

TRIBUTE BY ST JOHN'S SCHOOL CLASSMATES

*I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.
(From the Servant's Song)*

To lose any one in life is painful. The news of Groovy's death was like hearing about the death of a brother, a close friend, and indeed a good human being.

For those of us who happened to have spent our secondary school lives in St. John's with Groovy, we cannot but think of the wonderful years we spent together, especially the jokes that we shared together. And, of course, the countless haircuts that Groovy gave us on Saturdays. Oh yeah, Groovy was our BARBER. And he did all that for free. Not even for a cup of gari for "soakings" or a can of milk. It was done from the bottom of his heart.

Groovy played another interesting role. We would give 5 Cedis to Groovy to buy Dacron materials from Kumasi when he was coming back from holidays for us to sew into trousers for the next dance at St. Louis Secondary School (now Archbishop Porter Girls' Secondary School, Takoradi) or in our dining hall. We remember the Sunday pictures that we used to take by the school chapel in our "coma coma" shirts and Dacron trousers that we were able to get by way of Groovy.

Groovy also participated, as did most of us, in the plucking of Akapo's coconuts without his authorization – which sometimes led to us being chased from the coconut grove to the school compound!

For those of us in St. Edward House (House 2), the memory of Groovy doing the 100 meter race during Inter-House still lingers in our minds. He was a good sprinter and won many races. We remember especially that 4 x 100 relay in 1971 when House 1 beat House 2 largely on account of the strong start-off leg that Groovy ran. He was a member of the school's team.

As a member of Mr. Amoah's Drama Society, we acted plays and always made sure that the plays were enacted at St. Louis, for obvious reasons!

Groovy was a kind and caring individual who always encouraged the younger ones to forge ahead and stay focused on their studies. For new students coming from the "hinterland" and seeing the ocean for the very first time, being at St John's could be a challenge. Groovy was one of the students who continued to be the wind beneath their wings as they ventured into this new "culture". He would often tell them to stop their "nkurasesem" and just do what they came to St. John's to do – get an education and become a better person in life!

Groovy was a very good student, always among the best in his class.

Stephen Nkansah Buabeng competed for Senior Prefect in 1973. He came second so, as was the custom in Johnscot at the time, he became Assistant Senior Prefect for 1973-74.

As the President of the St. John's Old Boys Chapter in Kumasi, Groovy worked diligently to ensure success of the Golden Jubilee Anniversary in 2002.

We followed your achievements in academia with pride, especially when ^{you} he became Director of his institute, the Bureau of Integrated Rural Development (BIRD), and a member of the Council of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). Well done!

Groovy,

We, your mates at St. John's School salute you for the decent human being that you were.

We salute you for the good company we shared.

Adieu Groovy, until we meet again!