



THE TERNION

Volume 6 Issue 2. February, 2006

EDITORIAL

Time truly flies, indeed! After the low key affair of the yesteryear, the usual Big Match fever has come back to infect us in Blue and Black.

This is the time when hundreds of Thomians young and old, flock into a few acres of land from all around the world for the simple reason to enjoy a cricket match!

What is so amusing about a leather ball being smashed on to the corners of a stadium by 22 young cricketers? The reason should be the fact that every time they hear the *papare* it reminds them of the good old days. The days of the 'THORA' screams, the days of trucking and the days of the Cycle Parade. The days, which the young Thomians are presently enjoying to the fullest extent.

Of trucking, there is much of a debate on whether it should be allowed. There was a time when trucking was a must in a Thomian career. Yet today, we see that it had become a capital crime to go trucking. Why?

Is it the excessively concerned parents of the lovely dames of Colombo, or is it the fact that the Police have been stricter these days. Or is it the perpetration of the long lasted tradition by the other schoolboys that led the society to condemn trucking? Whatever the reason, rules are being set to severely punish the culprits.

Leaving the law to the authorities, the Ternion wishes good luck to our cricketers for another THORA VICTORY!

ESTO PERPETUA

Interview with Mr. A. E. N. Fernando

For this issue of the Ternion we decided to interview the new headmaster of the lower school, Mr. A. E. N. Fernando. Commenting on Mr. Fernando, a past pupil admitted that he was the teacher he most feared initially. Yet as all his students discover he is one of those teachers with an unstinting love for his students, so it was with great pleasure that I sat down to interview Mr. Fernando.

Q: Sir, would you please tell us when you joined College?

I remember that day well. It was the 15th of November 1978, when I was employed by Warden Illangakoon. I was taken in as a temporary teacher for the subject of metal work in the middle and upper school.

Q: Where did you have your primary education?

I had my primary education at Methodist High School, Katunayake. After my O/L's I went to Harischandra Maha Vidyalya which is situated in Negombo.

Q: Where were you teaching before you joined S. Thomas' College?

To tell you the truth, College is the first school and since I am still here, has been the only school that I have taught in.

Q: Do you see any difference between College then and College now?

Yes I do see a difference but sadly it's a difference for the worse. When comparing the old boys and the present boys I would say that the old boys did whatever they were involved in for the love of College. This love the old boys had towards the school is inexpressible. Sadly this love is not to be seen in the hearts of the present students. I'm not saying that all the students do not have this love but that the majority of the students lack this love.

Q: What would you say about the current standard of discipline?

Well, when comparing the old days to the present days I would say that the standard of discipline has taken a fall. The respect shown to the teachers then was at a very high level but today sadly that high standard which stood for a long time is beginning to crumble. The respect shown to the teachers has dropped to the misfortune of the school.

Q: Ok moving on!! What are the subjects you teach here in college?

When I joined College as I told you before I was taken in as a temporary teacher for metal work and throughout the years I have taught many subjects but for the past few years I have been teaching the middle school mathematics.

Q: How has your professional life in College been?

In the year 1993 I was appointed as a sectional head in the Middle School. In 1995 on the 1st of January I was appointed as the deputy Headmaster of the Middle School. Finally on the 10th of October 2005 I was appointed the headmaster of the Lower School. So I would say that though it has taken me a long time I think that it has been a good professional life.

Q: What are the extra curricular activities you are involved in?

I am the assistant house master of Stone House. I was the master-in-charge of boxing from 1985 to 1988. At that time boxing was a very popular sport amongst the boys and since I did boxing while I was schooling, it made me happy to become the master-in-charge of boxing. There were even a few colours men for boxing at that time. Those days S. Thomas' College was fairly good in boxing.

Q: Sir you are involved with the Wildlife Society, is there a special reason?

I have been the master-in-charge of the Wild Life Society from its inauguration. I like the Wild Life Society because I love the environment and I also love life. I have a great love toward animals so I'm very happy to be the master-in-charge of the Wild Life Society.

Q: What is your view on the step taken on the banning of corporal punishment by the government?

Well I think that there should be corporal punishment because boys will be boys. I also say that if corporal punishment were to be there that it should not be taken to an extreme extent.

"Non-violence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart and it must be an inseparable part of our very being."

-Mahatma Gandhi-

A call to all writers

From this issue onwards The Ternion will accept literary contributions pertaining to school matters from Thomians, to be published in the coming issues.

Please hand in your contributions (Less than 500 words) to any editor or simply email it to 'theeditor_ternion@yahoo.com.'

Q: What is the most unforgettable moment in life you have experienced?

On the 7th of October 2005 I was called to the warden's office and I was informed that I had been appointed as the Headmaster of the Lower School. When I got back to my class and told them about this, they were so upset that they cried. When I saw how upset they were it touched my heart to know that these students really loved me. That is the most unforgettable moment I have experienced.

Q: Whom would you like to thank for your current position?

I would especially like to thank Warden Illangakoon for taking me in to College to teach. I would also like to thank

Warden de Alwis, Warden Ponniah, Sub Warden- Mr. H.D. Perera, Mr. L. de Silva, Mr. D. Edirisinghe, Mr. S. Wickramaratne, The Lord Bishop-Rev. de Chikera and all the other headmasters and teachers who have helped me throughout the years.

Q: One Final question, sir, what is the advice you can give us students?

Well I would say that today the two most important things are your studies and your discipline. So I would say to study hard and to maintain a high standard of discipline. Most of all remember who you are. You are a Thomian so be proud of it.

Oh not forgetting sports. Take part in sports too. I hope that you will all succeed in life. Thank You

NEWS

- **The much anticipated Big Match will be played on the 9th, 10th, 11th of March at the Sinhalese Sports Club. The tickets are available at the Old Boys' Office and with the Headmasters.**
- **The Annual Athletics meet will be held on the 17th of March. This year both the Lower School and the Upper School students will participate in a single meet.**
- **The annual friendly debate between the Ladies College and S. Thomas' College was held on the 3rd of March at the College hall. The Royal-Thomian debate was also held on the 7th March.**
- **S. M. Vidanapathirana has been appointed Chief Editor of The Ternion.**

"Complete independence through truth and non-violence means the independence of every unit, be it the humblest of the nation, without distinction of race, colour or creed."

-Mahatma Gandhi-

Mini battle concluded

The end of the mini battle was seen on the Wednesday the 22nd of February. Although it was a closely contested event, the Thomians undoubtedly came out as the stronger side. The match results were as follows,

Royalists go into bat first and declare with a score of 275 for the loss of eight wickets (Nandamulla 81)

Thomians in reply amass 277 for eight before declaring-skipper Wishanth Wijesinghe plays a captains knock of 108 followed by, D.R. de Silva -57, Vishva Weerawardana -32

The Royal 2nd innings comes to an end with a most 'unroyal' score of 217, with Nilshan Fernando and Kasun Higuwakgoda picking up four wickets each.

The Mini battle serves as a prelude to the big match and it can well be predicted that the Thomians will again be the dominant team.

Oarsmen do what they know best: row (and quite splendidly at that)

On the 25th of February the Thomian oarsmen participated in the Gorden Armstrong sculls and the Van Langenberg pairs rowing events. The oarsmen were unfortunate to lose the skulls event, but came out strongly to emerge victors in the pairs event, The winning team comprised of: Sajiv de Silva-bow, Gayan Pieris-stroke, Akshath Wikramanayake- Cox

Soccerites prove their mettle

The Under 19 soccer team participated in the Dehiwela, Mount Lavinia soccer circuit meet which was organised by the football federation of Sri Lanka on Wednesday the 22nd of February. The college team did well to win the finals and advance to the next phase of the tournament.

The Thomian team beat Lalith Athulathmudali College 3-0 to advance to the finals and in the finals they beat Science College Mount Lavinia 1-0. The team was captained by K.M.P de Silva and coached by Mr. Sumith Perera.

Badminton

The shuttlers participated in the all island under 19 badminton tournament held on the 24th and 25th of February. The team fared well to beat Sri Sumangala Vidyalaya in the preliminaries but were unfortunate to be beaten by the Royalists in the quarter finals, from whence they were knocked out of the tournament.

Bookworms Selected

On the 23rd of January the library club held its annual general meeting at 1.30 in the library. The following were appointed as office bearers for the year 2006:

President : A.M.N. Fernando
Secretary : S.D. Amarasekara
Treasurer : D. Jayanetti

Mobile AGM

The annual general meeting of the automobile club was carried out on the

“Willing submission to social restraint for the sake of the well-being of the whole of society, enriches both the individual and the society of which he is a member.”

-Mahatma Gandhi-

24th of January and the following were elected as office bearers for this year

President : C. Gunawardene
Secretary : M. Wijewardene
Treasurer : A. Kiridena

The Numismatic AGM

The annual general meeting of the Numismatic Club was held during the course of this month and the following were appointed as office bearers for the year 2006:

President : K.G.W. Ratnayake
Secretary : C.S. Ajitkumar
Treasurer : C. Kapilan

Lower School Training Seminar

A seminar was held by the Thomian Chamber Orchestra on the 25th of February at the College hall for the lower school (grades 4&5).

The main idea behind this project was to introduce Orchestral Instruments to the students and to prepare them to join the Orchestra upon reaching the Middle School. Overall this project was an immense success.

Postmen Appointed

President : A.T. Wasalatantri
Secretary : M.I. Zaveer
Treasurer : K.T. Amarasuriya

The above students were appointed as office bearers of the Philatelic Club for the year 2006.

The annual Blue Black Philatelic Competition will be held during the

month of July. So stamp collectors get ready!

Environmental Conservation Society

The AGM of the Environmental Conservation Society was held during the month and the following were appointed as office bearers

President : K.G.W. Ratnayake
Secretary : M.M.B. Marambe
Treasurer : K.B. Jeger

Music to your Ears

The following were appointed as office bearers of the Modern Music Club for the year 2006.

President : A.S. Rizvi
Secretary : K.G.W. Ratnayake
Treasurer : N. De Siva

United for the year

The United Nations Club had its Annual General Meeting lately. The following were appointed as office bearers.

President : Y.A. Yatawara
Secretary : S.M. Vidanapathirana
Treasurer : J.N. Gooneratne

The MUNers

Six Thomians participated at the recently concluded Colombo Model United Nations Conference. It was organized by the Overseas School of Colombo on the 3rd, 4th and the 5th of March.

The Thomian delegates were, A.I. Issadeen, S. Uvais, S.D. Schubert, M.M.B. Marambe, J.N. Gooneratne and S.M. Vidanapathirana.

“To a people famishing and idle, the only acceptable form in which God can dare to appear is work and promise of food and wages.”

-Mahatma Gandhi-

Royal-Thomian Festivities: are we taking it a little too far?

The Royal-Thomian cricket encounter has been the pinnacle of the schools' sporting calendar for over 125 years now. Every boy from the two schools (well, almost every boy) who is interested in cricket, socializing, or both, waits in eager anticipation of this annual clash of titans.

The annual Royal-Thomian cricket encounter, as much as being a very looked forward to event, is also steeped in tradition. Some of these traditions are constructive-some not quite so.

The two pre Royal –Thomian events any student from either Royal or S. Thomas' looks forward to the most are the Cycle Parade and, of course, Trucking (which is not an officially recognized tradition, and constitutes breaking the law, mind you).

Moving on, the cycle parade is an extremely important part of Big Match preparations. As most of you know (and if you don't, shame on you), the Cycle Parade is a gathering, and parading of all the students who wish to support their cricket team. When inquired as to what they thought of the Parade, the Prefects' spokesman, Isaac, told the Ternion that he thought that the Cycle Parade has been carried out in a very decent manner in the past years, and the only thing he had to say was he thought that the cricketers should maybe accompany the boys, following the Parade in a truck, in order to motivate them to come for the Match (as if our chaps need any more motivation).

The College chaplain, when asked, stated that the Cycle Parade should be conducted in a manner that does not disturb other people on the public roads. That perhaps we should move in organized patches instead of as a whole group, as this would prevent hindering the blocking of the highways. He stated that one should always conduct oneself in a manner that is not selfish, so as not to be a hindrance to the community.

Mr. Maurice, the Headmaster of the Upper School, when asked what he thought of the cycle parade, stated that he thought that it is a very good tradition, as it inculcates in the children a sense of being Thomians, and rallying under the College banner as a collective institution. He added, though, that this should not be marred by indiscipline, bad behaviour, or, for that matter, obscene use of language and song.

The Sub Warden, when presented with this same question replied, (rather bluntly) that he felt there should be more cycles, and less trucks. He felt that the boys should use their imagination more, in order to liven up the event, so that it would be more than just a sponsored ride. Face paint, school colours, decorated hats, perhaps, were his suggestions as to how to brighten the parade up. Furthermore, he stated that he would prefer it if more boys from the higher forms would attend the event, as there are many of the older students who prefer not to attend this event that constitutes clean fun.

Now, for the main issue-trucking. An honoured Big Match tradition, or is that title just a flowery veil to hide the fact that trucking is merely a bunch of

"It is a mark of wisdom not to kick away the very step from which we have risen higher.
The removal of one step from a staircase brings down the whole of it."

-Mahatma Gandhi-

immature students in a hormone induced frenzy, just waiting for a scapegoat in order for them to have the opportunity to jump into girls schools and have a little 'fun'? The answer to that question is very opinionated. The Prefect body stated that trucking was all right, as long as it's done properly. That it is all done in the Big Match Spirit. When asked how jumping into girls schools embodied the Spirit of the Match, the Prefects refrained from commenting.

However, the Chaplain had exactly the same thing to say that he had to say about the Cycle Parade. He said, and I quote, "As much as it gives joy and pleasure to some, it also is a nuisance to other people. Thomians must remember, in whatever they do, that they must be concerned about everyone else who's involved."

Mr. Maurice, when inquired as to his outlook on trucking initially stated that he thought it was a wonderful thing, and, like the Cycle parade, inculcated in the boys a sense of unison under one banner. This reporter asks the general public in favour of trucking to forgive him, but there was some confusion in my mind when I heard one of our reputed headmasters speaks in such strong favour of this. Therefore, I asked him if he was aware of what trucking was, and explained to him the activities that take place during this. He was appalled. "In my time, trucking meant a bunch of boys getting into a truck with a brass band, and driving around Colombo, waving the school flag. And a hat collection was where one stopped the truck on the side of the road and put ones hat down, so that people could put money into it, in support of the Big Match Spirit, and the boys." Mr. Maurice stated that he was

appalled to learn that modern day trucking included jumping into girls schools, and taking 'hat collections' from classes. He stated that it was a vulgarization of a very clean tradition. In his day, he added, a group of boys were even suspended from school for disrupting the daily activity of a *shop*. Heaven forbid they disrupt the daily activity of a ladies school.

The Sub Warden stated that trucking was indeed a very dangerous event, and that boys have died while trucking in the past. He asked all 'truckers' to remember that safety comes first, and that as long as the boys didn't hurt themselves, or get 'copped', he was fine with it. He further stated that, boys being boys, they needed to engage in something that gave them a kick, however, that whoever does go trucking, should do it in a sense of clean fun, and that the idea is to make ones presence felt. He also said, and I quote, "The ladies schools should understand that this is not something that happens every day. They should, in my opinion, tolerate the boys. However, this hat collection is a very low thing. It is inappropriate. It should be confined to places where there are old boys. I do not condone going to girls schools and asking for money. No Thomian should stoop to that."

Well, there you have it, gentlemen. I have merely brought forward the facts. It is up to you to decide how you will conduct yourselves. After all, it is evident that there are varying opinions pertaining to these two addressed issues.

"Quis Custodiet Ipsos Custodes?"

Esto Perpetua.

"Violence is the law of our species as violence is the law of the brute. The spirit lies dormant in the brute and he knows no law but that of physical might."

-Mahatma Gandhi-



You've got mail

Bush (senior) was in his front yard mowing his grass when little W. came out of the house and rushed straight to the mailbox. Little W opened it, looked in, then slammed it shut and stormed back into the house.

As Bush (senior) was getting ready to edge the lawn, he looked for his son. Little W. came back out to the mailbox, opened it, felt all the way to the back, and then slammed it closed harder than ever.

Puzzled by his son actions George (senior) asked him, "Is something wrong son?"

To which he replied, "There certainly is! My stupid computer keeps saying, "YOU'VE GOT MAIL."

The Wishing Well

A couple came upon a wishing well. The husband leaned over, made a wish and threw in a penny.

The wife decided to make a wish too. But she leaned over too much, fell into the well, and drowned.

The husband was stunned for a little while but then smiled.

"It really works"

Editors

S. M Vidanapathirana, Y. A Yatawara, S. D Schubert, Mrs. T. Bartlett

