



THE TERNION

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EDITORIAL

The first big event of the year is gone with the first term: The Big Match. It was, as ever, three days of pure enjoyment, whether you played the part of a wildly-cheering member of the Boys' Tent, a serious spectator, closely observing each ball (there weren't many of those), or moved from tent to tent making the most of your time at the Big Match, the event was one that will be looked back at fondly until it comes around once again, next year.

Of course it is easy for us as young students busy enjoying ourselves to forget the war and all the turmoil and chaos that it comes with. The last term was one in which Sri Lanka's conflict took yet another turn, with the ending of the Ceasefire Agreement and the resumption of all-out war. Several incidents served to remind us of not only the fragility of life but also of the increasing division between those on both sides of the spectrum- something unavoidable in a situation such as ours. In this issue we look at how the war has affected us as students and what our response to it should be, as Thomians.

This is also the first issue of a new editorial board- we will continue to bring you the news concerning every facet of S. Thomas' College, while retaining that tradition of fierce self-examination many Thomians are famous for. Either way, this year promises to be an interesting one to cover, with several events coming up.

For now we wish you enjoyable holidays and a happy Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

Esto Perpetua!

The Big Match

If there's one thing we all learn fairly early into the Big Match, it's that it's not all about cricket. Of course the match is important (and its importance rises as the chance of a holiday on Monday increases), but you will be hard-pressed to find people who made their way over to the SSC on the 13th, 14th and 15th of March to simply watch a game of cricket.

The run-up to the Big Match is an experience in itself: there are the various "traditions" which are staunchly upheld- indeed there are many who, though not particularly concerned about Thomian traditions in general, are experts on those of the Big Match variety.

We are talking, of course, of trucking, an exercise which was -to the severe disappointment of many- made almost impossible to engage in because of security concerns. However there were a few determinedly fool-hardy chaps who -feeling that bodily harm was worth risking for a chance to enter various girls' schools- jumped in regardless. Some of them, we hear, were rather worse for the experience.

Another event that usually takes place in the run up to the match -the Cycle Parade- was also put off because of security fears; however this could not

dampen the pre-match hype and excitement. By Wednesday the excitement was almost tangible- the Big Match was about to begin!

On Thursday as the more keen spectators made their way to the grounds at 9.30 in the morning, they were attacked, as usual, by hoards of eager stewards. In turn threatening and pleading with bemused fans, many Thomians undoubtedly discovered their marketing skills as heavily-laden stewards; indeed, so effective were some that many spectators found themselves buying two or even three souvenirs just to pacify those insistent boys.

Of course once inside the grounds there are various things to keep you occupied: food stalls that happily point you towards obesity, beverage stalls (dealing in various drinks, some of which are more in demand than others), the papare band which fuels the Boys' Tents, the ladies who make their way to the grounds (supposedly) to watch the match ... and of course the match itself.

The Boys' Tents, fuelled by untiring papare bands, are where most students assemble -whether it is to cheer, jeer or just have a good time. The tents' collective voice advises (to put it politely) the "other" school on various matters, lets an umpire know when he has (in the view of the boys), made a severe error in judgment and celebrates (increasingly hoarsely) every Royal wicket that falls and every Thomian boundary that is hit.

The Big Match may not be all about the match, but it is the match on which it stands and around which much of the festivity revolves- the twenty-two

young men battling it out on the field can either win immortality or eternal infamy by their actions. The carnival that the Big Match is would not exist if not for the cricket, and there was quite a lot of it during those three days at the SSC:

The morning of the first day of the Big Match is generally not an exciting affair, but the Thomian Boys' Tent came alive as the Royalists slumped to 67-5, having been put into bat by the Thomians. By the end of the first day, however, the initial euphoria had given way as the Royalists clawed back into the game, ending the day on 297 for 9 wickets, after what was admittedly an excellent innings by C. Fernando.

The second day saw the Royalists continuing their strong performance, and all seemed lost until two bowlers, Dinesh Walpita and Nilshan Fernando put on one of the grittiest batting displays for the last wicket, helping the Thomians reach 198 all out. The next day the Royalists, perhaps sensing an inevitable draw, declared at 141 for 6, hoping to clinch victory. However they were unable to eat into the Thomian batting order, which held firm- ending the day on 59 for no loss as rain ended the match.

Though a win would have been preferable, a draw is certainly the next best alternative- well done to the cricket team and may S. Thomas' retain the shield for many years to come!

"Sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence."

Photographic Club holds AGM

The Photographic Club held its annual general meeting on the 18th of February and the following were appointed office bearers for the year 2008.

President- Y. Ramesh Kanna
 Vice president- T.R.B. Dissanayake
 Secretary- T.R. Wilson
 Treasurers- V.S.M. Pathirana
 L.R. Jahan

Junior Mathematicians appointed

The Junior Maths Society held its annual general meeting on the 14th of February and the following were appointed office bearers:

President- S.R. Dantanarayana
 Vice President- S.C. Gajanayake
 Secretary- G.V.S. De Silva
 Treasurer- U.G. Fernando

Annual singing competition concluded

The Classical Music Association completed its annual singing competition on the 21st of February at the College Hall. The winners of the organised categories are as follows

Soprano voice: 1st place- W.N.S. De Mel
 2nd place- D.Y.D. Dias
 3rd place- A.J. Schaffter

Alto voice: 1st place- A.S. Ranasinghe
 2nd place- V.C.L. Arendtz
 3rd place- S.A.N. Samaratinga

Tenor Voice: 1st place- K.S. Chang
 2nd place- W.E.N. De Mel
 3rd place- J.C. Thambirajah

Bass Voice: 1st place- S.L.J. Mendis

Duet section:

1st place- W.N.S. De Mel &
 D.Y.D. Dias
 2nd place- S.R. Faber &
 A.R. Samarasinghe
 3rd place- A.J. Schaffter
 A.S. Ranasinghe

Best Performance Award-
 W.N.S. De Mel

Inter-house Scrabble tournament held

The Scrabble Club held its AGM recently and the following were appointed office bearers:

President- D.S. Casie Chetty
 Vice President- S.R. Dantanarayana
 Secretary- D.N. De Silva

The annual inter-house Scrabble tournament was held on the 28th of February. Buck House emerged champions and Stone House runners-up of the tournament after several keenly contested rounds.

The winning Buck house team:

D.N. De Silva
 R. Rodrigo
 M.S. Abdul Cader
 A.P.S. Dias

Debaters win Law Fac tournament

The College English Debating Society entered two teams for the 3rd annual debating tournament organised by the Law Faculty of the University of Colombo held on the 22nd and 23rd of February. Both teams fared very well in the tournament. In the semi finals both

“You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club.”

Jack Londo

'A' and 'B' teams squared off against each other and the 'A' team emerged victorious.

In the finals S. Thomas' College met Royal College and proposed the topic "*This house would use torture as a method of combating terrorism*". In what proved to be a close debate the College team just managed to beat Royal by a 5-2 split decision to win the tournament.

The winning team consisted of:

P.R. Saldin

D.S. Rajasingham

V.R. Laduwahetty

The team remained undefeated throughout the tournament, winning eight debates consecutively.

Miniature Aircraft and Model Railroad Club organizes exhibition

The miniature aircraft and model railroad club held an exhibition of model railroads, trains, cars and planes on the 29th of February and the 1st of March in the College Hall.

There were colourful exhibits of miniature train sets and many more exhibits of model cars and planes and the hall was full throughout the exhibition with awe-filled visitors. Congratulations to the club on an excellent event!

Sports

Cricket news

S.Thomas' College vs. Trinity College

The Trinity- Thomian cricket match was held on the 15th and 16th of February at the Asgiriya Stadium. Batting first, Trinity College was dismissed for 108 runs with R. De Silva taking 5 wickets.

The Thomians in reply made 190/8 with T. Nugawela making 50 runs.

In their second innings Trinity fared little better, being bowled out for 140 runs as N. Fernando and M. Fernando took 3 wickets each. The Thomians reached their target of 40 runs with ease, losing just two wickets in the process, and thereby winning the match by 8 wickets.

Milan Fernando breaks Thomian bowling record

Left arm spinner Milan Fernando captured 6 for 42 in the 1st XI's match against De Mazenod College, Kandana, to take his tally of wickets in the season to 103 in 21 matches the highest by a Thomian in a cricket season. With his latest haul he overtakes Mr. Ranil Abeynaike, the present Thomian coach, who held the record by capturing 91 wickets in season.

The match itself resulted in a 1st innings victory for S. Thomas', with the other noteworthy performance being J. Tahir's 90 in the Thomian 1st innings.

Inter House Athletics Meet

The Annual Inter House Athletics meet, Organized by the athletics department of S.Thomas College, was held on Friday the 15th of February 2008, at the College Big club grounds. The Chief Guest for the event was Mr.Herbie Wanigathunga an old boy and an outstanding athlete of his era.

Buck House dominated the meet by winning the best overall house championship shield, winning both the track and field events, while De Saram house was placed second. The award for the best decorated house was won by

“An honor is not diminished for being shared.”

Stone house which was placed third overall.

All in all the Inter house athletics meet saw stiff competition and rivalry, all in the brotherly fashion which make us uniquely Thomian.

Chess

The prestigious tournament for the S.E.Satharasinghe Memorial Challenge Trophy was held this year from the 18th to the 23rd of February. Twenty participants took part in the tournament which saw some of the best talent in College chess emerge.

After many matches, M.D.S. Jayasekara was adjudicated the winner of the S.E.Satharasinghe memorial shield for the year 2008.

The S.E. Satharasinghe continues to be an integral part of College chess and we hope to see even more talent next year.

Athletes slam divisions

The Athletics season commenced with the beginning of the divisional athletics meet for the year 2008. While the track events for the meet are scheduled to be held in March, the Thomian athletes dominated the field events of the meet, which was held on the 28th of February at Kandawala M.V. and on the 29th of February at the deaf and blind school in Ratmalana.

The Thomian athletes showed their true colors as they effortlessly secured first, second and third places in almost every event at the meet, which saw strong

competition from many schools and many other talented athletes.

The placements were as follows,
Under 11 – D.L. Welgama (placed 1st in Long Jump)

Under 13 – D.V.Weeraratne (placed 1st in Long Jump)
M.K. Devasudan (placed 1st in High Jump)

Under 15 – N.C.Yatigala (placed 1st in Long Jump)

D.N. Demel (placed 2nd in Long Jump)

R. M. Paranagama (placed 1st in Putt Shot)

S.S.Rosa (placed 3rd in Putt Shot, Javelin and placed 1st in High Jump)

D.D.C.Ferdinando (placed 1st in discuss)

Under 17 – S.K. Wickramarathne (placed 2nd in Putt Shot)

S.C.Makalanda (placed 1st in Long Jump and Triple Jump)

G.J. Arumugam (placed 2nd in Long Jump)

D.N. Demel (placed 1st in High Jump)

Under 19 – L.R.F. Beruwalage (placed 2nd in Long Jump)

R.M.Mathugama (placed 2nd in Triple Jump)

U. Rajasekera (placed 1st in High Jump)

While we would like to congratulate the athletes on a job well done, we would also like to wish them all the best for the rest of the meet as well as for all their future endeavors, which we hope would bring more pride and glory to Thomian athletics.

“Faith in the ability of a leader is of slight service unless it be united with faith in his justice.”

Swimmers emerge runners-up!

The College Swimming team participated in the National Age Group Relay Championships held on the 2nd of February at the Sugathadasa Pool. The College team emerged a close second to St. Joseph's College, which secured a mere 6 more points.

The College team was able to achieve this thanks to some brilliant performances by the juniors.

Under 9- runners up in both medley and freestyle relay

Under 11- champions in both relay categories

Under 14- 4th place in both relays

Under 16- 3rd in the medley relay and 5th in the freestyle relay

Under 19- 7th in both relays

Students living in a country at war

Everyday as a result of conflict, thousands of civilians are killed or injured. More than half of these victims are children. The days when the captain of a sinking ship ordered women and children first into lifeboats are just a fading notion. Sri Lanka, a country shattered by war is no exception as innocents face the ravages of war. However war or peace, life goes on.

War has many detrimental effects on the citizens of a country. The more obvious of these are the physical effects. War destroys lives, limbs and homes; it tears apart families, villages and towns.

However war not only brings physical trauma but psychological trauma as well. A child is particularly vulnerable to the ravages of war. Who, how, why and what started the conflict is irrelevant to the children once the killing

We congratulate the swimming team who have emerged runners-up in this event after a lapse of 5 years.

Scouting appointments for 2008

The 16th Colombo scout group appointed its office bearers for the year 2008. They are as follows,

Troop Leader – R.A.I. De Fonseka

Asst. Troop Leader – R.S. Wickrama

Treasurers – V.R. Ladduwahetty

N.D. Bastiens

Quarter Master – H.A. Demel

Scribe – Y.J. Philips

has started. We treat bullet and shrapnel wounds, provide medical care and prosthesis for mine victims and house the displaced, but how do we fare in providing for those psychologically affected by conflict?

There is an even more potent psychological effect at work on the denizens of this country who are unaffected by the war. Even though the situation of this country remains dire, our lives, the lives of those who have not been directly affected by the war, go on. Men and women continue with their daily routine at work or at home and children go to their schools and take part in the many activities available to them. Such are the lives of the students who attend S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. We seem to have shut out the war from our minds as we go on to do our studies and our sports. Although as of late we have seen the war has started to affect each and every part of our lives

“We find no real satisfaction or happiness in life without obstacles to conquer and goals to achieve.”

Maxwell Maltz

as students, we are often numbed to the suffering around us. Unless we ourselves are directly affected by the conflict we brush it off as an inconvenience, a dangerous attitude.

A tragic incident which forced us as students to open our eyes to the reality of the war was the murder of a group of students who attended D.S. Senanayake College by a suicide bomber. This and many other bomb explosions have caused a sense of cautiousness not only within us but within our parents as well. The many explosives discovered within buses have struck fear in the hearts of the parents whose children use them when travelling to school or to their various tuition classes.

Sports in schools have also been affected by the ongoing conflict. Many of the upcoming sporting events have been cancelled. Also traveling back and forth from daily practices has to be done with caution.

Along with the Royal-Thomian Cricket match, issues arose regarding some of the traditions carried out by school boys under the influence of “big match fever”. In light of the security situation in the country students were advised not to engage in the activities that have been carried out in the past

during this festive season, causing much disappointment to many.

Due to the conflict in Sri Lanka many students tend to leave the country in search of a more prosperous and safer future. Many A/L students believe that they maybe able to obtain a better education abroad and so many of the brightest minds have left the country, causing not only a dearth of academics but also intelligent and dedicated public administrators. This exodus of students could be curtailed if the vast amount of expenses incurred for the war were used to improve the standards of education in our country.

The students of S.Thomas’ College have shown great unity among the races and religions within the school and it is our duty to sustain this in order to be an example for our generation. It is our example of pluralism and oneness, united by the common identity of being Thomians that must show the people of this country that they should live as Sri Lankans.

“If we wish to create a lasting peace, we must begin with the children”

-Mahatma Gandhi-

Notices

- The PTA held its annual Rendezvous on the 23rd of February at the Small Club Grounds.
- The annual Trinity- Thomian cricket match was held on the 15th and 16th of February at the Asgiriya Stadium while the debate, and the service featuring choirs from both schools, were held on the 16th and 17th of February at Trinity College, Kandy.

“The person who makes a success of living is the one who see his goal steadily and aims for it unswervingly. That is dedication.”

Cecil B. DeMille



A call for contributions!

The Ternion is open to any of your contributions as far as articles (on relevant issues), comics (drawn by you), and news is concerned. Please feel free to hand them in to one of the editors or email them to us.

We would also like to welcome all students to give us their suggestions about any aspect of the Ternion, be it the content of lead articles, the format, or issues you would like to see investigated and addressed write in to theeditor_ternion@yahoo.com or speak to one of the editors.

Thank you.

Editors

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