

## **BUXTON REVISITED**

8/16/93 3:15 a.m.

*Ms. Ruth Wills (Babs) must be credited for suggesting this historical and memorable exercise, Cimbux's Buxtonian Reunion declared to be the largest ever in Guyana. The following reference data serves to underline the importance of this reunion. The year 1993 was designated by the United Nations as the year for indigenous peoples. Sunday the first of August 1993 was Jamaica's independence day and Friday 6th of August 1967, Sir Alexander Bustamante, Jamaica's first prime minister died. Saturday August 7, 1932 Abebe Bikile of Ethiopia was born. He won the 1960 Olympic Marathon bare footed.*

*Coconut na know how sun hot til moon pass.*

*Buxton, a village of approximately 50 square miles attracted not only Buxtonians, friends, supporters, and well wishers, but descendants of Buxtonians from Europe, North America and Africa for a week of celebration and meetings. "This is a time for reunion", as Tom Charles would put it. I walked through the village, spoke to the young and elderly including Ms. Jessie Spencer (Aunt Jes) who turned ninety-six in early August. She uses the village vernacular effectively and boasted that she could "thread needle".*

*The village is in a stage of stagnation and the much needed regeneration through the reunion is timely. However, Buxtonians at home and abroad need to first acknowledge decay and not point fingers at a few individuals as responsible for the decay of the village because many have contributed. Those who have been silent should also bear responsibility for the decay.*

*If more individuals become involved in efforts to improve village life, those villagers who have been wrongly accused of not serving the interest of the village will be vindicated.*

*Many people stayed away from the Sixth Annual Reunion Dance, or was it a "Ball", in protest over the price for events, perceived exclusion from planning and objection to some of the organizers. Some were ignorant of the event and others lacked the funds necessary to attend. The idea of a Ball is ironical since in the past this has been ridiculed. In addition, the admission price to the dance was exorbitant. If a dance is given for the benefit of the village, all must be encouraged to participate and it must be affordable. Such lack of foresight has contributed to the village's decay and is responsible for the alienation, disrespect and polarization. "Every cook can govern" (A Study of Democracy in Ancient Greece Correspondence Pamphlet #2); all have the right to participate and share for this enhances the common good irrespective*

*of political affiliation. Even those of opposing views who might be disruptive are important to human development.*

### ***The Struggle***

*My forefathers and mothers understood  
The realm of nature--  
Paying tribute  
And honoring all.  
I live under the light of my forefathers  
And mothers--washing in the springs,  
Trenches, rivers, creeks, streams and seas.  
Drinking from their fountains--  
Their blood was spilled under tears and sweat.  
They tilled the soil, nurtured plants,  
Tended to cattle,  
Suckled children--  
Shared expertise--created a way  
While others  
Harnessed the mind and hand.  
By neglecting truth under the  
Guise of diplomacy and democracy.  
But  
The stars will fall--  
Moons lose their glitter--  
Suns darken  
The planets unite--  
Elements converge--  
Mountains move  
Steps will be retraced  
Tongues unlatch  
Minds de-programmed as my  
Mothers and forefathers  
Return in glory--  
In light brighter than the sun--  
The struggle.*

*Today the village shows signs of some development with some new structures (buildings). Some of the old ones need significant repair. Education, water, drainage, sewage and medical services are in dire need of improvement. Economical problems also beset the village. In my walking I*

*observed that many a home has a cistern--a concrete water storage facility built in the soil. This has become necessary because no adequate pipe borne water system has been provided by the government. In the area of sewage disposal, there is no organized system. Home owners install individual disposal systems. My question to many villagers was, "What about seepage and consequent contamination of water and crops?"*

*Medical services are greatly deficient. Drugs are in short supply, and this makes it difficult for medical personnel to treat patients. I do not think that this should reduce doctor patient relationships. I understand that patients are treated according to the diseases that are prevalent in the village without any screening or examination. I am not a medical doctor, not even a practitioner, but I hope that Buxtonians will seek ways to pressure those who are thus trained to be professional in dispensing treatment.*

*Does the village have a drainage system? I did not see any sluice/koker or any noticeable flow of water going out to sea--maybe it is in the "back dam" or the side lines, but on this trip I did not visit that end!*

*The village economy needs to be addressed, but one could be misguided if the mode of dress (a touch of elegance, North American style) in the village is used as a yard stick to monitor economic growth. Even though some young people are gainfully employed, and some have created their own employment--vending, street shops, poultry and live stock rearing, farming, prospecting, etc., the unemployment rate is very high. How can a village sustain itself with no industries to employ a large sector of its population. What about the garment factory and other cottage industries?*

*Education has to take precedence. All the educators I spoke to are already involved in ensuring that the services are in place. But the big questions are whether the total system is geared for the 21st century, and how can the present system accommodate the youth who are dropping out at an alarming rate. One female educator whom I visited indicated that industrial and vocational education plus reinforcement of a work ethic, aids in youth development. She went on to say that previous generations lived by a work ethic and did not succumb to the idea of getting something without working for it but some youths today seem to support an alien behavior. She indicated that she foresaw this, took advice from interested persons and acquired land to implement the work ethic idea.*

*Social ills such as displaced youths, school dropouts, street gambling, drugs, alcoholism and teenage pregnancy also need to be addressed.*

*In order for development to be enhanced, education, water, drainage, and sewage systems as well as medical services must be given top priority.*

*Cimbux, among other organizations has embarked on "overseeing" the village by assisting in its development. The reunion provided a sense of renewed hope, but unless the villagers take charge and seek innovative ways to solve the problems, the decay will continue.*

*If the people we serve are weary, then the just end will not be accomplished.*

## **THE AFTERMATH**

*Borrowed Phrase -- "DEM LICK IT UP"  
SIXTH ANNUAL BUXTONIAN REUNION--  
DEM LICK IT UP -- LICK IT UP --  
S.D.C. CAN'T FIND BANK BOOK! BANK BOOK!!  
GIVES BIRTH TO IDEA OF DEPOSITING MONIES  
TO INDIVIDUAL BANK ACCOUNT -- ACCOUNT  
EYE OPENER -- OPENER --*

**\*\*VOICE OVER\* 'I' INTERRUPT "THE AFTERMATH" TO PREFACE  
A "RESPONSE TO MEMORANDUM DATED  
JUNE11, 1993**

**THE AFOREMENTIONED ORGANISATION WISHES TO  
BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE FACT THAT ITS  
LEVEL OF EFFICIENCY IS BEING SEVERELY**

**AFFECTED BY:--**

**1) THE LEVEL OF COMMUNICATION  
EXISTING BETWEEN ITSELF AND CIMBUX  
CHAPTERS.**

**2) THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF FUNDING  
EXISTING BETWEEN ITSELF AND CIMBUX CHAPTERS.**

**3) AND SOME ORGANISATIONAL  
DIFFICULTIES IT IS AT PRESENT EXPERIENCING  
LOCALLY.**

**GENERAL: "ATTACHED TO THIS LETTER IS A LETTER  
WHICH WAS 5th JULY 1993. SENT TO ALL CIMBUX  
COMMITTEES ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO I  
WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THE  
FACT THAT SINCE THOSE PROBLEMS WERE NOT**

ADDRESSED THEY COULD NOT GO AWAY  
OVERNIGHT.

THEY ARE SO COMPLEX TODAY THAT LOCAL FUND  
RAISING IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE"

JUXTAPOSE --

ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE --(PROMOTING  
WORLD WIDE CHRISTIAN UNITY)

DEM LICK IT UP --LICK IT UP --

NO PHYSICAL COUNT -NO PHYSICAL COUNT-  
ACCOUNTABILITY! ACCOUNTABILITY!

WHA! WHA! ESTIMATES, ESTIMATES  
HUSTLERS! HUSTLERS! HUSTLERS!

BUXTON SPICE

DEM LICK IT UP

ELDERLY AND CHILDREN PARTY -

DEM LICK IT UP

DAY OF SPORTS

DEM LICK IT UP

CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

DEM LICK IT UP

EXHIBITION AND STREET FAIR

DEM LICK IT UP - LICK IT UP.

6th ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL

DEM LICK IT UP - LICK IT UP--

OVERSEAS VISITORS CHARGED DIFFERENT PRICES  
- FOR EVENTS - EVENTS -

THE SEED - THE SOURCE

DEM AH LICK YOU UP. LICK YOU UP - LICK YOU UP.

LOCALS DIFFERENT PRICE-

HOW CAN YOU GOVERN FROM A THRONE?

---THE DUTCH - THE FRENCH --THE SPANISH, --THE  
BRITISH

DEM LICK DEM UP -- LICK DEM UP --

NO ALLEGIANCE -- MERCENARIES, MERCENARIES --  
INSENSITIVE -- INSENSITIVE -- RUTHLESS --

DEM AH LICK YUH UP. LICK YUH UP!

NO COMMON GOOD -- COMMON GOOD

DEM AH LICK YUH UP.

HOW CAN THE INTEREST OF A PEOPLE BE SERVED -  
WHILE MANY PREY - PREY

POVERTY BREEDS CONTEMPT -- CONTEMPT  
IMPOVERISHED MINDS CAN BE NURTURED!  
NURTURED!  
CONDITIONED!  
BUT  
WHERE ARE THE TEACHERS -- SILENCED --  
SILENCED BECAUSE DEM AH LICK YUH UP -- LICK  
YUH UP -- THE STAGE WAS SET BY CIMBUX'S  
EXECUTIVES -- EXECUTIVES  
HONORABLY SO -- SO  
ONE RESIGNED - RESIGNED -  
HONORABLY SO - SO -  
PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL REPORT - EXERCISE IN  
FUTULITY - FUTULITY --  
NO PHYSICAL COUNT - COUNT  
DECLARED 168,680 G AGGREGATED? -  
SEEDMONEY - IRONICALLY --  
THIS WRITER REITERATES WISDOM OF NECESSITY-  
SHORTSIGHTEDNESS -- AGAINST WHO? WHO!  
YET DEM WANT FUH LICK DEM UP - LICK DEM UP!  
LICK DEM UP!  
CIMBUX EXECUTIVES CRY - PERSECUTE -  
PERSECUTE - LEGAL ACTION - ACTION  
AGAINST WHO? WHO?  
THE INVISIBLE HAND - HANDS - TO RETRIEVE  
\$226,320+  
PLUS FOR THE COMMON GOOD -- COMMON GOOD -  
CIMBUX CHAIRMAN SIGHED -- SIGHED -- GUIDED BY  
WISDOM - WISDOM!  
THE AFTERMATH - AFTERMATH - AFTERMATH -  
AFTERMATH --