

SINGAPORE'S BIGGEST CAMPUS MAGAZINE

# hype

MAGAZINE

FEB 1996 NO. 1

IN YOUR FACE  
INTERVIEW  
X-PAGE  
PROFILE  
CAMPUS NEWS  
TIME OUT  
PREVIEWS & REVIEWS

**CYBER CAMPUS**

**NP on the Web**

**MTV ASIA**

**Unplugging Earth's  
coolest TV network**

**Moses and Vernetta:  
From Under  
The Same Roof**

**DIY MUSIC**

**Uncovering what's underground**

**Plus: Hypercool Tower Discounts & Billy Bombers Prizes!**



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# hype

## EDITOR

MARK FRANCIS

## ASSISTANT EDITORS

SANDRA FABER  
ROSS GAN

## REPORTERS

DIANE CHAN  
EDDINO BIN ABDUL HADI  
HAZEL LOW  
GUNA SUPPIAH  
TENG MUI PING  
LISA SEAH  
JOANNE SEE  
JACYN TAN  
BENEDICT YAP

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
RAYMOND KHONG

## DESIGNERS

MELVIN GOH  
PATRICIA LIM  
BENEDICT YAP

## CONSULTANT

LULIN REUTENS

## LECTURERS-IN-CHARGE

CHITRA RAJARAM  
VERONICA LENG

## CONTRIBUTORS

FLORENCE CHONG  
P.LINGAM  
LILY MOK  
ANGIE TAN  
PATRICK TAN  
DANIEL YONG

Hype Magazine is a publication by final year students of the Diploma in Mass Communication Programme.



Mailing Address:  
Hype Magazine,  
Department of Film and  
Media Studies, Blk 23,  
Ngee Ann Polytechnic,  
535, Clementi Road,  
SINGAPORE 599489

## EDITORIAL

# I

t's an exciting time to be young.

New career choices and opportunities are continually being thrust upon us. Perhaps that's what makes being young so thrilling — the fact that you have your whole unexplored life ahead of you... and not knowing exactly where it'll lead.

Destiny must be something every young person thinks about. Shakespeare once wrote: "Destiny lies not in the stars, but in the palm of thy hand." While this may have influenced some less-than-bright astrologers to switch to palm reading, the Bard's words connote the struggle we must each go through to realise our aspirations amidst life's many curveballs.

Take our cover personalities, Moses Lim and Vernetta Lopez, for instance. Graduated from Ngee Ann a generation apart, they certainly didn't foresee themselves co-starring in the super successful series, *Under One Roof*.

With amusing reminiscence, Moses dug into his bag of memories to recount his poly days, interrupted every now and then by the buzz of his pager and the ring of his handphone.

It's not uncommon to see young people wielding these instruments of telecommunication. As technology redefines the impossible, the race to get "wired" in this age of the digital revolution is on.

There is no better example of this phenomena than the Internet. Our feature on NPNet's Worldwide Web Page looks at the Polytechnic from a different perspective — that of a 14" window peering into a digitised, virtual campus. The advantages of knowing your way around cyberspace are evident where every student has free access to the information highway, beckoning us to plug into the new cyberworld.

But the Internet isn't the only thing today's youth are plugging into. The MTV World has arrived in Singapore with its new Asian headquarters on Shenton Way. However, the question about MTV Asia remains: "Is MTV Asia truly Asian?"

And, will it be the "bad influence" which some parents see to be the effect of MTV-watching, turning us into over-liberal slackers?

Indeed these are exciting times as it is incumbent on us to show that our generation may be different, but we're not all spoonfed. There are those who plot their own paths and eschew the beaten track, those like the DIY (Do-It-Yourself) bands. These fiercely-independent, ambitious kids subscribe to firm beliefs of the indie subculture with their never-give-up defiance of mainstream commercialism.

Combining the exuberant hipness of youth with its hyperactive elements, HYPE magazine is also a young and ambitious project. Run by an inexperienced team of students most of whom are under 20, hey, I'd call that pretty ambitious.

The way I see it, opportunities abound and life is there for the picking. You could look to the stars and wait for your future to happen, or you could take control and do something with your hands, like make a magazine...



Mark Francis  
Editor



# Legend of Valentine's Day

What do a disobedient priest, goat hide and an imprisoned Frenchman have to do with Feb. 14? *Teng Mui Peng* discovers the origins of Valentine's Day and the identity of St Valentine, the man who started it all.

While there are several stories behind the origins of Valentine's Day, many historians believe that it was a defiant priest named Valentine who inspired lovers to attach special significance to this day.

Legend has it that the Roman emperor Claudius II, circa AD 200, believed that single males made better soldiers and forbade young men to marry. His decree was disobeyed by a defiant priest named Valentine, who secretly continued to marry young couples. He was eventually caught and sentenced to death.

In AD 496, Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 (the day Valentine was executed) St Valentine's Day.

Records also show that there was another Valentine; a Christian who refused to worship

Roman gods and was imprisoned and executed on Feb. 14. So who was the real Valentine? One theory is that both Valentines were the same man who was moved from one city to another before his execution, leading some into thinking that there were two Valentines.

Incidentally, some centuries earlier, a festival called Lupercalia was celebrated on Feb. 15. As part of a ritual during the this ancient Roman religious occasion, naked young men struck women with whips made from the hide of sacrificed goats. Women took the blows as they believed the whipping made them more fertile. During the festival, young men would also select the women they intended to woo the following year. Some writers linked the festival of Lupercalia with Valentine's Day because of the closeness of the two dates.



## Early Customs

Valentine's Day was celebrated in England as early as the 1400s, with the sending of verses to loved ones. This practice was started by a Frenchman, Charles, Duke of Orleans who was captured at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415 and thrown into the Tower of London.

On Valentine's Day, he sent a

love poem to his wife. This practice became widespread and reached its height in the 1800s.

In the 18th century, single women wanting to find out who their future husbands were wrote potential suitors' names on scraps of paper, rolled each in a piece of clay and dropped them into water. The first piece of paper which rose to the surface revealed the name of the woman's true love.

Also in the same century, unmarried

women pinned five bay leaves to their pillows — one in the centre and the rest to each corner — on the eve of Valentine's Day. If the charm worked, the woman would see Mr Right in her dreams.

In the 19th century, handbooks called 'Valentine writers' were sold which had verses for people to copy and send to their loved ones. This practice was gradually replaced by the exchange of gifts which remains popular to this day.

## A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Type of rose	No. of roses	What it means	Suitable occasions
Dark Red Rose	1	Devotion	Any occasion to surprise a loved one.
	3	Sincerity	Saying "I Love You" in a new relationship.
	12	Undying Devotion	Birthdays and anniversaries.
Pink Rose	1	Tenderness	As a "get-well" gift or to show concern and care.
	3	Dedication	Saying "I Love You" for steady couples.
	12	Devotion / Cherished Love	Marriages, engagements and anniversaries
Yellow Roses	Any number	Gratitude between friends.	Friendship Day (3rd August)
		Breaking up of a relationship.	Calling it quits.

Compiled By: Joanne See  
Source: The Flower People





## THE OTHERS JUST WATCH

Milk and corn-flakes are on the menu for Swatch's Spring/Summer 1996 collection with its breakfast line — Sunny Side Up and Good Morning .

Or if you're a nature lover, then Swatch's Natcode range — Sun Garden, Recharge and Heart on Earth — is something to watch out for.

Swatch also gets cute with the Sweet Baby, a Swatch Regular adorned with 18 adorable baby faces.

The Swatch Spring/Summer 1996 collection is available at Swatch counters and stores.

## THE YEAR OF THE RAT



As the Year of the Rat approaches, rodents may want to find out what lies ahead for them in 1996.

### Profile of a Rat

You are ambitious yet honest. Prone to spend freely and seldom make lasting friendships. You are charming, aggressive and a great joiner and party-goer. However opportunistic, you can be generous to loved ones. Most compatible with Dragons & Monkeys. Stay away from Horses.

profile compiled by Chieh Cheng <http://falcon.cc.ukans.edu/~mothball/mystic/Chinese%20Zodiac/rat/>

### What's in store for Rats this year

The ugly truth is, if you're a rat, it's going to be rough sewage ahead. Obstacles and setbacks are aplenty so use your head and never be impulsive. This is also not a good time for investments as losses are likely to be incurred, unless you're born in the year 1948 in which case, Lady Luck is shining like a halogen lamp.

For singles, romance is coming your way! But take time to make your choice; don't rush into a relationship (where's the fun in that?) and take it easy when your feelings aren't reciprocated. For married couples, conflicts are best remedied by taking a trip together. Also, take extra care of your health by avoiding late

nights and watching your diet.

Students: Your mind tends to wander, so quit day-dreaming and hit the books. Looks like it's a ratty year ahead...

### Who's a Rat?

- William Shakespeare
- Mozart
- Prince Charles
- George Bush
- Jimmy Carter
- Marlon Brando
- Dennis Hopper
- Daryl Hannah
- Ivan Lendl



## ALL T-SHIRTS GREAT & SMALL

Merchandising is proving to be a successful strategy for the SPCA. Their latest line of T-shirts includes cartoon designs of animals found at the SPCA.

At \$10-\$14 each, SPCA's T-shirts have become a hot-sell among teenagers, and the girls are apparently going for the hip baby sizes for a tighter fit.

According to SPCA executive officer, Deidre Moss, the sale of the T-shirts not only provides financial support for the organisation's causes but more importantly, the snappy slogans such as 'Stop Animal Abuse' and 'Offer Of A Lifetime' serve as public awareness messages for the animals.

Available in 10 designs, SPCA T-shirts are on sale at the SPCA, 31 Mount Vernon Rd.





# Do it

stoned revivals



PADRES



breed



CHILDREN  
EXPLOSION e.p.



Breed.

Psycho Sonique.  
Bruce Lee.

No, they're not MTV's latest 'hipper-than-thou' alternative stars but just some of a growing number of home-grown DIY (do-it-yourself) bands who write, play, record and distribute their own music.

EDDINO HADI & LISA SEAH go underground to visit the world of our independent musicians.

MOTHS & BAGPIPES



music culture in Singapore has never been stronger; kids who want to get their music heard are taking matters into their own hands, even though most of them have school or full-time jobs to worry about.

Shunning the mainstream, these boy/girl bands play abrasive and loud music, adopting a hardline non-conformist streak. For them, music comes first, but they are generally ignored by popular music fans, which is just the way they like it. "We're not into music for the fame or the money. Playing and recording our songs is something to be proud of," says Nehg Mohammed, 21, female drummer of punk rock band Bruce Lee.

This DIY spirit started in the mid '70s, when the first wave of punk rock bands in the UK and US rejected mainstream corporate music, choosing instead to form their own bands and distribute their own recordings. It was a reaction to what they felt were sterilised and boring rock bands which dominated the music industry at the time.

From there, the phenomenon spread to other countries in Europe, South America and Asia, operating solely through the underground, which meant they didn't get any major radio air-play or press coverage except through their own pirate radio stations and self-made magazines called fanzines (see box).

making demos) was the process of doing it." Bruce Lee's bassist, David Newman, 28, says that it's "nice" to be able to make profits but "I'm not about to stop (playing music) just because I'm not making any money."

Remaining independent and having total control of their music is of great importance to these bands. Most would rather rely on their friends and contacts to help them distribute their music than sign on with record companies like Pony Canyon, says Ginette. "With DIY, we do it the way we want it," she adds.

The only recording labels DIY bands are willing to deal with are the smaller, independent labels which they feel won't see their music merely as a money spinner. These labels, like the bands, are ardent subscribers to DIY ethics and so let the bands retain 100 per cent control over their music and image. They include Dischord (US), Kill Rock Stars (US), Alternative Garage Entertainment (Malaysia) and Singaporean names like Algebra of Need and Lazyache Records.

In terms of self-promotion, the bands are dead set against advertising in magazines and newspapers which is seen as submission to the mainstream culture. Instead, they rely on word-

# How to release

Today, the bands release their own songs on demos, low-fi (low-fidelity) recordings done in cheap studios and sold to people who support the DIY scene. These demos, cassettes with Xeroxed covers, are usually sold through the mail, selected record shops and at gigs. Releases number from 40 to 500 copies, which is peanuts by mainstream music industry's standards. When Bruce Lee released a demo recorded in a studio, they limited it to only 41 copies which sold out in two weeks. "We were too lazy to make any more copies," Neng says.

The bands don't always make a profit when they sell their demos. In fact, quite a number of them incur a loss. "We don't care about losing money," affirms Ginette Oh, 19, bassist with all-girl punk band, Psycho Sonique. "Our priorities are getting people to hear our music and decide for themselves whether they like it or not," she continues. Sareena Rai, 21, Bruce Lee's frontwoman remarks, "I don't think I saw any profits from our demo at all, which doesn't bother me because the point (of

of-mouth or self-made flyers and posters with eye-catching graphics and instructions to send in cash, fanzines or other demos in exchange for a copy of the advertised recording. These Xeroxed flyers are distributed at gigs, common hangouts and for overseas orders, through the mail.

Given their non-commercial philosophy, it's not surprising that their perennial problem is a limited budget. Bruce Lee's \$100 spent on their demo came out of their own pockets. Psycho Sonique managed to scrape through by using money they earned playing some gigs.

One man who's gone out of his way to help the local DIY bands is K.K. Wong, proprietor of TNT studios, a jam/recording studio in Parklane Shopping Centre. His studio, very popular with the DIY crowd, offers the lowest semi-professional recording rates in town, about 60 per cent cheaper than other professional studios. A self-confessed 'music person', he empathises with the bands' passion for their music. "I keep costs down because I know these kids are financially insecure," he says. He admits that "studios don't make much money but....I want to help these kids achieve something."



Wong also lets the bands sell their demos at TNT without taking any profit cuts.

"There's a lot happening now (in the DIY scene) as compared to before," notes Philip Cheah, editor of local music magazine BigO. He thinks it's very healthy that "a number of these bands have taken it upon themselves to do things without waiting for other people to do it."

In the face of adversity, DIY 'scenesters' find solidarity with various international DIY groups which often write and send one another records, cassettes, CDs, fanzines and other such paraphernalia. "We've sold quite a number of our demos overseas, particularly in Malaysia," says Alvin Wong, 19, bassist with surf-punks Force Vomit. "The underground scene over there is quite receptive towards Singapore bands." Several Singapore bands like Stompin' Ground, Psycho Sonique, Opposition Party and Four Sides have also crossed the Causeway to play gigs in Kuala Lumpur, Ipoh and other Malaysian cities. Looking further afield, Psycho Sonique and Bruce Lee plan to send their demos to contacts in the US, Malaysia and Australia.

## fanzines

lishing rule. They're mostly cut-and-paste affairs; badly Xeroxed pages and blurred photos.

Fanzines (or zines as they're more commonly called) are self-made magazines that are devoted to encapsulating the DIY culture and are one of the few forms of publicity independent bands get.

Coloured pages or glossy covers are out. If it looks slick, it's not a zine. Interviews with bands (local and otherwise), music reviews, gig reports and opinion columns fill the pages. The bands' demos, T-shirts and other such wares are also advertised for free.

The earliest fanzines emerged in the UK during the mid '70s and chronicled all the happenings of the first wave of the punk scene. This form of press was a reaction to big corporate magazines like Rolling Stone and New Musical Express.

Singapore has about 12 zines with really fierce names like Thrill To Kill, Pulp Entertainment, Abstinence, Rage Generation and Suffer Age. Like demos, these zines also frequently cross the border to Malaysia, Europe and the US.



*Clockwise from left:*

*Sham playing speed-metal guitar for Ossuary.*

*19-year-old Dino of surf punk band, Force Vomit, sings his mind.*

*Girls can be punk too. Idayuh and Ginette of Psycho Sonique.*

*Joe Ng, a.k.a Mee Pok Man, one of the pioneers of Singapore's independent scene.*

*Nepalese Sareena Rai and American David Newman of Bruce Lee.*



**gigs** - slang for concert, performances.

**indie** - short for independent. Also refers to music that is generally highly poppy, with dreamy melodies and swirly guitars made popular by US and UK bands like My Bloody Valentine, The Smiths, Ride and Guided By Voices.

**punk rock** - a type of music punctuated by raw bursts of energy, with more importance placed on intensity and musical creativity rather than technical skills, first popularised in the mid-seventies by US and UK bands like The Ramones, The Avengers, Dead Boys and Sex Pistols. Has since divided and subdivided into further categories including hardcore, psychobilly, Oi!, emocore, surf-punk among others.

**scenesters** - people involved in the DIY community, includes bands, zine writers, supporters etc.



# Baby Jean

Jean Danker is only **17** and already a **DJ** on the Perfect 10. **DIANE CHAN** talks to Singapore's youngest radio presenter and first-year Ngee Ann Mass Communication student outside the studios of RCS.

Q: How did you become part of the Perfect 10 crew?

A: Sometime in December of '94, after my 'O's, I took a Rediffusion DJ course. After that, one of the DJs at Rediffusion recommended me to Perfect 10. I got a call from the station asking me to send in a demo tape. I did, and they called me a few days after. So here I am!

Q: What was it like at first?

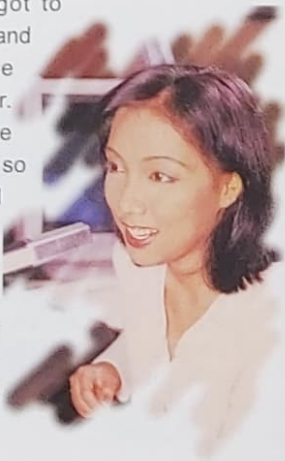
A: It was terrible and I started losing weight. I had to be aware of everything that was happening around me, like when to air the commercials, the jingles, what to say and which song to play at the right time. Mark Richmond (Perfect 10 presenter) would be watching over me, reading his magazine while I was going 'aahhh...'

Q: Which programmes do you host now?

A: There's 'Saturday Night Jam' and song dedications on Saturdays. Then on Sunday nights, you can hear me on 'Drive Time' and 'Say It With Music'.

Q: Ever made any blunders while on-air?

A: Once, I forgot to switch off the mic and said some expletives on-air. When I realised the mic was on, I was so embarrassed, I quickly switched it off. But I was forgiven for that because it happens to newcomers all the time.



Q: What's it like working with the rest of the Perfect10 crew?

A: They treat me as the baby because I'm the youngest! I used to have a long fringe until one day, I decided to cut it myself to a length just above my eyebrows. After that, they started patting me on my head and saying, 'Oh Jean, so cute.' I'd protest and remind them that I was already 17.

Q: Is that why they call you 'Baby Jean'?

A: Yup. And also because I wear baby powder all the time. So whenever I go into the studio, Bernard (Lim) and the rest can smell the baby powder and they'll go, 'Baby Jean... Baby Jean.'

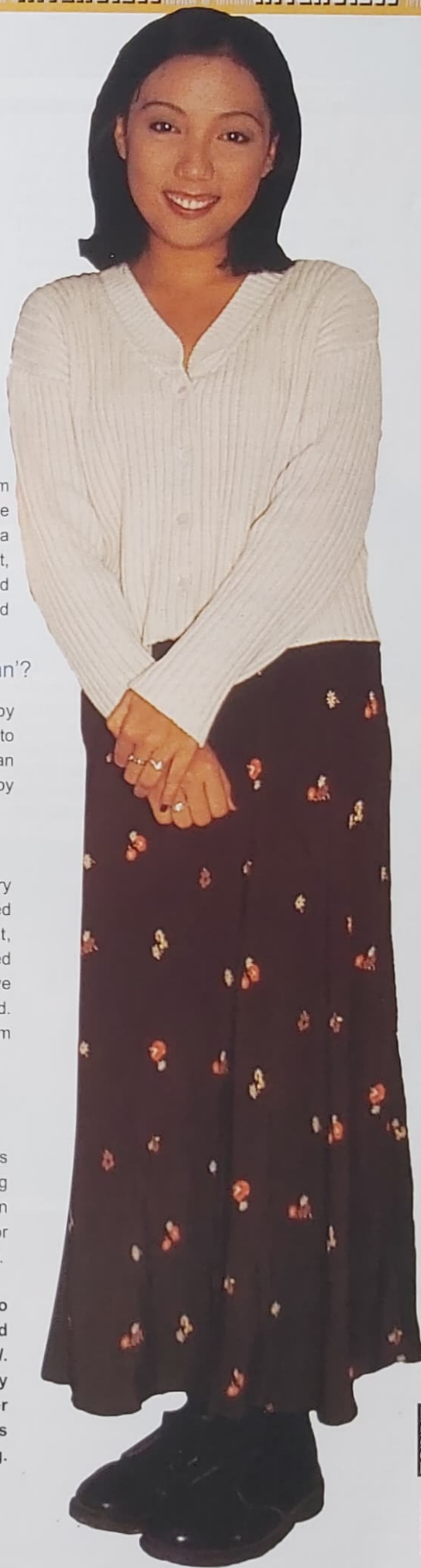
Q: How's poly life so far?

A: It's been different, because in secondary school, you're continually being spoon-fed and all that. But right now, it's great, especially the people. I've always wanted to study Mass Communication. I could've qualified for a JC, but this was what I wanted. Not because it's glamorous. Now that I'm here, it really isn't.

Q: Will you join Perfect10 full-time when you graduate?

A: That's really hard to say. Two years is such a long time. I'll probably be part-timing for now and who knows what might happen after that? I might continue my studies or do something else in the (media) industry.

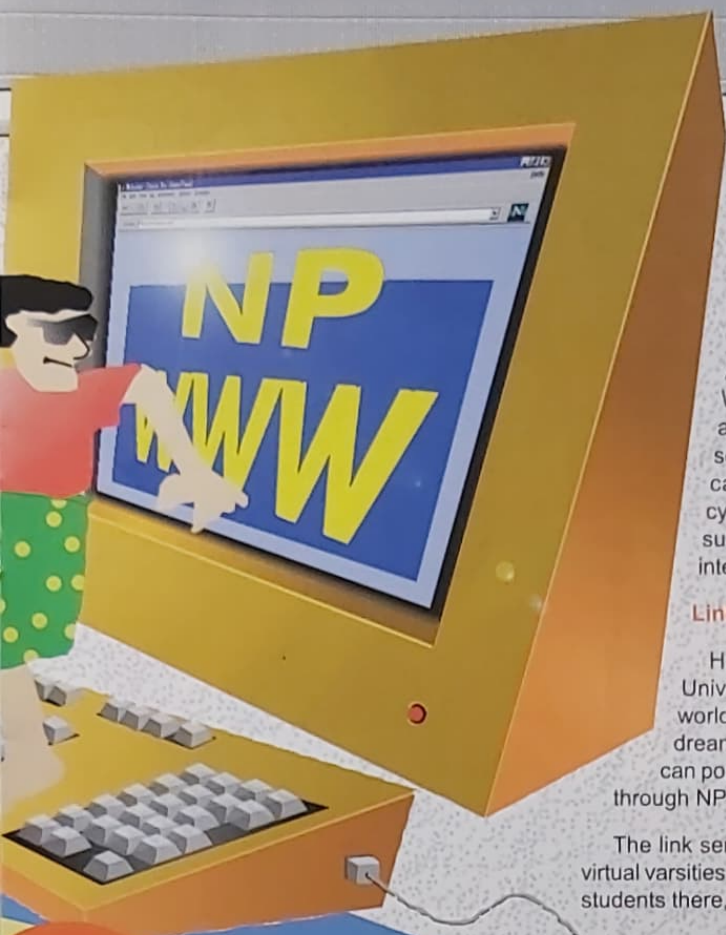
At this point, funk-monk Chris Ho sticks his head out of the studios and screams, "Quick, I've gotta go NOW. Who's taking over?" She turns to say goodbye with a smile and shedding her poly student persona, promptly re-enters the professional world of broadcasting.











## Internet Search Tools

In this section, you can cruise the information highway on some of the fastest and most powerful 'vehicles' known to date. ArchiePlex Form, World Wide Web Wanderer, Lycos Search and EiNet Search Engine are some of the search tools you can use to catapult well into cyberspace. Just key in a simple subject search on any topic of interest and you're on your way...

## Links to Other Web Sites

Harvard University, Stanford University, Oxford, all prestigious, world-renowned institutions many dream of studying at. Well, now you can pop into any of these universities through NP's web page.

The link service allows you to visit these virtual varsities to 'sitesee', make contact with students there, or even to conduct research.

## Other Internet Services

A whole range of cool stuff on the Internet has been compiled by NP with the students' interests in mind.

**Cybershopping** - Lets the user order and purchase products ranging from computer peripherals to fashion items with any internationally recognised credit card. Sell-A-Vision, eat your heart out!

**Music** - Music fans can take a listen to your favourite artistes (by downloading and playing the soundclip) or check out the latest singles and album releases as you surf locales like CD SHOP and BMG Classics Web. Be it toe-tapping or head-banging, there's something here to aurally stimulate you.

**Magazines & Sorts** - Access on-line magazines and newspapers like Time, Life and even Singapore's Business Times. For the latest in world news, there's always CNN to bring you up-to-date.

Web page designer wannabes can also seek instruction from the site entitled: "Publish Your Own Web Page".

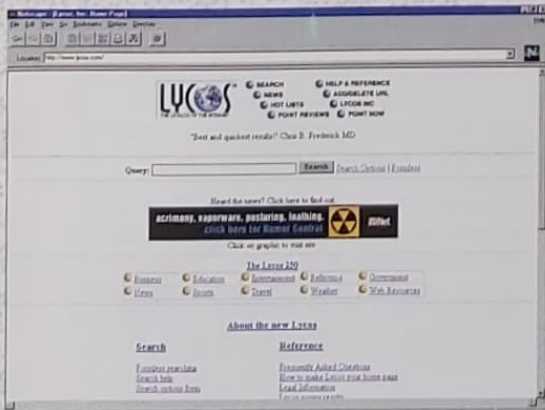
**Graphics** - A host of graphic icons, cartoons and the latest shareware games are available for the user to download, royalty-free.

# ON THE WEB

Superhighway to visit Ngee Ann's Web Page.

A pen-pal page where students can start corresponding via the Internet provides a convenient way to keep-in-touch with other people in cyberspace.

And for those in search of holiday jobs (and desperately in need of extra dough!), this page could well reverse your financial woes. There are job opportunities for both temporary and executive positions, as well as hints on how to put your own resume on the Internet.



## The Net Story

It was back in 1987 that the idea of an inter-campus network system (now known as NPNet) was conceived. But only in July 1990 was a committee set up to look into implementing the concept. NPNet's aim was to provide a means of connecting individuals all over the campus to facilitate collaboration and creativity.

AT&T was commissioned to supply and install the network using fibre-optic technology and Ngee Ann became the first polytechnic in Singapore to have a campus wide network.

With NPNet in place, it was only natural for the campus to stretch its reach into the Internet. Soon after, it launched its own web page — the first polytechnic to do so.

"The NP Web Page was created as a platform to enable students to surf the Internet more efficiently. Search tools and user friendly buttons, including help tools, were used to help newbies get adjusted to the Internet environment," says Lim Peng Heng, one of the application engineers with the Computer Centre responsible for the upkeep of the NPNet.



## Indispensable Dispensers

It started as an aid for smokers to quit their habit and evolved into a world-favourite candy that's "spat" out from a plastic cartoon head dispenser. It must be PEZ!

Now, collectors can look forward to Pez Bodyparts, a whole range of arms, feet and upper body parts that can be fitted onto any dispenser. Introduced here in June 1995, Pez Bodyparts are an extension to the original line of Pez dispensers.

Initially named Pfefferminz (German for peppermint), Pez was invented by Austrian candy executive Eduard Haas III in 1927 for adults who wanted to quit smoking. The pastille

sites devoted solely to Pez-related information. PEZ-land Home Page is one example and can be reached at <http://www.inlink.com/~pez/mike/pez/pezland.html>.

Praised by rockstars (Steven Tyler of Aerosmith swears by his Cherry Pez), featured in magazines such as *Forbes* and *People*, guest-starring in movies, TV shows (*ET*, *Stand By Me* and *Seinfeld*) and exhibited in museums, Pez candy and dispensers have stood the test of time. Perhaps there's something to be said for popping a mint from a toon.

*Bodyparts as well as the original Pez dispensers are sold separately at all 7-Eleven and Toys 'R' Us stores at a recommended retail price of \$1.90 each.*

The store is also a great place to get designer-label lookalikes as shoe designs are inspired by Italian footwear magazines such as *Moda Pelee* and *Pelee Vogue*.

*Leaping Lizards boutique is at #01-57, International Plaza.*

## TV For Crooked Necks

The Zeo is a 15-inch TV that slants the meaning of television viewing. The unique set can be tilted to rest on three different angles.

William Gaultier, communications officer with THOMSON multimedia, explains that the rubber-cased Zeo (pronounced zay-oh) TV



replaced cigarettes in the mouths of smokers and the dispenser was designed to imitate the action of lighting a lighter. The early dispensers didn't have character heads. Only when introduced in the US in 1952, did Pez dispensers have cartoon character heads fitted on to appeal to children. The candy was also changed from peppermint to fruit flavours (currently cherry, orange, lemon and grape).

Today, old and rare dispensers are creating a stir in auction houses. Christie's — an auction house in London — sold a set of 19 Disney dispensers for a record price of US\$1,150 in 1993 and rare dispensers such as the 1982 World's Fair model fetch more than US\$1,000. An Internet search will reveal a 100 or so web

## Leaping Lizards

Leaping Lizards may have the sole-lution to poor-fitting shoes. It specialises in custom-made footwear — anything from patent heels to opaque rubber boots. You can choose the designs from a 300-page sample book which includes wacky and outrageous designs like leopard-spotted brown suede and neon pink synthetic, or just describe what you want. Alterations such as lowering the heel height or widening the soles are free.

Your dream shoe can cost anything from \$40 to \$200 depending on the quality of materials and complexity of designs.

was designed for kids, "Our French designer, Philippe Starck, observed that children did not always watch television in an upright manner. They tend to tilt their heads."

Available in salmon, green or grey, the Zeo also makes a distinctive design piece and comes with a cone-shaped remote control that resembles a game joystick.

The Zeo is also easy to find when misplaced — just whistle and it starts beeping so you can locate it by sound.

*The Zeo, which will be on sale in March, is now on display at Abraxas Designs at The Promenade.*



## HyperCard

Iceland, Libya, Venezuela and Puerto Rico are just a few of the 93 countries where you can enjoy discounts with the International Student Identity Card (ISIC).

Created in 1968 by the International Student Travel Confederation (ISTC), ISIC is available to all full-time students aged 12 and above for a fee of \$12 and is valid for 15 months.

Some of the more interesting benefits applicable in over 10,000 establishments worldwide include:

- special student prices at Universal Studios in Florida, USA.
- 40% off the entrance fee to Italy's famous Vatican Museum.
- 50% off entrance fees to Egyptian Archaeological Sites.
- 25% off domestic Australian flights on Qantas Airways.

In Singapore, ISIC also gives you discounts at nearly 80 local restaurants, retail shops, night-spots and attractions such as the Night Safari, Fantasy Island and T.G.I. Fridays. Just refer to the discount booklet that accompanies the card. These discounts are also listed at <http://www.isic.org> on the Internet.

Application forms are available from STA Travel Pte Ltd located at Orchard Parade Hotel, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and National University of Singapore. Please bring along a passport-size photograph at the point of application.

## Philanthropy In A Tub

Can something that tastes so heavenly also do so much good? Ben & Jerry's ice-cream - a rival to Haagen Dazs in the US - is known for its corporate philanthropy.

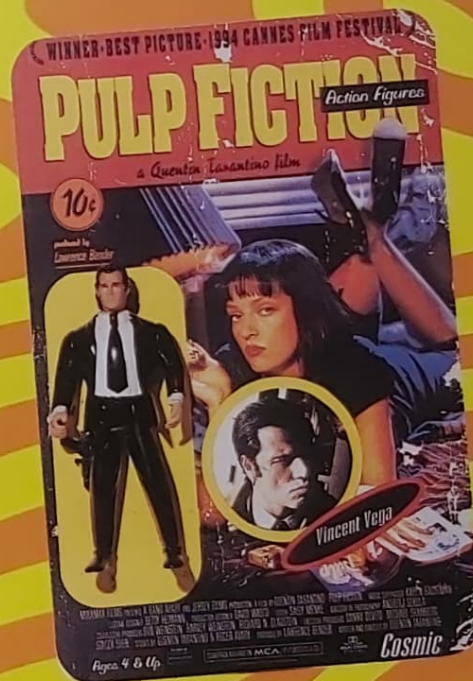
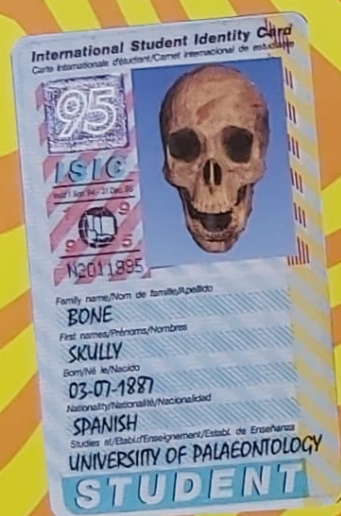
Its Rainforest Crunch ice-cream flavour, for instance, uses cashew and Brazil nuts

Ben & Jerry's ice-cream and yoghurt cost \$6.99 a pint and are available at Jasons in Orchard Towers.

## \$500 - Fact Or Fiction?

John Travolta's such a doll. His mobster character, Vincent Vega - from director Quentin Tarantino's Oscar-winning flick *Pulp Fiction* - has been made into an action figure by specialist toy store, Cosmic Collectibles.

Co-owners Vincent Lee and Kelvin Chan custom-made Vega using parts from other toys such as Batman-villain Two Face's body (the only one with a suit) and Robin Hood's head. Add some sideburns, a sexy chin cleft and



harvested from the Amazon forest, providing native farmers with some income and discouraging them from cutting down trees for wood to sell. The brownies in the Chocolate Fudge Brownie Yoghurt come from Greyston Bakery, which provides training and employment to the under-privileged in Yonkers, New York. What's more, the yoghurt is 97 per cent fat free.

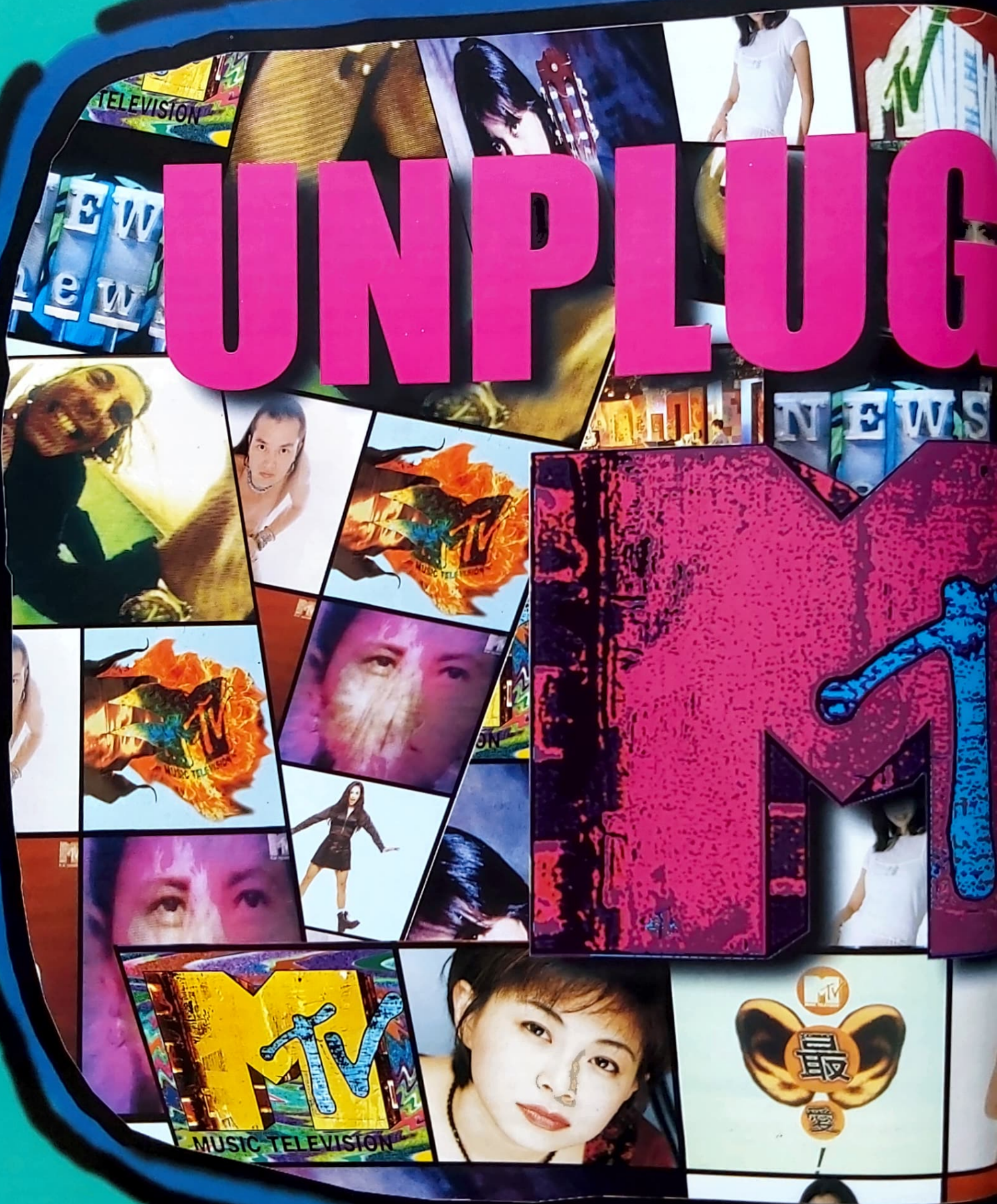
Founded in 1978 in Vermont, Ben & Jerry's subscribes to a corporate concept of linked prosperity. The company gives away 7.5 per cent of its pre-tax earnings to support projects that are models for social change. Proposals include those relating to children and families, special-interest groups and the environment.

voila... virtually Vega. The toy comes in a neat bubble pack, complete with firearms and a hefty price tag of \$500.

Unfortunately for die-hard collectors, the miniature gangster isn't for sale. The price is a hoax. "We just wanted to generate interest and see what people's reactions might be. To our surprise some wanted to buy it," says Lee. Cosmic will submit their incarnation as an entry to Tomart's Annual Action Figure Design contest to be held in America later this year.

Cosmic collectibles is at #02-60 Katong Shopping Center and #04-17 Bras Basah Complex.





**PSEUDOVIRUS**



**A brilliant burst of electric colour flashes across the screen, lighting up the room like a discotheque and transforming the television into a pulsating music box. On screen, a hundred images per second, sexy midriff-baring video jockeys (VJs), and mind-blowing digital graphics punctuated by the latest entertainment news. Hey, if it's cool, it's on MTV.**

by

## Mark Francis & Eddino Hadi





It's no wonder that teenagers around the world are entranced by the hypnotic culture and iconography of what has become one of the world's largest television networks.

After all, MTV has single-handedly managed to do what many parents cannot, that is, understand and connect with teens — so successfully that it has spawned its own brand of followers... the MTV Generation.

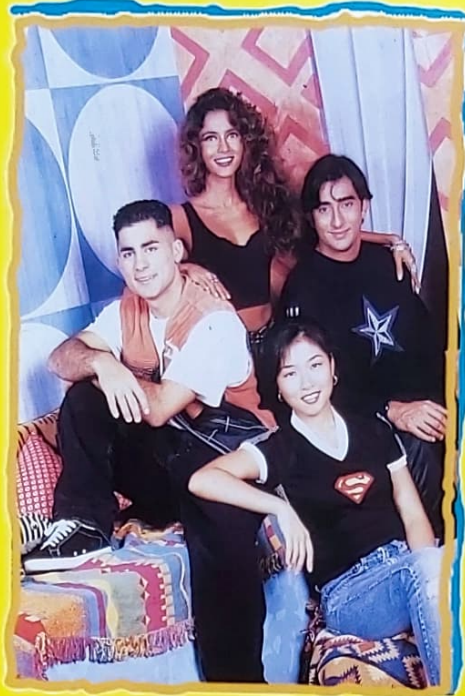
Today, MTV is synonymous with a pop culture that millions of teens embrace. From TV screens to Cyberspace, its phenomenal influence can be seen and felt in almost every continent.

Like a mutant octopus that has reached gargantuan proportions, its tentacles stretch across the globe in the form of MTV US, Europe, Japan, Brasil, Latino, Mandarin and Asia — its latest conquest. Today, a map of MTV's worldwide networks resembles a RISK board game, where global domination is the prize.

MTV first lit up screens across Asia through an affiliation with Hong Kong-based satellite network, Star TV in 1991. That partnership ended in mid-1994 due to managerial differences.

In April 1995, MTV returned with the launch of MTV Mandarin, followed by MTV Asia a month later, their sixth and seventh international networks respectively. MTV set up its new headquarters right in Singapore's Shenton Way and has been busy winning over Asian viewers ever since.

According to MTV, the two new networks now reach 28.6 million homes and



The cool crew. (clockwise from left) VJs Mike Kasem, Anu Kottoor, Rahul Khanna and Stella Sohn.

Jamieson, President of MTV Networks Asia said in a press release issued during the network's launch in May 1995, "MTV returns to Asia with a full commitment to

**It's not correct to say that pop culture is**

**American...pop music has become global and is also Asian.**

both entertain and inform young people throughout the region... and plug them into the global youth culture by covering social issues and lifestyle tastes in all parts of the world." He added, "Now with a fully global network, MTV is truly the advocate for young people everywhere."

Defining its role in Asia, Vinnie Longobardo, MTV Asia's Vice President of Programming and Production said, "We're 100 per cent Asian focused... MTV Asia will be a unique channel that is both inherently Asian and inherently MTV." Its game-plan? To deliver "music and issues that are most relevant to the Asean and sub-continental audiences."

MTV's "Think Globally, Act Locally" philosophy has paid off so far. But, it's no easy task to become a truly localised network in Asia, where a myriad of ethnic sensitivities, cultural diversities and language differences will pose a greater challenge for the rulers of music video kingdom.

So, the questions for Asian audiences are whether or not MTV is as Asian as it claims, and whether a "One World, One Music" ideology will work for Asia, or merely Americanise its Asian audiences.

Cherian George, Straits Times Media Watch columnist feels it's inaccurate for MTV to claim that they're 100 per cent Asian focused. "MTV Asia is still basically American. In terms of format and actual content, it's still dominated by American influence," he notes. George says those who think pop culture belongs to the West will feel that MTV is a vehicle of American culture, although he observes that "it's not correct to say that pop culture is American... pop music has become global and is also Asian."

MTV Asia certainly seems to have the right line-up of Asian faces, including ex-Perfect 10 presenter, Sharon Gomes, currently its news anchor. "Eighty per cent of our staff here are Asian," says Vinnie Longobardo. Its employees comprise Singaporeans, Taiwanese, Indonesians, HongKongers and Asian-Americans who all contribute to make MTV Asia, Asian.

The mixed brew of Indian, Indonesian-Australian, Taiwanese and Korean VJs, many of whom have been educated in the West, also represent MTV's Asian formula. In one episode of

MTV's Time Out, Korean VJ Stella Sohn introduces a video in her American accent and a trendy outfit that epitomises Asian culture on MTV: a modernised Chinese Cheongsam with a western label smack across the chest.

Another issue is the scarcity of Asian content on MTV Asia. "They very seldom have local videos, I've yet to see one so far. It's my



This Korean even comperes in Russian.

hotel rooms in countries like Singapore, Hong Kong, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan and China.

MTV's plans for world domination became more apparent when Peter



MTV Mandarin VJ Stacy Hsu flanked by HK pop idols Jacky Cheung and Faye Wong





More than music videos. MTV Asia's news correspondent delivers the latest entertainment news.

what it is the audiences in any of those regions want," Longobardo says. MTV compiles its database through viewer mail and requests, as well as feedback from record companies, record stores and radio stations' playlists.

As Shabnam Melwani, communications coordinator at MTV Asia so aptly puts it, "We're never gonna dictate to them (audiences) what we think is cool, we only reflect what the kids tell us is cool." So, if Asian tastebuds prefer the snap, crackle and pop of R.E.M. and Pearl Jam for now,

entertainment industry by promoting Asian artists through television," he notes.

If MTV does succeed in finding the right formula for Asian youth, and teens start plugging into the MTV World, the emergence of a new Asian MTV Generation may not be far off. MTV's idea of Asian-ness may be superficial to some, but as with the cultural evolution of civilisation... it is all about change.



personal view that they should have more local stuff but I guess it's because they cater to the whole of Asia, maybe it's not popular to the public," says Danny Teo, 19, a final-year Electrical Engineering student from Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP). Danny watches MTV Asia from his home in Tampines, currently one of the Housing Board estates that's been wired for cable TV.

Vinnie Longobardo says there's a reason why few Asian videos are aired. He says on average, 80 per cent of the videos on MTV Asia are international and not local because the satellite channel reaches so many different markets and they must keep in mind what their diverse viewers want to watch. Also, "video production is not as plentiful in some countries like Indonesia and India where the market is not as developed as it is in say, Taiwan," he explains.

Longobardo believes that MTV "can be both local and international at the same time". MTV Asia tapes segments in places like Singapore and Hong Kong, covering local issues and events to stay relevant to its Asian audiences. For instance, MTV Asia covered a local gig held at the Substation last September. "We go out of our way to find out



MTV Asia's only American VJ, Mike Kasem, is also the son of radio icon, Casey Kasem.

## Do we lack local Music Videos?



The production of music videos and the promotion of music sales is a vicious circle for many Asian artistes. Record companies will not fork out video production budgets for songs that won't provide a return through record sales. Yet, record sales are boosted by music videos of the songs broadcast over television.

Audrey Wee, Assistant Producer of Vidz - TCS' own music video programme - says, "The bulk of the music videos are currently from the Western countries and that's something inevitable...the local artistes here already have problems selling albums. If you can't even sell the album... don't talk about making a music video, it's so expensive and the expertise is not really here either."

so be it.

Philip Cheah, editor of rock 'n' roll magazine BigO says, "I'm glad that MTV Asia is here because it's part of an

evolution where you have an impetus to professionalise the industry...with MTV Asia, you finally have this idea that music videos are important both to inform and promote."

Donald Lee, a lecturer from NP's Film and Media Studies department and a graduate in music engineering and production, also sees MTV's presence as positive. "It would actually help to boost the Asian

Having MTV in Asia may be a help, as the network does see itself playing a role in the development of the Asian music video industry. "One of the things that always happens in places where MTV goes... is that the record companies begin to realise it's worth the investment to get additional exposure on MTV which provides them with a new outlet for promoting artistes," says Longobardo. "We're wide open to playing good videos and songs from bands no matter where they're from and I think that's going to be one of the biggest roles we play in giving exposure to artistes," he proclaims.

MTV's airing of Asian videos will certainly help Singapore and other Asian nations globalise their brand of music, making for a truly vibrant Asian channel.

Jeremy Phua, a promotions assistant at Pony Canyon Singapore, is doubtful. "There are so few labels that sign on local bands...I don't think there will be a sudden rush to produce a lot of local videos just because MTV is here."

The message is clear: Don't expect any miracles overnight, but it is certainly more than vain hope that MTV's presence will eventually account for something when Singapore is fully wired up in the next few years.



Fair Dame. Cindy Crawford, host of MTV's House of Style, on location in HK.



# UNDER THE SAME ROOF

**T**hey are father and daughter on Singapore's premiere sitcom, *Under One Roof*. But few are aware that they have something else in common...their Alma Mater.

By  
Diane Chan  
& Jacyn Tan



**M**oses Lim arrives on time, smiling from ear to ear. In person, he's as approachable as each of his on-screen characters, but not half as prone to slapstick antics. A well-mannered gentleman, Moses exudes a business-like aura carrying a handphone and a pager. When told that Vernetta will be late, he shrugs, "We start first", and launches into the interview.

## POLYTECHNIC DAYS

"During my time, Ngee Ann Poly was called the Ngee Ann Technical College," he recalls fondly. "And there wasn't a Business Studies or Accounting department. We called it the Commerce department."

As a Commerce student in the early '70s, Moses' business acumen was nurtured as one of the pioneers who started the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Consumer Co-operative Society (NP Co-op). With some of his course-mates, he also organised the college's first dinner and dance party. "We were so worried that the girls wouldn't turn up for the party because they were still quite conservative then. We got the head of Commerce to give official instructions that all must turn up for the event," he says, chuckling.

Moses also represented Ngee Ann in the first Inter-Varsity TV debates. "During secondary school, I participated in many speech contests, both in English and Chinese. With that record, they wanted me to try debating in both languages," he adds modestly.

**Vernetta Lopez enters the room, flushed and apologetic. Moses turns to her, reprimanding sternly, "You're late". She gasps and sheepishly sinks into her seat.**

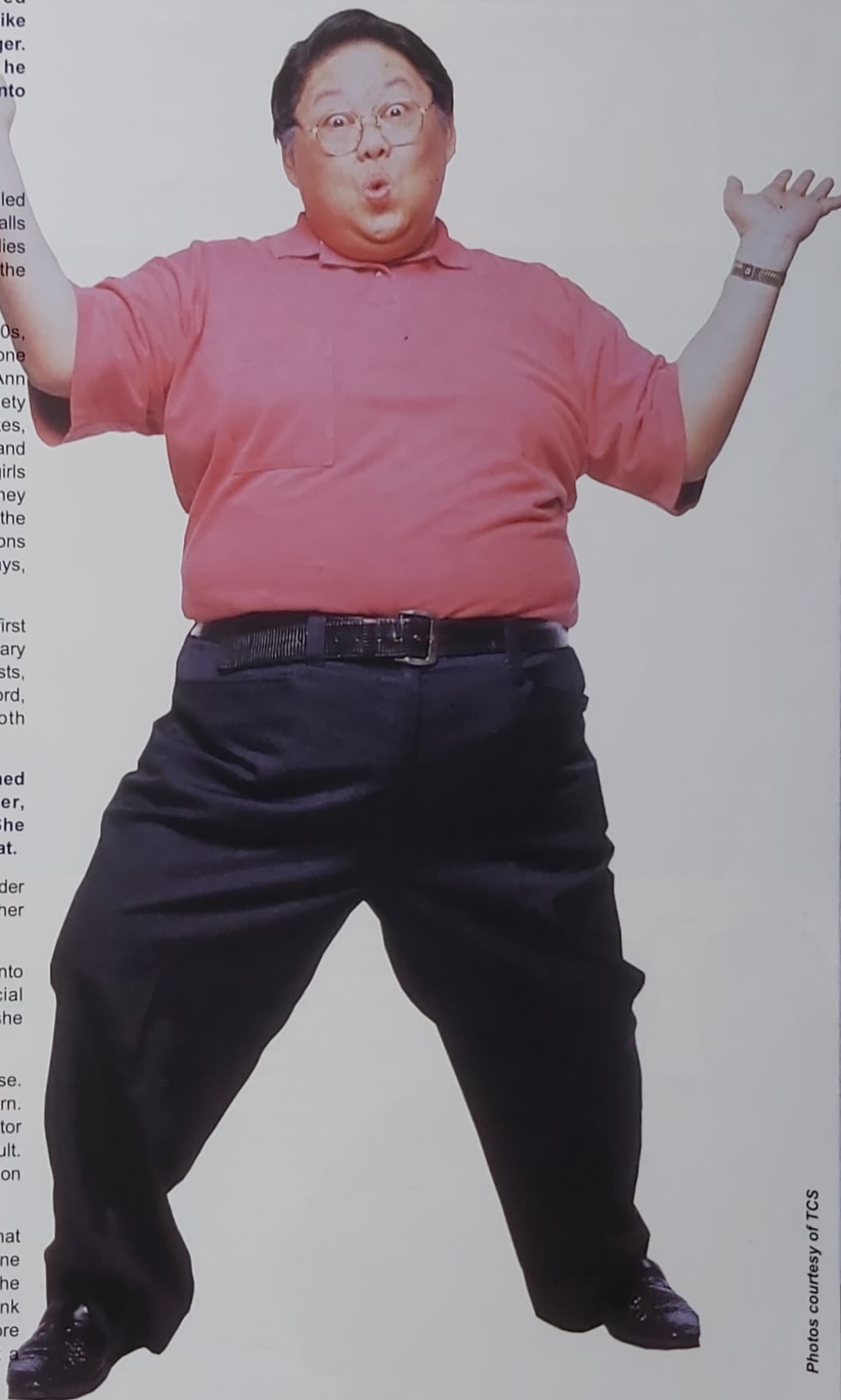
Like her on-screen persona, Denise from *Under One Roof*, Vernetta is youthful and bubbly, her friendly face breaking often into a smile.

"I find that I'm putting too much of myself into Denise in terms of movements and facial expressions... and well, we look alike," she says.

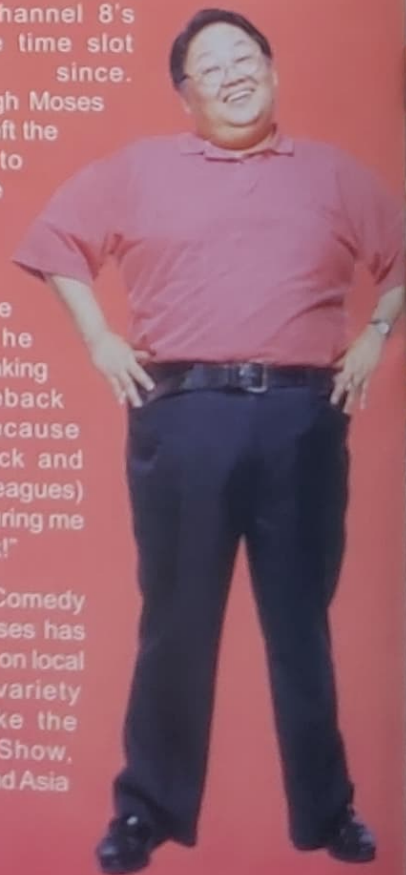
Moses chips in, "She's sweeter than Denise. She's also very obliging and willing to learn. Sometimes, during the rehearsal, the director may want her to do something very difficult. She always manages to overcome the situation and put up a good show."

In response, Vernetta says she's grateful that Moses is not as long-winded as his *Under One Roof* character, Tan Ah Teck. "Sometimes he comes up with the weirdest stories! Thank goodness they're not China stories, but more about his personal experiences. He's got a wealth of experience.

"In a way, he does act like my father. When I was having difficulty deciding the terms in a









## HEATWAVE GIG 3 by Guna Suppiah

More than 1,200 fans came to witness Heatwave Gig III, a gathering of some of the island's best as well as newest alternative bands, held at Ngee Ann Polytechnic's (NP) Octagon last semester.

Organised by Radio Heatwave, NP's campus radio station, the Gig boasted an impressive list of performers including big names like local hardcore act Stompin' Ground, speed-metal maniacs Ossuary, all-girl punk mayhems Psycho Sonique and indie-music veterans The Padres. New faces included Force Vomit, Bruce Lee, and first-timers Suchness and Clothe Peg.

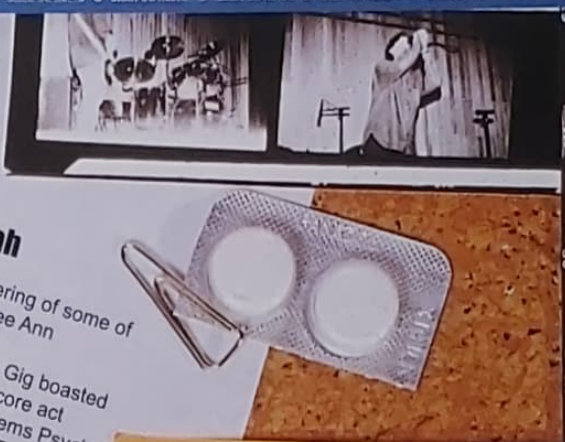
Despite this, the crowd was interested only in the heavier bands, such as Ossuary, Psycho Sonique and Stompin' Ground while jeers and taunts accompanied many of the other bands' sets. Disapproval reached a crescendo during Force Vomit's performance, with members of the crowd shouting for them to leave.

"It can be disheartening for a band to play before such an unappreciative crowd," lamented 21-year-old Neng Mohammed, drummer for both Bruce Lee and Force Vomit. "It's a pity that there is a lack of respect for the different types of music played," she added.

The Octagon finally thundered with roaring cheers and applause when Ossuary stormed onto stage. Within seconds, a mosh-pit materialised in front of the stage, filled to the brim with frenzied fans. The flood gates were ripped open when local punk goddesses, Psycho Sonique, emerged. The girls set a scorching pace with their punk numbers, whipping their fans into a feverish delirium. The band, Stompin' Ground, pounded their way onto stage, thrilling the audience with their swirling, power-packed guitar chords.

However, the musical high was short-lived. Stompin' Ground were halfway into their fourth number when, with a flicker, The Octagon was plunged into darkness and confusion due to a power failure. The unforgiving crowd wanted more, chattering noisily among themselves. After some time though, it was apparent that the Gig was not going to continue and the crowd reluctantly shuffled out.

"Other than Stompin' Ground's short set, I'd say the Gig was pretty good," said 21-year-old student Imran Manaff. "It's good that the students can organise such a big gig. It went well and I'm looking forward to next year!" he exclaimed. Equally pleased was the Heatwave crew. Station Manager, Menon Gopinath, 26, felt that "despite a couple of hitches here and there, the whole thing went well". Even freelance Billboard correspondent Carol Cooper, who was in town to cover Singapore's independent music scene, was impressed with the Gig. "It's good that there's such an independent spirit alive here in Singapore," she said.



## RADIO HEATWAVE

Established in 1989, Radio Heatwave is Ngee Ann Polytechnic's (NP) campus radio station and is managed by final-year Film and Media Studies students from the Mass Communication Programme.

Students present their own radio shows playing anything from contemporary rock to the latest Chinese tunes. Heatwave can be heard at NP's Atrium from Mondays to Fridays.

## VIRTUAL CAMPUS by Benedict Yap

Buckle up for a trip into the next era in computing technology. Let Virtual Reality (VR) whiz you into the realm of three-dimensional space. Forget about touch-screen monitors and artificially simulated 3D games. Instead, put on your stereoscopic glasses and take a virtual peek at the real stuff, at the Advanced Information Technology Application Centre (AITECH) in Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP).

"Virtual reality is the process of creating an environment or re-inventing the surreal environment within the computer system such that the person feels as if he or she is there," says Zek Hazley, a software engineer with AITECH.

Just as TV viewers traded in their black and white sets for colour in the early '70s, today's multimedia users have begun to move from two-dimensional graphics to the VR platform. "Most human beings have two eyes. We perceive in stereo, not flat like the screen. It is only natural that the world will want to watch something similar," explains Zek.

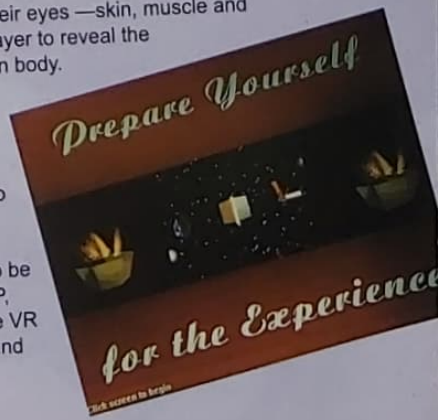
From re-creating a holograph of a sun becoming a nova to studying the human body from the inside, VR holds the key for humankind to explore in stunning detail what used to be confined to our imagination. Today, VR aids surgeons in operations and diagnoses through the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging. It has also enabled mankind to explore the bowels of an active volcano, a feat once thought impossible.

The rapid advancement of VR has prompted NP to introduce the technology on campus. "It is necessary to equip our students with the programming skills and implementation techniques so that they will be ready when the three-dimensional world arrives," says Zek.

Meanwhile, VR is used to teach biotechnology students the human anatomy at the AITECH unit. Students don a special pair of polarised glasses and — right before their eyes — skin, muscle and bones are removed layer by layer to reveal the intricate workings of the human body.

Over at the Ship Building and Offshore Engineering Department, VR recreates a disaster scene in an engine room, complete with fire and smoke, to demonstrate the escape procedures for such an accident.

VR technology is expected to be introduced to other courses at NP, with the installation of at least five VR projectors in lecture theatres around campus.



## What is VR?

Virtual Reality (VR) is a medium where an artificial 3D, Virtual World, can be explored and examined continuously from any perspective in real time. VR is used for a wide variety of applications across many industries, both for theoretical and practical applications, such as sales aid, design aid, training aid, marketing aid and as an entertainment medium. There are four basic types of VR systems: Immersive VR (viewed through a head-mounted display), Desktop VR (viewed on a computer monitor), Projection VR (viewed projected on a large screen) and Portable VR (displayed on a laptop computer).



Windows to the Virtual World at Ngee Ann



Set against a backdrop of cool surf, blue sky and swaying palm trees are two beachfront hotspots to check out at Sentosa's Siloso Beach.

# SUNSET BAY

For landlubbers, there is the Sunset Bay, a cafe and beach bar next to the Boathouse. Here, beach sports like Frisbee and beach volleyball are free.

Inside the rustic attap-hut, you can lounge in rattan furniture and sit in the verandah that overlooks the beach while listening to rock 'n' roll music.

Nothing exceeds \$6.50 on the modest menu which features mostly finger foods and snacks like French fries, chicken wings, fish 'n' chips and hot dogs. Sunset Bay's thirst-quenchers, including their must-try rum and fruit juice concoctions, are \$8 or less.

If that's not enough to get your adrenaline pumping, test yourself on the Ski-Tube. You can either sit or lie in this donut-shaped float and submit yourself to its forceful, zigzag motions as you're tugged by the speedboat.

Rentals are charged by the ride. The Banana Boat seats three persons and costs \$5 per ride while the Ski-Tube costs \$5 and seats one person. Windsurfing and windski-sailing lessons are also available.

Both the BoatHouse and Sunset Bay are owned by three Eurasian siblings — Cindy, Gary and Paul Berlandier. “We thought it would be a good combination to have the Boathouse as a recreational part plus the pub as a food and beverage part,” says Cindy. Inspiration for the concept of Sunset Bay came from similar pubs they visited in Phuket, Bali and Pulau Tioman.

Sunset Bay and the Boathouse are at 60 and 62 Siloso Beach Walk, Sentosa Island.



## Rail Mall by Sandra Faber

Not far from a rusty railway track along Upper Bukit Timah Road, 43 shop-houses stand out with bright green rooftops and glimmering neon signs.

Collectively known as the Rail Mall — because of the railway line that runs past it — the row of shops includes a fine Russian restaurant ('Borodinsky'), a bike rental shop (Bike and Hike), a pub called The Back Trek and a cosy antique shop, Rustic Collections.

The Rail Mall was a row of cluttered, century-old provision stores, tyre shops and piano storerooms until Singapore Engineers Pte Ltd developed the 76, 500 sq. foot site into single-storey shop houses two years ago. Now, the shops boast classy store

fronts with wooden fittings and glass panels.

"We are trying to promote the place as a one-stop neighbourhood centre for families and people living and working nearby to eat and shop," says Fong Mei Ling, a marketing executive with Singapore Engineers.

Dubbed the new 'Holland Village' of Bukit Timah, there is also a Cold Storage Supermarket, florist, gift shop, Mexican restaurant, confectionery, plus book and furnishing stores.

*The Rail Mall is a 10-minute bus ride (nos. 75, 171 or 182) from Ngee Ann.*



## The Book Chamber by Sandra Faber

Singapore now has a store specialising in fine and rare books. From works by Shakespeare to the classic novels of Charles Dickens, most books are out of print and works of art at the Book Chamber.

Ceiling-high wooden shelves lace the shop holding books with hand-sewn bindings, woven covers and marbled paper that have illustrations from well-established artists, such as British illustrator Arthur Rackham's famous *Midsummer Night's Dream* (1964 edition).

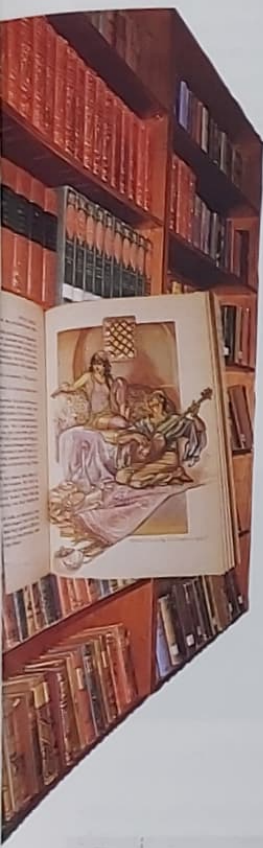
The store also has a small collection of antiquarian books printed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including a 350-year-old Luther bible written in gothic German. The sheep-skin-bound volume, one of five copies in existence, was bought by a German collector for \$5,000.

"Antiquarian usually refers to books of leather

binding and more than one hundred years old, we have a shelf of antiquarian and all the rest are old, rare and out of print," says Dickson Chow, 31, owner of the Book Chamber. A collector of rare books himself, Dickson has been in the book business for seven years and opened the store because of his interest in fine literature.

Most of its customers are teachers, professors and serious readers who enjoy scholarly works like 'The Psychoanalysis of Dreams' by Sigmund Freud. Not all titles are expensive at the Book Chamber. It also has books on philosophy, literature, history and archeology from prices between \$4 to \$36

*The Book Chamber is at The Adelphi, 1 Coleman Street, #03-07.*



## Billy Bombers-Holland Village by Eddino Hadi

Remember the scene in *Back To The Future* where Michael J. Fox stumbles into a diner circa 1955? Well, Billy Bombers is something like that — a carbon copy of Yankee nostalgia.

The new Billy Bombers branch in Holland Village is bigger than its first outlet in Bugis Junction. The two-storey diner has the same red-hot PVC upholstered seats and a jukebox at every table. Hanging from the ceiling is an oversized cuddly teddy in an American bomber plane.

Ain't nothin' more American than juicy, meaty burgers and that's why they dominate the menu which is an expanded version of the one at Bugis Junction. Each 10oz. patty of lean meat comes with a choice of potato wedges or potato salad. Check out specials like Spike's Revenge made with extra juicy, finely-sliced beef or Philadelphia Experiment's beer-marinated patty. Other highlights include classics like American Hot

Dog and a wide range of Chicken Burgers.

If you have a sweet tooth and no fear of calories, dive into the selection of American brownies, home-made apple pie and the daily special pie. Billy Bombers also boasts an interesting range of fountain drinks including malts (chocolate, coffee or vanilla) and shakes.

"Billy Bombers is different from other American eateries because.... we have the comfort and quality of a restaurant but the casual atmosphere of a fast-food joint," says Jennifer Chia, Billy Bombers' Holland Branch Manager. The restaurant was founded in Philadelphia, 1945, by US Air Force bomber pilot Steven Bishop, who named the place after his Teddy Bear.

*Billy Bombers is at 259, Holland Ave, opens from 11am to 12 pm.*







## ACE VENTURA: WHEN NATURE CALLS

"All-I-I-IRIIIIIGHTY then!" Ace is back! Jim Carrey returns as the mischievous animal sleuth, with his trademark hyperkinetic physicality that leaves almost everyone else exhausted.

Summoned from an ashram in Tibet (where he has retreated to seek spiritual guidance after failing to save the life of a stranded raccoon), Ace embarks on a perilous journey to the jungles of Africa to find Shikaka - the sacred missing white bat of the friendly Wachati tribe. The pet detective has to recover Shikaka before the wedding of the Chief's daughter to the first son of the warrior Wachootoo tribe or the whole province will break out in tribal war.

'When Nature Calls' moves away from the mainly urban setting of the original film to exotic locales as far-flung as Africa and the Himalayan Mountains. This sequel also features five times the number of animals seen in the previous film.



## SEVEN

Brad Pitt and Academy Award-nominee Morgan Freeman star as a pair of homicide detectives on the trail of a meticulous and criminally creative killer.

In this cerebral psycho-thriller, Lt. William Somerset (Freeman) and Detective David Mills (Pitt) must solve a series of bizarre murders based on the seven deadly sins - Gluttony, Greed, Sloth, Pride, Lust, Envy and Wrath.

Their adversary, John Doe, is an intelligent and cunning criminal on a twisted personal quest to seek retribution for society's moral decay.

Somerset is a retiring veteran cop burnt out after 34 years on the police force. He is due to retire and Mills is his eager and ambitious replacement. Both are assigned to hunt down John Doe. Mills' wife Tracy (Gwyneth Paltrow) adds the feminine touch.

Seven is a stylised film about life in a large city - dirty, violent, polluted and often depressing.



## TOY STORY

A milestone in animated movie-making, Toy Story is the first full-length feature film entirely created using computer tools and technology.

Four years in the making, this Walt Disney movie has a whopping 77 minutes of computer-generated imagery, compared to 40 minutes in 'Casper' and six minutes in 'Jurassic Park'.

Set in a world where toys come to life when people aren't present, this original comedy-adventure is about two rival toys.

Woody, a traditional pull-string cowboy with Tom Hank's voice, is the favourite of its owner six-year-old Andy. Woody's leadership however, is threatened by the arrival of Buzz Lightyear (voiced by Tim Allen), the latest and coolest space-action figure. Buzz soon monopolises all of Andy's attention and is an instant hit with his toy-mates. Woody's plan to get rid of Buzz backfires and both cowboy and spaceman are exposed to the dangers outside Andy's house.



## FATHER OF THE BRIDE 2

The sequel to the 1991 hit comedy of the same title sees George Banks' (Steve Martin) life turned upside down again.

This time his wife Nina (Diane Keaton) and their married daughter Annie (Kimberly Williams) both become pregnant.

Having recently married off his only daughter, a stunned George feels much too young to be a grandfather and way too old to be a father again.

The double pregnancy sees funnyman Martin Short reprising his role as the flamboyant Frank Egglehoffer. Having co-ordinated the perfect wedding for Annie in the first film, he is now tasked with organising the perfect double baby shower.

This movie is based on the screenplay 'Father's Little Dividend', itself a sequel to the original 1950 Vincent Minnelli version of 'Father of the Bride,' starring Spencer Tracy.



## MONEY TRAIN

Foster brothers John (Wesley Snipes) and Charlie (Woody Harrelson) are two cops working for New York City's Metropolitan Transit Authority. They are charged with protecting the Money Train; a carriage loaded with millions of dollars in collected fares and the single largest depositor in the Federal Reserve on a daily basis.

With a state-of-the-art security system and a fleet of armoured guards to protect it, the Money Train has never been robbed.

John is a dedicated cop while in stark contrast, his brother is a gambler who constantly messes up.

The brothers play a game where they dream-up ways to rob the train. However, Charlie soon takes the idea of looting the Money Train seriously, seeing it as a way out of his gambling lifestyle.

This film promises high-energy sequences with subway trains doing things you've never seen. Spanning 3,000 feet long and 20 feet tall, the set is the longest in film history.



## TO DIE FOR

Nicole Kidman plays recently-married Suzanne Maretto whose only ambition in life is to be a glamorous anchor woman on network television for which she is prepared to do anything.

Blessed with more determination than ability, Suzanne soon lands herself a small job at a local TV station. She is eager to impress and maniacally churns out numerous programme ideas to her bemused bosses while working on a documentary on young people. She strikes an unlikely friendship with her subjects Jimmy, Russell and Lydia, becoming their role model and mentor.

Suzanne soon rises to the dizzy heights of a TV weather girl but her obsession causes her to live in a dream world where celebrity status is the only benchmark of truth.

Her laid-back husband, Larry (Matt Dillon), no longer fits into Suzanne's world and she plots with her new-found friends to murder him.



## HEAT

Academy Award winners Al Pacino and Robert DeNiro head the cast in this taut psychological drama about an obsessively capable detective and a brilliantly efficient thief whose fates are linked in the aftermath of a high-stakes heist.

Neil McCauley (DeNiro) is a cold and deadly professional thief whose life revolves around meticulously planned robberies which he masterminds. His nemesis is Vincent Hanna (Pacino), a skilled and experienced cop, whose obsession with his work has resulted in two divorces and the impending failure of his third marriage.

When Neil and his accomplices steal valuable bearer bonds from an armoured truck, Vincent is immediately on the case. What follows is a tangled web of betrayals and personal vendettas that draws Vincent and Neil towards a climatic face-off.



## THE STORY OF CIA

This latest Jackie Chan film, a Golden Harvest production, promises fast-paced action. The Hero, a Hong Kong supercop, is recruited by the CIA to investigate an international nuclear arms smuggling operation.

Jackie goes undercover and follows his suspect, a Ukrainian showgirl named Natasha, to the Black Sea. He is soon spotted by her partner, Tsui, an ex-CIA agent. What follows is an exciting action sequence on the snowy sierras of Ukraine as Jackie battles an army of mercenaries on skis and snowmobiles.

The film also features a impressive display of Russian weapons including, jet planes, submarines, missiles and an aircraft carrier.

Jackie Chan fans will enjoy the exciting sequence in which Jackie goes in search of Tsui's sister, Rosie, and encounters a Great White shark.





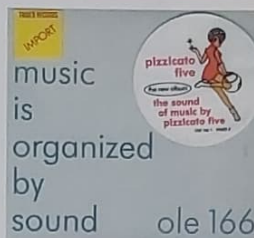
## INSTRO NATION\* 21st Century Surf Sounds

This import, from Japanese label Orange Records, features 15 '90s surf ensembles including The Boss Martians, The Mermen, Insect Surfers and Shig 'N Buzz. What makes this compilation interesting is the myriad of hybrid surf sounds, incorporating elements of jazz, soul, blues and even punk. Shows how much surf music has changed with the times. Bands like Satan's Pilgrims ('El Rey') are fast and rock the house while The Reventlos ('Western Stars') put you in a relaxed, sit-by-the-beach mood. Definitely worth a good listen.



## SPIN The Better Alternative

Compilations featuring a host of alternative bands are hot these days. 'Spin' proves to be one of the better ones, showcasing talents from respected labels like 4AD, Creation and Beggar's Banquet. Appearance of indie-darlings such as Oasis ('Wonderwall'), Boo Radleys ('From The Beach At Belvedere'), Throwing Muses ('Bright Yellow Gun'), Lush ('Light From A Dying Star') and Leftfield ('Afro Left') make this a rather satisfying collection. It is chock-full of attitude-filled vocals, melodies and those distinctively-alternative loud guitars. Breeder Kim Deal proves once again that she is the rightful heir to the Pixie throne, with her side-project, The Amps providing one of the standout tracks, 'Tipp City'. Edwyn Collins of the now-defunct Orange fame contributes the radio hit 'A Girl Like You', while teenage grunge sensations from Down Under, Silverchair, rocks Pearl Jam style with 'Israel's Son'.



## PIZZICATO FIVE\* The Sound of Music

This Japanese acid-jazz duo play lightweight pop typified in songs like 'The Night is Still Young' and 'Happy Sad'. It's the more funk-heavy songs like 'Sophisticated Catchy' and 'Groovy Is My Name' that deserve more attention; they really get you moving. Mostly sung in Japanese, the songs thoughtfully include English translations in the lyrics so you can understand them singing phrases like 'Don't care if I'm mad or glad / Make me feel so Happy Sad' (Happy Sad) or better still 'If I were a groupie / In the bed / I often think about it' (If I Were A Groupie). No major highs or lows but worth listening for lead singer Nomiya Maki's deliciously cute way of rolling her 'Rrrrs'.



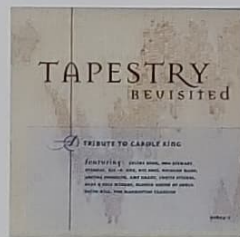
## MAN OR ASTROMAN?\* Project Infinity

Remember the surf culture craze of the '60s? Well, surf music (think Pulp Fiction) is back and leading the pack in the new wave of surf-punks in the US is Man Or Astroman? (the question mark is part of their name). Fast, furious and unnerving, this four-man combo represent the darker side of surf music, fusing the twanging remnants of The Ventures, Dick Dale and Duane Eddy with the ferocity of punk/new wave and eccentric pop ala The Pixies (in fact, ex-head Pixie, Frank Black makes an appearance in one of the tracks, 'Manta Ray'). The reverb drenched melodies and distortion galore of songs such as 'Put Your Finger In The Socket', 'Tomorrow Plus X' and even their rousing rendition of the theme of 'Man from U.N.C.L.E.' give off enough G-Force to send you on a lunar trip and back. Like any good surf-instro album, should not be listened to in one sitting, take in little doses for maximum outer world gratification.



## ENYA The Memory Of Trees

This third album from the one-woman New Age wonder sees Enya play all the instruments and sing all the multiple-layered vocals. The 11 tracks feature more of the cinematic and ethereal music that she has mastered and made distinctly hers. Tracks like 'Pax Decorum' and 'Athair Ar Neamh' are eerie and haunting while the first single, 'Anywhere Is' has certain pop qualities about it, but in New Age fashion. In a music industry which often thrives on sex and controversy, Enya has proven that good music alone can bring commercial success. Captivating music that's soothing to the mind and body.



## TAPESTRY REVISITED A Tribute To Carole King

It's rare to see a tribute album based on one particular record, but that's what this is, all 12 tracks are from Tapestry, Carole King's massive hit album, released back in 1971. Easily Top 40 fodder, 'Tapestry Revisited' brings together an impressive superstar cast, all contributing their own interpretations of Carole King's classics. Old dinosaurs like Rod Stewart and The Bee Gees feature side by side with younger and more recent chart toppers like All-For-One, Eternal, Celine Dion, Amy Grant and relative unknowns Blessid Union of Souls. The best song is undoubtedly Manhattan Transfer's version of the dark and gothic 'Smackwater Jack', a song that contains the classic lines 'You can't talk to a man/ With a shotgun in his hand'. It's also interesting to hear male stars like Rod Stewart, Richard Marx and Curtis Stigers sing songs that were written from a female point of view.



## LORI CARSON Where It Goes

When deprived of love, ache for it like Lori Carson who sings "I've been looking for it all my life / And never found it / Got used to being alone / I know how and I do it so well" ('Petal'). This is one depressing album. Most of the time, Carson's fragile vocals and acoustic guitars evoke an aura of sadness. It is the second solo album from the lady who sang with the highly-respected, Golden Palominos. Songs are so well-crafted and sung, you just can't help but feel sad as is probably her intentions in tracks like 'Down Here', 'Twisting My Words' and the extra-joyless 'Through The Cracks'.



## SPAIN The Blue Moods

Moody and evocative, the foursome that makes up Spain fashion tunes that float you through a smooth layer of romantic ballads. Bass-heavy and slow, frontman Josh Haden's masterly compositions mix jazz, R & B, country and soul music to make this a highly emotion-laden album. This is music stripped as bare with, naked guitar, drums and bass plus breathy vocals. Josh Haden is the son of jazz maestro Charlie Haden while his sister Petra Hayden (who contributes some violin and vocals in the 14 minute epic, 'World Of Blue') plays in grunge pop band 'That Dog'. Spain stands on its own as an exemplary work and is perfect for those reflective, melancholic nights.

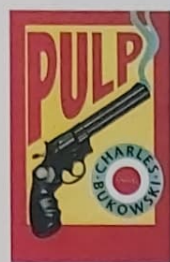
MUSIC

by Eddino Hadi

\* exclusively at Tower Records



## PULP\*



\$27.30

The late contemporary poet and prose writer, Charles Bukowski's last novel, *Pulp*, narrates the misadventures of down 'n' out L.A. private detective, Nick Belane.

The unorthodox and uncouth detective goes from near eviction and bankruptcy to having a bundle of strange cases fall into his lap, thanks to the recommendations of a mysterious Mr Barton. During the course of his job, he's hired by Lady Death (no kidding) to seek out France's greatest writer, the should-be-deceased, Celine. He's also entrusted to locate the Red Sparrow, whatever that is, as well as protect a mortician from his space-alien girlfriend, Jeannie Nitro. In the end, he somehow solves all his cases, even though he seems to stumble onto all the answers.

Don't try wracking your brains to make sense of this weird novel, though at face value, it's pure unadulterated fun and popular culture at its most alternative. Bukowski's writing is laughably literal and his unabashed sense of humour is evident from page one which reads: Dedicated to bad writing.

Mark Francis

## CYBERPUNK HANDBOOK\*



\$20.90

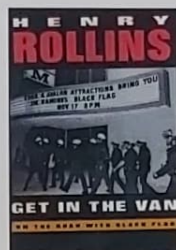
Cyberpunk wannabes, this is your Bible. In 192 pages, authors St Jude, R.U. Sirius and Bart Nagel list out what you need to know about becoming a full-fledged Cyberpunk, or at least faking your way through it.

Check out sections like 'Building Your Cyber Word Power', which includes a dictionary of hip jargon and 'Cyberpunk Lifestyle Hints' with info like interior decorating tips, what to put on your computer monitor, and the hacker's basic diet complete with

intimidating soft drinks.

The world of Cyberpunks as described here is often hilarious, although its American context may be a little alien to some local readers. Few Singaporeans are likely to go around in BLJ's (Black Leather Jackets) as indicated in the book, but then again, it could spark a whole new trend. Mark Francis

## HENRY ROLLINS\* Get In The Van



\$48.30

Henry Rollins does not mince his words. Neither does he bother with the niceties when he chronicles in this book the life and times he spent singing for L.A. punk/hardcore stalwarts Black Flag, arguably one of America's most influential and seminal '80s underground bands. Rollins bares his pains and his loathing of people who, in his eyes, live their lives in a meaningless, mundane way.

It's gripping to read how in the early days of quitting his job and joining the band full-time, he was relatively sane and maybe even enjoyed performing.

The endless hours of touring and his chronic inability to confide in anybody soon hardened him into a first rate cynic. This tattoo-covered man has an intense, albeit slightly twisted outlook of the world.

Excellent photographs really capture the band's live intensity and Rollins' social-outcast demeanour. Anyone who plays in a band should read this. Eddino Hadi

## BALLET UNDER THE STARS

Grab your straw mats and picnic baskets and come down to Fort Canning for another season of 'Ballet Under the Stars'.

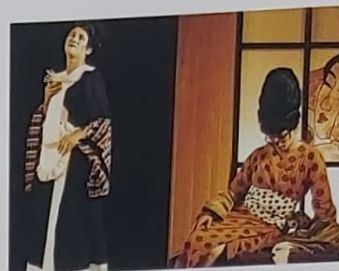
The park performance series presented by Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) will be held at The Green in Fort Canning Park from 15-17 March at 7.30 p.m. The programme will feature new dances choreographed by SDT dancers Mohd Noor Sarman and Paul Ocampo.

The picnicking will start from 5.00 p.m. Tickets for the performance are available at the door or at the OKH Ballet Centre, located on the 3rd floor of Tanglin Shopping Centre, from 1 Feb. They are priced at \$13 for adults and \$7 for children (5-12 years old), with free admission for those below four-years-old. Ross Gan

\* exclusively at Tower Books

## THE MAGIC FUNDOSHI

First staged in Singapore in April 1994 to rave reviews and full houses, Singapore Repertory Theatre (SRT) presents a second season of The Magic Fundoshi, a trilogy of comic



plays performed in the Japanese Kyogen tradition - a form of drama developed during the Muromachi period, just before the time of Shakespeare.

Performed with no masks, special make-up, elaborate sets or costumes, the appeal of this genre lies in its simplicity, portraying human beings at their best and worst in the most hilarious ways.

A dim-witted lord is rejected by the ladies and falls prey to scheming Taro Kaja, who sells him a magic fundoshi, visible only to the opposite sex.

Written by Donald Ritchie, the play won the 1993 London Fringe Award for Best Comedy. This MU-LAN Theatre Company production is directed by Glen Goei and stars an Asian cast.

The Magic Fundoshi plays at the DBS auditorium from 14-24 March. Tickets available at Sistic outlets. Ross Gan

## ENDORFUN



PC CD-ROM/Macintosh

Price:\$42.50

Distributed by Telahin

"Play more, feel better," it reads on the box of this mind-bending action puzzle game. Undoubtedly, Endorfun's most distinctive feature is its World Music soundtrack that contains more than 100 positive subliminal messages designed to make you feel good about yourself and the world.

Endorfun (as in endorphine) is just an example of what some New Age hippie programmers are capable of. Subliminal messages include; "Money is flowing abundantly into my life" and "I am glad I was born".

The game involves controlling the Light Body Cube, and the objective is to navigate the cube on a grid

composed of squares. When a square is filled with a coloured piece and becomes a block, you have to match it with the same colour on the Light Body Cube until you gain enough Life Force to Transcend to the next level.

Endorfun's hypnotic graphics are a kaleidoscope of pulsating colours and animations that resemble something out of a Grateful Dead Concert. This game, which has over 40 game types and 500 different levels, can be addictive.

Incidentally, there is an option to disable the subliminal messages by turning off the music. Mark Francis.

## WIPEOUT



PC CD-ROM

Price:\$49.90

Distributed by New Era

From the creators of the cute but sometimes suicidal Lemmings, Psygnosis veers into the high-tech world of 22nd-century ballistic racing with WipeOut.

All hell-driving, trigger-happy maniacs who enjoyed Slipstream 5000 or Need For Speed will like Wipeout, which has the best of both worlds.

The introduction sequence gets your adrenaline pumping with excellent graphics and a funky disco soundtrack. Unfortunately, there aren't any other cut-scenes to savour.

At the menu, you've got a choice between four ultra-cool cars (Vipers or Rapiers as they are called), with different advantages and drawbacks in performance. There are six tracks on which to drive your gravity-defying craft, each with varied levels of treacherousness.

The graphics are incredibly smooth, even when the resolution and texturing is set to maximum. On the down side, the controls are over-sensitive; the slightest twitch could cost your craft considerable damage.

Sound effects are poor - your vehicle crashes with a "thump" while there isn't any engine hum nor roar of the crowd. This can be compensated by shifting the music level up so you can blast your opponents to the pounding beat of the soundtrack.

On the whole, WipeOut is quite enjoyable considering it's Psygnosis' first cyber-race arcade game. Melvin Goh

**hype**

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Contest open only to students of Ngee Ann Polytechnic except Hype Editorial team. Closing date is 1 March '96. The Editor's decision is final. Winners will be notified by post.



# NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC STUDENT CALENDAR 1996

## JANUARY

1 Jan - New Year's Day -

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## FEBRUARY

19 - 20 Feb - Chinese New Year -

20 Feb - Hari Raya Puasa -

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	★	★	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

## AUGUST

9 Aug - National Day

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				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	★	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## MARCH

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## SEPTEMBER

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29	30					

## APRIL

5 Apr - Good Friday -

28 Apr - Hari Raya Haji -

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	★	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
★	★	28				

## OCTOBER

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			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## MAY

1 May - Labour Day -

2 May - Vesak Day -

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			★	★		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## NOVEMBER

10 Nov - Deepavali

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
★	4	5	6	7	8	9
★	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## JUNE

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## DECEMBER

25 Dec - Christmas Day

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	★	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- STUDY WEEK / SCHOOL HOLIDAY
- COMMON TEST / EXAMINATIONS
- SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION
- PUBLIC HOLIDAYS