



THE TERNION

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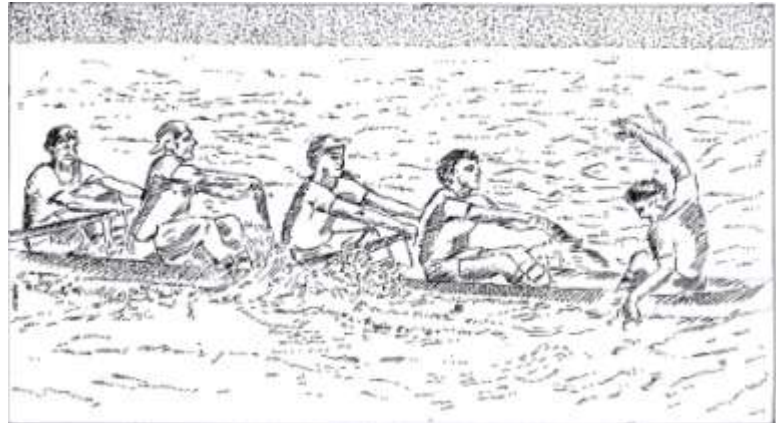
Oarsmen drown Royal!

The half-submerged Royal flag at the further end of the Colombo Rowing Club lawn on the 25th of October proved strangely prophetic about the result of the 35th Annual Royal- Thomian: they were thrashed!

After last year's 40- nil defeat to Royal, our lads were out with a vengeance to bring back the T.N. Fernando Trophy to College. In the weeks prior to the event, the Thomian crew was seen training tirelessly sacrificing all else (including parties and Coke!) and focusing purely on the task ahead. The 32-8 win was fitting testimony to the commitment and dedication of these individuals.

The Thomians secured all their events with the only exceptions being the junior four and C four races which were lost to Royal by minute margins. The A four race turned out to be a rather nerve wracking experience for the Thomian supporters as Royal took the lead at the outset. However some fantastic rowing by our team left the Royalists ruefully looking back on last year, where emotions and the results were almost exactly reversed.

The winning crews of the events at the regatta are listed in the Sports section (pg 4).



The Thomian Oarsmen have overall had a successful yet hectic season winning the rowing Nationals as well as making a great comeback at the Royal Thomian regatta. Brilliant job!■

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AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD PREFECT: ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

S. Thomas' College has through out the ages become an educational institute recognized for its exemplary standards in

discipline. Among the many disciplinarians in College, a vital part is played by the Prefects. However many students in College are still unclear about the exact role played by these individuals.

Hence the Ternion sat down to talk with the Head Prefect, Shanil Wijesinha, on some of the questions which were given to us by you.

Why is it that College Prefects flout the rules regarding phones, CDs, styled haircuts and walking through the quadrangle?

The most interesting aspect of prefectship in any school is the fact that the implementers of the rule are themselves subject to the rule so to speak. Firstly, inappropriate hairstyles are not tolerated neither by a student or a prefect. Walking through the quadrangle is a privilege of the College administrative and tutorial staff, School prefects, House prefects, and interestingly, College boarders. This has been traditional in College since time immemorial. As for the matter of phones, you would be surprised that if the Warden needs to summon a Prefect, he would request his PA to call the Head Prefect and request his presence. I have often called the Sub-Warden, if necessity ordains. So the authorities have indirectly sanctioned it, as they have themselves been College Prefects and have not addressed us directly concerning this. Often it is necessary that College Prefects have some way in which they can be contacted. Often we get calls regarding students who have scooted, and regarding other various duties. Also, especially in Roy-Tho season, communication is absolutely necessary and it is vital that we have our phones with us. As a child I used to hate to hear the words "When you grow up you'll understand" but I asked the same question you are now asking when I was in the

younger grades. Yet now, as a prefect, I realize the reason behind it.

What is the worst thing you've done in terms for breaking the rules? Have you ever been put on detention?

Due to a huge complication an item which was entirely inappropriate (and somewhat dangerous) to be in a school-bag was found in mine, and I was dealt with by the Head Prefect at that time, Niran Anketell. Yes, I have been given detention and have been punished.

What was your worst experience while in school?

The worst experience of my schooling life would literally be a matter of 'one point' actually. I could not, or rather did not contribute in the finals of the All-island U19 Basketball Tournament, playing alongside some of my closest friends. We lost the match by one point. Also, I had to live to see one of my best friends being compelled to leave school, way before he had to. Last but certainly not least, Blood is thicker than water and whatever whoever might claim to say, I did not get the opportunity to witness my brother partake in something he had a full right to. I do not wish that curse upon anyone, to witness blatant injustice and be powerless to stop it.

Why do all the Prefects walk in a strange way and stare?

I recall a time when I was in the Middle School and would ask the same question! It's not like we plan to appear to be stern yet when we are doing our duty as College Prefects, (when we come on rounds), it would be completely inappropriate if we walked round classrooms in an unorganized fashion, one Prefect whistling

"The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by

a tune and the other rolling on the ground laughing. In order to correct, appearance is vital and it is easier for you to take us seriously, if we in turn, adopt an air of seriousness.

Why are we forced to respect prefects? Shouldn't respect be earned?

Respect is a word thrown around freely in contemporary society. Respect is earned and I do not in any way disagree with this.

Yet one must respect the authority that the hierarchy has vested in Prefects, by granting them powers of correction.

Why can't you give us more productive punishments instead of getting us to kneel down or duck walk?

Punishments are meted out on a case-by-case basis. I am in full favour of productive punishment. For example, if someone is caught misbehaving in Chapel, I would get him to write Psalm 119 (the longest chapter in the Bible). Yet when considering the punishment of entire classes, methods of creative punishment are tedious. Thus the punishment you receive depends entirely upon the Prefect himself.

If you catch a prefect doing something very wrong what would you do?

If a Prefect is caught doing something wrong he is dealt with on a case-by-case basis, depending on the severity of his crime and other factors. If a prefect is seen to be shirking his duty towards College, he is removed from his post.

What is your ambition?

Well the fields I'm interested in are Law, International relations, and Global development. But leaving that aside, my ambition is to be physically present at a

DJ Tiesto concert! Or to a concert by any of my favourite bands actually...but ultimately, my ambition is to be truly satisfied.

Why can't prefects treat students like friends?

Prefects represent the student body. We exist, for you; to assist you in any way possible, to mediate for you with the higher authorities, to get you permission to go trucking (we are still working on that one) and so on and so forth. The prefects are always available to help you with anything, even if you need money or food; there are students who approach us when they're really stuck for cash and we appreciate this sense of freedom some students exercise. Also, in our capacity as Prefects, we have to play a correctional role. And often, the first time you are told to do something i.e. cut your hair, it is asked of you not in a threatening manner.

Yet sometimes, if students are impudent, we are forced to act differently. Those of you who know me will vouch for this, that I hate raising my voice and often expect people to understand the first time they are told. Yet some students take advantage of this kindness and exploit it. So it's a tough balance to strike but most certainly, if it is possible, view the Prefects as your friends, and feel free to approach us, for anything ranging from cash problems to girl problems.

Do you feel responsible for the lack of discipline in College?

Yes I admit that we as prefects are partly responsible for a lack of discipline, given the fact that it is our responsibility to maintain discipline. Yet, it is also the responsibility of every Thomian, every teacher, and every parent. As the Prefect body I can assure you that we are taking every step necessary in order to instill a sense of discipline. Yet in order for us as

"Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value."

Albert Einstein

Thomians to fully rectify the situation, we all need to play our part. We need to be instilled with a sense of discipline firstly in our family, and we automatically bring such values with us to school. Know that S.Thomas' College is an institution which represents more than a 150 years of class; you are now a part of it. This truly is a privilege and it is yours. It is also yours, to embrace, or ruin to absolute depravity.

Do you consider yourself a role model?

Well, it's a hard question to answer. As a student and with my sense of morals and ethics I have my conscience clear. But as a person, I really have some unconventional perks. For example, I would not advise anyone to adopt the same study plan that I do (not studying at all during the day, and studying through the night). Having said that, I am a firm believer in "practicing what you preach" and believe that setting an example, is sometimes the best advocacy.

Also, if any of you have any other related questions do come and meet me personally and I will definitely answer your query. ■



Tennis: Royal Thomian 2008

The Annual royal Thomian Tennis encounter was held on the 27th of September 2008.

The Thomian under 15 team put up a good fight and secured the victory of its division with three matches to two against Royal. This was the first time in many years that the under 15 team managed to win its division of the encounter.

The Under 17 and 19 teams put up a good fight against their rivals but unfortunately

lost both divisions giving the victory of the encounter to the Royalist.

Royal: Out Rowed and Outclassed!

Given below are the results of the 35th Royal Thomian regatta.

A FOUR – D.R. De Z. Hallock, E.L. Goonewardene, R.J.W. Weerasinghe, D. Jayanetti and M.N. Salgadoe.

SENIOR PAIR – M.S. De Silva and D.R. De Z. Hallock

JUNIOR PAIR – E.L. Goonewardene and R.J.W. Weerasinghe

SENIOR SCULL – M.S. De Silva

JUNIOR SCULL – D.R. De Z. Hallock

Double Scull Category – A. Manoharan and D. Jayanetti

Dickie De Zoysa Trophy for Best All Round Oarsmen – D.R. De Z. Hallock

Await the College Christmas production, "Christmas by the Sea" on the 13th and 14th of December 2008 at the College Hall.

"Habit is habit and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time."

Mark Twain

A Rainy Affair!



The annual water polo encounter between S. Thomas' College and Royal College for the Dr. R.L. Hayman Challenge trophy splashed off on the 13th and 18th of October at the Sugathadasa Stadium

amidst heavy rains and cloudy skies. This was the 17th battle between the two schools with S. Thomas' being the victors of eleven of the past encounters. The first leg started off with the under 15 match.

The two under-15 games were sadly one sided, with the Royalist gaining the upper hand, and the scoreboard eventually read 11-2 and 13-6. Though a disappointing performance, it's worth noting that the team continued to play with gusto up until the final whistle, despite being far behind; it is this same stubborn will to win that will bring back the trophy one day; these youngsters are learning fast!

The atmosphere was electric as the under-19 match got underway: the Thomians were off to a good start, with the first goal being netted by S. Warnapura and the second by D.C. De Silva. B.A.C.A. Perera scored the third goal. However, the Royalists, led by the powerful B. Hassan, left the score at 10-4 in their favour at the end of the match.

In the second leg also ended in defeat, 11-8 to Royal, in spite of the best efforts of the team- the fight they put up was awe-inspiring. However, the one that occurred after the match marred what had been an encounter continuing the tradition of friendly rivalry between the schools. Such an incident should be prevented at all costs in the future.



Editorial

I wish I could have adopted Richard Branson's philosophy of '..... lets do it' to revamp the Ternion, to make it a more interactive, student friendly paper. But one is more apt to come up against a 'you can't do it's when working on print matter in College. Understandable.

This necessity to revamp came up in the light that recently, we have observed the Ternion being put to a plethora of many creative, albeit irregular uses, other than the one it originally sets out to fulfil, which is, to be a college newsletter, that's read rather than made into paper cannons, paper boats, paper rugs, and once even a quite lethal looking sword, that an upper six'er produced, putting paid to that old adage 'the pen is mightier than the sword.'

While we know that this disinterest in the Ternion can be summed up in Frost's famous admittance, 'the fault must partly have been in me', we also know that a good part of the blame lies in the fact that the world today is made up of very few who relish reading, and more who are apt to prefer an Archie comic to a good novel

And so far, only J.K. Rowling has been able to inspire those who never did read, to start reading. But we're trying. Hence, we've given the Ternion a more 'visual' look, and changed our tone, style and presentation in the hope of tapping that huge 'Archie comic' target group as well. Maybe, just maybe, this way, fewer Ternions will end up on the floor, and more will be taken home and pored over, and perhaps preserved for posterity.

Here's hoping you'll "Enjoy"

Penalty!

The annual Royal Thomian Football encounter was held on the 24th of November 2008 at the Royal College Sports grounds. Our team fought the Royalists neck and neck losing gallantly by a single penalty, 4-5, due in part to unfavourable weather conditions.

This was the closest the team has come to beating Royal College in recent years, ending one of the team's most successful seasons in years. Good work!

A successful person is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks that others throw at him or her.

Anonymous

A Puzzling Display

The Junior Maths Society conducted a mathematics exhibition on the 16th of October 2008 in the College Hall.

The exhibition included entries from students of the Middle School and Upper school, who displayed various mathematical models, equations and theories by means of projections, light circuits, solids and simple math tricks which even took some teachers off guard!

The exhibition was a success, proving the innovativeness of our students and sparking a renewed interest in the wonders of math.

Sing On

If you chanced to wander near the College Hall around the third period on the 23rd of October, you would have heard the sounds of singing and harmony, (mingled with the occasional gloriously off tune solo) thanks to the Classical Music association, which conducted its annual singing competition on the 23rd of October.

The Soprano category was won by **G. Hamshavathanan**.

The Alto category was won by **V.C.L. Arendtz**.

The Tenor had **K.S. Chang & J.S. Fernando** tied for first place, while Bass was secured by **K.J.D. De Alwis**.

The Duets category was stolen by the voices of **J.S. Fernando & D.D. John**

The Quartet category was won by the combination of **V.C.L. Arendtz, K.J.D. De Alwis, J.S. Fernando & D.D. John**

We wish to commend the CMA for its active role in harnessing the musical talents of young Thomians.

Think Fast!

The Quiz Club of S. Thomas' College held its annual Inter School Quiz on the 24th of October at the College Hall.



The quiz saw eighteen of the leading schools in Colombo wrack their brains to come up with the right answers in seven heart pounding rounds which included questions on current affairs, history, geography and social grace and etiquette.

Royal College Colombo emerged the winners of the competition, while Gateway College emerged runners up.

Chelungkalanjali 2008

The annual Vani Vizha organized by the Hindu Students Union was held on the 14th of October 2008 at the College Hall from 2.00pm onwards. The Chief Guest for the event was Lion. Dr. Eng. Lr. T. Kumaravel while the guest speaker was Mrs. S. Manikkavasagar a former teacher at S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia.

The event was successful, though stained by a horrific act, uncalled for and disproportionate, carried out by certain students. Undoubtedly the severest action will be taken against those responsible. ■

"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."

Abraham Lincoln

Half a World Away: The Royal Thomian Regatta –

By M.M.B Kulugammana

(Former Oarsmen and Past Editor of the Ternion)

It's a difficult thing being away from home, from everything you know and hold dear. And it doesn't get any easier when-being a past oarsman- you know that the most glorious occasion on the rowing calendar is coming up and you won't be there to witness something that hasn't been seen in a long time. I use the word "know" because to me, it was a forgone conclusion. One has only to look at the way the crew of 2008 performed at the last Nationals, in order to figure out which flag would be flying high at the end of this years' Royal-Thomian regatta.

Alas, technology hasn't developed to the point where I could simply turn on my supercomputer and view the regatta live from the Beira while being miles away. And so like the rest of us who are cut off from home, I sat down and imagined what the races would look like. I saw the opening race of the regatta, the B Scull event. I pictured a hulking Thomian giant stepping into a boat and shoving off from the pier. He paddled up to the starting point and sized up his opponent. "Ah not a problem" I heard him think. And sure enough it wasn't. In my fantasy, he had a two minute lead on the Royalist, although actually I hear it was only something like 23 seconds.

I then smiled contentedly and moved onto the second race of the day, the A Scull. I pictured the Thomian A scull stepping in and paddling up to the starting line. A young gentleman with perfect style, calm and composed, his legs and arms glistening, preparing to claim one of the most coveted trophies of the regatta. And claim it he did, I hear, with a nine second lead on his older, more experienced opponent. A classic case of heart and want, over age and experience. I then pictured the B Pair. Both stroke and Bow were assured young men. They stepped into their boat and imagined that they were slightly nervous. I pictured them sweeping up foaming pools with their blades, beating out a steady rhythm, and slowly but

surely pulling ahead of a couple of struggling Royalists. And once again, I was right.

I knew of course that our two Scullers would be rowing the A pair event after this, so I pictured them stepping into their shell, silent, and maybe just a little bit winded. But when did being winded ever stop a Thomian oarsmen? And so, once again I pictured a black and blue boat gliding over murky green water, bearing its occupants to victory. I was right yet again!

I built myself up with all this day dreaming in order to get the icing on the cake. The Boat Race. You can practically feel the thunder and lighting in the air. I saw a Four comprising of the stars of S. Thomas' Rowing in my mind's eye, and I knew that the trophy would be ours again. No weariness, or pain or storms, or suffering could stop our crew from taking back what was rightfully theirs. I saw their blades plunging into the emerald water, and I saw them pulling ahead of the Royal Crew, inch by painful inch, sweat pouring down their faces, calluses tearing unheeded, blood boiling, legs and arms and backs burning, ignored, and finally I saw them claim victory. Our senior four brought home the Crossed Oars trophy, and all the glory that comes with it.

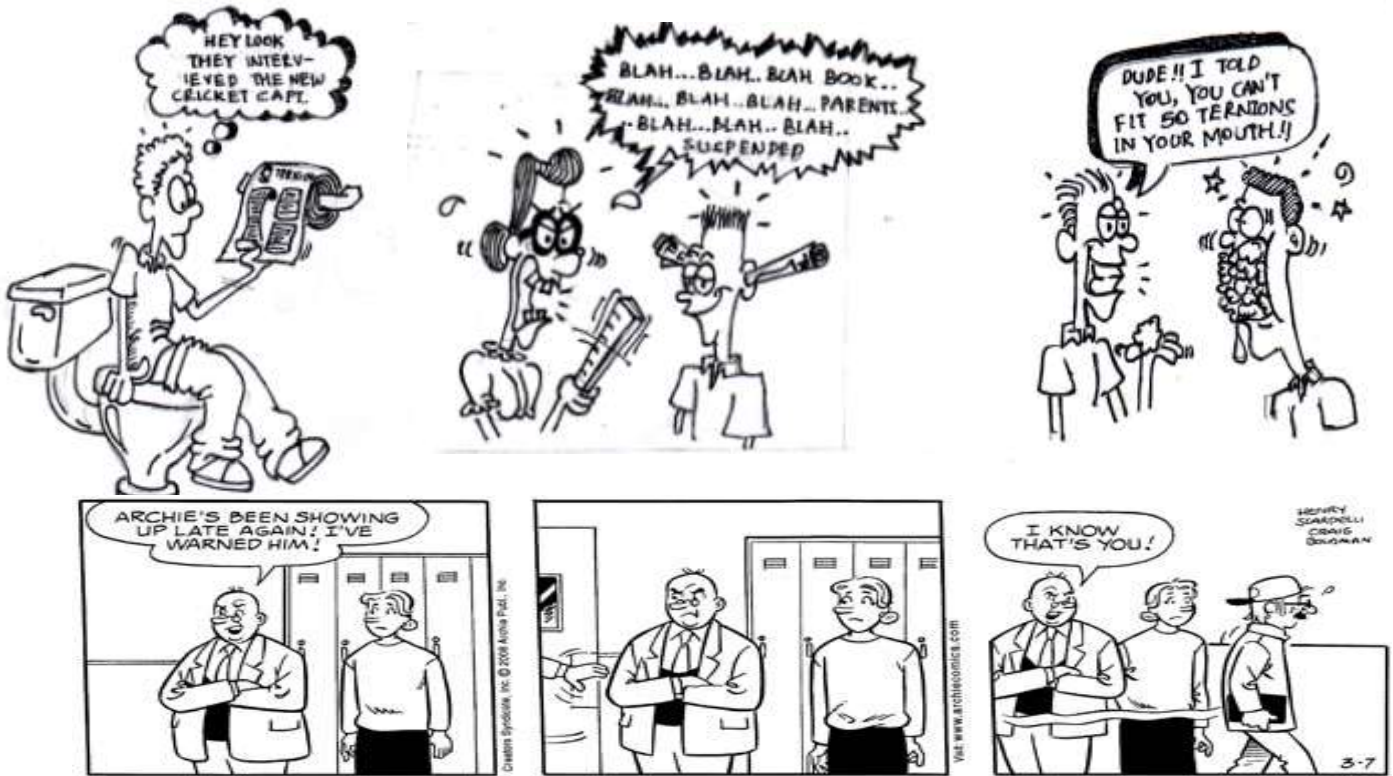
When I heard the news that we had won, I was in the living room of the house that I'm staying in. I then went to my room and locked the door. After which I proceeded to jump up and down quite vigorously. It isn't an easy thing, to win a Royal Thomian regatta, and no one but the crew itself understands the amount of sacrifice and dedication it takes to bring something like this home. From all the former oarsmen who couldn't be home, for the invincible crew of 2008, we salute you. You are the embodiment of all our dreams, and the fulfilment of all our hopes. Glory like this lasts forever, so cherish it; bask in it.

Esto Perpetua.

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

Sir Winston Churchill

What NOT to do with the Ternion by A.K. Attanayake



WIN A TREAT FOR YOUR ENTIRE CLASS!

Write a creative essay, poem or short story on the theme of 'Christmas' and win a treat for your entire class. The deadline for submissions is the 18th of November 2008

The categories of participation are:

Lower School: 50-75 words

Middle School: 100-150 words

Upper School: 150 - words

Hand in your submissions with your name and class to one of the editors on or before the 18th.



Credits

Cover sketch: S. Tennekoonmudali

Logo: J.S. Rajasingham

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