



Beyond THE GREY SHIRT

FATIMA OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION // NEWSLETTER



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Class of '75 documents Clive Pantin's Contribution

CONTRIBUTED BY: THE CLASS OF '75

"IT IS AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH IF YOU DO NOT CARE WHO GETS THE CREDIT." - HARRY S. TRUMAN



Answering our Call!

The Fatima College Class of '75, like some other classes, has managed to stay together, years after leaving our alma mater. We meet once a month to bond and reminisce and to check up on each other. These meetings dubbed the "Bored Meetings" take place at the Oval which is famous for its cricket and its bar. Be assured that we never meet there for cricket. It was at one of these "Bored Meetings" that the suggestion came up about doing a film about our Principal and mentor Clive Pantin. After all, the Class of '75 had in our ranks the best in every field, including videographer Clifford Seedansingh. It was felt that current Fatima students did not know about Mr Pantin's huge contribution to Fatima and the wider T&T and we wanted to fix that.

So "Answering the Call, A tribute to Clive Pantin", a 50 minute video documentary was born. Our group figured out what it would cost to do it and went about fundraising and planning for its realization. That we had outstanding and patient in-house talent in Clifford made this project's completion more

attainable. Clive Pantin's role as husband, father, teacher, sportsman, community, sport and social activist, founder of Foundation for the Enhancement and Enrichment of Life (FEEL) and a former Minister of Education was revealed on Wednesday 20 March, at the Fatima College Hall. Our Principal Clive Pantin was the guest of honour as he sat among his family, friends, teachers and past students in a simple ceremony.

"Answering The Call" documents his contributions to Fatima and T&T in general through the eyes of his fellow teachers, past and present principals and a whole bunch of people whose lives he touched including Brian Lara and Everard Cummings.

Clive Pantin was the first lay person and local to serve as Principal coming after the legendary Father James Ryan, a Holy Ghost Father. Narrated by former Fatima language teacher and choir master Maurice Brash, who was himself a pupil of the school, the documentary also featured Ray Holman, Beacon Insurance CEO, Gerald Hadeed,



Clive smiles approvingly at the showing of the video seated next to him (left) is his wife Patsy and Father Gervais Girod a former Dean and to his right, former Principal Mervyn Moore

former national footballers, Alvin Corneal and Everal "Gally" Cummings and cricket icon Brian Lara, who was transferred from San Juan Secondary School to Fatima College after Pantin was approached by his parents. Contributors to the video all spoke of the active role Pantin took on, ensuring that students received a holistic development through academics, sports and other extra-curricular activities. "He always made himself available in the classrooms and had the amazing ability to remember every student's name." one of the contributors said.

Pantin brought firsts

Under his stewardship the college also achieved many firsts. In addition to Pantin being the first lay principal, the school also hired its first women—secretary Kathy Garcia and teacher Jeanette Zakour, now Elias.

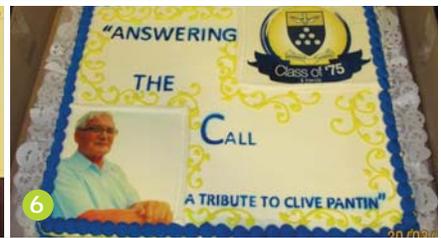
Pantin also upgraded the school's curriculum, adding new subjects including Audio/Visual Art. It became the first of its kind in the country and was headed by English-born Dr Bruce Paddington, now a lecturer at UWI, St

Augustine. The move also forged a relationship between Fatima and its neighbouring schools Mucurapo Senior and Junior Secondary (now Mucurapo East and West), through the Mucurapo School Community Project, which allowed Mucurapo students to share facilities at Fatima, including the Audio Visual room as well as the playing field for sports.

A linguist—Pantin also introduced the country's first Spanish phonetic television show, A La Orden.

Pantin Family history

The Pantin family from Woodbrook is known for their service to T&T, especially to the Roman Catholic Church. His sister Rosa (deceased), served the Sisters of Cluny at St Joseph's Convent. His brother, the late Anthony Pantin was Archbishop of the diocese of Port-of-Spain for 32 years. Another brother, Father Gerard Pantin founded Service Volunteered For All (Servol) in 1970. The ten Pantin children were born to Agnes and Julien Pantin. You can see the video on You Tube on the following link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bE3ttgx55r4 ■



1. Clive's peers (all teachers): From left Alloy Lee Ha, John Braithwaite, Fenwick Desilva, Ray Holman, Errol Carmino and Francisco Garcia
2. Clive Pantin seated with his former students of the Class of 1975 who organised the event and produced the documentary on his life at Fatima College.

3. Bernard Pantin addresses the gathering.
4. Clifford Seedansingh addresses the gathering (Clifford, a member of the Class of '75, produced the documentary on behalf of the Class of '75).

5. Peter Charles (Chair of the Class of '75 Committee) presents a copy of the video to Father Gregory Augustine, Principal of Fatima College.
6. Celebratory cake underscores the title of the documentary "Answering the Call" –A tribute to Clive Pantin.

Living the Grey Shirt – Stephen Broadbridge

INTERVIEWER: STEPHEN HARRIS

AN INTERVIEW WITH STEPHEN BROADBRIDGE, OWNER OF CARIBBEAN DISCOVERY TOURS, (WWW.CARIBBEANDISCOVERYTOURS.COM), THE PIONEER OF ECO-TOURS IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. HE OFFERS EXPERTLY GUIDED KAYAKING, HIKING, CAMPING, AND SCUBA ADVENTURES. HE ALSO RECENTLY LAUNCHED ANOTHER WEBSITE FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO VIEW HIS PHOTOGRAPHY, WWW.STEPHENBROADBRIDGE.COM.



As a photographer of wildlife Stephen supplies an archive of forest, wetland and urban images for international publications-periodicals, brochures and posters such as The Economist, Island Magazine and Eco Traveller Magazine.

Stephen offers organisation and management advice and guidance for academic courses and special services for Filmmakers. He co-produced the award winning wild-life documentary, "Wild T and T" and assisted the BBC on their filming of "Wild Caribbean".

Q Tell me about your memories of Fatima

A I have both pleasant and non-pleasant memories. I appreciated the efforts of our teachers as school must have been difficult with the large classes of about 40 students. To me the entire education system in Trinidad and Tobago needed help back then and still needs help. I don't think it develops creative minds;

creativity was not important – it was more about learning to regurgitate in exams, something I was pretty bad at. I remember getting in a lot of trouble because my spelling was pretty bad; a teacher once told me it was atrocious, to which I told the teacher that I had spelt the word in question six different ways for the year, while the rest of the class only new one way, so I was indeed the best speller! I think I got in trouble for that.

Q What are some of your fondest memories of Fatima?

A Sea Scouts was one. Some great students - I made a lot of good friends there. Many good teachers as well – not all of them, but the majority.

Q How has your Fatima experience molded you?

A Well, I learnt how to run and hide (Laughs). I think I gained more from the people (students and teachers) than I did from the formal learnings. The people

around me day-to-day influenced me, for example, Sea Scouts really improved my communications skills and was overall a positive experience

Q Did the Sea Scouts help turn you into an environmentalist?

A Honestly I was an environmentalist and into nature long before Fatima College, but understanding things better really did help. I remember Mr. Niles teaching us many things about the world. What I did retain really stayed with me, and a lot learned in his geography class still helps me today.

Q How difficult is it being an environmentalist in Trinidad?

A One of the biggest challenges is getting the authorities to do things that need to be done, and also getting the support of the public. It is really heartbreaking to look at miles of forests and know the devastation that is happening and yet the average Trini does not give a damn; that is disheartening. Everyone should be an

environmentalist. We all take care of the houses we live in, yet we inhabit the world and don't take care of it – it's not mine alone, we are all the keepers of the land, not just a few of us. Sometimes it seems like members of the public are passing the buck re their responsibilities by labeling some of us as environmentalist while they carry on as usual.

Q What are your environmental groups?

A I started something with two friends called 'Trini EcoWarriors'. I am now involved in 'PapaBois', a facebook group that's growing into more, and I am also involved in Earthwise and a couple more groups like that. My company 'Caribbean Discovery Tours' has been running for over twenty years, and probably has the best reputation on the island for ecotourism, as noted by many magazines and travel books.

My wildlife photography is widely published and goes hand-in-hand with my tours. Fortunately many things in my life have aligned well in this regard. A lot of my portfolio is published, by the Business Development Company, National Geographic and other magazines; it's always a pleasure to work with professionals. I am also often used as a location scout for numerous documentaries and films. I have also produced for 'Wild T&T', an award winning documentary on Trinidad and Tobago.

Q How about family life, how has that developed?

A Well, I am not married, and I have no children, well as far as I know (laughing).

I was quite busy while a lot of the other guys from my time were getting married. I was away for a while but I always knew I would be coming back home. I had a great job in London, and experienced the British culture, but I felt that Trinidad needed me more than the UK did. I was also in the Himalayan Mountains in Nepal, in Katmandu and other places in the Far East, while I guess my peers choose the adventure of family life instead.

Q With everything happening in the country and the Caribbean right now, what are your dreams and hopes for yourself and the country?

A Well for myself I really hope to be able to continue to do what I really enjoy. One of the scariest things of being out there doing your own business is that

you are always wondering if one day there will be no income – no tourists come or nobody buys my pictures etc. Many guys enjoy the comfort of a salary, even though of course companies can and do go bankrupt as well. But for me, so far so good, as I can continue to do the things I enjoy and still make a living.

Regarding the country, I would like to see citizens become more sensitive to everything from nature to culture to our heritage. I see our ancient buildings deteriorating and nobody seems to care; I see environmental issues looming and nobody seems to care. I would love to see Trinidadians show more love for our country. Patriotism doesn't only mean jumping in the air when your team scores a goal; it is also supporting your country when and where things are not going well. People need to be more vocal, to get up and make demands on government, and to be less self-serving. For example, people don't generally vote for things to better the country, but for things promised to better them personally. We need to think of the bigger picture to help our country move ahead, to be a more generous people, and also think about the people being left behind as we progress.

Q What are some of the projects, initiatives and jobs that you are working on currently?

A I would like to publish my own book, as I have worked on so many other people's books. I have the material ready, it's just to put it together and publish.

I would like to do another documentary, maybe a couple. I might be getting more into video. And Caribbean Discovery Tours, I am excited about progressing even further.

So it's no major changes, nothing remarkably different – I'm not expecting any major career changes unless some major change happens.

Q And from your Fatima experience, do you still have many friendships after 33 years?

A I do, more on a professional level, but also on a friendship level. I chat with many folks still; it's always great to chat with old friends from all the way back, it means a lot to me.

I have also gone into ventures with some of my former peers, for example David Borely, who is now deceased; we worked together on a series called

'Prissy Troupers'. I also did work with and helped another schoolmate and friend, Simon Farrell, also now deceased.

I also do work for FOBA in the form of photography for its events, even though each time they tend to lock me outside for about 20 minutes before I get in (smiling). It's my form of donation and giving back to our school.

Q Anything else you want to talk about?

A Again, I wish the education system in Trinidad would change and that they would start appreciating creativity much more and taking it seriously, not just in Fatima but across the board.

When I was in Primary school I won the annual art show every year, without exception. In fact, one year I won both first and second place. When I got to Fatima College however, the art room looked like a large storage room, there was no space for anyone; it showed how obviously secondary and unimportant Art was seen as. For me, anybody who thinks that art is unimportant is truly disadvantaged, as you cannot look at even a straight line and not see something that someone was paid to design. The chair we are sitting on, the desk, the clothes you are wearing, they are all designed by an artist. For our art room to have been a storage room was a disaster.

Trinidadians in mass lack creativity; yes we have a few talented mass-men and performers, but that is the minority. When you look at Katmandu and those areas, people make things out of nothing, out of garbage. Toys of exquisite quality and design from tin cans, all types of craft etc. The majority of our people lack creativity, not because it is inherently absent but because the school system has suppressed it. Our education system is about memorizing and regurgitating. So much is not being taught, and creative minds are not being developed. I think Fatima failed in this regard in that they didn't value things like art, drama and music in our time.

I hope that these things will change, and that people will realize the importance of art, culture and nature. Maybe if we develop these sensitivities we would see a reduction in the abuse of women and children, and a more caring society in many respects overall. ■

Angels on the Sea – 2013 Carnival Cooler Cruise

BY CLINT FREDERICK & WAYNE BLACKMAN

FOBA HOSTED ITS FIRST CARNIVAL CRUISE THIS YEAR TITLED “ANGELS ON THE SEA” WITH THE INTENT TO DIRECT PATRONS TO WEAR WHITE, REMINISCENT OF THE NOW DEFUNCT FETE “GLOW”.

Although the cruise started approximately half an hour late, the lovely and beautiful promotional girls did their best distributing promotional items and complimentary drinks of Yellow Tail Bubbly to the patrons as they boarded. With some odd 300 persons on board we finally sailed off into the night to the sounds of Merry Perry who got the crowd moving from the get go. Many a beautiful women donned in their white and very sexy outfits really looked like angels when the lighting system done by Party Animal Mobile began.

All were already completely enthused as Merry Perry got a chance to tone it down a bit.... But only just enough...for the live performance of Ms. Charli Griffith who kept the crowd jamming until Damain Archie and Aralon the Artman came on the set. By this time the crowd was in full swing. Café Patron flowed greedily thanks to Lyle Beckles and the very enticing Patron Ambassadors! The Vibe was tremendous but nothing could have prepared the crowd for what was coming next!

As we continued our journey making our way back to land, Patrick Alexis and Ryan Pankar, NUPHORIC, stole the show with their electrifying skills. Patrick commanded the crowd and had everyone in a craze till the end.

Judging from crowd response and evidenced by the photos a great time was had by all and we are answering the call of the patrons; who all begged us to do it again next year.

Special thanks to our sponsors TSZ, Patron, Blink, FOBA and its events committee and Hadco for their contribution. Special thanks to The Harbour Master, Maria Gooding and her promotional team, and the suppliers for making this event a brilliant success. You all are assured we will be doing it again and even greater next year! Thanks to all who patronized the event!!

Pictures from the cruise can be viewed on the FOBA Facebook page ■



2013 All-Inclusive Carnival Fete

BY WAYNE BLACKMAN

IS IT POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE ON PERFECTION? WELL FATIMA OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION DEFINITELY ANSWERED THAT QUESTION IN THE AFFIRMATIVE WITH THIS YEAR'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY ALL-INCLUSIVE CARNIVAL FETE, THE THEME THIS YEAR BEING 'THANK YOU'.

Yes, I may be exaggerating a bit but anyone who has attended this all-inclusive fete over the past few years would agree that this statement could hold water when describing this event.

Each year FOBA's executive committee continues to find new ways to better your last experience and this year was no exception. Developing on 2012's additions of a corporate section, moving the position of the

stage to increase capacity and adding water stations to name a few, this year saw some new initiatives. Amongst them was the opening of the school's back gate, utilizing the dead end street to the north of the college and the grounds of the Pentecostal church situated at the end of said street allowing for yet another further increase in capacity to 4,000 patrons/tickets from last year's 3,500.



Here on the grounds of the church was the Gourmet Corner which included food stations of pork ribs, Buffalo wings, roast suckling pig, wild meat, curry crab and dumplings, pigtails – Chinese style, curried or barbeque, gourmet doubles and soups with a bar strategically placed on the street itself at your service as you go to and fro.

Not to get ahead of myself lets go back to the entrance, as usual well organized parking

2013 All-Inclusive Carnival Fete continued



attended to by diligent staff inclusive of a shuttle service within Fatima grounds for those ladies with heels I suppose or if you just don't want to walk back to the grounds entrance. Smooth unencumbered entrance to the fete, pass by FCB pink booth, collect your cup and bandana, get in the mood immediately as you are greeted by both male and absolutely stunning female models of carnival band "Paparazzi" in full costume, and have your first choice of drink.

From here all the full indulgences of the night only get more grand. The school hall offers seated air-conditioned dining if you wish – Fish with 'dirty' rice, Pork and scalloped potatoes or stop at the Tandoori hut and enjoy some flavourable curry dishes. As you leave the hall and enter the fete area, tastefully decorated in an affluence of colour, you are surrounded with every possible food you can think about, intermingled if not with various premium bars, then with the station of some specific brand of alcohol, Carib, Angostura rum punch, scotch, Baileys, tequila, sparkling wine whatever your heart and taste buds may desire.

FOBA is very active in the renovation and improvement of the school and its facilities and the Carnival fete is a major fundraiser in this initiative. In keeping with the 10th anniversary theme, décor elements from each of the previous nine editions of the fete was incorporated into the current layout. And posted across one wall in the venue was a list of projects which have been completed as a result of funds raised through this and other events throughout the year.

At 6:50pm Master of ceremony, Nicky Crosby introduces 2013 Chutney Soca Monarch Raymond Ramnarine & his band Dil-E-Nadan also featuring Candy Hoyte. Launching a night of great music and performances, as they churn out hits like,

'I ain't marrying no more', 'Raise ya hand and leh go', 'A little wine' and more. Enter Iwer George doing 'Bubble', 'Jabmolassie', 'Ease d tension', and a whole medley of past hits, bringing you up to what might be termed half time around 8pm now. The grounds comes alive again with the release of confetti, smoke, party favours and pyrotechnics and Nicky challenging the willing husbands in the crowd to a winning competition on stage, with a \$4,000 necklace courtesy Kanhai Ragbir Jewelers up for grabs.

No pause to the action, the crowd is thrown into a frenzy with the entrance of Bunji Garlin, Fay-Ann Lyons & The Asylum Crew giving their usual aggressive, hard pumping performances that also featured the likes of St. Vincent monarch – Problem Child, a beat box session from KGB from Tobago and of course ending their time on stage with big track 'Differentology' with Nigel Rojas of Orange Sky live on guitar.

Topping off the performances for the night was the Roy Cape All-Stars featuring Blaxx with Gabrielle Simmons and the ever enjoyable Benjai, releasing a medley of new and old hits continuing to drive the frenzy of the absolutely impassable crowd jammed at the front of the stage.

It is absolutely impossible to fully describe the event that would do it justice. This article could only but give you a taste of how truly great this fete is, the atmosphere, the food, the fully stocked bars that never run out and of course our beautiful Trini people in attendance.

In a year that has seen the successful re-immersion of cooler fetes competing with the "exorbitant" all inclusive parties, FOBA has risen to the challenge and produced its biggest, most enjoyable, decadent and successful annual carnival fete yet.

If you have never experienced this event, I would urge you, to secure your tickets from now for 2014, forget about the cost, you will not regret it, and come party with us next year. I look forward to seeing you there.

Pictures from the fete can be viewed on both the FOBA website and Facebook page.



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CRICKET

Trinidad and Tobago's National U-18 Cricket Team toured Lucknow, India in a T20 tournament from the 25th to 30th January, 2013. The team was made up of the best cricketers from the various Secondary schools throughout the country, which included Fatima boys – Mathew Armstrong-Collingsworth, Camillio Carimbocas and Joshua Ramdoo. The team experienced great exposure competing against teams from Afghanistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh and all around the world. In the end T&T brought home the winning trophy with Joshua Ramdoo being named 'Man of the Match' in the finals.

Source - Mathew Armstrong-Collingsworth

FATIMA COLLEGE SETS NEW HIGH SCHOOL 4X100M RECORD!

The Fatima College team of Xavier Mulugata (Form 4), Abraham Bowen (Form 5), Breon Mullings (Form 6), and Alexander Prevatt (Form 6) wowed the Hasely Crawford crowd on Saturday 9th March, 2013 as they won a silver medal at the inaugural Trinidad and Tobago Relay Carnival. The crowd went wild as the house announcer confirmed that Fatima Gold (our 'A' Team) finished just 00.34 seconds behind Team Canada in a new National High School Record of 42.24 seconds!



FATIMA COLLEGE RETAINS UNDER 15 4K RELAY TITLE

Saturday 19th January, 2013 saw the Fatima College quartet of Abraham Simpson (Form 3-4), Keanu Otero (Form 4), Alexander Achee (Form 3-1), and Nkosi Browne (Form 3-1) retaining the Kiss 4k Relay Under-15 title won last year. The team performed extremely well, with the experienced duo of Otero and Simpson leading the way in the first two legs. Classmates Achee and

What's happening in Sports

COMPILED AND EDITED BY MR. WAYNE BLACKMAN

Browne brought the baton home in strong fashion. Congratulations to these young men and much thanks to their families who came out to cheer them on.

FATIMA COLLEGE IS CHAMPION CROSS COUNTRY ALL MALE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEAM

The 2012-2013 athletics season began with a bang as Fatima College emerged the Champion All Male School at the Secondary Schools Association Cross Country Championships held on Sunday, 4th November, 2012. Our twenty-one man team of young men impressed as they completed the grueling 5- kilometre long course at the Queen's Park Savannah. Led by champion under-17 cross country runner, Jonathan Pantin (of St. Luke's house), the boys in blue and gold amassed 178 points to finish well ahead of all the other boys' schools in Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, these young men placed third overall in the male category (males attending co-ed schools are included here) finishing just behind our neighbours Polytechnic (2nd place) and Toco (1st place).

RUGBY 2011-2012



This year was the year Fatima's U-17 team dominated the Digicel School's Rugby tournament, winning the majority of the games beating most of their competitors at nil. However success didn't only flow through the U-17 team but also the U-14 who also won all their games giving them an undefeated slate as well.

Fatima put out three teams to take part in the tournament hosted by Digicel; two U-17 teams and one U-14 team. The U-17 A-team went on to have an undefeated streak throughout the league winning all their games with a substantial score behind their name. They along with the U-17 B-team advanced all the way to the quarter finals of

the tournament. Unfortunately the B-team took a loss preventing a long sought after Fatima vs. Fatima final. Also at that time the U-14 team blazed through their league, captained by Jordan Rodriguez. The eventual outcome led to Fatima U-17 facing off against C.I.C. and Fatima U-14 versus Belmont Secondary in the finals. The U-14s came out of their game victors with a display of excellent attack and defense throughout the entire game that seemed disadvantageous as their opponents were bigger and faster at first glance but this wasn't an issue for them. Their end result was a nail-biting 3-0. The U-17 displayed their well-developed chemistry, winning their match 39-0 and clinching the title a third year in a row.

During the year 2012, many of Fatima's players did more than represent their school. They not only represented the country on the National U-19 team that took part in the North American Caribbean Rugby Association's U-19 tournament, but also on the T&T National School Boys' Team that toured Barbados. These students included Tariq Cheekes (now past student), William Edghill, Adam Camacho, Christian Chin, Andrew Phillips, Moses Paul, Hasani Rodney, Jacob Bonterre, Ross Navarro and Deion Smith.



Deion Smith, Captain of Fatima College's Rugby Team

Extracted from Fatima College website - <http://www.school.fatima.edu.tt/>

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Flashback - The infamous North Zone Final of 1979

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM A PUBLISHED 2005 INTERVIEW WITH GRAEME RODRIGUEZ (CLASS OF 1981- FORM 6).

Graeme Rodriguez was part of a historic Fatima College team in 1979 that won the national Intercol title. However, it was the infamous North Zone final vs. John Donaldson Technical Institute that will be forever remembered. Today - 26 odd years later, it is still discussed. The final had to be played three times before a clear winner could be found. Fatima finally won the final game 2-0. However, it's a result that to this day rankles John D Players and supporters.

Fatima had lost the first game 2-1. However, the school's Principal, the astute Clive Pantin, noticed that the first half had been overplayed by ten minutes. A protest was made to the then College's Football League. The referee was banned and a replay was ordered.

"Some people were angry because they thought John D had won," says Rodriguez. "...But it was the CFL's decision. People said we only got the replay because we were a prestige school."

However, as Pantin puts it, "We wanted to play under normal conditions. The Referee himself had admitted that he had lost control of the game. As it happens, we turned out winners."

Rodriguez recounts, "the replay was at CIC's ground and thousands of people showed up.

There were too many people. There were people all around the ground and thousands more in the road." Rodriguez estimates that there were approximately 15 thousand people there.

"It was a bit intimidating because a lot of people were threatening us. However, we stuck together and we weren't worried. I had the best College's defender ever behind me - Garnet Craig. We played with three defenders and Garnett Craig was like two."

He admits that even though the atmosphere was intense, "it was more talk - picong - and we were friends at the end of the game. I remember when I went to take a throw people pelting used oranges (that they had sucked on) at me. But we were used to it, we played like this all over TT, San Fernando, Chaguanas."

In addition to the crowd pressure, Fatima had to contend with a star studded John D outfit. "It was a tremendous team," says Rodriguez. Peru Anderson, John Castellano, Erroll Lovell and Curtis Riley. Clayton Morris, he was a little fella. Garfield Dasilva, he was a great, great player. Brian Haynes went on to play with Dallas in the NASL.

"Today Peru Anderson is a very good friend of mine. I respect him because of the contributions he has made to football.

Cumberbatch is a tremendous friend of mine. He used to kick me up every opportunity he got when I was on the ball, but we are good friends now."

However, the Fatima team were a talented and tough bunch and they were determined to make use of a second bite at the Intercol cherry.

"The next day after the game, we heard there might be a replay. We had been underdogs in the first game, but we felt we could've played better. When we got the second opportunity we thought it was a great chance for us and John D were confident because they had the better players.

"We knew we had gotten a second opportunity so we weren't worried. John D had the stars, but we had some good players too, Kervyn Nancoo, Anton Corneal, Craig, Lester Joseph, Gregory Govia and Brian Netto." And of course Rodriguez himself.

"We were very mature and disciplined for our age. We embraced the second chance, it was like a God send. John D had the reputation, however, we had a strong team spirit. We have to thank our Coach Kenny Roberts for that. He was an inspirational motivator. He was telling us we would beat John D for two reasons: (i) we were better



1979: JOHN Donaldson's goalkeeper Erroll Lovell leaps high to palm away a Fatima centre, during the second InterCol final replay at the Queen's Park Oval, which Fatima won 2-0. Fatima's Graeme Rodriguez is at left, while Christopher Pugh (No. 5) stands ready to assist his 'keeper.

looking fellas and (ii) we were more intelligent. Yes he was saying it tounge in cheek but he had confidence in us as a team. Alvin Corneal was our secondary support and he was a tremendous presence to have in the dressing room. And of course the Leader of all Leaders Mr. Clive Pantin; he had us proud to represent the team.

"We were leading 3-1 with about 10 minutes to go (thanks to a double by Anton Corneal and another by Rodriguez) and we thought we'd win easily. At that age we were cocky and Brigand (Gonsalves, the John D Coach) had his team raring to go.

"The game ended 3-3. John D equalized at the last minute. The crowd was so happy, they thought it was justice because of what had happened in the first game. It helped Fatima too, because we would have got some good tap up if we had won."

Rodriguez says "by the time the third game came around, I believe John D were a little fed up. They couldn't do anything but lose and we couldn't do anything but win. We had been the underdogs in the first two games and we had something to prove. In the third game we were better and we won 2-0," in front of an estimated twenty thousand spectators.

In the national Intercol Final vs. St. Augustine at the Oval, Fatima edged the Eastern Champs 2-1. Tony Gray, a future WI pace bowler and the national Youth 'Keeper, would be in the uprights for St. Augustine. Rodriguez himself scored the winner late in the second half. "Scoring the winning goal in the national Intercol Final the feeling was indescribable. They (the public) always wanted us to get beaten, which is what I love when we win." To this day Fatima has never won another national Intercol title.

A season of stress, pressure and intimidation

However, the entire season had been one of stress, pressure and intimidation for the national Champs. They took on the lightly regarded Baratara in their first Intercol encounter. "They weren't as experienced as us and after 15 minutes we were leading 3-0. However, they had a very skilful player, Maurice Alibey, (a future Strike Squad member) on the team. We had to hold on for dear life and won 3-2.

"We then played Mucurapo. They were confident because we had looked vulnerable against Baratara. We beat them 4-0."

Although the atmosphere vs. John D had been one of intimidation, Rodriguez says this had been going on throughout the season, because of Fatima's reputation as a prestige school. "I remember Anton Corneal and I had been training with the national team in 1979, so we were well known. We went to play a game down in Chaguanas, a man came up to us with a cutlass and asked 'who is Rodriguez and Corneal?' It was intimidation but he was the nicest guy afterwards. Everywhere we went they threatened us but after the game they were very nice, which is what I love about TT. Some of my best friends are the people who gave me pressure."

In 1979, Graeme Rodriguez and his teammates gave Fatima College and football fans an Intercol season that they will never forget. It remains one of the finest moments in the sixty years of Fatima history! ■



Fatima College, National Intercol Champions, 1979

BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Robin DeSouza, Hayden Newallow, Andy Phillips, Garnet Craig, Anthony Commissiong.
MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT: Graeme Rodriguez, Brian Netto, Denzil King, Geoffrey Lake, Sean Roberts, Keith Fritz.
FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: Gregory Govia, Anton Corneal, Kenwyn Nancoo, Lester Joseph (capt), Brian Edwards, Neil Julien, David Marks, Rene De Gannes

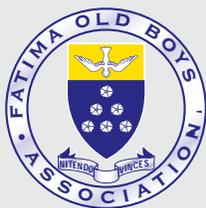


Rodriguez scores vs Mucurapo in the North Zone semis, 1979. Anton Corneal (left) and some helpless Mucurapo Defenders look on.



RIDING PERU: Fatima Defender, Garnet Craig, takes no prisoners as he mounts Alan "Peru" Anderson in the third Fatima-John D Final, QPO.

Letters to the Editor
Anyone wishing to send letters to the editor of FOBA Newsletter "Beyond the Grey Shirt" can email their contributions to:
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