

Year 10 high on the Pine



KATHY-ANN BECKLES (centre) restraining bailiffs in the drama **High Rise** which was staged at Parkinson Memorial School last year February.

Successful decade

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IT'S happy tenth birthday to the Pinelands Creative Workshop.

This landmark represents a series of achievements and goodwill to the community by a group of youth who had enough time to share one vision: a better life for all.

From the beginning they were resolved it would be through the performing arts that they could mobilise the untapped creative abilities which were always there, but idle; and that residents in the area would respond in time to programmes which they would develop. Time has proved them right.

The group had its genesis in a workshop sponsored by the Community Development Division in 1978, under the direction of Ralph Walker, a community development officer. So inspiring were the sessions in dance, drama and art that the participants decided to institutionalise the workshop.

Over 70 persons responded, and the next year the group successfully staged the Anthony Hinkson drama **Nigger Yard** at Parkinson Memorial Secondary School. That production was directed by Dorsie Boyce and Hinkson, resident director and playwright respectively.

Most prolific

It has become the most prolific community-based drama group in Barbados, producing competent actors who have subsequently been drafted into the national production, **In The Castle Of My Skin**, an adaptation of Barbadian author George Lamming's novel which was presented at **CARIFESTA** in Barbados in 1981.

The year 1980 saw the players performing two other dramas — **God's Daughter** and **Children In The Moonlight**. The former was awarded a distinction in the **National Independence Festival of Creative Arts (NIFCA)** and the latter, an honour — the highest recognition at that time.

With Barbados hosting **CARIFESTA** the next year, Pinelands Creative Workshop decided to stage another Anthony Hinkson's play called **City Man** as a showpiece to the visiting Caribbean artistes. Not only was it highly praised, but it also formed part of the programme for **Community Contact Day** which was organised by the festival committee. Such was the quality of their programme that they earned the best **Community Contact Day** distinction for hosting the Grenadian contingent.

Dance group

During 1981 also, the dance group sprang into action with presentation at the Parkinson School of **Dance Spring** which was choreographed by Jeffrey



Something to think about for these actors in the play **Interview**.

"Ife" Wilkinson, resident choreographer. That show also featured Heather Forde, one of Barbados' most accomplished dancers, **Tyrona Dance Group** and **Weesah Singers**.

In 1982 the workshop produced **Busman** for the Barbados Transport Board outreach concert held at Weymouth, Roebuck Street. The following year it staged **Jackpot**, which was also

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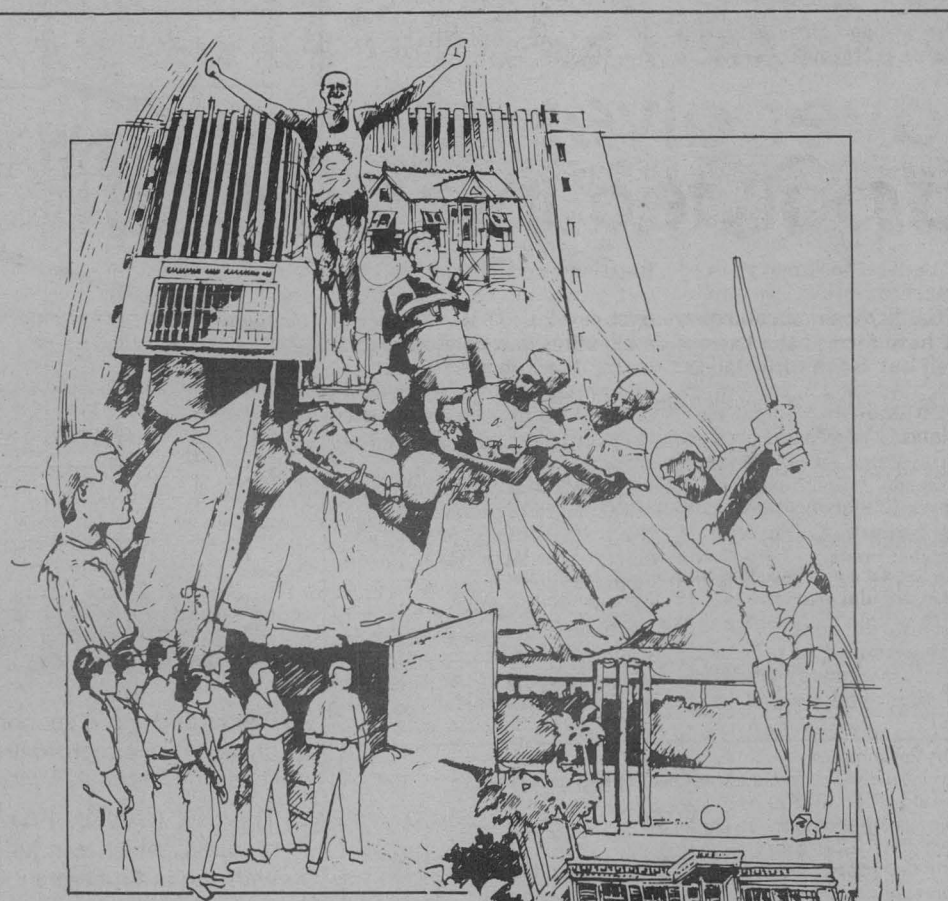
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and hope that this decade would be the beginning of many.

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Communication is essential to the development and expression of our culture; a culture that is growing in significance in both the performing and visual Arts.

In **BET**, we help people to communicate. We encourage creative effort while helping ourselves and others in the community to achieve a level of excellence that will be a credit to the individual and to Barbados.

The **BET** family is committed to supporting community initiatives which enable young people to develop their skills and build character through healthy competition and local cultural expression.

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