



“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. XXX No. 2

Spring 2007

NGHS Celebrates 95th Anniversary



New wing at La Pique and Upper Six Classroom with a view





Barristers and Solicitors

OUMARALLY, BABOOLAL



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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.

NAAC Executive - 2006/2007

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President's Message

Another year has gone by, we are forging bravely ahead. The NAAC will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2008. This is indeed a significant milestone for the Association. As I write this, plans are being put in place for a gala celebration. We, as an Association, have survived; we have endured, despite the fact that so many of our founding members have passed on. While our membership may be dwindling due to mortality, I am proud to say that the institutions, which have nurtured us, are continuing to produce graduates of the highest calibre.

During the March break, I took the opportunity to take the children and the ball and chain, (correction as she may be reading this), the love of my life, to Trinidad. We had the pleasure of visiting with Mrs. Patricia Ramgoolam, the current Principal of Naparima Girls' High School; my timing was not the best as the school was busy. Dignitaries from the Ministry of Education were about and the girls were writing exams. Despite her busy schedule, Mrs. Ramgoolam was most accommodating. She took us on a tour of the recent addition to the building and showed us some other enhancements to the school. I've said this before and I will say it again. If you want something done, leave it to a woman. NGHS, with the new addition, now boasts air-conditioned classrooms for the upper six classes, state of the art audio and visual equipment and a new staff room. Most impressive was the colour coordination in the staff washroom. It looked like a room from Hilton Tobago and I was advised that the colours were chosen by a member of staff. Mrs. Ramgoolam related how during the construction she would visit the site daily and learnt a great deal.

We also visited Naparima College but again my timing was off and since we came unannounced I was advised that both the Vice-Principal and the Principal were in a meeting.. Unfortunately, I did not get to meet them but I did run into one of my former teachers, Carl Sammy. With his usual smile and good nature, Carl said we could take photos of the new gymnasium (see photo). I did not have time to make it to the other schools, but that will have to wait for our next visit.

Best Regards,

Selwyn R. Baboolal

President

Editor's Note:

In January 2007 Naparima Girls' High School celebrated its 95th Anniversary. My thanks go to the NGHS Alumnae and to Mrs. Patricia Ramgoolam, the current Principal, who sent us a DVD as well as printouts of some of the proceedings. We've reproduced the text of Rev. Rawle Sukhu's sermon delivered at NGHS' Thanksgiving service. See page 10. If you would like to borrow the DVD, please contact me to arrange a loan.

It was a long, long time ago since I attended NGHS, but I was pleased that I recognized one of my teachers from the old days, Mrs. Mavis LeeWah. She was one of the honoured guests who, when she addressed the assembly, reflected on the early days of her tenure at the school. Although she described the old buildings and classrooms, we show the buildings as they are today (see photos on front cover).

In his Steelband report, Ian Ramdial mentions that the first Panache steelband CD, titled *Simply Panache*, will be ready in a week or two. Here is an excerpt from the CD insert about their bandleader, Blake Stansfield, who died on February 22, 2007.

... "*Panache has become a better band because of his leadership, genuine love of music, kind heart and sense of humour. We dedicate the CD to Blake, to whom we owe so much.*"

I had the pleasure of meeting Blake and seeing him in action at some of their practice sessions and performances and there is no doubt in my mind that the emotions flowed both ways. The back cover shows the front & back panels of the CD. Blake would have been proud.

An important item on the agenda for the AGM on May 26th, is a motion to make a change in our Constitution. Please read the motion on page 5.

A new Executive will be chosen on May 26th. Please call the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Aneesa Oumarally, if you or anyone you know would like to serve for the upcoming year.

Thanks to all who contributed to *broadcast* and a special thanks to our advertisers.

Merle Ramdial

Finance Report

This report reflects the Association's financial affairs at February 28, 2007. Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2007 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting in May 2007.

Bingo Account	<u>\$ 2,920</u>
----------------------	-----------------

General Account

Bank Account (BNS)	\$25,412
--------------------	----------

Arthur Siblal Memorial Fund:

Bank Account	\$ 413
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NAAC Investments

Bank of Nova Scotia - Term Deposit

- Balance @ February, 28, 2007	\$ 1,116
--------------------------------	----------

Edward Jones - GIC @ 4.32%

Maturing June 18, 2007	\$10,000
------------------------	----------

Scotia McLeod - Inter Pipeline Fund:

1600 Units - Book Value \$10.00	\$16,000
---------------------------------	----------

**Dividends earned on

Interpipeline Fund as at Feb. 28/07	\$ 2,396
-------------------------------------	----------

Total Investments - NAAC	<u>\$58,245</u>
---------------------------------	------------------------

** Market value of the Inter Pipeline Fund at February 28, 2007 was \$9.00. This is reflective of general market conditions at that date. The fund has since increased to \$9.35 and still continues to earn dividends at a rate of \$112 per month.

The Association continues to fulfill its commitments to the schools in Trinidad and the local community. However, because of the reduced funding from the Bingos and the disappointing results of the 5K Run 2006, the Association's support had to be drastically reduced. Donations were limited to the following:

Trinidad & Tobago Schools (5)	\$5,660
-------------------------------	---------

NCOBA

- From proceeds of 5K Run 2005	\$3,000
--------------------------------	---------

Meghu/Scrimgeour Literary Award	\$ 150
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Reanne Jaggernauth - Kidney fund on behalf of the Maharaj family	\$ 100
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"Pass the Torch" donation	\$ 100
---------------------------	--------

Misc. Ont. Bursaries & Awards - Steelband Prog.-W.H & Cedarbrae	\$ 950
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The Association's major sources of funding this year were derived from the Bingos; Panache Steelband; the Literary Event and the Christmas Dance. Panache Steelband also raised \$800 from their Christmas Party, but the executive agreed that these funds be set aside for the steelband's CD Project. The steelband is actively seeking donations/sponsorships for this project to help defray expenses. To date they have received contributions in the amount of \$1,700.

Respectfully submitted

Glenda Ramsahai, Treasurer

Communications Report

We've reported in the past about finding ways of keeping our expenditures to a minimum, while still continuing to keep our members informed of the Association's activities. As a first step, we tried to determine how many members would prefer to view the new issues of *broadcast* online, thus cutting the number of print copies and the cost of mailing. So far, and it is now three months later, only one member responded. We must conclude that the majority prefers hard copies.

With this in mind, the Communications Committee received the approval of the Executive to publish an advertising fee schedule that should appeal to most entrepreneurs and small-business people in our community. In the Notice to Prospective Advertisers on page 9, we have outlined three options.

However, if you would like to enter into a longer-term agreement, we are prepared to negotiate a deal.

Thanks to two new advertisers, Kelvin Shah and Doodnath Balkissoon.

Soon you will be ushering in a new Executive and hopefully, within the ranks, there is someone with more web expertise than I have. The job of updating and upgrading the www.naactoronto.ca site could be a lot of fun.

Respectfully submitted by

Merle Ramdial

Chair, Communications Committee

Bingo Report

Good news! Bingo sessions are alive and well for NAAC for the year 2007. In my previous report it was stated that there was great uncertainty regarding the continuance of bingo sessions at the Finch Country Bingo Hall. Fortunately for us our bingo hall, FCB, escaped closure. Nineteen of the twenty six halls in Toronto have been closed due to poor attendance and profitability.

For the current fiscal year April 1st 2006 to March 31st 2007, NAAC was responsible for 37 Bingos and earned revenue of \$7,874 to December 2006 and expected revenue of approximately \$3K for January to March 2007. This total of \$10,874 averaged out to about \$300 per session, about 50% less per session compared with the last fiscal year. This drop in revenue will affect both our funding to the steelband programs and to the bursaries for graduating high school students. As mentioned in a previous report we are currently looking at other sources of funding these programs.

Again, special thanks to all our volunteers and team leaders for their help and commitment in running the bingo sessions. As usual there are continuous changes in running the sessions and we appreciate your ability to process the changes in such a short time frame. The next big change will be the "New Revenue Model" which will be launched sometime in April or May 2007. Hopefully we will be informed of the changes in a timely fashion, so that it could be conveyed to all before the changes are actually implemented.

For this fiscal year, bingo revenue was used for the most part to fund the following programs:

- Awarding of bursaries and awards to Toronto students.
- Funding the steelband programs at two high schools which includes the payment of honorariums to steelband instructors.

Details of the individual items would be contained in the Profit & Loss statement to be presented at our Annual General Meeting on May 26th 2007. Hope to see you all there

Norma Ramsahai
Bingo Coordinator

Social Committee Report

In my last report I listed some of the proposed events for 2007 and yes, we can all agree that at least one of them did not materialize (I am not going to say which one). If you were not one of the 47 (that's the full seating of the bus), who went on our Casino Rama trip, you missed a great buffet and a fun bus ride. Where else can you get such fun for \$10.00 (all inclusive).

Plans are already underway for our annual Christmas Dinner and Dance to be held, as usual, on the last Saturday in November, which is November 24, 2007, so mark your calendars. The venue is Elite Banquet Hall. Last year, thanks to all of you, the dance turned out to be a resounding success with good times had by all. Remember, we are already looking for a more central location for our 2008 30th Anniversary function, as well as for our 2008 Xmas Dinner & Dance, so feel free to send us your recommendations. We are looking for good food, clean surroundings with ample parking and courteous service. Send your messages to: darisec@oblaw.ca and our committee will check it out.

We don't have any concrete plans right now for a summer event, but we are working on a blue print for a spectacular golf tournament. So keep your ears peeled for the updates.

Have a fantastic summer!

Submitted by
Darise Crevelle
Chair, Social Committee

REMINDER TO 2007 BURSARY APPLICANTS

**NAAC Bursary Application &
Guidelines are available at:**

[www.naactoronto.ca/documents/
NAACBursaryApplication.pdf](http://www.naactoronto.ca/documents/NAACBursaryApplication.pdf)

***Remember to get the required
documentation early.
Deadline for applications is November 16, 2007***

Membership Report

There are currently 214 members.

Life: 167

Annual: 21 paid up for 2007

Honorary: 26

We welcomed the following new members in 2007, they are: Doodnath Balkissoon, Premraj Balliram, Vashti Balliram and Brandon Balliram, Brian & Zabrina Fraser and their children Solana, Braedan and Keira and Ricardo Gill, who joined as a Life member.

We invite you to attend our Annual General Meeting on May 26th.

Submitted by

Aneesa Oumarally

Chair, Membership Committee



NOTICE of 2007 NAAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY MAY 26, 2007

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

at

The Montessori Teacher

Training Centre

1050 McNicoll Avenue, Scarborough, ON

MOTION TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

Upon the approval by the Executive of the Naparima Alumni Association of Canada, I, Aneesa Oumarally, Regular Life Member make a motion to amend section 9.3 of part IX Rights and Privileges of the Naparima Alumni Constitution amended 2002 **from:**

9.3 Notwithstanding clause 9.2, Associate Members who have been members in good standing for a minimum of three years and who can demonstrate active involvement in the business of the Association are eligible to become Regular Members upon approval by the Executive.

to:

9.3 Notwithstanding clause 9.2, Associate Members who have been members in good standing for a minimum of **two** years and who can demonstrate active involvement in the business of the Association are eligible to become Regular Members upon approval by the Executive. (change bolded)

Rationale for the proposed change:

The present three-year limitation on an Associate member becoming a Regular member, and this being a requirement to holding any executive office, still remains a deterrent to some who can contribute their time to aid NAAC, in the achievement of its aims and objectives.

Furthermore the NAAC has not been able to market itself to encourage new Regular Members, i.e. attendees of one of the alma mater schools. Therefore the pool from which the executive comes is dwindling. If the Association is to survive, then it needs to draw more from those who are willing to serve other than those who have enjoyed the privilege of attending a “Naparima” school.

Steelband Report

WHCI Community Teaching Programme

The most important news to report is the loss of Blake Stansfield who conducted the community teaching classes at West Humber C.I. and was the leader of the Panache steelband. Early in January, Blake was diagnosed with cancer of the pancreas, which had already started to spread to his liver. He was told that he had at most a few months to live. He bravely carried on with the classes and with the band performances until he was physically unable to go any further. He passed away on February 22. At his funeral, Panman Pat McNeilly and Joe Cullen joined the band to play a selection of pieces that Blake had chosen for the occasion.

In the two years that Blake had been associated with the programme at West Humber, he had a tremendous impact on members of both the Beginners' class and the Advanced (Panache) class. He was a great teacher who was able to coax his students to become more disciplined and better players. And he did it with a mix of drill and praise and a hearty dose of humour.

The members of Panache have decided to honour Blake in some meaningful way. As a first step, it was decided to dedicate our first Panache CD to Blake's memory.

Panache

The last three months of 2006 were hectic enough for the Panache band what with recording sessions for the CD as well as gigs (including the NAAC Christmas Dance) for which we had to prepare. But as the new year rolled in there was no let up. So far we have been booked for appearances at 9 events for the January to May period and the rest of the year is going to be just as busy.

After much time spent on mixing and mastering and artwork and textual content of the insert, the CD is in its final stage of duplication and packaging. By the time this newsletter reaches you, you're likely to get a notice of the CD launching. Keep in mind that all proceeds from the sale of the CDs will go to NAAC. Show your support for NAAC, as it continues to achieve its aim to give back to the Canadian community, by buying a Panache CD. Better still, why not buy a few as presents for friends and family?

School Support

Despite a marked decrease in bingo funding for 2006, NAAC was able to maintain its support for the steelband music program at West Humber C.I. and Cedarbrae C.I., though at a reduced level. Both schools received funding for tuning of pans and for the steelband awards and bursaries. NAAC has committed to do the same for the 2006-2007 school year.

Submitted by

Ian Ramdial, Steelband Liaison



Blake Stansfield
(1949 - 2007)

NAAC - Sponsored Steelband Classes

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

Two venues:

West End: West Humber C.I.

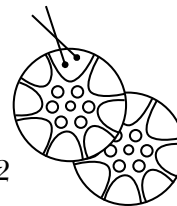
Ian Ramdial: 905-844-1254

E-mail: iramdial@cogeco.ca

East End: Cedarbrae C.I.

Randolph Karamath: 416-283-4152

ramachez@hotmail.com



Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute Steel Band Tours Trinidad

A group of steel band students and teachers from Cedarbrae Collegiate Institute, Scarborough (Toronto District School Board) made a whirlwind tour of Trinidad during the recently concluded March Break. The contingent of thirteen students and four teachers was led by Randolph Karamath, the Steel Band Music teacher at Cedarbrae and a former schoolteacher from Trinidad.

Mr. Karamath teaches Steel Band, among other subjects, as a Music credit course at Cedarbrae in Grades 10, 11 and 12. He also teaches the after-school NAAC-sponsored community Steel Band class in the East end. The Steel Band program was originally introduced to Cedarbrae in 1995 as an extra-curricular activity by Mr. Karamath and has since been included in the Music curriculum of the school. At the school, the steelband has grown in popularity and is well known around Toronto. Since its inception, the program has received, and continues to receive, support and financial sponsorship from Naparima Alumni Association of Canada. However, for this tour, students raised funds by performing at other schools and various community events in order to make the trip a reality.

Whilst in Trinidad, the group visited and gave lively performances to cheering and appreciative audiences at Hillview College in Tunapuna, Naparima Girls' High School, Naparima College, Williamsville Junior Secondary School, Piparo Presbyterian School, Riversdale Presbyterian School, Maple Leaf International School at Diego Martin, and a Sunday afternoon concert at the Gulf City Mall. The band performed selections from various genres of music that included Reggae, Calypso, Soca, Pop, Chutney and East Indian pieces.

The touring party was also fortunate to visit Bird Song and Exodus pan yards under the kind auspices of Major Eddie Wade as tour guide, who also took the group to visit the University of the West Indies, which offers a degree course in steel band.

Apart from performing, the Canadian students had an opportunity to shop on busy Frederick Street, enjoy the scenic beaches at Maracas Bay and Chaguaramas, dance at the Sting Disco Club, climb San Fernando Hill and relax at the beautiful West Mall. Even though the students came from various nationalities and backgrounds, many had Trinidad roots and met with relatives. Mr. Henry Gomez, one of the teachers who accompanied our group was able to visit with some of his relatives as well. The other two teachers, Stacie Tanos and Lee Tsparas, are both of Greek background. Although the remaining students had roots from Iran, China, Barbados, India, Jamaica and Guyana, they all enjoyed the local cuisine of doubles, bake and shark, roti and chicken and "buss up shirt". They even had great fun with eating pieces of sugar cane.

Generally, the hospitality was great and the stay at Marion's Place Inn at Pointe-a- Pierre was truly comfortable and relaxing. The trip turned out to be a resounding success and students were thrilled by their visit to the birthplace of the steel pan. It was truly educational, enjoyable, memorable and safe. Next year the group plans to take the steel band to Sweden. Go to www.Youtube.com and type 'Cedarbrae Trinidad' to see video clips of the trip.

Submitted by **Randolph Karamath**



Highlights from the Trinidad Trip

A New NAAC Initiative Launched

The Meghu/Scrimgeour Literary Award

An occasion on Saturday, October 14, 2006 was the celebration of the launching of a new award, the Meghu/Scrimgeour Literary Award for Creative Writing. It was a Trini- kaleidoscope Literary Luncheon held at the United Steelworkers Building in Toronto and was truly a proud tribute to our Naparima Community and the greater cultural heritage from Trinidad & Tobago. This exciting project is intended to foster education for gender equity in our Mother Country.

The idea for such a project came to me around the time that Miss Beulah Meghu passed away, and with her passing, came reflections on our past. Beulah Meghu symbolized local leadership. My thoughts also turned to a long-standing principal-teacher-missionary, TGIT Leader, Miss Margaret Scrimgeour, and to the richness of her contribution which was symbolic of our Canadian ties. How can NAAC help?

At the NAAC general meeting in October '04, I introduced a motion to initiate a Scrimgeour/Meghu Literary Award focusing on the creative writing ability of female students. The positive response to this motion from the house made one feel very proud. Subsequently, I co-opted a committee of willing volunteers in Ramabai Espinet, Myrtle Gopeesingh, and the three of us together with Ian Ramdial, as advisor and liaison to NAAC Executive, worked to frame guidelines, and to raise funds for the award.

The name evolved as the Meghu/Scrimgeour Literary Award giving it a perspective from recent to distant past, with objectives and criteria set out in consultation with staff at Naparima Girls' High School. NAAC would fund this award in the amount of C\$150.00 annually, but the committee felt that we should recognize female students at the three schools –NGHS, SAGHS, and IERE. We therefore needed to raise funds to implement this project and hopefully raise the value to C\$200.00. We are happy that the first award was presented at NGHS' Speech Day on October 8, 2006. We are looking forward to offering three awards this year.

Our first fund-raising effort was a resounding

success in terms of literary and cultural contributions to the event, and the response of the community on the whole. That was October 14, 2006. NAAC Panache Steelband fused the hall with sweet pan music to welcome folks. The mood was set for a good time. We could not have had a better MC than our own NAAC President, Selwyn Baboolal, who dead-panned a joke with relevance after each performance and kept the show moving. Artistes included: Dr. Rita Cox, storyteller extraordinaire (and the moral of the story is.....) with her commanding presence, Toronto calypso monarch and calypso teacher, Jason Perez, whose student calypsonians demonstrated why he received a special award from the Trinidad & Tobago Consulate for his free service to youth and Harold Hosein, a.k.a. *Hurricane Harold*, who showed that he still had his voice and *could make we laugh* while telling good stories about *Lagahoo*, *Soucouyant* and *Dwen* in his Calypso singing.

Two novelists and one poet made presentations. Shani Mootoo read from her book 'He Drown She in the Sea'. The excerpt describes the protagonist, a Trini, trying to integrate into the new society in Canada by doing the wine-tasting thing. Familiar! The reading voice of Roger McTeer was so compelling it made his poems resonate with us, especially the one about his uncle in Moruga. We were transported to places and circumstances of our cherished distant past. But his words were so fine! Then came Ramabai Espinet doing her 'Robber Talk', an eloquence of ole-time mas and reading from her book, 'The Swinging Bridge'. The passage was a commentary about J'Ouvert morning. Oh Lord, it was so dramatic, how we visualized so much fun at Carnival time back home! Her words really helped us take in the scene.

Excellence was not only evident in the literary works, but in the music. Shelli Karamath playing a solo on the soprano pan was a tapestry of elegance and when her mentor, Pan Man Pat McNeilly played, it was sheer brilliance. We were awed and wanted more.

This fine program included lunch during which

(continued from previous page)

time the versatile Jennifer Sohan entertained the audience with her singing of *Sohani Raat*, followed by other contemporary tunes. Panache Steelband played generously at all intervals. It was a good time and everyone responded positively. (We regret the passing of Panache Steelband's Conductor, Blake Stansfield and we extend our sympathy to his family.)

We are appreciative of the generosity and time that the artistes afforded us. We are proud of the support of NAAC in undertaking this progressive action. We are thankful for the many friends and relatives who helped. Special thanks to non-Naparima supporters like Hayward Hussein and Tony Bello from the T&T Consulate who donated generously. We are happy to belong to the Naparima community whose members have shared rich cultural histories. We were very pleased that Mrs. Zalayhar Hassanali attended where she was able to meet old friends in an informal setting.

Ramabai Espinet, Myrtle Gopeesingh and I look forward to other joyful occasions for the cause and we know that we can count on you for your support and help.

Sincerely,

Karma Naike.
Award Committee Chair

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

—
For advertising information,
please call Selwyn Baboolal
or any member
of the NAAC executive (p.2)

To: Prospective Advertisers

Advertise in our Naparima Alumni Association of Canada's newsletter *broadcast* or link via our Advertisers web page to your company's site and help us "to give back" to our communities.

Option 1: Sponsor a print issue of *broadcast* at \$500 and NAAC will include a link from www.naactoronto.ca "Advertisers" page to your company's homepage **free for one year**

OR

Option 2: Link from our "Advertisers page" at www.naactoronto.ca to your company's homepage for just \$200 per year (paid in advance).

OR

Option 3: Advertise only in our print issues of *broadcast* (two per year) at the following rates:

¼ page: \$25/per issue
½ page: \$50/per issue
Full page: \$100/per issue

Contact:
mjramdial@hotmail.com
to place an ad or call
905-844-1254.

NGHS celebrates its 95th Anniversary with Thanksgiving Service

Sermon preached by The Moderator, Rev. Rawle Sukhu

95th Anniversary of Naparima Girls' High School,
Susamachar Presbyterian Church, San Fernando,
January 12th, 2007

Theme: The Hills are Alive –

In the book, *East meets West in Trinidad* the following account is given:

As the years passed a gradual change took place in the minds of many of the East Indian people, concerning education for girls. By degrees, too, the attitude among Christians toward the very low marriage age for girls was changing, though even today it is not uncommon to see Christian girls married at fourteen; among Hindus and Mohammedans child marriage is still the custom. For these reasons and others, a High School for girls became desirable and was established.

Dr. Kenneth J. Grant, in his book entitled, *My Missionary Memoirs* states:

Dr. Coffin placed at the service of the Mission the proceeds of a Life Policy which had matured, and by which a most eligible site known as "La Pique" was purchased. On it a girls' residence was erected to which has been given the name "The Sarah Morton Dormitory."

More recently on the same property a commodious schoolroom with the necessary equipment has been provided, largely through a grant given from the funds of the Forward Movement. This school, with a staff of lady teachers, chiefly from Canada and paid by the Women's Missionary Society of the Eastern Division, has now

received government recognition with an allowance that affords substantial relief to those who began the work. The institution in San Fernando is officially known as "The Naparima Girls' High School."

I invite us this morning to meditate together, for a little while, upon the significance of the past, the present, and the future in relation to the 95th Anniversary of the Naparima Girls' High School – a Presbyterian denominational government-assisted secondary school established in San Fernando in 1912.

Between then and now, the face of San Fernando has been transformed tremendously. In 1912, the thought of your daughter receiving a secondary school education was taboo; today it is a necessity; back then, fees had to be paid, today it is 'free'.

It is Schiller who said, *the future comes on slowly, the present flies like an arrow, the past stands forever still.*

This is our experience. It is as though we are travelling and the scenery we are looking at is time. The landscape is coming toward us – the future lies there before us, coming slowly. The immediate area through which we are passing represents the present. The way we have already traveled is the past. Yet we can visualize it in the mind's eye and it remains in our recollections, like a vast gallery filled with mind-pictures gathered through the past.

Let us, then, consider each in turn.

To the past we constantly add new pictures. Some of those pictures fade into obscurity; others remain ever vivid. Like a fond artist, we touch up some of them. Sometimes in bitterness and disappointment, we daub our pictures with

(continued on next page)

NGHS celebrates its 95th Anniversary

(continued from previous page)

sombre shades and dark blotches, for the things we recall from the past change their significance in the light and shadow of our present experience.

The past is forever still! Some would say that the past is dead and gone. In one sense that is true, and yet, what we are now thinking about the past is of tremendous importance. If we are prepared to learn by experience, then the past should exercise a considerable influence upon our lives now. Most of us owe a great debt to the past; gratitude for many mercies; thankfulness for a multitude of lovely memories; and a deep faith grounded in the providence we have known. This is true not only in our personal lives, but it is also true of Naps Girls'.

The tone of Naps Girls', as we know it today, was moulded, shaped, and formed over the years. Most of the successes we prize today as an institution were attained as we journeyed through our yesterdays. Yes! We owe a great deal to the past, and so today, we are stronger and a mighty force to reckon with in the national arena of secondary education.

Some people bemoan the past, and recite repeatedly their disappointments and misfortunes, all the long bitter tales of hardship and injustice, their strife and struggle against an antagonistic world. We at Naparima Girls' High School have been able to use these negative attitudes and attributes to our advantage – to strive for excellence and to instill in the minds and hearts of students, parents, guardians, teachers, and community that the will to win is what makes us free.

The past, whatever it might have been, is irrevocable – irreversible. There were ruin and wrong – no doubt about it; but there were moments of glory and honour – opportunities for praise and thanksgiving – we were able to rise above the ashes, creep through the rubble, right the wrong, and as an institution to rise to something nobler and to offer to our students not only the academics but

the more lasting and enduring values of honesty, truth, goodness, kindness, forgiveness, patience, gentleness, and love as we prepared them for life – to perform their roles for the good of society; for the welfare and well-being of humanity; and to the honour and glory of God.

So much for the past. Now to turn to the present. It was Longfellow who told us to act *in the living present*. Are we truly living and acting in the present; or, is it only part of our mind, spirit, and energy being spent in the here and now, whilst the other part goes day-dreaming into some fanciful future?

We at Naparima Girls' High School know that our hope for this institution and for our nation reaches out to the future, but it must be grounded in the present. We should have a solid basis for our hope, a basis continually strengthened by the present.

Through a dedicated staff, a co-operative and responsible Naparima Girls' community, the kind assistance of the Ministry of Education, and the grace of God, some of our cravings have ended; some of our heartaches, fears, and desires have ceased.

We look to the future with optimism. We look to the future with hope.

Indeed, history has a way of repeating itself – of going around full circle. In the book from which I quoted earlier: *East meets West in Trinidad*, the following forms part of the history of Naparima Girls':

The Naparima Girls' High School, beginning in very small quarters and with very small numbers in 1912, went on under the direction of Miss Marion C. Outhit, M.A., who returned to Canada at the end of four years on account of her health. She was succeeded by Miss M. Grace Beattie, B.A. the present Principal of the School. In 1917 – the High School moved to its present lovely

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NGHS celebrates its 95th Anniversary

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site on the hillside overlooking San Fernando, and across the Gulf of Paria to the blue hills of Venezuela. Miss Archibald, Principal, Miss Beattie, three young East Indian assistants, and Miss Adolphus as Matron, made up the staff.

During the years since, the School has gone on from strength to strength. The residence, named the Sarah Morton Dormitory in recognition of Mrs. Morton's many years of service was built and enlarged. The school was replaced by a new building and later enlarged once again. The number of pupils has grown (1933 showing an increase of over forty) until the residence is full, with its sixty girls... graduates of the School now form a large part of the teaching staff, which numbers nine. Many students have taken the complete High School course and the School has a good record of passes in the Junior and Senior Cambridge Examinations. Recently, an Ontario Inspector of Schools, after spending two periods teaching a senior class in the High School, expressed his admiration, saying that he found them quite as bright as a similar class in Canada.

The courses taken at the High School have been adjusted and enlarged from time to time, to meet the growing demands which have come with changing customs and ideas, as well as to conform to government requirements. For years the High School has been affiliated with the Government College, Queen's Royal, and has received government assistance.

The various teachers have introduced helpful and interesting aids to the all-round development of the teen-age girl.

The school library, literary and athletic club, school concerts and exhibits do much toward introducing the students to the wider interests

of life, and teach the girls the value of team-work and play. The intermingling of the races provides a wonderful field for the teaching, and putting into practice, of the principles of world Friendship, and girls who go out from such a school, whatever the vocations they choose, must surely be better neighbours and citizens in this cosmopolitan land.

Currently, our school is the leading girls' secondary school in our twin-island Republic and I dare say, without fear of contradiction, the English-speaking Caribbean; recently, we have introduced new subject areas; more co-curricular, extra-curricular and the aesthetics to introduce our students to the wider interests of life.

Our founding mothers and fathers are certainly proud of us that on our 95th birthday, we are found faithful to their ideals of 1912.

From our first Principal to our current Principal, the PCTT recognizes that we must not be overly concerned whether we shall succeed or fail. The past and present speak for themselves.

However, as a Church, we shall be faithful in what is asked of us by God and we shall leave what comes out of it to Him. God has something for us to do so wonderfully that we can only be made equal to the task as we are disciplined to the heroic acceptance to His will.

Happy 95th birthday Naparima Girls' High School. May God continue to bless and guide you that the hills may continue to be alive by His grace and mercy.

— REMINDER —

NAAC MEMBERSHIP

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

Contact:

Aneesa Oumarally,
Chair,
Membership Committee.



Update on York University's Harold Mahabir Student Award for International Development

Background: This award was established by family and friends in honour of Harold Mahabir, a member of the advisory team of the Kenya Canada Energy Advisory project, which involved the Faculty of Environmental Studies, the Ontario Ministry of Energy and Ontario Hydro working with the Government of Kenya over a seven-year period beginning in 1985. Harold served brilliantly as the petroleum policy advisor on the project and was responsible, in large measure, for the emergence of the National Oil Company of Kenya as a mechanism for ensuring competitive purchasing of oil supplies for Kenya.



From left: Professor Robert Macdonald; Jacqueline Mahabir (wife of Harold and NAAC life member); and Julius Adagbon

The award supports students in the second year of the Master in Environmental Studies program who have demonstrated a commitment to studying international development. The first annual recipient is exploring sustainable practices in international development projects, with a specific focus on microfinance institutions in Ghana and Mozambique. The 2006 recipient is Julius Adagbon.

Editor's Note:

The amount of this annual bursary was \$1250. Anyone wishing to donate should forward cheques made to: York University Foundation, Attn: Mahabir Bursary, N926 Ross Building, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

Note of thanks...

From: Jacqueline Mahabir

My family and I are deeply moved to think that Harold will live on in such a wonderful and tangible way, all because of the help we received from relatives and friends like the NAAC and its members.

We wish to thank you, the members of the Executive, as well as individual members, who so generously donated to the Bursary Fund. Maybe one day one of your offspring attending York University will win a Harold Mahabir Bursary. That will be a wonderful turn of events.

Thanks and all the best for the rest of the year.

Winners at public speaking competition...

Carlton Mendoza of Naparima College won first place in San Fernando's public speaking competition for secondary school students. Mendoza, a lower six student spoke on the topic, "How could the success of T & T at the World Cup in Germany impact on the young people in San Fernando".

He urged politicians to harness the patriotism displayed during the tournament as part of nation

building.

The second place winner was Lisa Ramnarine, an upper six student at Naparima Girls' High School. Her topic was, "If you were elected mayor of this city, what would be your priority projects and why?" Lisa identified crime, traffic and vending situations as being among her top priorities.

The winners were chosen from among competitors from six secondary schools.

Original Oil Paintings for Sale

Artist – Ian Angus Ali

Clarification

We still have two paintings that were unsold at the Silent Auction held at the NAAC Christmas Dinner & Dance in November. Some attendees liked the paintings, but because we had published the suggested value of the paintings, felt that they had to bid higher than that figure. Not so. Here is another chance to make an offer for an original. You may call in with a reasonable \$\$\$ offer, and if by September 30th no one else has topped your offer, the painting will be yours.

Contact: Cynthia Ramdeen at 416 499 7357 if you wish to place an offer or to view the paintings one more time.



Boats on the River (24" x 36")



Bull and Cart, Ajoupa Scene (26" x 50")



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BOOK REVIEW

Jouvert by Joy Mahabir.

Authorhouse, 2006, 160 pages,
US\$13.00, ISBN 1-4259-3094-8

Joy Mahabir's first novel traces the path of an Indo-Caribbean girl, Annaise, growing up in Trinidad from her days in a village in the south of the island to an urban New York life. But it is not just a re-hashing of the familiar themes of movement, diaspora and exile. It is about the particular search for self and authenticity that women of Caribbean and especially Indo-Caribbean women undertake whenever they seek to find a voice outside the prescribed parameters of either businesswoman, doctor, lawyer or cane cutter, market vendor, battered wife. If one can find this voice and space Mahabir urges respect as it is "an extremely fragile space. It is a space that must be protected fiercely; a space that must always be fought for." So Annaise journeys trying out various ways of being. She tries merging into the metropolis and being the arty young thing of the Manhattan gallery scene. But it

is not her voice. Isolation and exile do not provide her with the feminine space for art either. In the end our protagonist chooses some in-between way, a unique, hybrid voice found through engagement and modernity.

This novel is semi-autobiographical as the author is herself a woman who has successfully made that journey from village to metropolis and along the way found this space to be an artist. I know because, interest declared, I was at school with her. Mahabir moved from the safety of expectations of what a bright, Indian girl from a good home should do - she read science first before turning to an academic career in literature.

Ingrid Persaud

(Editor's note: The above was excerpted from a much longer review submitted by Ingrid Persaud. Both the author, Joy Mahabir, and Ingrid Persaud are alumnae of Naparima Girls' High School).



ANNOUNCING NAPARIMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION QUE INC. ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE

June 9th, 2007 from 7 p.m - 2:00 a.m

St. Jean Brébeuf Parish Hall

855 Bishop Power Blvd., LaSalle



Music by:

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Dinner @ 7:30 p.m.

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Keep left at the fork on the ramp – Turn slight right onto
Blvd. de la Verendrye – Turn left on Blvd. Bishop Power)

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Taking role reversal in stride

Milton Moonah's wife, Kathy, could do everything. 'Now, I do everything for her'

January 25, 2007

ELVIRA CORDILEONE

STAFF REPORTER

When Milton Moonah married Kathy Horne in 1966, he was deadly serious about his promise never to leave her.

Not even Alzheimer's disease – which has gradually consumed her brain over the past decade and robbed her of memory and abilities – has shaken him loose. In fact, Moonah not only stayed put, he has willingly hoisted her on his shoulders.

"I won't put her in a home," he says. "She's only 65 years old. Sometimes I get cross, annoyed, but not at her. It's the disease."

His first glimpse of the ominous shadow of Alzheimer's came when Kathy began repeating questions. Later, there were the floods when she'd forget to turn off faucets, when the list of things she couldn't remember grew longer and longer, when she suddenly began having uncharacteristic emotional swings.

The formal diagnosis came in 2001. By then, Moonah had been looking after his wife full time for two years, having taken early retirement from his job as an Ontario Hydro engineer.

"After the diagnosis, I used to cry a lot. So did she," recalls Moonah, 65. "'What's wrong with me?' she'd ask. And I'd give her a hug and a kiss and we'd start to dance to change her attitude and behaviour."

The couple met in the 1960s in Winnipeg, where Kathy, born in Pictou, N.S., worked as an elementary school teacher. Moonah had left his native Trinidad in 1963 to study engineering at the University of

Manitoba.

They married on July 15, 1966, and moved to Toronto soon after his graduation. They have two children: Jay, born in 1971, who lives near the couple's home in Scarborough, and Rebecca, born two years later, who recently moved back home after a sojourn in Calgary.

Jay Moonah expresses no surprise that his father has taken full responsibility for his mother's care. He says his dad assumed the caretaker role at an early age, as the eldest of eight growing up in a poor country.

"He has always been the go-to guy," Jay says. "But that's not to say he hasn't had dark times. There's been lots of despair but he has always had the attitude that you take what comes."

In the home where the family has lived since 1974, Moonah shows off the petit point hanging on the walls, the hooked rugs, the living room chair's upholstery, the sophisticated decorative accents made from fabric – all Kathy's handiwork

– the pump organ, shipped from her hometown, that she so loved to play.

"She could do everything," Moonah says, "and she was an excellent cook. Now, I do everything for her."

In the morning, they shower together. He dresses her, brushes her teeth, her hair. He hands her the prescribed medications, including one that helps stabilize her mood.

He prepares their meals – noting he'll have to be more careful with portion sizes because she's gained a little weight. He takes her to medical appointments,



(continued on next page)

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a memory clinic, and an adult daycare centre.

And he attends a support group once a month.

Alzheimer's, he says, hasn't prevented them from living full lives. Since his wife can't do things on her own – she can't even be left alone at this stage of her illness – Moonah takes her everywhere he goes. So, for example, when he rehearses with the Scarborough Dukes of Harmony, Kathy's there, too.

"The thing that's great about that," Jay says, "is now she knows the lyrics to every old song, and it seems to give her joy."

They also travel, including regular winter trips to Costa Rica and visits to Kathy's family in the Maritimes. In 1999, they did a six-week trek across Canada and the U.S. to San Francisco, where Moonah took part in a soccer tournament.

For critics who tell him Alzheimer's patients fare better when they're kept in familiar surroundings, he argues her "familiar" place is with him.

"She trusts me implicitly. She knows I'm someone special, even though I have to keep reminding her I'm her husband."

The responsibility seems to hang lightly on his father, Jay says. "It's just the next challenge in life. In an odd way, he's doing what he has always done, which is make decisions. It has brought out the best qualities in him."

But he says his parents have always had a special connection, an "ineffable" quality that transcends her loss of memory.

Kathy stands in front of the living-room picture window, peering out. She turns and says anxiously, "I don't know what to do with them."

Moonah deliberately interrupts her train of thought by asking her to come and sit at the table. Her face lights up with a smile and she goes.

Moonah is doing all he can to make their lives pleasant for as long as he can.

He aims for the two of them to spend many more years sleeping in each other's arms, as they have every night for the past four decades.

Elvira Cordileone

(Reprinted from *The Toronto Star*,
Tuesday January 25, 2007)



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Trini Techie Wins Oscar

By Dominic Kalipersad, excerpted from the Trinidad Guardian

A Trinidadian expert on the restoration of films has won an Oscar award for his involvement in the development of visual effects software for films. He is Dr Anil Kokaram, 39, a Sangre Grande-born engineering lecturer at the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. Kokaram received the Scientific and Engineering Academy award at a ceremony held in Beverly Hills, California, USA, on Saturday, a fortnight ahead of the headline acting awards event.

Speaking in a telephone interview from LAX airport in Los Angeles yesterday, Kokaram said: "I feel very privileged to get this award because not many people get the chance...I knew of the nomination since November, but I really didn't expect this." His mother, Lynette, who attended the event with her other son Vasheist, a Port-of-Spain attorney, said she was proud not only of Kokaram but also for her country. Speaking from Florida about the event, she said, "It was fantastic. Something I never expected to be a part of. I felt extremely proud of my son and for Trinidad and Tobago because I think it was the first for T&T. Little T&T did it!"

Kokaram received the award with three members of UK software developer The Foundry's development team—Dr Bill Collis, Simon Robinson and Ben Kent—for their work on the design and development of Furnace, an integrated suite of software visual effects. The Academy (of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) employed a stringent examination process in selecting the winners, almost like a police investigation,"

Kokaram said. It involved six months of deliberation and assessment by two panels made up of both academics and industrial people in the film industry."

As for the future, the imaging scientist said he hoped "to run a course in media processing" at the University of the West Indies or the University of Trinidad and Tobago because he believed "people would be interested in another activity besides the petroleum industry." He said he was already "building a connection with UWI by having a couple of guys doing research in Dublin in motion analysis of sports events, particularly cricket."

The Academy Awards for outstanding film achievements of 2006 will be presented February 25 at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood.

Dr Anil Kokaram is a graduate of Hillview College in Tunapuna. He left T&T in 1986 to study at Cambridge University, England, where he also did his PhD. He has been a lecturer at Trinity College, Dublin, since 1998. Previously, he was a research fellow at the Signal Processing Lab at Cambridge University's Department of Engineering. Kokaram is married to Stafanie, a German technical consultant. His parents are Richard Kokaram, 66, former principal of Hillview College, and Lynette Kokaram, 62, vice principal at Specialist Learning Centre, St Augustine. Kokaram has particular expertise in motion estimation, which is required for many movie special effects. He has published a large number of articles on the subject and has also written a book entitled Motion Picture Restoration: Digital Algorithms for Artefact Suppression in Degraded Motion Picture Film and Video.

— WITH SYMPATHY —

Condolences are extended to the family of

Carol (Joy) Mills nee Armoogum (1941–2007), who passed away on February 24, 2007 after a short illness. It was only last November that Carol paid a visit to Toronto from her home in Winnipeg and attended our NAAC Christmas Dinner & Dance. She had a great time meeting old friends and visiting with relatives. A short piece on Carol, as an artist, was included in an earlier issue of *broadcast*, but Carol was much more.

She was an avid gardener, a great cook, a voracious reader and a teacher.

Our thoughts are with her husband John and sons Richard and Nick in their time of mourning.

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| 4. Footsteps | 2:55 |
| 5. Lisbon Antigua | 4:45 |
| 6. Nah Leavin' | 3:45 |
| 7. Jamaica Farewell * | |
| 8. Pan in A Minor | 4:15 |
| 9. Power of Love | 3:26 |
| 10. Nani Wine | 4:08 |
| 11. My Way | 4:58 |
| 12. How Great Thou Art | |
| 13. Hot! Hot! Hot! * | |

All arrangements are by:
"Pan Man Pat" McNeilly,
except those by Joe Cullen (*).

Recorded at West Humber C.I.
on October 19 and November 9, 2006.

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