

## INWARD LETTERS

**Ana Amaranath writing from Sydney, Australia in an e.mail of October 18,2007 says**

*"I am terribly sorry about the delayed reply. I have been out of chambers and in the bush, appearing in a country circuit of the District Court. In view of a tight firewall protecting the office computers I do not have access to my email from remote locations. Hence I was blissfully unaware of your message.*

*I am glad things are looking bright at Guru. It appears your single minded determination to rectify, what most of us thought, was a basket case appear to be bearing fruit. I hope the authorities, particularly the Bishop will duly acknowledge your tireless efforts.*

*I haven't had a chance to look at the 62' website. I will do so soon and pass on my comments and observations.*

*As for a reflection of my time in Guru, I suppose I could write a book about it, mostly involving fond memories. I will try to give you a synopsis which I am sure would not do justice to the defining years of my school days. Please give me some time.*

*With kind Regards*

*Ana"*

**Harish Nilaweera writing from London, in an e.mail of October 08,2007 says**

*"I duly received and thank you for all your recent mail and I am encouraged and glad at the sterling 'never say die' efforts you and your mates are making to revive Guru to achieve at least a small proportion of its past glory. I have visited the site many times over since your last mail and I think it is excellent.*

*I will send you by post an article I wrote some years ago to an Old Thomian Journal here about Uncle J and if you think it is suitable please include it wherever you think apt.*

*As regards Old Boys please give me a bit of time and I will see who I can track down. P.S.Dias G.N.R. de Silva comes to mind immediately. I will contact them and send their details to you.*

*Referring to the site are there any photographs other than those on the Home Page.*

*Kindest Regards,*

*Harish"*

**Mahendra Liyanage writing from California after the recent Dinner Dance, in an e.mail of October 02,2007 says**

*“Yes, it was a very good function. The committee is meeting this Friday at which time I want to get some information and more pictures taken at the dance from the others. I will give you the necessary material for your website ASAP.*

*Congratulations, on your dedicated work. Old Boys of STCG will certainly be proud of your exemplary work.*

*We are all encouraged by your hard work and positive attitude. Volunteering to help out is just one example of how you are always willing to put in extra effort without giving up. This is very rare. You are a real asset to our Old School.*

*Regards,*

*Mahendra”*

**Mr.George Pillai one of the 03 masters of our vintage who is still living (as far as we are aware) the other 02 being Mr.Nimal Bharati and Mr. L M Fernando has e.mailed us on October 11,2007 as follows:-**

“Your e-mail to Brian has been passed on to me. I read it and sad to say I have to point out some errors.

When you say that George Pillai got only one vote at that meeting, you surprised me. In fact, no vote was taken. The incident was orchestrated by a few of us who were not happy with what was going on in the Co-op Store, Dr. Hayman was not aware of this and we did not want to put the facts before him. Our aim ( Shelton Kotachchi, Wije, Kithsiri de Alwis, Kariawasam, Sangarapillai and I) was to send a message to the establishment that we were aware of their activities. Hence the interruption of the proceedings of the meeting which was held annually to legalize the running of the Co-Op Store.

For Dr. Hayman this was routine, but when he found me making a proposal and when this proposal was seconded, he halted the meeting. We were ready for this. I immediately made a counter proposal and nominated the former Office Bearers. This was duly seconded and

the meeting ended. As far as we were concerned, our message was duly passed on. It may interest you to learn that we maintained a Troop Log Book from 1954 onwards. Every incident of note in STCG was recorded by N.S. Heenatigala, and initialed by Dr. Hayman. R.J. Dobbs made all the sketches in the Log Book.

I trust I have clarified matters.

George Pillai”

**We have responded to him most respectfully on October 11,2007 as follows:-**

“Dear Mr Pillai,

I thank you for your e mail received just now..

I have not e mailed any Article to Brian.

I believe you are referring to an Article that was uploaded in the year 2002 on to our site, then under the title [stcg62group.com](http://stcg62group.com). The site was discontinued in 2003 when the Authorities did not appear to realise the serious situation which prevailed at Guru. Since of late attention is being paid to the revival and we feel duty bound to do what we can to help. Hence a revival of the site too, now under the title [stcg62group.org](http://stcg62group.org). This article re appears under the link Articles Memoirs Reflections.

In this Article I was referring to an incident, which took place in the College Dining Hall ,perhaps in 1958 or 1959, etched in my memory as a schoolboy of 12 or 13 years .I am not sure of even the year. To this day I am unaware of the politics of the incident or the background etc etc and even what really transpired. I honestly wrote from what I remembered and the impression we, as young schoolboys formed then.. There was absolutely no intention on my part to belittle or disrespect you. You had been my Teacher at some time and we always respected( and now let me tell you, really feared you when doing the Geometry Theorems.). In fact I was not aware of your whereabouts or whether you were even alive. Thanks to a totally inefficient system which prevailed of not keeping track of old boys and Masters who served at College. Had I known of your existence in 2001 I would definitely have brought this to light and done the needful when we felicitated 03 of our Masters who we thought were the only ones living. In fact we said as much at the Presentation we made of Plaques to them at a Fellowship Dinner I organised on my own in November 2001 and in various writings. Please peruse the images and other text etc relating to this subject under the link [Gallery Of Events 62 group Fellowship Dinner November 2001](#) -on the site. It will definitely renew memories of so many schoolboys you taught and you may be able to recognise some of them.

I have no hesitation in accepting as true what you say about the matter. Your mail to me will hence be uploaded on the site ,hopefully tonight, together with my response in order to alleviate any hurt you may have felt about a wrong impression formed by a schoolboy over almost 50 years ago. Let the record be put right.

My good friend Robert Dobbs had gone Down Under and really out of everybodys sight. I was happily able to unearth him a few years ago in furtherance of my campaign to revive College. You will no doubt be happy to hear that he too was in the fore front of our campaign writing personally to the Bishop to draw his attention to the sad plight of Guru. Of the old records I not think there is much chance of them being available. You are referring to what was in practice over half a century ago. A Telephone System donated by me in 2003 so as to improve Security and facilitate communication in the far flung campus has just disappeared in to thin air. According to sources at that end it was last sighted when it was taken out of the campus by a previous headmaster to have checked. I have now offered a Brand New Telephone System to the Cllege. We are hopeful some old boys will pool resources and meet the cost of wiring. Perhaps you Sir might be able to lead a team of old boys to sucessfully acomplish this project.

I do hope I have cleared the air with regard to the matter you wrote about. If I have even unintentionally caused you any discomfort I am sorry.

I am copying this mail to Brian for his information.

Warm and Respectful Regards,

LAKSHMAN JAYATILAKA. “

**Sisira Nanayakkara has written to us as follows on October 11,2007**

The other day you wanted to tag me as a ‘Consultant’ in *News of Old Boys* link in your web site which I told you I was not ‘Cos I have still (at 75) not come to the stage mentioned in what I have written below:-

“Two Bulls (one old one young) were grazing in a meadow. The old bull one day asks the young bull why he is wasting his time with an old fellow when across the *barbed wire fence* there are some nice young cows.

The young bull got worked up – measured his strides and ran to scale the fence – but stopped. Came back to the old bull and asked him why he is not going to the other side. To this the old bull replied.

“When I was a young bull like you I tried to scale the *barbed wire fence* and my Bxxxx got torn off and I *can’t do anything* but be a *Consultant* and advice others.”

**F M Tan has sent us the following e.mail from Canada on October 03,2007**

Thanks for your two recent emails, (including the Sep 25 one). I had replied to your first one, as copied below, and am surprised that you didn't receive it.

Having been quite busy with a few other commitments, I'm now preparing my article for the Group 62 website as promised, but it seems to be taking much more time, (and effort) than expected. I'll try to let you have it in within a few days.

I've seen the revived website, and the updates are really useful. Keep up the good work.

Regards,

FM

**He has also sent us the following e.mail on October 4,2007**

Attached is my contribution as promised. Sorry for the delay. It took me much longer than anticipated due to my conflicting memories of some incidents.

Anyway, I hope that it will encourage and inspire other contemporaries to contribute as well in the general lines or format that I have used, i.e. Do you remember.....?, Did you know.....?, Ever wondered why.....?, etc.

Regards,

F M Tan

**Harish Nilaweera has sent us the following e.mail from London on October 03,2007**

I duly received and thank you for all your recent mail and I am encouraged and glad at the sterling 'never say die' efforts you and your mates are making to revive Guru to achieve at least a small proportion of its past glory. I have visited the site many times over since your last mail and I think it is excellent.

I will send you by post an article I wrote some years ago to an Old Thomian Journal here about Uncle J and if you think it is suitable please include it wherever you think apt.

As regards Old Boys please give me a bit of time and I will see who I can track down. P.S.Dias G.N.R. de Silva comes to mind immediately.  
I will contact them and send their details to you.

Referring to the site are there any photographs other than those on the Home Page.

Kindest Regards,  
Harish

**Brian Wickremasinghe has sent us the following e.mail from California on October 02,2007**

I sent these earlier. Did you get them? Also I was in Guru from 1961 to 1965 and mt from 66 to 69. I did not go for the dance, but will try to get some photographs from Bakka or Mr. George Pillai. I will copy this to him so that you can touch base and get some articles. He has some very good, hand written original records, especially of extra curricular activity. Lets work on updating the records in the web page.

Regards,  
Brian

**Mahenda Liyanagae has sent us the following e.mail from California on October 02,2007**

Yes, it was a very good function. The committee is meeting this Friday at which time I want to get some information and more pictures taken at the dance from the others. I will give you the necessary material for your website ASAP.

Congratulations, on your dedicated work. Old Boys of STCG will certainly be proud of your exemplary work.

We are all encouraged by your hard work and positive attitude. Volunteering to help out is just one example of how you are always willing to put in extra effort without giving up. This is very rare. You are a real asset to our Old School.

Regards,

Mahendra

**Muditha Dissanayake has sent us the following e.mail from UK on October 03,2007**

I wrote an email to the contacts on my list for an update of their information for your site. And had none so far. Dont think anyone will get back to me after all this time. I'm shocked about the poor response.

Anyway I saw the site after receiving your email and noticed that you have already put my details. I think it's on members list where you have the wrong telephone numbers under my name (both SL and UK). When you are making an update please remove both and use 00447727678046.

Hope you were able to go to the PG.

Regards,

Muditha

**1. Mr.Patrick Gunawardena an old boy of STC Mt. And a former Head Master of STCG in 1983 in a letter dated August 5,2001**

" Thank you for sending a set of Forms" -  
"Wishing you and your committee all success in your endeavour to uplift this lovely college and put it on upward and progressive path".

**2. Mr.P S Duleep Kumar (Who needs no introduction) of the Pioneer batch of 1942 in a letter of August 07,2001**

" I was extremely gratified to receive a copy of your letter of 31st July to Upali and indeed moved by the interest you are taking to resuscitate the school and the tremendous effort you have already directed towards it. May I assure you that I will support your initiative unreservedly."

And once again on a letter dated November 20th 2001 to the " Summons" issued / served on him to attend the 62 Group Fellowship Dinner of November, 2001 says:-

WHEREAS I have been summoned by the 62 Group of Old Boys of S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa on a matter more fully described in the summons and

WHEREAS it appears to me the Defendant in this matter to be right and timely so to comply and,

WHEREAS the prospects of Bacchus, Erotica and Epicurus are additional compelling reasons for my attendance:

I Philips Sydney Duleepkumar do hereby solemnly declare it will give me the greatest pleasure to attend the proceedings scheduled for 7 O'clock on the 24th Day of November, 2001 at a reasonable time thereafter.

Sgd:....

Signed before me this 20th Day of

sSgd.....  
Johnnie Walker"

And again in a letter of October 18,2001.

"Thank you for your letter of 11th October, 2001 the attachments and your Report on STC Gurutalawa. Your report was staggering and has revealed a can of worms. I didn't imagine that the degradation was so bad. I am glad I met you at the Dinner and others who are supportive of your attempt to do something radical to change direction and assert the Old Boys Association's right to be concerned with the administration of the School and to assist the Headmaster and the Board in this regard."

And again in a letter of November 28,2001

"Thank you once again for your kind invitation, generous hospitality and the honours you and your Group conferred on me at your Fortieth Anniversary Friendship Dinner. Further I was overwhelmed by the inscription on the magnificent memento plaque which I read only on my return from the hotel.. It really made me feel so unworthy. I also read your Welcome Notes and attached documents the next morning.

My mind boggles at the time, energy and expense you all have incurred. Truly your Group will herald the beginning of a new era in the history of S.Thomas' College, Gurutalawa.

With renewed thanks and warm regards"

**3. Mr.Sisira Nanayakkara, Founder Member of our OBA says in a letter dated August 13,2001.**

"I am so happy you have along with the members mentioned, taken up a huge task in trying to bring back the College to what it should be".

And, also in a letter dated September 29,2001;

"My very best wishes to you and your team. Get Duleep to guide you and with the new H M bring back the College to what we all like to be. Without any ulterior motives or personal gain, not to mention favours from people with 'Clout', your team is doing a great job in spending your time and money to clean up the mess. Every old boy should back you to the hilt in whatever possible way."

And again on October 9, 2001;

"Now to get on to what all right thinking old boys should be concerned about, I hope and pray the efforts of you and your team will be appreciated by the Bishop and action taken to get the College back to what it should be."

And once again on October 15,2001

"I have read through the entire Report and all I have to say is that I am really shocked about what has been happening and I hope and pray the efforts your team is making will not be in vain - it will indeed be a very sad day if this be so."

"Lastly I may wish you " All the Best" to pull the College out of this mess-gigantic task no doubt but I know your team can with guidance from Duleep save Guru from disaster."

And, once again on October 30,2001.

"Thanks for your letter and annexures received on Saturday which gave me enough time to go thorough, not very pleasant reading- but meaningful. In fact my wife and I were wondering how you can find the time to do what you're doing - all for the love of Guru!

Duleep's thoughts on your report " should be taken serious note of because this will serve as a guideline to clean up the mess both the OBA and College are in."

And, once again on December 03,2001;

" All I have to say is judging from what you have done I feel so very happy that the right people have taken up the challenge to achieve what might seem impossible after what was said in your report sent earlier. Yea, I feel very confident that you and your team will bring Guru back to the Hayman Era"

And once again on April 25,2002

"Just one thing I wish to say is that your idea in having the AGM in Colombo and the Re-Union in Guru will be very welcome as most of the Older Lot are unable to make it to Guru due to one thing and another. In fact last week I met an Old Boy of the 1940's and he did suggest this."

And once again on June 13,2002

" I hope your EXCO meeting at Guru was a meaningful one, in the sense that Duleep you and the other members were able to convince the H.M that your mission is not to do a witch hunt, but to help him to pull the college out of the mess it is in.

Reading through your Newsletters I have come to the conclusion that you are man of action and want a job done fast. Its fine if you are able to achieve your goals within a short time. You will agree that this is a huge task cos for 6 years there was no method in running of the college or meaningful guidance from the ousted EXCO. Now you will have to get your eye in, look around

the field and then play a long fruitful innings for Guru. Take care of bowlers with suspect actions! As to the hoots and jeers take no notice cos the bouquets will come to your team in the near future.

I am sure you are spending your own money over the past year in all these activities and it is natural you will get frustrated when no co-operation comes from where it matters. Be patient cos all are not alike. Each one of us have a different style in doing things. Main thing is to take the good in all and perform.

Regarding the building fund, college history and other accounts I feel that no useful purpose will be served in digging in to all this. As no proper records are available and unlike the ousted EXCO you are not on a witch hunt to fix any individual.

What is lost, better not think about it from what is available carry on."

Mr.Sisira Nanayakkara with a letter dated September 01,2002 enclosed the following Jokes/ anecdotes etc. for inclusion in the Diamond Jubilee Dinner Dance Souvenir:-

"(1) Mr.Packeer  
"Nana what is HNO<sub>3</sub>

We had just started Chemistry and I knew the answer. But, it just would not come out. So, I told him. "Sir it's at the tip of my tongue."

Mr.Packeer "My God, Spit it out - it's Nitric acid"  
I had mis-spelt Potassium with one "S"

(2) Mr.Packeer  
"Always remember, if the Ass is not in Potassium you're the Ass".

(3) Mr.Packeer "Nana, your Father knew my father and my father knew your Father.  
That does not mean that you should not know the Equation

That is, the class of teacher we were fortunate to have. "Wit" played a part and relieved the students of a normal class which at times can be boring.

Some of his students ended up as leading Doctors and Heads of Mercantile Firms, while yours truly "obtained a Phd in the University of Experience"  
(Phd=Passed High School with difficulty)

EXCERPTS FROM AFTER DINNER SPEECHES MADE BY LUCIEN FERNANDO (MUNDA) A FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OBA (AS ETCHED IN MY MEMORY)

(1) At the Gurutalawa AGM Dinner on one of Dr.Hayman's visits

Bishop Lakshman Wickremasinghe in his speech said, that he was asked to leave Royal having got caught smoking at the age of 14 and after coming to Gurutalawa, under the guidance of Dr.Hayman and Father Foster, ending up as the Bishop of Kurunegala.

Lucien in his speech said "Gentleman, going by what the Bishop has said, I who started smoking at the age of 10 might end up as the Pope (Whether Bishop Wickremasinghe was joking, I do not know)

(2) Dinner hosted to Bradman Weerakoon at the "Eighty Club" on his appointment as Regional Director, International Planned Parenthood Federation

I heard some of the speakers talking about Bradman's achievements both on and off the field and his lifting Gamini Goonesena for a six in the Royal Thomian 1948, in spite of which we failed to win the match! Now Bradman is going to an Institution where he will be asking us to Draw the Stumps when we are about to win the match."

And once again on February 07,2003

"Received the Newsletter along with the circular re AGM. I am really happy about the progress made by your team and I hope the same team will be elected for 2003 to continue the good work."

And once again on February 14,2003

"Thanks for the circular sent regarding the 43rd AGM.

Through love for Guru I am sending a HNB Colombo 4 cheque no.265094 for Rs.1000/- towards the development fund.

For over 35 years I have gone up on this Pilgrimage and happy memories come back to me of the week-ends we spent in that lovely place.  
May the celebrations be the success I knew them to be."

And once again on February 18,2003

"Thanks a lot for your letter of 11th Feb 03. I hope you received a copy of my letter to the Hony. Secy in response to the circular re the OBA celebrations.

Yes many are the sweet memories I have of the AGM's for 35 years, when as we grew older we put aside our cars and went up by buses (air con after Haputale) with of course enough spirits, music and lunch or dinner (prior to the JVP activities) supplied by Clifford in his ancestral home. On one occasion we had eight in a 35 seater bus, Lucien, Clifford, S R E and others. Year in year out there were 6 beds more or less reserved for Lucian Clifford, Kariapper, Coorey, musicians and myself."

And once again on June 10, 2003

"In response to the appeal in the newsletter regarding a voluntary renewal fee of Rs.500/-. I am enclosing HNB Colombo 4 cheque number 50272858 for Rs.500/-

I have played in the Old boys cricket match since the inception till 1981 when at 50 years) I played my last innings of 28 not out! How much we enjoyed this with the present boys calling us uncle and jeering a bokku the old boys sent as bending was a problem!

Now to some good news in the newsletter is the last para where mention is made of the fellowship dinner on the 19th July ("a date removed as far as possible") from the OBA dinner/dance on the 29th November. This should be the Spirit."

**4. Mr.Ananda Amaranath, the President of STCG- OBA, in New South Wales and President**

**of the Sri Lanka Association in New South Wales, perhaps the most distinguished Old Boys of our era, 1958-1962 in an E.mail of August 12,2001;**

"I hope your efforts in bringing about an element of professionalism and transparency to the Management of the School bear fruit."

And again on November 07,2001

"Thanks for the e.mail and the couriered report on the current situation at Guru. I must congratulate you on a very professional and thorough report. Although I have been long removed from the affairs at Guru, having read the Report, I now have a better understanding about the current problems at that institution. I sincerely hope this document becomes the basis for remedial measures to be put in place by the Board of Governors."

And again on January 06,2002

"Thanks for the Newsletter. The product is professional and written with flair and humour, extremely important ingredients when communicating with old boys with divergent backgrounds. I was also impressed with your summary of the current state of affairs at Guru. Whilst what is being done is commendable, I hope you are not singularly footing the bill for its publication. I believe some of us should share the costs of this operation until such time some members of the current co-ordinating group takes control of the STCG- OBA."

And once again on an e.mail of December 2002

"I trust the Guru Dinner dance was a success. I would appreciate if you could post me a copy of the Dance Souvenir. Please find attached a photo taken at G L Peiris' address in Sydney on 09.11.02.

The others in the photo apart from G L and myself is the H C General Janaka Perera and the S L Consul General in Sydney Sonali Wijeratne."

**5. Mr.H Kadurugamuwa a Master and an Old boy of 1950-1954 of Randeniya (Wellawaya) in a letter dated August 16,2001**

" I am very glad that you are taking an interest "to ensure Gurutalawa can soon keep pace with the progress being made by other branches of the Thomian Family."

And again in a letter of January 08,2002

" I read the contents in the Newsletter and the suggestions made therein are highly appreciated. These should have happened long ago! I am sure the'62 Batch could do the entire work of the present OBA more efficiently."

**6. Rt.Rev.Duleep De Chickera, Lord Bishop of Colombo- Chairman of the Board of Governors, on receipt of our Report and subsequent to our discussions with him in a letter to us dated December 14,2001 says inter alia**

"I appreciate your concern and the concern of persons like Nimal Bhareti who have also written to me on this matter and assure you that the Board and I will do our best for the school."

**7. Mr. Nimal Senaratne of the 62 Group in a letter dated October 15th 2001 says:-**

" Thank a lot for keeping me informed of all activities and it was nice to meet after long 40 years."

**8. Nimal Bhareti who taught us while we were in College during 1958-1972, in a letter dated November 27,2001 to his Lordship the Bishop of Colombo with copy to us says;**

"I am writing this letter at the request of the '62 Group' of Old Boys of S.Thomas' Gurutalawa of which I am also an honorary member as their teacher (one of three surviving ones).

The Group has forwarded you an 80 page report on the School after a very comprehensive study and a series of interviews. A copy of the report, which at your request has been kept confidential and has not been circulated among the members, has been given to me in my capacity as a respected teacher and also as a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

The Report has highlighted deficiencies and weaknesses in many important areas which cover aspects such as non-compliance of financial procedures, deterioration in discipline and moral values both amongst staff and students, teacher-student relationships, lack of proper student counselling, the role of the Chaplain, and other matters. I trust that you have already initiated action to look in to these deficiencies and put the school, which had an unblemished reputation under Dr.Hayman and Rev.Foster and even later, back in the correct direction. I am confident that with the appointment of a new dynamic Head Master this could be achieved..

The authors of the report together with me are prepared to give you any assistance you require in this connection. We could also meet you and the Headmaster on a convenient date to discuss the issues highlighted in the Report.

I wish to assure you on behalf of the Group that their objective is not a witch-hunt of those named in the Report, but rather to correct what has happened, learning from these experiences. Their only concern is the welfare of the school which they still love and cherish."

And once again on November 27,2001.

"I wish to thank you again for the honour you have given me and the other two teachers by inviting us for the get-together, for the opportunity given of meeting our former pupils, and for the wonderful time we had on this occasion (including the tantalizing cabarets). Please do not hesitate to contact me for any assistance your Group requires from me".

**9. Geethal Mendis The New Head Master of STC Gurutalawa wrote to us on November 16,2001**

"While I was going through the files I came across an important letter sent by your goodself and signed by 4 other old boys who were interested to help the school by colour washing and repairing the Junior Dormitories which is an urgent need of the school. I will appreciate if this work be done during the December vacation before the new children come in January.

Thanks for your kind interest and concern of your Alma Mater"

And again on January 11,2002. after our completion of the project.

"Please do pardon for the delay of writing. I must say the School is extremely grateful to both of you and the Group for refurbishing the three dormitories which was an urgent need of the school. Thanks for both of you for visiting the school and looking into all aspects of the work to be done.

May I also take this opportunity to thank both of you and the Group for repairing our Fax Machine."

**10. Mr.Majintha Perera an Old boy of 1948-1952 presently Director of Free Lanka Plantations Ltd in a letter of November 19,2001:**

"Thank you very much for your letter of the 9th instant, just received and I hasten to let you know that I read it through twice in acknowledgement of all that you have presented to us so painstakingly and which we all must sincerely appreciate.

At this juncture, I wish you every success in your endeavours which I fully support. I never knew nor realized the situation at Gurutalawa. It does need rectification, with which I am sure all Old Boys will agree."

**11. Mr.Sarath Suraweera another popular old boys of the 1958- 1962 era presently the Deputy Director of Advance Training at Police College Kalutara, in a note of November 26,2001.**

"These few words, I note down below to express my inner feelings and the joy, which I have for you for making the 62 Group Fellowship Dinner and the generation of interest on 24th November a very successful, memorable and a very touching event. You proved to all of us how a job of work can be done and the enormous goodwill and the inner interest of the heart that should go in the direction of the late Dr.Hayman and STC Gurutalawa.

Hats off to you Sir!

This work was undoubtedly a Herculean task and I am sure your good-self and your beloved wife, son and the members of your devoted staff gave all its steam to make this gigantic event a meticulously worked out programme. Please convey my personal sentiments to all of them. I may not be wrong to confirm that all old members had the same view expressed from the moment they received the first signal sent out from your inner temple at Kirillapone premises. They fully endorsed this view, from the moment they arrived at the Registration Desk and were ushered to the august assembly. This was later proved be you all reasonable doubts that proof of the pudding is when eating.

I am sure, like myself all souls who congregated at the venue shared pleasant memories among themselves, which they cherished for more than 40 years and left the precincts with your desired strength, grace and the vision to last for another 40more years."

And once again on April, 4th 2002 addressed to the Secretary of the OBA to be tabled at a Meeting of the Ex-Co and copied to us says:-

" ACM Laffir Pavilion & Sports Project

Subject matter: closing of Accounts of the Funds collected for the above Projects:

I, as the Chairman who conducted mattes in this project would like to bring to the notice of the Executive Committee of 2002 of the way in which the funds of this account (Account - 014000210418 Seylan Bank - Dehiwala) were utilized.

The total amount received as donations were -Rs. 24,500.00

Name of donors Amount

Mr. Kamal Kodituwakku 10,000.00

Mr. M.A.N. Anzari 14,500.00

-----  
24,500.00  
=====

The amount utilized for the project up to date were as follows:

Date Particulars Amount

18.06.1992 Payment to surveyor  
Mr. P. Wickremasinghe of  
Welimada being inspection fees Rs.750.00

09.08.1992 Payment made to  
Mr. P. Wickremasinghe for  
Preparing surveyor plan & sketch of  
STC grounds and boundaries Rs.8000.00

17.02.2001 Turning out the ACM Laffir  
Trophy ( Best Hockey Player)  
At M/s. Nelu Advertising Ltd,  
Nugegoda Rs. 3609.62

18.02.2001 Contribution made to the  
Refurbishing project of  
Junior Dormitories at STC Rs.11400.00

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Total: Rs.23,759.62  
=====

As at today the cash balance which is in favour of this project in the bank stands at Rs. 490/- and made to remain as non functional hereafter.

Therefore, I take the responsibility as the Chairman who steered this project to hereby declare and inform your good self that this project has come to an end and this intimation be taken as the final record of notice and the final statement of accounts.

The documents pertaining to payments are annexed herewith. The donations were banked at M/s. Seylan Bank Dehiwala. Bank documents and the unused leaves of the cheque book is enclosed herewith.

Please be good enough to table this at the next Ex-co meeting accordingly and also take early action to appraise the General Membership respectively"

**12. L M Fernando a Master of our era. Tennis coach par excellence in a letter sent on November 27,2001.**

"Many thanks for the invitation extended to me to participate in your anniversary celebrations and the token of remembrance and felicitation presented to me. It certainly made me proud to have studied at STC Gurutalawa and to have had the privilege of teaching many of you in the '62 Group. The air of nostalgia and reminiscences were overpowering and brought back happy memories and made me elated to call myself a Thomian."

And also in a personal note sent on the same day

"A personal note of congratulations on the grand show. It was exemplary in all respects. Many hours of planning undoubtedly and superb execution."

**13. Mr. Ronnie Weerakoon of the 1942 Pioneer batch of Old Boys in a letter dated 12th November, 2001 says:**

" Thank you for your very comprehensive report on Gurutalawa.

Both as a founder student and later as the Representative of the staff of Prep School (K) STC Bandarawela and STC Gurutalawa for 3 years on the Board of Governors from 1998/2000, I tried my hardest to help the authorities at Gurutalawa to reform on the great goals set for the schools by giants such as Dr. Hayman, Father Foster, Bolaya Wijewardene, Alex Wijesinghe etc.

However corruption and indiscipline from top to bottom ( Manager, staff (90%) and students was a stumbling block. You have correctly identified the problems. I wish you every success.

Please be assured of my assistance if ever required at 73 years I can only advise you will have to rally the younger set of old boys and try to work with the OBA inspite of lethargy on their part."

And also in a letter dated 28th June, 2002 says:-

" Thank you for your letter of the 20th June, and the very kind sentiments expressed therein..

I have received my OBA membership card and the first issue of an extremely interesting newsletter. I shall take necessary steps to obtain the Members Directory as soon as possible.

May I congratulate you and your energetic Committee for the excellent work that is being undertaken to get Gurutalawa back to the high standards maintained during the golden era of Dr. Hayman/Rev. Foster.

I wish you and your Committee all success in this great undertaking.

God willing, I shall be present at the Gala Dinner Dance to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the College on the 16th November, 2002."

**14. Mr. Mohan Coomasaaru in his response dated November, 21st 2001 to the Summons issued / served on him to attend the 62 Group Fellowship Dinner of November, 2001 says:-**

"Number 2001/STCG  
Nature Fellowship  
Group "62  
Class Stag

The Defendant acknowledge receipt of the summons to attend Court at Mt. Lavinia Hotel, on 24th November.

He begs the indulgence of the Court and that of Bacchus, Epicurus and Eros, as he will be unable to attend owing to a pressing engagement locally.

At this short notice, he is unable to supply supportive evidence of this prior commitment. I hope the Court will grant him absolution."

**15. Mr. Kishin Butani in a letter dated November, 23 2001 says:-**

" Thank you for the invitation and the fax.

Due to a very important prior engagement I am unable to attend this prestigious function. I fully support your plans for STCG in the future, and I will come forward to help. I will be pleased to attend the next meeting let me know the probable date to keep myself free."

**16. Mr.Mahendra Liyanage an old boy of 1960-1965 presently a Data Systems Analyst in Los Angeles in an e.mail on December 06,2001**

"Congratulations. Whilst in Sri Lanka couple of weeks back I saw a notice calling all old boys, YOUNG AND OLD to rally round the College flag and I though I should write in since you all are trying to do a good job."

Also on December 13,2001.

"I am glad that you clarified as these types of opinions are part of our system and that they need to be addressed. Thanks, Your next objective should be to get the job done and I am glad that all of you are trying to give back. I recognize most of the names on that notice and I am pretty sure and confident you will do a good job being accountable for all what you do. If you work on this plan you have listed, it is obvious that your team will take the leadership for old boys of STCG and you can count me on this to support you. I am in touch with some STCG Old boys, and I will pass the information to them whenever I get the opportunity."

Also on January 17,2002.

"Thanks and it was nice to see all those names and other details. I will also let my brother in U K (older to me R.U. Liyanage) know about this group. He was in Guru from about 1955 to 1959 and in Mt.From 1960-1963. In early 1980's I took him to Guru couple of times and I am sure he will like to join this Group. He visits Sri Lanka more often as he is involved in some kind of work at the Galle Hospital."

And, again on January 23,2002.

"I know you all will do a great job. I will communicate your cause to everyone I know. Keep me informed."

And also on February 12,2002.

"Thanks for the update. I will definitely support you. I can provide some financial assistance. You with the others should identify the amount of money you need immediately to run the school without cutting down trees. Peoples like us are too far away and this is all we can do and perhaps give you moral support. Keep me informed."

And once again on June 06,2002

"Thank you for all your communications. Your efforts seem to have given excellent bottom line results so far.

As you mentioned in your update, there will be many who will be ready to point the finger and it will be difficult to please all.

Congratulations and I encourage the "62 Group" to give the best honest shot in making STCG the school with best "Academic Excellence" in the country. I have spoken to the past President of STC-OBA in California and indicated that STCG is in need of help."

And once again on January 21,2003 says:

"Thanks for the news letter. I receive the dinner dance souvenir as well , thanks. I recognized H M Geethal Mendis from his picture and he doesn't seem to have changed much. Good luck and all the best for the new year. keep up the good work and let me know for more help."

And once again in an e.mail of February 12,2003 addressed to the Ex-Co with copy to us.

"Gentlemen,

I do hope all participants will take this opportunity to discuss and venture new ideas, and promote linkages and networking towards contributing to the development and advancement in improving further from where the present Exco has begun.

I am sure that this exco will achieve its objectives and will bring great benefits to present and future students of STCG.

To all participants, I wish you a successful and enjoyable stay during the OBA weekend. I am sure that everyone present will notice the changes in terms of development. This is a reflection of OBA commitment to providing a better environment for learning.

Lastly, it is not complete if I don't extend my heartiest congratulation to the Ex-co and all parties involved in one way or another in making a start towards success and many great things to follow. With the tireless efforts shown by all of you, I strongly believe that we can be proud of great achievements in the future."

**17. Mr.Bert Jayasinghe an old boy of 1970-1973 who has not yet sent us his complete data in an e.mail of December 14,2001**

"I was glad to hear of what your group is doing with Guru. Please count me in. I was in Guru from 1970-1973, the time of E.L Perera. I was never aware of an Old Boys Association for Guru. I always thought that the Old Boys were for St.Thomas as one, which would include Guru, Mt, Kollupitiya and Bandarawela. I would rather only support Guru.

Please keep me informed of any thing further with your Group of 62'."

**18. Mr.Sufi Ismail an old boys of 1972-1977 presently in California in an e,mail on December 14,2001.**

" From an Old Boy of Guru (72-77). Thanks very much for the very genuine and sincere efforts in trying to keep "Guru" afloat and hopefully make it like the good old days.

Please keep me informed if there is any way I can help. I have forwarded this to our OBA here to pass it along to any Old Boys from S.Thomas' College, Gurutalawa.

Sincere thanks again for all of you who are genuinely trying to keep that flag flying."

And once again on December 10,2002

"Thanks very much for your email and beautiful write up of the event. Had goose bumps and a lump in my throat when reading the part of where you folks sang 'The College Song' after cutting of the cake. Truly wish I could have been there. Again, many thanks and Esto Perpetua..."

**19. Mr.W S Dambawinne an Old boy of 1943-1947 of Kandy in a letter of December 12,2001**

"I received your circular letter some time ago. Thanks very much for the same. I am sorry I did not reply earlier.

I am happy to note that you intend having a get-together in Kandy. I will give you my fullest corporation to make it a grand success.

I am aware of most of the happenings at Gurutalawa. I was never happy regards these matters, hence I never made my appearance at the OBA gatherings. Let us get together and take some meaningful action and try to restore this institution to its former glory.

Thanking you and wishing all that's best in the New Year."

And once again on February 25,2002 says,

" I am in receipt of all the STC.G OBA News Letters 04,05 & 06. Thank you very much for the same. I am indeed glad you have enlightened me on the happenings at Gurutalawa. I am prepared to give you my fullest corporation to bring back the College to its past glory. I shall try my best to be present at the OBA Annual General Meeting on 2nd March my health permitting.

I wish you all the best and may you have all the courage & strength to carry on this task of cleaning up the rot which has set in at the College."

**20. Mr.Lal Yapa an old boy of 1960 presently of California in an e.mail of December 27,2001**

"I heard from Haris that there was a good turn out at the re-union. I would like to hear about you and also our college mates. Also if you have any news of Gurutalawa happenings etc."

**21. Mr.Upali Jayasooriya an old boy of 1960 presently an Engineer in New Jersey in an e.mail of January 7,2002.**

"Good to hear from you. Glad to hear about the renewed interest of OBA members to make Guru a better place. Keep up the good work. My financial contribution towards achieving common goals should be forthcoming through Gamini."

And once again on 22.02.2002 says.

"Thank you for the updates regarding Guru, even though it's rather disappointing to actually realize how overall standards have declined. Deterioration of guru has kept pace with the rest of Sri Lanka, hasn't it. Collectively we are all guilty of what has happen ed in Sri Lanka in the last 3 decades".

**22. Mr.F M Tan an old boy of 1961-1963 presently in Canada in an e.mail on January 17,2002.**

"I would very much appreciate the newsletters of STG that you mentioned. What is the approximate number of old boys contacts in your present record and is the '62 Group available on the internet?.

And also in an e.mail of February 14,2002

"The materials you that you sent have been extremely helpful in bringing me up-to-date with what has happened at Guru,and I will must say that I am most concerned with the situation. I have to mention that I appreciate very much all the effort and time you must be devoting to help restore Guru to the respect and status that so many other dedicated people before us, like Dr. & Mrs.Hayman, and Rev. Foster have given the major part of their lives to. I can assure you that what you and the '62 Group are doing have my full support. It was a also a real pleasure reading the fellowship dinner newsletter and the other associated articles.

It was as if I was there with you all. Please give my best regards to all the old schoolmates when you get a chance to contact them, although I don't know if they still remember me after such a long time. The members directory is also most interesting and useful.

I will contact them in due course.

As a matter of interest, I'd like to know who the members of the existing members on the present OBA committee are. How many staff and students are there at STCG now? From what I gather from your newsletters, but is not very clear to me, there seems to be another level of (is it) assistant or associate teachers? Is there a chaplain still, and are the chapel, swimming pool, and other facilities like the tennis and squash courts, farm, vegetable garden, and orchards all functioning as previously, or have there been major changes? You must be extremely busy with your lawyer profession and also undertaking the responsibilities associated with the '62 Group, and the forthcoming OBA AGM. Good luck with all your proposed work there."

And once again on December 19,2002 says

"Thanks a lot for your Dec 5 and Dec 8 emails, and the notes on the latest situation regarding Guru.

Congratulations on the great success of the Dinner Dance. My own heartfelt thanks to you and the others involved. I'm very sad I couldn't join in the festivities, but am most grateful that you guys with so much dedication are there to look after Guru.

Yes, I'm sure you've got a very full programme, and also still have to put in a lot of work and time regarding the college's improvement matters before the next AGM.....

.....My own personal view is that the present Ex-Co should continue the good work for another year, at the very least. I think I've mentioned to you before that it would be a great pity if all the tremendous work done so far were to be stopped, (possibly permanently, if matters are left in the wrong hands) just because the Ex-Co restricted itself to do just a one year job. I really don't think that anyone in his right mind would have any objection at all to the Ex-Co continuing for another year, at least, after seeing all the improvements and changes this past year or so.

I must also agree with you that you must take time off from Guru's affairs. I know you've put in tremendous 'blood, sweat and tears' trying to restore Guru to its former glory. One's family is most important, and so too is one's profession, but I hope you'll be able to hand over the work to just-as-willing, and competent hands.

I hope Haris' friend from Canada has contacted you or the other responsible people regarding the History Books, and the other items. BTW, has the new issue of the OBA Members Directory been printed? I'm also eagerly awaiting your news of the website being available soon. Oh yes, I do remember Mahen, and Lakshman Amunugama also, (but maybe a wee bit less for the latter). Please give Mahen, (and his family, as well, through him) my best regards. I'm very sorry to hear of his impending departure due to job reasons.

Let's hope he will be able to return some time soon. If I remember correct, Lakshman Amunugama shone in sports (athletics and hockey, I think). I hope he's doing well.

I'd like to tell you that I have with me the following old momentos of Guru:

Seven B&W photos of Guru (including of Dr & Mrs Hayman, and Fr. Foster) by the Headmaster's Bungalow, as well as of the Swimming Pool, Chapel, Junior Dorms Quadrangle, general view of the Dining Room/Junior Dorms, and of the Sports Ground, that I took with a box camera in 1961, I think. They are not very clear, and rather faded, but the quality is just passable, considering their age and the film and camera of that time. I'll arrange to email them to you ASAP.

You may also be interested to hear that I've got another three items of Guru as well. I would like to know if they are available with the College, the OBA, or any of our classmates.

If they are not available, I'll try and scan the contents, and email them to you.

The first is a small booklet, (about 5 in X 10 in) on Guru called "St.Thomas' College, Gurutalawala in Pictures" printed by M. D. Gunasena, (no date of print available), which I bought when I was at Guru. It has about 30 pages, and has several photos, including two with the staff and students in 1942, and in 1951. The book was compiled by Messrs. E.H. Perera and S.Gunasena, and the photographer was Vincent Weerasekera.

The second is a (almost full page) newspaper article in the Sunday Times of Ceylon on the March 24, 1962, written by Mr.S.K. Gnanamuthu on The Outdoor Training School, at the occasion of the departure from Ceylon of Dr. Hayman.

The third item is, among my effects, (but still to be located), the College photograph of the staff and students with Dr. & Mrs. Hayman in 1962, before their departure from Ceylon, which is quite large, (about 12 in X 36 in, I think).

Will have to stop now.

With all best wishes,"

And once again on June 05,2003 says:

"Yes, I must reiterate again how helpful your efforts through your website, newsletters, etc. have been to enable so many of our classmates to renew contacts and friendships, and I think there must be several hundreds who think so as well. You may be glad to hear, if not already so, to hear that I have also been able to contact Don Algama, UKD Jinapriya, U Jayasuriya during the last half year or so. I had also sent an e.mail to Don Gazara, much earlier than the one that I mentioned at the beginning of this email, but haven't received a reply; perhaps the email address

was incorrect. I don't recall P S R Fernando at all. Perhaps you could give me a few more details about him to refresh (if possible) my weak memory."

23. Mr.Harris Yapa an old boy of 1958-1962 presently in Canada on January 24,2002.

"The College souvenir looks good. The person who did the souvenir seems to be an expert.

**24. Dr I E Katugaha an old boy of 1950-1953 presently of Kandy in a letter of January 24,2002.**

"First of all, I must thank you for sending me a copy of the Newsletter of STCG- '62 Group.

Next I must congratulate you and the other members of the Group for having hosted such a superb show. I belong to the Era 1950-1953 and it gives me great pleasure to see you going ahead so well.

Do let me know, if I can be of help whenever the necessity arises. Congratulations and all the very best."

**25. Mr.Harish Nilaweera an old boy of 1958-1962 a Solicitor presently in U K in an e.mail of February 05,2002.**

"Thanks for sending me a copy of the Souvenir re the Fellowship Dinner. It has been superbly done."

And once again onDecember 07,2002 says

"Many thanks for your eagerly awaited e-mail re The Dinner Dance. As you may have gathered I was in the country during that week end but under different and very sad circumstances. From what I gathered from some of the Old Boys during my stay it certainly had been a tremendous success. My heartfelt congratulations to you, The Ex-co and the Dance Committee led by Our Dynamic friend Sunil W.

Can I please trouble you to send me a copy of the Dance Souvenir if and when you get an opportunity.

Kind regards and best wishes."

And once again on February 22,2003 says

"Thank you and your committee for regularly keeping me updated via the news letters and Agenda for the OBA Meeting etc. As I receive all your communications by e.mail as well it would be a good idea if you do not send them by post as well unless it is something in the nature of a magazine or such like. I know it is not much but it might save a bit on the postage. I can always print whatever you send by e.mail off the computer.

I am trying to get some Guru boys together on an informal basis to raise a bit of money but it is hard work trying get a number of them together. Shall keep trying and keep you informed. Hope you all had a good meeting and a relaxed time at Guru this week end."

**26. Dr.C P De Silva an Old boy of the Pioneer batch of 1942.in a letter of January 25,2002.**

"Lawyer Lakshman Jayatilaka sent me the STC Gurutalawa Newsletter which I shall show Leslie and Claude Siriwardena. We have not met for years and so I shall arrange this one Sunday Morning."

**27. Mr.Brian Wickremasinghe who was with us at Gurutalawa in an e.mail to us on 22.02.2002 says:-**

"Its nice to hear from you, Bakka informed about the good work that is being done."

And once again on October 30,2002 says:-

"I am sorry for not responding. It was due to pressure of work and laziness!! . I guess if I remit money from here at this late stage, you may not get it on time. Could you please liaise with my brother in law, Eardley Perera, (852790- Home) and collect Rs.5000/-. He has access to my pension and bank A/C. I am also copying this to him. Please make arrangements to get it collected at his office in Kirillapone area. I am copying this to him. I will write at length later. In the meantime I have not doubt the project will be successful. Its nice for all of you to get together and work for the Old School, without which, we would have been no where. Yes, I did receive all the news letters. Keep up the good work!! "

**28 Mr. Hussain Fahmyh who regularly writes on an e.mail to us 19.02.2002 says**

"I would love to join the OBA and would let the others know as well. I am sorry I could not locate the application form under "OBA" in your site. Please provide all details . I would like to contribute my bit to our Alma Mater. Guru is very close to my heart. I could not find any member listed during my period 1969-1972. I am sure more would join if they knew the existence of a web site. Shall visit the website regularly. Keep up the good work."

**29. Mr.M R Aluwihare (Old Boy of 1947-1956) and Member of the Board of Governors of STC in a letter of 21.02.2002 says:**

"Many thanks for your 62 group New Magazine. The Contents were most interesting and at the same time alarming. Please include me in all your endeavours to uplift Guru. I assure you of my whole hearted support".

And once again on May 20, 2002 says:

"Many thanks for your valuable 62 Group News Issue No.10. I as an Old Boy greatly appreciate the time, energy & finance you are directing to this effort. I repeat I am always available to help out in my small way.

Regarding Old Boys I am passing this information to you."

**30. Mr.Gerald De Alwis, - Old Boy of Gurutalawa (1945) Former Master, and Manager of STC-Gurutalawa, in a letter of 23.02.2002 says:**

"Thank you for the numerous Reports you have sent me. I read all of them with great interest as I am interested in STCG. Anyway, you have done a soul searching analysis which should be of good assistance to the New Head Master....."

..... Your incisive critique could well be the starting point to put in place people competent and willing to handle the hopeless situation now prevailing in the College."

And once again on February 18, 2003 says:

" Thank you for sending me the photocopy of John de Vos' letter. I spoke to him on the phone when he was here last year. He was a Public school tennis player and regretted the state of the tennis courts at STCG on his visit

My best wishes for the excellent work you are doing to revive the College".

**31. Mr.Bradman Weerakoon a Pioneer Old Boy of 1942 (an Honorary Member of our Group) and Secretary to the Prime Minister has sent us this e.mail on 28.02.2002**

"This may be the best way to tell you quickly and before the OBA meeting this weekend, that I am fully with you in spirit in what you are attempting to do for Gurutalawa.

I may not be able to make it for the meeting at 6.00 p.m on Saturday but I will be thinking of you all and hoping that you succeed in your goal of restoring Gurutalawa to its pristine glory of being the best school of all.

There are obviously some daunting challenges to be faced by any one who seeks to improve a situation that has been caused by years of inattention. But I believe your identification of the causes for this state of affairs are the beginning of the reform process. Also critical will be your tremendous enthusiasm and the youthful energy of the 62 Group. Your commendable "political will"- so evident in your incredibly analytical reports -will substitute for any lack of material resources to carry through the rehabilitation process and I along with many others of an earlier vintage wish you and your team every success at this time.

Bradman Weerakoon."

And once again on February 21,2003 sent to Mr.John De Vos with a copy to us says

" Thank you for remembering me in your note to Mr.Shervon Fernando.

It is refreshing to receive news from former students living overseas. I am glad that you are still in touch with friends over here and continue to assist your alma mater.

Warm good wishes to you and your family."

**32. Mr.Ravi Mahawaduge and Old Boys of t (1958-1962) in a letter of February 23,2002 says**

" Initially, I must express my deep appreciation for all the efforts taken by you in the interest of our "Alma Mater". I have gone through all your reports ant I most certainly share your emotions (as probably most of the other old boys) regarding the pathetic state of our Educational Institution, which in the days gone by, was a majestic landmark in the entire country. I would have loved to be present for the AGM and re-union, but unfortunately the date is clashing with two more commitments, one of which is official and difficult to avoid.".....

..... Hence, I am in the sad position of being unable to accept your kind invitation, although my heart would actually be there on that day.

Therefore, I hope you will excuse my inability to join you all, although if there is any possibility of voting by proxy, I would be only too ready to do so.

However, please convey my best wishes to all my friends and colleagues who turn up there."

**33. Mr.S J M Gunasekera - An Old Boy of (1947-1950 ) in a letter of 25.02.2002 says.**

"May I thank you ever so much for making available to me, the present state of affairs at Gurutalawa and the role played by the present OBA office bearers. Being one of four brothers who were at Guru and at Mount, I am amazed at the present state of affairs, which decline should be arrested early, without any further delay.

Having let College in 1950 I have been very close to my Old Friend - Sisira Nanayakkara, one time "live wire" of the Association who is aloof for quite some time. The present state of affairs will certainly bring disgrace to the donors - the De Sarams and all others who have strained to bring Guru to a very high level - very specially Dr.R L Hayman whose services can never ever be estimated.

The urgent need now, may well be to 'retire' the present office bearers of the OBA for some time and instead, to bring a new set of members to retrieve College from the present abyss..

May I wish all members of 62 Group - the very best of luck in your bold attempt to bring back College to her past glory, for which kind act all old boys as well as all future generations shall remain ever grateful indeed."

And once again on May 5, 2002 says:-

" I am grateful and thankful to the leadership as well as to all members of the 62 Group for their action and effort to retrieve Guru and to bring same to the high level it was and for a better continued future....."

.....I very much appreciate the course of action taken by members of the 62 group and take this opportunity to wish them well in their task ahead."

And once again on June 15,2002 says.

" This is to thank you ever so much for the reply letter as well as to the News paper sent some days ago. As an Old Boy of Guru I very much appreciate all the hard work done by the members of the 62 Group to make College upto the old Hayman level. In doing so, we may find a few comments which may not bring you any pleasure but pain. Which should not be considered as negative signals. Please do continue with this work with more dedication in the future with extra confidence - as I see positive results on the way in the near future."

And once again on July 10,2002 says:

" It is now absolutely clear that the 62 Group members activities to reprieve Gurutalawa of the mess it was, ably assisted by Old Boys living here and abroad have shown clear results already. Thanks to all members of the 62 Group assistance as well as co operation extended by others at a time of grave need.

Yes, there may be and should be a few who do not see or even understand all the progress achieved so far - may be that they have still not visited Guru for some time. So I do not feel that any member of 62 Group should ever feel hurt. But please be proud of the fact results have been achieved in so short a period of time and to proceed with the balance work before the term of

office ends. The year end report will be enough evidence for all to appreciate the work done. This may well be the best certificate one could get for voluntary services - at great personal cost to all member."

And once again on July 17,2002 says:

" what a wonderful set up Guru was during our time - 1947 and now I just do not understand? But enough to say that all this may be due to the leadership and dealings with the OBA. Thank God, the present set of officers are really doing a job of work with the assistance of others to retrieve Guru from the present level upto the former level when we were students which acts have to be appreciated by any right thinking individual?. As far as I can see, many of the old boys who have till to identify 62 Group may well understand all the good work done during the past few months and change their attitudes for the better after the next AGM.?

I must mention here that its extremely rare to find a group of old boys who are dedicated and spend their time, finance and all other resources for the development of their old school. This is absolutely a very rare deed May I also add that others too should now think positively and to assist Guru in any way possible instead of attempting to find fault or to undermine all the good work already done by your Group. A good job has been done upto now for which all should be extremely grateful to 62 Group.

Yes, the majority of old boys have appreciated all the good work done."

And once again on October 12,2002 says:-

"While thanking you very much for sending a copy of the draft rules, may I submit the undermentioned for consideration by members of the 62 Group.

May I suggest that the posts of Secretary down to the Ex-Co members who are elected annually, be confined to 2 or 3 years - they may not contest for one or two years. This may enable these officer bearers a small period of rest where others are granted the opportunity to serve in future. It may also ensure that they do not feel 'stale' having being directly connected with all OBA activities.

Should the period of service be 2 years, they may not contest for one year. In case the period be three years, they may not contest for two years.

Before coming to any decision this proposal may be fully discussed.

Concluding with best wishes"

**34. Mr.Ravindra Asuntha Jayawickrema an Old Boy of (1968-1972) in an e.mail of appreciation on 26.02.2002 says.**

" I contacted you on the paper ad and receive your news letters on a regular basis.

An excellent job is being done by you and I was really disgusted and saddened to read of the present state of college. I reckon we are also partly to blame for not raising our voices before. But then again I was under the impression the OBA had things under control. Well reading your news letter it seems just that, "Under control" by the OBA meaning not divulging the true situation at College.

If more info is required to compile the membership Directory please do contact me on this E.mail. unfortunately it will not be possible for me to come to Guru for the OBA re-union. Couldn't an OBA meeting be summoned in Colombo ? I am sure there will be good attendance to thrash out a few of the matters you had raised in your "Newsy" letters.

Mr.G S Mendis was in Guru during our time and I am sure he will do a good job with the correct backing from the Board. He alone will not be able to pull Guru from the mess it is today.

Best regards. Keep up the good work. Am ready to help in any which way I could."

**35. Mr. Muditha P Dissanayake an Old Boy in an e.mail of 28.02.2002 says;**

"This is regarding ww.stcg62group.com. I found out about this on my visit to the College. And I'am very happy to see a web site (dedicated to Guru) for stcg. I have searched all over the internet for STCG and only found some newspaper articles.

This is a great site, and I would like to contribute in any way I can for this site as I'am also an old boy of the college.'

**36. Mr.Nanda Mathew - An Old Boy of (1952-1956 ) in a letter of 26.02.2002 says.**

"This is to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following Newsletters of the College:-

1. February 2002 - Newsletter 4
2. February 16,2002 - Newsletter 5
3. February 21,2002 - Newsletter 6 (strictly confidential)

Perusing through the pages of these Newsletters, and especially the newsletter which is marked as "Strictly Confidential". I was appalled to learn of the vandalism of the premises and the misappropriation of moneys that had taken place during the past years.

I do commend you and your team for methodically probing into these matters and exposing valuable information to the members and all Old Boys.

I particularly hope that you and your team would be able to carry on with your good work with more vigour and efficiency for the benefit of the College. I assure you with my continued support.

With my warmest regards."

And once again on May, 19,2003 says:-

" This is to thank you for the congratulatory message sent on my appointment as the Governor of Uva Province and for the kind sentiments expressed therein".

**37. Mr. J O Yatawara - An Old Boy of (1944-1947 ) in an e.mail of 17.03.2002 says.**

" Thank you for keeping me updated with all the news of Gurutalawa.

Congratulations to the new team at the STCG OBA. You could not have better than have Duleep Kumar as the Senior Vice President. I have no doubt that he will lead the OBA and also our old school to a brighter future.

I was at Gurutalawa from 1944-1947 and count the years there as some of the best in my life. When I started in 1944 there were just 44 boys and we had the privilege of being under the guidance of both Dr.Hayman and Rev.Foster.

The new committee has a daunting task ahead and I wish them success.

I am sure many of the old boys will wake up to your call.

Best wishes"

**38. Mr. Mahes Heenetigala an Old Boy in an e.mail of May 29,2002 says:**

"Thanks a lot for tracking me. There are a few more Guru boys around this area who will be willing to do something for the old school. I will get in touch with them. Will return the form by mail.

Thanks once again"

**39. Mr.Mohan Seneviratne an Old Boy of 62 Group in his letter of June 07,2002 says:**

" This is to thank you for your attention in sending me an Identity Card of (STC) Gurutalawa.

I was very delighted suddenly to see a STC crested nice identity card."

**40. Mr. Upali Salgado in a letter dated June 10th 2002 says:-**

"Thanks for sending me a copy of the Newsletter issue 01 received two days ago"

**41 Mr.Noel Narandranath Daniel an Old Boy of 1964-1969 in a letter of June 12,2002 says**

"First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for forwarding me a copy of the STC(G) Newsletter Issue #01. and my Membership Card. I highly appreciate your efforts to revive the OBA so that the OBA could be very supportive towards the Management of the College.

02 years ago, when I last attended the OBA Celebrations at Guru, I was aware that the same old faces become the Office Bearers for the succeeding year and hence, there was no work done to improve the College facilities. Thankfully, your efforts before the AGM of the OBA this year, when you vigorously campaigned for the election of a completely new set of Office Bearers, has borne fruit. I hope this new Committee will now carry forward the Herculean task of putting right the affairs of STC(G).

It is encouraging to read that many new faces in the Committee have already started their work to uplift the standards of the College. Please convey my sincere thanks to them.

I would now look forward to the OBA get together Dinner in November this year. Please keep me informed. Though I belong to the 1964 to 1969 set of boys at Guru, I still want to know what is taking place as regards Guru activities and affairs.

Best of Luck"

**42. Rear Admiral A H M.Razeek a member of the 62 Group in an e.mail on June 07,2002 says:-**

"Once again, many thanks for keeping us informed of the activities and progress. Every thing is important and all are "priority". If permitted, may I say, if we pay attention to sub para (n) of para 6, this will help the school and students in so many ways. This means quality teachers. This will be possible only with better wages and other facilities for "living in' tutorial staff.

Our Committee is already on "top" gear you say and if we switch on to 5th gear, this too will be possible!!!."

And once again on October 05,2002 says:-

"I was able to get a donation of Rs.5000/- towards out Diamond Jubilee celebrations from M/s. Setmil Development (Pvt) Ltd. This cheque is enclosed herewith. Please send an acknowledgement to the under mentioned address:

Mr.A Hettiarachchi  
Managing Director  
M/s.Setmil Development (Pvt) Ltd  
Setmil Maritime Centre  
256, Srimath Ramanathan Mawatha,  
Colombo 15

It may be a good thing to send a note thanking them when you send our acknowledgement. He is a Thomian from STC Mt."

**43. Mr.J L Habaragoda an Old Boy in a letter dated 27.09.2002 says:-**

"Thank you for your circular letter of 22nd instant.

There is another dinner on 12th October and as it is a Well wishes party and especially for very Old Boys, I hope to attend it. I have got confirmation that this is in no way an attempt to overshadow or impede the Dinner/Dance of 16th November.

It might not be possible, sometimes to come on 16th November and if so, please excuse my absence and let me wish all your efforts all the best."

**44. Mr.Herbert Perera an Old Boy in an e.mail of October 31,2002 says:**

"I have advised my bank to transfer Rs.10,000/- to the account mentioned by you. Fax copy is attached. Thank you for your help and wish that the dinner dance will be a roaring success. I plan to come to SL early December and not mid Nov as earlier planned."

And once again in an e.mailof 22.10.02 says

"Thank you for the letter from the OBA which I received last week. I was very pleased with the work done by the old boys. I also met Mrs.Hayman during my last trip to England and told her about what is being done at Guru and the last OBA meeting in Feb.2002.

What is the cost of a double page add? From your letter I understand that it would be Rs.10,000. Is it still possible to put an advert in the Souvenir?

I know that the Souvenir has to be ready by mid-November. So please reply soon so that I can e-mail you the text. I hope your e-mail address has not changed.

I hope to be in Colombo in November but I do not think that I would come to the dinner dance. Do you think that it would be OK if I make you a cash payment for the ad when I am in Colombo. If you prefer a Bank transfer from Germany then you must let me know all the particulars needed such as the account no. Name of bank, swift code etc.....

..... Please e-mail your reply to hperera@web.de

Kind regards"

**45. Mr.Anil Ratwatte an Old in an e.mail of November 06,2002 says:-**

"Received your email re funds and I am sorry for the late reply. As we don't advertise locally, instead of an advertisement I would be giving a cash donation and will make arrangements to remit the payment to the OBA account at Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank, Fort Branch."

Thank you & Best regards"

**46. Mr.J H Marikkar an Old Boy of 1957-1961 in an e.mail dated December 07,2002 says**

"Thanks and I am really happy but not surprised to hear this.

It is indeed nice to note that you are doing an excellent job to improve the College. We all should be very grateful to you and others who spend your valuable time in the interest of the Alma Mater. We wish you all success in your future endeavors too. Well done & thank you once again.

Regards."

**47. Mr.Gamini Jayasuriya brother of Mr.Upalil Jayasuriya both of the 62 Group in a letter of December 20,2002 says**

"Please find a cheque for Rs.25,000/- in aid of the College building foundation. This sum may be used for any specific projects, which please inform us of. (Standard Chartered cheque No.289844 dated 20/12/2002 attached herewith).

Further this donation comes form Mr.Upali Jayasuriya of New Jersey."

**48. Mr.Stuart Jonklaas an Old Boy in a letter of December 2002 says:**

"Please find attached a bank draft to the value of 1,250 rupees being payment of Rs.500/- for membership fees for St.Thomas' Gurutalawa OBA. Rs.500/- for the College History Book and Rs.250 to cover suitable packaging & postage etc.

Thank you for your assistance with helping me become a member. I hope that everything went well for the Diamond Jubilee Dinner."

**49. Mr.Vivian Blaze an Old Boy of the 1940's in a letter of February 26,2003 says**

"Your continued persistence in sending me various documents culminating in the Notice of the 43rd AGM, has awoken the 'Proverbial Giant' and jolted me in to action.

I am enclosing a cheque for \$50 Australian which I presume will entitle me to life membership of the association - please use any surplus for whatever cause the OBA deems fit.

My association with STC goes back to the 30's when I was one of the first 8 boarders at STPS in Kollupitiya.

I then went to STC in Peradeniya and moved from there to Gurutalawa, thereafter to Mt.Lavinia, when school restarted after the war.

I captained the School athletic and swimming teams in 1948 and also obtained colours in Hockey and Rifle shooting. In 1948 we broke the public schools athletic record for the 4x440 relay and were awarded Public School colours - Arthur Perera was a member of this team along with Michael de Jong (Australia) and Freddie Wickremanayake.

Duleep Kumar was in school with me and was a close friend - please convey my kindest regards to him.

As a matter of interest, I also represented Ceylon at the British Empire Games in Auckland in 1950, along with Oscar Wijesinghe a prominent Old Thomian, and represented Ceylon at Water Polo as a school boy against the Australia 1948 Olympic Games team.

I was a Tea Planter from 49-71 and left as General Manager of my Company when I migrated to Australia in 71.

May I take this opportunity to once again thank you for your persistence, and I do hope you will continue to send me information of STCG.

Please also remember me to those who were at Guru in my time."

**50. Mr.Prasad Jinasena an Old Boy in an e.mail of March 02nd 2002 says:**

" Sir,

My name is Prasad Jinasena (Anil Wirakoon's friend) and I met you at the AGM 2000. I received your e-mails. I am back in Toronto. I will be forwarding the emails sent to me to all old boys of Guru in Canada."

**51. Mr.Ashan Algama the Grandson of a member of the OBA Mr.K T Amerasingham in an e.mail says:**

"This is to inform you that Mr.K T Amarasingham (OBU Gurutalawa) passed away on the 19th of October."

Thanking you,"

**52. Mr.Ivor Kelaart an Old Boy of the class of '43 in an e.mail of May 14,2003 says:**

"A million thanks for providing my daughter, Jenni, with the STC-Gurutalawa "THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS". I have hardly put it down since Jenni gave it to me last morning after her arrival from Bali.

It has brought back so many memories of a time I was there some 60 years ago (1943 as a 12 year old). My grandchildren were enthralled at the stories I recounted especially getting the "cuts" from Dr Hayman and how he marched down our lane (43rd Lane, Wellawatta)and spoke to my Mum and Dad. He had decided that I should enter STC-Guru on his personal scholarship because I had missed out by the barest of margins in the College sponsored Scholarship Exam in 1942 - just 1 mark. He swore my parents to secrecy and I only found out when I was appointed a Bank Manager (1976) - by a chance remark from Dad and his later confession to me when I quizzed him about it. I wish I had known earlier because I would have thanked him "personally" - I think by then he had died.

Some of the names I remember are: Ronnie & Bradman Weerakoon: Eddie Elapatha: Arasakumar, Duleepkumar and Shantikumar, Pat Toussaint (a close relative): Mrs Gunawardena (a lovely lady who as Matron was so attentive to every boy): the College driver (I forget his name)

I remember Mr. Davidson, then a senior master (1943): Rev Foster who wanted me to be "choir boy" except that my Dad refused as we were Prebyterians.Mr & Mrs Wijewardena - she tried valiantly to teach us Burgher boys Sinhalese - I can still speak the language fairly well, could read and write and got through the SSC exam with Lower Sinhalese as a subject.

Thanks also for the MEMBERS DIRECTORY and the Newsletters. I cannot thank you enough knowing that you have bankrolled so much for the OBA - may I add my sincerest thanks for your efforts. I think I sent an email with my details /for inclusion in the Directory - I will forward to you the proper application form with a small donation. Jenni is insisting that My wife and I accompany her on her next business trip to Sri Lanka - probably next year - if we do join her, we would like to say in Aussie slang "G'DAY MATE". She loves Sri Lanka and has often said she wished she was born in Colombo and not Melbourne. Cheers for now with fond greetings - keep up the "good work"

**53.Mr.F John de Vos an Old Boy in a letter of February 04,2003 says:**

" Thank you very much for the STCG OBA Membership Card and your letter dated 18 September 2002.

I have not received OBA Newsletters. I & II and will be glad to receive them at your convenience if available.

A Couple of things I wish to advise you of.

Firstly I must congratulate all concerned with the organization of the STCG OBA and wish the OBA every success in the future. I was introduced to the OBA by a very good Gurutalawian (pardon the expression) in Ananda (Ana) Jayasinge who was and still is a very good friend. He got very upset with me for not attending (may be considered gate crashing) the STCG OBA Dinner Dance held at the Mount Lavinia Hotel in 1997. My wife and I were on holiday at the hotel at the time and in our meanderings, noticed the hall being made ready for the occasion.

I was at STCG during the time of Dr.Hayman and Father Foster. I well recall a point I made to Father Foster while there that I could not read the lesson/s from the pulpit/lectern in the chapel due to there being insufficient lighting and recommended the installation of a reading light on the pulpit/lectern. I am not aware as to whether there is one there now or not and have extreme pleasure in enclosing a donation towards one. I visited the College in 2000 and forgot to look!! I am at p resent a self-funded retiree and will attempt to make donations as and when times/conditions permit. Please do not on any way misunderstand this statement. A total amount of Rs.5,500/- as below is enclosed.

Kindly convey my very best wishes to Mr.Duleep Kumar, Mr.Bradman Weerakoon and Mr.Gerald de Alwis. My teachers at one time or another. They may or may not remember me.

Kindly adjust your records in the light of my address/postcode as above.

Kind regards and very best wishes."

**54. Mr.Walter Gammampila an Old Boy of the '62 Group in a letter of February 22,2003 says:-**

"I don't travel much these days and hope you will excuse me for not attending the AGM.

I am enclosing a cheque for R.10,000/- hope it'll come handy though the amount is small.

I happened to be in College last December. Old contractor Bawa's son took us around and showed us the improvements done by 62 Group.

It's sad to see that the big trees are gone and the orchard is empty."

**55. Mr.Upa Karunatilake an Old Boy in a letter of September 17,2002 says:**

"Since we last met, I have been over to Gurutalawa twice, once in August 2001 and again last month. I went over to the old school in the course of my stay there. As the School was closed for the vacation my impressions are of the quad, the gardens and the buildings from the outside. These appeared to be less neglected than last year, and I think the trend is towards improvement. May be the new Headmaster, and your Group's activities have made this possible, and there will be overall progress.

I felt that the Old bungalow which housed the entire school when we were there in 1942, contrasted poorly with the additions that have come up around it. since the architect (was it Shirley de Alwis)? designed the new buildings to blend with the old, I feel that the old farm house must be preserved and utilized, for traditional and not merely sentimental reasons. A coat of red anticorrosive paint on the roof appears to be an urgent requirement. May be you already have plans for this and I hope the enclosed cheque for Rs.500/- will be accepted as a contribution towards this."

**56. Mr.Roy Abeysekera an Old Boy of the 1942 Group in a letter of January 20,2003 says**

"Please find enclosed a crossed cheque (No.265677) for Rs.1100/- made out in favour of St. Thomas College, Gurutalawa, as follows:

Rs.1000/- for the College Development Account  
Rs.100/- for Life Membership of the College OBA

I do apologize that for one reason or another, this payment was not made earlier.

I find your "Newsletters" very interesting, and acknowledge with thanks receipt of your January 2003 Issue 4. Please keep me informed.

At 78+ I don't get about much now certainly not at night. Do continue the good work that you and the others are doing on behalf of STC Gurutalawa".

## **Outward**

### **1. In a letter of October 29,2001sent to His Lordship the Bishop of Colombo and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of S.Thomas' College, Rev.Duleep De Chickera we say**

"We hand you herewith some observations made by a group of Old Boys ('62 Group). It is done solely with the welfare of the College at heart and as we were encouraged by the remarks made by you at the last Prize Giving; that you would give your personal attention to Gurutalawa.

For far too long Gurutalawa has received step-motherly treatment.

It is our view that any person, be he an old boy or not, who has the welfare of the College and its future at heart owes a duty to bring any matter which would bring progress to the College to the attention of the authorities concerned. It is for the authorities to decide what should be done.

You yourself would have observed that the College, its buildings and the campus generally require attention. The breakdown of the sound system during the Prize Giving is an example of another area which requires your immediate attention, i.e. discipline of the relevant Staff, now that some comment has been made in that connection by the out going Head Master.

To our mind two matters that need urgent attention are the mobilization of the Teaching Staff and taking corrective measures with regard to regularizing finance. Introduction of a daily cash-flow return from the Accounts Department to the Head Master/Bishop will have an immediate impact on financial accounting. Regular frank meetings commencing without delay between the Head Master and the Senior Tutorial Staff collectively or individually will create the necessary confidence in them and bring the desired results.

Assuring you of our highest regard.

-----  
Sarath Suraweera Jabir Junaid Lakshman Jayatilaka"  
(For and on behalf of the '62 Group')

### **2. In a letter dated April 11,2002 written by us to Mr.Lanka Nesiah we say;-**

"It was such a pleasant surprise to receive your letter (on behalf of Bishop Duleep). It is more than 40 years since I saw you last.

We are making some effort to improve conditions at Guru. But sometimes I myself wonder whether we are too late. It is no secret that most people have written Guru off completely and opined that all the time, effort, energy and finance we may pour in will be of no avail. However, we have been successful in giving new life to the OBA within a short spell of 04 weeks and through such efforts energizing the College itself. We have a long way to go and the task is

gigantic. We need the advise, guidance and co-operation of all concerned with Guru to make it a success. A handful of us who feel we have identified where the rot is, are faced with the uphill task of convincing the doubting Thomas'es. Anyway, my personal view is that we should try our best and be optimistic. I am sending herewith an extra set of Newsletters for your reading hoping that you will find sometime to go through them as they are bound to give you some idea of the problems.

I hope we will be able to meet soon and perhaps have a chat.

Please convey to the Bishop our highest regards and affection. We will always continue to have confidence in him and have no doubt that he will do his best for Guru at his level. For our part, we have decided to co-ordinate with the Head Master and give him all the assistance he requires without imposing on him. It is tragic that the Ex-Co's of our OBA had failed, and failed miserably all these years, to put matters right and were content all these years in the recent past to have an annual picnic at Guru for 2 days and forget about Guru for the rest of the year."

**3. In a letter dated June 20,2002 written by us to Mr.Ronnie Weerakoon a Pioneer Old Boy of 1942 and Chairman of Sri Lanka Tea Board with copy to Mr.Clifford Ratwatta former Senior Vice President of our OBA we say;-**

"I have just seen a letter you had sent the Editor of the Sunday Leader Newspaper published in its issue of June 16th , 2002.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing to you my personal appreciation as well as that of our Group of your extra-ordinary conduct as the Head of an institution in putting the record straight, viz-a-viz, the activities of your predecessor in Office.

It is nice to know that persons heading Institutions still have a sense of decency, honesty and fair play. I have no doubt all right-thinking people will applaud you in not having remained silent when your predecessor was unfairly accused of improper conduct. Once again, you have proved you are a Gentleman and a Thomian.

I hope you have received your OBA Membership Card and the First Issue of the Newsletter. The First Issue of the Members Directory was also put out on schedule and is available at a nominal price of Rs. 150/= with following persons:-

1. Mr. Shervon Fernando, (Hony. Secretary) of 386/2, Araliya Gardens, Nawala, Koswatte (Phone: 074-405858; 077-320676)
2. Mr. Gamini Fernando (Hony. Treasurer) of No. 1 Gamini Place, Kawdana, Dehiwala (Phone: 739896, 071-733859)
3. Mr. Lakshman Jayatilaka of No.23, 1st Lane, Kirillapona, Colombo 05 (Phone: 854164, 828273).

We had the first Meeting of the current Ex-Co at Guru on June 15th, 2002. we made use of this opportunity to have a Health Camp for the students, tutorial staff and minor staff; donate to the library a large volume of books obtained from Asia Foundation and elsewhere; donate sports equipment for Swimming, Life Saving, Hockey, Basketball and Rugger; inspect the new Roof of the Senior Dorms after they were completely rehabilitated and refurbished; donate individual desks and chairs to replace tables and benches which were in existence since the 1950's in respect of two class rooms; provide a musical extravaganza for the entertainment starved students from age 5 - 16; commence a programme of landscaping of all vital areas on the Campus and the rehabilitation and refurbishment of the Squash, Badminton, and Basketball Court etc. These were all done by Old Boys without any resort to funds of the College or OBA.

You probably would have received a Bulletin as regards the Gala Dinner Dance to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of College on November 16th 2002 at the Sapphire Ballroom of Ceylon Continental Hotel. We hope you will attend this event with all your friends so that we may all get together and join in doing all we can to rebuild College to what it used to be."

#### **4. In a letter sent by 62 Group to Mr. B A Mahipala on July 12,2002**

"I am writing this note to thank you most profusely for your very generous contribution towards the development of College.

I wish to place on record my personal gratitude and appreciation. You answered my call made to all our contemporaries in College, friends and others. Having personally seen the parlous state of our College, on your visit on March 02,2002 you spared no pains in immediately putting into operation a complete refurbishment of the entire block of senior dormitories. That it was undertaken, executed and completed in less than 2 months (during which period workmen were also keen to take their Sinhala New Year vacation) speaks volumes for the efficiency with which the project was completed.

This project perhaps, is the only one in the long history of College, when ONE SINGLE OLD BOY has used all his resources, ie: men, material and expertise, and completed such a gigantic operation in double quick time.....

I would like to mention to you that Furniture for 2 class rooms have already been delivered. Furniture for another class room has been undertaken to be provided.

A large volume of books has already been donated to the Library. Equipment for the Swimming Pool and for Swimming and Life Saving have been donated. Landscaping in front of the Senior Dorm and the Swimming Pool / Chapel area is going on.

Work on the rehabilitation of the Squash, Badminton and Basket Ball Courts are in their preliminary stages and together with the water distribution system expected to be completed during the August holidays.

From a study done by us it would appear that the undermentioned matters also need fairly urgent attention. Thus, major development projects which are yet to be touched upon and which are urgently required have been identified by us as follows:

- 1) Uniform beds, mattresses and lockers for all the dorms, ie: approximately 300 units. (Bunk Beds + Single Beds)
- 2) Individual tables and chairs for all class rooms, ie: 475 pairs.
- 3) A complete repair of the roof of the old block of class rooms and minor repairs, rehabilitation and painting thereof.
- 4) A complete rehabilitation of all staff quarters particularly the married quarters.
- 5) Improvements and updating of Swimming Pool, Diving Boards, Filtering Plant etc.
- 6) The surface for the entire network of roads on the campus.
- 7) Provision of 15 - 20 Computers to commence IT classes.
- 8) Kitchen/Pantry equipment etc.

We hope that it will be possible to have these matters attended to and we await the response of other Old Boys in Sri Lanka as well as abroad who also should join people like you who have been so generous and grateful for what College, Dr. and Mrs. Hayman and Fr. Foster have done for us.

ONCE AGAIN I WISH TO THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.

With warm regards,"

**5. In a letter sent to Mr.A Hettiarachchi, Managing Director, Setmil Development (Pvt) Ltd on October 10,2002 we say.**

"Your Sampath Bank Ltd, Navam Mawatha Branc cheque No.731716 dated October 02,2002 for Rs.5,000/- is hereby acknowledged An official receipt will be sent shortly by the Treasurer.

We wish to place on record our appreciation of the donation you have made towards the College Development Fund on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the College.

We also take this opportunity of sending you an Application Form to join our OBA for perfection and return. We might mention that Old Boys of Mt.Lavinia are eligible for Membership of the S.Thomas' College, Gurutalawa OBA."

**6. In an e.mail sent to Mr.Anil Ratwatte on November 07,2002 we say:**

"Thanks for the e.mail and your proposed donation towards the College Development Fund. The Treasurer will issue you a formal receipt when the OBA Account is credited. Please keep the Treasurer advised when you instruct the Bank so as to facilitate and expedite relevant entries etc.

I think we can say that the decline at Guru has been arrested. Much is left to be done. I hope the momentum will increase and better results will be visible from next year. More dedicated and committed Old Boys are required to help the Ex-Co. I hope to take a back seat after the next AGM.

I hope you will attend the function on the 16th without fail.

Thanks and Warm regards,"

**7. In an e.mail sent to Mr.Ashan Algama on November 22,2002 we say:**

"Dear Ashan,

Thanks very much for your e.mail of November 20 intimating the demise of your grand father Mr.K T Amerasingham. Please accept and convey to the rest of the family members the deepest sympathies and the condolences of the Members of the Ex-Co and of the OBA of S.Thomas' College, Gurutalawa and of my self.

My office had been in touch with Mr.Amerasingham off and on and we had invited him to join the festivities in connection with the Diamond Jubilee Dinner Dance organized by our OBA to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the school which was to be held in the Continental Hotel on November 16,2002. However, Mr.Amerasingham had informed us that he was unwell and would contact us if he was in a position to attend.

We subsequently read in the papers with regret the intimation of his death and noted that he had not recovered from his illness.

His demise already been brought to the notice of the Ex-Co and duly recorded in the Minutes. The necessary adjustments/endorsements would be made in the Directory as well as in the Register of Members.

We thank you very much for communicating with us in this connection.

With warm Regards,"

**8 In a letter sent to Mr.Steuart Jonklaas on December 05,2002 we say:**

"I thank you for your letter enclosing a cheque for Rs.1,250/-.

I shall forward the College History Book and the Directory of Members in due course.

To enrol yourself as a Member, you should perfect and return an Application Form. A further copy of the Form is enclosed for your convenience. On receipt of the perfected Form, it will be sent to the Headmaster at Gurutalawa for verification of the date of admission etc. As such, please fill in the particulars with care. If you are not sure of the date/year of admission etc you may send whatever documentary evidence (photocopies) you may have e.g School Leaving Certificate, Character Certificate etc, etc pertaining to your period of study at Gurutalawa.

The Dinner Dance was a resounding success far beyond expectation. Enclosed is a note on the Dinner Dance that is to be uploaded on to my web site for your information."

**9. In a letter sent to Mr.Roy Abeysekera on February 05,2003 we say:**

"Your Application to join the S.Thomas' College Gurutalawa Old Boys Association and your Bank of Ceylon cheque No.265677 dated January 20,2003 for Rs.1,100/- is hereby acknowledged.

The present Life Membership fees is Rs.500/-. Hence, the balance Rs.600/- will be appropriated towards the College Development Fund. We trust this is in order.

The cheque has been handed over to the Treasurer to enable him to present same to the Bankers for collection. An official Receipt will be sent to you as soon as the proceeds are realized.

I was present by invitation at the Ex-Co Meeting of the OBA on January 28,2003. I tabled your letter under reference and mentioned that at the age of 78, you wished to join the Association. This is definitely an encouragement to the hundreds of Old Boys much younger than you, to join the OBA and help develop College.

Your Membership Card will be forwarded to you in due course."

**10. In a letter sent to Mr.Walter Gammampila on February 28,2003 we say:**

"Thanks very much for your letter of February 22,2003 and the cheque enclosed therewith.

You have always been a strong supporter of the College and OBA and made very generous contributions towards improvement of College. I have no doubt all concerned will appreciate your commitment. I have handed over your cheque and a copy of your letter to the new Secretary,

Mr.Mahen Ranasinghe on No.180, Madinnagoda Road, Rajagiriya (071-228675). You should receive the official receipt in due course.

I am glad contractor Jamail took you round College and showed some of the improvements that had been done. Development work which commenced under the last Ex-Co will be continued under the new Ex-Co. There is so much to be done and so little finances available. I only hope those responsible at College will preserve carefully the work done and material donations made, almost all of which have been inventorised by us in College.

Yes, It is a pathetic sight to see trees being cut to settle interest on overdrafts taken. The orchard too has been badly neglected over the years. You would have seen the Outward Bound Track overgrown and abandoned. In fact I have made it possible for the Outward Bound Camps to start again provided the Headmaster does the balance paper work. I took those responsible to Gurutalawa.

The Subodhi Institute will also conduct a programme for students in Upper 6th in early March 2003. The present students are from a totally different background and 40% of them are said to be from broken or single parent homes. These are all factors to be taken in to account in drawing up a development programme in College. Unfortunately very little progress is being made if at all, and what the last Ex-Co has done is mere ornamental work and not solving the real problems. In order to do that the Bishop and Board of Governors must agree to give new direction and change the whole structure. Otherwise regaining the Hayman era or anything like that will be a pipe dream and the standards in School will gradually deteriorate however much the OBA tries to keep it afloat and College may eventually have to close down.

I hope all will give their full support to the OBA and never allow it to become the "Old Boys Annual Picnic Club" it was until we took over. This will help the OBA to stand behind the Headmaster and try their best to save College. Because of the wise leadership we now have in the OBA it was possible to get the Bishop and the Board of Governors to agree to appoint an Administration Officer for College, answerable only to the Headmaster and over looking almost every subject other than studies at Guru. We have also put in an Old Boy of our era as Farm Manager when it was about to be closed down. The Administration Officer also will very likely be an Old Boy. These changes will perhaps keep the College afloat for sometime. Duleep mentioned that the post of Administrative Officer was something he had faught for, for over 25 years and given up in disgust. Clifford also had admitted that they had tried very hard without success. We were able to achieve this with some effort due to wise leadership, great commitment, and tact.

I am sorry to hear that you do not travel very much. The absence of yourself and all our other friends at the AGM was felt very much. I hope you are aware that we are able to get very concessionary rates from a fairly good hotel in Bandarawela to accommodate old boys who may not be able to manage in the dorms during the OBA week-end. It would be so nice to have the whole crowd at Guru at least once a year.

Like at the last AGM this time too there were very few old boys who were senior to us, namely, Duleepkumar; Bandula Wanigasekera; Cecil Habaragoda; A M Zubair; Sanath Jayatilaka; B.Muna; Nanda Mathew, N L Fernando and Herbie Perera (from Germany).

A few of us were in Guru from Thursday morning attending to last minute details. One of our guys i.e Sunda was cleaning drains and busy with an Ekel Broom, sweeping the compound. The Headmaster had invited him to come at least once a month to repeat the performance. Hows Zat!!

A note of welcome signed by the Headmaster was handed over to each old boy by the Security at the main gate. Approximately 140 old boys were thus counted as having come in. This was to facilitate preparation of food.

The Dorms had notices indicating that Tickets @ 500/- were to be purchased (to off set the expenses of College for food etc, no change being made from last year's amount although we knew the food was going to be the best ever served at Guru); that the AGM was for members only; that enrolment was possible even up to the last minute; forms were available with the Secretary and at the College office; the meal times etc etc.

We had the cricket match, swimming meet and basket ball matches and a squash encounter between two Old Boys- the looser to pay Rs.10,000/- towards squash at College. Despite all arrangements being made weeks before, the students who were to participate in these sporting events i.e the College Teams had been permitted to go home. They had obviously not been informed or given the impression that the event was not important enough for them to stay back. As you are probably aware, now the week-end of the Old Boys Re-Union celebrations is a compulsory mid-term holiday for the entire school for the past decade or two. This is something I wanted to change and have tactfully had partial success with. Hardly any members of the staff were available and one Master rustled up their "C" teams to oppose the Old Boys. This was an insult to the OBA. The Headmaster was present at the Cricket Match. The Headmaster admitted that he had made a mistake in allowing the Students in the teams to go home.

I arranged to have films done by Dr.Hayman exhibited in Foster Hall for those arriving on Friday night, starting around 7.30 p.m. Almost all 45 Old Boys who had arrived by that time thoroughly enjoyed the film show, mostly those of Yala, Wilpattu, Outward Bound Camps and Old Boys Re-Union celebrations of the period 1959-1962. Some Senior Old Boys like Duleepkumar and Sisira Nanayakkara were easily made out apart from Mara, Oliver Soysa, Lafir, Nawaz and a few others. The Headmaster did not attend this event. Had he done so he would have seen the entire school i.e 300 students at the College grounds witnessing the cricket and hockey matches and refreshments being served by courtesy of Van Simon and the College Van. This time and now a days not a single student is there to witness or participate in the celebrations other than those playing and that too not the College Teams. Perhaps the "Spirits" of the 60's would not have been as "potent" as those available now or is it because the crowd of Old Boys who visited Guru from 1959-1963 or so were of a different culture, perhaps well bred, compared to some of those who go to Guru now. Otherwise why send the boys away when old boys visit Guru.

We had the Fellowship in the quadrangle like a "Cocktail Party" with light music (initial stages) provided by a D J who I sponsored from Colombo.

The Older Old Boys of course were very impressed and complimented us on the organization. Our request that old boys should attend the Fellowship and dinner properly dressed was respected by a fair number. There were enough spirits and bites to go around.

Grace was said by the Chaplain and all those present sat down to dinner together - a departure from the "bath kade" practice of the last several years. I saw a prominent Old Boy of the previous Ex-Co's kitchen cabinet smoking whilst the College song was being sung. This is recorded even on video.

A sound system was available and the after dinner speeches too were made to be audible to all, although Mr.Upali Gunaratne, a former P A, M.P who responded from amongst the old boys concentrated on praising the Headmaster who had taught him while in College. In fact one interesting anecdote he mentioned was that the Headmaster hated to cane anybody and on one occasion, he had to cane the whole class. Having done that, he had returned to his quarters and had been crying!!.

The food served for all meals from Friday Dinner till Sunday lunch saw a huge improvement both in quality and quantity. In addition to the usual Pol Sambol and Fried Egg and other traditional Thomian Fare, we had prepared Ambul Thiyal in Colombo and taken it up to Guru, both Beef and Chicken were served with almost all meals in addition to unlimited Eggs for those who wanted to have a "go" in the absence of restricted diets by nagging wives at home. There was also Strings and Milk Rice which had not been served for over a decade. Every meal had caramel or Wattalapan or Ice Cream plus Pine and Plantains. Salads were also made part of the meal. Last year we had witnessed an Old Boy compelled to eat Rice with only tempered beans. There was nothing else. The Minor Staff had finished eating and a good part of the food prepared for Old Boys had by that time been spirited away to the Village. Precautions were taken to prevent this wholesale "theft" this time. The charges levied for the Re-Union week end remained at Rs.500/. There was a young old boy who when requested to purchase a ticket of Rs.500/- responded that he did not have the money as he had only Rs.60/- in his pocket to get back to Balangoda!!! This is the crowd that has been coming to College for the past several years and enjoying free accommodation, food, use of the swimming pool etc, etc for a week-end of fun totally uninterested in College and departing thanks to the generosity of the OBA to all and sundry or bad organisation. We eliminated this obnoxious practice this time. All were made to pay.

We were determined that non members should not be participants at the Annual General Meeting. By having an Attendance Register to be signed at the Registration Desk at the entrance to Foster Hall this problem was clinically and effectively solved. With the result almost 25 old boys who have been habitually getting away with this, enrolled half-an-hour before the AGM!!! This brings the total enrolled during the year to almost 125. This is a phenomenal record. Last year when sheets of paper were passed round to mark attendance during the meeting there were over 60 old boys who were non members who had signed. Quite a few sheets never came back to the Head Table. Some Old Boys signed several times. All this was eliminated. Sanity was restored.

Previously sub committees were appointed for membership drives. There was no drive. No report. In fact more members were going out of circulation without a trace. We have increased the mailing list from 400 to almost 700. Sub committees had also been appointed to draw up new rules. New rules never saw the light of day. This year the sub-committee sat and worked hard and new Rules were adopted at the AGM. The Hayman and Foster Scholarships had not been awarded for years. We revived them. Membership Cards were reintroduced. Newsletters and a Members Directory were initiated. The record was electrifying. The Mount OBA with over 5000 members is looking at us with envy. Who has done all this.

Lucian (Munda) too had sent a note of excuse. His presence undoubtedly would have enlivened the dinner and the AGM. Clifford did not come and there was no excuse offered. The general view is that the record of work of the Ex-Co during 2002-2003 is phenomenal and all critics have been effectively silenced, particularly those who blamed us for forming a group which will undermine the Ex-Co and disintegrate the OBA. On the contrary the OBA is stronger than ever before. The pundits have been silenced.

Your support in the several ways received by the last Ex-Co will not be forgotten. We must all be available to help the OBA and through it the College.

All the events from Friday afternoon until the conclusion of the AGM were filmed by a video camaraman sponsored by me.

Incidentally some of Dr.Hayman's films which were in a good state were copied on to video by this guy, at Guru, and I will in co-ordination with the Headmaster relay to the OBA the proposal of a new member who is interested in copying this on to video cassettes or CD's so that the OBA could perhaps sell it to interested Old Boys and collect some funds.

Before the Meeting commenced I handed over all the Books, Registers, and Files etc, to the outgoing Secretary. At the conclusion of the Meeting the outgoing Secretary was made to hand over all the Records and Files my office had maintained from 02.03.2002 to 23.03.2003 and a receipt obtained to be tabled at the first Meeting of the new Ex-Co. There was a record of over 6,000 copies of letters/communications sent out by the Secretary in the Outgoing letters file. So you can imagine the amount of time, energy, money and commitment that went in to the work of the Secretariat from March 02,2002 till February 23,2003.

Realizing that there was no valid reason why the 300 or so boarders did not sit for meals at the same time, I discussed the matter with the Headmaster. It appeared a few more tables were necessary. At my expense, I got 8 tables and 16 benches turned out in time for the Re-Union week end. I told the Headmaster to make an announcement on Thursday at dinner and have the whole school sit for breakfast on Friday morning at one sitting for the first time after almost 2 decades. At this point the Headmaster says "I don't know whether there are enough plates.

Heres hoping Guru will be strong again.

With my warm regards,"

**11. In a letter sent to Mr.John de Voz on March 06,2003 we say**

"Whilst at Guru for the AGM and Re-Union Celebrations in late February 2003 I accompanied the Chaplain to the Chapel and discussed about the lighting for the pulpit/lectern. It appears that the permanent fixed pulpit is not being used by him. There is a mobile wooden lectern which he uses. However, he too has had difficulty in reading even with this mobile lectern which he places very close to the congregation when he speaks. He says he prefers to be close to the congregation. We examined the area as regards lighting and it was felt that the most appropriate thing to do would be to have a table lamp fixed to this mobile lectern. The new Secretary who accompanied me on this visit will no doubt attend to this matter with the new Treasurer and write to you in due course."

**12. In a letter sent to Mr.Nanda Mathew on May 12,2003 we say**

"I write to congratulate you on your well deserved appointment to the High Office of Governor of the Uve Province.

Please accept my sincere good wishes. I hope that in the coming months you will find your work rewarding and time well spent.

I once again take this opportunity to thank you for the assistance and support you have so readily given to S.Thomas College, Gurutalawa it's OBA and to the Old Boys who were willing and trying hard to revive College and try to bring it back to the Hayman Era".

**CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR.P S DULEEPKUMAR**

(1)

"August 07,2001.

Dear Lakshman,

S.Thomas' College Gurutalawa

I was extremely gratified to receive a copy your letter of 31st July to Upali and indeed moved by the interest you are taking to resuscitate the school and the tremendous effort you have already directed towards it. May I assure you that I will support your initiative unreservedly and trust that the OBA Committee will not regard your action as an usurpation of their functions.

I now await from you the annexures referred to in your document and meanwhile I am studying your comments and recommendations to see what I could contribute. However, I would wish to make one point straightaway and that is that the Old Boys Association must regard itself as a true custodian of the School's traditions and consequently must be prepared to play a greater role on matters of policy and administration than has previously been the case. This is because progressively the Headmasters of the School have had personal agendas in conflict with its best interests, and the Board of Governors who have only a theoretical interest in the School remain passive to its needs. To this end, I have for along time suggested that a Management Board should be created under the aegis of the Board of Governors with majority representation and Chairmanship of the Executive Committee Members of the OBA.

In this regard it is vital to seek out and establish a ginger group of Old Boys who live within striking distance of the School and who are in apposition to visit it regularly, attend all its important functions and generally support the Headmaster and the School. This group could be commissioned by the OBA Executive Committee and should be well represented in the Management Board.

With best regards"

(2)

"August 14,2001

Mr P S Duleep Kumar  
No. 172/8 A, Polhengoda Road,  
Colombo 5.

Dear Sir,

S. THOMAS COLLEGE GURUTALAWA - OBA

I thank you for your letter of August 07, 2001.

I am delivering herewith as requested by you a complete set of papers relevant to a rather voluminous and thankless correspondence we have had with Upali which I am sure you will read at your leisure and find quite interesting if not revealing.

What strikes me as significant is the incomprehensible lack of interest and lackadaisical attitude shown by the Executive Committee to various proposals and ideas (good or bad) which emanate from the Membership. Not surprisingly, I had been forewarned by those who know better, that I will find the Executive Committee totally oblivious to any offer of assistance or co-operation.

Participating in the A G M is painful for members. I am told by several members of the Executive Committee the same applies to their infrequent meetings. One wag reports that a 3 ½ hour deliberation was to find ways and means of securing 40 odd bottles of whisky for the Fellowship

Dinner and that the only if not main item on its agenda since the AGM in February has been that Dinner. Whilst the Fellowship Dinner does serve an important item on the calendar of the OBA, there are so many other important matters that should receive their equal if not more urgent attention which is sadly lacking.

I find that more than 25 proposals and ideas small though they may be (which we have submitted immediately after the last A G M in February), have not merited even the courtesy of an acknowledgement. This is very similar to the A C M Laffir Pavilion and Sports Complex which our Group tried to accomplish in 1994 which too was shot down.

We were mindful of my sticking my neck out to be accused of usurping Executive - Committee functions. I shall face that if and when it surfaces. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

A group of us have identified what we have felt are serious matters that require the immediate attention of those who lay down Policy and are responsible for Management Decisions and also certain ideas which could be implemented without much debate or discussion. Foremost amongst the former which need to be well thought out and relate to long term matters are those relating to:-

- a) the Number and Quality of the intake of students. We find that numbers have ranged since Dr Hayman's retirement from 325 to 1250 and now to 451 or so. The ship has been floundering rudderless and captain less.
- b) the quality of the Tutorial Staff and Minor Staff and their numbers. A master is said to travel daily from Nuwara -Eliya to College and back without contributing anything to College and pocketing his salary.
- c) the curriculum of studies and sports activities. Many activities have been abandoned. The College magazine has disappeared from the horizon.
- d) improvements to existing and construction of new buildings and the refurbishing thereof, in a uniform and orderly manner. At present students bring their mattresses, steel cupboards, steel clothes racks etc. etc, to the dormitories.
- e) ways and means of reducing and eliminating a Rs. 1.5 Million Overdraft, with a loss /deficit of Rs.100,000/- per month.
- f) whether the fees charged from Boarders and Day Boys needs revision.
- g) elimination of wastage, pilfering, misappropriations and non collection of dues/fees.

These are all matters which we as old boys (within and without the OBA) do not have authority to go into.

Gifting Sports Equipment; T V sets; Telephone facilities; Recreational aids; Items for Welfare and Comfort; Reading material; gifting trophies in memory of Masters who have spent their lifetime in the services of the College etc. are matters, we could discuss and finalise with the Head Master. Our group has done and continues to do so.

A statement of Information required was prepared by us to obtain some data to assess the situation. A copy is enclosed for your information marked 'X'.

I have been told that the out-going Head Master has whenever confronted with problems, telephoned Executive Committee Members in Colombo who themselves run around in circles looking for proper advise.

I am aware that the out-going Head Master has come down and met other old boys in Colombo, in order to obtain their advise on management matters.

I am also personally aware that the out-going Head Master has written to old boys direct, requesting assistance for sports activities/equipment.

To my mind, these are neither healthy nor correct practices or procedures. The OBA should suggest the mechanism to assist the Head Master to run and manage the School. Many old boys have voiced their opinion with me that Management must be on the spot and not by Very Remote Control as at present. Your suggestion is very similar. We have repeatedly suggested Sub-Committees to cover all these areas. Our repeated suggestions of appointing Sub Committees for Management, and its allied activities have fallen on deaf ears.

Unfortunately, for the College, the Executive Committee is controlled by members who do not have sufficient time for the affairs of the College (or the OBA) or do not appreciate the dangers if College is allowed to meander in this way without proper guidance.

I also came across the view expressed, to have regular meetings or gatherings of an informal nature in Colombo at which the many old boys who are not in a position to travel to Gurutalawa even once a year, could meet and be apprised of the current situation and after discussions give the benefit of their advise to the Management of the School through the OBA.

Unfortunately, the A G M in February which is nothing but a Picnic and the Fellowship dinner in October appear to be the main functions the Executive Committee is appointed and exists for.

I hope that all of us will be able to generate some new and positive ideas amongst our own groups as well as cut across the Membership so that the College will benefit from the experience and talent, that is abundantly available.

We will, if necessary, go direct to the new Bishop with our ideas after they are discussed at length with all concerned who have the welfare of the College at heart and clear cogent realistic proposals are formulated and crystallized .

I am sure everyone can be persuaded to put aside personal animosities sometimes even perhaps selfish attitudes and utilise the goodwill that is available for College. So many old, old Boys who do not actively participate in OBA matters never fail to mention that they will do anything for College. (They tactfully leave the OBA out).

I hope that a considered and well thought of and drawn up Management plan as envisaged by you can find its way successfully to the higher echelons and be implemented for the benefit of college and the younger generations yet to come in.

It may be the appropriate time now to represent matters to the Bishop and the Board of Governors, direct if need be, in view of the recent changes therein, and hope that the step motherly treatment College has received can be changed.

I am personally of the view that a true and correct picture of the state of affairs prevailing in college is not being placed before the Board of Governors in a proper manner. If college is not being properly represented on the Board, then that situation must be changed. If on the other hand the Board is not interested in college in the true sense we must at least have a mechanism in place to execute all necessary activities and simply keep the Board informed. There does not appear to be a proper representation of facts and ideas of the College (and the OBA) on the one hand with the Board of Governors on the other. Clear and well defined areas of responsibility are necessary for correct management. I wonder whether this could be achieved in some way soon.

I am also in touch with one of my class mates at Guru who is at present a Crown Prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) and also the President of the STC OBA NSW Inc. My last E.mail to him is enclosed. He has offered me whatever assistance is required from that end.

With kind regards"

(3)

"August 23,2001

Dear Lakshman,

Thank you for your letter of 14th August and the material you sent there with. I am reading your documents but necessarily taking my time over them.

However may I suggest the following modus operandi:

1. Ask the Ex-Co for a Special meeting with it to discuss your letter of 15.03.2001 (along with the other signatories)
2. Together with few members of the Ex.Co form a Special Committee to prepare a memorandum of what needs to be done. Rope in Mr.Bandusena to this committee.
3. Submit the Memorandum to the New Head after he is installed and ask for a meeting with him - to further consider the recommendations, the practicability of enforcement and all the other relevant factors.
4. Put the Management Committee idea across to him and make him the Chairman. So that he wont feel that we are breathing down his neck, but are willing to play a hands on part to help him pull the School up by its boot straps."