

# Helping students find a way

BY MARIE GREGORY

THE Jamaica National Building Society recently awarded fourteen scholarships to high achievers in the Common Entrance Examination on the basis of one student per parish. The Society also gave six tertiary level scholarships, three to the University of the West Indies, three to C.A.S.T.

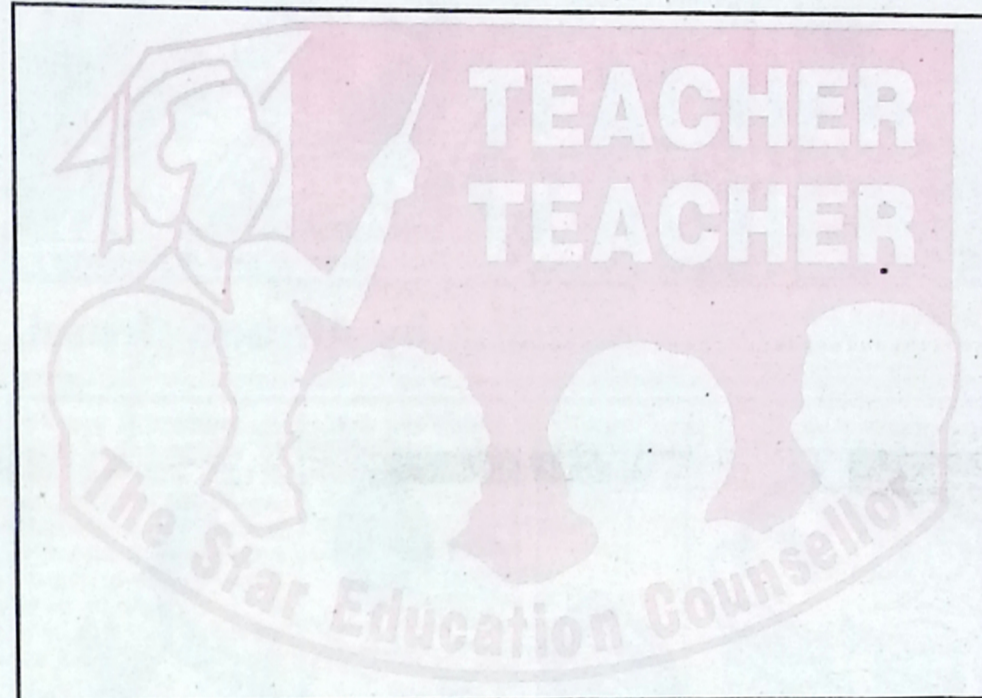
This is not the first time such donations have been made by the Building Society. In 1983, in commemoration of Jamaica's twenty first anniversary of Independence, the

Jamaica National Building Society donated fourteen scholarships tenable for five years. When those expired in 1988, the Society offered a further fourteen increasing the value to \$3,000 per child, per year.

## Increasing cost

Aware of the ever increasing cost of tertiary level education, the Society significantly upgraded its awards programmes at U.W.I. and at C.A.S.T.

Scholarships at the U.W.I. are valued at \$30,000 each, those at C.A.S.T. at \$10,000.



The recipients of the U.W.I. awards will study in the Faculties of Arts and General Studies, Education and Social Science (Management Studies).

In his remarks at the presentation ceremony in Mandeville recently, Mr. Lanny Reynolds, General Manager of J.N.B.S. told recipients, parents, guardians and Jamaica National managers that his Society's involvement in the education of youth is to help positively mould young minds and reinforce high morals as it attempts to strengthen the nation.

Mr. Reynolds mentioned other ways in which his com-

pany supports educational projects noting their involvement in the National Reading Competition, The Junior Achievement, The Adopt-a-School Programme all of which enjoy the benefits of the link with J.N.B.S. According to Mr. Reynolds, education has become an expensive commodity out of the reach of many people. Soaring text book prices add a burden to parents struggling to meet increased school fees. It was the recognition of these difficulties which prompted the Society to continue the awards.

Guest speaker at the awards ceremony was Dr. Alma

Folkes, Principal of Belle Comprehensive High School. Addressing the winners, Folkes reminded them without education, adequate progress is impossible. She expressed the view that the public purse should fund basic education, people should be willing to pay for school education and that students should earn the right tertiary level education through scholarships or grants. She also felt that teachers should be respected and paid proper salaries.

Dr. Folkes told the students of the need for balancing their activities even as they prepared for examinations. Her recipe was: work systematically, rest adequately, properly, take a day of worship and exercise physically. This system will allow the body to function at maximum capacity.

Dr. Folkes congratulated the winners and commended the Jamaica National Building Society.

Chairman of the lunch function was Mr. A.G. Smith, General Manager of Jamaica National Building Society Marketing and Public Relations Controller. Guest speaker was Rev. Basil McLean and the welcome delivered by Mrs. Greta Forrest, Branch Manager J.N.B.S., Mandeville.

## Girls

Of interest is the fact that three winners of scholarships to the University of the West Indies were girls in keeping with the make-up of the student body at this time. Recent graduation ceremonies at U.W.I. have shown a majority of girls graduating. C.A.S.T. winners were all girls. In the high school category honours are about equal on a gender basis.

We congratulate the winners and commend Jamaica National for having faith in the young people. Let us hope other companies will follow the example set!