

BHSOSA *Express*=

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VOLUME I, NUMBER 4

President's Message

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WHATSOEVER THY HAND FINDETH TO DO, DO IT WITHTHY MIGHT...Ecclesiastes 9:10

Our overseas Chapters continue to make a very meaningful contribution to the present day students and we now have year groups taking on specific projects.

In October last year, the Class of 63 made the first of what will become an annual award of a prize to the Middle School winner of the annual Elocution contest. The first winner was Leonie McGarrell of Form 4C and Vyfhuis House. The prize each year will be the equivalent fee the winner is required to pay for the CSEC examinations.

BHSAlumnet came into being in 2006. This group is made up of people who entered BHS in 1967. Also, in October last year, these past students handed over a refurbished Home Economics Room to the school at a cost of approximately half a million Guyana dollars.

This Easter term will see House Day celebrations for Baskett House and Allen (Elizabeth) House and the annual Prize Giving ceremony.

A new contractor has been tasked with the completion of the rehabilitation of our Science labs. We eagerly look forward to the day when we no longer lose our entire 5th Form Science to Queen's College. The New York Tri-State Chapter is bearing the complete cost of the Biology lab so funds from the other Chapters have been directed to the Chemistry lab refurbishment.

Don't forget our date in Toronto at the 9th International Reunion in August. See you there!

TERRY STUART

President BHSOSA (2007-2008)





MARCH

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The Bishops' High School

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Tribute to Mavis Pollard

BHSOSA is today celebrating the life of yet another of its icons who has passed away; this time it is Mavis Doreen Pollard, our true comrade and true friend.

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Mavis was always an energetic, loval, performing member of the Association "in season and out of season". Even when she was functioning at the Cyril Potter College of Education, she delivered as though she were on spot. She maintained a lively interest in the affairs of BHSOSA. It is interesting to

note that on the day of her death, she was very reluctant to proceed to the table to have her

breakfast. She was arguing with Magda that she "was hearing the school bell ringing." She was finally persuaded to "forget Bishops' High School and have your breakfast".

Mavis was the Staff Representative on the BHSOSA Executive Committee for two successive terms while Joyce Sinclair was the President from 1996 to 1998. She never missed an Executive Committee meeting, nor did she ever miss producing her BHS Diary of Events for every term while she was the Staff Representative. These diaries chronicle all the events that took place in the school, term by term. These were done not only for BHSOSA, but were sent to all our overseas chapters. They kept everyone informed about what was going on.

for AGMs. She always felt that we ate too much and that next

if we did not expend so much energy in this kind of activity, our meetings would last for a shorter time - though she enjoyed the mauby and the pone. Also, she always felt that we wasted too much time, talking for too long a time, and mostly about trivialities.

Mavis felt very strongly about our honouring our responsibilities in the Association. She was very impatient with non-performers. She stressed that if we promised to do something, there were no "ifs" and "buts". Our duty was to deliver. We should always do what we promised to do and do it in the time we said we would do it. Her view was that some of us on the Executive were too lenient about accepting excuses for non -performance.

Nearly every BHSOSA member who attended our last gathering on Saturday commented on Mavis' love not only for Geography as a subject, but her love for the teaching of Geography. She made it live in the hearts and minds of those she taught. We all remember that the "earth was a sphere and moved on its axis once in every 24 hours." For many, Geography was a living thing even



Mavis at 80!

after they left school and began to travel and experience for themselves the fjords about which she spoke, the winds and ocean patterns of the world, how to read a map and the customs, dress and overall culture of the specific countries we studied.

Mavis Pollard taught us about the glaciers melting. So in essence, she predicted Global Warming long before AI Gore and the rest of the world.

She had a fantastic memory. At her 80th birthday celebration, my class-

mates and I were all amazed that she remembered each of us by name even though she had taught us at least 50 vears ago. She was phenomenal.

But there is a side of this icon, Mavis, which continues to surprise old students at our Reunions. At our Reunion held in London in 1996, Mavis sauntered across the catwalk modelling the BHS uniform of the 1940s. There was rapturous applause and cat calls of "Mavis, Mavis, Mavis." Then it happened again at our Reunion hosted by the California Chapter in 1999. This time the cultural item which BHSOSA presented was called "A Tribute to Ms. Dorothy King," our former PE mistress. Mavis walked across the stage wearing green PE shorts, a white square neck top, her yachtings and socks. Again even more rapturous applause and shouts Mavis never liked us to be too busy preparing snacks of "Mavis, Mavis, Mavis." Mavis was very versatile. Our Reunion is being hosted by the Toronto chapter

in August 2008.

> In her latter days, this BHSOSA member had become very disillusioned and disheartened over the disappearance or "watering down of the standards" to which she had become accustomed as a student in the early 30s. When asked by someone where she worked, her terse but full-ofresponse was "I work in meaning Carmichael Street where Bishops' was." We in BHSOSA are happy for

the life and comradeship of Mavis Pollard. We are the richer for it. We shall always remember her.

MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE!

Read by Terry Stuart January 21, 2008

LABOR OMNIA VINCIT

Mavis at 22!

Caring, Compassionate Physician

Dr. JACQUELINE PAUL-GORDON

Referred by: Barbara Girga

My doctor, Dr. Jacqueline Paul-Gordon of Clinica Sierra Vista on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, is a knowledgeable physician, which I would expect from any doctor in town. But beyond this, Dr. Paul-Gordon is caring, compassionate and able to be "in the moment" with her patient. This attitude has allowed me to trust her diagnosis and subsequent medications prescribed. Reaching an age where there are many symptoms, she has searched, suggested tests, and followed through to get to the correct diagnosis. When unsure of what my symptoms are indicating, she is quick to admit it and then to find the answers needed. My low income level does not enter into her treatment; I am treated as if I were her richest patient, and giving me time to talk, as if I am her only patient.



The clinic itself deals with the paperwork and headaches that go along with medical care in a very professional way, which is a by-product of the same professional care given by Dr. Paul-Gordon. She has been a godsend, when I had no insurance, and her treatment after receiving insurance has never deviated. She is outstanding in a field that has, over the years, made people concerned over their medical care. Not in Bakersfield, with physicians such as Dr. Paul-Gordon at the top of the list of caring individuals.

Taken from: The Bakersfield Californian | Saturday, Jan 5 2008 Photo by Felix Adamo

Young Ambassador Travels to the UK

Niccollette Boatswain travelled to the UK with fellow member of the Rights of the Child organization, Shirvanie Persaud, to share experiences with flooding due to climate change with young people in March. Their visit was sponsored by the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development as part of a national climate change campaign under the theme "LiveSimply."

In preparation for the visit, Niccolette and her colleague prepared a documentary entitled "Hope for Mahaica"

which presented the difficult choices facing fami-They captured the experiences of one family house lot in another area on the East Coast of continued flooding in the area. Moving to anand livelihood.

The two young women visited schools and England, screening and discussing the documen-2-day national conference which was attended from across Britain. During the conference, change with a British Member of Parliament and



lies living on the Mahaica River due to flooding. which, along with others, has been offered a Demerara by the government in anticipation of other area would mean the loss of their farm

6th form colleges in London and Northwest tary with British students. They also attended a by over 400 students from 6th form colleges they participated in a panel discussion on climate a Roman Catholic Bishop and launched the

documentary. In addition, the young women read a letter from Guyanese women during church services in recognition of Women's World Day of Prayer which focused on Guyana in 2008.

Niccollette was a member of the first group of students participating in the Mentoring Programme, being paired wit Cynthia Massay-Thomas. She is a biology major at the University of Guyana.

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Profile: Doreen Nelson

Doreen Nelson is currently 1976 and was in Mary House.

Childhood Days

D'Andrade Street in Newtown Kitty. her about her bicycle. I had many fun times with the friends in the neighbourhood. We had picnics Making Choices at the back of the yard and spent many nights talking about "Stupidy Bill and doing some housework. level. But when I approached the move far down the path to becoming Primary School. The Headmaster had combination of Pure Maths, French in the country. picked the persons from the Common and Economics for "A" level, she among the ones he identified. I was a French and included Applied Maths. surprise pass for him.

Activities at School

Life at Bishops was interesting for **Grounding and Life Chances** me. I admit that I was more involved in the extra-curricular activities playing the steel band, ballroom guided me along the way. Being a prepared" for whatever the future has dancing and running, jumping, member of the Bishops' Guides in store for you. swimming, etc. I remember going to company, there were many sugges-Matthews Ridge with the steel band tions of where to work after leaving only knowing the first note "A" to school. One of the places was NIS. start the National Anthem. It was as The passes in the Maths/Economics door that Ms. Edith Pieters guided me finance and statistics areas and, of through the other notes. Amazingly, I course, migration helped to make knew all the other popular songs that opportunities available for fairly rapid we had to play.

I would consider myself an average student with moments of brilliance - education was the high point for me. I few. There was the time when I got had a chance to develop both mind full marks for a Maths test and the and body and to see many places bright students came to see why they around Guyana that I may not have lost a half mark. Cherished memories! seen otherwise. I am sad when today I

Of course I remember my games see the students at Bishops', in General Manager (ag.) of the National teacher, Ms Thelma Holder. She particular, not benefitting in the same Insurance Scheme (NIS). She attended would always pick me for some way. the Bishops' High School from 1968 to athletic activity. I used to think she thought I was more than good until Making a Difference the day she pointed out to me that my style of high jumping had no name. I guess that I was a puzzle that she was with so many persons from different I remember growing up in trying to solve for years. I still tease walks of life and with their own

I attended Comenius Moravian Headmistress, Mrs. Jarvis, with my the most efficient service organization Entrance class whom he figured would informed me that it was not an accept- Advice to Current Students go to the top schools. I was not able combination. So I dropped You can therefore see that personal understand what is taught rather than interest did not have much to do with memorizing, for these are the years my present career.

President Burnham was walking in the stream allowed me to move into the promotion.

The chance at a balanced

It is very challenging having to deal agendas when your vision for a global objective is not theirs. There can be too much time and effort wasted and needless confrontations. However, I liked the languages and took am still hopeful that the Bishops' High Sensible Bill." There was also time for French, Spanish and Latin at "O" School Old Students' Association can

My advice to BHS students is to that will determine how you handle situations in the future. Join organizations such as Girl Guides or Boy Scouts to get a meaningful life I would say that a greater hand outside of academics and "be



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Prize Giving 2008

Mr. Hemant Indar Singh, gave students this environment. the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of a diverse curriculum.

added sweet music to the proceed- country for 138 years. ings.

prizes and medals.

educational authority and the school patriotism." unit must face. Thus the role of education has become very complex. In our society, we cannot ignore the great number of factors that have provided a glimpse into the varied serious impact on our classrooms. activities offered for participation by These factors include poverty on the students. These include: one hand and easy access to money • Inter-house Athletics - Winner: and material things on the other hand. lawlessness, the increased violence • Dramatic Competition - Winner: among youth as a means of conflict resolution, the rapid rise in the number of persons infected with HIV/ AIDS, the drug trade and its effects on the family structure, the erosion of traditional values and norms, the speed with which information is • CARICOM Project transmitted and communication takes • GUYAID Essay Writing place and the list goes on.

All of these factors have created a • Lions Club Peace Poster new school environment where the new manager and the new teacher
• Caribbean Home Economics Quiz have to operate. Many of us have not

On Thursday, February 21, 2008, been trained neither are some of us parents, alumni and guests joined the resourceful enough to handle and the contributions of BHSOSA and its Headmistress, staff and students in the cope with the problems that emerge Chapters, indicating the many areas in Oswald Parry Hall to celebrate the in our school on a daily basis. In that which development activities have successes of the school and reflect on aspect of classroom management, we been undertaken, individual alumni the challenges which are ever-present. are seriously handicapped. Therefore who have demonstrated commitment The event, chaired by a parent and new skills will be necessary for to maintaining those "ties" for the member of the Board of Governors, practitioners to function effectively in benefit of the students, the Ministry of

school is associated with its output. in BHS and agencies which have The programme included verse Therefore one major challenge that contributed significantly to the speaking by two students, pieces by the Bishops' High School has been resource-base of the school. the BHS Steel Orchestra and dances grappling with is the need to ensure concluded her report thus: "I wish to by the groups of female students. Not that this institution retains the use this opportunity to publicly thank to be outdone, the Teachers' Choir unparalleled position it has held in this the teaching staff, the general office

Ms. Magda Pollard distributed the the fundamental values which have diligence throughout the year." shaped the character of our school such as: the pursuit of excellence, Simone Barker, giving the Vote of From the Headmistress' Report honesty, politeness, care, tolerance, Thanks, seized the opportunity to for the Academic Year 2006-2007 self-disciple, responsibility, gratitude, plead for the granting of a holiday self-respect, respect for authority, which was approved by Ms. Joyce "The 21st century continues to pro-respect for others, loyalty, Sinclair, Chair of the Board of duce tremendous challenges which cooperation, obedience, credibility and Governors.

The Headmistress' Report

- Vyfhuis House
- Vyfhuis House
- Elocution Competition
- Impromptu Speaking Competition
- Inter-house Debating Competition -Winner: Vyfhuis House
- Competition
- Competition

Ms. Isaacs-Walcott acknowledged Education, the Board of Governors, The value that society attributes a other individuals who have an interest She staff, the librarian, the ancillary staff, Long may we continue to stress the security for their cooperation and

Head-prefects, Ravi Singh and They also thanked "Mom" (the Headmistress) for the support and guidance provided to the student body.



Time Marches On

I'm sure it's safe to say that none of us contem- to lay the foundation than to get involved themselves ready to take on anything that came our way.

extra holiday to honour speech day/prize giving, had School, BHSOSA and the wider society. received an order mark or detention that day or were looking forward to the weekend or the holidays. one activity per quarter, provision of Christmas During that time, we had little patience with "old Cheer in the form of goodies, a floral arrangement or people."

While at school, old people could be all of 30 years of age. They obviously had been out in the world for a looooong time and were out of touch with the whys and wherefores of our lives. They wore funny clothes, listened to strange music and wanted to rule us just because they were older.

we care!

Time does march on. Time does catch up with plays. us. We do become older and are looked down upon by younger ones. As time goes by, we do begin to seum at Meten-meer-zorg on the West Coast of think about what our life will be like when 40, 50, 60 Demerara and the Prairie Hotel on the East Bank of roll around. Some of us glory in attaining the magic Demerara. Outings such as these give seniors the age of 30, 40, 50. In fact, more and more people opportunity to visit with persons whom they have not nizing them as landmarks to be shouted about from join them, share information on their classmates and the rooftops. Yet others cringe as the numbers keep mutual friends and reminisce about school days. For getting higher and higher, as if there's a chance of those of us listening in, some of the stories are reversing the passage of time.

No matter what we try to do about the wrinkle, passes. We have to acknowledge that we're getting desire to lay the foundation for a programme which up there.

in October 2005, that a few alumni looked down the lend a helping hand in time of need as have Elsie was staring them right in the face! They thought Christmas time. that when they hit the mark they would like to have some support from BHSOSA. And what better way come!"

plated life at 30, 40, 50 much less 60, 70 or 80 years while they could. Of course, that was not the only of age when we entered the Bishops' High School in reason why Pat Gordon, Geraldine Maison Halls, Evewhatever year we did. I believe that most of us lyn Hamilton, Janice Jackson and Wendel Roberts thought of ourselves as the centre of the world, decided to formalize the Seniors' Programme. They recognized that the work that Pat Gordon had spear-Some schooldays dragged on while others sped headed over the years in giving the seniors a fillip at by, depending on how much fun we were having or Christmas was much appreciated. They thought that anticipated, whether we had been told to "clear the more could be done to honour the seniors for the desks" for an unexpected test, had been given an contributions they have made to the Bishops' High

The programme has evolved into one which offers

a bottle of wine in addition to a black cake, the issuing of a quarterly newsbrief which reports on the activity, acknowledges birthdays occurring the next quarter and provides information on different topics and/or upcoming events and what has become the annual tea party. It also entails informing seniors of other activities in

Little did we know that they too had looked at which they may be interested such as the annual Inpeople older than them in a similar light. Little did ner Wheel Hat Show and Tea Party in the Easter season, events at Castellani House and concerts and

To date, seniors have visited the Heritage Muare celebrating their 50th and 60th birthdays, recog- seen in a long time, invite friends and relatives to enlightening.

It is our hope that the programme would lead to thickening waistlines, aches in the joints, at some greater interaction between the seniors as they help point we have to accept that life changes as time to keep each other in good cheer. It is also our is sustained and grows as the number of seniors It was at the Annual General Meeting of BHSOSA increases over the years. It is our wish that others tunnel and saw 70 years of age in their future. It Croal, Terry Stuart and the staff of Evelyn's office at

For, as the saying goes, "Pickney ya time

Janice M. Jackson



Beating Pan: The Journey from the Mysterious to the Possible

by Sandra Plummer

When I told people that I was learning to play the steel pan, I received many strange and disbelieving looks- me, one came and sat down theatre style as if we were giving a Sandra Plummer- who could not sing a proper note and concert rather than a sing along. Then they asked us to who had very little knowledge of music, playing steel pan?!

interested in playing music? Where did that come from?

I still wonder at it- me and the other members of the of those mysterious instruments that other people played.

I was always interested in learning more about music strength to strength. but as time passed and my focus became centred on other things, the dream of really playing good music moved fur- you at our upcoming Reunion in August 2008 and sharing ther and further away. Then came the old students' meet- with you what we have learnt. ing in 2006 when the idea was mooted that interested persons could learn to play the steel pan.

Mr. Benjamin, the BHS music teacher, assured us - the melody players (myself/Carol/Terry/Emily) - that we didn't need to know musical scales, we only needed ear sound and we could play.

Poor unsuspecting persons that we were- we actually believed him!

Hence started the journey, from wish to reality, from mysterious to possible, which we would not have trod without the indomitable spirit instilled in us from our school days and which still beats in the breasts of Bishops' alumni everywhere.

We tortured our way through the practices which started in July 2006, started to learn some patriotic songs then expanded our repertoire to include five Christmas

tunes which we played in December 2006 and 2007 at the December 2007 traditional Carol singing gathering.

Most frightening was the 2006 Christmas where everyplay again- so we repeated the same five tunes- our entire People knew that I was interested in sports and later repertoire. To show that we are growing (albeit slowly), on in nutrition and enhancing my public speaking skills but we repeated our repertoire plus three more tunes in December 2007.

The most challenging aspect of our preparation was orchestra/band, with an average age of plenty, playing pan! getting everyone together to practise at the same time Whenever I thought about learning music, I always thought since we were all busy and several persons were out of about playing the piano, the steel pan never even being the country at various times. However, we persevered and close to any part of my consciousness. Steel pan was one have come to a realization that if you pursue something consistently and with enough zeal, you can move from

So fellow alumni, we look forward to meeting with

Why don't you try playing pan? If we can do it, anyone can!



Changes over Time

In 1997, students participating in the first Lower Sixth Programme identified differences between "the olden days" and their reality. Here goes!

THEN	THEIR "NOW"	THEN	THEIR "NOW"
Only the affluent	Anyone who is competent.	Form parties	No such thing!
All girls	Co-educational	Lockers	Haversacks
Hats	No hats	Fetching teachers' books	They're on their own!
00 students	640 students	Must speak perfect English	Anything goes!

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Condolences

BHSOSA expresses condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni who have passed or have had family members pass between January and March 2008:

- Savitri Paltooram-Balbahadur (Husband)
- Eleanor and Phyllis Jordan (Aunt)

- Family of Dennis Edghill
- Family of Mavis Pollard - Joan Sylvester and family (Husband)
- Myrna Bernard and family (Husband and mother-in-law)

Good Tidings from TO

Hazel Friday-Burrowes was the purveyor of good tidings when she returned from Toronto in February. She was happy to report that the Toronto Chapter had come through for the Alma Mater once again.

Wanting to keep in touch with the activities at school, the Torontonians provided a video-camera to document a day at the Bishops' High School. The availability of the video-camera would, of course, enable the recording of more than that. It allows for preparation of permanent records of so many activities which take place and fade from our memories as we move on to others. The recording of the history of the BHS has moved to a higher level, one which will let future generations of students reflect on the traditions which appear in living colour.

Hazel was busy during her visit to Toronto. Knowing that some Reunionites were planning to be in the city in time for Caribana, Hazel pulled out all the stops to find accommodation for some of the early birds. She shared her success in this regard and brought smiles to the faces of many who can now plan to enjoy some of what Toronto has to offer during the summer.

With Hazel's help, many will be mixing and mingling with long lost friends and acquaintances at Last Lap Lime.

Thanks Hazel!

Barbados

California

Florida

Jamaica

Toronto

NY Tri-State

UK/Europe

Washington



Reunion Update

The 9th International Reunion of the alumni of BHS will take place in Toronto from Tuesday, August 5 to Sunday, August 10. 2008.

The theme of the Reunion is Building on the Legacy.

Alumni planning to attend the Reunion are encouraged to:

- Pay their membership dues to Dorett Leander, Treasurer;
- Apply for a Canadian non-immigrant visa;
- Register for the Reunion with the Toronto Chapter;
- Register at the Royal York Hotel; and
- Attend preparatory meetings of the Guyana contingent.
- Share your travel plans with Coordinator Pat Gordon.

Yvonne Moses-Grant **Margaret Estwick** Gina Trotz Sarah (Sally) Eytle **Denise Roman Denise (Susie) Archer** Alison Tyndall **Desiree Chapman**

If you have any comments or suggestions about the newsletter, please write to us at

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Seniors at the Prairie Hotel in March



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LABOR OMNIA VINCIT







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