



THE TERNION

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EDITORIAL

Needless to say, the one thing that's on everyone's minds this term is the annual Royal-Thomian cricket encounter. There was a time period for which we were unsure as to whether the Big Match would be played and celebrated on its usual grand scale, due to security issues and various restrictions placed on inter school sports by the government, but thankfully, the ban was lifted, and the match was conducted as per usual at the SSC.

It is heartening to see the level at which our sportsmen are training this term, and we hope this level of intensity will continue throughout the year-your toil and effort are appreciated, and nothing goes unnoticed. This year will indeed be a fine one for sport at S. Thomas'.

The arm of the press is a wonderful thing. It enables one to reach out to the world on a grand scale, and put ideas and thoughts into the hearts and minds of those who care to read ones writing. It is with a heavy heart that we, the current Editors, leave you-this is our final issue. We pass on the torch to a fine generation of young Editors, and we are confident that they will maintain the standards that our predecessors have set, and that we have done our best to maintain.

"The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are; for what we could become" –Charles Dubois

May S. Thomas' live on as one of the finest learning institutions in the world!

Esto Perpetua.

Pro Collegia

As we write our final contribution towards the Ternion as Editors, we feel that this article should be a farewell with parting advice not from us but the great men that our College has been associated with. When one talks about greatness it is expected to inspire. Inspire and recreate greatness or even inspire and prevent downfall. Whatever impact this article may have we write in the hope that all you readers of S.Thomas' will read and remember these famous words which have been awe inspiring and life changing to us, and we reiterate; not by us but by the great men of S.Thomas' College Mount Lavinia.

Our last year at College brings us fond memories of years gone by. It brings to us memories of a 'life' we have lived at S.Thomas'. We call it life because without S.Thomas' there would be no us. Through the span of 13 years at College so much has changed. In our opinion some for the better and some not so but whatever happens the College that we love so deeply remains our pride and cherished Alma mater and nothing will change that.

Change at S.Thomas' is inevitable. That is why we have become students of the College mature enough to accept what has been and what is now. This we feel is very important to any Thomian to feel the pride and love he should feel when he enters and leaves the College. Just

like change at S.Thomas', change within ourselves has occurred during our years at College. From grubby year 1's to inquisitive grade 5's to hooligan upper sixers and finally (we hope many will agree!) matured, well mannered Thomians that the College can be proud of someday.

"The Return" by Junius is one Poem that strikes the mind in regard to this point.

The Chapel Tower
My Heartbeat Quickens
I Hurry On
Reaching At last
The Trellised Gate
I Gaze Upon
The Cherished Scene
I'd Long To See
Thro' All These Years
Of Wandering
It Lived With Me
In Memories Store
The College That I Love So Well

Even today as we enter the College premises we are blessed to see this "cherished scene". Someday each and everyone of you will leave the "trellised gate" to a path of your desire. It is our hope that your days at S.Thomas' may never end and continue to be memories of a College that you love so well.

To some of you who join this institute midway may we put into your minds something that was embedded into us as students of the Lower School. We see innumerable students from various walks of life with great potential come into College. Some cherish this lifetime opportunity and walk out moulded into true Thomians. Sadly some, misguided by some element end up as failures of College and become a part S.Thomas' will not be proud of. We are certainly not saying that all boys who have been at S.Thomas' for their whole career are

perfect but maybe they are at a slight advantage through these words that we will never forget.

Embed these words into your hearts the day you join College. Remember them at all times and may your actions, words and thoughts revolve around them.

" You belong to one of the best schools in the world, a school with splendid traditions and a most honourable name, and I charge you to try and hand down those traditions and that name to those who come after you, untarnished and unimpaired. Be proud of being Thomians, and make the College proud of numbering you among its sons. Remember that whatever you do and wherever you go, your life and your actions will reflect either credit or discredit on the College where you were trained, and to which you owe so much. You have learned the best lessons in the world at S.T.C. I trust, not only English and Classics and Mathematics, but true manliness and truth, courage, purity and all those things that make a man and a gentleman. Try never to forget them, but be men & gentlemen always."

Our comments on these words by Warden Buck do not justify its impact. It is only through our lives at College we may justify the impact it has had on our lives just as you who read this today will hopefully read and make this a part of your life and live up to these awe inspiring words.

Lets think about our lives as Thomians. Some may be superb Sportsmen, skilled academics, Born Leaders, Musicians, Dramatists,

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

Thomas Alva Edison

Debaters, etc. or just average Thomians lets try and stick to this guide given by this great gentleman and we will leave as proud sons of S.Thomas'. Our actions and words are from within. What we do in any situation is our choice but in the end it all comes back not to us, but to the College which numbers us among her sons. A Thomian for 13 years; A Thomian for 1 year, is still regarded a Thomian so it is our wish that all of us who set foot in "one of the best schools in the world" will remember that we are and will be Thomians for life and do not make our Alma Mater regret this fact.

To all those who are at the helm of College life what is to be said? Some of you probably know what we are talking about. You have lived in this School for more than half your life. It has probably being a grueling life with ups and downs, tears and laughter, friends and enemies and

Ethnic Integration at S. Thomas' College

Growing up in a war torn country certainly has its effect. We are born into a society where it is almost our 'duty' to reject anything and everything that is in conflict with our view. Growing up at S,Thomas' College has changed that.

I remember being led to my first class where nothing mattered but to get home as soon as possible. I did not care who I worked with or who sat next to me. At such a young age 'grave serious matters' as some prefer to call it were of no matter and then all boys from different cultures were together and innocence was the key to prevent any difference

regrets and triumphs. When the time comes to leave it is said that you should look back and reminisce the past. Our advice is not to look back but look ahead because all of you leave as Thomians. Be proud of that. Your contribution to school will be insignificant if you have live a life that you and your school will be proud of.

Remember that wherever life may take us, what ever we may do it is because of S.Thomas' College we are there

*"You'll always remember;
Wherever you may be,
The school of your boyhood,
The school by the sea.*

*And you'll always
remember,
The friendships fine and free,
That you made at S. Thomas';
The school by the sea."*

between us. All that mattered was who got praised for his neat hand writing or who was first to get to the gate when the bell rang or who was the boy with best bladder control! All boys Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims alike were one set of grubby grade 1's without any difference between us. From what I recall it was a boy called "Devendran" who sat in front of me those days and we were pretty good friends until he left the country and many of the boys I got to know at that time are some of my closest friends even now.

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."

John Quincy Adams

As time went on and the War got even more tedious differences were starting to emerge. I remember playing Cricket with my friends at the Cement Pitch. One of the most talked about Cricket matches was when the Sinhalese boys took on the Tamil Boys. Everyone watched intensely as the so called greats battled it out and I too as a spectator remember only too well the caning we got for our 'exciting cricketing concept' from a master named Mr. Pieiris who intervened just like the weather leaving many disgruntled players and spectators; but this sudden storm turned out to be a saviour for a generation of boys being misled. He taught us the value of being together and working together as Thomians, and not as Sinhalese and Tamils. This is a lesson I value even today as it has certainly made my School life much easier. One student all of you may all know from these boys is N.M Mazahir then the opening batsmen and Bowler of the 'Other' side.

The same year we had to start Link Language which was Tamil for us and Sinhalese for the Tamil boys. Hard as it was to learn another language it was interesting for us and there was no such resentment from any party even though we were both learning the 'Other' language. Cooperation specially reached its peak in the Term Exams where papers were craftily swapped between the Sinhala and Tamil boys and the Link Language paper became a Kindergarten paper for one so familiar with his mother tongue!

Years have gone by and the word 'other' has disappeared from our vocabulary. Today we are one. Each one of us has grown and matured to be students respecting the society among us. The

innocence of our small days, the curiosity throughout childhood, the changes of society and lessons learnt at S.Thomas have been the foundation to eliminate difference. From our small days we marked register together, learnt English together, indulged in Sports and Club Work together all because we were mixed in to the same class and given an opportunity to build friendships and brotherhood. Medium of instruction or language has never been a barrier for us to get on and such an environment was prevented by the mixed class system we were in.

In a society where clashes between races occur frequently S.Thomas' has always been exemplary in equality of race. As a Christian School our student body consists of a large population of students of different faiths. We pride in the fact that boys from all corners of society can call S.Thomas' their home. It has been so in the past and this remains unchanged.

Many have heard the story where Warden de Saram defied the norm during the racial riots of 1958 by saving a Tamil man who was about to be lynched by a mob. He had the courage to stand up against the accepted status and through his action stood by what was right. This flow of righteousness has certainly come back into us Thomians and we owe whatever kind of unity we have in our midst despite our differences to what S.Thomas has given us through exemplary action from the past and it is our hope that this will continue for years to come.

Recently I noticed that the mixing of boys of all races during school hours has come to quite an abrupt barrier due to **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)**

“Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.”

Newt Gingrich

The Year in Review

January

26th – "Fiesta" a combined schools concert organised by the Thomian Chamber Orchestra was held at the Ladies' College Hall.

February

16th - Revolution of Sounds V, organised by the Interact Club, was held at the Bishops' College Auditorium.



Big Match Celebrations

March

8th, 9th and 10th – The 128th Battle of the Blues was won by S. Thomas' College by an innings and 44 runs

17th – The 32nd Royal-Thomian limited over encounter won by S. Thomas' College by 34 runs

April

7th - The United Nations Club organized "Extaztic", which was held at the Bishops' College Auditorium.

May

10th - The Archbishop of Canterbury the Most Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams visited S.Thomas' College.

12th- The annual Hewisi band concert "Beat Fusion" was held on the Chapel steps. Many other schools participated.

25th, 26th, 27th and the 1st 2nd and 3rd of June – Rally Round the College Flag III, directed by Mr. Vinodh Senadeera, was held at the College Hall.

June

15th - The annual Junior Science Day organised by the Junior Science & Technology Society was held. The theme was "Forensic Science" and the guest speaker was Prof. Ravindra Fernando of Colombo University.

19th – The launch of the Chapel Renovation Project in aid of renovating the Chapel of the Transfiguration. The project was spearheaded by the Special Events Team of the OBA.



The Archbishop of Canterbury

July

6th - The annual Prize Giving was held at the College Hall. Mr. Deshamanaya Bradman Weerakoon was the Chief Guest.

“Permanence, perseverance and persistence in spite of all obstacles, discouragements, and impossibilities: It is this that in all things distinguishes the strong soul from the weak.”

Thomas Carlyle

12th - The Computer Club organised Revtek 2007 at the College Hall. Microsoft Sri



The Royal-Thomian Rugby Match

Lanka conducted a workshop on the Xbox 360, much to the delight of the invited schools.

16th - The annual Royal Thomian Rugby match 2007 was held at the CR & FC. The match was won by Royal College by 22-18.

27th to the 8th of August – Six Thomian Scouts travelled to the United Kingdom for the 21st World Scout Jamboree to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Scouting.

August

11th- The Special Events Team of the Old Boys Association organized a “Grand-Sing-Along” in aid of the Chapel Renovation Fund.

27th to the 2nd of September- The Radio Club of S.Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, broadcast “Resonance FM” on the frequency 96.1FM.

September

15th – The Scrabble Club wins the Annual All-Island inter-school Scrabble Tournament, held at Royal College, for the first time in six years.

21st – The Annual Science Day organised by the Senior Science Association was held at the College Hall. The chief guest at the event was Mr. Indrajeet Fernando

30th – A combined schools choir concert named “400 Voices of Praise” was held at the Cathedral of Christ the Living Saviour, Baudhdhaloka Mawatha. All proceeds went towards the Chapel Renovation Fund.



Thomian Choir at 400 Voices in Praise

October

10th – The annual Royal-Thomian Hockey encounter was played at the Astro Turf, Reid Avenue. Royal College beat S. Thomas’ 4-0.

13th- The annual Vaani Vizha, named “Chelungkalanjali”, was organized by the Hindu Students Union and held at the College Hall.

19th and 20th – Canto Perpetua, an evening of choral entertainment in aid of the Chapel Renovation fund was held at the College Hall.

23rd - The English Debating “A” team wins the Dr. N.M. Perera Memorial Challenge Trophy for the 7th time since its inception, defeating Asian International School in the finals.

November

2nd, 3rd and 4th – The English Drama Society, under the direction of Mr. Vinodh Senadeera staged “Tons of Money” at the College Hall in aid of the Chapel Renovation Fund.

“By persisting in your path, though you forfeit the little, you gain the great.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



The Royal-Thomian Basketball encounter

6th - The annual United Nations Day was held at the College Hall. The chief guest for the event was Honourable Supreme Court Justice Shirani Tilakawardena. The theme for the event was Women and Men partnering to achieve Gender Equality.

9th - The 5th annual Royal Thomian Basketball encounter was won by the Thomians with a score of 86-44.

16th - Remembrance Day, held to honour all Thomians who have fallen in combat, was held at the Big Club Grounds.

14th and 18th – The first and second legs of the Dr. R.L. Hayman Trophy were held at the Sugathadasa Stadium. Sadly, the

Royalists prevailed, with an aggregate score of 16-11.

19th - The Royal-Thomian Soccer match took place at the CR & FC Grounds. Royal College triumphed, 2-0.

December

2nd - The Carol Service was held for the 61st time.

8th – The annual Colours Nite was held at the Sports Complex with Mr. T.H. Tissera being the chief guest. Y.R. Ranasinghe (Badminton), E.M.K. Fernando (Swimming), S. Wijeyaratnam, D.C.De Silva and B.A.C.A. Perera (Water-Polo) were awarded the Thomian Blue.

NOTICES

- **The following Obtained 3A's at the GCE Local A/L Examination**

Mathematics

K. Kandasamy

S.M. Vidanapathirana

A. De Silva

(The Ternion is proud to make a special mention of the fact that S.M. Vidanapathirana, who obtained 3A's, is the immediate past Chief Editor of the Ternion).

Commerce

K.Sajith

- **Old Boys week was commemorated from the 8th of February onwards**
- **The Battle of the Blues will be held on the 13th 14th and 15th of March at the Sinhalese Sports Club Grounds**
- **The Annual Trinity Weekend was held from the 15th of February**

“It's not that I'm so smart; it's just that I stay with problems longer.”
Albert Einstein

THE EDITORIAL BOARD 2007/2008



**Seated from L-R: D.T. De silva, R.P De silva, W.H.W de Mel (Chief Editor), Dr. David Ponniah (Warden), M.B. Kulugamma, Mrs.T. Bartlett (Teacher-in-charge).
Standing from L-R: S. Abeynaike, D. Tranchell, A.P.S Dias, D.S Rajasingham, V.R. Ladduwahetty**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)
classes being separated. Although I am not aware of any reason for such action it is definitely not going to be for the betterment of the Thomian portrayal of racial harmony. Furthermore it is sad that the mere fact that Sinhalese and Tamils have to get on to create a peaceful society which couldn't have been clearer since of late has been ignored and such a policy has taken place not considering the future damage it could create.

One may argue that learning together is not the only means of harmony between the races but still students do spend most of their time learning and the more secluded you become the more you feel comfortable in your own space. At an

age where passing O/L examination is priority but given the least amount of time students are most likely to make most of their future acquaintances in this time they spend together as classmates. However if confined to one class for the whole time according to medium of instruction this will certainly create a different atmosphere at S.Thomas' with various cliques forming and difference where there should be no difference at all.

It is hard to see what stands between a few periods where students are mixed and are able to work together. Certainly the cost is not greater than that of disunity within our ranks. It is my humble request that things return to its original state with all boys working together without any separation unless

“By gnawing through a dike, even a rat may drown a nation.”

Edmund Burke

necessary. As our past Head Master Mr. Arunalandan said

“At S. Thomas’ there are no Muslims, Tamils or Sinhalese. Only Thomians”

Our lives at College have given myself and many others the choice of association and we have all grasped it with glee with no repercussions. There

Debaters continue their winning streak

The English Literary and Debating Society ended the year on a high note, winning (for the first time in 16 years) the Vijitha Weerasinghe Challenge Shield Debating Tournament. The final, which was held on the 22nd of December 2007 at the Royal College Union Auditorium was against Ladies College, Colombo. The topic debated was “It is the tempter, not the tempted who sins the most”, with the S. Thomas’ College “A” team, comprising of K. Kandasamy (Captain), P.R. Saldin (Vice- Captain), S. Uvais and D.S. Rajasingham, proposing. D.S. Rajasingham was named Best Speaker of the tournament. The tournament was the fourth of six established inter-school tournaments that S. Thomas’ College won during the year. Then, on the 27th of January 2008, the society won its first British Parliamentary style tournament, winning the inter-school British Parliamentary style tournament organized by St. Joseph’s College. The team, comprising of P.R. Saldin, D.S. Rajasingham, R.J.W. Weerasinghe and V.R. Ladduwahetty overcame teams such as Wesley College, Asian International School and Colombo International

has been no limit to the grubby grade 1’s now turned last year students of College making friends and being Thomians united as one. This we cherish as a gift from S. Thomas’ which should be given to each and every Thomian to come for this is all we have and are.

School on its way to the finals which were against Royal College. In the finals S. Thomas’ proposed the topic: “This house would remove permanent checkpoints in Sri Lanka” and emerged champions.

Revolution of Sounds 6

The annual fund raiser organized by the Interact Club, Revolution of Sounds 6 was held on the 17th of February at the Bishop’s College Auditorium from 7.30 pm onwards. Entertainment was provided to a packed Auditorium by musical powerhouses such as Merlock, Hollow, Infest, Umarah, Noah’s Arc, Daddy, Shalini and Shayana among others. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund the club’s community projects which will focus on the Cancer Hospital, the Lunawa tsunami camp and two underprivileged schools in the Colombo District.

Cultural Collabo

The Hewisi Band held its annual Band Concert on the 9th of February 2008 on the College Chapel steps from 6.30pm onwards.

The concert which was to feature many School Bands and Dance Troupes had

“Difficult things take a long time, impossible things a little longer.”

Anonymous

quite a drawback due to Schools opting out due to prevalent security. However hats off to the Band members who despite this, pulled off yet another fantastic concert to an appreciative audience. This was the eight such concert to be staged by the Hewisi Band.

Buddhist Students' Association – Community Service Project

In late November the Buddhist Students' Association carried out a community service project to donate stationery items to the tsunami and war-affected people residing within the campus of Hindu College, Ratmalana.

AGM's Galore

The following Clubs and Societies held their Annual General Meetings in the past few months and the following were appointed respectively.

- *Senior Science Society*
President - N.N. Nanayakkara
Vice President - D.T. Piyasena
Secretary - T.A. De Silva
Treasurer - C.S. Kumarasinghe

- *United Nations Club*
President - Y.L. Subasinghe
Vice President – L.H.S.L. Silva
Secretary – M.F. Hathem
Treasurers – M.F. Faizal
S. Gunawardena

- *Computer Club*
President - N.N Nanayakkara
Secretary- Ahamed Nishad
Treasurer- G.A Sumanarathne

- *Art Club*
President- K.R.L Doraliyagoda

Vice President- S. Tennakoonmudali
Secretary- G.A. Sumanaratna
Treasurer- D.T.N Wijayawickrama

- *Western Band*
Band leader- T.A.D Mahapatuna
Assistant Band leader- S.L.J Mendis
Secretary- N.D Bastians

- *Thomian Chamber Orchestra*
President – W.H.W de Mel
Vice President – S.Pathirana
Secretary – E.M Shadrach
Treasurer – Y. Jayampathy

- *Islamic Society*
President- M.F. Hathem
Vice President- M.R. Rizvi
Secretary- S.M. Subian
Treasurer- M.R. Faisal

Thomians underwater!

The College Sub Aqua Club went on an snorkling excursion in the Dehiwala Sea on the 23rd of February. The Club wishes to invite interested students to come for training on Saturday mornings at 9.30 at the College Pool.

Chess

The Middle School Chess Tournament was held on the 2nd of February in the M block. It has been held over the past few years in order to encourage young talent in the field of chess. A total of 38 students participated in the tournament this year. Prizes were awarded to the participants who were placed in the top three of each grade. The following achieved first place in their respective grades:

Lower 4: A. Anandarajah,
Upper 4: S.T. Wickremanayake,
Form 5: K.M.Chang

“The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking places.”

Anonymous

Cricket news

The month of January was a busy one for our cricketers. A summary of their matches follows:

S. Thomas' vs. Thurstan College

The Thomians conceded their first ever outright loss to Thurstan College in what was a hard fought match at the Thurstan Grounds at Reid Avenue.

At the end of the first days play the match was evenly poised with both teams making identical scores of 124, the Thomians being bowled out, while Thurstan College lost 9 wickets in the day. They were bowled out the next day for 128 runs.

S. Thomas' batting failed to put up a fight as they were bowled out for 140 runs with some excellent bowling from Thurstan College.

Thurstan, chasing 136 for victory in 35 overs managed to reach their target in the third ball of the 34th over.

S. Thomas' vs. Nugawela Central

Two unbeaten tons by M.F. Saleem (151) and T. Nugawela (103) were the highlights of the Under 20 inter-school cricket encounter between S. Thomas' College and Nugawela Central, Kandy, as the Thomians thrashed their opponents by an innings and 225 runs held at the Big Club Grounds on the 16th of January. Nugawela Central was bowled out for 35 (D. Walpita 4 for 16, M. Fernando 3 for 2) and 115 (M. Fernando 4 for 39) while the Thomians made 375 for 8 declared in their innings.

S. Thomas' vs. Nalanda

Nalanda fought back from a weak start to end in a strong position at the drawn match held at the Big Club Grounds on the 8th and 9th of January. Bowled out for 151 in their first innings, with M. Fernando (6 for 26) doing most of the damage, Nalanda bowled the Thomians out for 154 (despite a fighting 40 by M.F. Saleem), and then made 275 for 9 in their second innings. M. Fernando, who has performed consistently this season, captured another 4 wickets for a match bag of ten wickets.

S. Thomas' vs. St. Benedict's

The Under 20 inter-school cricket match between S. Thomas' and St Benedict's ended as an anticlimactic draw. S. Thomas' reached 192 for 7 declared with M.F. Saleem (58) and R. de Silva (38) making good scores, while St Benedict's were all out for 69 runs with N. Ghany (4 for 14), R. de Silva (3 for 22) and M. Fernando (2 for 7) contributing to the collapse. St. Benedict's, made to follow-on, ended the day on 89 for 2.

Basketball team shines

The Thomian Basketball team did extremely well to reach the final of the All-Island Under-19 Basketball Championship, which was worked off on the 14th of January at Asian International School against D.S. Senanayake College. After a hard-fought match, the Thomians ended as runners-up, with the scorecard reading 65-63 in favour of D.S. Senanayake College. I. Salahudeen, A. Alphonsus and S. Gomes performed exceptionally well on the day.

“People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them.”

George Bernard Shaw



Editors

W.H.W. De Mel, M.M.B. Kulugamma, R.P. De Silva, D.S Rajasingham, Mrs. T. Bartlett