



THE TERNION

Volume 7, Issue 6, June 2007

EDITORIAL

By the time this issue gets into your hands, you will be in the middle of the Second Term Examination, either elated at your success thus far or benumbed by the sheer amount of studying you have to do to just scrape through. Whatever your mindset, we wish you good luck, and if of the latter group, hope you can think of some creative excuses before the Parents' Day!

The Chapel is one of the many pillars that keep our school anchored to its founding principles. The Chapel is one of life's constants- it is inconceivable for it not be there- watching over us as we go about our lives at school. The news that this symbol of continuity is in danger of irreparable damage, should be cause for concern to all Thomians, and so, this edition of the Ternion has an article about the recently begun Chapel Renovation Project, which hopes to bring the Chapel back to its former glory.

S.Thomas' continues to break new ground, and many of our readers will have noticed the two German exchange students, Alexander Neumann and Hendrik Fahlbusch, within the campus. There is also a new system of "Clubs and Societies Awards" that is being mulled over in the upper echelons of the school, and the Ternion has a discussion about the pros and cons of such a system in this issue.

So another term has come to an end... we wish all of you enjoyable exams (if such a thing is possible), and happy holidays!

Esto Perpetua!

The Chapel Renovation Fund

It's impossible to imagine life at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia without the Chapel. The massive sandstone structure is situated on the highest, and central, point of the campus, facing the College Hall, the Library, the M Block and the iconic Quadrangle. In the 80 years since it was built, generation upon generation of Thomians have walked under the shadow of this edifice, growing from boys to men; it is a symbol of S. Thomas' unshakeable principles, and is revered by all.

Unfortunately, the beauty of the Chapel has been diminished by the passage of time. It is in need of repairs and renovation. To this end, "The Chapel Renovation Fund" was launched on the 17th of June, to bring past and present Thomians, parents and well-wishers together with the aim of preserving the Chapel for future generations of Thomians. Organised by the Special Events Team of the Old Boys Association -which has organised many other successful projects, such as the 150th anniversary celebrations- the Chapel Renovation Fund hopes to be able to raise the money required for the Chapel through the use of the talents of present and past Thomians.

The idea of a Chapel was mooted in 1921- four years after S. Thomas' had been moved from Mutuwal to Mount

Lavinia. The task of collecting funds for the Chapel was entrusted to the then Sub-Warden, Rev. G.M. Withers. Tales are told of this World War I veteran's persistence, as he toured the island on his motorbike, hunting down Old Boys, and, according to some accounts, refusing to leave them until they had pledged a suitable amount! Thanks to his perseverance the foundation stone was laid in 1923 by the Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev. Ernest Arthur Copleston. On the 12th of February 1927 it was consecrated by the Bishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Carpentier Garnier.

The Chapel was built with a unique vision, perhaps following Bishop James Chapman in his wish to “form the character of the future man; to mould his habits, fix his principles” through S.Thomas’ College. It has been an inspiring place to many Thomians, where lives have been challenged and transfigured. The Chapel has a rich and long standing, liturgical, choral and spiritual tradition, of which the choir is an integral part -it has been used as a platform to expose talent for many years. It is most famous for the yearly Service of Nine Lessons and Carols which was introduced by Rev. R.H.B. Yin in 1947.

Even though the Chapel was built when Sri Lanka was under British rule, it has Sri Lankan culture blended in. The roof beams of the Chapel in particular resemble the architecture of the Kandian period. The interior of the Chapel is simple yet majestic; the 44 pillars within each have different designs and motifs, intricately carved and painted- such a combination of patterns are unlike anything one can find in other Sri Lankan churches.

The first thing you see when you enter the Chapel is the mural of Jesus' Transfiguration, completed by David Paynter in 1968. He was a renowned artist, the painter of the mural at Trinity College, Kandy. It is said that some of the features of Christ's face are similar to personalities who were at S. Thomas' while it was being painted, and that the background depicted has some striking similarities to the surrounding environs. It is one of the biggest, and is believed to be one of the best, murals in Sri Lanka and India. This in itself is a priceless treasure. The Chapel is, without a doubt, one the finest in Sri Lanka, and has to be preserved for future generations. It is not only a place of worship, but also a treasure-house of art and architecture.

Unfortunately, we run the risk of losing its wonderful and awe-inspiring beauty; its eight-decade old roof has decayed, causing alarming damage to the interior of the Chapel, including the famous mural. A study of the structure has revealed that the architecture is of the most pristine quality and special cement has to be imported from England for the repairs to retain the original impression of the Chapel; to solve the problem completely. The roof has to be replaced. The estimated cost of renovation amounts to over Rs. 25 million.

To this end, a group of enterprising Old Boys, working within the Special Events Team of the OBA have come up with innovative and creative fund-raising mechanisms, which will achieve the dual-purposes of raising funds for the Chapel's renovation along with the exposition of Thomian talent. There was a media conference held on the 19th of June to gain publicity for the

“Only the educated are free”

Epictetus

project which will continue until Old Boys week in 2008.

The first event was a concert by “Revelations”, an a cappella group comprising of outstanding Old Boys, which was held on the 1st of July at the Lionel Wendt, and was a resounding success. Next on the agenda is a performance of choral music planned for the 30th of September at the Quadrangle. At the event, a 400-voice choir –made up of Thomians and students from about 10 other schools which are closely associated with S. Thomas' College- will be singing Christian hymns and anthems, and the event will be followed up by dinner and refreshments. Additionally, on the 11th of August a grand sing-along is planned, with Dr. Vijaya Corea taking part in what promises to be a memorable evening.

On the 7th of October a Sunday Service will be followed by a full day fair at the College grounds; there will be plenty of stalls at the fair, and activities to take part in, along with a continuous series of films being shown in the College Hall, and breakfast, lunch and dinner being provided at the Dining Hall. Later on in the month, on the 19th, the Old Thomians' Choir will make its debut at the Bishops College Auditorium, in what will certainly be an evening to remember. On the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of November, the College Drama Society will be staging the comedy “Tons of Money”, which will be directed by Mr. Vinodh Senadeera; these evenings will undoubtedly provide entertainment to all, and should not be missed.

During Christmas a whole host of events have been planned. Firstly, on

the 2nd of December, in conjunction with Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a Christmas tree of 24 levels is to be set up on the Quadrangle. Then, every weekend until the 21st of December will have a series of activities in the evenings organised by the various Clubs and Societies of the College. They will not be merely evenings of entertainment, but will also include social responsibility and reach out programs. The project is to culminate at the grand finale on the 31st of January, at a night of Dinner-Theatre, which will have performances by the Drama Society, music and of course, dinner.

The creative methods adopted by the Special Events team of the OBA, have provided us with a chance of contributing to a worthy cause, and enjoying ourselves into the bargain, a truly praiseworthy act. Since we've been given such an opportunity, all Thomians, past and present, as well as parents and well-wishers should attempt to take part and contribute in some way to the renovation of the Chapel which has stood as symbol of S. Thomas' College for so many years.

The Editors would like to thank Mr. Bertal Pinto-Jayawardene, Chairman of the Special Events Team of the OBA, for providing us with all the necessary information.

If you wish to get more information on the Chapel Renovation Fund, please visit www.stcchapel.org, call +94 112 737173, or email help@stcchapel.org.

“I have never let my schooling interfere with my education”

Mark Twain

Inter-House football tournament.

The Annual Inter House Soccer matches were played on the 18th and 19th of June at the Small Club Grounds. The matches were played in four different age groups; under 13, 15, 17 and 19. Most of the U-13 matches were decided on penalty shootouts and the final was also won on penalties by Stone House after the full time score against Buck House was tied 1-1.

The under-15 age group was won by Boarding House after they beat Wood House on penalties as well (the full time score was 1-1). The under 17 matches were closely fought by Buck and Wood. Buck House was able to outplay Wood House in a penalty shootout to win the age group. L.S. Lihinikaduwa of Buck House played exceptionally well.

The under 19 matches were very exciting to say the least as Boarding House were able to beat on penalties after a thrilling game that ended 2-2. Wood House then beat Boarding 1-0, and went on to win the final against Stone House 2-0. R.A.J.L. Perera played very well for the winners. Wood House emerged overall first with Buck House and Stone House tying for second and Boarding ended up fourth.

Soccerites heading in the right direction.

After winning the divisional and zonal football tournaments, the First XI football team played very well in the Western Province tournament which was held on the 13th of June. They played two very good teams in Colombo and they were able to beat Dharmapala

College 2-0 in the first round. Unfortunately they lost to Zahira College, who are recognised as one of the best teams in the island, 2-1 in the second round. We congratulate the first XI team on their good performance.

June a good month for the ruggerites.

June proved to be a good month for the College First XV Ruggerites as they played very well despite losing the Michael Gunaratne trophy to Royal. The ruggerites won their match against Thurstan in a convincing manner after they beat them 23 -12. They cruised to a comfortable win against Ananda College leading 15-0 at half time and ended the game, beating the Anandians 29-11. They were able to pull off a thrilling win against Wesley College after an injury time try by Esala De Livera Tennekoon saw them earn a hard fought win. They were also able to beat St. Joseph's College 23-17 despite trailing at the end of the first half. They were able to win the Lady Jayatilake Memorial Shield with this win.

The Royal-Thomian rugger match was played on the 16th of June at the CR & FC grounds. The game was a very exciting one and both teams played very well. The game was unpredictable as both teams squandered leads. Despite this the Thomians gave the royalists a good run for their money and the game ended in a 22-18 win for the Royalists. The under 16 team managed to win their match against Royal.

Meanwhile the U-15 rugger team played very well in the Western Province tournament, where they were able to reach the semi finals before losing to Isipathana. The U-13 team was able to reach the final of this

tournament where they beat teams like Ananda and Royal in the process.

Athletes on the right track.

The College Athletics team participated in the Western Province Athletic Meet which was held at the Sugathadasa Stadium from the 19th to the 22nd of June. N.A.M. Bibile came 2nd in the U-21 100m event and also was placed 2nd in the 4x400m relay team with M.I. Omar, Sanka De Livera Tennekoon and Esala De Livera Tennekoon. Ruwan Gunasinghe was placed 2nd in the Long Jump and 3rd in the 200m of the U-17 age group.

Shutlers in good stead.

The College Badminton team participated in the All Island Inter school Badminton tournament which was held in Bandarawela. The College U-16 team was able to win their age group and emerge champions. Meanwhile Timal Peramune was placed 3rd in the U-10 age group at the Fingara Open Badminton Championship.

The Classic Juvenile Open Championship which was organised by the Western Province Badminton Association was held on the 9th and 10th of June at the College Sports Complex. College was able to secure second and third place in the under 10 age group.

Juniors excel in the pool.

The College Junior swimmers have been impressive this season and swimming seems have a bright future. The U-13 team won both the 4x50m freestyle and medley relays at the

National Age Group Relay Championships held at the Sugathadasa Pool on the 24th, 25th and 26th of May. The U-11 team emerged 3rd in the 4x50 freestyle relay and 4th in the 4x50 medley relay, while the U-9 team was placed 4th in both events in their age group.

Also J.D. Thanjaratnam was runner up of the U-10 age group, and D.N. De Mel runner up of the U-14 age group at the Pentathlon Swimming Championships.

The College Junior Swimmers emerged 2nd in the National Age Group Swimming Championships. J.D. Thanjaratnam won the U-10 50m breast stroke event. S. Jayathilake came 3rd in both the 50m breast stroke and freestyle events. We congratulate all the junior swimmers on their impressive performances.

The Ternion would like to apologize to the entire Junior Swimming team and staff for our error in the previous issue, stating that even these victorious juniors had too failed in their task. Our sincere apologies boys!

U-17 Cricketers playing well.

The U-17 cricket “B” team suffered mixed fortunes in their division II cricket tournament matches. The results are as follows

Vs. Mahabodhi Vidyalaya- Won

Vs. St. Xaviers College- No result (rain interrupted play)

Vs. St. Johns College – Lost

Mean while the “A” team results are as follows

Vs. Sri Jayawardanapura Vidyalaya- Won

Vs. Ananda College- Drew

Vs. St. Sebastian’s College -Won

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it”

Aristotle

RED CROSS

M.D Wijaywardena the chairman of the Thomian Red Cross unit was appointed the Hony: Youth Secretary for the youth wing of Sri Lanka Red Cross(SLRCS), Colombo branch at the 1st youth general assembly which was held on the 25th of May at the youth Training Center Colombo. This is the 1st time in College Red Cross history where such a privilege was handed to a student in holding a position as such in the Red Cross network..

In occasion of the Red Cross day 10th May a quiz competition was organized by the Youth wing of SLRCS Colombo in which the College Red Cross Quiz team emerged runners up.

With the co-operation of MOH office Kahawtte youth members of S.Thomas College Mt Lavinia Organized a health camp on the 26th of May at the Panila Maha Vidhyalaya Kahawtte, Rathnapura. Nearly 250 people in this area were benefited from this camp, where special medical attention and medicines were provided to the people..

On the 6th of June 2007 in Occasion of the world Environment Day the Red Cross Youth members organized a tree planting

project with the support of the Dehiwela, Mt Lavinia Municipality where 8 tree saplings which included a few plants of medical value were planted in the Mt Lavinia Park.

Junior Science Day 2007.

The Junior Science and Technology Society held their annual Junior Science Day on the 15th of June 2007 in the college main hall. The theme for the day was "Forensic Science" and the guest speaker was Professor Ravindra Fernando of Colombo University. Around 15 invited schools were present and it was a good event altogether. A science quiz was organised for the invited schools in which Mahanama College triumphed.

Classical Association AGM

The Classical Association held its Annual General Meeting on the 5th of July, 2007. The following were appointed office-bearers:

President: D.T. Wikramanayake

Vice-President: R.E. Rebeira

Secretary: S.M. Schubert

Treasurer: N.B. Meegalla

NOTICES

- The following were appointed College Prefects on the 11th of June.

Izmee Laxana

Yavin Yatwara

Ruchira DeSilva

Miranga Peiris

Ravith Goonewardene

Sachith Vidanapathirana

Shanil Wijesinha

Shehan Wanniachchy

Harith De Mel

Devaan Hallock

Milindra Kulugammena

"The foundation of every state is the education of its youth"

Diogenes Laertius

The Clubs and Societies Awards

Club and Societies Awards are a currently proposed system of giving recognition to the Clubs and societies which have endeavored to reach a high standard of activity all round. The aim of this system is to encourage boys in various clubs to perform their best for their individual club or society and to reward students who are committed towards their clubs or societies. It also encourages Clubs to excel in their activities and raises standards overall. The basic criteria to receive such awards will be based on the Annual reports, Accounts and the total overall effectiveness and efficiency of the club and its members. Although the need has arisen for a system through which we could show our appreciation for those working in clubs and societies, the method proposed also has its flip side. This system has caused mixed ideas and opinions among the students and teachers alike. The Ternion would show the pros and cons of such a system while allowing our readers to decide what they think.

Such a system would promote and encourage clubs and societies to perform at their optimum levels and cause a sense of competitiveness which is not very common between our clubs and societies. Clubs would start to become highly active and focus on their objectives more. However Clubs could also become over competitive and the true motives of Club work could be lost in the process.

This would give a better level of recognition to Clubs and societies and the opinion of sport being superior too Club work could be lessened and more boys will be encouraged to participate in

Club work which will provide those whom do not have the skill or physique to engage in sport a stage for their abilities. However some may interpret these awards as a system of Colours as in sport and this may devalue the Sports colours system. Therefore the scale of importance of these awards should be addressed as not to create a debacle between sportsmen and Club members.

The reports system required for these awards prepare students for the future as important aspects such as Accounts and Annual reports are part and parcel of future work in varied walks of life. Further more this report system will make it necessary for Clubs to actually work properly and reach its objectives. However Clubs may start creating false reports and also work only in the objective of making a satisfactory report but not a fruitful project.

Some Clubs which have been created for only specified purposes may find this system harsh as some other Clubs have a much better opportunity at performing in all aspects and earning these awards without much ado. However more Award categories suited to specific type of Clubs could lessen this problem.

Clubs due to this new field of competitive work may derail from their original objectives as an individual Club and start replicating projects which other Clubs do. This will result in the variety of Clubs and Societies all stuck in a rut of repetitive work. This could be stopped if more points for unique projects for each Club is allocated.

All in all it seems that this system will further expand the extra curricular activity array at S.Thomas' and we hope for success through this endeavour.

“It is possible to store in the mind a million facts and still be uneducated”

Alec Bourne



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Editors

W.H.W. De Mel, M.B. Kulugammana, D.T. De Silva, R.P. De Silva, Mrs. T. Bartlett