursary awards. Hopefully in the near future we would be able to resume making a contribution to the two schools for the purchase of pans.

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

Norma Ramsahai
Bingo Manager

Membership Report

Honorary Members	29
Life Members	193
Regular – Annual	57
Associate – Annual	32
Student – Annual	17
TOTAL	328

Our Association Needs You!

Interestingly, 4 of our Honorary members and 110 of our 193 Life Members reside in Ontario. Of this membership 15-25 attended our Annual General Meetings and we have never surpassed 35 at any of our meetings in the past ten years.

With this “wake-up” call, we expect to see a larger attendance at our upcoming General Meeting on November 6, 2010.

Let’s make this a record-breaking event. We appeal to members who pay their membership fees annually to consider becoming Life Members. We will continue to hold the place of being the only T &T organization in Ontario to stay together for over 30 years, committed to the goals of our Association.

We extend a warm welcome to Pamela Ramcharan-Alleyne, a new Life member, and to Associate members, Joan Chin, Raulston, Stacy & Jinnelle Bobb, Kendal George, Joseph Jacob, David Lee Kim & Rachel Ramnarain.

To address members from our early years, we do hope that you will continue to keep in touch with us. We would love to hear from you with news of your celebrations and also your “not so good” news so that we can offer our services or support when the need arises.

We look forward to greeting all of our members and friends at our upcoming Christmas Dinner & Dance on November 27, 2010.

You may contact me at 416 499 7357 or Committee members Everald Seupaul or Yavitri Seupaul at 416 491 6488

Cynthia Ramdeen

Social Report

Panache Spring Fling

Members of the Panache Steelband, with the backing of the NAAC Executive, put on a highly successful Spring Fling on April 24, 2010 at the St. Clement Roman Catholic Church Hall in Etobicoke.

Most of the food on sale was cooked by members of the band and sold under the watchful eye of Chef Jemma Boodram. There was bake and salt fish buljol, doubles, corn soup, jerk pork, chicken pelau – a real Caribbean menu and attendees were high in their praise of the well-organized kitchen and the food.



The band and DJ C-LEX provided lively music for dancing. A profit of just under \$4000 was made. Thanks to all the members involved in putting on the event and a special mention must be made of Liz Yeung, who was instrumental in procuring the Church Hall as the event venue.



Chef Jemma Boodram oversees the first shift - David Lee Kim, Shane Khan and June Look Foe.

CD Launch of Simply...Panache II – Fusion

The launching of the second CD by Panache, *Simply ... Panache II – Fusion*, was held on Sep 26, 2010 at the Elite Banquet Hall in Rexdale. There was a turnout of about 200 and undoubtedly a good time was had by all. Apart from the band performing all the selections that are on the CD, we were entertained



Marvin Ishmael

by noted playwright/actor/writer/producer, Marvin Ishmael, who did a real “Trini” stand-up routine. Following this, we heard from drummers, Omed Mirpour on tablas and Joe Cullen on djembes. We would have loved to hear more from this duo, but regrettably, our program did not allow for extended play. Thank you all for your generosity in sharing your talent with us. Thank you to our supporters whose patronage of our event and purchase of our CDs was greatly appreciated.



*Joe Cullen (L)
and
Omed Mirpour (R)*

Upcoming Event

Saturday, November 27th 2010

NAAC Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance at Elite Banquet Hall. Tickets are already printed and the price remains at \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members. You may contact any member of the NAAC Executive to get your tickets.

We'll post events to our NAAC website as plans progress.

Pam Rambharack, Chair

Diane Thomas, Committee Member

Steelband Report

School Partnership Program

For the 2010-2011 school year, NAAC will continue to fund the tuning of pans at both Cedarbrae CI and West Humber CI, as well as providing the Steelband awards and bursaries. With Bingo proceeds gradually stabilizing, it is the hope that NAAC will soon be able to resume the funding for new instruments.

After-School Community Teaching Program

After the fire at Cedarbrae Collegiate last June, there was some question as to when the school would be ready to accommodate the after-school steelband classes there. I was pleased to hear from Randolph Karamath, that he will be conducting classes from Monday September 27th for both Beginners (Mondays 5:00pm – 6:00pm) and Advanced (6:00pm – 7:00pm) groups. Randolph can be reached at 416-283-4152 or at ramachez@hotmail.com

At WHCI, classes started on September 8th. The Beginner class runs from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, the Advanced class from 7:45 pm to 9:30 pm on Wednesdays. The Advanced class will consist essentially of all the players from Panache steelband including those players who have moved up from the previous year's Beginner class. Monday and Thursday, from 7:00pm to 9:30pm, have been set aside for those in the Advanced class who need to learn the existing repertoire of tunes that Panache plays and for preparation for upcoming gigs. For persons interested

in joining the steelband classes at WHCI, please contact Ian Ramdial at 905-844-1254 or at iramdial@cogeco.ca .

Panache Steelband

The period from September '09 to January '10 of the past school year had been a hectic but rewarding one as the band members prepared to perform at *Snowflakes on Steel* in January. In the aftermath of that event, however, there was no rest as we immediately started practising three days a week to perfect the new arrangements that are now recorded on our new CD. There was some downtime once the CD was completed at the end of July. However, the band found time to do gigs.

To recap the list of gigs since Spring Fling on April 24, we played in High Park for the Mount Sinai NICU Graduates picnic on June 13, at Brampton Fair Grounds on June 18 for the Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life, at Islington/Albion Fusion Food Fare on July 10, the Lakeshore Yacht Club's Caribbean Night on August 20, at Grace United Church in Brampton on September 18, the Sammy Family Lime in Shelburne on September 19 and at the Panache CD Launch on September 26 in Rexdale.

We have a few gigs already booked during the next months – " Sleeping Children Around the World" on October 2 in Etobicoke, an 80th birthday party on October 16 in Etobicoke and of course, the NAAC Annual Christmas Dinner & Dance on November 27 in Rexdale.

Ian Ramdial, Steelband Liaison

NOTICE

Steelband Classes • 2010/2011 Season

West Humber Collegiate Institute

Start Date: Wed. Sept. 22, 2010

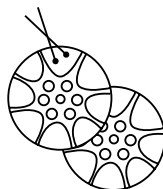
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Instructor:

Rustin Oree • Tel: 416-745-7793

Steelband Liaison: 905-844-1254

email: iramdial@cogeco.ca



Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute

Start Date: Mon. Sept. 27, 2010

Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Instructor:

Randolph Karamath

Tel: 416-283-4152

email: ramachez@hotmail.com

Music Notes from West Humber C.I.

Joe Cullen, Head of Arts

West Humber Music had another exciting year in 2009-2010! The highlight by far was the return to **Ohio** for their music trip. Having been there in 2002, WHCI returned and visited Ravenna High School, which also has a great steel band and Jazz band program. The NAAC generously contributed funds to help WHCI finally buy some proper road cases for our drum set which arrived just in time for the trip. The combined concert for the entire school was a highlight and the WHCI drumline played as well. Ravenna has a student going to university to study pan this year and he gave a great performance of Liam Teague's solo concerto, *A Visit to Hell* which everyone loved to see and hear.

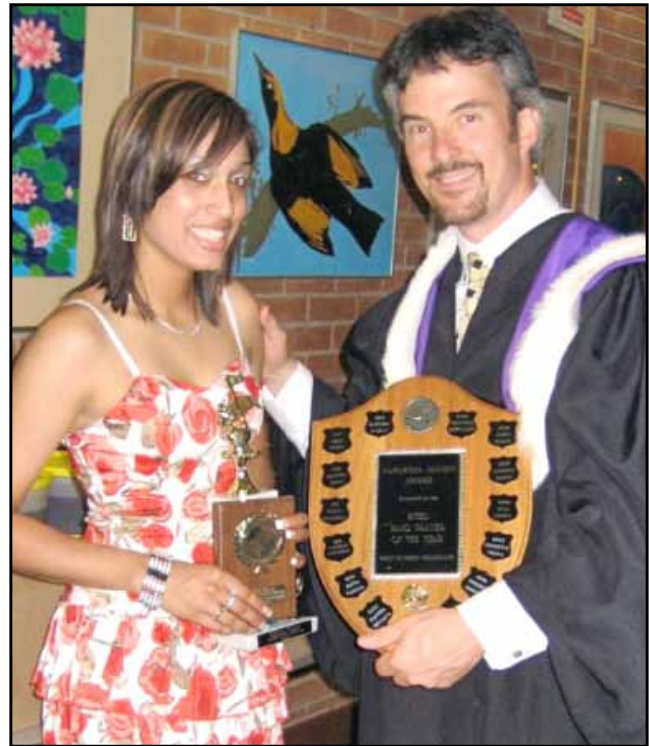
WHCI also visited **Panyard Inc.** once again and were treated like family, with a personal tour by the owner, Ron Kerns, who showed us virtually all the projects that Panyard is working on, including the mini-pan. Many students loved trying out the



*Idil Osman, WHCI recipient of
NAAC Steel Band Bursary*

custom pans, and bought various types of mallets.

Our steel band also played for the Etobicoke LAMP Awards, WHCI Commencement, Awards Ceremony, Music Night (another big hit, with Earl LaPierre as guest artist) and also a pan history lecture-performance at University of Toronto. We hosted and played an assembly with a great steel



*Zaheera Hassan, WHCI recipient of
the NAAC Steel Band Award*

band from Washington, and played three 1-hour sets at Stage West dinner theatre! Many other performances and school visits happened, and this can all be found at www.whcimusic.com.

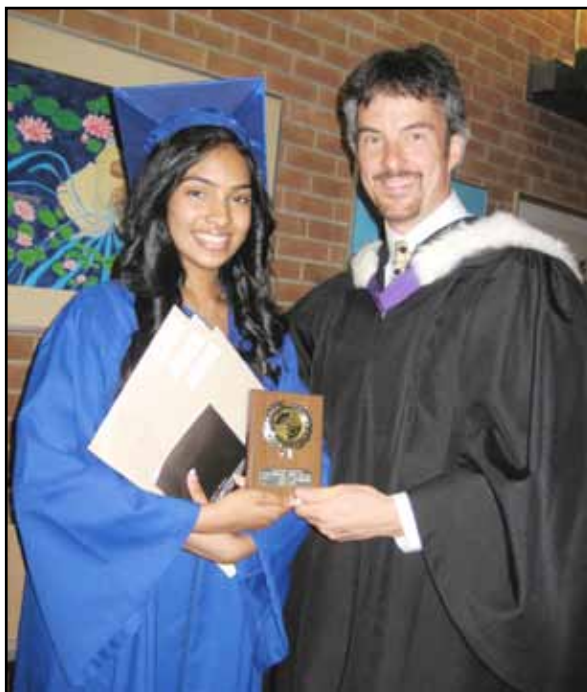
Recipients for the prestigious **NAAC awards and bursaries** were: Idil Osman, the NAAC steel band bursary, Allyson Achaiya, recipient of the NAAC Millennium Scholarship, and Zaheera Hassan, the NAAC steel band award. All three

(continued on next page)

Music Notes from West Humber C.I.

(Continued)

musicians displayed a solid commitment to the WHCI steel band program over their four years of study at WHCI. They all showed great reliability, musicianship, solid knowledge of music reading, theory and advanced harmony, and a great team spirit. All three performed at more than 85 events each over their four years with WHCI and all shared their knowledge and love of steel pan with not only their peers but with the many students they taught while doing school visits and concerts all over the GTA and beyond. Thanks very much once again to the NAAC for their support of these valuable awards which provide much motivation for our students to reach for their highest musical goals!



*Allyson Achaiya, WHCI recipient
of NAAC Millennium Scholarship*

Tea For Two - NAAC members support two charities for two friends.

“The only way to have a friend is to be one” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

At their regular “Eat and Meet” meeting on Canada Day, NAAC members and friends, Sandra Viteri, Tony Nucaro, Ras and Ety Shreeram, Rustin Oree, Veejay and Jemma Boodram, Rio Maharaj and Andrew Athanassiades began the planning of a Tea Party. The initial idea was to support a Youth or Women’s Shelter, but the host and hostess, Ras and Ety suggested a friendship Garden party to raise funds for the Alzheimer and Parkinson Societies for their friends, Kathy Moonah and Rustin Oree.

The date was set for August 14th, 2010. Using the expertise of each member, the planning seemed effortless. The committee is grateful to everyone who donated their time, food, talent, funds and prizes to this cause. The grocery chain, METRO, generously provided a gift certificate to help subsidize the expenses. This small event of approximately 80 people, included entertainment from jazz singer, Stacey Soman; a brave and barely 11-year old singer, Leanne Roopchand and The Uniquely Caribbean Steelband.

The highlights were the speeches from Rustin Oree and Milton Moonah, on behalf of Kathy. They enlightened the audience on the diagnosis, their personal experiences on living with Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, types and side effects of medications and support.

The committee thanks everyone who supported this cause, which included many Naparima Alumni members. As a result of your generosity, \$800 was raised for the Alzheimer and Parkinson Societies of Canada.



*Ety Shreeram (L) and
Kathy Moonah (R)*

Report on Naparima Girls' High School

The last academic year ended on a high note as, for the very first time, we had a Lower School Awards Ceremony. As a staff, we felt that it was important to recognize the achievements of the Lower School in the presence of their peers and parents.

The feature address was given by our past student Justice Carol Gobin. Her presentation which was replete with her experiences at her alma mater was certainly inspiring and interesting.

Our calendar for the year 2010/2011 is already packed with many academic as well as non-academic activities. The main upcoming events are our **Speech Day and Awards Ceremony** for the Upper School on Friday October 15, 2010 and our **School Bazaar** on Saturday October 30, 2010.

The Alumnae Association will be hosting its **High Tea** on October 2, 2010 at which three past students will be honoured. On November 7, the Association will also be ushering in the Christmas season with **Parang** at the well known Prive Club.

The Centenary Committee will host its **Dinner/Dance** on November 20, 2010 at The Petrotrin Staff Club.

The Naparima Family and friends are again invited to celebrate on another cruise, details of which are highlighted on the flyer below.



Other upcoming Centenary events are:

- an **Operetta** in November, 2011
- our **Grand Reunion** on December 18, 2011
- a **Gala Ball** on December 31, 2011
- a **Thanksgiving Service** on January 12, 2012.



Staff and guests (top) at NGHS Lower School Awards Ceremony.



Justice Carol Gobin

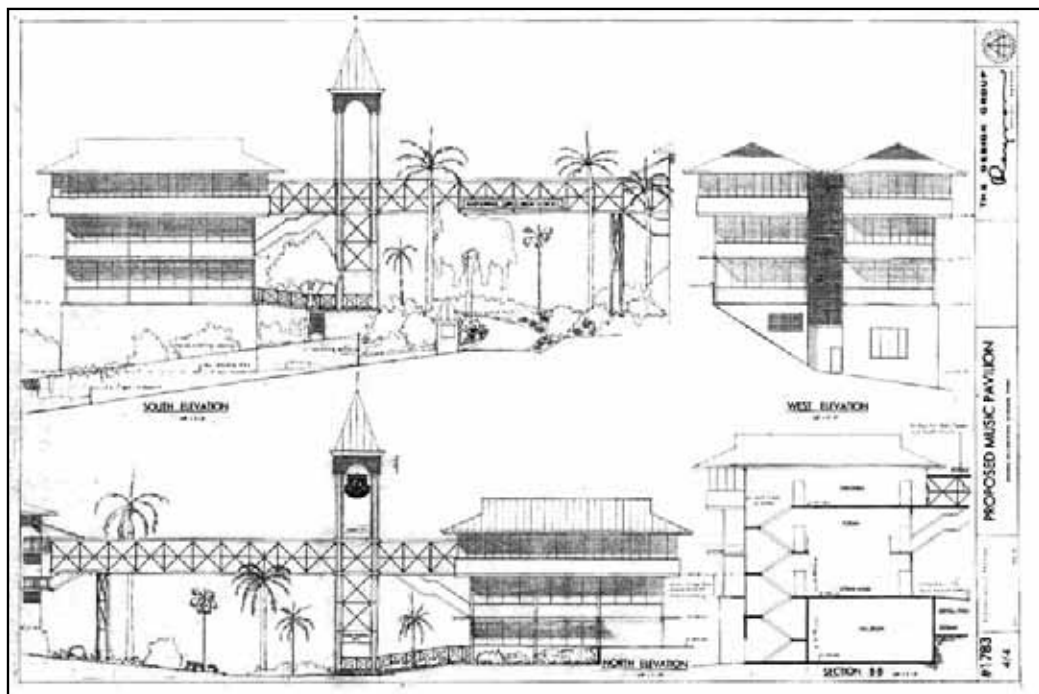
Launch of “La Pique 100” Fundraising Project

“We live in interesting times,” a familiar quote that registers unawares in our minds on witnessing momentous historical and political events in our lifetime. But even in our personal lives this dictum is quite apt because most folks have experienced landmark occasions in milestone birthdays, births, deaths, miraculous recoveries, friendships, disappointments and achievements that are not forgotten. But in a subliminal way, we also celebrate our sense of being – our heritage, who we are, those who have influenced us, and who have brought smiles to our faces. I think that it is the memory of our growing up, our youth, spanning our high school years, that disposes the Naparima high schools’ alumni everywhere to come together and build community in many overseas lands. This

bonding has resulted in extending support to our respective Alma Maters over many years. In this spirit of generosity and care for our home schools, I call on our NAAC community of all Canada and overseas to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of Naparima Girls’ High School in January, 2012. This article announces the NAAC’s launch of its fundraising project to contribute significantly to the NGHS Centennial Project, which is a Building Block on the grounds off La Pique Road. We have named our fundraising project, “La Pique 100.”

The impact of the establishment of Naparima Girls’ High School in 1912 was phenomenal. This school came long after the establishment of the Girls’ Home in Tunapuna, the Archibald Institute, 1890, and the Iere Home in Princes Town in 1905. The East Indian cultural outlook at the time still adhered to traditional attitudes where a woman’s place was in the home as “wives and mothers,”¹ and “the practice

of child marriages also militated against women’s education.”² The Presbyterian Theological College for men was set up in 1892, and the Training College for males in 1894. Therefore the promotion of men as the agents of change for better acculturation to Western values through education and English language acquisition within the East Indian society



was significantly expanded to include women with the establishment of Naparima Girls’ High School. More noteworthy was that, “The curriculum here was the same as at Naparima College.”³ We of the Naparima schools community are intrinsically connected by ties of our historical, social, cultural and educational background. In 1994, we celebrated the centennial of our first high school, Naparima College, by means of a generous financial response. Let us now rally in generous support for our “mother school,” Naparima Girls’ High School. The school and its community plan to build an edifice that will enhance its learning environment and be a testament to its 100th Anniversary.

Being an alumnus or an alumna of any of the Naparima high schools endows one with the honour of being recognized as a member of the Naparima family of schools in Trinidad. This was a rewarding

(continued on next page)

Launch of “La Pique 100”

(Continued)

experience for me recently. During a visit to Trinidad, I had called the secretary of Naparima College to ask for a monogram for our Literary Awards Committee project, when the principal, Dr. Michael Dowlath, came to the phone and invited me for a visit. On that visit he expressed regret that as a NAAC member I had missed the Founders’ Day celebration, and gave me a brief review of the current achievements and innovations, and a copy of *The Olympian* (2009). But I was blown away when I visited the new gymnasium/auditorium. It is a beautiful modern amphitheatre-like concert hall building that can be converted for gym purposes. It enhances the college campus, and I was proud that our NAAC alumni had participated generously in its realization. This type of welcoming attitude for an NAAC person was also extended by Mr. Roy Ramlogan, principal of Iere High School, and by Mr. Lesley Mahase, principal of Hillview College, who sent me a monogram when I couldn’t visit, and by Mrs. Kathleen Anderson, who has extended an open invitation during our conversations. It is a privilege for a NAAC member to be welcomed by a community of five schools.

This launch appeal is being addressed to all alumni of the Naparima Diaspora and friends. The NGHS Alumni, the Parents’ Action Committee and the Building Committee, are jointly undertaking the financing of the project, a Building Block to house a Music Room, a Pan Theatre and Science Labs. The block, yet to be formally named, is to be erected off La Pique Road, on the corner facing an entrance to Presentation College. Plans have been approved by the Board and the Ministry but are still to undergo more stages. The estimated cost, though not formally so, is \$7,000,000 T.T. The Trinidad fundraising has been ongoing for many years to fund all NGHS projects. Project Building Block is an ambitious one. Our Committee’s goal is to raise \$30,000 CDN and more, as much as we possibly can through your generous donations. Because of the history of generosity shown by the NAAC community, we feel that this goal is attainable.

Our gifts in awards and financing have always made a difference. When we embarked on the Naparima College Centennial Building project in the

90’s the sod had not yet been turned, but we rallied on, and raised in the vicinity of \$30,000CDN which was invested and eventually yielded approximately \$45,000 CDN., about \$250,000TT for the gym/auditorium project. It is with confidence in our ongoing generosity, as demonstrated here, that the NAAC “La Pique 100” Fundraising Committee feels that our goal can be accomplished. We plan to come together to celebrate this project and to honour our Alma Mater, NGHS, by September 2011.

This is a happy time for the NAAC community. Indeed the milestone of our “mother” school reaching its centennial at a time when all the Naparima family of schools are among the most prominent for their achievements in Trinidad and Tobago is a cause for celebration.

The Naparima Girls’ High School motto, “Non Nobis, Solum Sed Omnibus,” Not only for ourselves, but for others,” is prophetic of the attitudes and roles that have been nurtured and passed on within the Naparima community. We are indeed remarkable for the roles we have played that have brought respect for self, heritage and country in our various societies.

We invite you not only to make a contribution to our project, but also to join, if possible, one of NGHS’ Centennial Celebration events from mid December 2011 – January 2012. Highlights are: A Grand All Day Reunion, Dec 18, 2011, A Grand Ball, Dec 21, 2011, and A Thanksgiving Service on Jan 12, 2012.

Let us join Principal Patricia Ramgoolam, the staff and all the Fundraising Committee members for a wonderful time in celebration.

Sincerely,

Karma Naike,

Chair, NAAC “**LaPique100**” Fundraising Committee.

Committee Members: Ramabai Espinet – Executive Liaison, Myrtle Gopeesingh, Brenda Holman, Cynthia Ramdeen, Wendy Rostant, Ian Ramdial.

Notes

1. Samaroo, Brinsley. “The Presbyterian Canadian Mission as an agent of integration in Trinidad during the 19th and early 20th centuries.” **Caribbean Studies**, Vol. 4, No. 4, Jan., 1975, pp.49-50.

2. Ibid

3. Ibid

'Right-brained thinkers rule'.

Winning Naps students told to nurture creative thinking

Published: 5 May 2010, *The Trinidad Guardian*

When the Canadian missionaries opened schools in south Trinidad in the 1800s, they taught painting, carving, music and drama as well as the Three R's. That might explain why the students of Naparima Girls' High School and Naparima College are showing the kind of right-brain thinking the world needs now. Sharon Christopher, chairman of the Board of Queen's Hall, made this observation when delivering the feature address on April 15, at the prize-giving ceremony to honour the winners of Queen's Hall's Secondary Schools Essay Competition.

Forty-three entries from 23 secondary schools were received. The first and third place winners, Renisha Bisnath and Rachael Taitt, came from Naparima Girls' High School and the second place winner was Jerel Mohammed from Naparima Boys' college. The entrants were asked to answer the question: "If it were up to you to convince a room full of strangers that the Performing Arts could influence the development of young people in a positive way and improve society as a whole, what arguments would you use?" The competition was held from November 2-20, 2009, as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Queen's Hall. Christopher commented that the three top students were "so far ahead in terms of right-brain thinking, content and clarity in writing that they were not just winners, they were clear winners." She added: "I believe your deep understanding of the importance of the arts to society is nurtured and woven into the very fabric of the colleges that the Canadian Missionaries bequeathed to you."

Since then, the visual and performing arts have been important to educators at Naparima Girls' High School and Naparima College. Quoting from *A Whole New Mind* by researcher and psychologist Daniel Pink, Christopher told the audience at the Naparima Girls' auditorium that such traits as creativity, inventiveness, empathy and joyfulness will define the real leaders of tomorrow. Pink, whose book made it to the New York Times bestseller list



TOP: Students of Naparima Girls High School listen attentively to the feature speaker Sharon Christopher, chairman of the Board of Queen's Hall.

ABOVE: Ecstatic competition winners are flanked by their school principals. From left are, Naparima Girls' High School principal Patricia Ramgoolam, third-placed recipient Rachel Tait; winner Renisha Bisnath; second-placed recipient Jerel Mohammed; and, Naparima College principal Dr Michael Dowlath.

and has been endorsed by Oprah Winfrey, says the world is entering the Conceptual Age, an era where the right brain "just rocks," and where the future belongs not to those who think in a logical, linear, rules-based way but for those who think creatively: designers, inventors, teachers, storytellers, artists, painters, poets. As Christopher told the students,

(continued on next page)

these abilities will mark the fault lines between who gets ahead and who does not.

Christopher also told the winners, who are in Form Six, that universities were looking for the most competent, innovative and creative students worldwide. She said: "You will have to be comfortable with ideas and abstractions, good at both analysis and synthesis. You will need to be creative and innovative, self-disciplined and well-organised. "You will need to be able to learn very quickly and work well as a member of a team. These are skills that being part of the arts bring forth." Christopher added that according to research conducted by Americans for the Arts, a group of advocates who promote arts in education, the students who are great at the right-brain thinking will be four times more likely to be recognised for academic achievement; four times more likely to participate in a math and science fair; three times more likely to be elected to a class office within their schools, three times more likely to win an award for school attendance-and four times more likely to win an award for writing an essay or poem. The winning students and their schools received prizes which included a computer with performing arts software; a laptop; a \$3,000 voucher for musical instruments; an Ipod; a digital video recorder; an MP3 player; and Unit Trust shares.

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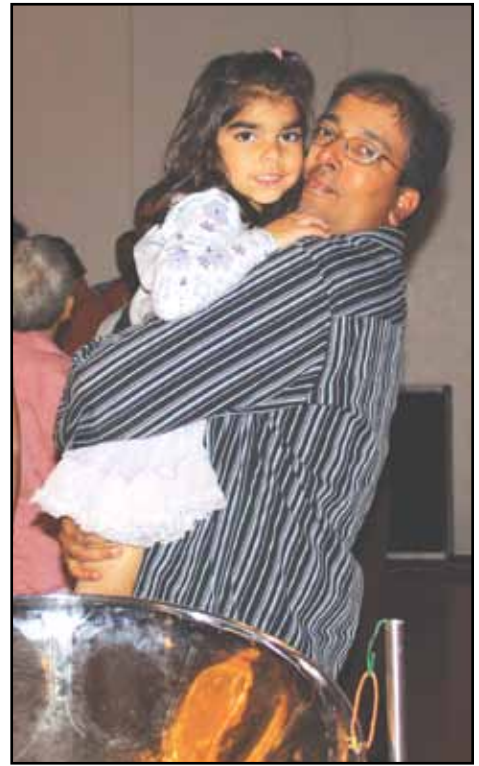
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A Salute to Our Prime Minister

It is with great pride that we at NAAC republish this early speech of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, delivered in 2002 in Toronto to celebrants at NAAC's 25th anniversary. We are very proud that she is an alumna of the Naparima family of schools, having received her secondary education at Iere High School in Siparia. We also celebrate the fact that she has the distinction of being the first female head of government in Trinidad and Tobago.



Her address to us in 2002 has all the hallmarks of the speeches that would later make her a favourite of election crowds, catapulting her into a landslide victory at the polls in May of this year. Her sincerity, her outrage at the cynicism and disdain for the common folk shown by many of the powerful in high office, and her deep understanding of and sympathy for the plight of the poor and the powerless are the qualities that enabled her to envision and bring to fruition the idea of a people's partnership. These ideas are all evident in the speech published here in which she analyses key aspects of the education she received at Iere in terms of her preparedness for the responsibilities that she later assumed in public life. She shows an acute awareness of the value of the Naparima tradition in the life of the wider Trinidad community and celebrates the "rather Spartan conditions," and the value of "using the little to reach the many," under which many found themselves and summoned the strength to persevere in spite of these obstacles.

This keynote address, "Cherishing the Naparima Heritage," is wide-ranging, piquant, powerful and confident. Ms. Persad-Bissessar traces the many influences and activities in the Naparima educational tradition that led students to activities far beyond that of simple academic attainment, however excellent. Naparima, she affirms, prepared its citizens for a richer, more complex and ultimately more fulfilling life. And indeed, what a shining example of this quality education and dedication to service Ms. Persad-Bissessar manifests! The attention to detail in her analysis of the Naparima tradition is impressive. This is a quality that has served her well over the years as she matured in political office and ranged through a wide assortment of topics in the House during the years spent in Opposition as a Member of the UNC.

A selection of her speeches has been gathered into one volume by Dr. Kris Rampersad. These speeches are a treat in terms of understanding the details of daily life of Trinidad and Tobago in recent years. Ms. Persad-Bissessar again shows her preoccupation with the privations and difficulties for those without a voice, or without the leverage to create better life conditions for themselves. It is her deep sincerity, party lines notwithstanding, that catches the reader's attention. One wonders at her tireless commitment to the task of righting the wrongs done on a daily basis to ordinary people – flooding as well as no water, financial leakages, problems with proposed Budgets...the list is long, and its details are truly illuminating. The speeches are grouped by category and are wide-ranging, from sections on her vision for the country to issues of gender relations. Perhaps the most telling of all, though, is the section on "Budgets" as she analyses them, ridicules certain expenditures and relentlessly questions their economic benefits to the nation at large. Definitely worthwhile reading!

The text is: *Through the Political Glass Ceiling: Kamla Persad-Bissessar – Selected Speeches*. Compiled with introduction, contexts and analyses by Kris Rampersad. St. Augustine: Kris Rampersad, 2010. (Available at A Different Booklist, 746 Bathurst Street, Toronto).

Cherishing The Naparima Heritage

Reprint of Kamla Persad-Bissessar's Address given on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto), May 11, 2002

Thank you for according me the privilege of sharing with you in your 25th Anniversary celebration.

We can reflect this evening upon a quarter century of organization and achievement by the Naparima Alumni in Canada. During these years, you have sought valiantly to be a rallying point, in this vast country, for many thousands who have shared a common tradition forged out of Canadian missionary work in the Caribbean since 1868, and that of several other missionaries and educators from the United Kingdom and other nations.

During your 25 years, you have grown from being merely the Naparima Old Boys' Association to a much larger omnibus organization embracing under your umbrella the younger institutions such as Hillview College, St Augustine Girls' High School (the alma mater of your current President), Naparima Girls' High School and of course Iere High School, my husband's and my own treasured fount of early learning.

To your great credit you did not stop at just bringing the Naparima institutions together. You took it with you as you traveled on. From the 1960s, we had the start-up of an exodus — a Caribbean mission to Canada, the USA and England — as thousands of you decided to move northwards in search of a better life for yourself and your families.

With specific reference to you here, the Naparima Alumni in Canada, I am certain that many Canadians have been sharing the benefits of the Naparima pedagogy; our academics can be found in secondary and tertiary institutions from Nova Scotia to British Columbia and our cultural activists have added rich variety to the North American mosaic.

And, out of the material gains of this contact, you have been giving back to your native land. You have not forgotten the land of your birth. In this globalization era, it is clear that no man is an island and so, as you receive, you give — constantly drawing

us all closer together in the common quest of a better life for all.

The books, the scholarships, the financial assistance to various Naparima projects, your assistance in selling Naparima materials in Canada (such as the Naps cookbook) and the regular supply of prizes for our various graduations have all been deeply appreciated. Indeed it was in recognition of these many forms of assistance that in 2000, the then government of Trinidad and Tobago, of which I was a part, decided to create a new tradition in awarding the Trinity Silver Medal to an organization which was not based in Trinidad and Tobago. This was a bold break with established practice but we were prepared to initiate a new trend because of the exceptional nature of your contribution to the national well-being.

As I speak of your adopted homeland, home away from home, I'm reminded of the cascadura legend: "Those who eat the cascadura will, the native legend says, wheresoever they may wander, end in Trinidad their days." Your giving back to the motherland also reminds me of the life cycle of one of the wonders of the sea that has made our shores its home — the great leather back turtle would roam all the oceans of the world but, at nesting time, it always returns to the place of its birth and leaves behind a trove of eggs so that new life can begin again. So your giving back to your native land ensures that countless new generations can bravely carry on.

As we reflect upon these past 25 years, let us spend a few minutes examining the Naparima tradition, to try to tease out the factors which have characterized that spirit of enterprise which forms part of our legacy.

The Canadian missionaries and the Naparima institutions performed a decisive role in the emancipation of our men and women from the plantations into positions of leadership at all levels of our community. Dedicated and highly motivated women were sent down from the Martimes and later on from Ontario. They, by their exemplary personal lives and their daring to go places where the brave

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Cherishing The Naparima Heritage

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dared not go, left an indelible legacy that time could never erase.

We had women such as Annie Blackadder, Grace Archibald, Florence Clarke, Constance Wagar, Mabel Brandow, Grace Inman and Bessie Dayfoot, to name a few, who learnt the language of their indentured wards, taught them to read and to sew and to organize their family lives.

And so began our journey to full emancipation. They built a spirit of self esteem among a formerly enslaved womanhood, thereby fostering a cadre of women leaders. It is no surprise therefore that by 1961, we had the ordination of the first local woman Presbyterian minister, Rev. Mary Naimool. Rev. Naimool was soon followed by a number of other ordained women ministers who complemented the cadre of Presbyterian women teachers filling vacancies left by the departing missionaries.

The line of successful women educated in the Naparima tradition does not end there. We have Dr. Anna Mahase, Beulah and Joyce Meghu, Jean Bahadur and the intellectual offspring of these women who now lead in education, in the professions and in industry. And now we have finally claimed our political space.

Apart from the liberation of our women folk, the missionaries instilled in all of us an insatiable desire for knowledge. During a period when the possession of a Junior or Senior Cambridge certificate was a precious achievement, people like the Grants, Dr. Coffin, Dr. Kemp, Reverends Lute, Dayfoot, Newbery or Kitney were towers of inspiration. Education allowed our grandparents and parents into the centres of power and authority.

Spurred on by community leaders, the Canadian missionaries realized that there was a dearth of educational opportunities in the deep south. And by the mid-1950s, Iere High School in Siparia was born. John Weldon Grant (who died in 1999) was dispatched from Naparima College to open this new school. Grant brought to Iere qualities which have characterized the Presbyterian presence — punctuality, strict decorum in and outside the classroom and a profound concern for the less privileged members of the society.

Interestingly, he, like most of the other missionaries, never insisted that his students must convert to Christianity. And this is still one of the hallmarks of the Presbyterian education experience — the acceptance of the brotherhood and sisterhood of all mankind, so that today Trinidad and Tobago can truly be said to be a land “where every creed and race find an equal place.”

Because of this respect for inalienable rights of every one to worship according to the dictates of his/her conscience, the Naparima institutions were pioneers in the opening up of the society, setting the example in inter-religious harmony and inter-ethnic understanding. Such across-the-board tolerance and respect has been a cornerstone of the Naparima experience and we must now ensure that that tradition becomes indelibly etched into the fabric of the nation.

It was this experience that led me during my very brief stint as Minister of Education to work with staff of the Education Ministry in a bold, new effort to expand the role of denominational boards in the delivery of education. For the first time ever in our history, the Pentecostals received government approval for a secondary school. We expanded the number of secondary schools under purview of the Muslims and Hindus, and the Baptists came on board with a new primary school in Moruga and an Early Childhood Centre in Maloney, East Trinidad.

In reviewing the rich heritage of our Naparima past, we must recall also that at a time when co-educational secondary schools was a subject of intense debate in the Caribbean, it was the Naparima administration that took the plunge and established one of the nation's first co-educational institutions — the Iere High School. To be sure there were teething problems, but the disciplined manner in which this pilot project was undertaken and its successful progress under Weldon Grant and his successors, made it a model for the adoption of a nationwide system of co-educational secondary schools by the government of Trinidad and Tobago.

In addition to these distinguishing features of the Naparima tradition, we must not lose sight of the all-round nature of the education which the Naparima institutions offered and continue to offer. The

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Cherishing The Naparima Heritage

(Continued from previous page)

Naparima syllabus prepared us for a larger world where academic qualifications are not enough. And it was to Iere High School I returned earlier this year to launch a Junior Achievement (Trinidad and Tobago) Company to ensure that our children are equipped not only with academia, but at the end of their secondary school days, they understand the very important world of business and entrepreneurship.

In true Naparima tradition we learnt the skills of debating in our Literary and Debating Societies. We learnt how to write by writing for our college magazines which still exist today. There were Boy Scouts and Trinidad Girls in Training (TGIT), later absorbed in the Girl Guide Movement. And of course there was always a wide range of sports which took our students into the wider world of competition in cricket, football, volleyball, netball and now, basketball. All of these activities contributed to making us the jovial, well-rounded people who can be picked out in any crowd because of our outgoing, almost boisterous, behaviour and ready laughter!

For all the levity that makes up the Naparima personality, the Scottish Canadian missionaries allowed us to share in their own mantra — “labore est orare” — to work is to pray. Coming from such a lofty tradition, I felt it was incumbent on me to ensure that all our schools had the benefit of a worship and prayer experience. That is why the former government, which I had the privilege to be a part of, made it mandatory that a worship session must be conducted in every school, every day. I know from personal experience you cannot get very far without God in your life and so we need to instill this in our young charges too.

I'm sure you would agree with me that the Naparima tradition has never been one of ostentation and unnecessary showing-off. We were taught under rather Spartan conditions which matched the ordinary homes from whence we came. It is because of this prudent management of your own economies that so many of you have done so well in this land of your adoption and this is why you care so much for those left behind.

It is this same of concern and care for the future of our nation that led the previous government to go all out to creating Universal Secondary Education. We had Universal Primary Education a long time ago, getting all our children into secondary schools was another hurdle of gargantuan proportions. I am proud to stand here before you today and say that in the Year 2000, we achieved our target. We did it again in 2001. Every child leaving primary school either through the CEE or the new SEA was guaranteed a place in a secondary school.

And our vision was for the creation of an intelligent nation by the year 2010. In keeping with this goal, we embarked on major multi-million dollar construction programme. We began putting computers in all our schools and equipping them with internet access. We discovered some children were not learning as well as they should because they could not afford the books, so we began the distribution of free text books in the primary schools. And of course, you can't learn with a hungry belly, so we expanded the school feeding programme into the secondary school system and we added breakfast as well.

That in a nutshell gives some highlights of what we have done in education — in true Naparima tradition — using the little to reach the many.

As I close, let me congratulate you again on 25 years of solid achievement. You have done yourselves and your home society proud. May you have another prosperous 25 years as you strive to make the world a better place for all of us and for those who come after us.

As we celebrate this occasion with much feasting, I must remind you of yet another cause to celebrate the Naparima tradition. Our culinary historians say that it was on Naparima Hill that the first “doubles” was created. A hungry third-former commanded the Ali brothers to put another barra on top of the single barra and channa . And what do you get with one barra on top of another? Doubles, of course. Yet another one of our own, unique “Trini” creations that has spread to the rest of the world.

Congratulations once again. May God bless you all and our homeland.

Book Review: *Peacocks Dancing* by Sharon Maas

Sharon Maas, *Peacocks Dancing*, London, HarperCollins, 2001, pp. 485, ISBN 0 00 711847 3

Reviewer: Dr. Frank Birbalsingh

While *Peacocks Dancing* is not a sequel to Sharon Maas's first novel *Of Marriageable Age* (1999), it is haunted by similar ghosts from Guyana's post-colonial history, and from India's ancient civilisation with its rarefied branches of Hindu philosophy. *Peacocks Dancing* consists of six Parts, sixty-four chapters, an Epilogue, and regular entries by the narrator Rita Maraj into a diary that contributes unity to a narrative of sprawling action. Rita is the daughter of Indo-Guyanese Ronnie Maraj and a coloured or mixed blood mother who dies before the story begins. The novel then depicts Rita's early life in Guyana and her later travels in India through Guyanese and Indian episodes that successfully impart a rich sense of the colour and variety of Guyana's colonial history, with its ethnically mixed population drawn mainly from foreign sources, in this case, from India through the indenture system.

Part One of the novel which introduces Rita, her father and stepmother Marilyn Prabudial is a masterpiece of Caribbean fiction that displays as much insight into West Indian history and society as V.S. Naipaul's classic "Trinidad" section of his *The Middle Passage*. Nowhere else, at least not in Guyanese fiction, do we find a more complete portrait of Guyana's capital city – Georgetown – its streets, buildings, layout, vegetation, people and manners, and when we consider Georgetown's historic importance, of the social and economic life of Guyana as a whole. On pages twenty-one and twenty-two entire Georgetown families, all neighbours, are identified by their race, colour or religion. Rita's school friends are described simply by their skin colour, for example, Polly Wong as "blanched-almond-cream," Donna De Souza as "olive-toned," Christine Knight as "honey-skinned," and families such as the Roys, Farouks and Isaacs as "various shades of gold-brown," while Rita is merely dismissed as "the darkest." Not only that, names such as Wong (Chinese) De Souza (Portuguese) Farouk (Indian-Muslim) Maraj (Indian-Hindu) add an element of ethnic classification that further defines the mixed, polyglot nature of the Georgetown middle class of which the author's own (Westmaas) family is a

well known example.

The author's sensitive psychological study of her characters also contributes to the excellence of Part One which achieves something of the spirit of Mark Twain's frontier society in which youthful innocence combines with fearless energy to oppose stifling convention. Rita, for instance, betrays contradictory feelings, at once acutely caring and protective of animals, yet fiercely hostile toward Marilyn who retaliates with cunning calculation that would defy the wiles even of wicked stepmothers in fairy tales. Between these two formidable antagonists Ronnie becomes a mixture of insouciance and complaisance, dotish rather than doting to his daughter, and mere putty in the hands of his wife. After Marilyn's pregnancy miscarries, flames of conflict in the Maraj household rise higher and higher, especially in Part Three, when Marilyn loses two other pregnancies and finally gives birth to a girl – Isabelle.

Relations between Rita and her step sister now take centre stage in the novel, and in the second half of *Peacocks Dancing*, the teenaged Isabelle fails to realise her dreams as a beauty queen in Guyana, and sets off with Rita on a somewhat whimsical quest to India seeking a possible inheritance from the Rani of Mahapradesh. The Rani's grandson, Kamal, her proper heir, studies engineering in the US and returns to India with a white American bride who dies from food poisoning after giving birth to a daughter – Asha. Kamal, however – Asha's father – chooses to live as a monk in an ashram in North India although, when he discovers that Asha has been sold into prostitution in Madras, he drops everything to frantically search for her.

Meanwhile, Isabelle is cordially received by the Rani who enjoins her to induce Kamal into marriage and create at least the possibility of a male heir. Soon afterwards, though, Rita separates from Isabelle and joins in the search for Asha as well. The search uncovers the dark side of Madras with pimps and enforcers, dirt and squalor, exploitation, child prostitution and disease including AIDS. When she is eventually discovered by Rita, Asha is a mere skeleton, incapable of speech and held in a virtual prison. But when Rita takes Asha home in a taxi Isabelle dashes

(continued on next page)

Book Review: Peacocks Dancing (continued)

out to meet them and is knocked down. This is one of several accidental or sudden deaths in the novel (Ronnie Maraj's entire family were killed in a road accident.) It takes a superbly skilled story teller to marshall a narrative of so many sudden twists and turns into a smooth end when Rita transfers the HIV positive Asha to live with Rani, and in her final diary entry, acknowledge the return of Kamal to make: "an audience of two" (p.485) and create: "the flawless union of minds and hearts." (p.485)

Yet there is more to *Peacocks Dancing* than the sensational narrative suggested by the novel's front cover advertisement of: "an exotic story of richness, ruin and roots." From early on Rita imbibes wisdom from her maternal grandmother who leads her to discover spiritual enlightenment in the Guyanese forest. This further leads Rita into: "the quest for myself; for my place in life." (pp.344-345) What she seeks is the ineffable in Hindu philosophy:

"knowledge undefined yet true and whole, unproved because unprovable, arising as a flame of insight, with her [Rita], her being, vast and free of thought, as its medium." (p.345) Knowledge, truth and beauty go together: hence symbolic reference to peacocks in Maas's novel emphasizing the notion that: "only beauty must exist in the world." (p.79) Similar ideas are found in Wilson Harris's novel *Palace of the Peacock* and Anita Desai's *Cry of the Peacock*. More important is fiction about India like *Raise High the Lanterns* by Trinidadian Lakshmi Persaud, and *The Shadow Bride* by Guyanese Roy Heath. Sad that fragments of our colonial legacy should inspire such sublime creativity in our artists and largely contention and strife in our politicians!

Dr. Frank Birbalsingh is Professor Emeritus and Senior Scholar, Department of English, York University. His published works include: *Frontiers of Caribbean Literature* (1996), *The Rise of West Indian Cricket* (1996) and *The People's Progressive Party of Guyana 1950-1992: An Oral History* (2007).

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Mr. Amar Maharaj – President (450) 934-5067
Mr. Errol Mullahoo – Vice President (450) 691-3319
Mrs. Jenny Thompson – Secretary (450) 692-9924
Mrs. Angie Batchasingh – Treasurer (514) 363-3580
Mr. Keith Eccles – Past President (514) 696-2516

NAAQ now has a Facebook account. Here is the information that you need to gain access.

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President, NAAQ

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Letter from Rev. Albert Baldeo...

When the Olympic Torch came to Kelowna, I had the distinct pleasure to be one of the torch bearers. Imagine a little boy from Penal, Trinidad, is asked to carry the Olympic Torch. From Trinidad flambeau to winter Olympic Torch was a quantum leap! I quote from an address that my MLA delivered at the Parliament on Tuesday March 16, 2010.

... Speaking of that experience, the torch relay, as it came through Kelowna, provided me with one of my most touching and personal moments of the games. In Kelowna-Mission one of the torch bearers was Rev. Albert Baldeo, a spiritual leader in our community and someone that everyone turns to in times of trouble and in times of happiness. Albert is originally from Trinidad, and he is significantly challenged by advancing Parkinson's disease. He was so appreciative of the honour to be chosen. On a dark early morning between Glenwood Avenue and Rose Avenue in our riding in Kelowna-Mission, in front of the Kelowna General Hospital, he took his turn, stepping out of the shuttle to the hundreds of supporters that were there – his family, his grandchildren, his Rotary club, his church and an attendant with a wheelchair to assist. But when his turn came, Albert took the torch, turned and headed down the street, surprising everyone, bringing tears and cheers from all. He embodied the spirit of all Canadians. He sent me a poem following his experience, and I just want to read a very short passage from the poem. I won't read it all, but it epitomizes the spirit that I just talked about. This is the poem that he sent to me.

From Flambeau ...

*The torch has a lovely flame
May it flow gently in this land.
Even in my infirmity
I am proud to be a Canadian.
The torch reminds me today
That as a nation we are free,
And my prayer is that
The Olympic Games
Will create world unity.
To my loving eight grandchildren
I would like to leave a legacy
Blessed by God from above.
That legacy is the legacy
Of gratitude and love.*



... to Olympic Torch

Naparima College Stays True to It's Motto

– a posse ad esse

Naparima College has had a very active year 2010. The year started with the traditional placing of the evergreen leaves at the base of a photo of our Founding Father, Rev. Kenneth Grant.

This year the son of Rev. Lute, a past student of the college, was a special guest at the ceremony. He brought greetings on behalf of the Lute family and formally opened "Lute Drive", the main roadway leading into Naparima College.

The year proceeded with powerful rehearsals on the part of the music department, whose members participated in the Biennial Music Festival organised by the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival Association. The students took part in choral, solos, duets and ensembles as well as steel-pan solos and ensembles. They enjoyed many first and second places in this competition and as a result many chances at the Championships round. We won several Championship Trophies.

In the area of sports, Naparima College has very competent Football, Cricket, Volley Ball and Lawn Tennis Teams. They continue to win most of their competitions. Other activities include Martial Arts, Swimming, The Blue Circle Network, Indian Cultural Club, Inter-school Christian Fellowship, The Naparima College Peer Supporters, UNESCO Club, Interact Club, Environmental Clubs and many more.

The extra-curricula activities programme of the school is varied and wide-ranging. One new club is the Scuba-Diving Club. Most of the meetings are at the lunch hour transforming our campus to a beehive of activity.

The school has achieved even more National Scholarships in 2010...twenty five in the areas of Science, Mathematics and Business Studies. There were three Open Scholarships won by our students who now have the option of attending universities



Naparima College Walkathon

abroad instead of the University of the West Indies. 100% of the students at the Advanced Level and 97% at the Ordinary Level gained full certificates.

We were pleased to welcome 117 new students to Form 1 and 112 Form 6 lower students for the academic year 2010/11.

Music, Drama, Art and Physical Education have been formally added to the Form 4 curriculum and Information Technology has been added to the 6th Form curriculum. The administration of Naparima College is especially happy and proud of these accomplishments and is looking forward to a grand Graduation and Speech Day ceremony on October 16, 2010.

In April, we congratulated Ms. Lalita Maharaj Dean, who was promoted to Vice Principal at Mayaro Composite. Ms. Maharaj was outstanding in the area of Biology and was a main pillar in the Indian Cultural Club. We were very sad that Mr. Dave Ramsingh retired from the Business Department in August. Mr. Ramsingh had given yeoman service to the Musical and Cultural activities of the College. He was the pioneer of the College's steel band group

(continued on next page)

Naparima College Stays True to Its Motto (Continued)

– Naparythms. So far we have added one new member to our staff, Mr. Dennis Samaru, who is teaching Information Technology and one promotion to report, that of Mrs. Rowena S. Wattle, the former Head of Mathematics to the position of Vice-Principal.

In the coming term there will be several fund-raising activities which are forums for wonderful social occasions for the Naparima Community. Among these are the School Bazaar which is organised by the Naparima Association of Parents, School and Community, The Breakfast on the Hill organised by the Naparima Association of Past Students and Christmas Concerts organised by the school.

The Naparima College community is vibrant, energetic, committed and inclusive.

Submitted by
Mrs. Rowena Wattle
 Vice Principal



Naparima College Scuba Diving Club

Original Trinidad Charlie's Black Pudding

Camelita Attong

**Tel: 416-836-2049
 416-821-2128**

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

Christmas Dinner & Dance

— Saturday November 27th, 2010 —

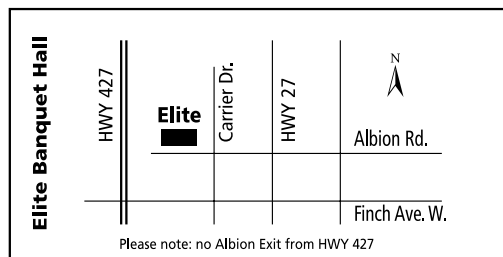


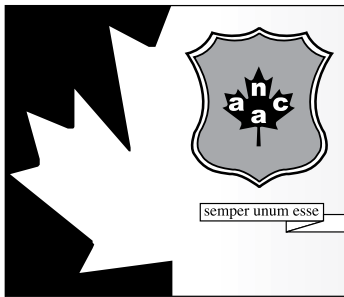
at Elite Banquet Hall
 1850 Albion Road, Rexdale



Time: 6:00 p.m. • Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
Dress: Formal Cash Bar

Music by: DJ Packnin & Panache Steelband
Tickets: \$50 • Members / \$55 • Non Members





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

Naparima Alumni Association of Canada

NAAC Canadian Bursary Guidelines

The Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto) is pleased to announce its 19th annual Canadian Bursary Program. A maximum of five bursaries, each valued at a minimum of \$200 will be offered to successful applicants.

The following are the guidelines under which the program is administered:

1. Each applicant must be a graduate of an Ontario high school and must be enrolled as a full-time student in first year studies at an accredited Canadian post-secondary educational institution.
2. Each applicant must have been a NAAC Student Member for at least the last two consecutive calendar years, that is, 2009 and 2010.
3. Each application submitted must include:
 - a. A completed NAAC Bursary Application form. (See next page)
 - b. Proof of graduation from an Ontario high school. Obtain a copy of your graduation diploma.
 - c. An official transcript of the applicant's Grade 12 academic record. The transcript must indicate final marks, not interim marks.
 - d. Proof of full-time enrolment in first year studies at an accredited Canadian post-secondary, **University, College or Vocational institution**. Obtain a confirmation letter from the Registrar's Office.
 - e. A covering letter, outlining the applicant's relevant interests and accomplishments. Because credit is given for the applicant's participation in school, community and/or NAAC activities, documentation to support such involvement should be included. Documentation may take the form of letters from teachers or organization officials, news articles, copies of awards etc.
4. All applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria: Academic performance (grades), participation in school activities, participation in community and/or NAAC activities from a leadership perspective. Financial need will be considered as a further criterion if a statement of need is included in the applicant's documentation. Consideration in this category will be over and above that given for academic performance and participation in school, community and NAAC activities. Any information submitted regarding financial need will be kept strictly confidential.
5. All requests for information about eligibility, criteria and other related matters should be directed to the Secretary.

Secretary, NAAC Bridlewood Mall Postal Outlet
P. O. Box 92175 2900 Warden Avenue
Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9

2010 NAAC CANADIAN BURSARY APPLICATION

SURNAME: _____ GIVEN NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ TEL: _____

ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL LAST ATTENDED: _____

CURRENT POST SECONDARY INSTITUTION: _____

Are you a Student Member of NAAC? YES NO

PLEASE CHECK THE ATTACHED GUIDELINES TO CONFIRM WHAT DOCUMENTATION SHOULD ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION.

DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST:

1. Covering Letter
2. Copy of High School Diploma
3. Official transcript of final Grade 12 marks
4. Proof of full-time enrolment in first year at university, college or vocational institution
5. Documentation (letters, clippings etc) supporting involvement in
 - (a) School activities
 - (b) Community work
 - (c) NAAC

THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS IS **NOVEMBER 19th, 2010**.
APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

SECRETARY, NAAC EXECUTIVE
BRIDLEWOOD MALL POSTAL OUTLET
P. O. BOX 92175, 2900 WARDEN AVENUE
SCARBOROUGH, ON M1W 3Y9

MAIL BAG...



August 15, 2010

Naparima Alumni
Association of Canada
c/o Bridlewood Mall Postal Outlet
P.O. Box 92175, 2900 Warden Avenue
Scarborough, ON M1W 3Y9

Dear Mrs Ramdial,

It is with great pleasure that I thank you for your generosity in awarding me the NAAC Millennium Bursary for the 2009/10 school year. It's truly an honour to have been chosen for this award. I feel that winning this bursary has motivated me to continue my hard work and dedication to remain successful.

I will be attending York University in pursuit of further education in Psychology. My love and immense passion for music has even led me to enrol in an elective music class which involves the steel pan. To me, music is a wonderful outlet for expression, and I've always had incredible experiences and opportunities because of it. I will continue to indulge in the sensational world of music for the rest of my life.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Allyson Achaiya

West Humber

Collegiate Institute Graduate

Happy 50th Anniversary!



It is not everyday that couples celebrate Golden Anniversaries, so when we have two within our small Naparima community, it is truly newsworthy. Rohan and Molly Dass celebrated theirs on August 7, 2010



Ronald and Gemma Mahabir celebrated with family and friends on September 20, 2010. Some of us are nearly there and hoping to reach that special milestone in our married lives.

Congratulations!

Winston & Myrna Ramcharan share the news of their grandson, Ayden, who was born on May 12, 2010. This is their second grandchild.

Julian Sammy's new baby girl named Livé was born just days ago on September 21, 2010. Congrats to first-time grandparents, **Howard and Kathy Sammy**.

Joy Sammy successfully defended her PhD thesis and is now preparing for post-doctoral work in British Columbia and Ghana.



GRAND CENTENARY CRUISE 2011

Naparima Girls' High School Centenary Committee

invites you to sail away with us as we cruise the Western Caribbean aboard the *Carnival Destiny*

Saturday 9th April to Thursday 14th April 2011

Boarding: Port of Miami, Florida

Stops: Ocho Rios (Jamaica) and Grand Cayman (Cayman Islands)

OCCUPANCY RATES

Inside Double	US\$ 650 / person
Oceanview Double	US\$ 750 / person
Inside Triple	US\$ 575 / person
Oceanview Triple	US\$ 675 / person
Inside Quad	not available
Oceanview Quad	US\$ 620 / person
Balcony	US\$ 830 / person

Rates apply to adults and children

*Prices **DO NOT** include return airfare to Miami

First Downpayment: US\$ 25 / person

Due: Friday August 27th 2010

Second Payment US\$ 225 / person

Due: Monday 29th November 2010

Final Payment: Friday 21st January 2011

SHIP HIGHLIGHTS AND AMENITIES

- Carnival's twister waterslide and whirlpools
- 9-hole mini golf
- Seaside theatre
- Millionaire's Club casino
- Palladium main show lounge
- All star sports bar
- Youth programs including: Camp Carnival, Circle "C", Club O2 and video arcades.
- Fitness Centre, Aerobic Room and Sauna
- Beauty Salon
- Galaxy and Universe dining rooms
- Sun and Sea restaurant
- Sushi Bar
- 24 hour room service and pizzeria
- Cafe on the Way Coffee Bar

CRUISE INCLUDES



ALL meals on board, entertainment, port charges, taxes and gratuities.

Contact Naparima Girls' High School

652-2049, 652-2659, 757-4637, 299-2868, 365-0362

Or email at naparima@stt.net.tt

*Join us as we celebrate our 100th
Anniversary; reconnect with old
friends, make some new ones and cruise
the high seas in style!*



Simply ... Panache II ~ Fusion

1. Wonderful World, Beautiful People 2:28
2. St. Elmo's Fire 4:10
3. Air on a G String 3:43
4. The Prayer 4:43
5. Caught up in the Rapture 4:00
6. Smooth Operator 4:04
7. Will You Be There 3:26
8. Jep Sting Naina 3:40
9. Nah Going Home 4:02
10. Black Man Feelin' to Party 4:40
11. Jep Sting Naina (Remix) 3:40
12. Nah Going Home (Remix) 4:00
13. Black Man Feelin' to Party (Remix) 4:30



All arrangements are by Al Foster for Panache Steelband
Recorded at West Humber C.I. on June 14, 16 & 21, 2010

CREDITS

Recording: Dawson Phillips

Mixing: Dawson Phillips

Mastering: Gary Honess

Duplication: Number 9 Audio

Design and Layout: Bluetree Publishing & Design

Special Cover Artwork: Excerpt from "Steelband",
original oil painting by Ian Angus Ali

CD Project Manager: Michele Comeau

Thank you...

Special thanks go to those individuals without whose support (financial and otherwise) this CD project would not have been possible: Mina Law, the Evangel Temple for the loan of their drum screen and West Humber Collegiate Institute for the use of their pan room.

Finally, thanks to **Naparima Alumni Association of Canada (Toronto)**, for organizing and funding our community steelpan classes at West Humber C.I. out of which Panache was formed.

THE PLAYERS

Soprano: Yvonne Ayuen, Jinelle Bobb, Stacy Bobb, Jemma Boodram, Veejay Boodram, Joan Chin, Kendal George, Ingrid Glyn-Williams, Joseph Jacob, David Lee Kim, Winston Poon, Alesha Rahmaan, Pam Rambharack, Sheila Satram, Terry Takashima, Elizabeth Yeung, Shirley Zanchetta

Alto: Michele Comeau, Al Foster, Larry Large, Glenda Mohammed, Rustin Oree, Sandy Pelechaty, Ian Ramdial, Grace Roberts, Roger Singh

Double Guitar: Brian Chin, Merle Pegus, Winston Poon, Rachel Ramnarain, Mona Walrond

Triple Cello: Michele Comeau, Al Foster, Michael Green

Bass: Umar Bacchus, Portia Barriffe

Bass Guitar: Umar Bacchus

Percussion: Umar Bacchus, Portia Barriffe, Al Foster, Michael Green, Shane Khan, Peter Lewis, Rachel Ramnarain

Drums: Michael Green, Shane Khan, Peter Lewis

Recitation: Jinelle Bobb (Will You Be There)

Guest Performers:

Tassa Drum: Donald Jawahir

Indian Bass Drum: Rajin Dhanlal

ORDERING INFO:

☐ 1 CD \$15.00 ☐ 2 CD's \$25.00

Mix and Match either CD

To order either of Panache's CDs, call or e-mail any of the following:

Michele Comeau 905-794-5567 E-mail: comeau4@rogers.com

Ian Ramdial 905-844-1254 E-mail: iramdial@cogeco.ca

Winston Poon 905-824-3589

Shirley Zanchetta 416-727-7369

E-mail: wpoon354@rogers.com

E-mail: pangirl@rogers.com