



# THE TERNION

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## EDITORIAL

The gloomy cloud of war has appeared again and lingers with torrents of fresh trauma in store. Political mayhem and terrorism at its peak, Sri Lanka suffers on...

On a happier note for our country Sri Lanka has once again stamped its authority in cricket by achieving records galore at the recently concluded test match. Unfortunately, the highest score by an individual could not be achieved and to think how a matter of 28 runs seemed so far away to a man who has made almost 20 folds is queer.

This goes to show that the little things which we take for granted in life matter and every bit contributes to success. On the note of records The Thomian Scouts have also achieved a daunting task very unique in nature.

This issue contains an article quite different to others which is connected to Sri Lankan politics. The Editors felt that in the light of the current political situation, it is apt to quote Prof. G.L. Pieris, who spoke to our current affairs forum.

Another faithful servant of College leaves College at the end of this term and he leaves with a mission accomplished and as he pointed out all good things must come to an end, but Mr. Arulanandan sir, you will remain in the hearts of many Thomians forever. The Ternion wishes you God's choicest blessings.

Another hectic term comes to a close and we wish all of you a restful and happy holiday!

ESTO PERPETUA!!!

## A Fond Farewell to Mr. Arunalandan:

*"I say, get back into class men! All this un-necessary shouting! You call yourselves Thomians?!"*

Alas, and alack, after thirty seven years of this melody resounding in the corridors of our school, the boys of S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia bid a sad goodbye to a figure who has been a part of the life of College since longer than any of us currently in school were even born. A gentleman who weathered the changing of five Wardens of this esteemed institute, and was an integral part of its faculty and administration for so long, leaves us at the end of the term.

An educationist such as Mr. Arunalandan is not content to go into retirement yet, and so he has secured a post at Colombo International School, and will be starting work at his new post from the next term, working at Teaching and Academic Administration, and teaching Social Studies and History in the O/L forms.

When inquired as to which memory out of all the memories he has gathered in his thirty seven years at College is most vivid, Mr. Arunalandan stated that the 1985 prize-giving was one of the saddest events at College for him personally, as, during the above mentioned event, Mr. R. Karalukulasingham had a heart attack and passed away, right there.

However, he says that those few tainted memories are more than made up for with all the happy memories he has acquired through the years.

A true Educator, Mr. Arunalandan said with the utmost sincerity that his most fond memories are those pertaining to the academic results of his students, when they do well at their examinations and so on. With a twinkle in his eye, he also told this reporter, “and also when we win at the Royal Thomian Cricket and Rugby encounters. That’s the most important thing for you all, no?”

The school boys who have studied under this venerable, energetic teacher have so many incidents and encounters with Mr. Arunalandan to be told that a book could be written on the topic. He was one of the few teachers who had the gift of controlling students, not through fear and threats, but by and through the respect the school populace have towards him.

From his characteristic way of talking, to his purposeful gait and his own unique way of handling things, Mr. Arunalandan was truly a role model as a teacher, and for the students. Whenever anyone had any issues in their lives they found hard to deal with, he was the man to turn to.

From problems with girlfriends to problems with teachers, to various insecurities and uncertainties, he was always there to help the student body out, and indeed was one of the few teachers with whom everyone knew they could be open.

We quote Mr. Arunalandan’s request to Thomians:

*“You have a Golden opportunity in having your education at S.Thomas’ College. Never forget your Alma – Mater. Sri Lanka needs men of integrity, Character and vision. So let your life at S.Thomas’ enable you to become what our country needs, and bring pride to S.Thomas’.”*

Sir, your final words to the students of College will never be forgotten.

A newsletter is a wonderful forum to use to voice ones personal sentiments; thus, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Arunalandan for the assistance granted to me while I was in the upper sixth forms. His encouragement saw me through a confusing period in my life.

Furthermore, to quote Mrs. T. Bartlett: *“One of Mr. Arunalandan’s most outstanding qualities is his forthrightness. To a teacher, this was reassuring, as he called a spade a spade, and you knew exactly where you stood. He is also a most honourable gentleman, who taught me one of the most important things about STC; At S. Thomas’ there are no Muslims, Tamils or Sinhalese; only Thomians.”*

On behalf of the student body, sir, I would like to thank you for moulding generations of Thomians’ characters’, and making us the men we are today. Your loyalty and dedication to this school will always be appreciated and remembered, and we hope that our conduct and successes will be such you will be pleased with when you meet us in later years. We wish you all the very best and Gods choicest blessings in your new post.

Thank you, Sir. Be Thou Forever.

**Inter house drama competition**

The Inter house drama competition organized by the Sinhala drama society was held on the 14 of July at the College Hall. Stone house emerged victorious with Ruchira De Silva being adjudged the best actors. De Saram house were the runners-up. The competition was judged by Mr. Vinodh Senadeera and Mr. Sarath Amunugama.

The winning play conveyed a powerful message that proved that a child needs love and protection which money can't buy.

This competition unearthed a huge amount of hidden talent which had finally found a way out. This talent should be harnessed, nurtured and developed, future plans have also started

coming up in this avenue.

**An oblivion effect**

The computer club will be organizing an IT project in conjunction with the computer club of Bishop's College called "Oblivion effect". They will discuss various technological issues about the latest hardware such as STI graphics and PC entertainment. It will be held at the Bishops Auditorium in September.

**Leo Club Shramadhanaya**

The Leo Club will be organizing a "shramadhanaya" or consolation project in aid of an elder's home. This project will be executed during the holidays and the members invites all interested in getting involved. For more information,

**THOMIAN SCOUTS MAKE HISTORY!**

**The 16<sup>th</sup> Colombo Scout Troop emerged Champions in the Brig. C.P Jayawardene Challenge Shield for the Senior Scouts and the Mayor's Flag Challenge competition for Junior Scouts. Though the troop has emerged Champions in either of the above competitions this is the first time in the history of this competition since 1963 that both the Junior and Senior categories have been won by one Troop.**

**The Senior Patrol for the Brig. C.P Jayawardene Challenge Shield**

**K. Kandasamy, J.D.E. Ranasinghe, N.M. Bulathsinhala, R.A.I. de Fonseka, N. Abeygoonewardene, R. Ratnavale, M.S.G.S. Pieris, P. Aponsu**

**The Junior Patrol for the Mayor's Flag Challenge Competition**

**N.D. Bastiansz, V.R. Laduwahetty, H.A. de Mel, Y.J. Philips, S.M. de Silva, S.D. Illangakon, C.D. de Mel, D.L.R. Goonewardene**

please contact any Leo club member.

### **24<sup>th</sup> Interact Installation Ceremony**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Interact Installation ceremony was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July at the College Hall. The Chief Guest at the event was Int. PP Lanka Rathnayake who spoke inspiringly on multi ethnicity and how valuable it is in our lives. Past presidents such as Int.PP Shawn Shiek, Int.PP Daham Rathnayake, and Int.PP Irshaad Hameed. The Interact reigns were handed down from Int.Gihan Beneragama to Int. Manesha Marambe.

Executive Board:

President	Int.Manesha Marambe
Vice President	Int. Yehan Ranasinghe
Secretary	Int.Ranushka de Silva
Treasurer	Int.Harith de Mel

### **Clean Pond quest**

The Environmental Conservation Society will be having a pond clean up session on the 11 of August. They hope to clean up the ponds of the college. Any boy who wants to join this worthy cause is welcome.

### **Ping Pong Activity**

The month of July was one of heavy activity as far as Table Tennis was

concerned, with many new players taking part in the events. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of July the Inter-House Table Tennis Tournament was held at the College Sports Complex, with a sharp increase in participation; a souvenir was published (for the first time) to commemorate and fund the event.

After many a hard fought match, the following houses emerged victorious at the end of the tournament:

U-19- Champions: Stone House  
 Runner-Up: De Saram House  
 U-17- Champions: Wood House  
 Runner-Up: Buck House  
 U-15- Champions: De Saram House  
 Runner-Up: Stone House

The College Table Tennis players also took part in a tournament organized by the Friendship Table Tennis Club, which was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July at the College Sports Complex.

The tournament consisted of age groups from U-8 to U-21. The players from S. Thomas' College did extremely well to win several titles; the most significant performances follow:

A.D. Sudharshon U-12 Champion  
 T. Samaraweera U-15 Runner Up  
 S. Ranasinghe emerged Champion of the

### **Notices**

- **Term II will end on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August and School will commence from the 5<sup>th</sup> of September.**
- **The Feast of the Chapel of Transfiguration, S. Thomas' College was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. This was preceded by evensong at the Chapel on Saturday.**

U-15, 18 and 21 age groups. The fact that he is a student of the Lower 6<sup>th</sup> Forms adds to this demonstration of his outstanding talent.

Lastly, the College Table Tennis team (which was comprised of K.G.W. Ratnayake, A.D. Kumarage and S. Ranasinghe) took part in the All-Island Table Tennis Tournament held in June/July, and made their way to the semi-finals.

On behalf of the Ternion we wish to congratulate the Table Tennis Team for their advancements.

### **Cadets Selection Camp**

The Cadets took part in the Cadets Selection Camp held at Moratuwa Maha Vidyalaya on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. They were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the camp and are to take part in the Battalion Camp on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August at Rantambe. We wish them the best of luck.

### **Ruggerites head-butted**

The College 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugger team lost the annual cup match for the Canon R.S. De Saram Trophy to Trinity College on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. The Thomians were pinned down by Trinity in the first half and conceded a lead of 7 points at lemons. In the second half, despite more aggressive play by the Thomians, Trinity emerged champs with a score of 12-0.

The Thomians fared little better in the junior games where:

U-12: Trinity beat STC 19-0

U 14: Trinity beat STC 14-0

U 16: Trinity draw 5 all

U-18: Trinity beat STC 5-0

Two fixture matches were also held during the month of July and the College team fared excellently to beat the Anandians 22 to 5 but the week after St. Peters College were able to get the better of the Thomian XV after a lapse of three years beating us by 28 to 10.

The match against Kingswood College was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, the Thomian first XV lost the match. Scores, 43-12

It has been heartening to note the progress of the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV who have been performing quite well with a professional performance against St. Peters beating them 24-nil.

The Editors would like to request the students to give their support at the matches as Thomian support was relatively low.

### **Cricketers Race to 2<sup>nd</sup> Round!**

The U-17 "A" cricket team raced through the 1<sup>st</sup> Round of the Astra All-Island Inter School Cricket Tournament (Division A) winning five matches in a row.

The defeated include Mahanama College, Moratuwa Vidyalaya and last year's champions Prince of Wales College. N. Mazahir, D. Soysa and Captain V. Weerawardena scored centuries while N. Fernando, N. Ghany and C. Fonseka were the chief wicket takers. No doubt they will continue in this vein throughout the tournament

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The aim of life is self-development. To realize one's nature perfectly - that is what each of us is here for.

-Oscar Wilde-

### An extract of the Speech made by Prof. G.L Pieris

A special Current Affairs session was organized by the “Esto Perpetua Economic Forum” on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July with Prof. G.L Pieris as guest Speaker.

Prof. G.L. Pieris has been a major political figure fighting for a lasting peace in the country.

The following is a summary of the speech Prof. G.L Pieris made. He began with praise for having a session such as Current Affairs at College and then immediately focused his attention to the topic ‘How can we solve this problem in Sri Lanka?’

The answer to this problem was masterly divided into nine sub points and some of them clearly portrayed Thomian values and ideals as well.

1. Multi ethnicity should be treated as a source of strength and not a sign of weakness. A country should be able to make a political structure without excluding any race and that is very important. At S. Thomas’ we practice this principle perfectly and our multi cultural background is quite diverse but there is perfect unity and harmony among the Thomian family.
2. There should be Multi Ethnic decision making and the minority of a country should never feel left out of the decision making mechanism. A repercussion of

not doing so was an incident when vice chancellor was killed by a minority of students who had no other route to be heard of. They were quoted “violence is the only way we can be noted”. Then the Professor emphasized the usefulness of the term ‘Devolution of Power’ which is the perfect way to solve such problems.

3. Ethnic problems can be solved if economic resources can be fairly distributed among all races without specific allocation of resources to one community. He explained the theory behind inviting Co chairs such as Japan and India to settle the ethnic conflict by saying that the economic resources available in Sri Lanka would not be enough to re build but the foreign assistance will help in a major way.
4. Isolation never helps anyone. S. Thomas’ College has never been isolated and thus it has flourished. In the same way that is why we need to internationalize the crisis in order to seek a facilitator.
5. Any solution has to be practical and it is important for our government to practice pragmatism. For example a governing body for central Sri Lanka should change and adapt in regional areas as to facilitate the diverse needs of the people in that area. So we need to practical in our thinking the solution

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The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it. Resist it, and your soul grows sick with longing for the things it has forbidden to itself.

-Oscar Wilde-

- derived needs to be fair and practical.
6. Why do we say that the peace facilitator Norway is dangerous? Usually when problems occur we go to people who are experienced in solving matters to get a totally new opinion to the chain of thought and that is the basis behind bringing Norway into our peace process.
  7. A problem has so many aspects so you have to prioritize. In Sri Lanka our priority is to reduce the scale of violence because it is very important to maintain the ceasefire. That is a central issue. You cannot address political issues when there is violence and I quote 'sequence is sometimes more important than substance.
  8. This point I make is very useful in ones life. I always think it best to aim small so that you will miss small. When you aim at smaller targets, anything you will achieve above that will elevate your happiness and you will not be saddened. This is a very useful tactic when handling media because, when our targets are set low the outcome will not be under criticism because the level of expectancy is not that high.
  9. All these eight points add up to one final thing which is to find a solution for the prevailing crisis. In a mature political culture the public trust is required for progress but as witnessed in Sri Lanka inter party rivalry causes a lot of havoc within a political structure. In India, the two main political parties, rivals in the political scenario join hands in solving the Jammu Kashmir national crisis. This sort of political maturity is not prevalent in Sri Lanka and it will only happen if adequate pressure is applied from public to politicians and vice versa.
- The public service ideal at S. Thomas' College is most suited for creating such a situation. I urge all young Thomians to take this problem into your hands someday and to get involved in taking Sri Lanka a step higher.
- The Editors thank Prof. G.L. for enlightening the young Thomians on the present situation and also wish him good luck in his efforts for a peaceful Sri Lanka.

### Obituary Notices

- **The Ternion records, with deep sorrow, the demise of Mr. Tissa Dias, husband of Mrs. Champika Dias, of the College Form Science Section. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family.**
- **The Ternion also records with grief the death of Mr. D. S. Jayasekara, the former head master of the lower school, who had been a member of the tutorial staff at College for 49 years. We extend our sympathies to the family.**



### Ig Nobel Prizes

Every year, the University of Harvard conducts a peculiar type of awards ceremony. These awards, called "Ig Nobels", honours outrageous and somewhat funny inventions. The criteria of the awards presentation is that the inventions should 'first make people laugh and then make them think'. The editors have listed some of the achievements which were found to be highly interesting. We hope that this would inspire some of you.

- Eduardo Segura, of Lavakan de Aste, in Tarragona, Spain, for inventing a *washing machine* for cats and dogs.
- Buck Weimer of Pueblo, Colorado for inventing Under-Ease, *airtight underwear* with a replaceable charcoal filter that removes bad-smelling gases before they escape.
- Dr. Jack and Rexella Van Impe of Jack Van Impe Ministries, Rochester Hills, Michigan, for their discovery that black holes fulfill all the technical requirements to be the location of *Hell*.
- Charl Fourie and Michelle Wong of Johannesburg, South Africa, for inventing an automobile burglar alarm consisting of a detection circuit and a *flamethrower*.
- Dr. Yoshiro Nakamats of Tokyo, Japan, for photographing and retrospectively analyzing every meal he has consumed during *a period of 34 years*. (and counting)

### Editors

S. M Vidanapathirana, Y. A Yatawara, S. D Schubert, W.H.W. de Mel, M.M. Kulugammana, Mrs. T. Bartlett

