

SAINTS NEWS & VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. STANISLAUS
COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TORONTO



Volume 11, Issue 3 September 23, 2005

On the Web at:
WWW.TORONTOSAINTS.COM

Thank You

- Sponsors
- Supporters
- Volunteers
- Alumni

for a

Fabulous 2005 Last Lap Lime

On behalf of the St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association, Toronto, I wish to express our sincere appreciation to all the volunteers and supporters who came out in droves to support LLL 2005. We look forward to your continued support in the future as the event continues to grow.

2005 was the year of change for us. We were faced with recovering from a not so successful financial result in 2004. We were faced with moving to a new location. We changed the entire structure of the Planning Committee. We set up working teams, and the mandate given to all our members was to improve every area of the operation. We raised the bar substantially for 2005, and the turnout on August 1st tells us we are on the right track. 2005 was just the start. We will continue making changes in 2006 and beyond until we are satisfied that we have got it right.

Our Sponsorship Team secured our first title sponsor in Demerara Distillers Ltd. They brought in the most money ever by a Sponsorship Team. Their dedication and commitment to the task were tremendous and the results are proof of their hard work. Our Entertainment Team did a fantastic job. We built a Benab and we succeeded in our goal of making the entertainment for 2005 the best ever. Our Media Team did too much of a good job in getting the word out. The turnout on August 1st was proof of their hard work and dedication. Every committee did an outstanding job for 2005, and we will continue to improve on the process for 2006 and beyond.

We are now in the process of closing the financials for 2005. The final results will be communicated in our next edition of the News and Views.

While the crowd that showed up on August 1st was a welcomed sight, it did create some issues that affected the smooth running of the event. We have already found solutions to address those issues. We also asked for feedback from our stakeholders about LLL 2005. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond. We will be incorporating all the feedback received into our planning for next year in order to keep improving on the process. We look forward to an even better event in 2006.

In closing, I wish again to thank each and every one for the support you have given LLL in the past, and we look forward to your continued support. The success of this event is due to our volunteers who donate their time and effort every year. Thank you very much. We need to ensure the success of LLL in order to achieve our goal of improving the education of the students at the institutions in Guyana. We cannot do this without the support and the generosity of our volunteers and our patrons. We trust that you enjoyed yourself at LLL 2005, and that we will see you again next year.

Neville Devonish

Chair, LLL 2005

President, St. Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto

Wall of Fame

Approaching the end....or is it the beginning?

By the time this issue of your "New'n'Views" is in your hands, the initial phase of the Wall of Fame would have been completed; the plaques would have been installed. Check out the photographs on our website www.torontosaints.com.

There are nearly 400 spaces for plaques with contributors' names, and this is just the Brickdam section of the Wall, but we have used only 104 spaces. The new concrete/

chain-link fence is only the beginning of the Wall of Fame fundraising project. We will soon start the next phase.

Many of you have made all kinds of suggestions about the Wall, including "Don't bother to build it". We ask you to bear in mind that the Wall is a "means to an end". The purpose of this project is to raise funds for the ongoing needs of the College. It is not to glorify contributors. Contributors are simply sending the messages that (1) "I am proud to be a Saints graduate", and (2) "I want to contribute to improving the conditions at Saints".

See Wall, Page 4

2005 Saints/QC Golf Tournament

The object of all human life is play. Earth is a task-garden! Heaven is a playground!

Voted the best golf tournament to play, the Saints / QC 2005 Committee wishes to thank everyone for taking part. Saturday, July 8th, 2006 is next year's play date.

Forty-five years ago, Bushwood Golf Club opened its gate to the public. With 18 holes, 6500 yards of fairways, bunkers, sand traps, slopes, etc., Bushwood is a challenge.

This year, the weatherman extended his services by providing a day with blue skies and humidity to please the pores of the skin and inspire play, for when a player puts a limit on what he will do, he puts a limit on what he can do.

Tiger Woodsmith's tip – A breakfast with protein will maintain your blood sugar at a stable level, and gives you the fuel to start your day with positive momentum. It is best to get some food into your system within 3 hours of awakening.

Meanwhile, if you have a few spare hours a month, do join the 2006 Golf Committee and help us plan tournament 2006 for, when you join a new group, you not only broaden the scope of your own interests but become responsible for the purposes to which the group is devoted.

Please don't use the "no time" excuse, for you have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given

to Albert Einstein, Michelangelo, Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Billy Shakespeare, etc. (smiles)

Eight years ago, Saints College old boys got this wonderful tournament started and, over these many years, were able to attract the greatest lovers of the game. Their continued support, loyalty, and enthusiasm for golf have served to spur the organizers to work even harder, with "perfection" as their goal.

144 golfers were there this year, early, to register, obtain tickets for a gift, a lunch, and a bucket of balls to get their swings in gear. By 8:00 a.m., the golf carts were on the greens and they were off! A golf course is the epitome of all that is transitory in this universe, a space not to dwell in but to get over as quickly as possible. Imagine 144 golfers!

Let us never forget that all serious sport has nothing to do with fair play! It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in watching violence. In short: It is war without shooting! No myth dies harder, and none is more debunked by the facts, than the one about international sports contributing to international friendship.

And Canada is no country for old men, or retirees, with one foot in the grave and the other foot on a banana peel.

Alvaro De Freitas

Special Prize Winners were:

Via Rail 1st Class Tickets – Ken Hill

Yellow Dunlop Golf Bag – Patrick Chan

Skil Drill – Anthony Gonsalves

Eighteen other prizes were won and limited space does not permit publication.

Other winners were:

Men Longest Drive – Joe Santos

Women Longest Drive – Rossana Reyes

Men Closest to Pin – Lloyd Rouski

Women Closest to Pin – Marlene Brennan

Men Low Gross (with 68) – Ron Petal

Women Low Nett (with 96) – Rossana Reyes

Chair Sherlock Martin, wishes to thank all who contributed to this event. Their names are too numerous to list, but they include the committee members and volunteers, without whose help we could not pull it off.



Four Happy Faces on a beautiful Summer's Day

Left to Right: John Huang, Arthur Soman, Barry Wong, and Gerald Larose at the 2005 Saints/QC golf tournament

CRICKET, LOVELY CRICKET

Kenneth Khan, Secretary, SSC Alumni Assn-Barbados.

St. Stanislaus College, together with St. Rose's High School and Camille's Institute, represented Guyana at the 19th Sir Garfield Sobers Schools Cricket Tournament, held between 10 - 28 July, 2005, in Barbados. This was the first visit by Saints, the 2nd for St. Rose's, and the 4th for Camille's. They played 7 preliminary matches, losing one and drawing one because of the rain. They won their semi-final match against Dominica Schools, but lost the final to Combermere School of Barbados. Overall, it was an excellent tour, and bodes well for the future. The following are the team members and the game results.

Team members: Tyrell Tull (Captain), Merin Belle, Akins Benjamin, Kizan Brummell, Kellon Carmichael, Tebogah Christian, Treon Forde, Kester Grant, Yannick Grimes, Sadiq Hassan, Rajiv Ivan, Inshan Khan, Quincy King, Rajendra Ramkellawan, Devon Vanderhyden.

Coach: Sievewright Benjamin. **Manager:** Rawle Franklin.

Results

Game 1: vs. Foundation School, Barbados. *Saints 156* (32.1 overs), Rajiv Ivan 52. *Foundation 106* (28.5 overs), Treon Forde 4 for 30, Tyrell Tull 2 for 1. Saints WON by 50 runs.

Game 2: vs. St. Rose's High School, Guyana. *St. Rose's 222 for 8* (40 overs), Treon Forde 4 for 31, Tyrell Tull 2 for 41. *Saints 223 for 6* (34.2 overs), Rajiv Ivan 127 not out, Treon Forde with 23. Saints WON by 4 wickets.

Game 3: vs. Lodge School, Barbados. *Saints 163* (29.3 overs), Rajiv Ivan 93, Devon Vanderhyden 13. *Lodge 80* (21.4 overs), Tebogah Christian 4 for 12, Treon Forde 2 for 10, Devon Vanderhyden 2 for 36. Saints WON by 83 runs.

Game 4: vs. St. Mary's College, Trinidad & Tobago. *Saints 114* (33.2 overs), Rajiv Ivan 36, Treon Forde 12. *St. Mary's 94* (35.2 overs), Tyrell Tull 4 for 12, Treon Forde 3 for 14, Rajiv Ivan 3 for 17. Saints WON by 20 runs.

Game 5: vs. Merchiston Castle School, Scotland. Game abandoned because of rain.

Game 6: vs. Alexandra School, Barbados. *Alexandra 148 for 9* (32 overs), Tebogah Christian 3 for 28, Rajiv Ivan 3 for 26, Rajendra Ramkellawan 2 for 23. *Saints 67* (23.1 overs), Kellon Carmichael 23, Kester Grant 16. Saints LOST by 81 runs.

Game 7: vs. St. Catherine's High School, Jamaica. *Saints*

237 for 9 (40 overs), Tebogah Christian 47, Rajiv Ivan 43, Mervin Belle 30, Rajendra Ramkellawan 20. *St. Catherine's 217 for 6* (40 overs), Treon Forde 3 for 31, Tebogah Christian 3 for 33. Saints WON by 20 runs.

Saints ended the round-robin portion of the tournament with the best record (22 points) and advanced to the semi-finals against Dominica Schools. The other teams from Guyana, St. Rose's High School and Camille's School, performed creditably but were unable to make it to the semi-finals.

SEMI-FINALS: vs. Dominica Schools. *Dominica 182 for 5* (40 overs), Rajiv Ivan 3 for 38, Treon Forde 2 for 37. *Saints 183 for 9* (39.4 overs), Kellon Carmichael 25, Tyrell Tull 22. Saints WON by 1 wicket and advanced to the final against Combermere School of Barbados.

The final took place at the 3 W's Oval at UWI, and was very well attended, with all of the 23 teams present, as well as many distinguished cricketers of bygone days, including Sir Garfield Sobers, Mr. Joel Garner, and other cricket luminaries.

FINAL: vs. Combermere School, Barbados. *Combermere 192 for 9* (40 overs), Tebogah Christian 3 for 42, Tyrell Tull 2 for 37, Rajendra Ramkellawan 2 for 29. *Saints 152* (35.3 overs). Saints LOST by 40 runs.

This final match was marred by some controversy. On three occasions, Saints batsmen were given out on questionable decisions by the Barbadian Umpires. The most serious incident was the sequel to an injury sustained by Captain Tyrell Tull who requested a runner in accordance with the laws of international cricket. However, after 5 overs with a runner, it became apparent that that the run rate could result in a Saints victory. The Combermere team complained that the runner was a distraction, and the Umpires decided to disallow the use of the runner. This brought the game to a halt with some heated arguments on the field. Eventually, the batsman decided to retire hurt. However, when later on he attempted to resume batting with a runner, the entire game again came to a halt. The BTA Management team came onto the field, and some 20 minutes were lost, with arguments put forward by the Combermere coach who also came onto the field and used very colourful language. Eventually, Tyrell Tull was allowed to continue batting with a runner. However, Saints had lost their timing and momentum, and was unable to make the required remaining runs.

Wall, continued from Page 1

Most of the funds raised so far went towards building the Wall/fence (an actual security requirement and not just a cosmetic feature), and the remaining (and all new) contributions will allow us to provide future direct assistance to the College.

How better to raise funds than by acknowledging the contributions or posterity? The Toronto Saints Dinner/Dances struggle to raise an average of \$3,000 - \$5,000 CAD per event. The current supporters of the Wall of Fame have contributed over \$45,000 CAD, averaging about \$437 CAD each. However, some individual contributors have

been very generous in contributing over \$2000 CAD each. This is both an easy and a rewarding way to support the College.

Now that the Wall is up and you can see the results, you may want to reconsider your position. Is this not the time to reflect on the unbelievable opportunity Saints afforded you in your youth? Think about the students you will be assisting. Think about the teachers who can barely support their families on a teacher's salary. Think about the Headmistress trying to motivate teachers who are inadequately compensated.

Contribute because you know *A. Rupert De Castro, CMA*

Membership

The following is the list of paid-up members for 2005, as of Fri. 9 Sept, 2005. The asterisk indicates those who have paid since the last issue of May 2005 was published. You are invited to join this group by becoming a paid up member. Simply submit the **Membership Form** below and see your name added to this list in our next issue.

Bernard Austin	Peter DeFreitas	Ken Hahnfeld	Richard Miller	Maurice Serrao
Michael Barrington	Brian Devers	Hugh Hazlewood	Tony O'Dowd	Tony Seth
Anthony Bollers *	Clive Devers	Paul Hazlewood	Malcolm Pequezeza	Cecil Seymour
David Bourne	Roger Devers	Andrew Insanally	Leslie Pereira *	Robin Shaw
Teddy Boyce	Terence Devers *	Richard James	Andre Periana *	Walter Tiam-fook
Ian Camacho *	Neville Devonish	John Jardim	Desmond Perreira	Arthur Veerasammy
Paul Camacho	Frederick Dias	Des Jardine	Bunty Phillips	Vibert Vieira *
Joseph Castanheiro *	Ronald D'Ornellas	Aubrey Kellawan *	Ganga Ramdas	John Vincent *
Ronald Chanderbhan	Paul Duarte	John King	Ray Rasul	Clement Owen Weithers
Victor Charan	Rene Edwards *	Damion Kissoon	Paul Reed *	Howard Welshman
Bob Chee-a-tow	Carlton Faria	Anthony Lee	Ramon Rego	David Wong *
Ainley Ching	Frank Fernandes	Gerard Martins	Joe Reis	James Yhap
Noel Chung	Peter Fernandes *	Carl Marx	Romeo Resaul *	Lennox Yhap
Paul Crum-Ewing *	Bernard Friemann	Walter Melville	Michael Roberts	John Yip
Dennis DeCambra	Trevor Gomes	Vincent Mendes de	Desmond Rodrigues	
Rupert DeCastro	Mark Gonsalves	Franca	Joseph Schuler *	
Compton DeFreitas *	Alfred Goveia	Aubrey Miller	Keith Seaforth	

Alumni Association Membership Form

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: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone (Res.) : _____ (Bus) : _____

Amt. enclosed: \$ _____ Year graduated: _____



1962 - That Happy Form 2B Bunch

It was 43 years ago that this lot at Saints was grappling with *amo, amas, amat* ...with the threat of a detention or, even worse, a 6 or a 9 hanging over their heads!! And who are they? And where are they now? Some we know, and others we need your help to identify. We are indebted to Joe Schuler, front centre, for this picture and his recollection of his class buddies. It was taken by Father Maxwell under the tree on the Brickdam side of the sports field.

Left to Right. Richard DaCosta, David DaSilva, Johnny Agard (in front of DaSilva), ? Horton, Carl Ng-U-Yen (back row), Mike Henson (in front of Ng-U-Yen), Malcolm DeFreitas (head visible), Philip Fernandes (back row), Joe Schuler (in front of Fernandes in civies), ?

Abraham (back row), Roger D'ornellas (back row), ? Nihaul (back row), ? ? (back row with glasses), Dale Nascimento (looking at Joe Schuler), ? Carr (barely visible), ? Harrison (with glasses and book in hand), ? Jardim (hand on right knee) and ? ? (in profile with smile on face).

So, com'n guys, let's see if we can fill in the blanks. If you can, and especially if you were in that class, you are invited to contact Joe himself by email at: goadyman@gmail.com, or phone him at (604) 647-1087.

Not the first time, continued from Page 3

Previous Tournaments also have been marred by similar incidents, and a representation will be made concerning the availability and use of non-Barbadian umpires, especially when a Barbadian team is involved. Except for the unfortunate events in the Final, it was a good tour for Saints, and they look forward to returning in 2006.

Memories of my friend, Derek D'Oliveira

"Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;

I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.

The evil that men do lives after them;

The good is oft interred with their bones;

So let it be with Caesar!"

Julius Caesar, Act III, Scene ii.

When my dear friend, Roger Devers, called to ask me to write about my memories of our fellow alumnus, Derek D'Oliveira, I thought back to our school days when I first met Derek. I had transferred from Central High to St. Stanislaus in September, 1964. I was admitted to Form 4A. Derek was in Form 3A. We both enjoyed languages (Latin, French, and English) and so were in the "Arts" stream. In March or April, 1965, Fr. Compton Meerabux, S.J., who taught English Literature to both third and fourth forms, groomed those of us who were brave enough to participate in that year's Elocution competition.

I recall listening to a third former who happened to choose the same speech as I did for the contest; Mark Anthony's speech, in the Senate, on the death of Caesar, the opening lines of which are quoted above. The "youngster" was good! I was impressed by Derek's efforts. So impressed that I checked out his performance in class from some of his friends. I discovered that, like me, he was good at the four language subjects and math, and he was quiet and studious. We became friends thereafter. Some days, we remained in school, after the dismissal bell, to study together, and occasionally we rode home together. Our friendship continued until I graduated from Sixth Form and left on a scholarship to study in England in 1967.

Many years later, in 1983/1984, I was checking the Floor Directory at one of the courts in Toronto when I noticed another person doing the same. Without looking at each other, we commented about the courts. I believe that we recognized each other's accent as we spoke, and looked up. We gazed at each other for a moment, then burst into laughter before sharing a warm and lingering handshake. Friends had met again at the most unlikely place, the courts. Derek and I mused about our Saints days. I reminded him of our participation in the elocution contests and of his acting as the priest in *Twelfth Night*. As we did so, I could not help but recall a few lines from that play:

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness,

and some have greatness thrust upon them.

Thy Fates open their hands.

Let thy blood and spirit embrace them."

Twelfth Night, Act IV, Scene iv.

I marveled at how much my schoolmate had achieved since we last saw each other at Saints! Over the next several years, Derek and I kept in touch with the occasional phone call.

By early 1992, we had been in touch with a number of Saints alumni who felt the need for an alumnus organization in Toronto. In October 1992, two groups of alumni who shared the common desire for an alumnus association met at the Malvern Recreation Centre in Scarborough. Thereafter, we agreed to establish the Alumni Association of Toronto. Since Derek was the only lawyer among us, he was asked to draft the Association's constitution, with the assistance of my dear pals, Peter DeFreitas and Paul Hazelwood. Subsequently, Derek was given the time-consuming task of applying to Government for 'not-for-profit' status for the Association, which he obtained, but not without a tremendous amount of work. We all were, and indeed still are, grateful to Derek for his hard work in obtaining this status for the organization.

When a few weeks ago I received a call from Roger informing me that he had heard that Derek was hospitalized in Sunnybrook and that he had been diagnosed with the 'C' word, I was shocked because Derek always appeared so robust, and he was still so young!

I was able to visit him in hospital, and we talked about the treatment he was hoping to receive in Houston. He did not appear to be afraid of the outcome. Nor did he appear to be overly hopeful. He just said, "Well, if it doesn't work out there, I guess I'll be going to the other side soon." I admired how stoic he appeared at that moment. I spent a few more minutes with him before I bade him farewell and wished him a successful trip. He shook my hands and thanked me for visiting him.

I could not believe it when Roger called me on Tuesday afternoon to inform me that he had received news that Derek had passed away the previous night in Houston.

"...all our yesterdays have lighted fools,

The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle!

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player

That struts and frets his hour upon the stage

And then is heard no more...."

Macbeth, Act V, Scene v, lines 23-27

I am deeply saddened at Derek's passing. I offer my sincere condolences to his wife, mother, and brother David as indeed, to all his surviving relatives and friends. Derek was a quiet, gentle, and caring person. We could repeat that last sentence in

BOOK LAUNCH: DEBT OF GANG OF “LITERATE VANDALS” PAID IN FULL

by Hilary De Cambra

Sir Eustace is an anachronism and Lady Dowding is a tight-assed termagant ~ Latifundia ~ “Don't pick the blue hibiscus”. So stated the graffiti message that defaced the walls of the Sports Club of the Imperial Bank in Georgetown. It was July 9, 1966. Such uncharacteristic behaviour, which also included pouring over forty bottles of whisky into the swimming pool, destroying club property and finally tying up and gagging the barman, was attributed to a group of SAINTS ‘Ole boys’. It all happened during a night of drunken recklessness as they celebrated the end of their A-level Examinations and, belatedly, the country's independence from Great Britain.

Charges were laid against this gang of eleven articulate and highly intelligent students whom the judge referred to as “literate vandals”. The group even included two ‘high brown’, upper middle-class, respectable convent girls. At their trial by Judge J. Chanderband, they each received the surreal sentence of two weeks in jail. The judge suspended the sentences for two years, on condition that they each write a story, to be published in a book of eleven short stories, that could be read by the general public in Guyana. The anthology of their short stories finally appeared in a book appropriately titled *Suspended Sentences*. A book launch was held in Scarborough on June 22, 2005.

It seemed like a mockery of justice that it took the author thirty nine years to publish the book, which should have been done in two years. Not so! In fact, it was later revealed that a group member, Geoffrey deMattis, nicknamed ‘Nunc’, overheard his mother telling someone on the phone, “Anyway my dear, we got Ronnie (the trial judge) to put the fear of God into them, in what they think is a real court case”.

Mark McMatt, a member of the group and a well-known author of books of poetry and essays such as *Interiors*, *The Language of Eldorado*, and *West Indian Literature and Its Social Context*, is currently a



At the launch of his book, *Suspended Sentences*, Mark's wife Amparo and his daughter Ana.

lecturer at the University of the West Indies (Barbados Campus), instead of languishing in jail for not having published *Suspended Sentences* in the two years as ordered by Judge Chanderband.

As he read excerpts from two of the stories, *A Love Song For Miss Lillian* by Jamila Muneshwar, and *Alma Fordyce and the Backoo* by Valmiki Madramootoo, the audience of about fifty Guyanese, conspicuously silent for a long while, suddenly broke out in familiar laughter at the mention of the Sharples Backoo in a bottle at the Kashmir Bar & Restaurant on Middle Street. Suddenly, it seemed that the audience reverted to the myth of folklore figures such as Backoo, Old Higue, and Masacurraman, as a manifestation of their cultural roots.

After Mark had completed his presentation, the Co-ordinator, Derek D'Oliveira, read some of his sonnets about the decline of his Alma Mater, St. Stanislaus, as a leading institution of learning in Guyana, from which he had graduated with pride eons ago. “. . . *How easy would it be to spurn the modern school, to cherish pristine memories of happier days. Far harder it is to clean and polish the jewel, and by Herculean effort the dross erase . . .*”

Derek then introduced his mother, Evadne D'Oliveira, a poet, playwright and authoress, renown in Guyana for her “Broadcast to Schools” programme years ago and also as an Editor of the Guyana Chronicle before she emigrated to Canada.

See **Book Launch** on Page 8,

Memories, continued from Page 6

Mark Anthony's address to the Plebians, on the Ides of March, 44 B.C:

*“His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him
that Nature might stand up and say to all the world:*

This was a man!! ”

A fond goodbye my friend, until we meet again ‘on the other side’.

Ken G. Cumberbatch

Publisher:

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

Editorial Committee:

Maurice Serrao, L. A. (Bunty) Phillips, John Yip

Contributing Writers:

Neville Devonish, L. A. (Bunty) Phillips, Hilary De Cambra
A. Rupert De Castro, Alvaro De Freitas, Kenneth Khan
Ken G. Cumberbatch

Photographs:

Art Verasammy, Joe Schuler

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.



The Old Samaan Tree

Art Verasammy

It was with a deep sense of loss that I heard the sad news of the passing of an icon of our time.

The icon of which I speak is the giant samaan tree which stood for over 100 years on the playing field of St. Stanislaus College, Brickdam, Georgetown.

The Giant Samaan, ailing with the wasting disease of old age and internal rot, succumbed to the recent heavy rainfall and fell with a tremendous crash onto a section of the new cement wall and chain link fence and then onto the parapet and partly into Hadfield Street on Monday, July 11, 2005. To the best of the reporters knowledge, no one was hurt or

injured.

The brand new fence has now been repaired but alas, there will be no more gaffing, or 'coggin' of homework in the comfortable shade of its branches. No more sitting on the outcropped roots or standing under the leafy shade before classes, or watching or participating in some sport or other, be it cricket, football or even labass.

Monetary contributions can be made, in lieu of cards or floral tributes, to the St. Stanislaus College Alumni Associations through its various chapters.

R.I.P.

Book Launch, continued from Page 6

Her book, *When the Poet Sings*, explores the inter-relationship of mind and spirit in aspiring to an idealistic humanism. It also includes a short narrative, *The Passionate Mermaid*, of the folklore genre.

The book launch was an enjoyable and inspirational experience as it opened a small but significant window on the quality of Guyanese literary works. The authors can surely claim their place at literature's head table where formerly only academia sat.

Suspended Sentences may be purchased on-line at www.peepalmtreepress.com and www.amazon.com, or

directly from Professor Mark M^cWatt who resides in Barbados, Tel. 246-424-2091

Evadne D'Oliveira's publisher is The Different Book List bookstore at Bathurst & Bloor Sts., Toronto. One of the poems in her book, "*Shall We Survive*", also won an award in Washington.

Editor's Note: *Sadly, Derek passed away on September 19. The Saint Stanislaus College Alumni Association Toronto extends its sympathy to his mother, Evadne D'Oliveira and to other members of the family. Derek was a very active member of the Association, and was at one time editor of the News & Views. - JY*