



THE TERNION

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EDITORIAL

This issue will find you in the middle of your 3rd term exams, perhaps readying yourselves for the inevitable end-of-term festivities. However, as we celebrate Christmas (and freedom from exams!), we must not ignore what is going on around us: Sri Lanka is facing a tense and uncertain political future, and has more challenges than ever in all spheres of life.

In the midst of such a situation, Christmas offers a message of hope, a story of how the Son of God was sent to save a world that was hopelessly indebted to sin- a message that should uplift our hearts. For the past 61 years, the College Choir has celebrated this message through the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. In this issue we examine the origins and meaning behind one of the most important events on the Thomian calendar.

The Chapel Renovation Fund, which was launched earlier this year, is gathering steam; the recently concluded production, which is reviewed in this issue, "Tons of Money" was performed in aid of the fund. December also has many entertaining events planned in connection with the fund, including, among other things, the setting-up of a giant Christmas tree in the Quadrangle!

We would like to wish those sitting for their O/Ls this December (and so will share in the seasonal euphoria a bit later than usual) the best of luck, and wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Esto Perpetua!

The Carol Service

*"Once in Royal David's City
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child."*

With these words begins the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, or as most of us know it, the Carol Service. Let's recap what the student body knows about this service: it's usually held on the first Sunday of December, and always in the evening. It's a great event for socializing. It's probably one of the few Sundays during the year in which the Chapel is actually full. It's a serious affair, and the people who are responsible for the running of the Chapel, i.e. the Chaplain, Choir Master, Choristers and Servers are generally seen rehearsing the order of service, readings, and, most importantly, carols, until late in the night.

All this is well and good, and thus far, no congregation has ever left a Thomian Carol Service dissatisfied with the quality of carols sung, or of nativity passages read. No, they depart with a deep sense of having been witness to a holy, well rehearsed telling of the story of the Birth of Christ. Once again, all this is well and good, but there are so important things about the Festival of

Nine Lessons and Carols that the student body does not know.

For starters, this service did not originate at College. Oh no, we weren't the authors of this format of service. Rather, this order was first penned by a gentleman named E.W. Benson, (who later, interestingly, went on to become the Archbishop of Canterbury) for a Christmas Eve service in the year 1880, in a city called Truro in the United Kingdom. Lessons and Carols as a Christmas service are primarily practiced in the Anglican Church, although a few Roman Catholic churches have also adopted this means of worship. The S. Thomas' College Carol Service is based very closely on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that is performed at the Kings College chapel, by the Kings College Choir, in the UK. In fact, it is almost a carbon copy of it, with all the reading passages, and the traditional hymns taken from that particular service.

The Kings College service began in the year 1918, and planned by Mr. Eric Milner-White, who at the young age of 34 had been appointed Dean of Kings. A revision of the service was done the following year, and from then onward the format has never changed. The hymns and carols that the choir sings alone have altered over the years, as various pieces of music have been used, but there are other traditional hymns and carols that have never been moved out of the service. College has also adhered to that very format, and hence, traditionally, our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has always begun with the Carol "Once in Royal David's City", and ended with "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

The order of readings was laid down to follow the Christmas story from the

foretelling of the birth of Jesus to His birth, and it runs thus: Genesis chapter 3, Genesis chapter 22, Isaiah chapter 9, Isaiah chapter 11, a lesson from the Gospel of Luke 1, a lesson from the Gospel of Luke 2, a second lesson from the Gospel of Luke 2, a lesson from Matthew 2, and the final lesson from the Gospel of John 1.

Just as the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols conducted by the Choir of Kings College is a traditional, solemn, joyful account of the birth of Jesus Christ, so is the service conducted at the College Chapel. What our Chaplain, Choir Master, Choristers and Servers do at this time of the year is piece together a version of a traditional English Service that is rich in meaning and conviction.

So the next time you sit in the Chapel during this service, with a thousand people crammed in with you, stop to think a little. Think about the millions of people around the world who have gathered, just like you have, to hear the same traditional words spoken, and hear the Carols, old and new, joyful and solemn, and who, just like you, are about to be witness to the delight of the Christian Kingdom, and share in the joy of the knowledge that our infant Kings birth anniversary has arrived.

When you step out of our sacred building, with the organs notes and the glorious harmony of a thousand voices ringing in your ears, take a moment to breathe in the night air, and remember the glory of the Virgin birth of Christ. Know that what you have witnessed is not merely a Carol Service to finish the year off, but a wonderful tradition that has survived centuries, and still comes around once a year, everywhere around the world, to bring light to the life of Christians.

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree"

Roy L. Smith

"We'll have Tons of Money!!!"

"Yes Aubrey, but we owe Tons of Money, and by the time we've paid for the Tons of Money, there won't be any Tons of Money left!!!"

These are some words that sound familiar to those of you who went and saw the latest comedy "Tons of Money" which was produced by The Drama Society of S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia.

"Tons of Money" took to the stage on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of November 2007 at the College Hall and the unstoppable laughter began at 7.30pm. "Tons of Money" is the society's first venture into the realm of comic plays since their production "Playing Doctor" in August 2003. It is also one of their most hilarious comedies yet. The production was directed by Mr. Vinodh Senadeera.

The success of this comedy was evident to anyone who was present at the entrance of the College Hall at the before the play started. It was a hit among many students and was also popular among others of all ages; in fact, many of the audience, not satisfied by a single evening of entertainment, returned the next day for more.

The main story in "Tons of Money" revolves around Aubrey Henry Maitland Allington who is a bankrupt aristocrat, an unsuccessful inventor and happens to be in serious debt to a lot of people. However, his problems seem to be over when he hears that he has inherited (from his dead brother) tons of money!! Of course, this sum will only be sufficient to pay off his clamoring creditors— hence leaving him with nothing. Since then the play carves itself into a scheming plot by Aubrey and

Louise to claw onto the money by any means.

Louise Allington "has an idea" and the couple put it into action. First they stage Aubrey's death and pretend he died in a massive explosion (a direct result of one of Aubrey's latest inventions) and then resurrect him in the form of his cousin who is thought to be dead, thus avoiding payments to his bevy of creditors. Things go wrong from the very start as a surprised Aubrey gets caught in a real explosion. Later his arrival as his cousin, George Maitland goes wrong because it coincides with the arrival of his cousin's wife, which leads to even more complications. A series of hilarious events take place: a second death is staged and is followed by yet another imposter. Amidst all this confusion and pandemonium the real George Maitland arrives. But the icing is put on the cake when the lawyer, Mr. Chesterman, arrives towards the end of the show and tells everyone that the estate they've been trying to fight for is now worthless.

The cast comprised of Shanil Wijesinha, Milindra Kulugamma, Jurinesh Shadrach, Jehan Gunasekara, Dathika Wickramanayake, Harith de Mel, Nuwan D' Alwis, Mark Schubert, Shehan Mendis and Ruven Weerasinghe and all actors should be commended for their top notch acting on stage. Most importantly, all proceeds from the production are being contributed towards the Chapel Renovation Fund. Thus, "Tons of Money" was not merely a comedy worthy of the genre, which kept the audience laughing the whole night; it was also an example of Thomians coming together to help the school, and should serve as an example for other students to follow. We applaud the actors, and the dedicated Mr. Senadeera on their efforts; any chance of an encore performance?

"Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart"

Washington Irving

Stickers rejuvenated!

The Thomian Hockey team won several games in the past few weeks in the "Royal Sevens" matches, a welcome return to form after a disappointing Royal-Thomian. The games were held at the Royal Grounds from the 13th to the 14th of October 2007.

The matches against Mahinda College, Zahira College and St. Benedicts College were won by the Thomian team with scores reading 2-0, 1-0 and 3-1 respectively. It is heartening to see such a stellar performance; no doubt this points to a very successful season next year.

Oarsmen thrashed

The annual Royal-Thomian Regatta was held on the 27th of October, 2007, and the College team suffered the ignominy of the first 40-0 loss in the history of the event. Some of the races were keenly contested but it was always the Royalists who emerged ahead at the last stretch. The overall standard of Rowing seemed to have improved with both sides breaking past records. It is hoped that this loss will spur our oarsmen on, and provide the impetus for a better performance next year.

Water Polo team fights back!

The annual Royal-Thomian Water polo encounter was held recently at the Sugathadasa Stadium and the College Team suffered a very disappointing loss despite a very well fought second leg game.

The first leg was held on the 14th of November 2007 and the College Team lost the match with a score of 3-8, being comprehensively outplayed by Royal.

However, refusing to listen to the cynics and the naysayers, the Water Polo team came back very strongly for the second leg (played on the 18th at the same venue) and held the game to an 8-all draw. Many of the spectators were of the opinion that a similar performance at the first leg would have secured the Dr. R.L. Hayman Trophy. Sadly this was not to be, and the Royalists retained the trophy with an aggregate score of 16-11.

Footballers disappoint

Adding to the depressing list of lost Royal-Thomian encounters, the annual Royal-Thomian Soccer match, which was held on the 19th of November 2007 at the CR & FC Grounds in Colombo, also ended in defeat. The U-19 Thomian Soccer team, which was expected to perform exceptionally, suffered a disappointing 2-0 loss; however, the performance was certainly an improvement on past Royal-Thomians, and it is hoped that next year will produce a victory. The Under-17 match meanwhile, was a draw, with the score at 0-0.

Junior badminton Champs!

The College Under-12 team comprising of seven members recently won the Under-12 Team Championships that were held from the 26th to the 28th of October 2007 at the Royal College Sports Complex.

Omali Dharmawardena also emerged Champion of the Under-15 age group at the recently held Junior Nationals. We congratulate the players on their successes.

“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold,
everything is softer and more beautiful”

Squash team goes far

The inter-school Squash Tournament was held recently on the 2nd and 3rd of

November 2007 at the C.C.C Squash Courts in Colombo. The Thomian Squash Team emerged runners up at this event. Gihan Swaris was the Under-17 Champion at this event. The team finals were held at the College Sports Complex. The College Squash Team became overall runners up in this tournament.

Cricketers prosper!

The 1st XI cricket team has been prospering recently, with a string of good performances. The following matches were Under-20 inter-school fixtures played at the Big Club Grounds.

In early November, playing against Zahira College, Maradana, the S. Thomas' scored 220 all out in the first innings, to which their opponents' reply was 115 all out. In the second innings, S. Thomas' declared at 50-2, before dismantling Zahira College for 45 runs, handing the Thomians an emphatic win. U.S.M. Fernando performed exceptionally in this match, capturing a match bag of 10 wickets.

In a match played against Dharmashoka College, Ambalangoda, S. Thomas', bowling first, dismissed their opponents for 110 runs and then made 220 in the first innings with R.A. Fernando scoring 75 runs. In the second innings Dharmashoka College was dismissed for 102, handing the match to S. Thomas' by an innings and 8 runs.

Finally, in a match played against St. Aloysius College, Galle, the Thomians were bowled out for 108 runs in the first innings, and St. Aloysius was demolished for 46 runs. U.S.M. Fernando captured 4 wickets for 3 runs and M.R.N. Fernando captured 3 wickets for 19 runs. In the second innings S. Thomas' declared at 86-3, leaving their opponents with a target of 149 runs in 38 overs. Sadly, bad light stopped play when St. Aloysius was on 76-8, with 8 overs remaining, denying the College team a well-deserved victory. Such good form is a promising sign for the remainder of the season, and the not-so-distant Big Match; here's to more victories in the future!

NOTICES

- **The following were appointed School Prefects on the 21st of November, 2007:**

K.T. Amarasuriya, N.R.Y. Cabraal, S.R. De Alwis, R.P. De Silva, S.K. Dissanayake, C.V. Fernando, E.M.K. Fernando, W.S.J.S. Fernando, R.J. Gomez, M.I. Salahudeen, J.R. Shadrach, A.J. Thahir, E.D. Wickramanayake.

- **The annual Carol Service of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia, was held for the 61st time on the 2nd December, 2007.**
- **Remembrance Day, held to honour all Thomians who have fallen in combat, was held on the 16th of November, 2007.**
- **Lost and Found – A pair of lady's spectacles has been found and is available at the College Office**

“When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?”

G.K. Chesterton

Quiz Team excels

The Senior Quiz Team participated in the annual inter-school Quiz Competition organized by Musaeus College on the 7th of November, 2007. The team comprised of D.S. Wickremasuriya, D.S. Casie Chetty, S.R. De Alwis and D.S. Rajasingham. They did extremely well to end as runners-up, losing the final round to Royal College, 5-3. On the 9th of November a team consisting of D.S. Wickremasuriya, A.I.B. Ekanayake, D.T.N. Wijewickrema and D.S. Rajasingham became joint 2nd runners-up at the annual inter-school Quiz Competition organized by Royal College.

Meanwhile, the AGM of the club was held on the 22nd of November. The following were appointed office-bearers:
President: S.R. De Alwis

Vice President: G.A. Sumanaratne

Secretary: D.S. Rajasingham

Treasurer: D.T.N. Wijewickrema

English debaters dominate

The English Literary and Debating Society has had one of its most successful seasons in years, reestablishing S.Thomas' College as the dominant force in the sphere of inter-school English debating.

At the Nixon Challenge Shield Debating Tournament 2007, organized by Ladies' College on the 20th and 21st of October, the Thomian team, consisting of P.R. Saldin, D.S. Rajasingham and R.J.W. Weerasinghe, emerged runners-up, meeting Musaeus College, Ananda College, Wesley College, Asian International School and St. Joseph's College during the course of the tournament. They finally met Royal College at the finals, and proposed the topic "This house would overthrow

regimes that support terrorism", losing by a narrow margin. All debates were conducted in the British Parliamentary style.

Additionally, a team consisting of S.M. Schubert and M.E. Wickremasinghe won the R.M.L. Jayasekera Trophy Impromptu Debating Tournament organized by Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya on the 10th and 11th of November, beating many capable teams along the way.

The society's most significant achievement for the year was its victory at the Dr. N.M. Perera Memorial Challenge Trophy Debating Tournament organised by Ananda College and generally recognized as the most prestigious inter-school English debating tournament of the year. The Thomian team, comprising K. Kandasamy (Captain), P.R. Saldin (Vice-Captain), S. Uvais and D.S. Rajasingham, met Musaeus College, Royal College, and the "A" and "B" teams of St. Joseph's College en route to the finals. The finals were held on the 23rd of October at the Colombo Museum Auditorium against Asian International School, with S. Thomas' opposing the topic "Social injustice justifies political violence"; the Thomian team won by a unanimous thrashing margin, thus winning the trophy for the 7th time since its inception in 1990, and for the first time in three years.

The Ternion applauds the society on a truly marvelous year, and hopes it maintains its run of victories into the upcoming season as well.

UN Day

The annual United Nations Day 2007 was held on the 6th of November, 2007 at the College Hall. The Chief Guest for the event was Honorable Supreme Court Justice Shirani Tilakawardena, while the

"To perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more
difficult with every year"

E.B. White

Guest of Honor was the President of the Sinhala Women's Organization for the Welfare and Advancement of Women Mrs. Indrani Iriyagolle. The theme for this year was "Women and Men partnering to achieve Gender Equality", and over 350 guests were present. The evening was a very memorable one with a variety of items lined up. The highlight of the evening was most certainly the Chief Guest's address which was thought-provoking and revealing, exposing the unconscious prejudices and stereotypes many of us have regarding men and women. The United Nations' Club must be commended for organising a relevant, informative, and all-in-all excellent UN Day; may they continue to do so in the years to come.

Magic Mugs for the Chapel

The Interact Club has launched the sale of magic mugs; these mugs, which cost Rs. 650 each, are normally black, but magically change colour to reveal a picture of the Chapel of the Transfiguration as soon as they are filled with hot substance. As all profits from their sale will go towards the Chapel Renovation Fund, all students are encouraged to purchase a mug.

6th annual Leo installation

The 6th annual Installation ceremony of the Leo Club of S. Thomas' College was held on the 7th of November, 2007. The ceremony, which commenced at 3.30PM, was attended by members of the Lions' Club of Jawatta Summit as well as members from other prominent Lions and Leo Clubs. The Chief Guest of the event was Mr. Fayaz Saleem. The following were appointed office-bearers:

President: K.B. Jeger
 Vice Presidents: D.N.H Augustine
 D. Nandakumar
 Secretary: P.R. Saldin
 Treasurer: T.R.B. Dissanayake

Scrabblers placed 1st in the island!

The Scrabble Club of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia has performed brilliantly to win the Annual All-Island inter-school Scrabble Tournament for the first time in six years. The tournament was organized by the Sri Lanka Scrabble League and was held at Royal College, Colombo, on the 15th of September, 2007. The winning team consisted of the following members: K.H.R.A. Peiris, D.S. Casie Chetty, H.E. Kodituwakku, S. Danthararayana, D. De Silva and V. Arentsz. The Ternion congratulates the team on a job well done and wishes to apologize for its tardiness in reporting this admirable feat.

Red cross in action

The 2nd Annual General Meeting and Assembly of the Red Cross Youth Unit was held on the 24th of October 2007. The following were appointed Office Bearers.

Youth Chairmen –M.M.C Doss
 Youth Vice Chairman I – T.B Kuruppu
 Youth Vice Chairmen II- M.V Siva
 Youth Secretary - M.Jathurshan
 Youth Treasurer - B.L.A Mendis

The members of the society have been involved in many community service activities and wish to invite all students from Lower 4 upwards to join hands with the largest humanitarian volunteer network in the world. Meetings are held on Wednesdays in the M18 class room.

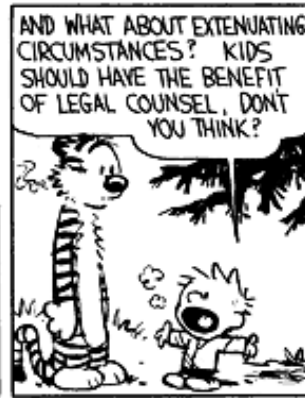
"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as
 opening our hearts"
 Janice Maeditere



WHERE'S SANTA GONNA STICK HOBBS' LOOT, IF HOBBS DOESN'T HAVE A STOCKING?!!



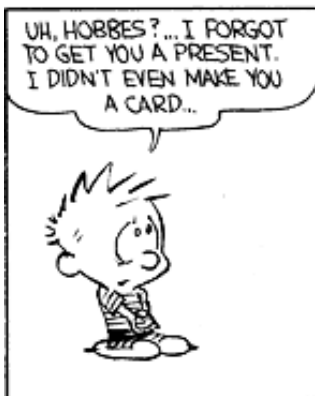
WHO APPOINTED SANTA? HOW DO WE KNOW HE'S IMPARTIAL? WHAT CRITERIA DOES HE USE FOR DETERMINING GOOD AND BAD?



TOO OFTEN WE DON'T EXAMINE OUR LIVES. THIS IS A TIME TO TAKE STOCK AND THINK ABOUT WHAT'S IMPORTANT.



IT'S A TIME TO REDEDICATE ONESELF TO FRENZIED ACQUISITION... A TIME TO SPREAD THE JOY OF MATERIAL WEALTH... A TIME TO GLORIFY PERSONAL EXCESS OF EVERY KIND!



Editors

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