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goes natural

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Issue 12 . April 2001

Editor's^{note}

"Why, not coming
back for dinner
again ah? Ok lah, I
leave some
soup for you.
Remember to
drink when you
come back home,
you hear?
Ah bye bye!"

Click.

This was the usual order that came booming through the receiver in Cantonese whenever I called home to say that it was going to be another busy night. This is also something I will never hear again, now that the person who'd usually bark that command isn't around any more.

I crave another bowl of watercress soup.

And although I pride myself on my own culinary skills, it's just not the same if it isn't my grandmother brewing it. She passed away suddenly earlier this year, barely a year after my grandfather's demise.

Human nature isn't it, to take things for granted?

But that's the way it is – we never truly understand the worth of certain things or people until they're forcibly taken away from us. (It's ok, I think we can do without TV mobile though.)

What is the value of life, when we probably spend almost half of it figuring out how to make life better, and the other half becoming slaves to the tools we've invented. Haven't you cringed in panic when your mobile phone's battery has died? Or screamed silently in your head at the computer when the hard disk has crashed and no one can hear you but yourself?

Forget the e-mail that calls for your "immediate attention", even if it might mean losing millions of dollars. What's money when you don't have time to spend it?

Take a breather – get back in touch with what (or who) was already there in your life at the beginning.

hype goes natural, naturally. Embracing the very essence of life – Nature. The very tangible thing that's been around for aeons and that we should really value. Not the mobile phone or the computer.

It's our baby step to evoke a change, to provoke a thought and to make you sit up: Small one, but at least we've tried.

The human race has created vast concrete jungles but sorely neglected the lush green ones, all in the name of "progress". To pave the way for our high-rise achievements, mankind has sacrificed millions of natural habitats. And we're talking about cutting down football fields of rainforests. We'll never know how many natural cures to modern-day plagues we've lost. Frankly, I say it's a step backwards.

It's a scary thought too, how in our capacity as thinking humans with the God-given right to choose, we have chosen to tamper with what's really human. Where exactly will genetic manipulation and cosmetic surgery take us? Certainly not to greater heights, we reckon, for it's probably another form of whitewashing instead, altering the basest form of what makes up a human being. Is it really important for our future generations to possess a higher IQ or to look more "attractive"?

If we remain complacent and continue resting on our laurels, focussing on what's really only transient and letting the sands of time pass us by, there might not be much left to be proud of. Thanks to vanity and self-indulgence.

And that's probably when Nature will claim its glory back, and turn it to ashes and dust.



Michelle Seetoh

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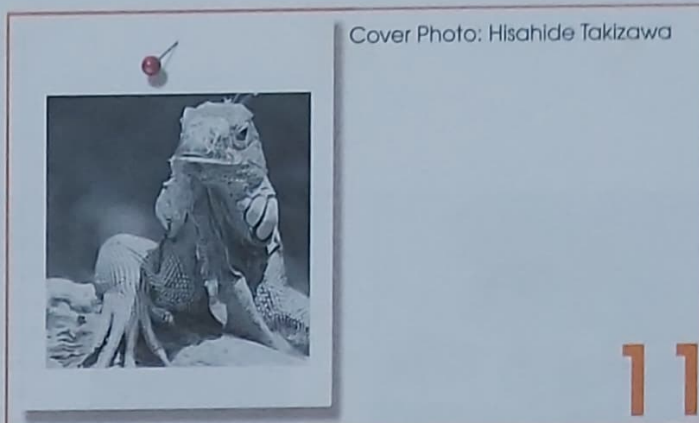
Win a pair of movie tickets to **Sweet November**.

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Turn to this page and save a few dollars.

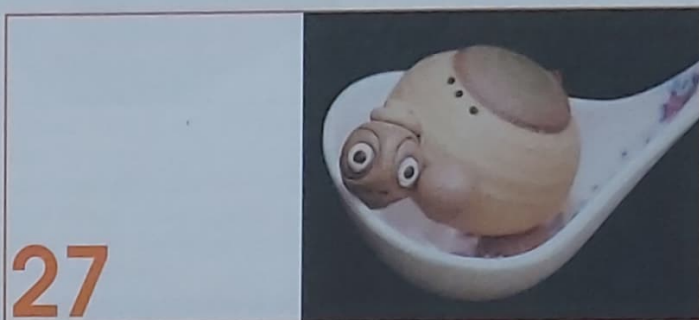
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Find out the meaning behind names like River and Leaf, straight from the rich and famous.

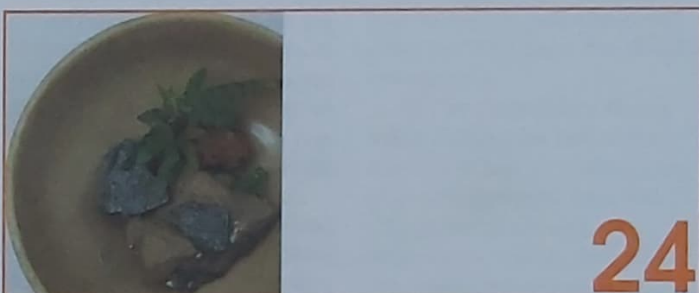


Cover Photo: Hisahide Takizawa

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Club Tempest



Poetry and rhythm

If you're not into poetry, this may be a good opportunity to get acquainted with it. The students of LaSalle are organizing an experimental foray into the fusion of poetry and music entitled **Poetry and Rhythm**.

According to Dayak Iskandar, one of the organisers, it will be something new. "DJ's R & B groups as well as a Hip Hop group will be part of the showcase as performers of the poetry itself." As an added bonus, according to Dayak, there will be a Jazz band arriving from Malaysia to perform.

Tickets for the event will be available at the Mountbatten Campus of LaSalle SIA College of the Arts from April at a bargain \$6. The event will held on the May 17 from 5 - 10 pm.

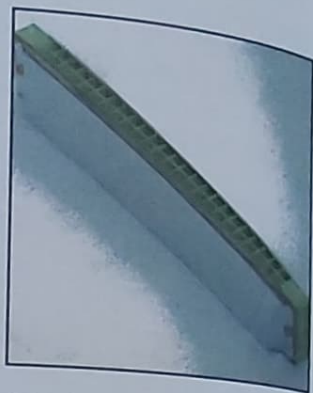
Joseph Suriya

It's natural if you dislike Shakespeare. After all, if he hadn't been born, your literature textbooks in secondary schools might have been less heavy and wordy. However, with a little makeover, Shakespeare's works can be attractive even for our generation. (think Leonardo Di Caprio and Claire Danes's roles in **William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet** as well as Ethan Hawke as **Hamlet**)

Club Tempest closes the gap between Shakespeare's last work, **The Tempest**, and young Singaporeans through a culture that we understand best - club culture. The well-established Lim Kay Siu will act and direct this play to be staged at Venom disco. Remember: **Club Tempest** will not let in a passive audience. This interactive play will depend on the amount of enthusiasm the audience can generate during the play. If the audience is boring, the play will be as well. So, go to Venom, club and have fun!

Club Tempest will be performing from April 26 to May 12 at Venom Disco, Pacific Plaza. Tickets for student matinees are at \$35. Non-matinee price is \$50, inclusive of 2 drinks. For more information, call SISTIC at 3485555 or visit www.sistic.com.sg

Timothy Su



Chinese orchestra performance at jubilee hall

Do orchestras strike a chord within you? Are you a fan of Chinese music? Then listen up. Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Chinese Orchestra will be performing some of their pieces soon.

Conducted by Mr Chuan Joon Hee will feature popular classical pieces and will include a solo er-hu, a pluck string ensemble and an er-hu ensemble.

Tickets will be available at the Student Affairs Office and range from \$8 to \$10. For inquiries, approach the Chinese Orchestra Club at 73-03-14 in Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Joseph Suriya



First national cheerleading competition

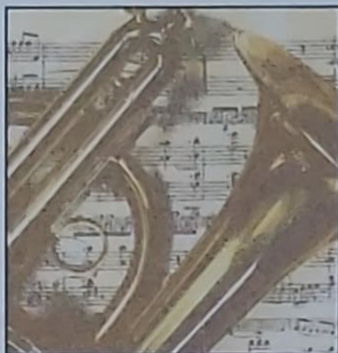
Get ready and be awed by the charisma and performance of our local cheerleaders. Hosted by Nanyang Polytechnic and the Singapore Sports Council (SSC), this event will showcase cheerleading teams all over Singapore – from soccer clubs to schools.

This competition is the first of its kind in Singapore. It is open to all primary, secondary, varsity (polytechnic and universities) schools and also to the public. If you are interested, gather 15 – 20 of your friends and start pumping those pom-poms in the air! Or you can cheer on Ngee Ann's Magnum Force, who will be taking part in this event.

The winner of this competition will go on to represent Singapore in regional and even international cheerleading competitions. Like they say in the movie, **Bring it on!**

The competition will be held in June 2001 in Bishan Sports Hall (date and venue subject to change). Entry forms can be found in various schools and SSC. Contact SSC at 342 3501 for further details.

Jeyawati Ibrahim



Band showcase

Are you into live music performances? Look no further. On May 17, the Ngee Ann Concert Band is having a showcase in the Atrium.

Apart from standard symphonic repertoire, the band will be playing more popular pieces like themes from **Phantom Of The Opera**, **Les Miserables** and more.

So come down and be impressed by the Ngee Ann Concert Band's showcase at the Atrium. It promises to be something new and enticing. And in case you're wondering, there is no need to buy tickets. Just be seated in the atrium by 1.30 pm on that day.

Joseph Suriya



Ballet under the stars

A night of fine dancing under the stars, **Ballet Under The Stars, BUTS**, will enchant you with six dance works, ranging from classical to contemporary. These internationally and locally choreographed works boost a fusion of European and Asian elements – inculcating inspirations by the improved Italian type of comedy *commedia dell'arte*. **BUTS** will also have renowned Indonesian choreographer Doi Sakti's **The Lost Space**, which made its premiere at the Singapore Arts Festival last year.

A refreshing change from the more formal art performances at Kallang and Victoria Theatres, this twice-yearly outdoor dance performance-cum-picnic draws people of all ages since its debut in 1995, to Fort Canning Park.

The perfect weekend outing for dance enthusiasts, families and starry-eyed lovers indeed. And no ifs or BUTS about that. **BUTS** will be performed at The Green, Fort Canning Park on May 4 and 5, 11-13. The picnic starts at 5 pm, and the performance at 7.30 pm. Tickets are priced at \$15 for adults and \$8 for children (aged 5 to 12 years), and are available at the door. Contact Fort Canning Centre at 3380611 for more details.

Reina Lee



President's young artist exhibition

Ardent supporter of the local Arts scene? Or just admirer of good art? Well then, this should interest you.

In **The President's Young Artist Exhibition** held during April 11 to July 21, a showcase of work by youths, both full-time art students and art enthusiasts, will be presented. This showcase serves to, "discover, groom and recognize talents."

The paintings on show have been selected by a curatorial committee, which comprises of professionals who have backgrounds in contemporary Singapore Art. The range of works will include paintings, sculptures and installations. The exhibition will be held at the Singapore Art Museum, at Galleries 5, 6, 7 and 8. For inquiries, please contact Suenne Megan Tan at 332 3215 (office) or email at Suenne_MeganTan@nhb.gov.sg

Joseph Suriya

Feature

The Mumbo-jumbo of traditional healing

Singaporeans consume vast amounts of synthetic pills and chemical solutions every year in their quest for good health. While most of us will swear by the marvels of western medicine, there is a minority who seek treatment for illnesses from a very different source. **Woo Mun Koon** checks out the truths and myths of the traditional healer.

photos: Kenneth Pinto

Before the introduction of western medicine in Asia, people relied on traditional healers to keep sickness at bay.

These healers employed their extensive knowledge in herbs and plants to fight disease and existed in every Asian culture.

In modern times though, the traditional healer is a constant source of debate within the medical community. Some modern medical professionals view such healers as “quacks” who peddle half-truths to ignorant patients. Others, like Doctor Lim Heng Wei, see traditional healing as a viable form of alternative medicine.

Dr Lim, a general practitioner who runs a clinic in Toa Payoh, feels that traditional medicine does have its merits. He said, “All medicine has a place, it’s just a matter of the social and cultural structure of society. In fact, I think [traditional healing] complements mainstream medicine.”

Though much has been said about traditional herbal-based healing, very little is known about its actual value. Modern medicine is only just beginning to tackle the issue through research on the many plants used by traditional healers.

Results of such research are often inconclusive but as Dr Lim pointed out, much of modern western medicine is actually derived from the same source as that used by traditional healers. Plants are undoubtedly very rich sources of healing compounds and researchers agree that many plants used by traditional healers have great potential for healing.

The choice of using traditional herbal-based medication over that of modern medicine is often not a conscious one today. Many people use traditional healers because their families have been seeing them for generations.

One such family is the Lais and they rely solely on traditional medicines for their health needs. According to the eldest son of the family of four, 25-year-old Mr Lai Wan Ping, this practice has been passed down in his family for decades.

It all started with Mr Lai’s grandfather, who was a renowned Chinese physician and had a practice in Chinatown. His family was never in need of any other medical advice. As Mr Lai recalls, “My grandfather took care of all of us and taught us how to use traditional medicine.”

Now Mr Lai’s family employs the services of 57-year-old Mr Chew Fuk Seng, who has been trusted and respected by the family for the past 15 years.

Why this insistence on traditional medicine? As Mr Lai puts it, it is simply because “it works”.

Mr Lai explained, “We wouldn’t be using it if it doesn’t work. My family is the best proof. All of us are healthy and we’ve never used any western medication in our lives.” Mr Lai admits though, that many of his friends consider herbal cures backward and archaic, with no grounding in science.

Mr Lai’s physician, Mr Chew, agrees that this is a very common perception, especially among the young. A physician for over 30 years, Mr Chew’s patients nowadays are from the older generation and have been seeing him for years. He does not get many new patients.

“We wouldn’t be using it if it doesn’t work. My family is the best proof. All of us are healthy and we’ve never used any western medication in our lives.”

- Mr Lai Wan Ping

Speaking in Cantonese, Mr Chew blamed the scepticism people have for traditional medicine on misinformation. He said that the guiding principles behind the practice of traditional Chinese medicine are too alien to English-educated and younger Singaporeans. This lack of understanding leads many of them to perceive herbal cures as an old-fashioned, if not ineffective, method of healing.

To Mr Chew, this perception is unfair. He said it is difficult to compare the two types of medicine because they operate in such different ways. As Mr Chew explained, “Chinese medicine concentrates on maintaining a balance in the body. When there is imbalance, there is sickness. The focus of Chinese medicine is very different from that of the west.”

Mr Chew also pointed out that many people do not realise that what is considered alternative medicine in Singapore is actually used as mainstream medicine in several Asian countries. In China, traditional Chinese medicine and the use of herbal cures are recognised as mainstream medicine.

Traditional Chinese medicine is not the only form of healing to suffer from such prejudices. Ayurvedic medicine, which originated from India, is another traditional herbal-based healing system that is struggling to survive in modern Singapore.

It is similar to traditional Chinese medicine in that it uses primarily plants and plant extracts for healing purposes. Ayurvedic medicine also places great

importance of maintaining balance in the body to keep a person healthy.

In Singapore, Ayurvedic medicine is a dying trade. There are only a handful of Ayurvedic practitioners here and one such practitioner is Mr P. Guptasamy, who has been practising for 30 years. The emphasis is on the importance of maintaining balance in the body to keep a person healthy.

Echoing his Chinese counterparts, Mr Guptasamy said many young Indian Singaporeans do not even know that Ayurvedic medicine exists.

The knowledge of this form of healing is dying rapidly and to Mr Guptasamy, this is something to be mourned.

Speaking in Tamil, Mr Guptasamy said, “Ayurvedic healing is the cumulation of centuries of knowledge on the use of plants to heal our bodies. If we don’t preserve this knowledge, it will be lost forever.”

“Ayurvedic healing is the cumulation of centuries of knowledge on the use of plants to heal our bodies. If we don’t preserve this knowledge, it will be lost forever.”

- Mr Guptasamy

Mr Guptasamy’s sentiments are shared by Mr Chew. The Chinese physician said that it is silly to ignore the benefits offered by traditional cures because these cures are often backed by centuries of use.

And the future remains bleak for practitioners of traditional medicine. Mr Guptasamy said he has yet to find anyone to pass on his practice to. If he doesn’t find anyone, the Ayurvedic healer said his knowledge will probably accompany him to the grave. A sorry fate for a practice meant to preserve life but an increasingly likely one in Singapore.





Rod Stewart *Human* Eliza Carthy *Angels and Cigarettes* Duncan Sheik *Phantom Moon* Vitamin C *More*

Rod Stewart *Human*

WEA/Atlantic

After removing a lump of his throat a year ago, Rod Stewart is back to prove that the (arguably) greatest voice talent in the 70s music scene has not been scarred. On *Human*, his 19th to date, he abandons the rock-n-rolling power chords of yester-decade for the groovy rhythms and bass that are driving today's sales figures. His unlikely collaboration with the newest soul diva, Macy Gray, on the track "Smitten" shows that 56-year-old Rod has not lost touch with the vibes of contemporary Pop. Fat, wavy bass lines and his trademark raspy voice complements the saccharine melody to make even the worst cynic go "Hmmm...". The same formula is repeated for many tracks in the album – a good thing, perhaps, only for those who have not heard the Rod Stewart of the glorious 70s.

Lina Yu

Eliza Carthy *Angels and Cigarettes*

WEA/Warner Brothers

The oxymoronic title of Eliza Carthy's first solo release under a major label succinctly summarises her musical philosophy in this project: to fuse the clean-goodness of traditional Folk with the decadence of Trip-Hop tunes. Hardly surprising, considering that her parents are folk legends Waterson Carthy and Norma Waterson, who also tried to revitalise Folk music with elements of Pop. The whole family existed as the band Waterson:Carthy in the mid-90s, giving Eliza a solid foundation when she came into her own in 1997. However her first couple of releases did not impress, for they lacked the focus of *Angels and Cigarettes*. Here, she seemed to have found answers in the ever-growing popularity of the ominous layered-beat stylings *a la* Cocteau Twins and Portishead. The dark mood prevails throughout the album, existing in curious harmony with her lively fiddling and teasing of acoustic strings. A record as worthy of intrigue as every paradox.

Cynthia Choong

Duncan Sheik *Phantom Moon*

WEA/Atlantic/Nonesuch

Duncan Sheik returns after his three-year hiatus from the music scene more depressed than ever. This album continues to depart from the catchy riffs and beats of the 1996 "Barely Breathing", which stayed on the Billboard for 55 weeks, to explore an almost artistic anguish. Here, Duncan conjures up a world of gloom that seems reflective of life in the past few years, through songs that are stripped down to minimalist acoustic guitars, occasionally adorned with piano and subtle percussion. This, coupled with the poetic lyrics penned by New York playwright Steven Sater, gives the songs enough sincerity to appeal. However, in its minimalism, it fails to bring about a climax, a cathartic release of the suppressed pain, leaving listeners feeling melancholic, or worse, empty.

Timothy Su

Vitamin C *More*

WEA/Elektra Entertainment

Vitamin C (aka Colleen Fitzpatrick) sets forth to flood the dance floor with her groovy tunes and come-hither vocals with her latest offering, *More*. Exploiting the theme of sex, lust and so-called love, she proves once again her commercial worth and adaptability to the Pop culture. Backed by an impressive number of producers and musicians, she continues to do what she is best at – mimicking the styles of whoever is popular. This time round, she banks on the success of Garage acts like Craig David, but with a sexier appeal. Carefully produced with a good measure of deep bass, layered bleeping effects, and even phone-sex samples, this one's sure to make you beg for more.

Cynthia Choong

Win Vitamin C CDs!
What is the name of Vitamin C's latest album?
Email your answer and particulars to hypemagazine@lycos.com and stand a chance to win 1 of the 5 **More** CDs.

Did You Know?

- M2M means Marion to Marit, and vice-versa. The "2" also stands for the two of them.
- They almost called themselves M&M (Marion and Marit), but decided against it because it's used by the famous chocolate and rapper Eminem.
- Marit is the blonde one who plays the guitar.
- Marion is the one with brown hair and plays the keyboard.
- They met when they were five at a playground just outside Oslo in Norway. While playing, they discovered they both had a similar love for music.
- Marit and Marion then went on to form a kiddie band with other kids at school called "Hubba-bubba", after the bubblegum.
- They recorded a Norwegian-language children's album called "Norwegian Songs for Kids" in 1994, which got nominated for "Best Childrens' Album" in the Norwegian Grammy Awards (Spillemanspriset).
- In 1998, Atlantic Records got hold of their demo tape and immediately signed them on.
- Their first single "Don't Say You Love Me" is featured in the **Pokemon: The First Movie** soundtrack.
- More than 24,000 copies of M2M's debut album, *Shades of Purple*, have been sold in Singapore since it was released in March 2000.
- They sang a Mandarin version of "Pretty Boy" in Malaysia.



Yakety Yak!

M2M is working on another album to be released in June/ July. And this time, it is going to be more Rock than Pop. It's not hard to guess where they are drawing their influences from, since the girls are self-confessed fans of Hanson.

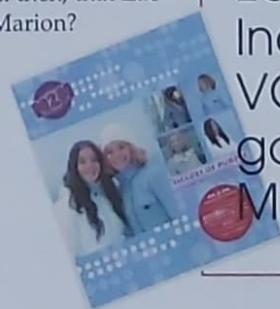
In fact, rumour has it that the M2M are dating the Hanson brothers. In a phone interview with hype, Marion Elise Raven, the dark-haired beauty of the Norwegian duo, reveals even more details. Lamenting how difficult it is to play the dating game while trying to become famous at the same time, she expressed a preference for dating someone in the same industry.

"It's good to have a boyfriend who does the same thing," explains Marion, "as they'll understand why you can't always call [because] you're out travelling."

She also said that she prefers younger guys, and that while secondary, "a cute butt will be nice".

In April 2000, Marion also revealed during an online chat with M2M fans on AllPop that if she could choose a celebrity to date, it would be Hanson's drummer, Zac.

Now, isn't it coincidental then, that Zac is two years younger than Marion?



Win M2M CDs!

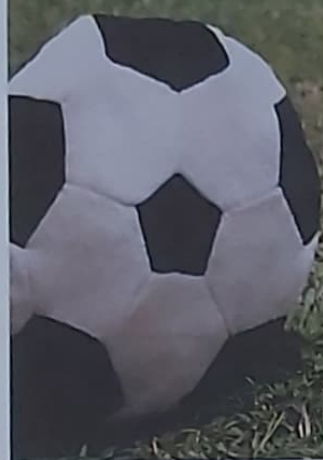
What are the names of the M2M members? Email your answer and particulars to

hypemagazine@lycos.com

and stand a chance to win 1 of the 5 **Shades of Purple (Exclusive Asian Interview Edition)** CDs.

Includes bonus VCD with lots of goodies and an M2M calendar!

SoccerStar



In late January, Kiatisuk Senamuang was named the latest inclusion in Singapore Armed Forces Football Club (SAFFC) with a two-year contract. The other S-League teams have since begun to pump their muscles and work their brains in fearful anticipation.

Timothy Su comes face to face with the football star from Thailand and finds out how much you should fear.

The exploits of Kiatisuk Senamuang, or Zico, as he's more affectionately known in Thailand, spread far and wide. This prolific striker, who has scored about 90 goals for his country, always gets attention from defenders on the pitch, and fans off it. He has scored against world-class goalkeepers from England and Brazil, and was also the first Thai to play in an English football match, for the Huddersfield Town Football Club (HTFC). Although only part of the reserve team, his short stint in HTFC received much hype and national media attention in Thailand. Not strange, considering that his 18-month contract was earning him £1000 (\$2500) a week, almost four times as much as his monthly salary back home.

Zico's fluency in English, as apparent from the way he handled the interview, is probably one of the positive effects of his Huddersfield experience. And although only in his third month here, he already seemed quite at home, chatting happily away with Thai fans who came especially to see him train. "I had to adjust to a new football system during my first few days," said Zico, "because I am under a new coach and playing with new team-mates."

The 24-year-old attends the twice-daily training sessions and gets along well with his team-mates. "I go shopping with [Tan] Kim Leng quite often and I already know Rezal [Hassan], Nazri [Nasir], Rafi [Ali], Dalis [Supait] and Haifzat [Juhaimi] as they are all in Singapore's national team," he smiled, referring to the countless games the Thai and Singapore teams had played against each other.

Besides training, the 1.73m Zico does not indulge in many other activities and tries to get lots of rest. "I stay at home most of the time during weekdays, playing the guitar or going for a swim," Zico said. "I live with Papo (Veselko Paponja) and Goran [Galov] – both Croatians – so there is a different culture in food and language." His enthusiasm for whipping up a meal is not particularly welcomed by his East European colleagues, who find his cooking too spicy. Not to be discouraged from his favourite pastime, he often meets up with his best pals, fellow countrymen and S-league players, Surachai Jatturapatarapong and Tawan Sripan, to cook and catch up. These simple activities keep Zico from feeling homesick.

So is there anyone special waiting for him back home? Zico was tight-lipped about the ring on the third finger of his left hand. He feels that his popularity with female fans is due to his years of service in the Thai National team and has nothing to do with his dashing good looks.

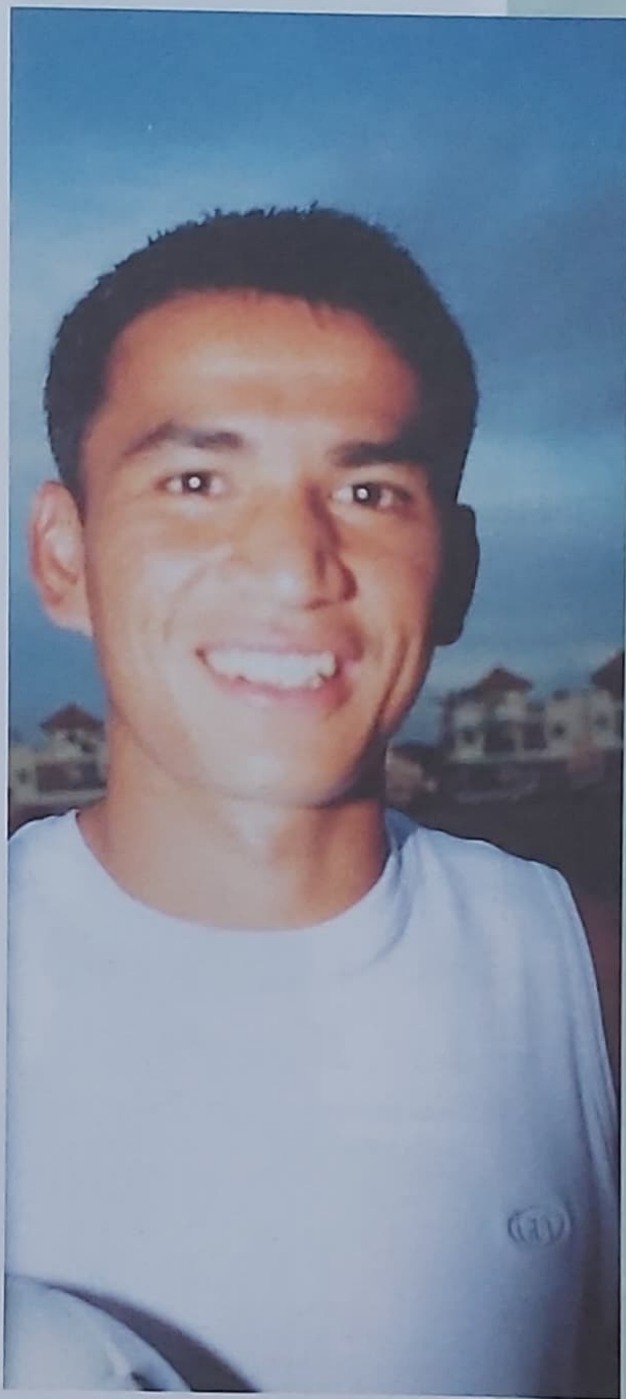
When he becomes too old to play on the field, he intends to follow in the footsteps of his present coach, Fandi Ahmad, for whom he has an almost child-like admiration. Zico will go into coaching when he hangs up his soccer boots.

However, the youthful Zico still has many years ahead playing football and his immediate aims are to play well for SAFFC and live up to the fans' expectations.

He is proud to play for SAFFC as he feels that Singapore football has "improved [and with] no match-fixing", we may just get to see the Singapore flag at the 2010 World Cup.

As for Asians aspiring to play on European fields, Zico feels that there are two barriers we have to overcome first. The first is the climate, which just calls for more discipline and quick adjustment on the player's part. The second and more difficult obstacle is the mindset of the European management towards smaller-built and supposedly weaker Asian players.

When **hype** requested him to pose for the camera, Kiatisuk was amusingly bashful, sticking out his tongue in slight embarrassment as he saw SAFFC team manager Kok Wai Leong approach. It is clear that the fame has not gotten to his head. In fact, watching Zico banter with his team-mates and humming away Thai tunes, you can hardly imagine him as the most lethal Southeast Asian forward.

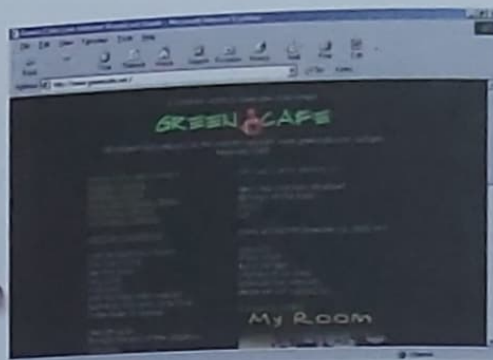


"I stay at home most of the time during weekdays, playing the guitar or going for a swim."



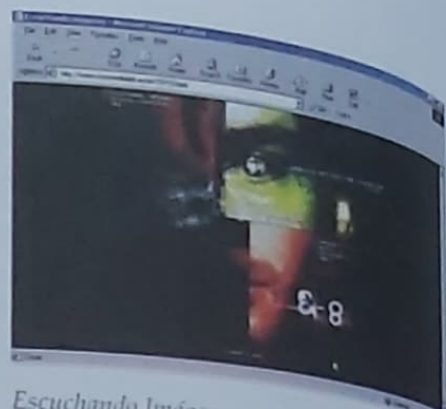
Can science,
nature and art
co-exist in
harmony?

hype finds reassuring evidence on the www.



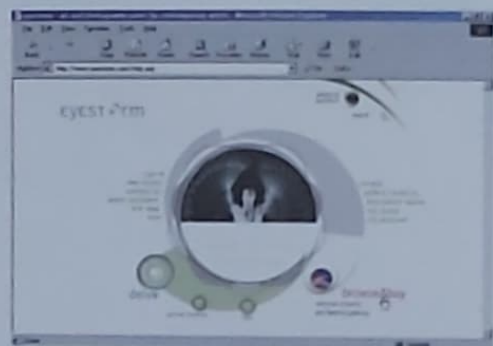
Tired of the never-ending cacophony of traffic and construction in the concrete jungles of Singapore? If your answer is yes, then come to Green Café. This site brings to you, in the comfort of your home, the soothing symphony of life – music composed by Mother Nature herself – a tune that is often drowned out in urban Singapore. Imagine yourself at the place, which may be a woodland or desert, as you enjoy the pristinely recorded ambient sounds. You will need the latest version of RealPlayer, which you can download from the site, to hear these live webcasts. Visual webcasts are also available; visit the rooms of other teenagers to see what cool stuff they are into. Let the electrical signals do the walking for you @ www.greencafe.net.

Woo Mun Koon



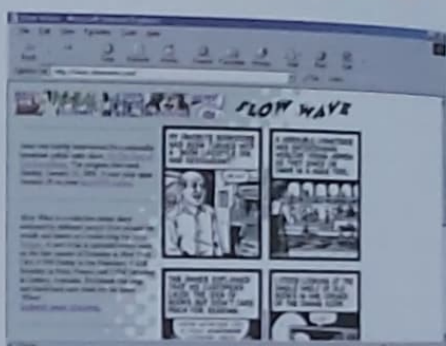
Escuchando Imágenes – Listening to Images – by Spanish graphic designer Bernado Rivavelarde, would have remained an impossible concept but for technology. And thanks to the Internet, we can now all experience Rivavelarde's slew of homemade graphics and ambient sounds, which together make for a very relaxing experience. The only drawback – his sonic collaborations with VMG don't last long enough. Among them, "Saint Saens" and "Euromuzak" stand out, and his visual compositions "Ear", "Lluvia", "Oceanic Dance", "Agua Electrónica" and "Agujero Negro" also seem likely to dazzle. See with open ears @ www.iconmedialab.es/ei.

Kevin Lim



If art and technology have a point of convergence, this has to be it. Photography and contemporary art by Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst, Helmut Newton, Sabine Weiss and Constantin Brancusi, among index-loads of others, come face to face with the Internet, showcased in a crisp and sleek marketplace environment. As if in rhythm with its partnering artists, the site also boasts liquid smooth navigation and a constantly evolving overall feel. *Delve*, a search system based on what its creators call a "3D Matrix", enables the visitor to single out and to further explore works based on specific categories. Clicking first on "contemporary", for example, then on "nature", brings you to the genre's leading artists and their related works. Whether plain browsing, random exploring, or on-line purchasing, www.eyestorm.com is exactly what it spells – an interactive whirlwind of imagery that will leave your eyes reeling and looking for more.

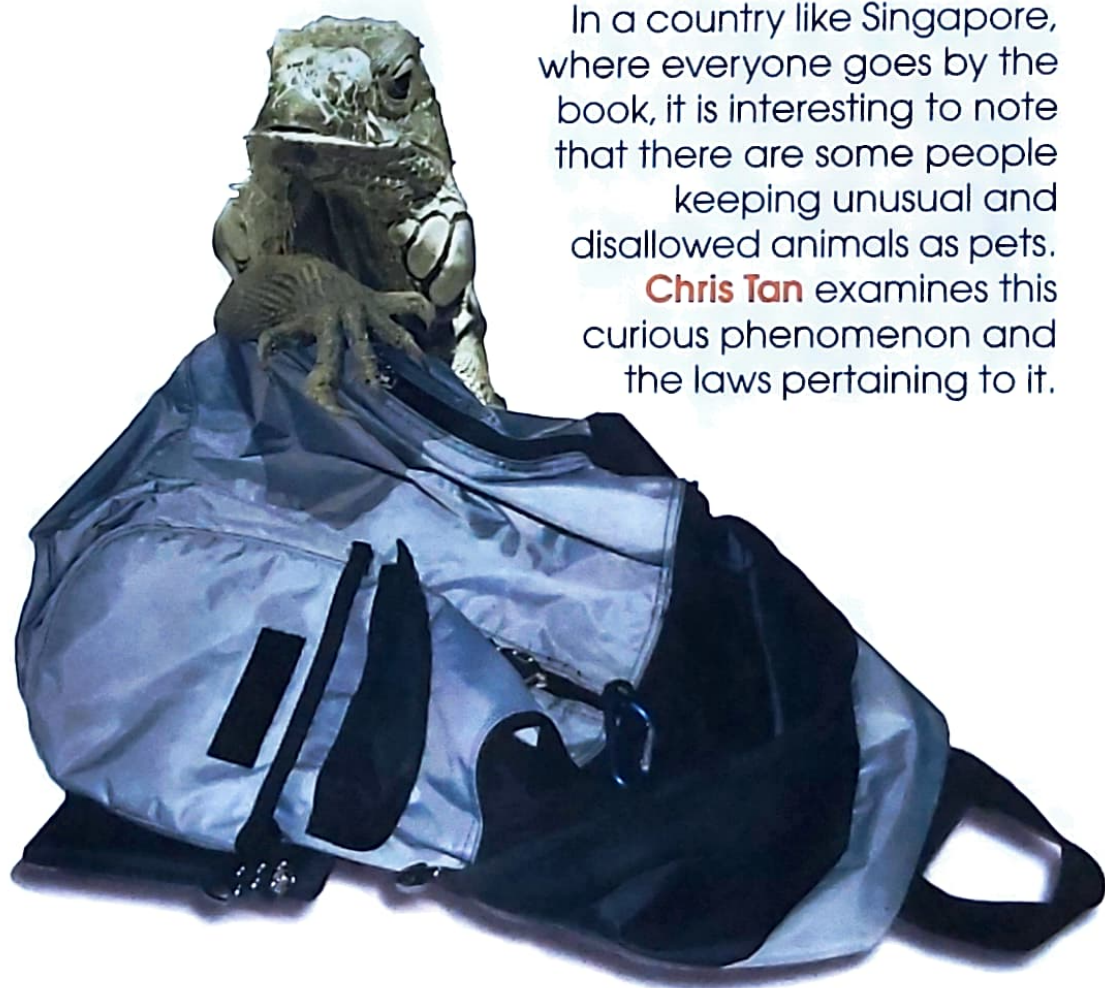
Kevin Lim



If dreams are reflective of our lives, we sure have some bizarre ones, judging by the dreams submitted to this dream-toonist, Jesse Reklaw. Visit his site and read dream-inspired comics about man-eating clouds, jelly-winged swans and the woman who slept with a skunk. (Eek!) Submit your own dream and get a chance to have it translated into a comic strip, starring yourself. Provide a physical description of yourself so that Jesse can draw you accurately. (Sure helps if you've got a flower growing right out of your head.) Currently published in major newspapers across the United States and Canada, these online comic strips are kept neatly archived in monthly installments, with short descriptions for each link so visitors know at a glance what's in store. Ditch the pen and paper by your bedside and let the dreams begin @ www.slowwave.com.

Chris Tan

Strange companions



In a country like Singapore, where everyone goes by the book, it is interesting to note that there are some people keeping unusual and disallowed animals as pets. **Chris Tan** examines this curious phenomenon and the laws pertaining to it.

photos: Kenneth Pinto & Hisahide Takizawa

The idea that people can successfully keep exotic pets, such as scorpions and snakes, is a questionable one.

To keep a species alive and happy out of its natural habitat requires considerable knowledge about the animal's biological make-up, lifestyle and diet. Furthermore, to recreate the animal's natural habitat may require a massive overhaul and defacement of our beautiful (mostly) HDB homes. Then, there is also the question of whether the animal can co-exist harmoniously with humans in the same living space. The importance of such considerations has resulted in rules and regulations forbidding exotic pets. Despite this, the appeal of novelty is still strong enough for a handful of urban denizens to try keeping a stunning variety of technically illegal creatures at home.



Iguanas

Being tropical creatures, iguanas are well-suited to Singapore's climate. These tree-dwelling lizards like to climb and perch themselves up high, and are best kept in large tanks with branches and a height of at least one and a half times their body length.

However, Mui Mui, a young iguana belonging to Peter Lim, 25, does not enjoy such luxury. It lives in a barren transparent plastic tank of an inadequate size in Peter's clothing store in Beach Road, attracting curious stares from many customers.

Despite the lack of a comfortable home, his iguana is "adapting well", Peter says, as it has grown from about seven inches to almost 18 inches long since he got it as a gift from his friends. "It is very easy to maintain," says Peter, "because it is not like other pets which are very troublesome. I just feed it vegetable stems and water." This species of iguana that Peter keeps is strictly vegetarian, and does not pose any danger to humans.



Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are popular as pets in places like North America where they are legal, according to The International Hedgehog Club. They are temperate creatures that survive best at temperatures of 18 to 27 degree Celsius. This makes them unsuitable pets for our tropical country.

However, this does not stop Sam Rahman, 23, a civil servant, from keeping two African Pygmy hedgehogs because he likes "animals that are unique". The species, also known as dwarf hedgehogs, will not grow beyond the size of one's palm. He keeps his pets in a cage, and lets them out around the house sometimes.

He became interested in hedgehogs a few months ago because "they are very cute", and their "button noses and raisin eyes are very appealing". The thrill of actually owning them finally got the better of him, so ahead he went to get a six-month-old pair for \$900 from a private breeder through the Internet although he knew that it was illegal. The couple, which he describes as inseparable, are expecting babies soon. Sam says that he plans to sell his hedgehogs because he is getting bored of them.



Scorpions

Scorpions need to be kept in a moist environment at all times. Heat is also another essential element in their habitat. The bottom of the housing tank should be covered with either sand or soil. Almost all the species held in captivity are burrowing species. They tend to dig pretty deep, so filling the tank with five to seven centimetres of sand or soil is a good idea.

A water dish should also be placed within the tank so that the scorpions can have a ready source of water. According to former Butterfly Park assistant, Yan Guorong, 21, it is important to recreate the natural habitat of the scorpions, as this will enable them to adapt to their new home more readily.

Clarence Chua, 17, a student, has been fascinated with scorpions since young and possesses a good knowledge of these creatures. He bought a baby scorpion via the Internet classified advertisements for \$15 about two years ago. Now, the scorpion lives in a tank with a soil-covered bottom. He takes pride in recreating the scorpion's natural habitat and even gave it a coconut shell "bed".

Explaining why he likes to keep scorpions, Clarence offers an amusing response. "Because it is very fun to watch them eat insects. Dogs and cats eat [ordinary] food so it's not interesting." Sometimes, he will personally catch spiders and ants for his beloved pet.



Snakes

Room temperatures greatly affect the well-being of snakes, which are cold-blooded. While the ideal temperature varies among species, it is safe to keep snakes in places between 25 to 32 degrees Celsius. Glass or wooden tanks are suitable forms of housing. Regardless of the species, there should be a pool of water set up within the tank, as snakes need to bask in water. Ventilation is also important to reduce the possibility of illnesses and skin diseases.

Student Beverly Gan, 19, temporarily guardian of a five-month old albino garter snake, Slimes, knows all this, thanks to extensive education from her boyfriend, Gareth, the real owner. Gareth went overseas to study soon after purchasing Slimes from an Australian seller in Singapore.

Beverly keeps Slimes in a transparent plastic tank with a large water dish enclosed, and says that she tries as far as possible to stick to the snake's natural living conditions. The eight-inch reptile sleeps with her in her room, because her parents will not allow it anywhere else.

Despite religiously feeding it with earthworms and cleaning its cage, Beverly actually dislikes snakes. "I wouldn't go near them if I had a choice! I just hope Gareth comes back and takes care of it himself, or it dies soon!"

She said that she did not know it is illegal to keep snakes as pets in Singapore, as she knows "quite a number of people" who do so.



Praying Mantises

Thin, long legs don't belong to Cindy Crawford alone. Praying mantises, which are tropical insects, are evidence of that. Housing is flexible for mantises – they can be kept in yoghurt containers, plastic boxes, or jam jars. No matter which type of housing is used, there should be a branch or stick for the insect to hang from.

Think no one in Singapore would want to keep mantises as pets? Student Tan Mingjuan, 13, begs to differ. She has been keeping praying mantises for "countless number of years" now, and has two nymphs at present. Mingjuan keeps her praying mantises in plastic containers and bottles. There are no specific places to keep them in as it is "all a matter of choice". However, she does not keep them together in a single container, as they will turn on each other.

Mingjuan makes sure she reads up and updates herself on her pets so that she can take proper care of them. It is important to provide moisture for praying mantis, Mingjuan says, so she sprays the container with a fine mist of water every day to keep her praying mantises healthy and happy. She also feeds them with commercially available crickets or the butterflies and grasshoppers that she catches from her garden.

She has never bought any praying mantis. The ones she owns are the results of her outdoor rambles or gifts from friends. Mingjuan makes it a point not to catch mantises from nature reserves. She chances upon them sometimes at unlikely places like a tennis court or a public toilet.



Angora Rabbits

Also known as "woolly rabbits", they are popular pets in western countries. Loved for their extra long fur, which is sometimes used to make clothes, they are entered in competitions just like dogs. While pretty to look at, their fur is difficult to maintain. Without regular grooming, the fur becomes entangled in clumps which then need to be shaved off. It is vital to keep the rabbits away from direct sunlight as extreme heat can be fatal. Angora rabbits are best housed in a well-ventilated metal cage, with a frozen water bottle for them to lie against to cool off.

In a hot country like Singapore, owners of Angora rabbits need to take extra precautions in taking care of them. Pauline Lim, 19, a student at NAFA, not only puts frozen milk cartons in the cage for her two Angora rabbits. Sometimes, she even lets them lick ice cubes. Nietzsche, an English Angora, lives in a playpen in her balcony while Esme, a French Angora, lives in a cage outside her house. "My mother couldn't tolerate any more rabbits in my balcony," she lamented. Pauline maintains that rabbits should be kept as pets as they live longer in captivity than in the wild. She bought Nietzsche at a bargain price of \$15 from a pet shop, as the dealer did not know it is a fancy breed. Currently, the market price for an Angora rabbit is about \$450. Esme was adopted over the Internet for free.

There is a world of knowledge behind keeping unusual pets, as well as a truckload of responsibilities. Contrary to what many may think, iguanas, scorpions and insects are not low-maintenance animals. They require as much of your time as dogs and cats in order to live happily. Special arrangements must also be made for animals from cool temperate regions. While there are laws to restrict the ownership of exotic pets, enforcing them is quite difficult with the number of households in Singapore. But it is still important to acquaint yourself with them, so that you understand the risk you are taking.

What can I keep as pets?

According to the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) (the place where you get your pet licenses), these animals are approved as pets in Singapore:

- Dogs
- Cats
- Rabbits
- Guinea pigs
- Hamsters
- Mice
- Gerbils
- Chinchillas
- Terrapins
- Many types of birds and fish

Explaining why "exotic" animals are not allowed to be brought into Singapore, AVA's Head of Public Affairs, Mr Goh Shih Yong, said, "Firstly, [if] you bring in something unfamiliar, we don't know what's the consequence. Secondly, when you bring in something unusual, your neighbours may not feel comfortable. Lastly, you don't know what diseases they may have or if the diseases will spread from animal to person".

HDB rules & regulations

The Housing and Development Board (HDB) drafted these rules regarding the keeping of pets in HDB flats:

- Each household is only allowed to keep one dog of an approved breed within the flat's premises.
- No cats are allowed.
- Small animals like guinea pigs, hamsters and fish, which are kept in enclosed areas like cages and tanks are permitted.

According to Ms Ng Hui Bing, Public Relations Officer for Chief Corporate Development Officer, HDB, cats are not allowed to be kept as pets because "being nomadic in nature, [cats] are difficult to be confined within the flats" and the "keeping of cats may bring with it problems like defecation, noise, shedding of fur and stray cats which will affect the environment and neighbourliness in our housing estates".

Did You Know?



Daniel Ong, a Perfect 10 DJ, is among the adventurous people who keep exotic pets, and he's quite extreme in his love of animals too! "I've got a snake, [a] dog, two star tortoises, a bird, two rabbits and 500 fishes," he said. Daniel lives in a two-storey maisonette of about 1,400 square feet, and keeps all his pets in separated spaces, from the balcony to the dining room to the kitchen. We were most impressed by his collection of fishes, many with unpronounceable names like "gouramis", "polyiptures" and "corydoras".

"I usually make time for my pets," he said, "Even on the busiest of days, I wake up half an hour earlier to take care of them - change the bedding, prepare the food, remove waste... man, I'm like a slave to them." Despite this, Daniel still wants more animals in the "zoo" he calls home. "I love watching them in their natural habitat... it's very therapeutic," he admitted. So, what is on his shopping list? "I'd like an iguana, maybe a cat as well... maybe a pond as well, and [a] couple of chinchillas?"

Belle Chan

The Logic of Crime & Passion...

hype serves up enough mayhem in the kitchen, a bank and your mind to satiate your literary hunger – naturally.

The Best American Science Writing 2000

To many people, the world of science is often confined to a separate dimension far removed from everyday life. The complex workings of metaphysics and neuropathology are best left to wizened grey-haired men who reside in the ivory tower of academia. To put it simply, leave the science to the scientist.

To help bridge this gulf between science and the practicalities of our mundane existence, Harper Collins has put together **The Best American Science Writing 2000**. This collection of 19 articles and essays covers a wide range of topics, from evolutionary theory to astronomy, and offers a rare glimpse into the world of scientific inquiry.

The beauty of this volume lies in the selection of articles. Most of them are written in clear layperson language that is easy to digest. With the exception of a few articles that are riddled with scientific jargon, most of the works featured are well-written pieces that are both informative and interesting.

The more memorable ones include a piece on prehistoric human fashion, the behaviour of North American ants and a tongue-in-cheek look at Pseudoscience, the scientific equivalent of Pop Art.
Woo Mun Koon

Kitchen Confidential

If you open this book hoping to find recipes teaching you how to make that perfect soufflé, you'll be disappointed. Anthony Bourdain's hilariously funny **Kitchen Confidential** is far from being a cookbook, for not a single page teaches you how to cook. What you'll get instead are gross revelations and a disdain for fine dining.

In this extraordinary memoir, Bourdain, an experienced chef in New York, takes us through the back alleys of restaurant kitchens, and reveals the dark secrets of the food industry. Bourdain spills the beans and reveals the untold lives of chefs – the drugs, the bitchiness and the sweat. We're also let in on the slimy stinginess of restaurant owners.

You're advised against ordering fish on Mondays, eating at restaurants with dirty toilets, and having Sunday brunches. Discover how Shepherd's Pies are desperate attempts to use leftovers, why pigs aren't the dirtiest animals, and that being vegetarian isn't exactly the healthiest option.

Perhaps it's time we ditch that snobbish attraction we have to expensive restaurants, and stop turning up our noses at hawker centres. At least at the latter, we can see what they're doing to our food.
Kheng Lin Ling

Roses are Red

Followers of James Patterson's Alex Cross detective series will be pleased to know that he is back with a new thriller that will keep you glued to the pages. The 307-page **Roses are Red** is the sixth in a series that has already seen one screen adaptation in Gary Fleder's **Kiss the Girls**.

Roses are Red picks up where the last Alex Cross novel left off, with the detective trying to repair the damage inflicted upon his life by his last nemesis, the Weasel. Just when things begin to look up, an old friend from the FBI appears on his doorstep with another case that will once again plunge him into the world of a demented killer. The new evil calls himself the Mastermind and he orchestrates a series of bloody bank robberies to draw the detective into a game of death.

The plot moves along at a breakneck pace with enough twists and turns to keep you constantly guessing about the Mastermind's true identity and the motivation for his actions.

Roses Are Red climaxes in a stunning revelation that will leave you dumbfounded and yearning for more.

Which means you'll probably have to wait for yet another sequel if you want to find out how the drama resolves itself.
Woo Mun Koon

THE BEST
AMERICAN
SCIENCE
WRITING
2000

JAMES GLEICK

Title:
The Best
American Science
Writing 2000
Author:
James Gleick



Title:
Kitchen
Confidential
Author:
Anthony Bourdain



Title:
Roses are Red
Author:
James Patterson

Angels
rush in
where
his fear
lead.

Throw caution to the wind and lose
yourself in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*
of ruffles, reverie and romance – even
if the course of true love never did run
smooth...

From left: On Tanya: Red pashmina (\$60) from Mizu, white sari skirt (\$69) from Toss, strap-on fabric wings (\$30 rental for 3 days) from Nu-1 Costume Costume. On fan vier: Brown pullover (\$49.90) from Le Future, red brocade pants (\$129) from Jean Perrie Design. On Wei Ni: Silver chignon top with sew-on crystals (\$80) from Mizu, blue sari skirt (\$69) from Toss, strap-on fabric wings (\$30 rental for 3 days), diamante tiara (\$10 rental for 3 days) from Nu-1 Costume Costume. On Mark: Stretchable white sleeveless vest (\$32), gold belt (\$39) from Jean Perrie Design, black kimono pants (\$29) from Mizu.

"Fair lovers, you are
fortunately met: of this
discourse we more will
hear anon." - Act 4,
Scene 1

On Tanya: Black cotton tube dress (\$60) from Mizu, red pashmina lining (stylist's own), gold choker (\$25.90), rosette chain (\$19.90) from Vanessa. On Wei Ni: Boa dress (price unavailable) from Mizu, pink crystal cross with silver chain (\$25.90) from Vanessa.

Shooters

For the photoshoot, we used a Canon 5D Mark II with a 24-70mm f/2.8 lens. The background was a lush green field with trees. The lighting was natural, and the models were dressed in casual, modern clothing.

For the photoshoot, we used a Canon 5D Mark II with a 24-70mm f/2.8 lens. The background was a lush green field with trees. The lighting was natural, and the models were dressed in casual, modern clothing.

Credits

Photographer: Joshua Lim from the can be photo agency (pg. 64). Stylist: Cynthia Cheong, Sarah Chua, Yvonne Low, Sheryl Anne Pereira and Michelle Seetoh.

Make-up: Cynthia Cheong, Yvonne Low and Sheryl Anne Pereira.

Hairdresser: Susan Teng (hp. 93851785).

Models: Tanya, Weini, Mark Tan and Tan Jun Wei.

Text and adaptation: Michelle Seetoh.

"Lovers and madmen have such seething brains, such shaping fantasies, that apprehend more than cool reason over comprehends." - Act 5, Scene 1

On Jun Wei: Maroon mesh top (\$40) from Mizu, grey pants with frontal hooks (\$79) from Jean Ferris Designs. On Mark: White v-neck linen shirt (\$59.90) from Le-Future, grey drawstring pants (model's own).

"Now, until the break of day, through this house each fairy stray. To the best bride-bed will we, which by us shall blessed be." - Act 5, Scene 1

On Jun Wei: Gold silk shirt with tie (\$90) from Mizu. On Tanya: Red midriff with gold tassels (\$60) from Mizu, gold pashmina skirt (stylist's own), gold Cleopatra choker (\$13.90) from Vanessa.

Talking^{about}

Ethics for the Genetic Age

We may be Earth's *Herrenvolk*, or Master Race, but with genetic engineering's phenomenal progress comes a complicated question: what does it really mean to be human? The uncovering of the Human Genome Map may soon provide an adequate answer. In the meantime, **Kevjn Lim** probes the heart of the matter and discusses bioethics with Rev Bernard Teo and our very own Dr Sara Zaman. She is a molecular geneticist and lectures with Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Centre for Life Sciences and Chemical Technology. He is a moral theologian and sits on the Changi General Hospital's ethics committee. Are we ready to meet our genes?

hype:

Recently, Dr. Francis Collins and other leading scientists from the US wing of the Human Genomics Programme announced worldwide the completion of the Human Genome Map. What is the Human Genome Map?

Dr Zaman:

The human genome ... 'genome' is actually a combination of 2 words - 'gene' plus 'chromosome' ... what we're trying to do is actually sequence all the DNA that's available inside a human cell. Now this is a phenomenal job because it consists of 3 billion bases. So, if you stretched out the DNA ... the sequence is able to fill 1000 telephone books of 1000 pages each. And if I were to start reading it, it would take me about 9.5 years to read it from beginning to end without stopping. Now the sequence itself is made up of four bases: A, T, G, C, and this is the alphabet. And the genes are like sentences, so the alphabets actually get together in the form of a sentence, and the sentence then actually codes for a protein, or a worker molecule

20

that's in the cell. In a very simplistic way that's what they've done. They want to find out all the workers in the cell, all the proteins in the cell. That's basically what they want to do - find out the sequence that codes for these proteins.

hype:

We've heard that "to know the genome is to know the person". Is this true?

Rev Teo:

I'm not so sure whether you can equate the genome to the person, no doubt we are embodied entities. The question now becomes: "Are you your body, or are you more than your body?" We have this problem throughout philosophical discussions since ancient times of whether the human body of the human person is an embodied spirit, or ensouled body. So what is it that makes a person? This is one of the big questions that finally explains the big debates about cloning. So when you clone somebody, do you produce an exact, identical copy of yourself, or ... does the environment play a part in

shaping you as a person? It's very interesting, I just read an article that they published in *Nature* and Dr. Craig Venter said this thing about nature and nurture and whether you can reproduce yourself through cloning and he says 'well, that's much ado about nothing!' because the human person is also shaped by the environment. So you can't really reproduce an exact, identical copy of yourself if you put your bodily entity and all your genetic structure, or your clone, into two different environments, you merge two persons. I think the closest you can come to cloning is the identical twins. They share the exact genetic structure and yet how different they are, even if they're identical.

hype:

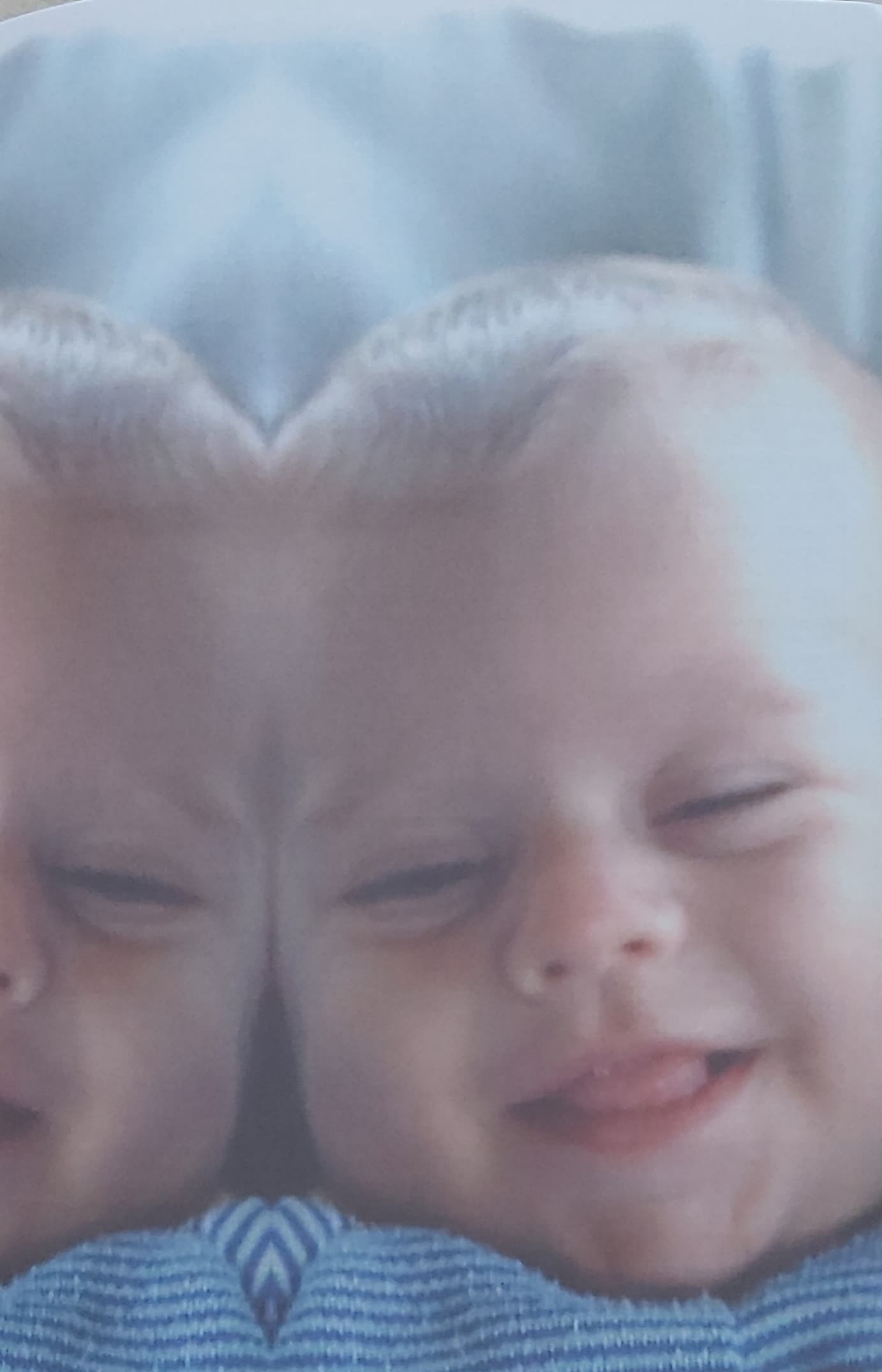
How can knowledge of the human genome be used?

Rev Teo:

OK, we can use the information from this project to understand - in a revolutionary way - how we function. In other words, what makes you you, because our identities are so intertwined with our bodies, we cannot escape that, so it's very important to understand your bodily self functions. The offshoot of that is, well, we can talk about the genetic information, the diseases that you have or that you can predict what kind of diseases you're more susceptible to. Certain types of genes start to develop into diseases later on. The question is who should have access to this type of information?

Dr Zaman:

I think the gene therapy aspect of this is very strong, the potential of gene therapy. So for example now there're about 4000 known genetic diseases, and only 60 genes have been identified out of these 4000. Now, with the Human Genome Project there is potential to recognise the genes for each of these 4000 diseases, and then to treat them by putting in a normal gene. So you can actually cure someone by replacing the faulty gene and then putting in a normal gene, and then getting a normal protein extraction ... I think that in the next 20-50 years, that would be the choice to cure people. As for the ethics, I think that's the missing point, because, (laughs) the Human Genome Organization has been set up, and HGO has actually set up an ethics committee...





Dr Sara Zaman

Rev Bernard Teo

"This is a matter not just for the élite because it affects every person. There has to be some input from concerned members of the public, and there has to be some kind of public communication."

Rev Bernard Teo

Dr Zaman:

Part of the funds used for the HGO has been used to set up the ethics committee. And they're talking about things like fairness, privacy. Who should have access to the genetic information of a person, ... family members, employers, insurance agencies, schools? [And] the psychological stigmatization. For example, if somebody knows that they have a genetic disease. For Huntington's, for the moment there is no cure. So, is it worthwhile doing a screen for Huntington's, or for Tay-Sach's disease? There's no cure, so why would I want to have a screen, I'd rather be oblivious to the fact that I have it rather than know that I have a genetic disease and yet, there's no cure for it. And for genetic testing: should it be made compulsory? Should every baby that's born be tested or should there be a choice?

Rev Teo:

So you open the door towards social engineering on a mass scale. People are relegated to the fringe depending on what kind of genetic inheritance they have. So you might try to create another super breed of people and if you look at history, people have been trying to do that – in a crude way. But now you've a very sophisticated way. You can even do research on genetic warfare. Certain types of people with certain genetic heritages, they're susceptible to certain type of diseases and you don't need to have all these weapons of mass destruction, but you can create weapons just to attack certain ethnic groups of people because of their susceptibility or weakness to certain genetic structures.

hype:

What do you think about society being determined and dominated by perfect genes one day?

Rev Teo:

You can try, but I doubt you can really create that because I believe there's always a group of people who'll be thinking through these issues and react. They won't go with the flow just like that. They'll be thinking through the issues that touch on humanity and I suspect that there'll always be this group of people who'd be the catalysts for change...

Dr Zaman:

Let me speak as a parent, and let's put up a scenario where I want to have a child and they've got 10 embryos in front of me and they say "Ok, this embryo has black hair, black eyes, and an IQ of so on and so forth and doesn't carry any diseases". Then they go on all the way down these 10 embryos and they say "Choose one...which one would you like for you to go to term"? One thing I'd like is to have that choice as a person, but also it takes out the surprise element to some extent because I think each child is very different and has different strengths. Some may be intellectually very good at mechanical type while somebody else may be very good at philosophy, art, or music. So there's a huge range of human abilities, and different strengths in different areas. So I don't know if there's such a thing as a perfect individual.

Rev Teo:

... it's already taking place, when parents go for pre-natal diagnoses. It's really the subject of human wants, human needs, and the way we relate to one another. From our perspective – I speak as a Catholic – we look upon persons as gifts to be received. You're God's gift. You're the surprise package. We're unpredictable, nobody can tell us exactly what we are, there's always an element of surprise. Now, once you start to control or make an attempt to control things like that, the child becomes the subject of your wants, rather than a gift to be received. So, actually you're shaping him into what you think he should be. But what happens if let's say the one you chose turns out to be not what you actually want? How will that affect the relationship? It's a very commercial way of looking at things, the relationship of people to things and people to people. We can want things, we can want people, but in a different way. We cannot want people in the way we want things. Things are things, but the way that things are being done with so much advancement in science, we can reduce people into things that we want. Say for example, you are here because you happen to be a source of transplantable material, not because you're wanted for your own sake. There was this couple in the early 90's who reversed their sterilisation in



"It seems like we've come from a common ancestor which has then branched out, and the most important proteins have been conserved through evolution because of their important jobs in the cell." Dr Sara Zaman

order to have a child to provide bone marrow for transplantation into an older sibling. So the big debate in a number of very prestigious journals: how do we look at this? Do you want the person for his or her own sake, or because the person can provide transplantable material.

Dr Zaman:

I think in that particular situation the parents might've saved their first born, and would probably love the second born as much as they would have the first born. I think again, as a parent, if I were in that situation where my first born child was dying, and the only choice was to get a bone marrow from someone with a match, the second child is not being sacrificed for the first child, it's not as if it's an organ transplant where you take out the heart, or liver, or something that is critical. Many doctors ask is "should we be involved in this kind of things?" So it doesn't just involve the parents who make the choice, but it involves the community because resources are being expended ... is this the wisest way to use our resources...and of course, the question is "What's wrong with dying anyway?" "Can't we accept the fact of death?" "Why is this child so special that the community needs to spend so much resources just to save it? If you don't expend the resources these issues wouldn't have arisen. But because you have the money for these things you can set up the infrastructures to make these things possible. Then these ethical issues start to arise, and in the end, it's really about who we are as a community, and who we are as persons. To me that's what the debates are about.

hype:

Is there a way for us ordinary law-abiding persons to be stakeholders in decisions concerning the use or abuse of our own genes? For instance, there's Iceland, where the entire population's genes and biodata are legally accessible to Reykjavík-based DeCode Genetics. But what about those few who aren't in favour of this? And what if this scenario repeats itself in Singapore?

Dr Zaman:

Education is the key. For all these major issues, the public has to be educated on the

pros and cons of the situation, and once they're educated they can then make an informed decision. The worst decisions are made when you're completely uninformed or biased. The facts need to be readily available. Gene therapy, cloning, the HGO, these are all very "cheem" type of topics, and the public must be educated on these topics because soon, it's going to become part of their day-to-day living, in the next 20-40 years. They have to start making choices like that. So that's the scary part to me, because what happens is that scientists are moving very fast in this direction, but the general public seems to be lagging behind.

Rev Teo:

Not only them but also the law. This is a matter not just for the élite because it affects every person. There has to be some input from concerned members of the public, and there has to be some kind of public communication. Here, let me cite you another example. Potential job employers who want to know your genetic information. Here, it's not just the company that imposes this policy, but the government. There was a similar case in Australia recently, leading to a public outcry. Now who's to regulate this?

Dr Zaman:

I can see a point where you come into a job with your CV, with your university transcripts, and with your genetic printout! (chuckles) I can see this happening, yeah! I think it's almost inevitable that this would happen. So again you come back to the rules and regulations, like Australia, where the government may now say, "OK, it's privacy", but there may come a point where the government may say, "All right, it should be available for everyone".

hype:

Finally, what is the Human Genome Map revealing to us about our origins? Contrast this with the belief that we were designed, as opposed to the theory that we came into existence by pure chance.

Rev Teo:

That we share a lot more commonality with other lifeforms in terms of genetic structure.

Dr Zaman:

Humans and bacteria share almost identical proteins! And yeasts...proteins in yeast can actually replace protein functions in humans! Functionally we're so close that we've yeast homologues of human-type proteins. It's interesting that you bring that point up because I think the next major move for the human genome is comparative studies between humans, down to fruitflies etc. It seems like we've come from a common ancestor which has then branched out, and the most important proteins have been conserved through evolution because of their important jobs in the cell.

Rev Teo:

There're a number of approaches from my Catholic tradition. We view evolution in a positive light because science and creation do not contradict. God is revealed through Creation. It's part of our heritage, so we're never against science, which in fact deepens our understanding of ourselves, from microbiology down to cosmology. Some of our greatest thinkers think both sides: the particular, and the cosmos.

Dr Zaman:

We're all inter-linked and inter-dependent, and that's the commonality between creationists and evolutionists. You can't isolate one species and say they exist in exclusion to everything else.

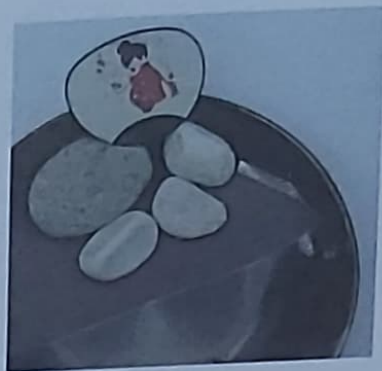
Rev Teo:

And in any case, for human beings to exist, they've to exist in relation to the physical world. The next question would be: "Are we the only life in this whole wide universe? Theologians are thinking "what happens if we find another species?" What does that mean for religion and theology?

Dr Zaman:

What does that mean for science? We can compare genomes because other genomes have already been sequenced, like the roundworm's and the fruitfly's, and then do comparative studies and try to draw a kind of family tree and see where they all come together. That picture will become clearer with time itself - where do we fit in, what were our ancestors, whether Creation was in jumps or slow upward movements.

Tamako Club Meal Eden



Within the lush greenery surrounding the Lower Pierce Reservoir lies a homely eatery offering affordable Japanese food in air-conditioned comfort. Owned by a Japanese lady, the place is always fully packed – hardly surprising, considering the excellent food at prices comparable to that of Japanese stalls in food courts. Help yourself to the wooden tables – the staff are so busy they do not have time to show you to your seat.

Go for the home-cooked food experience, which you seldom find in up-market Japanese restaurants, with the Seafood Cha-han (seafood fried rice) and curry rice. If you're not in the mood for rice, a wide variety of original Japanese Udon and Soba noodles are also available. Besides the usual sushi and sashimi, a must-try side dish for the experimental eater is steamed salmon fish head (\$16).

To end on a sweet note, save some space in your tummy for the Yakult Float, a heavenly concoction of vanilla ice cream in grape-flavoured Yakult. For a delicious meal near Mother Nature without burning a hole in your pocket, Tamako is an excellent choice.

Tamako Meal is at 128 Casuarina Road. Opening hours: 10.30 am to 2.30 pm & 5.30 pm to 9.30 pm. Tel: 553 4728.

Kheng Lin Ling

Enter a tropical paradise complete with lush foliage, trickling water and flickering candlelight. At Club Eden, you can almost feel like you have entered another dimension altogether. Take a seat at one of the "bamboo-like" tables and have your drinks in the garden if you wish to be away from the clubbing crowd. Typical orders are beer, house pours and cocktails that fall in the normal club price range. The more adventurous will choose to head indoors, where coconut-wood and bamboo surround you. The small water plants placed at each table and larger greens around enhance the paradise effect.

Travel deeper into the "forest" and find yourself at a multi-level swirling dance floor where the hard-core clubbers gather. Dance to the beats of Progressive House, Garage and light Reggae.

Also check out the terraced outdoor "paddies" which go as high as 15 metres! There, you will be able to view more tropical blooms and palm trees, as well as get a whiff of the "balmy tropical air", before it is tainted with cigarette fumes, of course.

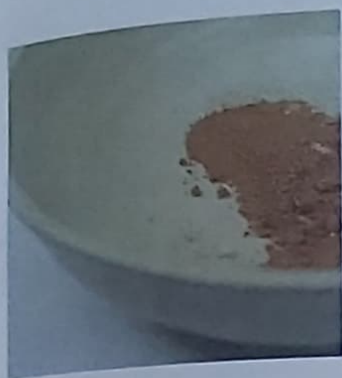
Club Eden is at 25, Mohammed Sultan Road. Opening hours: 7 pm to 3 am. Tel: 738 0270. Grace Ng

Eat, drink and be merry in the embrace of nature, right smack in the middle of our concrete jungle. Let **hype** be your official tour guide.

Sweet Coco Shop

The Altivo Bar

Dine by the Beach Dave's



Forgive yourself if you suddenly feel the urge to change into your bikini or swimming trunks and slather on some suntan oil the minute you step into this cosy little dessert heaven in sunny Chinatown. The wall-papered, er, wall, with a rejuvenating scene of a tropical island, transports you instantly to the beaches of Hawaii, Langkawi, the Gold Coast, or at the very least, Singapore's East Coast Park.

Banking on the popularity of bubble tea and soya beancurd, this place is a nice alternative hangout, away from the usual city haunts. Try a few of their special concoctions at \$2.50 for a regular cup or \$3 for a large. The beverages are available in a variety of flavours, such as Honeydew Tea, Almond Milk Tea and Apple Bubble Tea. The Mango soya beancurd, \$2, tasting like luscious pudding more than anything else, is a must-try. Those who want some zest in their desserts can have pearls, coconut, green beans, peanuts, or red beans added for another 50 cents.

Sweet CoCo Shop is at 75, Pagoda Street. Opening hours: 10 am to 12 mn. Tel: 323 2751.

Chris Tan

If getting high is on your agenda, The Altivo Bar is the place to go. Situated on the summit of Mount Faber, it can be accessed via cable car, your own vehicle or a slow walk up the slopes.

At the bar, you can relax in the open-air area and catch a bird's-eye view of the now tiny cityscape. As you listen to the soothing ballads being played, it suddenly seems that your problems are quite minute. Order an ice-cold beer, or sip away at a cocktail. The happy hours are all the way till 9 pm, giving you 10 percent off almost all drinks. After the happy hours, prices range from \$32 to \$45 for a jug of beer and house pour.

Do not worry if you abstain from alcohol, you can pamper yourself with Espresso, Earl-Grey tea, Rudees and more. Need a bite? You can pig out with the oily junk food served from 8.30 pm.

Other than chilling out at the scenic outdoors, you can shake yourself silly to Break-Beat and House music at the disco area, which allows only those 18 and above.

The Altivo Bar is at 109 Mount Faber Road, Mount Faber Cable Car Station. Opening hours: 10 am to 1 am. Tel: 270 8223.

Grace Ng

Sitting on the seashore while eating to your heart's content is no longer limited to Sunday picnics. At Dine By the Beach, you literally sit on chairs and eat at tables placed on the sandy beach just five metres away from the sea.

Don your flip-flops and beachwear when you come – everything is casual here, and the food comes on styrofoam plates. The service is friendly and efficient, but some of their top dishes can disappoint.

The Fried Baby Squid (\$15), though highly recommended, can be quite tough to chew. Still, they make a delightful snack if you want to exercise those jaws. The BBQ Stingray, \$10 per piece, is a steal, with a delicious chunk of meat that can easily feed four. Be warned though – the stingray really stings. The sambal slathered generously on the tender stingray is quite spicy, but suits most Singaporeans just fine. Other dishes include Korean Herbal Chicken (\$12), and Sotong (\$5).

Dine By the Beach may be a bit out of the way, but the unusual experience makes the travelling worthwhile.

Dine By the Beach is at Pasir Ris Park off Elias Road (opposite Car Park E). Opening Hours: 6 pm to 12 mn. Tel / Fax: 260 0795.

Kheng Lin Ling

"Just be yourself." That's what Dave says. Forget all formalities and just do your own thing as you absorb the placid effect of the *kelong* setting in this café. The bamboo-lined interior, combined with wooden tables and rattan seats, gives customers a sense of simplicity, reflected also in its humble menu where the food is divided into three sections – Chinese, Western and Snacks.

The best bet for an empty stomach is the Sweet and Sour Meatballs (\$7.50). The subtly crispy meatballs come drenched in a sweet, tangy sauce together with capscums, pineapples and tomatoes. You must also try the Spicy Sauce Spaghetti at \$9.50. Who can say no to ham, pepperoni and melted cheese? Be warned, however, that the snacks are nothing to scream about, especially when you realise that three spring rolls cost \$7.

Alcoholic drinks, which include Tequila Sunrise, Bourbon Coke, Vodka Lime, Lemonade Shandy and Singapore Sling, are also available at below \$10.

One major plus-point – the chatty boss constantly assures you that it's all right to lounge around, so you don't feel compelled to leave straight after your meal.

Dave's Café is at 28 Smith Street in Chinatown. Opening hours: 11 am to 11 pm. Tel: 220 9390.

Chris Tan

Quick_{picks}

Crystal Clear

In iridescent shades of soothing green, cheery pink, mellow yellow and limpid grey, they are stars on earth. Works of Nature's slow and artful hand, crystals are mere minerals, crafted by time and pressure to form intricate clusters that some believe promote health, happiness and healing. Sarah Chua shops for the myths, beliefs and potencies behind them.

Agate \$58 – The properties of this moonshine-blue crystal keep you in the pink of health, while improving your career and bringing prosperity.

Amethyst \$48 – Beneath its granite shell, the royal hues of this exquisite cluster are both food for the mind and balm for the soul. Crystal experts say it sharpens memory and clears thinking, reduces fiery tempers and stubbornness and helps make those forty winks count.

Green Phantom Ball \$200 – It's not green, but rather has cobalt blue flecks floating in the crystalline sphere. It's said to keep you healthy, improve career opportunities and bring in the money. Plus it keeps away evil; the green could be from others' jealousy.

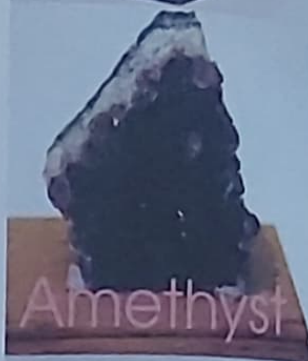
Clear Cluster \$68 – This starry constellation of quartz is said to keep you healthy, fire up those grey cells and keeps danger and those negative impulses at bay.

Yellow Jade \$18 – The cheapest of the lot, this muddy yellow stone might not be as visually appealing, but it does its job just as well. It boosts optimism, clarity of thought, wealth and health, while relieving stress.

Rose Quartz \$58 – Balancing and healing, this rugged chunk of pretty pink crystal stabilises emotions, recharges energy levels and brings harmony to the soul. This stone is also associated with love and positive energy.



Agate



Amethyst



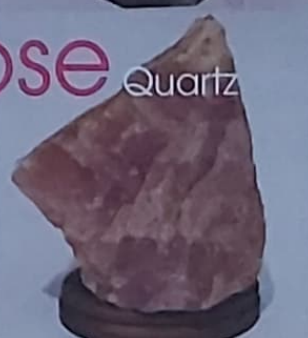
Green Phantom Ball




Clear Cluster



Yellow Jade



Rose Quartz



Eating turtles = Longer life?

Eating is one of Singaporeans' favourite past-times, and in search of exotic food, some think nothing of slurping down turtle soup, eating turtle jelly, and savouring turtle meat and eggs. **Kheng Lin Ling** pries open the shell and delves into the truth about consuming and conserving turtles.

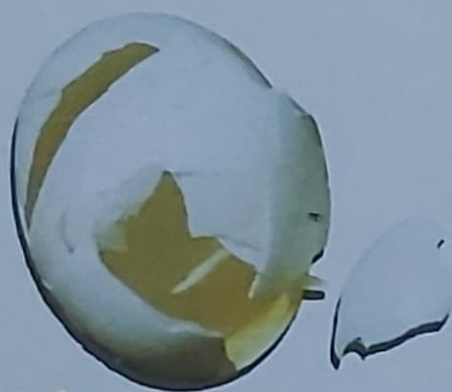
photos: Kenneth Pinto

For centuries, Asians have believed that the consumption of these shelled amphibians will bring longevity and better health. In China, this belief, along with the growing affluence and the convertibility of the Chinese currency, has caused a surge in demand for turtles.

Soft-shell turtles, traded for their meat, eggs and shells, are considered a delicacy. Turtle meat and eggs are used in tonic soups and dishes, while the shells are used in Chinese medicine. According to TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Senior Programme Officer Peter Paul van Dijk, "Turtle shell is traded to supply the traditional Chinese medicine industry, which uses it in a variety of applications. The turtle jelly made from the shell is claimed to have cancer-curing properties, and is consumed as a general health tonic." Chinese athletes have also attributed their Olympic successes to eating turtle jelly and drinking turtle blood concoctions.

In Singapore, many Chinese believe that eating turtles is good for health. Mr Ong, an employee at Siong Lee Seafood, a warehouse in Singapore that distributes live turtles for consumption, claims that eating turtle meat is good for overall health and regulating blood flow, and no other herbs can substitute its nutritional benefits. He said in Mandarin, "The meat is smooth, and it's good for you because there's no cholesterol."

A worker from The Turtle House, a restaurant in Sembawang that serves turtle meat, agreed, saying that turtle meat is especially good for people with high blood pressure. Mr Kenneth Ng, 50, an occasional customer at The Turtle House, said, "I've been drinking it since young. It's good because it clears the body system." Mr Ng said that his mother passed on this belief to him.



"Why be concerned? This is our tradition; our ancestors ate it. I'm not afraid turtles will become extinct because they're never ending – they'll keep giving birth,"

- Mr Ong, an employee at Siong Lee Seafood

But it is precisely this age-old search for good health and longevity that has caused the worldwide crisis of turtle depletion. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)/Species Survival Commission (SSC) Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group, 74 percent of Asia's freshwater species are endangered. The turtle population has declined at such an alarming rate in recent years that 24 turtle species are now listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, compared to just 10 in 1996.

According to Mr Ong, the number of people consuming turtle meat in Singapore has risen in recent years, and turtle meat is now more expensive due to the increased demand from China. The company imports its turtles from Malaysia and Indonesia, distributes them to local turtle restaurants, and also exports them to China and Hong Kong. He said that on a monthly average, 100 tons (about 101,600 kilograms) of live turtles are exported to China alone. The average weight of a turtle is five kilograms – that's about 20,320 turtles a month!

Currently, turtles that are traded must fall under the permitted species listed by The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), an international agreement that regulates trade to ensure that wildlife species are not threatened with extinction.

However, according to the 1999 report, Conclusions from the Workshop on Trade in Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles in Asia, "in every country, the inability of customs officers, wildlife enforcement agency staff and others to identify turtle species with any accuracy are serious obstructions to effective enforcement. Without being able to identify the animals in trade, it is nearly impossible to determine which species are traded legally and which are illegal. This problem is exploited by traders, who intentionally misidentify and make false declarations of the contents of shipments."

An officer from the local Agri-food and Veterinary Authority (AVA), who declined to be named, said that while their customs officers are "theoretically briefed", taught what CITES is about, and shown pictures of endangered turtles, they recognise that some of its custom officers might be unclear, since the officers perform shifts and are rotated around. But he quickly added, "If they [the officers] are in doubt, they can refer to us, because we, as the management authority, will know."

According to him, those caught trading endangered turtles for the first time will face a maximum fine of S\$5000 and/or a year's jail.

Humane treatment, humane killing?

The turtles' shells were ripped off their back while they were still alive. Their intestines were carved out while the turtles struggled in pain. But that was a few years ago, in Singapore's turtle shops. According to the Update on Southeast Asia/China Turtle Crisis report in August 3, 1999, "Singapore expressed support for CITES looking into the subject [of declining turtle population] and stated that humane transport and the manner in which the turtles are killed should also be examined." Things took a different turn since then, and turtles are killed in more humane ways in Singapore, although the situation still remains the same in other parts of Asia.

According to a veterinarian from Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital in Singapore, the more humane manner to kill turtles is to cut the turtles' heads first to cause instant death. Mr Ong from Siong Lee Seafood argued that tortoises, not turtles, are killed by having their shells ripped off. He said that the turtles at his factory are killed by the humane manner the vet described.

According to Ms Moss, in a *Food, Glorious Food* episode, a turtle was shown being kicked across the floor while it was still alive. *Food, Glorious Food* is a MediaCorp Chinese entertainment program that introduces the best hawker food in Singapore. Ms Moss said that she has received a complaint following that episode, and is currently looking into the matter.

Currently, turtles are imported to Singapore by air and by sea, said the AVA. While the latter provides a cheaper means of transportation, Ms Moss questions the way turtles are treated during transportation, for example, if there is overcrowding. "The welfare of these animals during transportation is probably not a priority because they're being treated as a commodity," she said. "Many turtles die on their journey here. The issue here is cruelty-related," she added. "Even before it's served, it's being mistreated. You're using an animal to profit from and yet you're mistreating it...treating it like garbage."

In Singapore, while the turtles traded fall under the CITES permitted listing, there is no regulation to ensure that the turtles that are imported are farm-bred, and not caught from the wild. The AVA officer said, "We are not particular whether it's caught from the wild or captive bred. If it's not endangered, we allow wildlife turtles."

Wouldn't this increase the possibility of these wildlife turtles becoming endangered one day? "This is a philosophical question, and it's not for us to answer," he said. "Everything can be endangered, but if they [the turtles] are not under our scientists' listing, we'll allow them to be imported. If there's demand, there'll be supply."

According to Mr Ong, the turtles that are imported are caught from the rivers. However, he is not concerned with the possible extinction of wildlife turtles. "Why be concerned? This is our tradition; our ancestors ate it. I'm not afraid turtles will become extinct because they're never ending - they'll keep giving birth," he said.

In truth, while turtles enjoy a long life, they only give birth to few offspring at long intervals. A National Wildlife Federation article by Ted William observed, "Turtles are being removed from the wild faster than they can repopulate."

Fortunately, there are still some Singaporeans who refuse to touch turtle meat. Mrs Ruslina Ekdall, 39, does not eat turtles out of compassion, and thinks that eating turtles is cruel.

Her friend, Ms Nancy Tan, 37, echoed her thoughts. "I don't know, I just don't like it - it's simply not like the normal, conventional type of meat," Ms Tan added.

Another individual who does not believe in killing turtles for consumption is the officer from AVA. "I don't need to eat it," he said. "I already have so many other proper food to eat. We're already eating so much wildlife, why should we be encouraged [by traditional beliefs] to eat more?"

However, this handful of Singaporeans is simply not enough to change the situation and save the wildlife turtles. "Tortoises and freshwater turtles do not yet receive the support and recognition... though their conservation situation is, in many ways, much more serious. Without immediate action, we face the likelihood of losing some of these species forever," argued van Dijk.

Ms Deirdre Moss of The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), added, "We need people to speak up against it - things don't change unless many people stand up for it."

How then do we get more people to help stop the depletion of turtles?

"You don't," stated Barbara Bonner, a veterinarian and director of the Turtle Hospital of New England in Massachusetts. "You establish refuge populations in as many places as you can, and you wait for the animals to become extinct in the wild and for people to value them alive."

So before you down that turtle soup, gobble that turtle jelly, or chew that turtle meat and those eggs, think about the wildlife turtles, and whether it's ethical to kill them for the belief that eating them will add a few more years to your life.



Saving Silverman Down To Earth Finding Forrester

Three best buddies. One getting married to a woman he does not love. What do the other two do? Save him to reunite with his childhood sweetheart, of course.

This movie follows J.D. (Jack Black, *Enemy of the State*) and Wayne (Steve Zahn, *That Thing You Do*) as they try to prevent Darren Silverman (Jason Biggs, *American Pie, Loser*) from marrying Judith (Amanda Peet, *Final Destination*). They would do anything to help their friend—even if that means kidnapping Judith.

Saving Silverman is directed by Dennis Dugan, who has also directed episodes of *Ally McBeal* and *Chicago Hope*. Opens April 26, 2001*.

Jeyawati Ibrahim

Hell sent **Little Nicky** to earth, and Heaven has a representative too. Lance Barton (Chris Rock) a struggling comedian and bicycle messenger accidentally dies in a bus accident before his time (supposedly 40 years later). Worse still, he is mistakenly brought to heaven the night before his audition for the Amateur Night Contest, for budding comedians. Luckily, Lance is offered reincarnation, to the body of a wealthy white man, Charles Wellington. Lance, eager to make it for his audition, has no choice but to accept the body for the time being.

Chris Rock, a veteran of stand-up comedy for more than 12 years, impressed comedian Eddie Murphy while performing at New York's Comedy Strip so much that Murphy had Rock cast in *Beverly Hills Cop II* (1987). But it was starring in *Lethal Weapon 4* (1998) that shot Rock to stardom. Now a comedian, screenwriter, actor, and a producer, Chris Rock attributes his rocketing success to his daring and uncanny sense of humour, and healthy measure of work.

He told the online *mr.showbiz*, "I'm not a superstar. Jim Carrey makes 20 million a movie. I make a weird face 'n they tell me I have to pay US\$8.50 to see one."

Talk about being **Down to Earth**. Opens May 3, 2001*.

Reina Lee

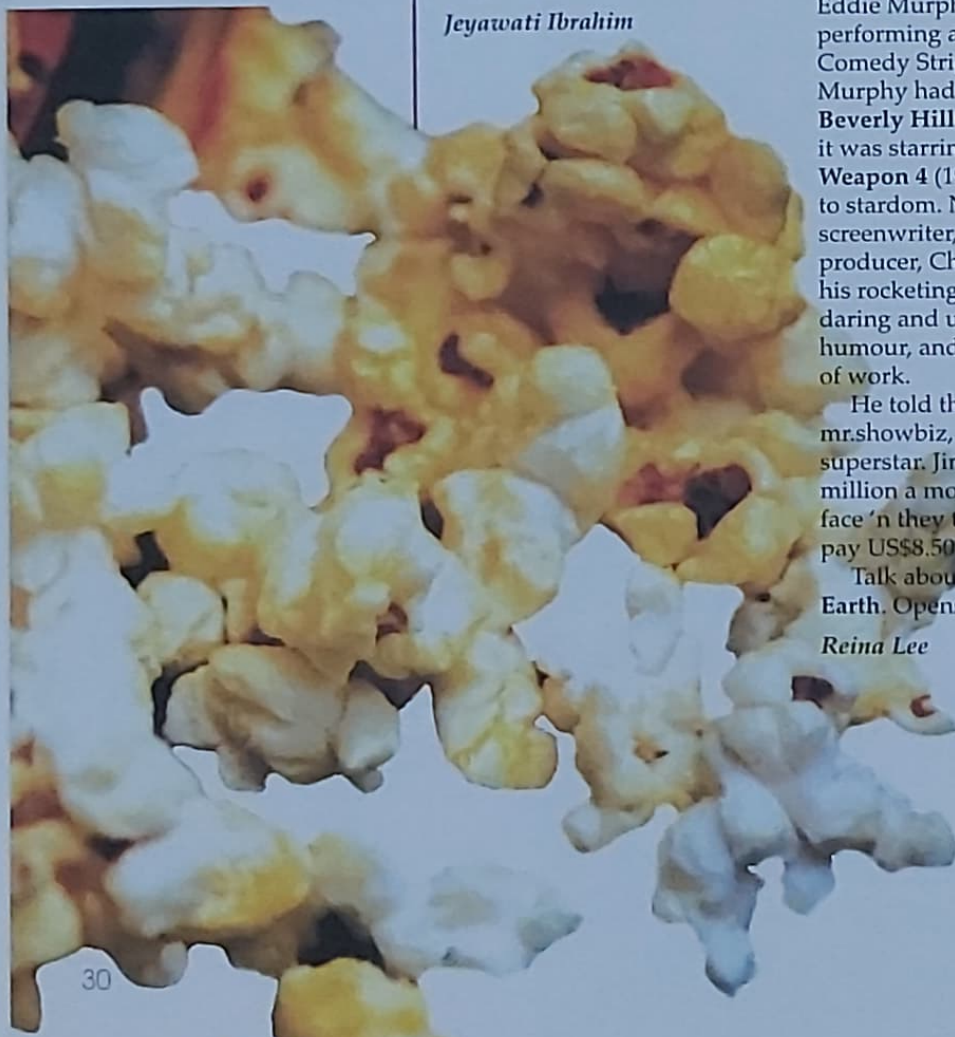
The big-screen stealer isn't Sean Connery this time in **Finding Forrester**. Not even when you have a director who received an Academy Award nomination for his award-winning film, *Good Will Hunting*. The story unfolds the life of another troubled genius, this time not Will Hunting, but William Forrester.

Hollywood newcomer Rob Brown, is 16-year-old African-American basketball player, Jamal Wallace. The budding writer trespasses the domain of Forrester, a Pulitzer prize-winning author played by Connery, only to unleash an even greater passion for writing. But, along with what dreams may come, Jamal also happens to be cut out for basketball. What happens when passion drives you in one direction and your lifelong dream, in another?

The world has not heard from William Forrester since he retreated into 40 years of isolation in his book-filled Bronx apartment. Playing an eccentric scribe and a no-nonsense genius, Connery detonates once again, his sarcastic sense of humour. Co-produced by the actor himself, this project was inspired by Connery's true-life mentor, who set him off in his acting career at the age of 23.

Brown makes a natural, alongside the legendary Connery, despite having no acting background. His presence is powerful, and lauded by US critics, perhaps attributed to the fact that he was made for the role from the start. A high school basketball player in real life, he was raised in New York and had just turned 16 before production began. **Finding Forrester** - Brown did it right. Opens May 3, 2001*.

Belle Chan



Opens April 26, 2001*



KEANU REEVES
CHARLIZE THERON

SWEET NOVEMBER

SHE JUST NEEDED A MONTH TO CHANGE HIS LIFE FOREVER.

No time for commitment and no belief in the word. That sums up Nelson Moss (Keanu Reeves), a workaholic executive and Sara Deever (Charlize Theron), a free-spirited woman of the world. When they meet and decide to enter a relationship of convenience, both seem to have found the perfect solution to their empty lives. The bottomline: both must move on after a month. But what happens when they find themselves in for something deeper than companionship and sex?

The struggle of pragmatism, pride and passion make this movie a tear-jerker, with many kudos for the beautiful Theron's acting. That much cannot be said for Reeves, whose eye-candy reputation continues to dog him in this flick.

Sweetly savage and bitterly blissful, this movie is directed by Pat O'Connor (*Circle of Friends*) and is based on Herman Raucher's 1968 screenplay of the same name. The film also stars Jason Isaacs (*The Patriot*), Greg Germann (TV's *Ally McBeal*), Liam Aiken

(*Stepmom*), Erwin Stoff (*The Matrix*), Deborah Aal (TV's *Something About Amelia*, *Alex*, *The Life of a Child*) and Steven Reuther (*Collateral Damage*, *Pay it Forward*).

Sarah Chua

Be the first 25 people to tell us why the movie's called **Sweet November** and you'll stand to win a pair of movie passes.

Email your answer and particulars (full name and contact no.) to typemag@entertainment.com by April 30, 2001.



*Dates accurate at time of print.

Promotions

Sweet Coco Shop

Present this coupon and get a 50-cent discount off all items.
Promotion valid until June 30, 2001.
75 Pagoda Street
Singapore 059234



Dave's Café

Present this coupon and get 10% discount off all purchases.
Promotion valid until May 31, 2001.
28 Smith Street
Singapore 058932



Dine By the Beach

Present this coupon and get 20% discount off all purchases on weekdays.
10% off food & 20% off drinks on Saturday and Sunday.
Promotion valid from April 15 to June 15, 2001.
Pasir Ris Park, off Elias Road. Opposite Car Park E



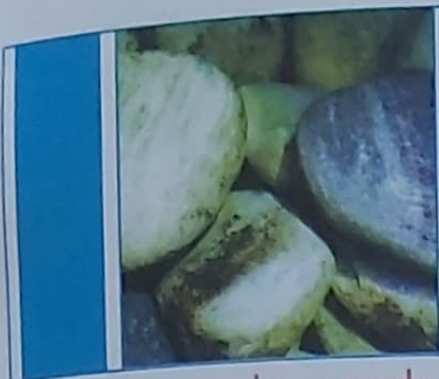
Tamako Meal

Present your NP student card and get 10% discount off all purchases.
Spend \$50 and get a \$6 voucher, redeemable until December 31, 2001.
Promotion valid from April 15 to June 31, 2001.
128 Casuarina Road
Singapore 579516



The Odd And The Beautiful

Thinking of becoming one with nature? How about changing your name? But before you go ahead and pester everyone to call you Sky or Ocean, Jeyawati Ibrahim guides you to picking the perfect Nature Name – straight from the rich and famous.



minerals

Vitamin C

Pronounced: Vi-ta-mean C

Meaning: A somewhat invisible but essential substance in citrus fruits that is good for your health.

Actual meaning: "I'm a twenty-something hyper flower-child wannabe! I look good in orange! I want to stay in High School forever! I want the whole world to smile!"

Puke

Keanu Reeves

Pronounced: Key-ah-nu

Meaning: In Hawaiian: cool breeze over the mountains.

Actual meaning: Some actors do method acting. Others tackle their roles emotionally. Keanu acts cool, looks good and has only one expression for every scene. Period.

River Phoenix

Pronounced: Ri-ver

Meaning: A natural stream of water (Collins, 1992, p. 185).

Actual meaning: Never be gorgeous or you'll die young. Never take drugs or you'll die young. Never be gorgeous, take drugs AND drink or you'll die young.



plants

Chilli aka Rozanda Thomas of TLC

Pronounced: Chi-lee

Meaning: A red or green elongated vegetable that numbs your tongue and reduces you to tears.

Actual meaning: Face it. In the dog-eat-dog world of showbiz, the only possible way to ward those jaws off is probably Chilli! Plus, she had always had a thing for Auntie Rosnah's Chilli Padi Chicken.

Woody Allen

Pronounced: Would-D

Meaning: Lumber

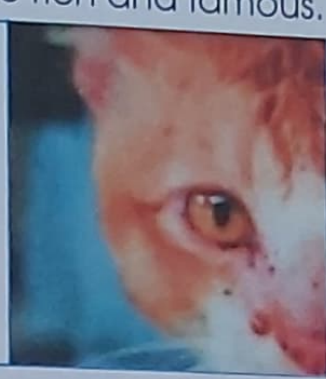
Actual meaning: What had his parents wanted him to be when he grew up? Pinocchio?

Leaf Phoenix aka Joaquin Phoenix

Pronounced: Leef

Meaning: Usually green, of many different shapes, and is used by plants for photosynthesis.

Actual meaning: "I liked raking leaves so much when I was a kid that I wanted to be one! Then I decided it was stupid so now I'm 'Wah-kin' Phoenix."



animals

Flea aka Michael Balzary of Red Hot Chilli Peppers

Pronounced: Fel-lee

Meaning: A tiny, blood-draining insect (Collins, 1992, p. 81).

Actual meaning: He is one of the most arresting and best guitarists on the planet! All you aspiring guitarists out there change your name to a bug. How about "Kutu", or "Leech"?

Atomic Kitten

Pronounced: A-tho-meek Kit-ten

Meaning: 3 dynamic girls from Britain who gave us hits like "Right Now".

Actual meaning: 1. Atomic = To represent their crazy energy. 2. Kitten = They are cute but they have claws too! 3. Atomic Kitten = Just another group who wants to cash in on our money with their good looks, forgettable songs and screechy vocals. *Cringe*

The Beatles

Pronounced: De B-tels

Meaning: Just the most popular band in history.

Actual meaning: "Ringo had a lucky pet black beetle named - well, 'Beatle'. So we decided to name ourselves after it, hoping the luck would rub off. For those of you who thought it was a stupid name, we just have this to say: na na na na na!!!"

