



# THE TERNION

Volume 7, Issue 3. March/April 20076

## EDITORIAL

As the whole of Sri Lanka transformed in to one giant screen, the country regained momentary ethnic and religious unity in the name of the game.

The ever consistent cries of the 'Koha' in the traditional Avurudu season were replaced by the death rattle of an Air craft which zoomed over our heads on that fateful night of the World cup. Defeat certainly was plausible given the unjust conditions of the weather and pitch but to all the civilians under the threat of terror, the World cup defeat must have been a distant concern compared to the real terror that loomed overhead.

Our faithful readers may remember the excerpt from Prof. G.L Pieris's speech at Current affair. The importance of International relations is certainly under the microscope. Can Sri Lanka live alienated from the world? Certainly the 4 students from College who travelled to Germany think otherwise. This edition features a review by one of our exchange Students.

Life is at its toughest. The cost of living is high, Terror threats, Power failures, certainly life is tough, School life will be tougher with this long term slowly unfolding itself with very few holidays on the calendar.

Thomians will continue their prayers for peace. We will pray that the roaring of the Blue seas that circle this beautiful paradise will be drowned by the roar of Peace and liberty for all races in our island.

Esto Perpetua!

### Mr. Ajith Gunawardena, Prefect of Games:

*Mr. Gunawardena is a man gifted with many talents- as an administrator, coach and counselor. He is leaving his post after a ---- long stint as the Prefect of Games, this year, and will be missed sorely around College.*

### **Sir, could you talk us through your career as a sportsman at S. Thomas' and outside College?**

As for sports at College, I mainly engaged in sports representing my house. The only serious sports I did were cadetting and rowing, from my Upper 6 year, to my Coll. B year. I was ranked a private in my cadet platoon. As for rowing, I rowed my first regatta in the year 1969. I stroked the Thomian Senior Four of that year, although I was not a sculler at that point in time. In fact it was at the inter house rowing regatta that I was discovered, when my pair partner, Terence Pendigrast and I beat the Captain and Vice Captain of the crew. This was observed by the Club hierarchy, and I was invited to join the Colombo Rowing Club (while still a school boy) to represent them by rowing in the "2" position, in their B Four, during a tour of India. I left school in 1970, and in 1974 obtained my National Colors at the age of 23, for representing Sri Lanka at a regatta conducted by the Far East Amateur Rowing Association.

**Do you hold any records, Sir?**

A record at my time was not based upon how fast one could get down a course, as courses themselves varied during that time, however, I still hold the record for winning the senior four, senior pair and senior scull at the Madras-Colombo regatta, as well as winning the Maclin sculls championship regatta in the same year.

**Do you see any difference in the attitudes that athletes had towards sport then, and the attitude they have towards sports now?**

People in my time did sport for the enjoyment of the sport, and the numbers of people participating in any given sport were limited, which enabled students to have colors in multiple sports. The kids today are more passionate about one sport, but I don't know if they enjoy themselves as much as previous years' sportsmen did. I also feel that the passion the children nowadays have towards their respective sport have led to them being judgmental about other sports, to the point of unpleasantness.

**How and when were you approached to take up the post of POG, and when did the sports complex come under your control, Sir?**

Upon Mr. Daniel Edirisingha's retirement, four applicants from within College were chosen, and interviews were conducted. By the time I had been coach of the rowing crew for 17 years. In 1999 I took over the sports complex.

**Since you have taken over the roles of Prefect of Games and administrator of****the sports complex, what are the changes you have implemented within the system, Sir?**

Huge differences were made with the way the sports complex is run, where restrictions were imposed on membership. The use of any facility was made possible only through a membership. I have also regularized the time of usage of the facilities, in addition to restructuring the usage prices, as well as enhancing the available facilities. I'm proud to say that we have had a 1500% percentage increase in income from the sports complex, since I took over. As for my improvements to college sport through my post as POG, that is left to be judged by the school. In my opinion, the attitudes, and discharged duties of the TIC's and MIC's has changed favorably since I took over. They are all very responsible, and hold stricter control over the students. Every team is looking at itself, and attempting to make itself a marketable product for sponsorship and donation, so that they can support themselves individually, and I'm glad to say that now (Apart from cricket and rugby, which have always had their own dedicated sponsors), there are established annual sponsors for sports like badminton, basketball, rowing, squash, water-polo and cadetting. It is the intention of the POG's office to extend this facility to every sport at College.

**Are there any areas at College you would have liked to see changed during your tenure, Sir?**

I would have like to see, during my tenure, the establishment of teams' training systematically in the areas listed below, which goes to make a complete

athlete who could rise up to face the challenges of their opponents. The areas are: Skill, Suppleness, Stamina, Strength, Speed, Style, Nutrition and Psychology.

**Have you enjoyed your experiences as Coach of the College rowing team, Sir?**

I continue to enjoy coaching the team. I find it an extremely rewarding experience, and it provides me with valuable learning experiences as well.

**Is it true that you were responsible for the planning out and implementation of the pre-season training for the rugby team this season, Sir? And if so, why the sudden interest in this?**

Yes, it is true. The administration felt I had the necessary skills to mobilize the previous training information to the benefit of the students. There was an expressed show of confidence in my ability for a while now, and changes to the Ruggerites' training regime were made accordingly.

**Why have you decided to abandon your post, Sir?**

My reasons for leaving, to be honest, are entirely selfish. I need time for myself,

and to make plans for my retirement. I'm happy to say that the investment College has made in the new POG is well founded, as he too is a person who has done many sports, and as a younger person rearing to go, College could only benefit from his enthusiasm. It is not my desire to see any decline in the areas we have gained ground in. College sport must go from strength to strength, and make its presence felt in the arena.

**Finally, Sir, is there any message that you would like to convey through the Ternion, to the student body?**

To College sportsmen, I would say, if you want to train in any sport to perform, consider training in each one of the points I have stated before, and seek the professional help of your coaches so that you may fulfill them. Also, learn to display true sportsmanship in both victory and defeat alike, in the spirit of Thomianism.

*We thank Mr. Ajith Gunawardena for the service he has rendered under to College through his work as Prefect of Games, manager of the sports complex, and Coach of the rowing crew. May your name live on, Sir. Esto Perpetua.*

### NOTICES

- Term ended on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April and Term began on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May
- We wish to bid farewell to the batch of College Prefects under the leadership of Ashan Peiris
- Eranga Alwis has been appointed as the Head Prefect of College. The Ternion wishes him all the best for the future

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What is defeat? Nothing but education; nothing but the first step to something better. Wendell Phillips (1811 - 1884)

**Zonal Athletic meet.**

The Annual Zonal Athletics Meet was held on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of March at the Piliyandala Central and S. Thomas' College was placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall. This was quite a disappointing result given the high standard maintained by our athletes.

**Hockey news**

The Colombo Schools Hockey Tournament was held from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March at the Astra Turf, Reed Avenue, Colombo. S. Thomas' College won the match against Dharmapala College held on the 17<sup>th</sup> with a 10 – nil win although the match against Royal College was lost with the scores at 5-1. The National Schools Hockey Tournament will be held on the month of May.

**Ruggerites too much for Academics**

S. Thomas' College played a practice match on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March against the lads of the Colombo University. It was a good workout for the team before the Rugby season. The team won with a score of 50 – 0.

**Royal Thomian Tennis**

The Annual Royal – Thomian Tennis Tournament will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May and the Public Schools Tennis Tournament will also be held on the month of April.

**Ruggerites begin Campaign**

The A Division Rugby season for S. Thomas' College kicked off in style on

the 28<sup>th</sup> of April with a 20 to 15 win over Trinity College Kandy. The College outfit played a tactical game to outplay the heavy Trinity pack after being overhauled in size in the first few plays of the game and after 3 years the College team managed to retain the Cannon R.S de Saram Challenge Shield from the grasps of the mighty Trinitians.

The 5<sup>th</sup> of May was not such a triumph for the team when they succumbed to the much fancied Peterite Outfit. The last year division Champions played well enough to beat the College lads 23 to 15 after a game which one might say lacked in quality play from both sides. In the end the Archibald trophy was retained by the Peterites.

Full back Manjith Thammanegama and Scrum Half Sanka Tennekoon seem to be in fine form providing the team with good scoring opportunities nevertheless the Rugger team has been hard at work and no doubt they will yield fantastic results. All the best to them. The schedule for the rest of the season is as follows:

S.Thomas' Vs. Kingswood 14th May  
Kandy.

S.Thomas' Vs. St Anthony' s 19th May  
Kandy

S.Thomas' Vs. Isipathana 26th May To  
Be Notified

S.Thomas' Vs. Thurstan 02nd June  
Police Grounds

S.Thomas' Vs. Ananda 09th June CR &  
FC Grounds- Longdon Place

S.Thomas' Vs. Royal 16th June CR &  
FC Grounds/ Havelock Park

S.Thomas' Vs. Wesley 23rd June To Be  
Notified

S.Thomas' Vs. St Josephs 29th June  
Havelock Park

**Student Christian Movement**

The Annual General Meeting of the Student Christian Movement was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February at 1.30 p.m. at the M16 classroom. The following were appointed office bearers

President:	J.R.Shadrach
Vice Presidents:	A.A.Gunasena D.K.R.Thomas
Secretary:	T.R.B.Dissanayake
Assistant Secretary:	L.M.Rathnayake
Treasurer:	S.M.Schubert
Assistant Treasurer:	S.Fernando

**Interhouse Music Quiz**

The Inter House music quiz organized by the Classical Music Association was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March during the current affairs session. The quiz master was Asitha Tennekoone an old boy of S. Thomas' and also an ex-president of the Classical Music Association. The quiz consisted of six rounds. The first four rounds contained questions which were to be answered as a group. The fifth round was the 'listening' round where contestants were made to listen to an extract of music and identify the composer, musicians, song name etc. In the final round each participant had to answer a question individually. Stone House emerged champions with a score of 79 with Buck House in second with a total of 60 points.

**Beat Fusion**

'Beat Fusion' a concert organized by The Hewisi Band of S.Thomas' College was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May at the College Chapel steps from 7p.m.

onwards. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> annual concert and the Hewisi Bands of Methodist College, D.S.Sennanayake College, Deva Balika College, Girls High School and Museaus College took part along with our very own Hewisi Band led by Dharshana Jayasekera. It could be mentioned that concert needed more present Thomians itself to support the band. The Ternion wishes to congratulate The Hewisi Band on their tireless efforts to make this night a memorable fusion of Beats.

**United Nations Club goes EXTAZTIC!**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> version of Extaztic organized by the United Nations Club was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April this time titled 'Extaztic the Retribution'. The concert featured many bands in the local band arena as well as some fresh talent from College as well. Various dance items as well as a performance by the College Hewisi Band added great variety. Funds from this concert will be used for community based projects by the Club.

**Bridge Players Assemble!**

The Bridge Club was inaugurated in April with quite an eager attendance. The office bearers were appointed as follows

President –	N.K D' Alwis
Vice President -	K.Samarasekara
Secretart -	S.M Schubert
Treasurer	A.Jayasingha

Those interested in learning the game are welcome. Meetings will be held After school every Thursday in the London A' Level Section.

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Be careful that victories do not carry the seed of future defeats.

Ralph W. Sockman

### The Experiences of an Exchange Student - D.S Rajasingham

During our time as exchange students in Hannover, Germany, the four of us attended the school Gymnasium Isernhagen (some of this school's students were at S.Thomas' for a few days in March). It was immediately apparent that there were some major differences between S. Thomas' and the school we attended.

The name of the school is an indication of the 'tri-partite' school system which is prevalent in Germany. It means that there are three levels of education offered at each school, and each of these levels is identified by the standard of the students as well as the curriculum. The highest level is the Gymnasium, after which is the Realschule, and finally the Hauptschule.

The campus itself is not as large as ours, and its modern buildings are in striking contrast to the colonial era architecture present at S. Thomas'. By way of traditions the school had very little, as it was established in the 1980s, and the lack thereof made the four of us understand the value of our school's inexhaustible supply of the same. The Gymnasium was extremely well equipped, yet one would expect nothing less from a school in a developed country. For one it had an Olympic-standard track laid around its football pitch for athletics, and it also had very well equipped science labs, so much so that almost each student has a bunsen burner to his/herself during Chemistry periods.

The school itself was more akin to an International school than anything else. Of course it was a 'mixed' school, with boys and girls interacting with each other quite freely. There were no restrictions

whatsoever on hairstyles, clothes, jewelery, shoes, cell phones, etc. As far as we could see there were no prefects, though we did here about the election of class presidents, who may have had similar powers. The students themselves were friendly for the most part, though in some instances we had to take the initiative in making friends and talking to people, as English is rarely spoken outside of English periods.

One of the other main differences was the fact that there were only 12 clubs and societies in the school, each identified by the abbreviation AG or Activity Group. There were not too many sports either with only football, swimming, handball, badminton and basketball being played. This was quite a shock for the four of us, coming as we had, from a school with over **40** clubs and societies, and many sports as well. Even more surprising was the fact that there was little competition between schools as far as sports were concerned. Most of the students had to join clubs to take part competitively in a sport.

The method of teaching followed in Germany is yet another difference. As Germany is a Federal Republic, it has no central educational authority (like the Education Ministry here). Instead each region sets its own papers, even for tests that are the equivalent of the Advanced Level exam. I was also made to understand that these papers are corrected by the teachers of the very school where the students sat for the exam!

Because of the relative flexibility afforded by the Federal system, the teachers there had far more freedom to experiment and use various media to teach. In more than one class there were TVs rolled in during the lesson so that students would get a clearer understanding

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Victory belongs to the most persevering.

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769 - 1821)

of the topic they were dealing with. There was also an interesting mechanism in place as far as breaks were concerned. Unlike here, where we have a 15 minute break after 5 periods straight, and then another three before school is over, in Germany, after each period there is a break. For example, after the 1st period there is a 5 minute break, after the 2nd a 15 minute one, after the 3<sup>rd</sup> a 5 minute one, and so on. This is done so that students' performance does not decline during the course of the day due to the constant influx of new information.

It was also interesting to note that despite the fact that there were relatively lax rules in the school, the level of concentration and attentiveness in classes far surpassed many of the classes I have attended at S. Thomas'. Of course making such a comparison would be unfair, as the majority of the classes we attended were in the Gymnasium, which had students of a very high academic standard, who would have to maintain that standard to remain in it, while here, many of our classes are a mix of the keen and the uncaring.

While we were in Germany, we were keen to make use of all the opportunities the trip afforded us, and so we decided that we would go for CeBIT on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March. The Hannover Messe, where it was held, was far bigger than I had imagined, with 26 halls being used for the exhibition, each one extremely large. We were lucky to stumble upon Hall 22 where the World Cyber Games European Championship was being held. The three of us who went were well entertained by the variety of stuff to be found there.

We also went to Eberstadt to look at the stalactite and stalagmite cave there and even got to see the world-famous 'Wedding Cake' formation in the cave.

We also went to Wertheim Village, the shopping village, where each house is actually the store of a certain designer brand. However that expedition was more for the sake of window shopping than anything else, as prices were on the high side!

The climax of our trip turned out to be our exhaustive yet exciting trip to the capital, Berlin. Thanks to a lucky sequence of coincidences, we were taken on a tour of the Bundestag by the MP Caren Marks, and we also had the opportunity to have lunch with the Sri Lankan Ambassador. We were also filled in on the history of Germany and Berlin, as we went to the Deutscher Dom for the former, and Checkpoint Charlie and the Europacenter for the latter. However I felt that the high points of the trips were our visits to the Pergamon Museum, and the IMAX theatre at the Sony Center. The museum was amazing, making you feel like you were walking through the streets of ancient Babylon, or climbing the steps to the altar of Pergamon, so life-like was the scale and size of the exhibits. The IMAX theatre was another wish fulfilled, and its rendition of images was extremely realistic. In fact, though most of the movie was made up of CGI images, it seemed like they were real.

All in all, our venture to Germany as well as our School life at Gymnasium Isernhagen certainly helped us broaden our minds. We shall probably never forget this experience and it was a privilege to represent our country and our school in a world so different to us. It certainly was an interesting experience for the four of us, and we hop such programmes will continue providing many other with such opportunities.



### Editors

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