



QCOSA NEWS

The Queen's College Old Students' Association Newsletter

~The Guyana Chapter~

March 2003

Dear Old Student,

QCOSA has been uncharacteristically laid back so far this year at the social level. Our members have been and will continue to be involved in the several national celebrations such as the Main Street Lime, Mashramani, Rupununi Rodeo, Easter kite flying and associated get-togethers, Bartica Regatta and Phagwah.

And if that is not enough, the Australians will be at Bourda in early April! We see all those events as setting the stage getting everyone in the right mood for the launch of our 2003 Social Calendar.

We will keep you informed and we know that your attendance and support at the several functions will be forthcoming.

QCOSA News is delighted to publish its maiden guest column in this issue. Our columnist is Dr. Makepeace Richmond who is very supportive of the work of QCOSA.

The Editor has been nagging Dr. Richmond for some time for this contribution to QCOSA News it was like pulling teeth!

We thank Dr. Richmond for his input: the Editor views with great trepidation her future "visits to the dentist" with the objective of securing his consent for further contributions to QCOSA News to satisfy the inevitable demands of readers.



The Editor

• **"THOSE WERE THE DAYS" DR. MAKEPEACE RICHMOND :**

That place in Thomas Lands has never been my Queen's College. The QC of my heart lay at the head of Brickdam. It was the Queen's of Pilgrim, Nobbs, Beckles, Bevis J.C.IaT Potter, Norman Cameron, Taitt to name but a few. The school was compact and the Houses were A,B,C and later D. There were trees.

Mr. Pilgrim, better known as Bogus was acting Principal when I got there. He taught mathematics but his efforts to say 'parallel' suffered from what geneticists call repeats and always produced a far longer word.

Mr. Beckles was a Cambridge blue in languages and in addition was an LL.B. He taught Latin and French in upper school and I remember the day in the Fifth to our Latin period all-downcast. He had graded our Latin Unseens. He looked around at us sadly, dropped his eyes and sighed. "I am a failure. I have tried very hard, but having gone over your papers I know that I have failed. There is no future for me in teaching. I am going to give it up and practice law." Do you know we believed him?

Mr. Bevis, an expatriate, was botany and zoology. Despite our best disapproving noises we could not break him of his habit of cleaning the blackboard with saliva. Form Three included gardening and carpentry. My carrots never amounted to much but carpentry got me off to a good start for I have spent my life doing.

Capt. Nobbs was a British ex-soldier who lost a lung in World War I when he was gassed with phosgene. He was a chemist on transfer from Mauritius. In those days the Principal lived in the building so when his twin sons, Norman and Edgar, came upstairs with discoloured lips he knew that they had to have been poisoned. In vain did Lazarus, the groundsman, who had fed them the star apples, try to explain. He cowered under the tirade: 'You have poisoned my sons, You have poisoned my sons. You will swing for this'. Apparently at his last posting persons were apt to poison one another. Dr Sharples, hastily called to provide an antidote, gave an explanation instead but the terrified Lazarus stood at the gate next morning to explain to each arriving master what had really happened. It was not long before we were forbidden from throwing stones at the trees.

It was on the ground to the east where I captained a Third Eleven A House team and we failed to dismiss Cheddi Jagan, playing for the corresponding B House team and he went on to make 103 not out. I did better on the western ground and discovered to my amazement that I bowled in-swings. There were some biased umpires who questioned my action.

A pillar of magisterial rectitude was Mr. Taitt, lower and middle school Latin. We called him Pawpee when he was not in hearing distance. For him, infractions were measured in pages of Kennedy, our Latin grammar, to be copied out, and it was not long before some smart-ass when told, "Bring me one page tomorrow!" dipped into his desk, pulled out a pre-copied page and tendered it. "You had better make that two pages". He had the habit of sitting down quite heavily, so a second former put a bent pin on his chair. He came in, sat down, and with no change of expression, left the room, returned, sat down and gave his lesson. At the end of it he walked to the door and turning around, almost as if it were an afterthought said: 'You will all remain in detention this afternoon'

There is a difference between us in our time and you chaps, I beg your pardon, you school-persons, you seem so driven. Should not there be

 "Time to stop at beauty's glance

 And watch her feet, how they dance.....

 A poor life this, if full of care,

 You have no time to stand and stare".

- **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

All QC Old Students are reminded that the statutory meetings of our Guyana Chapter are held on the first Thursday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at Queen's College.

Remember also that old students who plan visits home will be especially welcome to attend.... we will be delighted to meet with all old students!

- **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Guyanese Chapter of QCOSA will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2003. Notice of this Meeting was published in the local Press. The highlight of the meeting will be the election of office bearers for the next year. All QC Old Students are eligible to attend, vote and stand for office.

- **INTERNATIONAL QCOSA NEWS**

We are pleased to announce that the 2003 ICQC Reunion will be held in Miami, U.S.A. from Thursday, October 09 to Sunday, October 13, 2003. Details of the host hotel and the programme for this year's reunion will be published in later issues of QCOSA News. In the meantime, ink the dates in your diaries and start making your reservations at

your travel agencies. For the fun loving (and which QC Old Student isn't?) an added attraction is that the reunion coincides with the Miami Carnival!

- **GENERAL NEWS**

QC Old Boy, Shaun Lennox Caleb, has been elected to the prestigious Youth Advisory Committee to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The UNDP recently held its biennial Global Youth Retreat in Nairobi, Kenya and among the participants were 52 youths from 45 countries.

We at QCOSA News are proud of reports coming in that Lennox Caleb, representing GuyberNet, participated fully and earned the confidence of his peers who elected him together with a Brazilian young lady to represent Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lennox's appointment is important, not just for Guyana, but for the rest of the Caribbean. We also understand that this is the first time a Caribbean representative has been elected at this level and we send heartiest congratulations to Shaun! Keep up the good work!

A QCOSA (Guyana) website is presently under construction. We at QCOSA News will keep you updated on this latest development which will make it much easier for all old students and other interested persons to access information. Your suggestions on inputs to this website will be welcome.

QCOSA News extends heartiest congratulations and best wishes to QC Old Student, Dr. Ewart Thomas of Stanford University, U.S.A. who recently celebrated his 60th birthday. Dr. Thomas requested his friends and well wishers to make a donation to his alma mater - Queen's College of Guyana – in lieu of birthday gifts. We understand that as a result of that request, the sum of US\$4,600 has been donated to QC! The Editor will be pleased to acknowledge the birthdays of other alumni in like manner Bear in mind that it does not have to be a 60th birthday event – any birthday will do. Thank you Dr. Thomas for your thoughtful gesture and for what may hopefully turn out to be a trend setter.

QCOSA News also congratulates the recently formed Florida Chapter on its successful maiden fund-raising "Brunch & Dominoes" affair in Fort Lauderdale, where we understand a good time was had by the almost 200 alumni and guests who attended! Keep up the good work, Florida and may you always come up double-six!

- **VALEDICTIONS**

We extend heartiest congratulations to our hard-working executive member, Mr. Wayne Narain, who has recently left Guyana to pursue further studies at Queen's Borough College in New York, leading to an Associate Degree in Engineering Science. We wish him all the best and thank him once again for his selfless dedication to QCOSA.

Congratulations once again to Shaun Lennox Caleb, who has been accepted at Princeton University to pursue a course in Chemical Engineering and Environmental Studies. Best wishes for the future!

We repeat our request for submission from readers of items of interest, comments on our newsletter and names and e-mail addresses of old students for inclusion in our circulation database.

(The Editor can be reached at vidushi@lawyer.com)

