



THE TERNION

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EDITORIAL

It was an extremely busy term for the Thomians, with the usual Royal-Thomians and the unusual sports meet.

This year the cricketers of the Reid Avenue after 15 years, proved themselves worthy of battling The Blue Blacks. It was ages since anybody had seen the Royalists enjoy a win. Yet the newfound good luck of the Royalists didn't help them in the limited over match. We congratulate Naveen and the team on their excellent comeback.

The sports meet had a different air to it this year. The whole School including the Lower School participated in one Athletics meet.

The sports meet itself has a distinct spirit embodying it. We have seen many boys participating in events without a single hope of a medal, but for the sake their houses. They were cheered till they were at the finish lines even though the judges were calling for the next race. This spirit was only enhanced with this year's combined participation.

From this issue onwards the editors have planned to dedicate two pages for contributions by Thomians. Jokes, cartoons of own creation, are also welcome in these pages.

We wish all our readers success at the exams even though the festivities didn't help you with it.

We conclude by wishing you a Very Happy Sinhala and Tamil New Year.

ESTO PERPETUA

The Big Match Fever

There is a time in March where there is a serious epidemic which is highly contagious but accepted with glee by thousands of joyous school boys. Known as "Big match Fever" it has been found that there is no cure but to enjoy the week of infection!

From every little Thomian earnestly chanting the phrase "Tho...ra" or the more emphatic senior students who seem to have created newer slogans unmentionable here, have this spirit in them as they head over to watch the much awaited event of the year.

The Pre match extravaganza is always a unique feature in the Battle of the Blues where the parading of schools better known as 'trucking' takes place with boys treading the sacred grounds of girls' schools with the motive of collecting a few rupees for the match. This is an excellent opportunity for some to relieve their stress and frustration and for the Athletics team to recruit fresh talent in the fields of High jump and 100m dash!

Then this year we had the traditional cycle parade after a year's absence. Here the boys manage to ride exclusively decorated bikes through the streets of Colombo with the sincere motive of encouraging our team. (Whether this is true nobody knows!)

Then we come to the main complication of the fever; which of course is the match itself (for most) where the big match memorabilia is sold for ten Rupees by vendors at the gate and the gallant Thomian supporter covers himself with blue and black and maybe a bit of Blue and Gold. Enter the match and the thrill of the match enters your soul even if your team is down and you are now enslaved to this grand gala and there is no place you'd rather be. True cricket fans will watch the match ball by ball while some others appreciate the simpler things in life with great joy and usually by the end of the first day you go home optimistic of a victory.

The next few days are to be enjoyed fully and there is much, much more than Cricket to enjoy. The Food, The Beverage (Selected types), having a great time with your friends, screaming your heart out for your team and of course entertaining the ladies who happen to crowd the gentleman's game.

Another enjoyable sight at the match is of course the adult generation in top gear. The sight of an old Thomian heartily waving the Royal College flag while croaking out lyrics never before heard by any of us is another classic sight to enjoy.

While the match goes on a another battle may also occur in the name of the Battle of the Chairs and Bottles which no one seems to win, so next time try not to join this feature, please! Nobody would want to watch the match on a stretcher.

Eleven young shoulders share the hopes, ambitions and dreams of the whole

Thomian family eagerly awaiting the next wicket or the next boundary to cheer. Months of hard work go into this match and despite the result it is most appreciated by all as it is the game of cricket where anything can happen.

The Big Match: words cannot explain what it means to the Thomian family. We enjoyed these few weeks even though it didn't give the result we yearned for. Here, is a brief summary of what happened at the match;

On the first day, S. Thomas' won the toss decided to bat first. The Thomians were able to make 278 for 8 throughout the day. Naveen Perera (58) and S. Gnanaskandan (57) got their half centuries, while N. Mazahir made 47.

After the Thomians declared, the Royalists toiled hard for a massive score. Batting throughout the second day, they piled up 432 for 7 wickets. They were able to re-establish few records on the way. S. Senaratne (104) and M. Malgaspe (140) did most of the work for the Royalists.

Coming onto the field at the last few minutes of the second day, the Thomians were able to get 296 allout after tea. Shashrika Pussegolla (71) and D. Colombage (83) made a stunning show. Yet the most exciting innings were of the tail ender, Jehaan Thahir's fifty, which was like a bolt from the blue.

With all the effort put in, the Royalists were able to get the 144 runs needed for the victory few minutes before the end of play. (A rare phenomena indeed!)

Notwithstanding their defeat, the Thomians convincingly beat the rivals at

“All great things are simple, and many can be expressed in single words: freedom, justice, honour, duty, mercy, hope.”

-Sir Winston Churchill-

the limited overs. The Thomians batting first, made a splendid 217 for 8. the skipper, Naveen formed the foundation with a 66, while Shashrika(32), Mazahir(24), and Ashan(22) made their contributions.

Due to a splendid bowling and fielding performance the Thomians were able to restrict them to mere 180 and clinch the Mustangs Trophy.

We congratulate on their comeback.

Running for office

The beginning of the year saw the appointment of the office bearers for Athletics for the year 2006, they are as follows:

Captain: S.R. Makalanda
 Vice Captain: N.A.M. Bibile
 Secretaries: S.T. Dias
 R.N. De Mel

Sports meet with a difference

This 17th of March this year saw the upper school/ middle school sports meet and lower school sports meet conducted together for the first time. It was a tremendous success with many showing a lot of talent.

Here are the main results,

Tug of war:
 Winners: De Saram house
 Runners up: Buck house

Overall standings;

1st place: De Saram house
 2nd place: Buck house
 3rd place: Stone house
 4th place: Wood house
 5th place: Boarding house

Best house: Stone house

Thus the sports meet came to an end, and we congratulate all those who emerged victorious and to all those who did not succeed, there is always next year.

Win or loose, participation is the key and victory and defeat should both be taken in with a feeling of sportsmanship and happiness.

Squash

The office bearers for Squash were appointed in the course of the last month, they are as follows,

Captain- M.M.B. Marambe
 Vice Captain- T.S. Wijeweera
 Secretaries- J. N. Gooneratne
 A.I. Issadeen.

New Talent discovered

The squash interschool novices championships were held from the 20th to the 22nd of this month, and our squash players emerged overall champions with 26 points and the Royalists followed in 2nd place with 16 points, our squash players dominated the tournament in nearly all the age groups,

Under 19- 1st A. Vithanage
 Under 17- 1st I.D. Rodrigo
 Under 13- 2nd P. Weerakoone
 Under 11- 1st D. Ariaratne

Test your shooting skills

The rifle club will be holding its Annual General Meeting during the last week of March in order to appoint the new office bearers for the year 2006/2007 and

“It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required.”

-Sir Winston Churchill-

recruit new members to the club. Therefore all those who wish to take up the sport of target shooting are requested to attend this meeting. Practice sessions of target shooting will be held every Thursday at the rifle range from 3:00pm onwards.

Thomians into the movie industry!

Members of the Tamil Drama Society screened a movie titled 'Trill' for the Middle School and Lower 6 students on the 21st of February.

The most spectacular feature of this movie was that it was shot by our very own Drama Society students, in Bandarawela. It was truly a remarkable experience for the Middle School students to watch and enjoy the accomplishments of their fellow senior students on screen.

Verbal duels

The Interactors of College organized a debating competition named "Dual Verbal Duel" on 25th February 2006. Many well-known talented past debaters of College were present as judges on this occasion.

The debates took place in classrooms of the M block and debaters from many reputable schools were present to participate in this event. The debating teams of Royal College and Ananda College qualified for the final, which was held on the 22nd March 2006. At the end, the Anandians proved themselves the best.

Traditions revived

The Royal-Thomian Sinhalese debate which was organized by the Sinhala Literary and Debating Society was held during the current affairs session on the 22nd of February 2006.

The team members representing the College were Avin Fernando, Dinith Akmeemana, Sachith Vidanapathirana and Nisala Perera. The debaters argued on the matter of 'disciplining students without corporal punishment', which was certainly, a controversial topic. The topic was fervently debated on by both teams spicing it up with plenty of humour in-between. The Ternion congratulates the Sinhala Literary Society for reviving a long abandoned tradition.

NEWS

- **The Parent Teacher Association had its annual PTA Rendezvous on Saturday the 25th of March at the Small Club Grounds. It was attended by many teachers and parents.**
- **The term end exams will commence on the 1st of April, at the conclusion of the exams, the 1st Term at S. Thomas' College will end on the 7th April, and it will restart on the 9th of May.**
- **Mr. Siri Edirisinghe, the resigned from his offices on the 29th of March after over 35 years of service. The Science Section held a Farewell ceremony in honour of him.**

"The price of greatness is responsibility.."

-Sir Winston Churchill-

EXTAZTIC 2006

After making its new appointments for the year 2006 the United Nations Club has started to proceed with its objectives in the year planner.

The club is now in the process of organizing a musical concert called "Extaztic 2006" to fund the orphanage adopted by the club. The concert has been scheduled for the 9th of April 2006 and will commence at 7:30 p.m. at the Bishop's College Auditorium.

Major bands of the country such as 'Wildfire' and 'Magicbox' will play along with performers of different schools including the Thomian Hewisi band.

Success with community service

The members of the Leo Club screened the movie 'Like Mike' on the 14th of February for the middle school and

Lower 6 students. The president stated that it was a successful fundraiser mainly for the charity projects planned ahead.

On 25th February the members organized a community service project at the Lankadara orphanage, Wallewatte, which cared for more than 80 children. Events such as a magic show, screening of a cartoon and distribution of refreshments featured this programme.

The Junior Mathematicians

The Junior Mathematics Society organized a Math Exhibition on the 24th at the College Hall. The main objective of the event was to instill an enthusiasm for math among the students of the Middle School.

The exhibition included simple math games such as Sudoku and other math related activities. The exhibits were designed and produced by the student themselves.

Environment Tip: contributed by the Environment Conservation Society.

Water - Every Drop Counts!

The 10 warmest years on record have all occurred since 1990. Yet just 2-3 degrees centigrade of warming could mean that 3 billion people will face water shortages. We should always ask our self if water going down the drain could be used for other purposes.

- **Do not run water while you brush your teeth. It'll save 3 - 5 gallons.**
- **Try to use less water in the tub when taking a bath, filling it half way saves 10 - 15 gallons.**
- **Turn off the shower when "lathering" up with soap, turning it back on to rinse - a shower uses as much as 10 gallons a minute.**
- **Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket - a toilet uses around 5 gallons every flush.**

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm."

-Sir Winston Churchill-

Enter Aslan, nter the Witch, nter the Wardrobe

The Drama Society of S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia will stage the play version of The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, on the 25th, the 26th, the 27th, the 28th and the 29th of May, at the College Hall. Despite concerns pertaining to the heat in the hall, the committee would like to assure the general public that more-than-sufficient cooling arrangements will be made.

For those of you unfamiliar with the storyline of Narnia, here's a brief outline. The story revolves around four children-Peter, Edmund, Susan and Lucy-who stumble upon a magic wardrobe while playing games in their caretaker's house. This wardrobe opens out into the land of Narnia, which was created by the lion, Aslan, who is the son of the Great Emperor (Someone akin to God).

The children find that the land of Narnia has been cursed, by the evil White Witch, with a curse of perpetual winter, and that a mysterious prophecy says that when "two sons of Adam, and two daughters of Eve" sit on the four thrones at the capital of Narnia, the White Witch's reign will cease.

Thus, aided by two amiable beavers, Santa Claus, Aslan himself, and his army-and thwarted by the Witch, her army and her Captain of Guard, the Wolf Maugrim-the four children set out on a road that, if travelled on correctly, will lead them to their rightful places upon the Four Thrones of Narnia.

The Drama Society's stage version of the book will be as, if not more magical than the story itself.

The College Hall is being altered specifically for the occasion, and various extensions to the stage are being made. Unfortunately, this reporter cannot tell you all there is to tell about the magical effects, and backdrop of the actual setting, as this would mean dimming the breathless, excited feeling that you *will* feel when you enter the done-up hall for the first time, for the show.

However, here are the details that you can have:

There will be an extravagant fireworks display-one like you've never experienced before, I assure you. A ticket package that includes dinner at the Golden Mile, straight after the show, will be available to those members of the audience who are interested (Including those of you who want a romantic evening with a lady friend). Various stalls will be erected within the College premises, for the audience's enjoyment, after the play. And finally, you will be entertained by some of the more talented actors in the country, who will be acting on a stage and backdrop which, and wearing costumes the like of which you have never seen before.

The Magic comes alive on stage, May 25th-28th. Tickets will be available from the 1st of May onwards. Be there to witness the eternal conflict between good and evil, and the ultimate triumph.

"A lion's roar cuts through the din of battle.

Hope is not lost.

Enter Aslan."

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

-Sir Winston Churchill-

Should parents get involved in school matters?

The issue of parental involvement in school matters have constantly surfaced in different situations, and they are not merely confined to S. Thomas' College! Should parents get involved or not is a question to which there are no yes or no answers, as the circumstances themselves vary and thus warrant different treatment. Whatever the outcome of parental involvement, one thing is certain; there is a definite effect on the child's career.

Some parents will not look at the ups and downs of school life as a necessary learning experience for the child- that which will keep him as he ventures forth into the real world where neither 'mummy' nor 'daddy' will have any influence. However there are those parents who, in this enthusiasm to be with their child 'every step of the way' overstep the invisible boundaries and are perceived, quite understandably as a 'nuisance'.

Take the issue of children fighting. Children will be children and sometimes one child ends up with a minor injury.

Teachers are most often aware of these skirmishes and the necessary remedial action follows. Parents may quite fairly leave it at that if they can be reassured that there is no repetition of the incident. However, if the parent is dissatisfied with the remedy they sometimes stand up for their aggrieved child and appeal for justice. This of course becomes a nuisance, and most importantly can have a negative effect on the child- in that he can become unpopular.

There are other instances of interference, in varying situations such as decisions regarding competitions, appointments, and sometimes even trivial matters like who should play which role in a play or who should run which race. Parents by their interference question the tried and tested methods of this prestigious institute simply because it hasn't favoured their child or their child is unable to 'fit in'.

Parents must consider these aspects before they interfere in school matters. It will not only ease the pressure around but will also benefit their child, as he will learn how to deal with a world that does not always cater to his fancy.

Dinith Akmeemana

The Pen is mightier.....than the text messages.

At S.T.C. we believe in the freedom of expression. That is why this great institute has produced men who are vociferous and forthright..... and that is why The Ternion opened its pages to readers to submit their views on any matter pertaining to the Thomian family.

As is apt to happen, the flavour of our "Discussion" in the previous issue was found to be unpalatable by some readers. We invite such readers to write back to us- we enjoy a healthy debate and would love to publish your side of the story.

Do not resort to what seems to be emerging as the popular national culture of threats and intimidation. After all, Thomians do not rank with the "barbarous multitudes."
T.Bartlett

"When the eagles are silent, the parrots begin to jabber."

-Sir Winston Churchill-

'Once, a class was punished for playing hand-cricket. They were put into a class to contemplate their bad behaviour. One of the bored students decided to write this curious letter to the teacher hoping to save their necks. Though the letter, never got to the desired destination, was forwarded by a student to The Ternion'

Request for pardon and permission to leave classroom after punishment for disciplinary violation

The students rendered severe punishment and confined to a stuffy classroom hereby request pardon from you, most excellent SIR. We were punished due to a minor disciplinary violation in the form of engaging in a delightful physical exertion employing a soft sphere and hand (we had been driven to improvise due to the reason that our finances were at an unusually low ebb) letting off some of our youthful exuberance as we are wont to, only to be firmly reprimanded and sentenced to spend the rest of the day in a dreary room, and already our respiratory systems are seeming to give up office due to inhaling stale air. We realize however, that it would be a terminological in-exactitude to say that we were totally at fault. We thus humbly request your pardon asking that you would nobly grant freedom to us from the dire straits into which we have been plunged.

Thanking you

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