



THE TERNION

Volume 7 Issue 1. January 2007

EDITORIAL

By the time this newsletter goes into print, the merriment of the season would have settled itself snugly around your waistlines, Christmas presents would have blown craters in your budgets, and New Year resolutions would have been made and long broken. The Ternion wishes you a speedy recovery from all that.

We welcome the newcomers, both young and old to the best school in the world. Make the best of your life at S. Thomas' and fill each minute spent here with 'sixty seconds of distance run'.

It is that time of the year that many say goodbye to their beloved Club, or Sport. Some will even leave their alma mater in search of better pastures (as if there are any). We urge them do their college proud, wherever, whenever.

It is also the time for the senior members of the Editorial Board to say goodbye. Sachith Vidanapathirana, Yavin Yatawara & Sean Schubert hope that the readers have enjoyed their publications during the past year. We like to thank the students, teachers, old boys for their contributions and support. The Editors are extremely grateful to the Warden and sub-warden for their support and guidance to us at all times.

In this issue, we have interviewed a representative from the Board of Governors of College. We thank Mr. Arittha Wikramanayake, for lending us his time. We have also produced a recap on what happened last year: the blunders and the wins. Enjoy!!

ESTO PERPETUA

An Interview with Mr. Arittha Wikramanayake, on the subject of the Board of Governors

Mr. Arittha Wikramanayake is many characters; author, one of the most prominent lawyers in Sri Lanka (Precedent Partner at Nithya Partners), former Chief Executive Officer of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka, and, (this fact is the more relevant for those of you in College reading this today) a member of the Board of Governors of S. Thomas' College (as most of you would know, if you read your handbooks).

He was first elected into the Board as a representative of the OBA in the year 2000, and then, when his term of four years was done, he was nominated by the Bishop of Colombo. Mr. Wikramanayake was kind enough to speak to the Ternion on the subject of the Board and shed some light on the governing body of S. Thomas' as a whole.

Interestingly, the Board of Governors was set up in the year 1930, by an act of parliament called the Saint Thomas' College Board of Governors Ordinance in which the Bishop of Colombo and the Board are granted ownership of the land and premises of S. Thomas'. Their purposes and objectives were to maintain the College for the education of youth, to see to the training and

theological instruction of students as candidates for holy orders, to instruct such students in medical and in surgical knowledge, to maintain the Native Orphan Asylum, to hold services of the Church, and to ensure that Her seasons and festivals are observed.

The College premises also served as the residence of the Bishop of Colombo. Now, however, the Board manages all four branches of S. Thomas', and acts as the administration for all four branches, which means that they have control over everything that takes place on any Thomian campus.

The main reason for the Board to come into being was that the organization that is S. Thomas' expanded, with Bandarawela and Guruthalawe also coming into the picture, and, like any large organization, we required an administrative body. Since Bishop Chapman founded the school in 1851, the Warden had supreme authority over the running of the school, deferring only to the Bishop, thus giving him supreme independence, and the authority run the school in any manner he saw fit. Once the Board was founded in 1930, all authority went to them. They now own the land on which the school is built, as well as all the buildings, equipment and tools which belong to College.

The Board sets down the rules by which the school is governed. It oversees the general administration of College, and have a say in any significant capital venture that is to be made for College. Take school fees, for example. The immediate administration cannot make a decision to increase fees. They must first make a suggestion to the Financial Committee, who in turn put forward the

suggestion to the Board of Governors. Mr. Wikramanayake pointed out that making a decision to increase fees by even five hundred rupees a month was not an easy decision, and a lot of consideration has to be given to even the minutest of things. He said, "unlike profit-making schools such as CIS and AIS, we have a duty to educate, and can't crowd out the segment of people whom we are supposed to cater to".

Just as it should be, no single member of the Board has the authority to overrule any of the immediate administration, and there has rarely been friction between the Board, and a Warden.

He also stated, "The key is to handle everything with a sense of maturity. Everything is taken into account when making any sort of a decision, and serious consideration is given to what the Warden wants, and feels is appropriate. The board cannot get involved in day to day matters-for instance, daily sporting activity around College. The criteria the Board set for the governing of the school are broad, and as far as the Bishop is concerned, it is up to the Warden to ensure that the rules and regulations the Board set are adhered to."

The Board of Governors is comprised of the following- The Bishop of Colombo, two nominees of the Bishop of Colombo, two nominees from the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Lands, one representative from a university in Sri Lanka (nominated by the Bishop), two nominees from the OBA, one representative from the Standing Committee of the Diocese,.....*continued on page 9*

60th Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Choir held the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for the 60th time on the 3rd of December 2006. The choir gave a stellar performance, from 'Once in Royal David's City' to 'Adeste Fideles'.

The Choir also launched a CD on the day, titled, 'S. Thomas' Choir at Christmas'. The CD was dedicated to the Precentor of the Chapel, Mr. Russell Bartholomeusz. CDs can be purchased from the OBA Secretariat at the College.

Fiesta!

The Thomian Chamber Orchestra organized a combined schools concert for the first time, called 'Fiesta'. It was held on the 26th of January 2007 at the Ladies' College Hall.

The Ladies' College Orchestra and the Bishop's College Orchestra performed at this event along with the Thomian chamber orchestra.

The Ternion applauds this innovative idea brought to fruition by the Chamber Orchestra.

The Forum for 2007!

The Current Affairs Forum for the New Year was appointed recently. D.S. Wickramasuriya, D.S. Cassie Chetty, N.A.D. Wijesinghe, S.A. Wijesinghe, A. B. Jeger, M. Kulugamma, K. Samarasekera, S. R. de Alwis, N. K. de Alwis, W. H. W. de Mel, D. T. de Silva, A. A. Azad, R. J. Gomez, A. I. B. Ekanayake and S. M. Schubert comprised of this forum.

We hope that they will continue with the excellent programmes by the forum.

The Paramedics Appointed!!

The Annual General Meeting of the Red Cross School Circle was held and the following were appointed as office bearers for the year 2007.

President: M.D. Wijewardena
Secretary: C.S. Ajithkumar
Treasurer: M.M. Shareek Ahamed

Revolution of Sounds 5

Revolution of Sounds 5 is being organized by the Interact Club, and will be held on the 16th of February 2007 at the Bishops College Auditorium.

Many renowned bands will be playing at this event. The club invites all for this event.

Photographers for the year

The Photographic Club had its Annual General meeting lately. The following were appointed as office bearers for the year 2007.

President: C. Kapilan
Secretary: C.S. Ajithkumar
Treasurer: J. J. Jeyaranjan

Healthy prospects in Cricket!

The 1st XI cricket team has being quite successful so far this year.

At a match against St. Benedicts on the 16th and 17th of January in Kotahena, the team secured a 1st innings win with Shashrika Pussegolla making a powerful 91

We suffered a 1st innings defeat to Ananda College by a mere 3 runs!

The XI team achieved a 1st innings win against Wesley College with Ashan Peiris scoring a century. The match against the St. Joseph's College produced same results with Milan Fernando bagging 6 wickets and Ashan Pieris scoring 80 runs.

The Heat is on!

The heats for the Annual Athletics Meet was held on the 24th & 25th of January 'hotting' things up for the competition between the houses for the annual meet to be held on the 16th of March. The De Sarem, Buck and the Stone house are presently leading on the points tally.

Verbal Talent!!

The Thomian debating team through their hard work and talent has always being one of the best debating teams in the country. The English debaters also undoubtedly play an integral role in the Thomian family. Their achievements for the past year are as follows:

The Moot Court and Debating Society of the Law Faculty of Colombo organized the first tournament of the year. The Thomian 'B' and 'C' teams participated in this tournament. Gaining experience with every debate the 'C' team did well to get into the quarterfinals where they lost to Colombo International School by just 2 points.

The first friendly debate of the year took place on 18 February in conjunction of the annual Trinity-Thomian weekend. The debate took place at the trinity hall and the topic was 'indecision is the key

to flexibility'. The 2nd friendly debate was against Ladies College the topic of the debate was 'Women are meant to be hugged and kissed.' As the topic suggested it was a very entertaining debate. The 3rd friendly debate was against Royal College at the Royal College hall. The topic of debate was 'Colombo 7 is class' and it too was a very entertaining debate.

In September the N.M Perera debating tournament was held and the college B team did well to reach the semi finals but lost to Ladies College. Deshan Pushparaja was adjudged team captain.

The SLT Impromptu organized by D.S Senanayake College was held in September and 32 teams participated in it. The college 'A' team did extremely well and reached the finals where they lost to St. Josephs College. K. Kandasamy was named best speaker. At the Nixon's Challenge Trophy in October which was held at Ladies College, The Thomian team reached the quarter finals where they lost to D.S Senanayake College by 1 point. Deshan Pushparaja was adjudged best speaker.

Eight teams based on their performance throughout the year were selected for the SLT prepared debating tournament organized by D.S Senanayake College the Thomian team emerged champions for the 3rd consecutive year in this tournament, which was a breeze.

In May Deshan Pushparaja was selected to captain the national side at the World School Debating Championships in Cardiff. All in all the Debating society enjoyed a good year and is already eyeing 2007 with eagerness and determination.

Colours Night

The annual Colours Night was held on the 15th of December, 2006, at 5 00pm, in the School Sports Complex.

The Chief Guest for this occasion was an illustrious former Thomian Athletics Captain and retired Air Vice Marshal Laksen Salgado RWP / FAWC / NDC & QFI.

The evening began with a colourful and entertaining dance item performed by boys of the Lower School.

At this year's Colours Night, 108 boys, who have taken part and excelled in any of the 18 sport at the College, were awarded and re-awarded colours, while H.E.N. Alwis received the prestigious Thomian Blue- awarded to a Thomian who represents his country while in school. H.E.N. Alwis took part in the 10th South Asian Games held in Colombo last year, and performed exceptionally well in the field of squash, winning a bronze medal for his efforts.

The evening ended with the vote of thanks by the Head Prefect.

NEWS

- **The mini cricket battle will be played on the 23rd and 24th of February at College grounds.**
- **The cricket match against Trinity will be played out at College on the 16th and 17th of February.**

THE EDITORIAL BOARD 2006/07

Seated from L to R: S.D. Schubert, YA. Yatawara, Dr. D.A. Ponniah (Warden), S.M. Vidanapathirana (Chief Editor), Mrs. T. Bartlett (Teacher-in-charge).
 Standing from L to R: M.B. Kulugamma, R.P. de Silva, W.H.W. de Mel.
 Absent: D.T. de Silva.



The Big Match

JAN

8th The Interact Club organized a concert, “Sound Eruptions” at the Bishop’s College Auditorium.

FEB

22nd The Royal-Thomian Sinhala Debate was held after a lapse of many years.

25th Thomians participated in the Gordon Armstrong Sculls and the Van Langenberg Pairs rowing events. The Thomians won the pairs event.

MAR

9th, 10th & 11th The Annual Royal Thomian Cricket Match was held at the SSC grounds. The Royalists won the match by 8 wickets.

17th The Inter-House Athletics Meet was held. The De Saram House emerged as

winners.

20th, 21st & 22nd Thomians won the Squash Interschool Novices Championship event.

24th The Junior Mathematics Society organized a math exhibition at the College hall.

25th The Annual PTA Rendezvous was held at the Small Club Grounds.

APR

9th The United Nations Club held a concert, “Extaztic 2006” at the Bishops College Auditorium.

MAY

21st Thomian, Eranga Alwis won the All Island Men’s Open Squash Tournament.

25th to 29th The Drama Society staged the musical production “The Chronicles of Narnia: the lion the witch and the wardrobe”.



The Chronicles of Narnia



Prof. Dayasiri Fernando at the Prize Giving

Thomians participated at the BRC International Rowing Championship held in Calcutta during the month of May. They won the Bronze medal.

JUN

2nd the Annual Senior Science Day was held under the theme; "Wireless Broadband for Internet Mobility." 14th The Junior Science Society held their Annual Science Day.

18th & 19th The Interact Club conducted a health camp in the

village, Meegahakiwula in the Badulla District.

20th-23rd The Interact Club organizes a youth Exchange Program.

24th & 25th The United Nations Club initiated a Rural Area Development project at Sandalankawa, Dankotuwa.

JUL

7th The Prize Giving was held. Prof. Dayasiri Fernando was the Chief Guest for the event.

14th The Sinhala Drama Society held an Inter-house Drama Competition after a lapse of many years. The Stone House emerged as winners.



Variable Beats

Deshan Pushparajah

represented Sri Lanka at the World Debating Championship held in Cardiff, Wales.

The Thomians won the Brig. C. P. Jayawardene Challenge trophy for the Senior Scouts and the Mayor's Flag Challenge Competition for Junior Scouts during the month of July.

AUG

Eranga Alwis was a member of the Sri Lankan team that won the Bronze medal at the South Asian Games.

SEP

6th The Hindu Students Union organizes their annual Vaani Vizha.

16th The Ruggerites lose to Royal College at the Michael Guneratne trophy .The score was 35-0.

21st The Productive Citizenship Club conducted a Special Assembly to mark the International Peace Day.



Guests at the UN Day 2006

21st The Thomian Hockey team won the Orville Abeynayake Challenge Trophy against Royal College. The score was 2-0.

22nd The Commerce day was held under the theme “Step into the future with Commerce”

The respective Thomian teams wins the Interschool Squash Tournament, Nationals Water polo Tournament & the Western Province Chess Tournament. The Hockey team reaches unprecedented heights by emerging 2nd runners-up at the Nationals Championships.

OCT

1st The Leo Club celebrates the Children’s Day by donating hundreds of confectioneries to the local less fortunate

children.

7th The Hewisi Band conducted their annual concert;”Variable Beats”.

12th-14th The Philatelic Society conducts a stamp exhibition at the College Hall.

17th The United Nations Club held its annual UN day under the theme-“It Is Tough Being Young”.

The U-15 Athletics team emerged champions at the All Island Athletics Meet.

NOV

6th The English Drama Society organized an Inter-House Drama Competition. The Wood House staged the best play.

10th Thomians won the annual Royal-Thomian Basketball encounter with a score of 72-51. The Thomian Soccer team lost their “Roy-Tho”. The score was 3-0.

11th The second leg of the Dr. R. L. Hayman Trophy for water polo was held at College. The Royal College won with the scores 6-4 & 4all.

DEC

3rd The Choir held the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for the 60th time.

15th The Colours Night was held at the College Sports Complex.

NEWS

- **The following were appointed as College Prefects on the 31st of January. R. A. Alphonsus, D.D.N. Ferdinando, M.D.S. Jayasekera, M. S. Sinnalebbe, B. Thaneeshan, S. Wijyaratnam.**
- **20 House Prefects were also appointed on this day.**

Continued from page 2... one Anglican representative from the PTA of the branch schools, one Anglican representative from the OBA of the branch schools, one member from the staff of S. Thomas' Mount Lavinia and three co-opting members. 80% of the Board have to be either Anglican, or in communication with the Church of England in Ceylon. In addition, something some of you might find interesting is that certain people are elected into the Board by virtue of office, for instance, the Bishop of Colombo.

As for the authority the Bishop has over the running of the school, he in fact only has a veto on the appointment of a non-Anglican Warden. Every other decision the Board makes as a whole. To quote Mr. Wikramanayake, "no one has supreme authority. We try to avoid having to vote on a decision. We would rather debate it out and reach a general consensus, as opposed to having to vote on a decision. One other thing you should know is that even in disagreement, the Board stands together. That is to say that any decision is made as a Board of Governors, not as individuals for and against the decision that was made".

The Board convenes at least once a month, either at the Bishops house, or at one of the branch schools. Recently though, they have been making an effort to meet at S. Thomas' Guruthalawe, and

focusing on the running of that school, due to the financial crisis there. As Mr. Wikramanayake stated, boarding school was **not an** option for most parents, in the early days when S. Thomas' Guruthalawe was founded. However now, due to heightened communication and transport facilities, as well as the opening of innumerable new schools, boarding schools are not that well attended. In fact, running a school has become much like managing a large company, in that there is tremendous competition between various schools, in their efforts to out do each other in terms of infrastructure, facilities and teaching standards.

Mr. Wikramanayake was tentative when it came to commenting on the role of the Board in the event of a recent incident in College, in which a certain herein unnamed group of individuals assaulted another unnamed individual because he robbed yet another unnamed individual, belonging to the above mentioned group. All he did disclose was that the Board prefers not to interfere in disciplinary decisions that the Warden takes, and that as long as the course of action the Warden takes is not blatantly wrong, the Board goes along with what has been done. Abolishing corporal punishment at College was a step the Board took long ago, as you are well aware, because they felt that it was archaic, and non-applicable to modern times.

When the issue of ragging came up, and with it the question of whether the Board was aware of such occurrences at College, Mr. Wikramanayake had an interesting fact to offer; “I have received numerous phone calls, from angry parents complaining of their children being assaulted on school premises. However, when asked to lodge an official complaint against the students who have committed these misdeeds, so that the Board can take action, most parents are unwilling to, for the fear that the progression of their son’s school careers will be hindered. Unless an official complaint is made, we cannot take any action. We cannot act on hearsay.”

At the same time, Mr. Wikramanayake stated that ragging was not necessarily a bad thing, as long as there was no physical brutality or trauma involved. He recollected a time when a certain student training with him at cricket practices was caught smoking, and he made the perpetrator (who is now an eminent physician that most of you sportsmen go to for consultations) mix his cigarette ash with water and drink it. As he stated, it was not a mean spirited thing, and in retrospect, it was a very stupid thing to do, as the victim of this punishment wound up in hospital the very next day. However, at that age, it was not done with a sense of mean-spirited-ness, or aggression.

Mr. Wikramanayake sums up the essence of the Board of Governors thus: “Running S. Thomas’ is much like running a large company. We are the board of directors, and the Warden is the CEO. There is no aspect of College over which we have no control.”

Mr. Wikramanayake is most grateful to Mr. Daniel Edirisinghe, a dedicated master who taught them good values, and for that, he will always be grateful to him.

Mr. Wikramanayake spoke with intense pride about his alma mater. ”Look at S. Thomas’. Our campus can compete with any other campus in the world. We are self-operating, and though any other private school is self-operating, none of them can offer their students the same things that we can here.

We compete in a variety of sports, and at the highest level in every sport. The standard of College today is far higher than it was in our time, for example- in our time, people from various companies used to come over to College and offer jobs to Thomians, and students used to clamor for those offered jobs. However now, very recently, someone I know came looking for a school leaver to fill in a post at a prominent company which is involved in the tea trade, and there were very few applicants, as most of our students are moving on to higher studies, and better things.”

As a final message to our student body, Mr. Wikramanayake said, and I quote; “enjoy your school life, because you don’t realize what you have. Take pride in your school. No other school in Sri Lanka has the type of infrastructure that yours does. The difference between your generation and mine is that we took pride in being Thomians. Everything we learnt, we learnt at S. Thomas’-to be proud, and excel in everything we did.

“We whine about what College is not, but fail to realize what it is.”

It was extremely heartbreaking to the Editors when they noticed the manner in which a particular group of young Thomians attended a recently concluded event organized by the College in collaboration with two other renowned schools. They displayed the College colours in unruly attire, used the language in insolent eloquence and heeded no respect for the principals and the teachers present. Yet the most arresting fact was that these boys were active participants in many extra-curricular activities at College and they had no known serious disciplinary issues.

This is just one instance where young Thomians have behaved in a contemptuous manner heaping disrespect on the alma mater. We believe that we have indeliberately cultivated a genre of Thomians who have not understood the true meaning of being a Thomian.

In this era when many schools have embraced the concept of Extra-Curricular activities Thomians can not always stand above the rest in regard to their exceptional talent in sport, drama or organizing skills. We do not definitely win the Big Match every year. But the sadder fact is that we are now losing in the one area that Thomians always outshone the rest in discipline, decorum and dignity which was the unique and remarkable attribute of Thomianism. We definitely understand that being a Thomian is no easy task. We have 155 years of a heritage to live up to. The standards that are maintained in College are many years old and are there for a purpose, but some of them are in the form of rules set on paper. Some subtle aspects of Thomianism can never be put on paper. No written rules

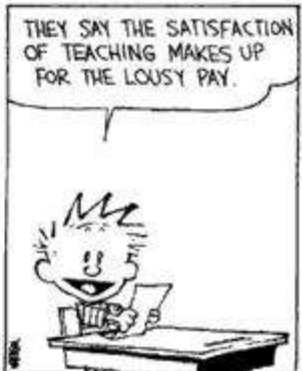
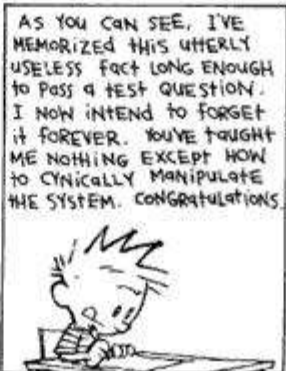
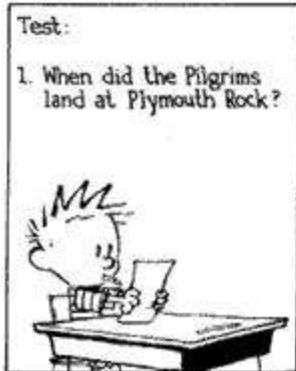
can make a Thomian respect the dignity of the individual in his society. Be it a teacher, a friend, or parent, a Thomian should be polite and respectful to them in their own standing.

We have seen some children, inside and outside College, struggle with too many extra-curricular activities. They mess up the performance of the sport or club discrediting the efforts their predecessors have put in. It should be stated that it is not the number of clubs that you are in or the number of sports you play is vital. It is of what you achieve in these activities that you are involved that is vital. Not quantity but quality should be appreciated.

Thomian should be attired in respect to the occasion with decency. Use words with an awareness of one's whereabouts. They should play when it is time to play and work when it is time to work. These things are not consciously taught in class or on field. We are acquainted with these qualities only if we are aware of what is right and what is wrong. The teachers play a major role in instilling these Thomian values in boys. They must be respected. They are the most important assets of College. They cannot be valued against all other material assets of College. Undoubtedly, without great teachers there would be no great Thomians.

In conclusion, the editors would like to note that being a Thomian is not just going to school, it is a way of life, it is a culture. Be it inside school or outside school, young, or old, a Thomian should always be a Thomian.

*Sachith Vidanapathirana
Yavin Yatawara*



Editors

S. M. Vidanapathirana, Y. A. Yatawara, S. D. Schubert, W.H.W. De Mel, M.B. Kulugammana, D.T. De Silva, R.P. De Silva, Mrs. T. Bartlett