

Good & True

Good & True ...issue# 37...June 2003

St. George's
College
Old Boys
Association

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ISSUE #37

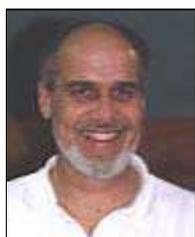
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Just My Views



Neil Dalhouse

It's great to hear about schools from North America allowing students to visit the StGC campus and offer assistance to the school and various community groups. Recently, 12 students from the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass., stayed on campus for 2 weeks, offering services to Missionaries of the Poor, Mustard Seed, St. Margaret's and Bustamante Children's Hospital in Kingston. StGC students accompanied them, worked alongside them, and served as guides. Bless them all! I hope this will be encouraged in the years to come.

In my view, it doesn't take long for StGC to become proficient in any particular sport. There was no Basketball in my time... but there is now. And guess what? StGC's under 14 Basketball Team was the 2002 All-Island Champs, and are defending their title vigorously this year. They have won three of their four regular season games and are on their way to the semi-finals. The under 16 team also did quite well. StGC has been a force to be reckoned with over the past few years in this sport, thanks to coach Clifford Brown. Wilt Chamberlain said "Nobody roots for Goliath." Go StGC,!! We are rooting for you.



University students from Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass. on the Mustard Seed project with StGC students.

Man! Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) certainly has reeked havoc in Toronto over the past few months, not so much from a sickness stand point, but from a financial one. The city has lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue during this period, as visitors to the city have stayed away... in droves.

SARS even caused us to cancel our Annual Family dinner. Why? In my view... simply because of bad press. Everyday, the front page of many newspapers contained S-A-R-S headlines. Heck!! SARS isn't an epidemic disease causing a high rate of mortality. Not at all!. Basically, it's like a bad strain of the flu. It's really a respiratory illness that begins with a fever greater than 100.4 degrees F. Other symptoms may include a headache, overall feeling of discomfort, body aches, dry cough and difficulty breathing. And yes, if you are an older person, or have a pre-existing respiratory condition, chances are you will have a difficult time with the illness, just as you would with any strain of the flu. The BBC June 7 news reported that in Toronto, 31 people have died, that there are only 70 active cases, of which, 21 are in critical condition. Good heavens! Toronto is a city that boasts having over three million people. With these published figures, do you really think we have a major problem on our hands in Toronto? You decide!! Ah well, to those who still want to stay away, I can only tell you that, "Millions long for immortality, who don't know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon!"

Congratulations to the 400 people (as of the first week in June) who have said "to heck with SARS" and have signed up for our big Summer Ball on Friday August 1, 2003, at the Regal Constellation Hotel, Toronto. You won't be disappointed. FAB 5, Pluto Shervington, and Trevor Lopez will rock you till you drop that evening. You will meet friends, (both male and female) you haven't seen in 30 years plus. I understand there are groups from Ja., Florida, and New York that will be in attendance. It's going to be a knockout event. We hope to have over 1,100 guests this year. Call and book your table now (416) 292-5775, (905) 286-0830, (905) 837-9442.

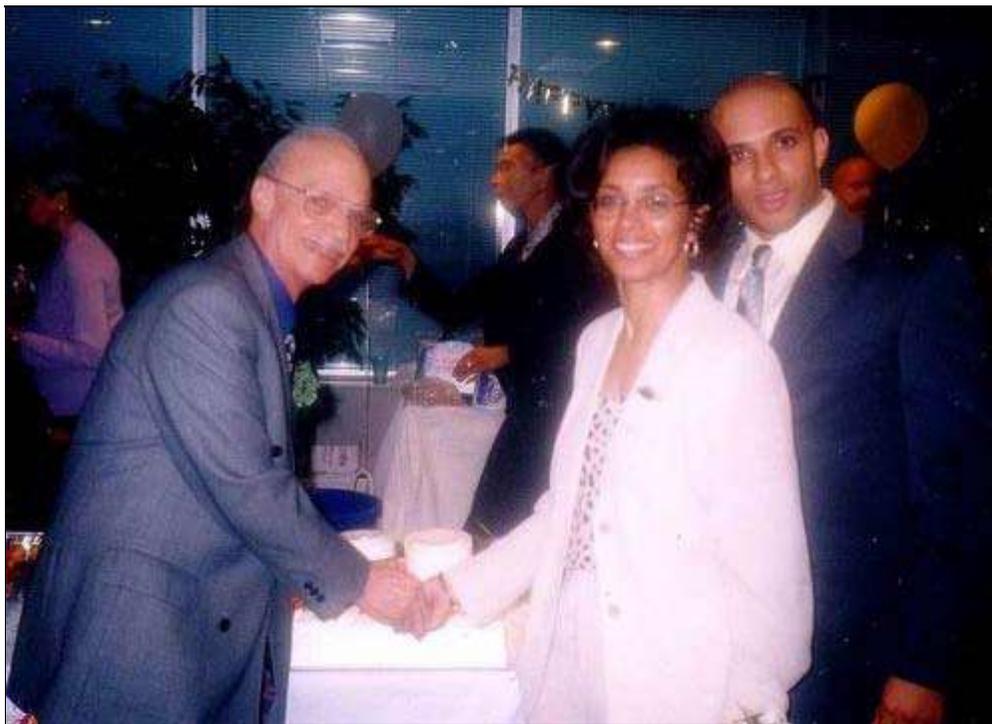
Life's little lessons can be summed up and expressed through Proverbs. They can convey important ideas about lifestyles and a number of other things, although I must say it takes some experience in dealing with cultural backgrounds to really understand their meaning. Proverbs are historic in nature, and can be very funny and unforgettable, especially Jamaican ones. In years gone by, and even today, they were used to poke fun at people, and were a means of making a statement in a "different" way. My grandmother shared a few with me, see if you recall hearing any of the following back in your youth. "Talk and taste your tongue" (Think before you speak). "Mi old, but mi nuh cold" (Do not underestimate the value of the elderly) "Fool-fool pickney mek fowl get way from him two time" (Never allow yourself to be fooled the same way more than once) "Saltfish sit down pon di counter a wait fi bread and butter" (Lazy people wait for life's blessings to come to them).

Please say a prayer for my uncle, Ivan Best, former Georgian who played on the Manning team way back when, as he is quite ill with cancer. And in keeping with the contents of the paragraph above, his own little saying is, "if yu res, yu russ!" We wish him all the best.

Heartiest congratulations to my good buddy Ray Chang, who was awarded the Jamaica Order of Merit for 2003. The Toronto Chapter's executive is proud of him for receiving this award. He continues to be involved in a variety of community activities, both here and in Jamaica. At the Jamaica College Annual Dance this year in Toronto, he was also given an award for supporting their Association's activities over the years. Fantastic!!

Congratulations to Stanley Chin our VP Central, who on April 30, retired after

28 years with Zurich/ Ing Insurance. Stanley told us he was going to spend the rest of his life pampering Jeanette at home. When I last checked Jeanette was at home allright, but Stanley was off enjoying himself in the States fishing. Guys, any guess who had to clean the fish and who will end up, as well, cooking the fish?



Heather and Robbie Vernon cutting his retirement cake with son Joseph

Our Pres. Elect and Secy. Robbie Vernon also retired on April 30 after 42 years with Royal Bank. Georgian schoolmates Lloyd Chung, Buski Charley and Don Barnett were among the attendees at the bank reception in his honour. They were impressed with the Vice President's accolades on Robbie and the high regard held by his peers. There was a standing ovation for Robbie's farewell address which encapsulated, with much humour, the 42 years with the bank spent in three countries, all of which he calls home: Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Canada. It was really good as well to hear Robbie praising St. George's College, The Toronto Alumni chapter, and the influence of this 152 year Jesuit learning institution on his life.

In my view, the condition of the Cathedral in Kingston is appalling. I was quite distressed to see the state of it when I visited the island in January this year. How could the powers that be allow one of the island's historic buildings to deteriorate so badly? The pews are in need of repairs, the putrid taupe looking paint within the interior walls is peeling in several areas, the landscaping needs to be redone, and so on, and so on. It is refreshing to hear that there is a group in Ja. spearheading a restoration project. We can't all just sit by and let this get worse. So, we all have to be mindful of this problem and help in whatever way we can.

George Carlin said "One tequila, two tequila, three tequila... floor!" Speaking of George, I close with something great he wrote recently:

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers, wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have

less, we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We learn how to make a living but not a life. We add years to life, not life to years. We have been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space, but not inner space. We have done larger things, but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom but not our prejudices. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We learn to rush, but not to wait. We build computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, big men and smaller characters, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of 2 incomes, but more divorce, fancier houses, but broken homes. These are the days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It's a time when there is much in the showroom window, and nothing in the stockroom. A time when this technology can bring this letter to you, a time when you can choose to share this insight, or just discard it.

Remember, spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever. Remember to say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side. Remember to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart, and it doesn't cost a cent. Remember to say "I love you" to your partner and loved ones, but most of all, mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside you. Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment, for some day that person will not be there again. Give time to love, give time to speak, and give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

A Gaaaannnnneeeee!

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