

# Beyond the Grey Shirt



Fatima Old Boys' Association Quarterly Newsletter

[www.foba.fatima.edu.tt](http://www.foba.fatima.edu.tt)

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## *A brief History of Fatima College*

*Continued from Issue 4 - April 2010*

Fr. Ryan considered it his duty to build a Fatima community, a second home with a family atmosphere. In 1956, he introduced non-examination subjects on the curriculum - drawing, reading, discussions, debating and social science. Despite time-tabling complications, he felt the experiment was successful. "A healthy spirit of appreciation and criticism amongst members of classes have done much to overcome initial shyness and have resulted in increased facility in expressing their views with conviction and courage" (Trinidad Guardian 14/7/1958).

At a time when only European History was taught, he introduced West Indian History and entrusted Clive Pantin with the task of teaching it.

In 1959, Fatima introduced 'A' Levels in the two groups - Languages (French, Spanish & Latin) and Science (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics). This was due mainly to the success of Irwin Lett, who came first in the School Certificate Examination in 1958 and won the Jerningham Silver Medal. Mr. Alloy Lee Ha, a Dean of Form Three, was among the first batch of 'A' Level students.

In 1960, the division among the functions of Deans was revised. Previously, there was a Dean of Discipline and a Dean of Studies. The school was divided into three sections - Senior, Middle & Junior - with one Dean responsible for both studies and discipline in each section. Captains and vice-captains were elected for each section. This system has continued up to this day.

The prefect system was introduced in 1965. Previously chosen from Form 4, 5 and 6 the prefects were now chosen only from Form Six.

Much was accomplished during the principalship of Fr. Ryan known affection-

ately as "the Raj" the Sanskrit word for King, and he truly bestrode the institution as a benevolent and caring father. In 1960 the House and Land raffle was held to raise money for the preparation of the new Sports Field, to be built on the land negotiated from the Mayor of Port of Spain as a gift, by Father Byrne. The playing field was legally acquired in 1961 and formally opened in 1963. In 1970 the pavilion was built by Father Gerard Farfan, and the staff and administration block reconstructed and new labs were built for Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Fatima held its first Sports meeting in 1963, won Intercol for the first time in 1965, and a Past Students body was launched in 1964.

*Look out for the continuation in Issue 6*

## *Upcoming Events*

*FOBA Annual Salt & Pepper X,  
Saturday 9 October, 2010*



## Class of 1975 - 35 Year Reunion



The Fatima Class of 1975 held their 35 year reunion on 31 July 2010 and Father Harold Imamshah said Mass with co-celebrant Father Gerrard Farfan. Father Imamshah sent this note to his fellow '75ers on his return to Louisiana....

"My brothers, I'm back in the saddle in my Parish in 102 degrees F Louisiana and still

thanking God for all of you, those who were able to attend and those of you that couldn't. I am grateful to have had the privilege of spending my best Fatima years w/ y'all. I'm 20 years a priest and my years of interaction with you are a valuable part of the person I am today." Pictures from the reunion can be viewed at [www.foba.fatima.edu.tt](http://www.foba.fatima.edu.tt)

## Musical Blends



On Saturday 22nd May 2010, FOBA organized and held the event 'Musical Blends' in the Fatima College courtyard. This, the first of a planned yearly event, featured the first ever full length concert in Trinidad by Trumpeter Etienne Charles, a Fatima Old Boy. Guest artistes included Johann Chuckaree (another Fatima Old

Boy) and ensemble, Pannist Ray Holman, saxophonist Anthony Woodruffe and 3 Canal. Those patrons in attendance were delighted at all the performances that night and are already looking forward to the 2011 edition. Full reviews of this event as well as pictures can be viewed at [www.foba.fatima.edu.tt](http://www.foba.fatima.edu.tt).

## A Trini in Beijing, Part Three

By Ruthven Thompson, Class of '91 (continued from Issue 4 - March 2010)



At the firing of the gun, Richard was out of the blocks in a FLASH (his former running nickname), and for the first 40 to 50 metres he was out in front!!! Could it be? I dared to think, only to see Mr. Bolt come streaking up to him and cruise past him. "Thanks for coming" he seemed to say as he then effortlessly sped past Richard.

As Richard's lead evaporated I started to worry (it's amazing the number of emotions that can course through one's veins in 10 seconds!!). Two weeks earlier the same sequence of events had happened to Richard twice, with him leading the pack only for someone to overtake him, which caused him to tense up and see him finish 4th on both occasions; leaving him crushed. I was praying that this wouldn't happen again to my "little" brother... especially not tonight!

But my fears were in vain! Richard had learned from his prior mistakes and maintained his composure to become the 100M Mens Olympic Silver medalist in a time of 9.89 seconds!!! My dad, my uncle and I were in the media area hugging any and everyone!!! We were ecstatic!! Words could not begin to describe my

pride, personally & nationally. My brother, Richard Thompson, in his 1st foray into the Olympics on Saturday 16th August 2008, had won the Silver medal for Trinidad & Tobago.

For the rest of that week the family and I toured Beijing. I would need a whole newsletter to tell you about the wondrous site that country has to behold. The Great Wall, The Jade Factory, Tiananmen Square, The Silk Factory, The Temple of Heaven The Forbidden City...and the lesser known sights like sidewalk crepes, and table sleepers, supermarkets selling all and any manner of items: live fish, eels, baby squids.. You name it, it was to be had there!!! Such was my experience in Beijing...

But the races weren't over. Trinidad & Tobago had gotten themselves into the finals of the 4x100 Mens Relay finals, with Richard running the anchor leg! So once again, the family found themselves down at the Bird's Nest... watching, anticipating and hoping for a superb performance from Richard and the rest of the Trinidad & Tobago team: Emmanuel Callendar, Keston Bledmon and Marc Burns.

And they did not disappoint!! It was a fantastic effort by all, especially from Richard in the final leg since he received the baton in 4th position and powered past both Brasil and Japan to ensure that T&T came home with the Silver in the relay as well. And in what was a new National Record time of 38.06 seconds too!!

Beijing: Some of my best memories will forever be of that magical place...



Harry Ramdass taught at Fatima College for almost forty years. He retired on 10th March 2010. He taught several subjects over the years, among them, Geography, Spanish, French, Principles of Business, History, English, Religious Education. He was a disciplinarian and fair with his students and always demanded a hundred per cent from each of them in the classroom or on the field of play.

He assisted in the school's annual Mayfair, Sports and various other school activities. At various times he was the sports administrator. He coached football and cricket at all levels and insisted that those who participated in extra curricular activities get their priorities right – their studies always came first. In fact, he held compulsory study sessions (1 ½ hours) on practice days. Those who did not attend these sessions were not allowed to take part in practice or participate in games.

Although he coached from Form One to Form Six, his preference, however, was the "Giants" (the under -14 teams), and it was in these areas that Fatima produced many memorable and talented football and cricket teams. He readily admitted that he had the distinct privilege to learn and coach alongside some great coaches – Kenny Roberts, Anthony Piper, Tony Gouveia, Alvin Corneal, Clive Pantin, to mention a few. He always gave 100% and more and expected no less from his charges: needless to say that almost invariably he got them all to excel.

His services over the years as teacher, mentor, friend, coach, etc , will sorely be missed. We wish that as he embarks on his 'new life' it will be as fulfilling and rewarding as those wonderful years he spent at his alma mater. We anxiously await his return as teacher or coach or both!



*What's happening in SPORTS*

*Harry Ramdass Tribute Cricket Tournament*

On Saturday 13th March 2010 the Fatima Cricket Club held an all day tribute to Harry Ramdass at the Fatima College Grounds. The format was a round robin 10/10 cricket tournament featuring 5 teams; Rum XI (Miguel Paty); Beer XI (Gregory Davis); the Fatima Cricket Club; Fatima Vintage Harry Ramdass' 11; and the Pavillion XI.

in all of their lives. Harry's dedication and commitment to Fatima College and its students is legendary and he will be sorely missed.

Beer XI was declared the winners having won two games. Visit [www.foba.fatima.edu.tt](http://www.foba.fatima.edu.tt) to view pictures from the Tournament.

Mr. Ramdass was retiring from teaching at Fatima College after a 50 year association with the college (he entered Fatima as a student at the age of 10) and this tribute was seen as the perfect opportunity for all those who played cricket and football at Fatima to pay tribute and say thanks. Even those who did not play sports but were taught by Harry showed up to congratulate him upon his retirement as he remained an important figure

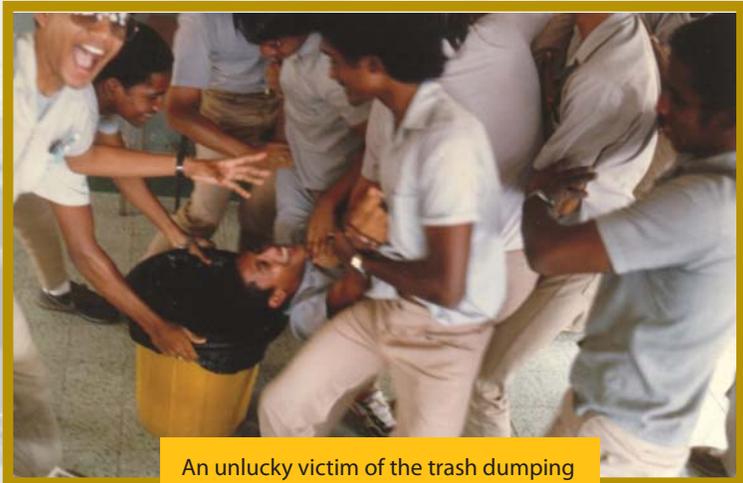




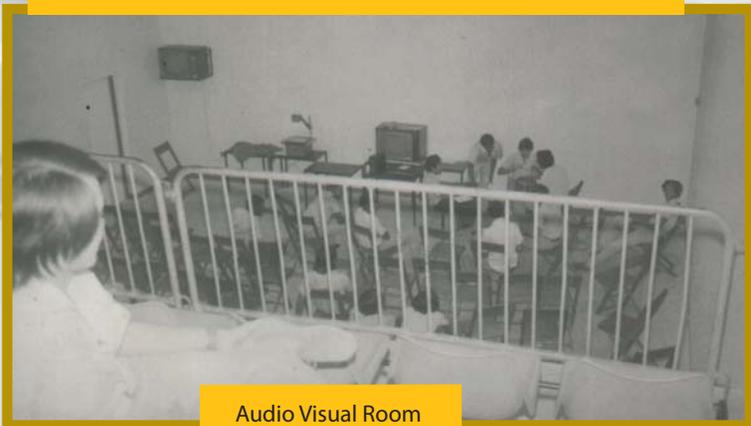
# Flashback - Pictorial Review



1986 - An old Form 6 tradition of dumping people in trash bins



An unlucky victim of the trash dumping



Audio Visual Room

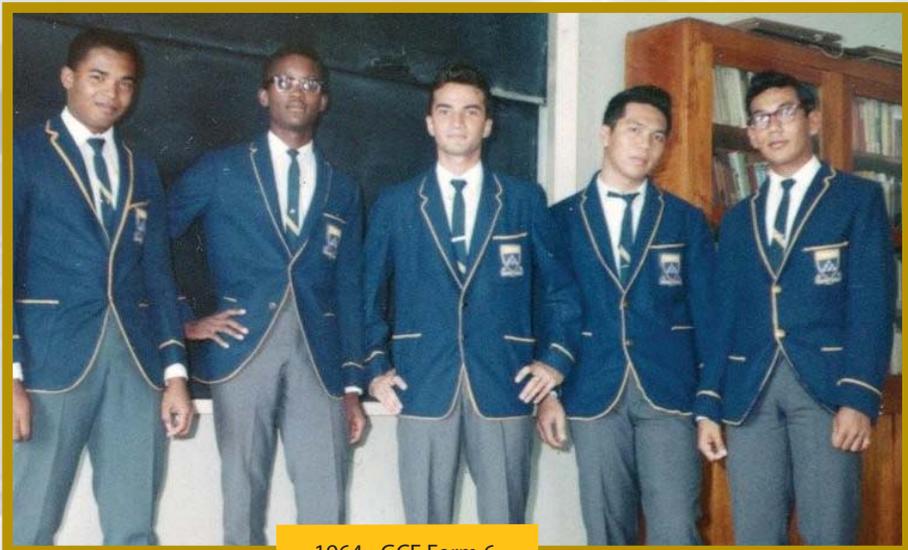


## Letters to the Editor

Anyone wishing to send letters to the editor of FOBA Newsletter "Beyond the Grey Shirt" can email their contributions to: [contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt](mailto:contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt)

Can you identify anyone in these old photos?

Email your answer and any old photos you have from school to: [contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt](mailto:contact@foba.fatima.edu.tt)



1964 - GCE Form 6



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