



# We See

## What We See Changes Who We Are

WITNESS Project Youth Page is made possible by the Margaret Clemons Foundation and The Ministry of Education



WITNESS Project Youth interview the Canadian High Commissioner. From Left- Rosheni Takechandra, Marcel Persaud, Canadian High Commissioner David Devine and Danita Jaundoo.

### Child Being Flogged in School

By WITNESS Youth Staff

It all began on a Wednesday afternoon around 02:15pm, the time we usually have our Math lessons. For some unknown reason our Math teacher was late for class that afternoon. It wasn't too long before the class got very noisy and the class monitor wasn't making any attempt to keep down the noise level. The class was still very noisy when the teacher popped up at the door. Everyone was shocked when she appeared.

She was very angry and in a harsh way immediately called for our class monitor to go stand at her desk. She then took out her whip, which she usually carries around and she gave the boy fifteen lashes on his hands and then sent him to

stand in a corner by himself while she taught the rest of the students.

The poor boy stood there alone, crying bitterly in pain. I felt so sorry for him but I just couldn't help in any way; the whole class, including me, was to be blamed. When the teacher left the class, we all went to cheer him up but he was still weeping. A few minutes later the bell rang and we were all dismissed, so we all left the class.

The next day at school, I heard a complaint was lodged at the Head Mistress' office about the incident and our Math teacher had to apologize to the child and she was then restricted from hitting students. Everyone in the class was happy and that boy got justice.

### Interview with Canadian High Commissioner David Devine

By WITNESS Youth Staff

This was my first interview. Meeting someone I've heard about but never met was exciting, but I was nervous. It wasn't bad at all; actually it was very interesting and Mr. David Devine was a very nice person with a life experience you would never believe. He answered every question I asked, and even though I couldn't always make out or hear everything because of his accent, I got all the important details. My first interview experience went very well and it has given me the confidence to do another whenever I have the opportunity.

Canadian High Commissioner David Devine is an adventurous

person who has had many extreme experiences, from natural disasters to risky adventures to wonderful camping events. As he told us, sometimes you have good experiences and sometimes you have bad ones.

What was High Commissioner Devine's worst experience? With a smile, he revealed that when he was a youth, he was out playing with his friends and being adventurous. They were climbing a cliff when a rock gave way, and there he was - hanging at the end of a 200 foot high cliff! He learned about the importance of being very careful; it's a lesson he has kept in mind ever since.

However, when High Commissioner Devine talked about his most memorable experiences as a child, he didn't focus on the risks and the scares. He told us that he used to go camping with his friends. "We lived very close to the sea so we would go out to islands and go camping and fishing. It was a simple and refreshing experience for me. We learned to be independent and responsible," he remarked.

What High Commissioner Devine likes about the WITNESS Project is "the ability of individuals to be able stand up and to speak aloud. This project

gives the ability to individuals to stand up against the issue of violence and domestic abuse. It is important that we give people the opportunity to stand up for this issue."

Most of us have dreams and aspirations, ambitions and goals. We make a list of our goals and then work towards them knowing that our efforts will bear fruit one day. Like many others who started out in his field, Mr. Devine hoped for the opportunity to become a High Commissioner - "When somebody joins foreign services, it's always a hope" -- but he wasn't so presumptuous as to assume it would definitely

happen. He explained, "You focus throughout your career, do things you enjoy doing, trying to do the best you can in what you do . . . People recognise that sometimes and if you're at the right place at the right time under the right circumstance, the possibilities may be high and as such you can be asked to be High Commissioner." As he reminded us, it is an honor to serve as the Canadian High Commissioner, but you have to focus on the work you are doing, and always do your best!

By WITNESS Youth Staff

1  Is weh you going early morning Henry???	2  You know and you still ah ask, like me can't drink!!!	3  Pass two more beer deh!!!	4  Bus man you ah go down!!
5  Thannx deh	6  Ohh only night time you does know you get house!!!	7  Gal rest me ehhh!! Weh me food deh??	8  Goh and get food right wen you ben went!!!
9  Eyyy, eyy don't argue wid me before me ga bax you, right!!!	10  Mus come, mus come wen you ready!!!	11  You wan me come ehhh, watch!!!!	12  Hospital Treatment Centre After argument That Aint Cool

### WITNESS Project Youth Reporters

- Kwesi Archer
- Haresh Bhagwan
- Judith Cameron
- Mark Davidson
- Reanna Douglas
- Daisha Henry
- Verney Henry
- Shakera Hoosain
- Danita Jaundoo
- Kevon Jones
- Linda-Deyi Lin
- Chantel Lewis
- Fiona Maughn
- Teriq Mohammad
- Krissy Morgan
- Kimberly Morgan
- Kaesia Munroe
- Nakasi Noel
- Marcel Persaud
- Rajendra Ramesh
- Devi Sankar
- Anthony Vishnu

### "What we see changes who we are." – JR

Are you a witness or victim of violence? You are not alone. Make your anonymous call to Help & Shelter today and speak with a live counselor on 227-3454 or 225-4731.