

## RIPPLES VISIT TO RADIO GARIFUNA

On August 23, 2006 twelve youth and two coordinators from the R.I.P.P.L.E.S. project crossed the rough waters of the Bequia channel to journey to Sandy Bay for an unforgettable visit to Radio Garifuna 89.1 FM.

Through the kind assistance of the UNESCO National Commission in Kingstown and the Ministry of Communication, the group left the city on a long "are we almost there yet" drive on the eastern side of St. Vincent through what was unfamiliar territory to some, and an opportunity to do some tour guiding for others.

Broadcasting to the indigenous Garifuna community, Radio Garifuna sounded, to the group, like any other local FM station. On the way to the station the party was able to pick up the broadcast in Georgetown where they heard a live call-in program dealing with one of the hottest topics of the morning, which was a dispute between the omnibus association and Government over increased bus fares and proposed monthly subsidies.

Arriving at the studio at approximately 11:00 a.m. the party was welcomed by Rasheeda and her coworker--two participants from the recently concluded Script Writing Workshop held at the Rotary Club of Bequia. Out of that workshop, which was also attended by Yonnette and Leah Belmar on behalf of the R.I.P.P.L.E.S, came the linking of two UNESCO sponsored projects.

The announcer for that morning's programme, Winston Lavia, put the young people from Bequia at ease, giving them the opportunity to do a short rehearsal before actually going on-air with their renditions of songs like "Lean on Me", "Try a Little Kindness" and "I Like to Live on Bequia". It was their first opportunity to visit a radio station and it was certainly an unforgettable childhood experience.

After their presentation they were taken on a drive to visit the Owia Salt Pond where they were afforded the opportunity to stretch their legs down the many steps leading down to the Pond.

In a wonderful show of Sandy Bay hospitality, the staff of Radio *Garifuna* provided a Pelau (rice cooked in stewed chicken) lunch to a hungry bunch upon their return from the Pond.



Preparing for live session



Live!





Spot the difference



At the Owia Salt Pond





