# SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO



Volume 11, Issue 1 January 28, 2005

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## Message from the President

Our new Executive was elected on September 28, 2004 at our annual general meeting which was attended by our usual group of committed individuals. I did not get a chance to blink before I was nominated and unanimously elected as President. I don't believe the democratic process got a chance to work in this election. I saw this coming.

I joined the organization in 2001. I was recruited by Mr. Rupert DeCastro who, it turned out, was the real estate agent for the couple that was purchasing our home. After exchanging backgrounds, we found out we had so much in common. He invited me to a meeting of the alumni, and the rest is history. On my first meeting, which was the AGM, I took the position of Assistant Treasurer. Talk about being thrown into the fire. I have held the post of Treasurer for the last two years as well as sitting on the board for LLL. I am the chair for LLL 2005. I have been described as the hardest working person in the organization. I know that is not the case.

In joining the organization, I was struck by the dedication, friendship and the passion shown by the members of the organization. We have "verbal brawls," and a couple of issues have almost led to blows. After all is said and done, we still embrace each other, respect each other and head for the bar after the meeting. Most of our members are getting up there in age. They don't have the energy they used to have, but that does not keep them from giving their all. We do what we do because we care about the country of our birth, we care about St. Stanislaus College and we want to do our part to enable our youth to succeed in life. It is easier to sit down and do nothing. We have chosen to stand up and do our part.

My election as President signifies the changing of the guard. We cannot rely on our founding fathers for the bulk of the effort in this organization. I urge the younger alumni of the college to take an increased role in the organization. We must attract new members and new ideas. We must bring back members to the fold who have fallen by the wayside for whatever the reasons may be. We need to put aside personal feelings and any political agendas. We need to stop giving excuses for not participating. I run a very demanding business, a large family but yet I find time to support two volunteer

organizations. I do this because I care about the future of Guyana and the future of our Youth in Guyana. I want to give back to a system that gave me quite a lot. I urge you to do the same. We all have busy and demanding lifestyles. We must find the time to give back. We must find the time to help others who are in need.

I am sure you are all aware of our fundraising activities. You continue to support these activities which shows your interest and dedication to our cause. On behalf of the organization and the children at the College in Guyana, we thank you with all our hearts for all the financial assistance you have given to make this cause work. As Past Treasurer, I can GUARANTEE that EVERY DOLLAR OF PROFIT goes directly to the college. NONE of our members receives a single penny for services rendered. I urge you to continue to support this worthy cause and get the word out to your friends and family. We look forward to your continued support. We admit we do make mistakes from time to time but we also strive to get better and provide value to our patrons.

#### Review of 2004:

We have worked extremely hard in 2004. We have a dedicated web site person. His name is Mark Gonsalves. Mark is an extremely busy person but still finds time to keep our web site running smoothly so we can communicate with our members. Thanks a million for your efforts.

The Wall of Fame is up and the plaques are in the process of being installed. It has been a long journey, and we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. We will be planning a trip to Guyana within the next few months for the grand opening ceremony.

We are in the process of revamping the Last Lap Lime to make the event more successful which will enable the organizations to provide more funds for the colleges in Guyana.

We continue to look for ways to raise funds for college. We had a new/old concept for our New Year's Eve Dance. The response to date has been very positive. Our Golf Tournament is growing year after year.

Continued on Page 2, President

**President**, from Page 1

Our events expert, Howard Bryce, continues to do the work of a champion. Roger Devers sources free or discounted computers for the college. Hugh Hazlewood, our computer expert, refurbishes, checks and does what he must, to get them in good working order before they are shipped to St. Stanislaus.

Rupert De Castro - One word comes to mind to describe this warrior; "PASSIONATE".

Mr. Art Veerasammy can do it all, and we ask quite a lot from him. I can go on and on. Every member of this organization is vital to its success. In closing, I would again like to extend my sincere appreciation to our committee members, our patrons, our business partners and everyone who is involved in making this organization a success. We cannot succeed without you. We look forward to your continued support in the future years. Although we have a rather daunting task, we have the individuals to get the job done. I urge each and every one of you to keep the traditions alive. As long as I have a breath in my body, I will do my part. I urge you to do the same.

Neville Devonish.

President.

#### Death of Saints' Alumni

Bunty Phillips

Within two days this month, St. Stanislaus College suffered the loss of two of its well-known alumni, curiously both of whom were renowned for their skills at cricket. Sven Conrad (Charlie) Stayers died on Wed. 5 Jan, 2005, and Robert Julian (RJ) Christiani on the following day.

Robert Christiani attended Saints in the mid to late 1930s, and went on to become the premier batsman for British Guiana until the mid-1950s. He also was selected to represent the West Indies against England, India, Australia, and New Zealand from 1947 to 1954, for which team he showed his skills not only as a batsman but, occasionally, as a spin bowler. In the mid-1940s, he was also active in the sports of Football (soccer) and Field Hockey.

Charlie Stayers attended Saints in the late 1940s and the early 1950s. He developed as an outstanding fast bowler who could also wield a good bat when necessary, having

scored one century in first-class cricket. He played for British Guiana in Inter-colonial matches and against visiting international teams, and was selected to represent the West Indies in the early 1960s. He also played in Bombay (India) and in the Lancashire League in England.

Well played, old boys!

Our deepest sympathies go out to their families.

Requiescant in pace.

Godfrey Chin who has been entertaining us with his memories of life in Guyana, recalls his days of playing with Charlie Stayers on Page 4.

On Page 5, Judge Vibert Lampkin reminds us of the exploits of Robert Christiani and his place in West Indian cricket.

## A Broken Covenant

Hilary De Cambra

I find society's irreverence for nature and the environment appalling. We give lip service to wanting to bequeath to our children, the earth, air and water, vital to their survival. But we have long lost respect for, and don't seem to care much about, the protection and restoration of nature, our life source, as it was in the beginning.

It matters not whether we believe that everything around us originated from a higher order or from under some Darwinian rock, for surely it is not ours to destroy but to preserve, because we do not have the right of ownership. I'm not so much amazed by man's unquenchable greed, as by his steadfast faith in scientific profundity for its discoveries. It seems the closer we get to the scientific truth, the more we tend to denounce the spiritual truth. Why, when both are compatible? After all, what is the source of man's superior intelligence?

"Planned obsolescence" is the corporate catchphrase in certain sectors of the manufacturing industry. For economic reasons, even a surplus of food products is willfully discarded. We have become a "throw away" society. In some instances, we kill God's creatures for ornamental purposes and needless commodities that we can produce synthetically.

Continued on Page 3, Covenant

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## Eh, Eh, Whey De Plaks?

Creole Johnny

De odda day ah wuz ridin' me bone shaker down Avenue of De Republic (we doan call it High Street no mo yuh kno), wid me buddy J.P. As we hit Brickdam an' ah see de famous Wall, ah smile to myself how nice it lookin'. Is den me fren J.P. ridin' wid me sey, "Boy C.J. is whey de plaks?" "Eh, Eh J.P. yuh kno yuh rite" wuz all ah kud sey. Den ah taught, maybe de whitewash on de wall wuz coverin' up de plaks. Wrang!

Wid dat, ah jump off me bike an' right thru de openin' dey call a gate. Ah tinkin' now, de plaks must be pun de inside of de wall. Yuh kno, ah was wrang again! Right away ah sey to meself, "Man, dem ole boys not gun like dis at all". Ah mean, after dey put dung dey hard-urn kash, dey bung foh notice dat dey name en pun de wall. Ah mean, some of dem ole boys put dung tousens ah dallas fo' a brick wid dey name. An ah in talkin' Guyana 'monopoly money', but real foreign kash.

Rite away ah tell me fren J.P. dat ah goin' an ring Oprah. She got de power, God bless dat lady. An jus like how she 'Angel Network' get thousands of uniforms for dem poor children in South Africa so dey kud go to school, ah kno she Network wud fine de plaks, cum to Guyana, an' put dem up pun de wall.

"Who is Oprah?" me fren J.P. ask. "Yuh mean to sey yuh en gat no TV, J.P.?" Ah didn't tink yuh was poorah dan me. Yuh mean to sey, all dem years yuh wuk at D.M. Fernandes, yuh en gat no money fo buy even ah small Black an' White TV?" All J.P. cud do wuz gimme a

"suck teet"

Den ah had to tell he de bes part bout de Network. How when Oprah fine out dat de teachas at a certain school sometimes neva even get pay, eh, eh, right pon de spot she offa to pay dey salary fuh three years. Ah sure if she kno how dem teachas at Saints wukkin' fuh next to nutten, she wud do de same fuh dem. Boy, watta cum to me eye wen ah see how much kindness an' love still in dis worl. Ah mean, all we duz hear 'bout in de Stabrook News is rape, scandal in de family, murdah an' suicide bommas an tings like dat.

But cumin' back to Oprah, wen ah wuz watchin' de program, rite dere pun de TV ah see she han dat beautiful an' gorgeous singer Alicia Keys a chek fuh forty million dollas. J.D. mouth drop. All he cud say wuz, "Man yuh lie". Den he add, "how much is forty million dallas?" Ah had to sey, "Boy J.P., if yuh did pay mo attenshun wen Jiggs wuz teachin' yuh all dat mats at college, yuh woodn't hav to ask such a stupidy question"

Wid dat, J.P. gimme annoda 'stupes teet' an lef. Ah had to ride home alone, all de time askin' meself, "Wha happen to de plaks fuh de wall; Wha happen to de plaks fuh de wall?" An ah still doan kno de ansa. So, ah tink ah gun ride rung by John Fernandes in Watta street an' ask Chris, because he bung fo kno. Whenevva yuh dun, Chris is 'De Man'. God bless 'im.

#### Covenant, continued from Page 2

Society continually produces an overabundance of goods whose production often robs the earth, dissipates our water resources and pollutes the air we breathe.

The Industrial Revolution has outlived its usefulness. We already have all of life's necessities, the 'know-how' to provide them, and all we need to survive comfortably on God's earth. Yet, society strives to reinvent the wheel, as if it were not functioning efficiently enough. Man is nothing more than a temporary extension of God's mysterious universe, in which we were created to inhabit the earth and purposely to achieve full lives by living in harmony with nature. Such a precious gift, free of charge, was there long before man set foot on earth.

Why doesn't man just accept this, be happy with what he has so far engineered by himself, and be satisfied with how far he has come from his original sorry state of ignoble ignorance? We are much too far from convincing our collective conscience that we are fast approaching the point of no return in destroying the earthly environment. So much so, we are already trespassing on the outer fringes of space to colonize it.

Society spends billions of dollars on space exploration that should be spent instead on easing the human suffering of its global family. The clean, pure, clear expanse of the universe in outer space is God's domain. We have no calling there, unless invited. Otherwise, it would be the ultimate 'home invasion'.

By so doing, along with other wasteful spending, we are jeopardizing the covenant between God and man, by ignoring man's true 'needs' rather than his 'wants'.

## Remembering Charlie Stayers

By Godfrey Chin

Death and Disaster comes in threes - Christmas Day it was Sacred Heart R. C. in our homeland Main St, Georgetown, - Boxing Day a catastrophic Tsunami in South East Asia - Tues Jan 4th - 9 days later it's 'Hurricane Charlie' - my dear friend and colleague in the United Kingdom.

Charlie and I go back very far. His 'stork' brought him exactly 33 days after mine - He's a Gemini - I am a Taurus. Our first gladiator cricket clash was 1954 - Queen's College Ground - Combined Colleges vs Secondary High Schools. Charles Sven, together with Julian Archer and Ron Willock, the fearsome Opening Fast Attack of the Colleges. I opened the batting for the Secondary's Eleven, edged a single, and then Charlie earned his 'hurricane' sobriquet as he uprooted two stumps and quenched any ambitions I had for Intercolonial Cricket - Immediate career change to Hockey!

At Cosmos, the youthful St Stanislaus Northcote Cricket Team was a 'menace' as Stephen Camacho didn't know what "OUT" was. He scored prolific centuries, and Charlie would 'clean up' our batting and often forced a follow-on.



Charlie Stayers , Back Row, Right, in a 1954 Saint Stanislaus College Jacob Cup team picture. Others in the back row L to R are: Tony Seth, M. Nazir, Ken Hahnfeld, Leslie Fernandes.

Front L to R :Bert Christiani, Joe Castanheiro, Tony Clarke (Capt.), Trevor Newman, Ronald Dias

It was shameful for grown-ups in the local Clubs to be trounced by upstart 'schoolboys'. Thereafter, it was only a matter of time before he made it into the National Team and the West Indies Squad.

Later, Charlie, Ron Legall and oftimes Carlyle Miller and I would relish Goodwill matches on free Sundays, when we visited the rural areas for Exhibition games. It was not whether we won or lost - but how much curry, roti, rice & dhal we devoured after the match ...as B L Crombie asserted. Keeping wicket to those three was a "flying-trapeze" experience. I will always remember his opening spell of 6 for 78 vs Jamaica at Bourda Oct 1959. He also wielded a stout bat and his first class career batting average of 28.5 - highest score 120 - was outstanding. His best first class bowling performance was 6 for 36. He swung his fast stuff both ways - 'like a hammock'!

Dec 16 1960 - when West Indies drew the one and only ever Tie-Test Match vs Australia at Brisdane, Charlie was up after midnight sharing his radio with the neighbours at this historic moment. Many of us reading this spent our boyhoods days like Charlie - bottomhouse bat and ball - third class Frank and Rajah Cup. - college sports hero - National Cap and finally the ranks of the West Indies Cricket SuperStars.

In '56 he joined the Civil Service at the Post Office Accounts Department. Hector Lachmansingh remembers Charlie as a soft spoken gentleman - a sportsman in the vein of Sir Frank Worrell, and one who went the extra mile for his friends and fellow workers. I remember Charlie as friend, comrade and colleague.

We dedicated Guyanese all 'attended the same Church'. We sat in different pews - all aspiring to leave a rich legacy behind. Charles Sven succeeded.

My only regret is that, in 1962, when Charlie was debuting at the other Caribbean Cricket Venues - trouncing the visiting Indians, we Guyanese were beating up each other in the mudland, after Feb 16. A Guyanese Son of the Soil making us all proud while the natives at home in rabble behavior - Shame! Shame! Shame!

The Guyanese Diaspora extends its deepest Sympathy and Condolences to his family.

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### Robert Christiani

A tribute by Judge Vibert Lampkin

Now every Guyanese who lived in the late 1940's and 1950's and early 1960's would remember Robert Christiani. He is perhaps the greatest Guyanese athlete of that period, having represented Guyana in soccergoalie; hockey - goalie; and of course cricket. He was batsman extraordinaire, spin bowler and wicket-keeper. Not to mention that he was unmatched as a fieldsman.

Even in the days of the mighty "three W's", Robert, known to schoolboys of my day as 'Sir Robert" or "RJ" (for Robert Julian), was outstanding at the crease. Who can ever forget his matchless footwork, the dance down the wicket, his immaculate hook to square leg? Who can forget his 99 in his first Test appearance - still only the second man in cricket history to have done that? Who can forget his century in each innings at Lords against the MCC when even the three W's failed? In those days, he was the only one carrying British Guiana on his back - with some assistance from Leslie Wight, Bruce Parideau, and Lennie Thomas.

Rohan Kanhai (who, it is claimed copied to a 'T' Robert's hook to square leg), Joe Solomon and Basil Butcher had not yet arrived on the scene. Lance Gibbs and Clive Lloyd were still in school.

Who can ever forget Robert in the outfield running almost the whole length of the boundary to catch a ball going for six, making the catch and rolling over, coming up with bruises on his face? Who can ever forget him in the slips or at silly mid-on catching Len Hutton at 2 in the second innings after Sir Len had made 202 not out in the first innings and The West Indies enforced the follow-on? Who can forget him behind the wicket where (as the caption in the newspaper with the photograph said), "With the swiftness of a sparrow and the grace of a swan, Christiani dives for the ball"?

Robert, I hasten to add, was also an alumnus of St. Stanislaus. We don't know yet if, with his death and Charlie's death, they are building a cricket team up there. Or whether Father Smith, SJ., former Principal of St.

Stanislaus, is calling his boys home. But perhaps both cricketers and alumni of St. Stanislaus should be on tenter hooks!

Robert Christiani was certainly my hero in my teenage years. I watched him not only from the "College" stand at the south end of G.C.C. but in Club Cricket at B.G.C.C. when the whole team would be out for 161, of which Robert had scored 100.

I have seen all the great West Indian batsmen of the late 40's to the mid 60's: the three W's, Stollmeyer, Alan Rae, Conrad Hunte, Rohan Kanhai, Joe Solomon, Basil Butcher and others. Each had his own quality; there was the grace and artistry of Worrell, the power of Walcott, the fantastic wrists of Weekes, the stroke making of Stollmeyer, the steadfastness of Rae, Solomon, Butcher and Fredericks, and the flash of Hunter and Kanhai. They all scored more Test runs than Robert. But when it came to sheer beauty of watching a master at the crease, no one, no one, exceeded Robert Christiani. Maybe it is because I am Guyanese and there is a certain bias. But no one brought greater joy to me than to see Robert at bat when he was on the go.

About 1952, in my late teens, I was travelling down from Rosignol to Kitty by train. It was sometime after that tour of West Indies to England. Goddard was the Captain. That was the year when either John Arlott or Neville Cardus had said that: "Goddard and Christiani were the two best fieldsmen in the world".

On the train, there was the usual loud discussion back and forth among cricket aficionados about the greatness of the three W's as against other batsmen. An old Indian man could take it no more. He finally came forward and said: "Me nah care what alyou say. Me agree that Worrell, Weekes and Walcott great. But when Christiani hit a ball, it like God talk". There ended the lesson and the discussion!........Vibert

## Membership

The start of a new year is also the start of another fiscal year for your Association; in other words, your 2004 membership has now expired and we are appealing for your continued support in 2005. Our thanks to those alumni who have already renewed their membership for this year. They are acknowledged below. To those who have not yet renewed, you may use the Form on the back page of this newsletter to do so. We also urge you to encourage others to join and so show their support for our Alma Mater. As of January 13, 2005, the following have renewed their membership for 2005:

Teddy BoyceNeville DevonishAnthony LeeRobin ShawPaul CamachoBernard FriemannBunty PhillipsArthur VeerasammyRupert De CastroHugh HazlewoodRay RasulJames YhapRoger DeversDamion KissoonMichael Roberts

## A Classic 60's Night with a Snack

Oh what a night!

Our two eminent DJs, Mr. Charles Telesford (DJ Charlo) and Mr. Paul Douglas (DJ Paul), rocked the night away from 7:30 p.m. right through to 2:00 a.m. with non-stop vibrations. The floor was never empty. Revellers danced the night away and enjoyed a Curry & Roti snack "on the house", all for only \$15 each.

Now, was that not a bargain? Ask any one of the 435 attendees, and they will tell you about the glorious time they had.

Why did we do it all for only \$15 per person? We were originally scheduled to hold the dance on Oct 23rd and had booked another DJ. Management of the hall inadvertently booked us for Sunday Oct 24th and could not accommodate us until Saturday Oct 30th.

Our original DJ had a previous commitment.

Enter our "go-to guy", Mr. Howard Bryce. He suggested that we bring back "our long time" DJ, Charlo, and add DJ Paul - A BRILLIANT MOVE. Another of our

executives suggested that, because of all the changes we were imposing on our supporters, we should "give them a break" (smile). The \$20 ticket price was dropped to \$15. The delicious Curry & Roti snack by Olga's Savoury Homestyle Cooking (416-493-5744) was left in, and the result of it all was a resounding success.

We have already signed the contract with the Hall for Saturday 29 October, 2005.

The fête was so good that, within one week of the dance, attendees bought an additional six tables for the New Year's Eve Dinner Dance.

A BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

Rupert De Castro

Past President





#### From the Rubble

By Dennis Rix

Our striving

Against

Our finitude

Brought carriages

That are horseless

And telephones

That are wireless

And dentistry

That is painless

And diets

That are fatless

And swimsuits

That are topless

And religion

That's godless

And I must confess

I'm breathless

But isn't it poetic

Nonetheless?

See You Soon

By Dennis Rix

Farewells

Pinch at the heart

Forcing false smiles

And wry humour.

The ambiguous feelings

Hurry-up

The fleeting moments

To cause tenderness

To smother

The good-bye words.

But ingredients

Fermenting in love

Uncork

Wavelets of affection

Rushing towards

A swarm of arms

To embrace

And be embraced

Before they meet

Again.

Editor's Note: Sportsman, teacher, poet, and last but not least, St. Stanislaus College Alumnus. Such is the background of Dennis Rix. A sprinter and record holder at St. Stanislaus, he also rode at the GCC grounds with the likes of Laddie Lewis, Tarant Glasgow and Flash Gordon. After emigrating to Canada, he worked in the power and the refrigeration industries, and taught the latter at Danforth Collegiate. Dennis is a member and regular contributor of the Scarborough Writers Association.

#### SACRED HEART CHURCH AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

By now, everyone is aware of the very sad news about the complete destruction of Sacred Heart R.C. Church and Primary School on Main Street in Georgetown. The church was exactly 143 years old on Christmas Day, 2004, when fire from an electrical short-circuit left us with nothing but memories.

At the time of this writing, no plans had been announced officially about the rebuilding of either building. While the Minister of Education had been quoted as indicating that it was not the Government's intention to rebuild the school at that location at this time, the Church authorities had yet to announce their decision about the church.

If the decision to rebuild is made, there is no doubt that funds will be needed to help in the effort, especially for the church. Unfortunately for the Toronto Saints' Alumni Association, its mandate prevents it from giving direct aid to this cause or to any other worthy one which is not associated with the College itself. However, this does not stop individual members from working together, outside of the Association, to raise monetary help for any particular cause.

In an e-mail sent out soon after the fire, the Treasurer, working with some other Toronto Alumni members, had indicated that he would create a Bank Trust Fund for donations to the rebuilding effort. If these donations are found to be required, you will be informed of the details, and we hope that you will be generous in your support.

**Bunty Phillips** 

Treasurer

#### SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

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Joe Castanheiro,

St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto, founded in 1993, is devoted to making St. Stanislaus College the best educational institution in Guyana. It provides financial aid and other aid to the college, which was founded by Fr. Langton S. J. in 1866. Formerly run by the Jesuit Order of Catholic Priests, the school was taken over by the Government in 1976, with Government-appointed teachers replacing the clergy in 1980.

Saints News & Views publishes four issues each year. The articles published represent the opinions of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

Saints News & Views welcomes contributing articles from its membership. The publisher reserves the right to edit or publish all submissions solely at its discretion.

## What a Deal!

Just imagine: a night of dancing PLUS a buffet supper, all for just \$25.00! That's what you'll get at the Saints Spring Dance to be held at the Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church Hall.

The hall is located at 1490 Markham Road, just North of the 401. Enter from Milner Avenue on the West side. Music will be provided by The Vibes and D. J. Jones. So, keep Saturday, April 23, open for a good time and come on out to support Saint Stanislaus.

## **Guyana Flood Relief**

President Neville Devonish called an emergency meeting of the general membership on Sunday January 23, to determine how the Association should respond to the recent disastrous flood conditions in Guyana. Members voted unanimously to donate \$5000.00 to Saint Stanislaus College via the Guyana Association, and immediately raised a further \$3000.00 from individual alumni. This was dispatched to Guyana within a few working days.

The Guyana Association is to disburse the \$5000.00 Association donation on our behalf at their discretion, since they are "on the spot" in Guyana, and therefore better able to assess the needs of the college. The money collected from individual alumni was donated to the Red Cross in Guyana.

*Please complete this portion and return it with a cheque for* \$25.00 (*Cdn*) *payable* to:

St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto 4544 Sheppard Avenue East, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1S 1V2

Name:	
Address:	
Phone (Res.) :	Amt. enclosed: \$