

SINGAPORE'S BIGGEST CAMPUS MAGAZINE

hype

MAGAZINE

June 1996 NO.2

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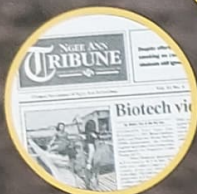
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GRADUATION AND THE 'HEREAFTER'

Graduation. The crossroads in a young person's societal evolution, the prelude to perhaps a higher rung on the ladder to success, but for some, a harsh reality sets in. Your world will never be the same, and like a fledgling that's afraid to spread its wings and fly, some fear to venture out and discover what lies beyond the campus gates, as if trying to escape the inevitable.

The thought of leaving may sadden those who see graduation as an end. But graduation is not about receiving a piece of paper and a congratulatory handshake. No, that ceremony merely marks the superficial end to its real meaning - a journey that lies in the journey of growth and more importantly... the embarking on a completely new one.

The journey will, no doubt, entail a combination of smooth and rocky patches. For the thousands of Film, Sound and Video graduates featured in this month's magazine - 'Desperately Seeking Hollywood'. Job prospects certainly look bright, but the reality of financial constraints may place formidable boundaries on those who dream of making their own movies. Some students adamantly hold on to their ideals at the risk of a rough ride. Others are less ambitious. But whichever path is chosen, graduation empowers you to at least have that choice.

And the choices are many. 'The Big G', sheds some light on the different routes graduates take. These include continuing their education (more than 70 per cent of NP grads want to further their studies within the next five years according to an Academic & Public Affairs survey), entrepreneurship, and joining the salaried workforce.

We didn't have to look far to find two former NP students who joined the workforce after graduating. A turn of the radio dial reveals their voices on Singapore's airwaves. They're this issue's Profile personalities, SAFRA Radio DJs Ernie and Violet. Hitch a ride as this dynamic duo narrate their experiences and tell how they worked their way into radioland.

Then again, after three years of arduous academic labour, some of us are thinking about doing anything except work. Yes, there's a 'bum' in all of us just waiting to rear its ugly face, cheeks included. Our travel feature, 'Get More Out of Johor' gives you directions for getting sidetracked from life in the fast-lane — and all on a shoestring budget as well.

This issue marks our graduation as the pioneer editorial team of HYPE, and I must say it's been quite a trip. Most certainly a journey of knowledge, laughter, the blood, sweat and (almost) tears. Along the way, we've received welcome support and encouragement from the professional world and you, our readers. So many thanks to all for inspiring us through the publication's birth.

But this journey has not yet ended under the wings of a new team, and will, hopefully, continue to inspire, to inform, to encourage. At the crossroads, hopefully, we will see the same old faces, the same old faces... suppose... maybe even together again. *Mark Francis*

Mark Francis

Mark Francis
Editor



Singapore Festival of Arts '96

by Louise Chong

The 11th Singapore Festival of Arts will be bringing in new and exciting performances when it kicks off with a Street Parade along Orchard Road on May 26.

Made up of two components that will run concurrently, the Festival consists of the core programme and the Fringe Festival.

While the core programmes features dance and theatre items in a more formal environment, the Fringe brings the arts closer to the community and also helps to build up the atmosphere for the event.

At this year's Fringe Festival, May 27 — June 16, new acts in various categories will be performing in Singapore for the first time.



For circus and acrobatics enthusiasts, *Airated*, from Australia is a new company dedicated to bringing top quality performances of con-

temporary circus to its audiences. Their wide variety of aerial acts include the trapeze, double trapeze and Spanish Web on a single rope as well as floor acts such as 'rolling glasses', a contortion balancing act.

On the technology front, *Animation Fiesta*, a special Fringe event held in Singapore and the region for the first time hopes to inspire animation enthusiasts.

Initiated by Temasek Polytechnic, animation producers and scholars from Japan, USA, Canada and Germany will be presenting their work. Themes such as special effects, satire, entertainment and techniques will be discussed by foreign speakers in workshops.

The Ngee Ann Polytechnic Concert Band will also be performing a repertoire ranging from classical pop to jazz at the Botanic Gardens and Raffles City Atrium. Other tertiary institutions participating in this year's Art

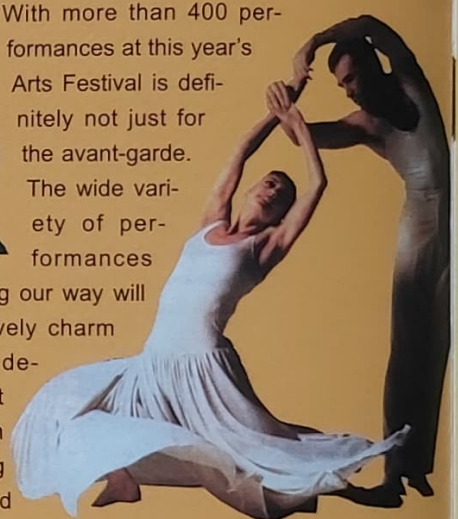
Festival include the Singapore Polytechnic Concert Band, NTU Symphonic Band, NUS Theatre Studies Programme, NUS Dance Ensemble and NTU Hall 5 Dancers.

"We want more young people to participate in more varied and cultural performances such as interactive street theatre, rather than just concert bands or dance performances. We want them to experiment and be creative in their performances", says Adelina Lee, a public relations officer at the National Arts Council.

With more than 400 performances at this year's Arts Festival is definitely not just for the avant-garde.

The wide variety of performances

coming our way will positively charm and delight both young and old.



EVENTS

Street Parade
Orchard Road
Free

26 May 96
Brazilian Samba Dancers, acrobats, pipers, marching band and mask dance. Pop music concert at Ngee Ann City Plaza.

Animation Fiesta
Jubilee Hall

\$6 per show
15 - 16 June
Initiated by Temasek Polytechnic, it aims to create awareness of animation as a form of art. Animation producers will present their works in screening sessions and workshops.

Airated (Australia)
Orchard Point

4 - 7 June
Airated offers a wide variety of aerial acts such as trapeze, and floor acts such as contortion and balancing acts.

Les Arts Sauts (France)

Former SJI Open Field

Free Admission
31 May - 2 June,
7.30pm

The troupe promotes a novel form of artistic expression which involves the use of traditional circus aerial skills. The public will be entertained by flying trapeze among other aerial stunts.



Ngee Ann Polytechnic Concert Band
Botanic Gardens

Raffles City Atrium

1 June, 5pm

4 June, 6.30pm

The 60-strong band with a wide repertoire ranging from classical to pop and jazz, performs regularly on campus and the Victoria Concert Hall. Music from classical to modern styles.

All Night Horrorthon

Tiong Bahru Multiplex

\$20

8 June, 10 pm - 6 am
Movies include Lord of Illusion, Dawn of the Mummy, The Flesh and Blood Show and SleepStalkers: The Sandman's Last Rite. Ticket is inclusive of breakfast.

Eggopolis (UK)

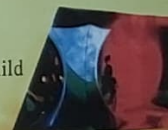
Expo Gateway

\$6 - Adult, \$4 - Child
(Door Sales)

2 - 9 June,

10.30 am - 6.30 pm

A colourful city of eggs creating a balloon-like labyrinth. The meggopolis is an ephemeral cathedral of air with its flying buttress, tall domes, stained glass windows. Visitors enter this large "city" to experience light in new and exciting ways.



Eritrean Art in the Making

Alliance Francaise Gallery

25 May - 2 June

Mon-Fri (8.30am-9pm)

Sat (8.30am-5pm)

Exhibiting in South East Asia for the first time, this exhibition will provide a glimpse of the history and cultural diversity of the country, Eritrea.

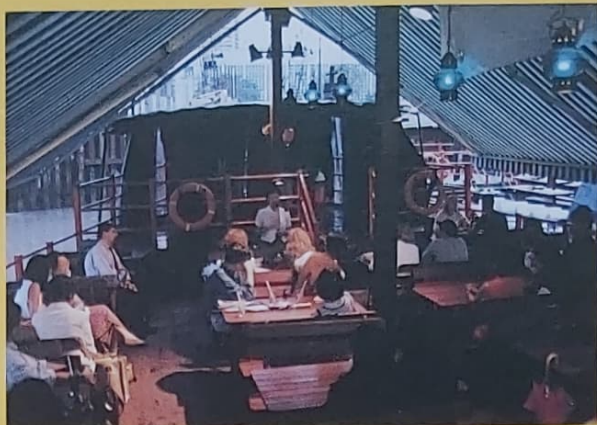
PENNING FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

by P. Lingam

Lyric or rhyme, mayhap verse sublime, wayward notions, random emotions; whatever may be running through your head, scribble it down on a scrap of paper! May not be Milton or Lacan, but it could be your ticket into a world of self-expression that is opening up to more and more Singaporeans who're discovering their creative potential.

Thinkers and writers, or simply listeners and revellers, have been attending reading sessions with some enthusiasm over the past year. These gatherings have been growing in numbers and popularity, some attracting up to 80 people. Writers, both established and aspiring, gather from their disparate lives and focus on their common interest — creative writing.

The first of such sessions, *The Boat Readings*, was conceived by Nigerian-born National Institute of Education (NIE) lecturer Dr Tope 'Sky' Omoniyi, in March last year. Congregating from 6 - 8 pm on the *Ubin* boat off Clarke Quay, every third Thursday of the month are, in Sky's words, "an informal col-



Boat readings at Clarke Quay

lective of people with similar interests" reading, sharing or just appreciating works from the diverse genres of poetry, prose, drama and even music.

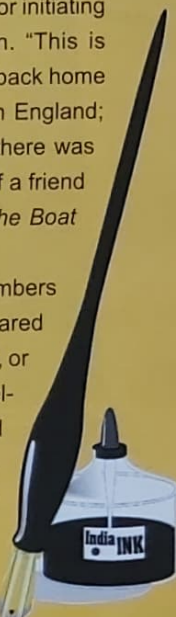
Then, early this February, came Tower Books' *Talents Promotion*, a one-off reading session where celebrity guests like Chris Ho, Ovidia Yu and Desmond Sim read their favourite poems and their own writings. Tower's store manager, Kelly Chew says, "February 10th was an experiment and the response was pretty good. We're planning future events."

Hot on its heels, *Word of Mouth*, the Substation's poetry and prose reading ses-

sions followed in March. Held at 7.30 pm on the first of every month for English contributions (and the second for those in Chinese), the organisers hope to provide a platform for writers to share their creations. "We want to bring back the magic of the spoken word," explains Audrey Wong, Substation's development executive.

An avid writer and participant himself, NIE's Sky explains his motivation for initiating Singapore's first reading session. "This is something I've done for 15 years, back home in Nigeria, when I was studying in England; everywhere. When I came here, there was nothing to join. So, with the help of a friend from Hong Kong, I started this (*The Boat Readings*)."

All sessions are open to members of the public. So pick up that dog-eared copy of your favourite author / poet, or put that pen to paper and let the feelings flow; air them at a reading and let the magic of literature take over. Interested? For 'Word of Mouth' call The Substation's Tan Cheng Hung at 337-7535. For 'The Boat Readings' call Dr Tope Omoniyi at 460-5130



The Singapore Olympic Swatch Watch

by Louise Chong



Watch out! Avid Swatch collectors will be glad to know that Swatch has released a special edition 'Singapore National Olympic Council' (SNOC) Swatch. The SNOC Team 1996 watch priced at \$70, is available to the public at Swatch outlets. The international watch-maker will be timing and scoring all the events at the Centennial Olympic Games 1996 in Atlanta.

Other participating contingents from countries such as Germany, USA, Italy, Switzerland, Malaysia and Indonesia will also have similar watches made with their national emblem on it. This is a collaboration between Swatch and the International Olympic Council to promote Olympic ideals.



RETRO SPIN

by Melvyn Goh



Dust off your bell-bottoms and get ready for a heavy dose of nostalgia with "RetroSpin: Sounds of Singapore from the '50s to the '90s", an exhibition on Singapore's music heritage at the National Museum from July — September.

Organised by the National Heritage

Board, the exhibition will trace the evolution of the local music industry over the decades. On display will be memorabilia of old-time bands such as The Quests and The Crescendos to the more recent Zircon Lounge and Opposition Party. Other highlights include rare guitars from guitar legend Reggie Verghese,



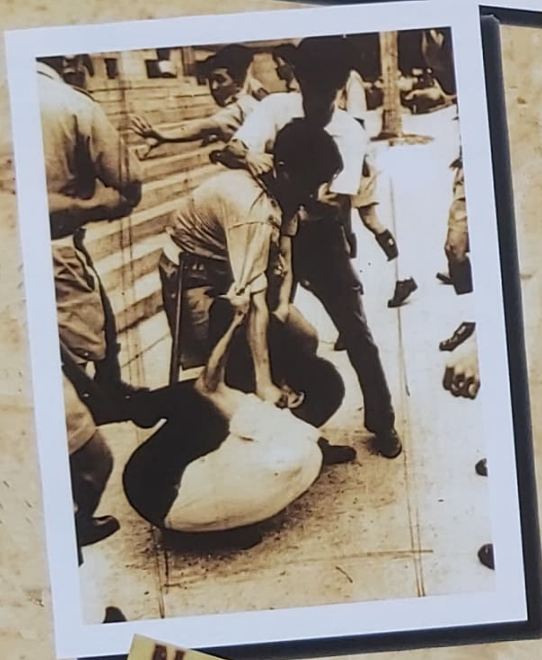
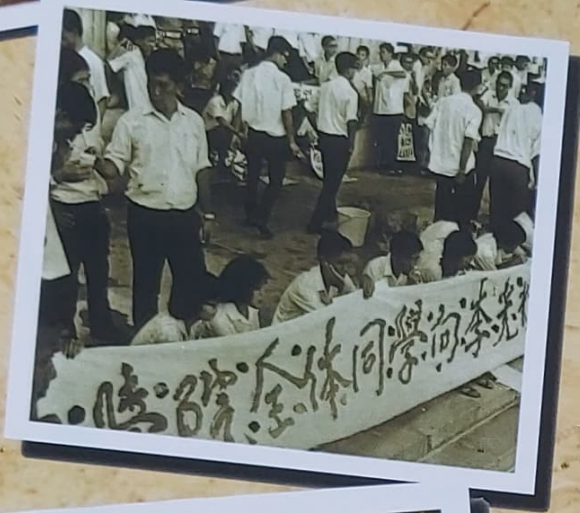
and Christina Ong's first music video.

This blast from the past will kick off on July 5 with the 'Early Bird Show', a grand opening at the museum where artistes such as Naomi and The Boys, Chris Vadham and Wilson Davis will

perform on a set styled after the earliest TV variety shows in Singapore.

THE BIG

“G”



Each year around 4,000 students pass through the gates of Ngee Ann Polytechnic, diploma in hand. For many, graduation is the rite of passage towards different paths. ROSS GAN and YANG SHISI take a peek at what's in store after the big day .

Like Singapore, Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) and its students have evolved over the last 30 years. In the mid-1960s Ngee Ann College, as it was known then, was a hot-bed of student activism.

Boycotts of classes and exams were not unusual. At that time, a controversy over the institution's future and status prompted the setting up of an inquiry commission to make recommendations. On Oct. 17, 1966, a week after the the commission released its findings (called the Thong Saw Pak Report), students protested against the proposals by storming into the Ministry of Education for a six-hour sit-in. A month later, a student-organised protest march to City Hall ended in a riot. The government eventually took firm action,

Top : Graduation in the days of Ngee Ann College, circa 1960s.

Center : On Nov. 4, 1966, Ngee Ann College students organised a march to the Prime Minister's office at City Hall to protest the Thong Saw Pak Report.

Below : About eight policeman and three students were hurt in the riot that subsequently broke out.

**Ngee Ann
row: A
protest by
students**

5 JUN 1965
By LIM BENG TEE

SINGAPORE, Fri. —
About 1,000 students of the Ngee Ann College this afternoon

police staged a final crack-down on Nov. 19, arresting 131 student militants. "The students were part of numerous sit-ins and did not attend classes for more than a month. When the police used tear gas to disperse the students, they started rioting and fighting," recalls Toh Teck Koh, a clerical officer with Ngee Ann since 1963.

However, the rapid economic

holders has been increasingly good over the last five years. "Because our training is so practically oriented, employers find that graduates come with that kind of background and experience such that you can put them straight into the job," says Jannis Loo, student counsellor with JPU. The industry's warm response to diploma holders is encouraging. At the annual career fair organised by the JPU in January

this year, 30 companies set up booths and gave talks to Ngee Ann students.

"I think the stigma attached to a

labour market even the discrepancy in starting pay between university and poly grads is beginning to narrow.

"Employers realise that entry-level positions they offer to a university graduate can be easily filled by a polytechnic graduate and the recognition is shown by the remuneration offered. I know of a graduating student who has been offered a position paying \$1,800, a university graduate's pay," says Cheh Hoon.

Even so, such generous remuneration is the exception rather than the rule as the average monthly starting salary of fresh poly graduates entering the job market, according to the last year's graduate survey, was only \$1,276.

FURTHER EDUCATION

In the most recent NP Graduate Survey, conducted in September last year, 74 percent of respondents planned to



Above: Ngee Ann Polytechnic today.
Right: The Teochew Building at Tank Road, birthplace of Ngee Ann, where the institution first started in 1963.



progress of Singapore to advanced-developing nation status has altered the priorities of today's youths. "They're more concerned with their studies and much less vocal," observed Mr. Toh. With most students working towards the 5 'C's (credit card, car, cash, condominium, country club) instead of creating a riot, HYPE checks out some of the paths Ngee Ann graduates will take.

WORKING

The future appears bright for poly grads. Keeping the robust Singapore economy in mind, figures from the 1995 Joint Polytechnic Graduate Employment Survey showed that 85 percent of respondents found jobs within the first month of graduation while overall employment rate was 94 percent.

According to NP's Job Placement Unit (JPU), the job market for diploma

polytechnic education is not there anymore. The public, including parents and secondary school pupils see polytechnic education as a very viable option and that the junior college is not the only route towards a degree," says Choo Cheh Hoon, a lecturer with the Film & Media Studies department who teaches NP's only Professional Preparation module. It prepares students to market themselves to get that job.

"With the hands-on emphasis of poly education and a slightly lower starting pay, we are value-for-money to employers," says Wendy Ho, an area sales manager with Human Resource, a recruitment publication. She is also a Ngee Ann Business Studies graduate from the Class of 1990.

However, with the current tight

further their education within the next five years. This trend is also reflected in the number of fresh graduates who go abroad for further studies immediately after receiving their diplomas. While there are no formal statistics, a check with NP's International Liaison Unit revealed that each year about one in six graduates (or 600 to 700 students) do so.

One of the main reasons for choosing to continue studying is the advanced standing given by foreign universities to poly grads. These tertiary institutions grant credits (up to two years' worth) for modules completed in the poly, depending on the diploma course curriculum and the degree programme applied for.

The more popular destinations for overseas-bound degree-minded diploma

holders are Britain and Australia. According to International Development Program Australia, poly graduates constitute around 40 percent of successful applicants to Australian universities.

However, not everybody is joining this exodus. As an alternative to leaving home, distance learning is also proving popular, if the numerous advertisements in The Straits Times offering such full or part-time courses are anything to go by. These degree programmes, administered by local private schools, offer studies in a myriad of disciplines, accredited by various foreign universities.

SETTING UP YOUR OWN BUSINESS

If you intend to work after graduation, being your own 'towkay' is one viable job option to consider. Intense personal interest seems to be a key factor to success, regardless of the type of business you want to set up

Ex-Electronics and Electrical Engineering student Goh Wang Kim, spent seven years in the Navy before realizing his life-long dream to turn his photography hobby into his profession. He opened his own studio and has not looked back, attributing his success to "a willingness eat humble pie and learn from others, a strong vision, and lots of luck."

For Mass Communications graduate Mosman Ismahil, 26, his love for books dates back to the novel he wrote in his secondary school days. However it was his course in Ngee Ann that got him interested in book publishing and decided his career path. Last year, he set up his own publishing firm - Simpleman Books.

Ngee Ann has jumped on the entrepreneur bandwagon with its new Technopreneurship and Design Centre

(TDC). The centre gives students a taste of business life by simulating a real working environment that allows the student to carry a product through the different stages of product conceptualization.

TDC also organises talks, courses and seminars on topics such as "Be Your Own Boss - Start a Business" and "Managing a New Business".

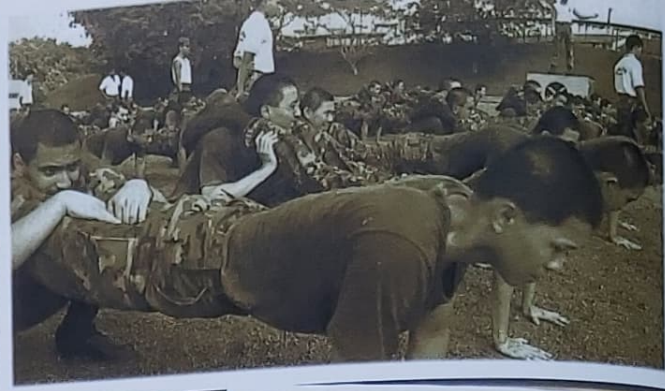
Being an entrepreneur requires a strong commitment, long hours and hard work. There is also no fixed formula for success. Wang Chin Chow, director of TDC says "Entrepreneurship is a matter of opportunity, everyone has a fair chance, even a fresh graduate."

NATIONAL SERVICE

Ngee Ann's passing rate for pre-national service (NS) National Physical Fitness Award (NAPFA) test hit an all time high last year - of the 1,300 final-year Ngee Ann males who took the pre-requisite test, half passed. This was an improvement over 1994's figure of 49 percent and a far cry from the 39% in 1993.

The NAPFA test is used by the Ministry of Defense to gauge the fitness levels of pre-NS guys to determine the duration of Basic Military Training (BMT) required. Through a series of seven tests, participants are given either a gold, silver or bronze award. The majority of NP guys are unable to secure the minimum silver award have to attend an extra two months of physical training, army style.

Siow Chow Sid, sports and recreation officer of Ngee Ann explains the reason for the low fitness levels "While other institutions like junior colleges have compulsory PE (physical education) once a week, NP's PE



Above: National Service recruits sweating it out during a physical training session.

program only lasts for one semester in Year One, just enough to equip our students with the basic skills."

Another problem is the academic workload of final-year students. "Our final-year projects are really heavy, we can't spare the time to do both physical training and studying," says Cai Xianmin, 19, a final-year Mechanical Engineering student.

Chow Sid advises students to take matters into their own hands and embark on their own fitness program. "Train yourself, especially if you haven't been active in sports in your poly years, the extra two months is just not worth it".

So if the thought of having to sweat it out in the army while your friends are out enjoying themselves isn't exactly appealing, lace on those running shoes today and get fit.

His debut role in the

1994 Mandarin drama serial *Love at Last* won him votes as one of TCS' Top

10 Most Popular Artists at last year's Star Awards.

SERAPHINA WEE talks to

TCS actor and NP Electronic Engineering graduate,

Thomas Ong, to see what's behind the pretty face.

Q: What were you like in poly?

A: I have always been lazy since my primary school years. I can oversleep even for afternoon class. During my days in Ngee Ann, I was always late. Receiving warning letters was normal for me. Most of the time, I was sleeping somewhere... at the stadium gallery, or even during lectures.

Q: And why Electronic Engineering?

A: I had no idea what I wanted, so my parents made the decision for me. I wasn't at all interested in Electronics. But I don't regret doing my diploma because I enjoyed other aspects of poly life, like the friends that I made and the fun times we had in school.

Q: What did you do after graduating?

A: After NS, I joined SIA as a flight steward although I quit after two years of flying, because I got tired of it. My friends then recommended modelling. I modelled for five months until I was spotted by a TCS artiste manager when I was there on a modelling assignment.

Q: What do you think it is about you that appeals to your fans?

A: I don't know. I've been told that I look good, but I honestly don't think so. When I look into the mirror, I ask myself how I could have made it in this line when I am so ugly?! I guess being 1.82m tall has something to do with it...having the height gives me screen presence.

Q: Do you think your success is based on good looks alone?

A: No, I don't think so. I believe it's the kind of image that I portray in the shows that I've done so far. All along, I've been portraying pleasant, 'Mr Nice Guy' type of roles, and such roles usually appeal to the audience. If you are just relying on looks alone, new and better-looking faces will surface and replace you.

Q: What about acting talent? Do you think you are a good actor?

A: I believe I have the potential to be a good actor, and that my acting skills are not fully developed yet. Right now, I'm still waiting for a good script that will give me a chance to stretch my potential to the fullest.

Q: Has your celebrity status changed you?

A: Not much, I'm still the same person I used to be. However, I now have to be more conscious of what I do in public. Previously, I could squat down outside shops if I was tired when I went shopping. Now I can't. I seldom go shopping anymore. I'm scared of my privacy being invaded.

Q: How long do you think you will continue acting? Have you any other plans?

A: I'm still going to continue acting, at least for the next few years. I take acting very seriously and hope that I have the opportunity to further my career and act in movies for the international market. I'm planning to set up a food business with two friends in case nothing of such happens. Why food business? Because I love eating, and I think a food business will do well in Singapore.



GET MORE OUT OF JOHOR

RACHEL GOH journeys across the causeway to our neighbouring peninsula and discovers Johor to be the best economical bet for 1996!

Celebrate your graduation with a difference! A shoe-string budget no longer prevents you from having a short getaway with a couple of your best poly pals. Firstly, the exchange rate at time of print stands at a handsome S\$1 to RM\$1.76. Secondly, with the recent northern extension of the MRT line, travelling to the Woodlands border is more comfortable and convenient. Thirdly, a cluster of island resorts is only a bus and ferry away from Johor. Head for the sunny beaches from Mersing via a one-to three-hour boat ride. Since the possibilities for fun are limited only by your eagerness for adventure and kiasu budgeting, HYPE has compiled the ultimate guide to guarantee you a bon voyage!

WHAT TO DO

Entertainment

Arcade Acceleration (G2 Games in Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza)

For RM\$0.50 a token, you spend less on typical games found in a small Singapore arcade. Crash test your dummies in Daytona (2 tokens for 1 game) or the mother of all racing games, Virtua Racing (3 tokens for 2 games).

Karaoke like Kermit (Jalan Rerisai, Jalan Keris)

In the evening, neon lights grace at least 50 karaoke lounges at Lien Hoe Complex. With names like Zodiac, Unicorn, and Las Vegas, the lounges try hard (perhaps too hard) to evoke a fashionable atmosphere using mock-Studebaker's lush carpeting, muted lighting and fibreglass Roman statuettes. But the prices at RM\$15-\$20 for a small karaoke room (fits 5 to 6 people) are something to celebrate about. The Ship is popular with the locals and TAM's runs good promotions on room prices and drinks.



Movie Magic (Pelangi Cineplex)

Newly opened, the cineplex prides itself on providing quality speakers and carpeted comfort. If you haven't had time to catch the latest movies, here's your chance: most movies here were screened a month ago in Singapore. At the price of RM\$7 per ticket, get on a free shuttle bus service in front of Plaza Pelangi for a movie that's easy on your pocket.

Whirling Waterfalls (Kota Tinggi, Air Terun Resort)

Spend a sunny afternoon at these refreshingly cool waterfalls and you may be quite reluctant to leave its clear waters. Dams at various points have created pools for swimming. Pack a change of clothes, a beach ball and some picnic food. Swimwear is considered revealing by the Muslim standards, so stick to T-shirt, shorts and flip-flops. Entrance fee is RM\$2 per person and you can rent huge rubber tyres for RM\$3 to float around in. To get there, take bus 43 (the one that says Air Terun) from Kota Tinggi and remember to check with the bus conductor when the next bus goes back.

Makan paradise

Jalan Wong Ah Fook (disused parking lot in front of Plaza Kotoray6a)

30 to 40 hawkers set up make-shift stalls for lunch and dinner, disappearing and reappearing again with mysterious regularity. Offering a wide variety of hawker food, don't miss the roasted meats store - this husband and wife team whips up a mean combination of char siew, siew yoke and chicken, or the kuay keow kia - a special version of our kuay chap, with thinner noodle and zestier soup.

Ta Ma Doh Shi (Taman Sri Tebrau)

Forget about all other tempting hawker stalls and head straight for the banana leaf seafood. Displaying an ice cushioned spread of fresh sting-ray, crayfish, mussels, squid and tiger prawns, these stalls use a delightfully spicy marinade for grilling the seafood. For a group of five to six, RM\$15 (S\$8.30) each would fetch you a mouth-watering dinner of grilled fresh seafood and rice; a meal that would otherwise cost three times as much back home.

Ramly Burger Stands (Kota Tinggi)

The Malaysian answer to American hot-dog stands, these franchised burger stalls can be found almost anywhere. In Kota Tinggi for RM\$1.50 (S\$0.80), you get a grilled spicy beef patty with lettuce, cucumber and sweet chili

sauce. Many of these stalls are clustered around the Kota Tinggi Bus Terminal, presumably to feed hungry travellers.

Hip-hop shopping

Regular HDB town central bargain hunters will be on a shopping-induced high at Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza and Lien Hoe Complex. Patient rummaging through lelong stores like Top 100 Fashion yields nerdy Brit-pop inspired clothes (think 77th Street gone obiang) at break-sweat prices. T-shirts featuring bands like Green Day, Oasis are about 15 per cent cheaper because they are printed 'in-house' by the stores. Bikers can make a beeline for long-sleeved Formula-1 racing shirt



lookalikes, priced at RM\$40 and guaranteed to be the season's latest fashion accessory to the scrambler. Earn extra brownie points with your mum by buying a few groceries and toiletries, which are generally 15 per cent cheaper, on your way home.

HOW TO GET THERE

The most fuss-free journey is via SBS bus 170 along Bukit Timah Road for a 45 minute bum-warming ride across the Causeway to JB's newly opened Larkin Terminal. Or take the MRT to Woodlands station, which is right above the brand new Woodlands Regional Bus Interchange. At time of print, TIBS provides two bus services, 900 and 904, to take you to the old interchange right next to the Causeway. In Johor Bahru, getting around is smooth-sailing and economical in a Malaysian taxi. Travelling to the places of interest mentioned costs an average of RM\$4. Since most taxis do not use the fare-meter, it's common practice

to bargain for a reduced fare.

Larkin Terminal at Johor Bahru

This is essentially a giant bus station with dozens of privately owned bus services leaving every five minutes for almost every major destination in Malaysia. Take time to walk around and choose a more comfortable-looking bus. I would recommend the Maju Bus to Kota Tinggi which costs RM\$3.60 for an air-conditioned one and 3/4 hour ride. Malaysia still relies on bus conductors who come on board after you're seated to collect your fare, so please don't embarrass yourself by hunting for the coin box.

WHERE TO STAY

Accommodation in JB is not recommended because it's the city centre and prices are not as reasonable as in the smaller cities like Kota Tinggi. But if you have to, try:



Hotel Hawaii (21, Jalan Meldrum, JB)

If all you want is a functional room and atmosphere is not really important, Hotel Hawaii (don't be fooled by the name) offers a double bed non-aircon room for RM\$36 per room. Compared to other similarly-priced motels, it's clean and central.

Pilton Hotel (30-1 Tingkat Satu, Jalan Mawai, Kota Tinggi)

When you step into their air-conditioned rooms, you will realise why a night there is worth the travel time to Kota Tinggi. RM\$62 per room gets you the standard family room - two queen-sized beds, wall-to-wall carpeting, TV, laundry service and telephone (wake up calls included for sleepyheads). A deluxe double bedroom priced at RM\$45 is great for couples who want a retreat.

2-D WARS

With the right trump card, aspiring Darth Vaders can now demolish an empire and wipe out decades of civilisation.

Based on George Lucas' science-fiction trilogy *Star Wars*, the customisable card game is divided into categories that enable players to build an arsenal of powers, spacecraft and of course, movie characters.

In response to its worldwide popularity (teleporting off some shelves here at a rate of 30 boxes a day), it is no wonder that the *Star Wars*

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THESE

Trap your nightmares with the Native-American Dream Catcher for an undisturbed night's sleep.

The Dream Catcher is a centuries-old artifact hand-made by the Navajo tribe. They believe the device allows good dreams to flow through the spirit hole in the centre of its web. Bad dreams are trapped in the web only to disappear with the morning sun.

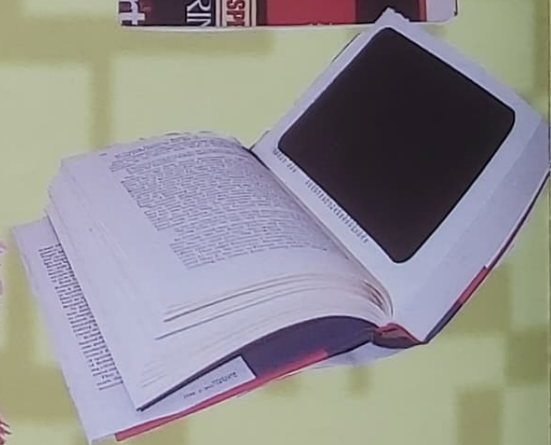
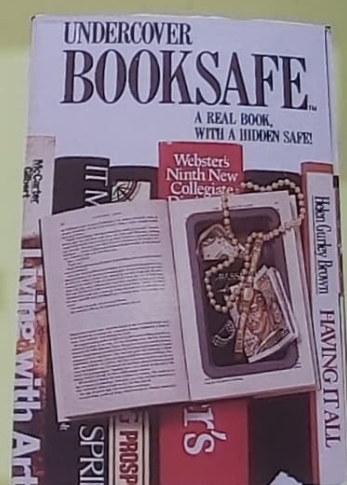
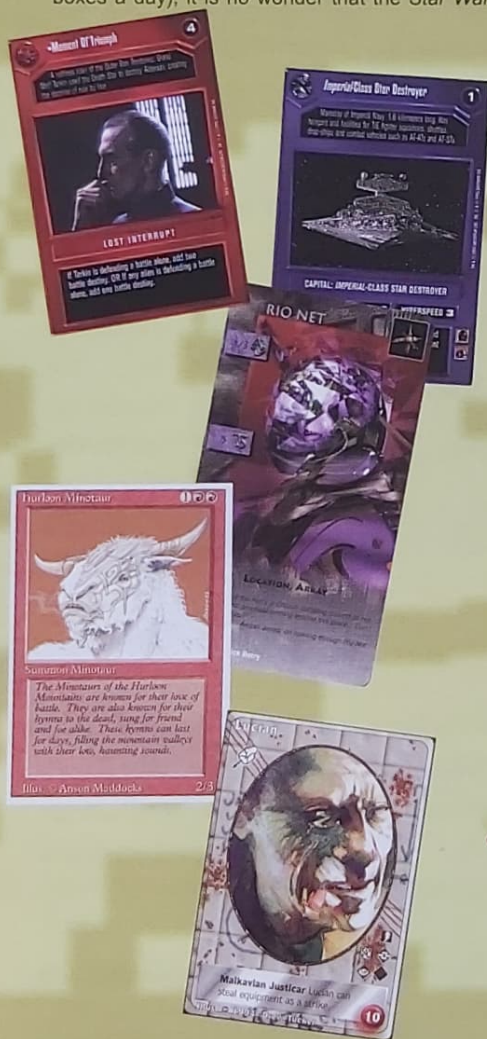
Covered with suede, the Dream Catcher looks like an oddly-shaped fishing net, complete with feathers, beads and arrow-heads. The price ranges

BETWEEN THE COVERS

Don't judge a book by its cover—at least not this one. Titled 'Inside Job - The Looting of America's Savings and Loans', this 'book' has a one-inch hollowed-out compartment that acts as a secret hiding place!

Other features include the inner compartment's soft velour finish which protects your possessions, and a fitted cover that ensures valuables are 'locked' in place so they will not fall out even if the book is dropped.

Priced at \$25.90, the book safe is one of three



card creators, Decipher Inc., are fast expanding the range to include more characters and details.

Since the introduction of *Magic Cards* back in 1989, a host of other card games based on similar mythical settings like *Vampire* and *Heresy* have also joined in the battle for fans. Using a similar play structure as *Magic*, spells can be cast to damage opponents or defend your position.

Rachel Goh

Cards retail between \$5-\$7 for a pack of 15, and can be purchased at Comics Mart, #02-05, Serene Centre.

from \$8 - \$89, the biggest ones large enough to take up half your wall.

Native-american folklore has also described the Dream Catcher as powerful enough to make dreams come true. It is kept for a lifetime and its mystical powers enhanced by adding personal belongings to the web.

Who knows what attaching your favourite pair of underwear can do for your Dream Catcher's powers? **Desmond Ng**

The Dream Catcher is available at 'The Flint Hills' Traders at #04-121A, Far East Plaza.

types in a series of unusual security devices available at Presentibles. There are also VHS tapes (\$17.90), in which valuables can be stashed in the fake spools, and a whole range of canned food and drinks (\$11.90 each), which can be unscrewed at the bottom.

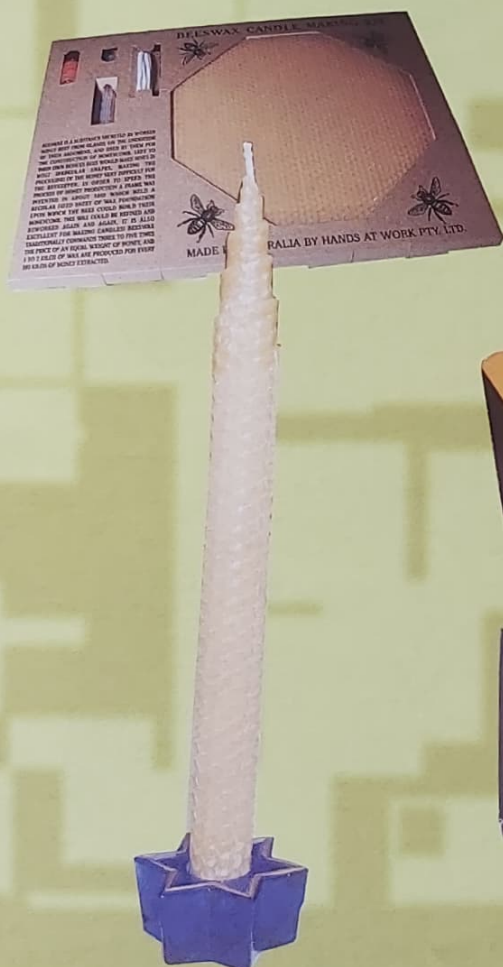
Originating from America, these clever creations allow secret valuables to be hidden in plain sight. **Seraphina Wee**

These security devices are available at Alnatura, #B1-23 Forum the shopping mall.

DIY CANDLES

If you think bees are only good for making honey, think again. A by-product of the honey-making process, beeswax can also be made into candles using a special kit.

Imported from Australia and priced at \$35, the Beeswax Candle-making Kit comes complete with a vial of fragrance oil, wick and six sheets of beeswax. The unprocessed beeswax sheets are harvested from bee farms in Australia and have a characteristic hexagonal pattern. Each kit is good for making a minimum of six 12-inch candles. If you



want to vary the size and length of the candles, you can do so by cutting the beeswax sheets accordingly.

And to have yourself an instant air-freshener, just add a few drops of fragrance oil into the molten wax. Essential oils, derived from the extracts of plants, can also be used in place of the fragrance oil for a do-it-yourself aromatherapy session. Try peppermint for revitalisation or lavender for the relief of headaches and pains. **Felicia Khoo**

The Beeswax Candle-making Kit and essential oils are available at Bamboo 7, #03-76 Far East Plaza.

'TELL' ME THE TIME

"You want time? Time is 5:30 pm. Ciao babe," comes the gruffy reply from the Tasmanian Devil when you activate this Looney Tunes watch.

Imported from the US, the Looney Tunes talking watches are available in Bugs Bunny and Tasmanian Devil designs. Each time-piece voices a range of three responses and the cartoon characters' mouths even move when they speak. Some of Bugs' replies include, "Oh-oh, the time isit's Toon time," and "Eh, pardon me, the time now is"



The voices are activated when you squeeze the hands on both sides of the cartoon characters' mouths. Definitely useful in a dark cinema or when you're too sleepy to bother switching on the lights. Tick-talking at \$75, the watch comes with an alarm setting, and fits snugly on to your wrist with its soft plastic strap.

At the risk of attracting strange stares when activated, these watches are made for the tiny, toony and just a little loony. **Desmond Ng**

The Looney Tunes watches are available at 77th Street, Far East Plaza, #04-116.

FISHY ENDEAVOURS

Stress. Fatigue. Even pain. These are some of the sensations you'll feel when you start on a Tavern Puzzle, such as the 'Long Island Catch'.

Not your everyday 'Fillet O Fish', this aquatic creature is made of steel and has an ensemble of chains, rings and beads attached to it. What you have to do is remove the large ring from the labyrinth of metal. It may sound easy but actually requires more than 11 gruelling steps. Pure determination, not brute force or trickery, is the key.

The 'Long Island Catch' is just one in the

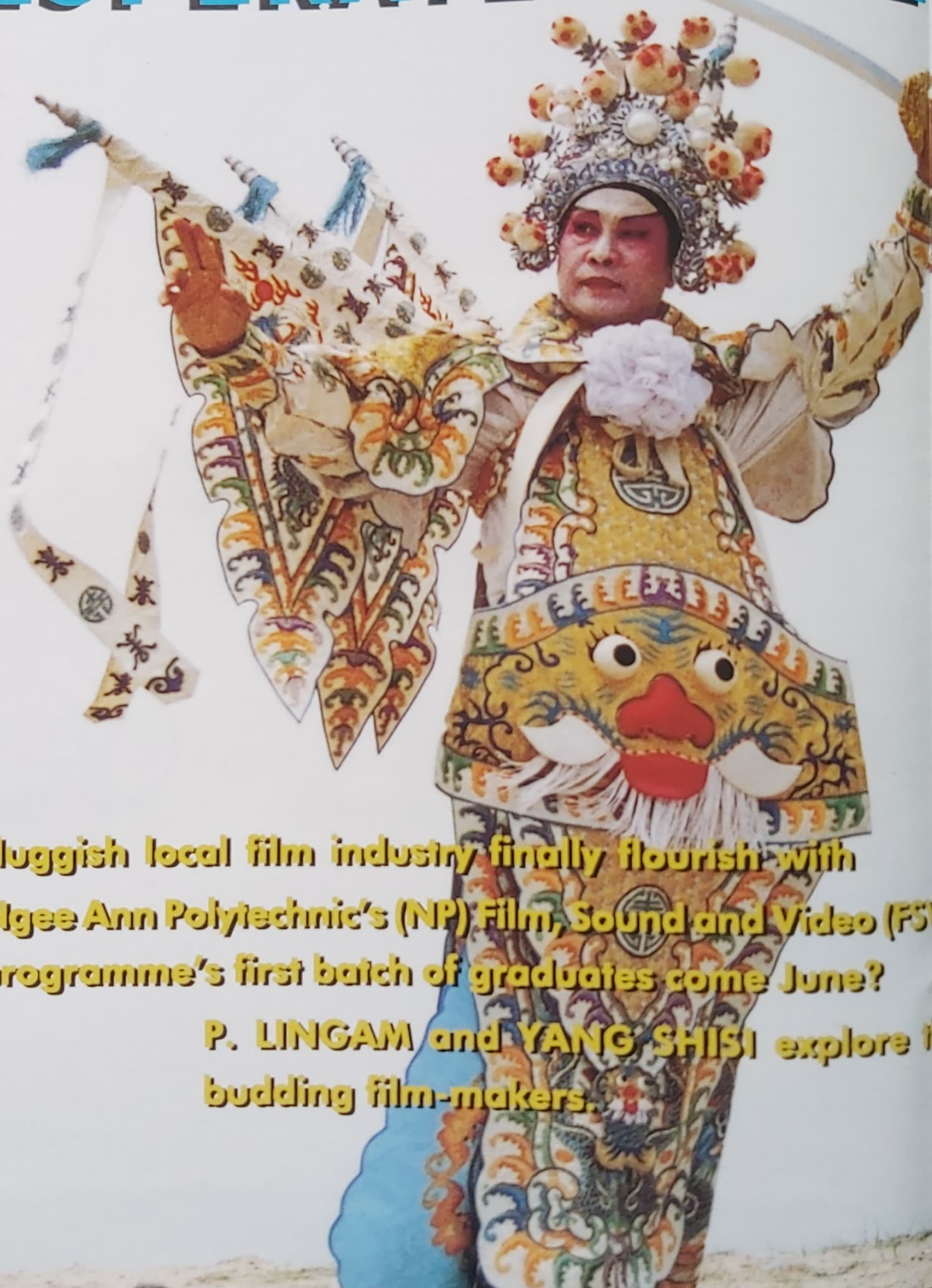


collection of 16 Tavern puzzles, costing between \$29.90 and \$36.90. Traditionally forged by blacksmiths to amuse their friends at taverns, the puzzles go by imaginative names such as 'Satan's Stirrup', 'Tinker's Bell' and 'Blackbeard's Revenge'.

However, if months of twisting and grappling bear no fruit, a trip back to the store will reveal the solution in the form of a 'Certificate of Failure', adding you to the list of many who've tried and failed. **Melvyn Goh**

The Tavern Puzzles are available at T.O.T.S., Holland Shopping Centre #03-05.

DESPERATELY SEE



Will a sluggish local film industry finally flourish with Ngee Ann Polytechnic's (NP) Film, Sound and Video (F5) programme's first batch of graduates come June?

P. LINGAM and YANG SHISI explore budding film-makers.

KING HOLLYWOOD

A blue Nissan Sunny skids into a narrow alley. It screeches to a halt before a lone prostitute in a minidress and fishnet stockings. Two drunken men step out of the car and slur a come-on to the hooker. They drag her back into the car half-protesting. A tussle ensues. An Adam's apple is revealed, a wig removed. The 'lady' is exposed to be a transvestite. Violence and swearing. The 'she-male' is brutalised and left lying on a heap of rubbish. The car zooms off into the night.

This scene, lurid with suggestions of sex and violence could have come off any Hollywood movie without raising eyebrows. But remarkably, it's the opening sequence of *Rancid*, a 20-minute filmlet conceived and produced last year by 12 third-year students from the FSV programme at NP's Department of Film and Media Studies.

The programme was officially set up in December 1992, and recruited its first 40 students in July 1993. Dan Lorance, course coordinator at FSV recalled, "EDB (Economic Development Board) wanted to start a course to satisfy the need for professionals in film, video and sound recording in the electronic media in general, partly to fill places in the job market, and partly to help build up the arts in Singapore, of which the motion picture industry was also perceived as being a part."

Since the programme's inception, the students have been prolific. A core group of 12 students, all hopelessly devoted to film and drawn together by their common interest have produced close to 50 short and medium length productions, both within curriculum and in their own external projects

This year, 11 of them, many from the

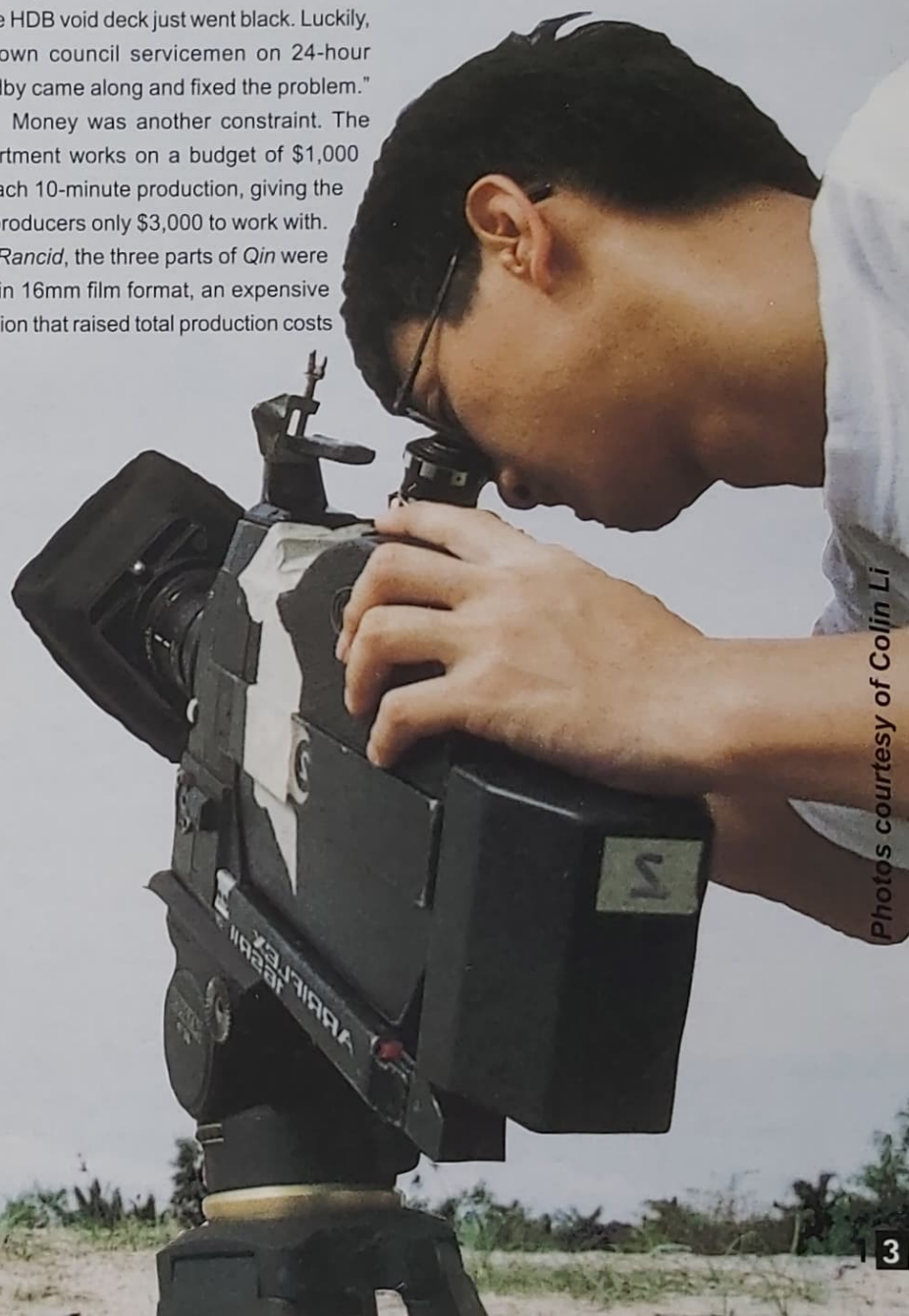
crew of *Rancid*, are undertaking an even more ambitious project — a full length feature film. Entitled *Qin*, this trilogy of 30-minute short films interwoven around the central theme of mother's love will be ready for screening sometime this year.

Producing this film has not been without its predicaments. Gloria Chee, 23, director of *Seeds of Pine*, the third part of *Qin*, laughed as she cast her mind back to a memorable mishap on the set. "That night we needed a generator for the lights, one of those big ones that weigh 70 to 80 kg. My DP (director of photography) was connecting all the lights together, when suddenly the whole HDB void deck just went black. Luckily, the town council servicemen on 24-hour standby came along and fixed the problem."

Money was another constraint. The department works on a budget of \$1,000 for each 10-minute production, giving the *Qin* producers only \$3,000 to work with. Like *Rancid*, the three parts of *Qin* were shot in 16mm film format, an expensive decision that raised total production costs

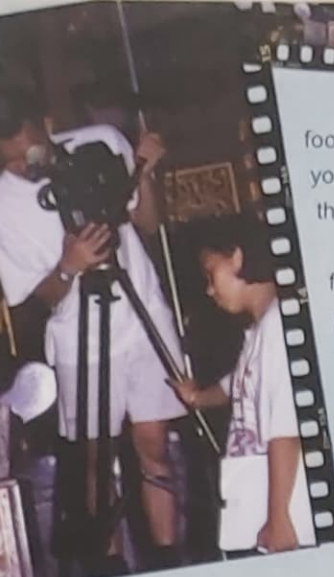
to \$45,000. The students had a choice — raise the cash or lower their expectations for *Qin*.

The producers stuck to their guns and made up the balance on their own. Jason Lai, 23, forked out \$7,000 on his own to work as producer and director on *Qin*. "I just borrowed lots of money from friends," he said. "Most of our actors acted for free, apart from their transport and food fees. But we spent quite a lot on the make-up artist and with every 10 minutes of film



Photos courtesy of Colin Li

the prospects for our



footage costing \$240, you can see where all the money went."

The high costs forced them to seek sponsorship, which gained them film stock, unlimited use of a van over 12 weeks for their location shoots, \$8,000 in cash and the interest of local cinema chain, Golden Village. Managing director David Glass says, "We have given them our commitment and I will help them. We could give the film a premiere and showcase the product to as many influential people as possible. We've got to encourage them, they've shown great energy and

chance to shoot a film is actually going to come. To be involved in a film set, yes, but to actually direct a film? I don't think it's very probable."

Most other students share Gloria's view. With the prohibitive cost of film and equipment and the scarcity of sponsorship, many feel movie-making is beyond their financial reach. Final-year student Lee Chew Yen, 22, adds, "Now in school, we help each other out. But in the real world where are we going to find crew and talent who are willing to slog for free? Otherwise, where do we find the money to pay them?"

And money is the key factor in everybody's plans. For the film-makers, funding and support is indeed a rare commodity. Most companies shy away from such large-scale investments when the returns are not guaranteed. And whether the distinctly local flavour of Singaporean films will go down well with movie-goers around the world is



Not all glam 'n glitz. Producing movies entails lots of high-tech groundwork.

lot of satellite feeds and a lot of television packaging that come in here and go out into the region, and so Singapore has become a sort of post-production and distribution centre."

And having incoming fresh talent with a passion for their work has generated excitement — in broadcast companies and post-production houses.

The demand for people with practical skills in working with the electronic media is at a high point now. Visiting lecturer and third-year course coordinator, Professor Jim Fisher,

These students are graduating at a nice time, its a good time to start, there's a lot of support role activity and plenty of opportunities.

- Prof Jim Fisher.

dedication."

These rare breaks aside, these young cinephiles have negotiated problems, potential penury and skyrocketing stress-levels, refusing to bow down to these obstacles. Gloria sheds some light on their incredible capacity for punishment saying, "When you think about our situation once we get out of this place, I don't know when the next

anybody's guess.

Other industry developments only seem to justify the students' apprehensions. The Business Times reported last May that EDB citing poor funding and limitations in creativity and experience of local talent as reasons has modified its original vision of transforming Singapore into the next Hollywood of the East.

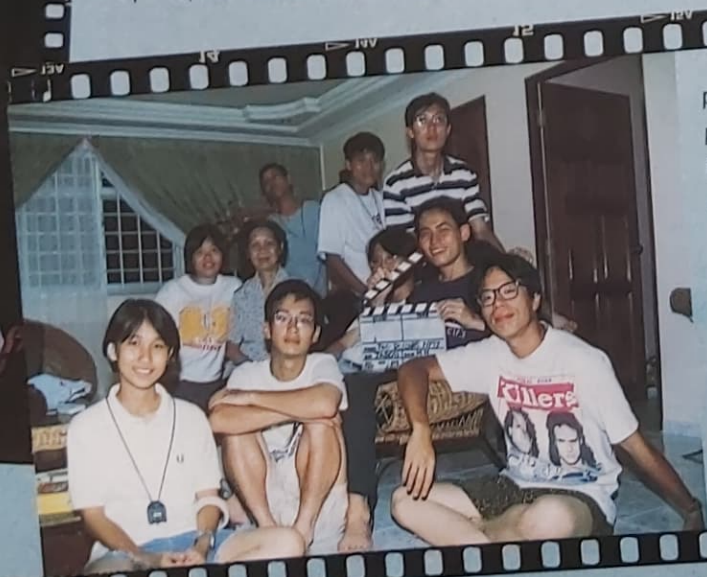
Instead, it's now establishing the island as a post-production hub for foreign productions — something FSV's Dan Lorance has also observed.

He says, "The EDB have shifted slightly with the recognition that the film industry is not going to move *en masse* from Hong Kong. Singapore has become a hub for a

jokes that his telephone and those of fellow lecturers have been ringing off their hooks with requests for namelists of graduating students and permission to come around recruiting at the department. On a more serious note, he says, "There are a lot of good paying jobs for people like editors and graphics people who can operate sophisticated software and equipment like Silicon Graphics Inc. (SGI) and digital editing systems. These students are graduating at a nice time, its a good time to start, there's a lot of support role activity and plenty of opportunities."

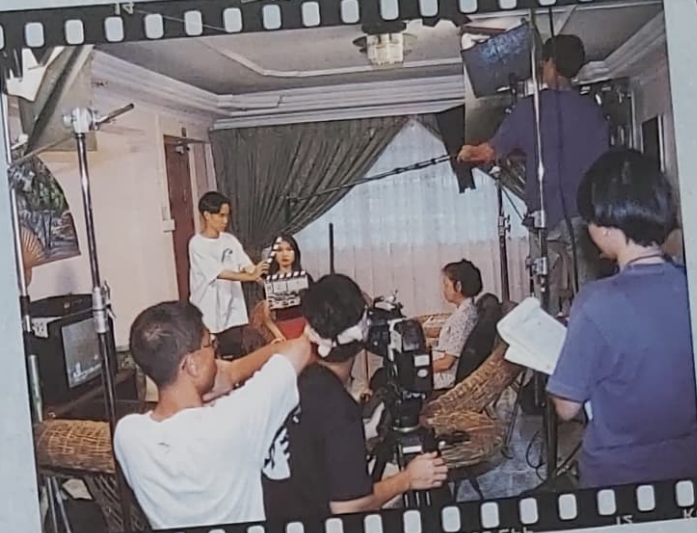
At the same time, new interest and optimism has been injected into the local film circle, and the FSV students, in the form of two upcoming film projects — *Army Daze* has its production underway with two graduating FSV students working as assistant directors and a movie on Fandi Ahmad still in the wings.

Tony Yeow, executive director of The Reel Thing, the company looking to produce the Fandi Ahmad movie, thinks that the critical acclaim that Eric Khoo's *Mee Pok Man*

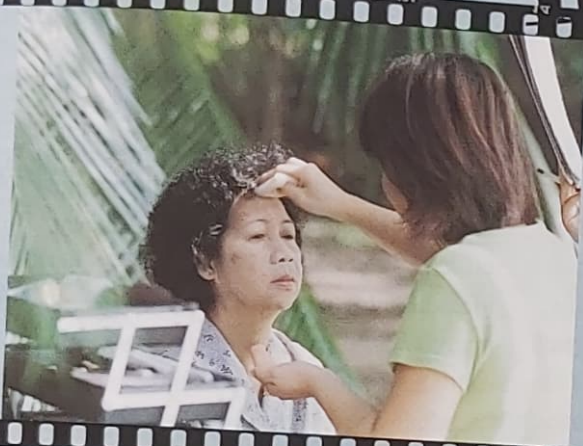


received in the international film festival circuit last year, has set the stage for local film to take off. He adds, "Ngee Ann did the most important thing — they provided the human resource. We need people knowledgeable in film production to help get things moving. And they can always work for The Reel Thing!"

Yet others like Frederick Tan of Sui Cinematics are not as ebullient about the future. He mused, "Yes, they (FSV graduates) will make a difference. They will come out and



Lights, Camera, Action! FSV students filming on location.



No compromises on detail. Make-up is an important aspect of these students' films.

money and two for the soul' approach. "You form a company and do anything that pays. In between those paying jobs, you work at your own project, your own script, work at getting investments. So you're doing the ones for your pocket while dreaming of something that's your own creation."

involving myself in film projects, but it's just not realistic to want to make films in Singapore."

A transformation cannot be expected overnight, but with the raw talent and expertise is starting to fall into place, Philip Cheah hopes FSV students will play a significant role in the local film industry. "The going will be tough, it will be a struggle all the way. But there is a new awareness in the independent film industry, people are very hungry for new talent," he said. "I've watched *Rancid* and found the standard was consistent throughout, performances and casting were good; it was very promising on

complain and that might serve as a catalyst for something to happen. They may be able to generate the start of a local film industry. But right now there's no local film industry to speak

There are a few who plan to follow this advice, holding on to their dreams by setting up their own companies for freelance production work while pursuing their own film projects on the side. Final-year student Pok Yue Wen, 24, is toying with this idea. "Maybe, I might set up a company myself, post-production is in high

They (FSV grads) may be able to generate the start of a local film industry. But right now there's no local film industry to speak of, there's just no market for it.

- Frederick Tan, Sui Cinematics.

of, there's just no market for it."

Meanwhile, the security of well-paying jobs has led several student film-makers to re-evaluate their original plans to make independent film. Tan Heng Han, 26, executive producer and sound recordist for *Qin*, has his feet firmly planted on the ground. "Ideally, I want to go into film but that seems quite impossible. For me money comes first, I want my house, car and family. I might become an on-line editor, there's money in that."

Professor Fisher suggests an alternative, what he calls the 'one for the

demand now, so maybe that. Then, on the side, hopefully go into film. But it's hard to break into the Singapore market because there's already a niche of free-lancers."

The majority, however, like graduating Jason Lai, take a more pragmatic outlook. He says, "I would like to go into independent productions but probably I'll work for a production house. Five years down the road, I'll still be struggling in the film industry,

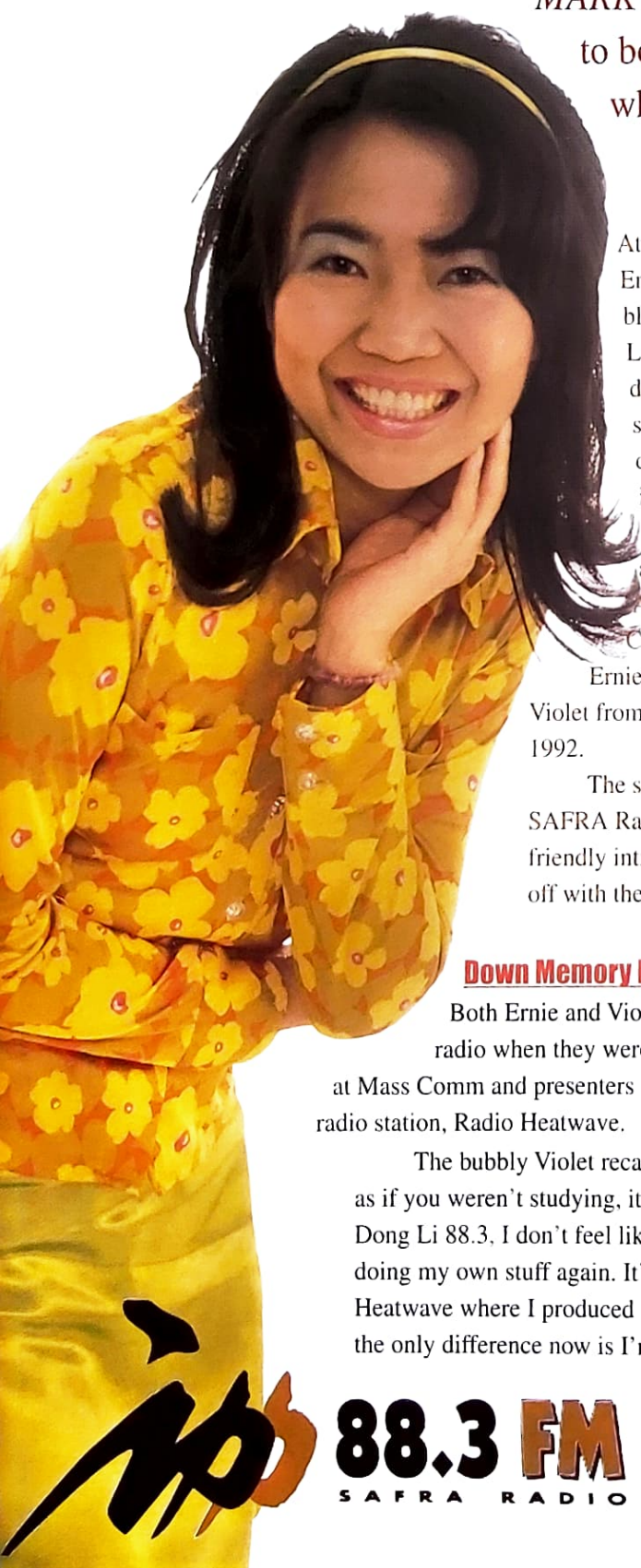
the whole."

And 'promising' is exactly what the Singapore film scene is right now. Whether it lives up to its promise or flounders to an incipient demise, only time will tell.

DIVAS OF

Turn your radio's dial to 88.3 or 98mHZ and you might hear the voices of NP grads Violet Fenying and Erniza Bte. Johari.

MARK FRANCIS and LOUISE CHONG tune in to both SAFRA Radio DJs and find out just what 'frequency' they're on.



At first glance, Power 98's Ernie, 22, decked in a sombre black wind-breaker and Dong Li 88.3's Violet Fenying, 26, donning a bright pink tee scrawled with silver lettering, don't appear to have too much in common.

But the spunky radio divas are both graduates of Ngee Ann Polytechnic's (NP) Mass Communication programme — Ernie graduating in 1994 and Violet from the course's pioneer batch in 1992.

The scene is anything but formal at SAFRA Radio and after a brief but friendly introduction, the interview takes off with the pilots of the airwaves.

Down Memory Lane - Poly Days

Both Ernie and Violet had their first taste of radio when they were Radio Production students at Mass Comm and presenters on NP's campus radio station, Radio Heatwave.

The bubbly Violet recalls, "While I was there, it was as if you weren't studying, it almost felt like 'playing'. At Dong Li 88.3, I don't feel like I'm working either, I'm doing my own stuff again. It's very much like Radio Heatwave where I produced an assignment for a lecturer, the only difference now is I'm paid here!"

"My love for radio developed in the second-year (of studies), I was really interested in doing things like interviews and after listening to all sorts of sound-effects in radio class I had all these wild ideas about what I could do with so many sounds," adds Ernie.

And while Ernie remembers "headbanging to 'My Sharona' in the Radio Heatwave office and hanging out at the atrium with friends," Violet says she had some cajoling to do before she could really start to have her own fun as a student DJ.

"Back then, Radio Heatwave was all English, I had to beg for Chinese programmes. Luckily, I had support from the Head of Department and so I became the first and only Mandarin presenter," she elaborates.

Violet's interests have always leaned towards the Chinese medium, as displayed when she was Vice-Chairman of NP's Cultural Activities and Social Service Club. "I've always loved acting in Chinese dramas and stage compering, so I actually learnt my skills for radio presenting from there," she reveals.

For someone who was not totally new to the industry (she did a two-month internship at NTUC RadioHeart) Violet ending up as a professional radio presenter may not have surprised many.



WEN

Assistant
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tions
Dong Li

In contrast, Ernie, who currently hosts 'Late Nights with Ernie', says she's a very extreme person. "Sometimes if I'm angry, I throw things. I'm not proud of my temper."

Although Ernie confesses turbulent emotions can affect her sometimes, she's always managed to stay in complete control. "I can't explain it, it just happens, the minute you turn the mic on something goes 'click' and 'Hi! This is Ernie, thank you sooo much for joining us'..."

"But actually I'm quite serious when I'm on-air. I don't go 'Waaah'... and my jokes are quite subtle," she quips.

The societally-conscious Ernie is also very passionate about the environment. "A couple of years ago I wrote in to GreenPeace and they've been sending me stuff ever since," she says. Funnily enough, this proponent

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Power 98FM
SAFRA RADIO

17

of re-cycling sometimes causes printer jams in the office when she forgets to remove the staples from re-used paper.

The effervescent Violet says that she too has a serious side. "I like to get things done and dislike people to delay me. When I need to be serious, I'll be serious," she says.

Although job satisfaction is of utmost importance to Violet, she still has time for friends and karaoke to relieve stress. Violet adds, "Whatever the environment, it's the people that make the difference."

"It's a stressful job and preparation is very important. I

"Once, I had to do a programme alone as my co-host was ill. I felt so happy that my listeners actually faxed in and called me to ask if I was lonely and if they could keep me company," says Violet. "I feel very happy that I'm getting a response from my listeners."



"There's this guy who thanked me once for playing Warrant's 'Stronger Now' because he just went through a really painful breakup" -Ernie

have to keep thinking, I think on the bus, everywhere. It helps that I'm always on the lookout," says Violet about her hectic life as a producer/presenter.

Being on the busy night shift takes its toll on Ernie, who confesses she misses going out at night. "By the time I get back it's about 1 a.m., sometimes I wake up really early to go for bike rides...bike riding clears my head, it's a form of therapy because I listen to music while I ride, she says. "And now that I have a cat that goes 'Wraoo' outside the bedroom door, I have to get up early and feed her."

"How do I keep fresh? Lots of Coke and coffee," she muses.

The Audience is Listening

If there's one thing both DJs are continually inspired by, it's the remarkably special relationship they share with some of their loyal listeners.

Ernie has had her fair share of extraordinary interactions too. "There's this guy who thanked me once for playing Warrant's 'Stronger Now', because he just went through a really painful break up and he said he felt like I was playing that song for him." "I was like 'wow', but the song was programmed, I didn't choose it! Of course, I didn't tell him that," she says with a guilt-ridden voice.

The last word is always the DJ's

As parting shots, the DJs leave wannabe-radio presenters with some pointers.

"Just be yourselves, be natural because people will like you when you're natural. Don't be nervous and just treat your listeners like they're your friends, says Violet.

Ernie advises, "Music knowledge is very important, plus you have to be very alert because all sorts of things can happen in the studio. Oh, and you have to know how to deal with all kinds of people who call in."

After a lengthy two-hour session, it's time for the DJs to return to their active lives. For Violet, it's homeward bound after another hyperactive day in radioland. But for Ernie, her 'day' has just begun. She heads off to prepare for the night shift so listeners across the country can tune in for another 'Late Night with Ernie'....



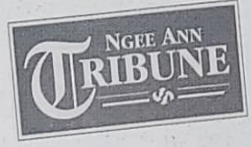
Above, standing left to right: Meixian, Shixian, Junyuan, Violet Fenying, Tatiana.

Sitting, left to right: Lina, Zhaoxing, Meowqing, Jinyuan.

Left, clockwise: Margaret Lim, Jeremy Ratnam, Steve Loh, Marcus Uy, Vernon Anthonisz, Kelly Choong, Ernie, Rodney Monteiro.



TURNING FIVE AND LOOKING AHEAD by P. Lingam



Extra! Extra! Read all about it. Ngee Ann Tribune breaks new ground moving into its fifth year this coming semester, and has rustled up changes to meet the occasion.

The campus newspaper, a student publication of final-year Mass Communication students from the department of Film and Media Studies (FMS), has evolved from its first issue in April 1992; many say for the better.

Paul Ramani, lecturer-advisor for the publication, notes, "The paper has gone through tremendous changes. It used to be called 'pro-FMS' and 'too wordy' in the past. Now it's focused on campus issues, and it's more readable with neater, cleaner layouts and better photo support."

The paper also boasts a new masthead, and a move towards human interest and investigative reporting — all part of the paper's updated image aimed at capturing the readers' attention. Veronica Leng, the paper's other lecturer-advisor, explains, "With any publication, the reader must be stopped to read it, must be attracted to it."

These bold changes to the paper bear stark contrast to the Tribune's humble beginnings when the layout was done manually by cutting and pasting articles together. The paper's founding lecturer-advisor, Chitra Rajaram, likens the rough times in the early years to having a baby. "Nine months of pain, agony, nausea etc., and then you get a bundle of joy," she jokes.

"It was really tough, it was the first time we were doing anything like that and decisions had to be made on things like the budget, the printers, the paper quality, the font size. But we had hard working students and once we got started, everything fell into place. And now the Tribune has become what we wanted it to be when we started it."

Still on the cards, is a commemorative fifth anniversary issue, colour pages for upcoming issues and even widening the scope of coverage into the Clementi region.

Behind the paper's success are its student editors who will be graduating in June. As one editor, Daniel Yong, 25, says, "We hope the next batch will just pick up from where we left off. But there must come a time when we can just say thank you and goodbye." Co-editor Ang Mei-Leng, 20, pipes in, "If they can just retain the standard, that will be enough."

BIOTECH on CABLE TV by Melvyn Goh

Learn how to grow your own food at home, or discover how crayfish are bred. Ngee Ann Polytechnic's (NP) Biotechnology Department (BIO) will show you how on Singapore CableVision (SCV) in June.

The department will, for the first time, have two programmes featuring hydroponics and aquaculture on SCV's new educational channel. "We want people to think of cable not as mindless entertainment but as a place where they can look for educational programmes," says Sandie Lee, SCV's Vice President of Programming.

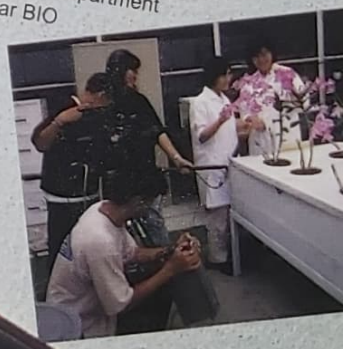
"With this new channel, we also hope to get the participation of local universities and polytechnics," explains Sandie. The half-hour NP documentaries will be screened along with works from National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Polytechnic.

With help from Biotechnology lecturers Dr Mallick F. Rahman and Dr Chan Soo Yin, final-year students from the Film and Media Studies Department will produce these documentaries.

The subject hydroponics (the growing of plants using nutrient solutions instead of soil) was chosen because of its wide appeal to general audiences. "It is a very hot topic now and it's not only getting popular in Singapore but all over the world," says Dr Mallick. The programme will feature a visit to a hydroponics farm and teach audiences how to apply hydroponics at home.

The second programme provides an overview of the aquaculture (the rearing of aquatic life under controlled conditions) industry in Singapore. "Not many people know about the industry here even though it is bringing in more than \$75 million a year," says Dr Chan.

BIO also intends to use the programme as a teaching tool, providing students with a profile of the local aquaculture industry. The students relish the idea of seeing their department on cable television. Keith Lim, 20, a final-year BIO student, says, "It will be a new and pretty interesting experience for a lot of us. Besides, it would give the department a higher profile in the industry." According to Dr Chan, these programmes are a first step to more Biotechnology productions in the future.



virtual caFE

by Felicia Khoo

Computer games virtually come to life, meals on the side, at the Virtual Café. This family-oriented venue packs restaurant, pub and virtual reality (VR) games arcade into one.

With a cyan-green interior dimly-lit by mobile lights suspended on steel cables that run across the ceiling, the Virtual Café exudes a distinct hi-tech feel. Adding to the technology theme are two VR game stations perched on a side platform.

Unlike conventional arcade games, VR games allow players to immerse themselves in a computer-generated environment with a 360-degree perspective. Newbies are assisted by the staff in putting on the gear and are guided through the game. Depending on your skills, the game may last anything from a few minutes to half an hour. Variety-seeking-computer-game-buffs may be in for some

disappointment though, as players can only play whatever game that is installed in the game stations. However, they are changed about once a month and have included exciting titles like Zone Hunter, Dactyl Nightmare, Virtual Boxing and Shoot-for-Loot.

The café also boasts an array of VR-game-inspired dishes on the menu such as Dactyl Sandwiches and Bulldozers. Treat your tastebuds to a wide selection of food including sandwiches, seafood, meatdishes and pizzas with toppings of your choice. Prices for main dishes are affordable, ranging from \$6.80 to \$16.80. Non-alcoholic cocktails like Delite Mode, which is a refreshing mix of grenadine, pineapple and lemon juices, and Blaize's Temple, a light concoction of grenadine and lemonade, are priced at \$6 each. Although customers are generally encouraged to dine in the café, you can still play the

games for a fee of \$3 without having to order any food or drinks.

Despite the fact that it is family-oriented, the Virtual Café is certainly a place where students will term a great hang-out spot that combines good food and great games.

Virtual Cafe is at #02-17/18, Leisure Park Kallang.



PANAGOPoulos

by Louise Chong

into the eatery: quirky with brilliant yellow walls that parade a riot of colourful animal pictures, hanging parrots and a stuffed zebra.

Pana serves an array of pizza and pasta specialities and North American-Mediterranean cuisine at prices ranging from \$2.50 for a drink to about \$11 for a main dish. Pana's soups are served, not *with* bread but *in* bread! Experience the novelty of dishing up spoonfuls of delicate veggies from a 'bowl' of French bread and enjoy!

Menu highlights include delicious Gyros: pita bread stuffed with lamb or chicken, served with Tzatziki sauce (picante mayonnaise) and fries. Other must-try's are Pana's Speciality Salmon and Spiced Kicken Chicken Dinner. To top it off, feast on desserts such as their most popular Tiramisu Explosion and

Outrageous Cheesecakes.

"Panagopoulos is the Greek surname of our original owner. With our Canadian partners, we came up with the Hippo logo and the animal theme for Singapore because we wanted something that would attract adults and kids," says Ruth Seow, vice president of corporate affairs at Panagopoulos.

Blending North American-Mediterranean cuisine and a distinctive animal theme ambience, this chow house leaves you with an experience that can only be described as 'Panagopoulos'! *Panagopoulos is at 7 Cheong Chin Nam Road (opposite Beauty World). For reservations, call 462 1398.*



Hippo-liciously cool is the new and funky North American-Mediterranean restaurant near Ngee Ann Polytechnic called Panagopoulos.

The huge and brightly-lit Hippo signboard at the terrace leads diners

SUMO - YANKEE

by Desmond Ng

East meets West at Sumo Yankee restaurant, where waiters and waitresses take your orders in boxer shorts and kimonos in the American flag colours of red, white and blue.

Featuring a fascinating blend of Eastern cuisine with Western influence, Sumo Yankee is an American-Japanese restaurant where Hawaiian recipes are adapted to the Japanese method of cooking. One example is the Sumo Turf (\$11.95), where beef, chicken and lamb are cooked teppanyaki style with Hawaiian seasoning. The result? Succulent chunks of meat with a subtle sweetness to it that departs from the usual teppanyaki. The restaurant's famous Sumo-Beef Meal (\$7.95), where the tender, juicy beef just tantalizes your taste buds, is definitely the *chef-d'oeuvre* in

this joint.

One of Sumo Yankee's most popular (and unusual) beverages is the Coffee Cream Tsunami (\$3.65) - a coffee that needs to be stirred 100 times to create a tidal wave effect in your coffee cup before you can indulge in the full, creamy flavour of the drink. The Sumo-Aloha, is a delightful, scrumptious dessert with pie crust and refreshing fruits (\$4.35), giving it a surprising blend of sweet and tangy flavour.

The concept of Sumo Yankee comes from Hawaii, where marriages between native Hawaiians and Japanese gave birth to a unique type of cuisine which Sumo Yankee tries to emulate. "We want Sumo Yankee to be perceived not only as a restaurant, but also as a tourist

attraction ... an oriental Hard Rock Cafe," says Della Lee, business development manager of Ausland Investments Pte Ltd, the franchisor for Sumo Yankee restaurants.

Located at Holland Village, Sumo Yankee can't be missed. Just look for a humongous sumo wrestler perched on the restaurant's facade.

Sumo Yankee is at 263, Holland Ave.



Bukit Timah Nature Reserve

by Felicia Khoo

Mountain bikers, get your gears prepared for a rough ride. The National Parks Board (NPARKS) has launched the second phase of the mountain bike trail at the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve. This trail is longer and tougher to tackle than Phase 1, challenging bikers to sharper bends and steeper slopes on its 3.7 km route.

The main entrance is at the Visitors' Centre of the Nature Reserve.

According to NPARKS' spokesperson, the trail surrounds the nature reserve and does not cut through it, resulting in less impact on the reserve's flora and fauna. On top of that, secondary forest as well as the abandoned quarry site, act as buffers against any harm the trail might pose to the natural environment.

Although a part of the trail is found in the reserve, R. Subburaj, a conservationist and member of the Nature Reserve Committee, feels that this does not affect the forest. "That part of the reserve (where the trail is found) is a former farming area. I have seen the trail and the plants are not destroyed in the process of creating the track."

If you're keen on group cycling expeditions, check out *Bike N Hike* at the Rail Mall on Upper Bukit Timah Road. The shop is a five-minute cycle from the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and rents out mountain bikes at \$7 per hour.

Bike N Hike, 382 Upper Bukit Timah Road, offers a concessionary rate of \$5 per hour



for mountain bike rentals and a 10% discount off all biking items (except items on sale) exclusively for NP students. Simply show your student pass to qualify. Offer valid till 30 June '96. For more information, contact Michael Tan at 763 8382.

With graduation finally here, Felicia Khoo looks at how some movies have portrayed the momentous occasion.....Hollywood style.



WITH HONORS

Life is all about graduating with honours to Harvard student, Monty (Brendan Fraser), until he runs into a bum, Simon (Joe Pesci), who picks up his thesis paper, intending to use it as fuel for his fire. Demanding food and shelter in exchange for a page of his paper at a time, Monty is forced to take the bum in.

What follows is the experience of a lifetime for Monty. During Simon's stay with him, Monty realises that life can sometimes be very unforgiving and one wrong step could lead to regrets. With Simon's guidance, Monty emerges wiser and more mature in his outlook of life.

While Fraser's insipid performance is worth giving this movie a miss, Pesci saves it with his warm and hilarious portrayal of the ostracised bum.



REALITY BITES

Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke head the cast in this Generation X film which tells the trials and tribulations of four friends after graduation. First-time director Ben Stiller, also plays the role of a yuppie TV network executive who falls for Lelaina Pierce (Ryder).

Lelaina is a fresh graduate confused with the choices she has to make. Ryder plays a believable "freshie" trying to strike it on her own. Not taking a back seat is Hawke who plays her brooding and philosophical friend, Troy.

The incorporation of raw home video type footage filmed by Lelaina provides an insight into the characters' thoughts and feelings about love, marriage, and contemporary issues like Aids and homosexuality.



ST. ELMO'S FIRE

St. Elmo's deals with themes of love, marriage and career choices. It is also a chance to catch Demi Moore, Emilio Estevez and Andie MacDowell in their early days.

A motley group of seven friends (Wendy, Jules, Leslie, Kirby, Billy, Kevin and Alec) are incapable of coping with the pressures of life after graduation. Yearning for the good, old college days, they fight a losing battle trying to deny the changes taking place in their lives as their friendships sour. Eventually, the group manages to put aside their differences and patch things up.

The big cast provides a variety of characters to the movie, but it is unfocused as there are too many players in the story.



THE GRADUATE

Put a bold and sophisticated older woman together with a fresh, male college graduate and you have the affair that constitutes the basic plot to the classic 1967 movie, *The Graduate*.

Based on the novel, *The Graduate* at 25, the cast includes Anne Bancroft, Dustin Hoffman and even former US president, Ronald Reagan (he plays a cameo role).

Hoffman plays Benjamin Braddock, a college graduate with a bright future who succumbs to the seduction of Mrs Robinson (Bancroft), the wife of his father's business partner.

The plot thickens when the Robinsons' daughter, Elaine, (Ross) falls in love with Ben (much to Mrs Robinson's chagrin) and eventually marries him.



hype / CATNAY GOLDEN VILLAGE FILMS

NIXON



FOR

PROMOTION

- Redeemable only on Monday through Wednesday, excluding public holidays, school holidays or films marked "No Free List"
- Valid for Yishun, Bishan, Tiong Bahru, Boon Lay, Tampines Mall 8 and Cathay
- This voucher has no cash value, is not exchangeable and must be taken as offered
- Free ticket must be for same show (ie. same film, date and time) as purchased ticket



NIXON

The personal and political life of America's 37th President is examined by director Oliver Stone in this biographical movie on Richard Nixon.

Academy Award-winning actor, Sir Anthony Hopkins, stars in the title role supported by a strong cast including Joan Allen, James Wood, Ed Harris and Bob Hoskins.

Despite losing the 1960 presidential election to John F. Kennedy, Nixon made a remarkable comeback six years later to win two terms as President.

The producers consulted a myriad of memoirs, government documents, tape-recorded conversations, investigative works and oral history compiled over the last 40 years. **Ross Gan**



MUPPET TREASURE ISLAND

"Yo-ho-ho" with the muppets' in their latest adventure. Loosely based on Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale, 'Muppet Treasure Island' features over 400 muppets.

Set in the 18th century, the story unfolds when a young boy, Jim Hawkins, (Kevin Bishop) is given a treasure map by a mysterious sailor. Jim sets out with his friends Gonzo and Rizzo to recover his prize, joined by Captain Smollett (Kermit), Squire Trelawney (Fozzie) and the mutinous Long John Silver (Tim Curry).

The adventure leads them to an island inhabited by a tribe of warthogs and ruled by jungle goddess, Benjaminina Gunn (Miss Piggy) where things heat up. **Ross Gan**



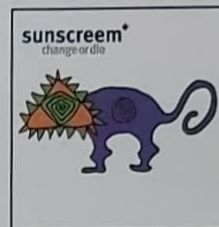
MR. WRONG

Fans of the hit Emmy-nominated TV sitcom 'Ellen' won't want to miss Ellen DeGeneres' first feature film.

Martha Alston (DeGeneres) is a 30-something talent co-ordinator for a local TV talk-show, who finds herself under pressure to tie-the-knot when her younger sister gets married. She subsequently meets a seemingly wonderful man, Whitman Crawford (Bill Pullman).

As Martha gets to know Whitman, she realises that he's not the 'one'. Unfortunately, Whitman has already fallen in love and becomes obsessed with her. Nothing can dampen Whitman's passion and Martha's life spirals out of control as she gets harassed, humiliated and thrown in jail. **Ross Gan**





**SUNSCREEN
CHANGE OR DIE**

This brilliant dance album from the Essex-based sextet fuses the best of synth-pop and trance. The fruit of 15 musicians and the production wizardry of DJ Gary Bailey, the project is 58 minutes of uplifting dance music.

The feathery lilt of vocalist Lucia Holms, which carries this album along, ascends to a choral tribute set to throbbing synth groove coasting the frequencies on 'Syclik' and takes on a rich torch song-timbre to battle harsh, grating techno on 'For Maddened Prophets'. Bits of house find their way into 'Looking At You' and the general high-energy of the album breaks for some oriental subtlety with Thai bells on 'Cheng Cheng'. The highest point on this stellar release would be the cut "When", a joyous celebration of unity. Music for glorification. **P.Lingam**

The groove is a hodge-podge of pounding samba drums, elements of pared down jungle rhythms, and touches of triphop beats. Quirky darkness of the standout track 'Butterfly 747' with its pounding groove and kicking jungle beats showcases the dance ethic of the band. Brings to mind a very black and funky Portishead. **P.Lingam**



PAST IMPERFECT

In this book, established historians and academics, including Gore Vidal, Stephen E. Ambrose and Arthur Schlesinger Jr. critically review the accuracy of many historical Hollywood movies. Through a collection of 60 essays on such classics as 'Gone With the Wind', 'Mutiny On The Bounty', and 'Gandhi', real history meets reel history.

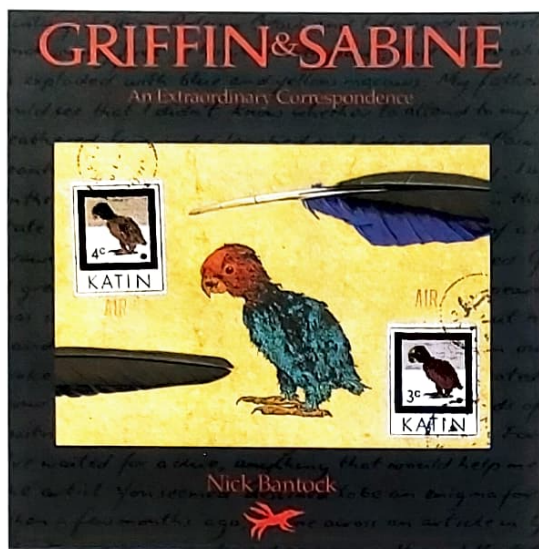
Each review is accompanied by detailed side-bars on motion-picture trivia and historical facts.

According to the author, historical films have become important documents reflecting the social concerns of the day. The 1967 movie 'Bonnie and Clyde' for instance, was based on the exploits of an infamous couple who killed at least a dozen people while robbing banks, petrol stations and grocery stores across America during the Great Depression. It also addressed '60s themes of youth revolt and women's liberation.

While 'Mercury Falling' disappoints with the lack of hit material, it's still an album for all die-hard Sting fans.

A must-read for all movie and history buffs. **Ross Gan**

GRIFFIN AND SABINE



This is an extraordinary book indeed; the story takes the 3-D form of letters and postcards between an artist, Griffin Moss, and his mysterious 'soul-mate' Sabine Strohem. The couple's actual letters are nestled within envelopes, inviting the reader to physically unfold them and intrude on their relationship. Beautifully illustrated, the author/artist cleverly marries art and prose to present a novel reading experience.

The book begins when Griffin receives a cryptic postcard from a woman he has never met, containing a private detail of his work and signed simply: Sabine. Griffin becomes intrigued and perhaps wary — who is this stranger and how did she get to

know his secrets? He learns that she is also an artist who illustrates stamps for an island in the Caribbean, and a big fan of his work. Sabine continues to have visions of his art pieces from thousands of miles away, and slowly but surely Griffin falls desperately in love with her enigma. His logical world crumbles as he fails to make sense of the ephemeral love affair's surreal setting.

As the author uses only his characters' correspondence to tell the story, you are left guessing what exactly happened to Griffin and Sabine. This book is partly a mysterious romance, partly a showcase of the author's wonderfully lush artwork. **Rachel Goh**

RUNAWAY DIARY OF A STREET KID

Unsettling and uncompromising, this autobiographical diary of then 14-year-old Evelyn Lau demands your empathy with her brutally honest writing. The title itself is a poignant summary. After years of forced submission by her repressive Canadian-Chinese family, she breaks free and runs away to the streets, only to discover new shackles. This book chronicles her painful two-year journey from honour roll student to druggie hooker, displaying a writing maturity that far exceeds her age.

Caught in a complex welfare system, she is shuttled between shelter homes and attended to by countless social workers. Yet in a determined self-destructive manner, she stays only long enough each time to get money for alcohol, drugs or temporary company.

An aspiring writer since she was 10, Evelyn Lau has won writing competitions and been published in literary magazines. But in this journal — filled with observations of a harsh reality that many of us are too fortunate to experience — her childish desperation and weakness contrasts sharply with the independent strength of her writing style. **Rachel Goh**

SPYCRAFT

You are a CIA agent. Codename: Thorn. The task of maintaining world peace is on your shoulders as you are sent to infiltrate a web of spies bent on world domination.

Enter the world of 'Spycraft: The Great Game'. A Presidential candidate has just been assassinated at a political rally and sources say the President himself could be the next target. You are recalled to undergo gruelling intelligence, equipment and firearms training at CIA headquarters before being assigned the mission of uncovering the conspiracy.

Developed in collaboration with the late ex-director of the CIA, William Colby, and former major-general of the KGB, Oleg Kalugin, the game makes use of 35mm film and even stock footage from the CIA. Spectacular graphics and realistic sound effects make 'Spycraft' more of an interactive movie.

On the whole, 'Spycraft' offers great entertainment with its riveting storyline.

Melvyn Goh
PC CD-ROM/Macintosh
Distributed by New Era Interactive



KNIGHT'S CHASE

From the makers of the 'Alone in the Dark' trilogy, comes 'Knight's Chase', a fantasy adventure where you play a young American law student in Paris trying to save your fiancée from the clutches of the evil fox, Wolfram. You travel back in time to medieval 1329, looking to save your fiancée and you hope, the last of The Knights Templar, an order of knights that is being wiped out by Wolfram.

Your main task is to explore every nook and cranny of castles and secret dungeons, looking for clues that lead you to your missing fiancée.

Pressing 'enter' toggles your character between combat mode and search mode — which can be quite a nuisance when an unexpected assailant attacks you and you're in the wrong mode to retaliate.

Although the quality of graphics is impressive and the game doesn't require much memory (8Mb RAM), 'Knight's Chase', with only one scenario for gameplay, has little replay value.

Melvyn Goh
PC CD-ROM
Distributed by Telahin Enterprises

RED GHOST

Reality bites in 'Red Ghost', where missions run in real time and you will have to make critical combat decisions in seconds. One wrong move and you'll find your troops in complete disarray. You command an elite fighting force (Special Tactical Action Group), handling missions such as destroying enemy installations, capturing prisoners and releasing hostages.

Running in a format much like the popular 'Command and Conquer' (although piling in comparison), Red Ghost puts you in control of providing your personnel with the appropriate equipment as well as developing a strategic plan for each mission.

Aside from impressive graphics, the game also has the added feature of letting you pilot a combat helicopter, for taking out enemy targets on the battlefield.

Melvyn Goh
PC CD-ROM
Distributed by Telahin Enterprises



DOGZ

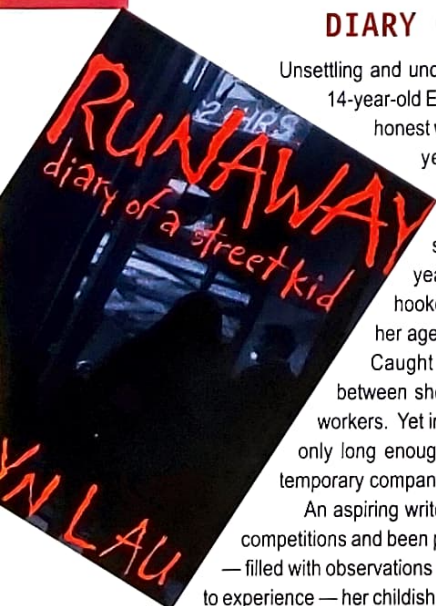
How much is that doggy on the desktop? This interactive screen-saver lets you have man's best friend in your computer to keep you company while you work.

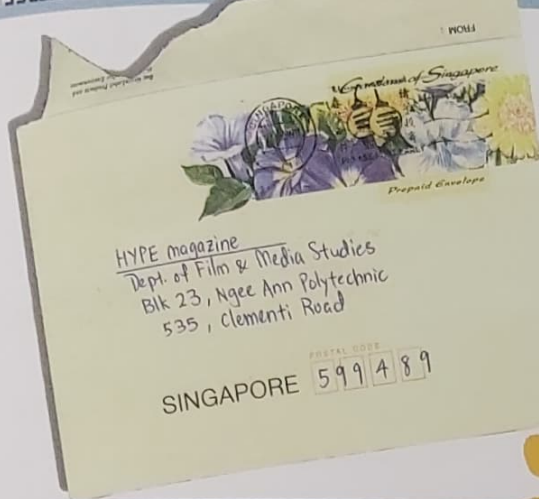
Besides having a goggled-eyed mutt running all over your applications, this novel program also allows you to groom, play and feed more than five breeds of Dogz.

Another feature is the password protection function that prevents people from reading your private documents. Change the colour of your Dogz's fur for some laughs or take photographs of your pet Dogz in action when it is gambols across your screen and save them on your computer to print out later.

Speakers and sound cards are not a must, considering that barks and whines are all you get. Essentially a stress-reliever, Dogz breaks the monotony of your work and provides novel entertainment.

Felicia Khoo
PC CD-ROM
Distributed by New Era Interactive





Dear Hypies,

I am not hip. It's sad, but it's true — so, tragically, I don't think you'd want to give me any prizes. I do however have some suggestions.

Your previews aren't very good. I'm not sure how you chose the stuff but its not well-balanced. They are mostly movies that haven't come to Singapore yet — good for previews but I'd rather see a few good Smong (remember him? Live on Five?) style reviews on movies that are already around so I can rush off and watch it the moment I've heard your opinions. The computer game reviews are also a little skimpy. I am a big fan of gaming and I've never heard of "Wipeout". Why not get more well-known stuff like Wing Commander IV, or if that's a little out of your league, how about stuff like The Dig? The Real Goodies? And how about some fantasy book reviews?

Three nitty-gritty gripes now. First, the colours. Most of it was good — I liked the black and white "Do it Yourself" section — but some of it was garish, verging on downright obnoxious. The pink and yellow for "Unplugged" was eye-watering. And the yellow for the X-page was bad. Secondly — the size. I notice your tagline is "Singapore's Biggest Campus Magazine", so I'm awfully sorry to say this, but the mag is really too big. NP students are a fashionable lot! We carry all these teensy bags and there's no way we can cram such a huge mag in. You don't have to make it A4 size but just make it small enough to be fairly portable. Otherwise, you'll get people picking it up, reading it, then tossing it into the garbage — or worse, not bothering to pick it up at all. Thirdly, I suggest you use a Serif font. The font you're using now looks like Arial. It's a nice font but in a hip 'n cool magazine called Hype, it's a little off-putting to be confronted with Jurong Country Club Annual Report-style font.

Now, allow me to soothe any ruffled feathers with a bit of praise. Great interview segment, I don't just mean Moses and Vernetta — Jean Danker's bit was pretty interesting too. That's one part I really hope you'll be able to keep up. The X-page was very cool, despite the colour, and Unplugged was quite well-written.

Okay, so that bit of praise wasn't all that uplifting. Sorry about that. All in all, I think Hype's off to a pretty good start and I hope you'll be outrageously successful.

Boey Mei Han

Film and Media Studies Dept.

ED: Thanks for your constructive criticism (ouch!) and suggestions. However, the idea behind previews is to give the reader a taste of what's to come, implying movies that haven't opened yet. Personally, I couldn't stand Smong! I do hope you'll find this issue an improvement though we're not about to change our size. Teensy bags are a sad, HYPE (we hope) isn't. And besides, what's with all the bimbo-sized bags anyway, shouldn't you have space for textbooks? I'm glad that despite our size, I haven't seen any copies of HYPE in campus garbage cans (I checked). Anyways, thanks again and congratulations! Yumm... don't be afraid to pig out y'hear.

Hello to all hip hype editors!

The last issue was really interesting with lots of juicy stuff and info(I actually went down to search for Sunset Bay the following Saturday after I read it in 'Time Out'). The X-page is also a good bundle that shouldn't be missed — at least I found out how to eat ice-cream and at the same time ease my conscience and tell myself that I am part of the green movement.

However, I think that readers' participation is really important to keep the magazine alive. So, encouraging people to send jokes, articles or their experiences may not be a bad idea (People! Better respond!).

On the whole, HIP! HYPE! HOORAY! for you guys. It was a really good effort. I hope the issues will keep coming 'cos it's things like this that help brighten up campus life.

Karen Hadassah

Business Studies Department.

ED: Whoa! You actually took 'action' after reading 'TimeOut'. Thank you for your encouragement and responsiveness, afterall our job is to serve people like you, our readers. Unfortunately, we haven't been getting as much participation as we'd like. We really want to hear more of people from other departments (a large majority of letters came from FMS students). Hopefully, HYPE can be more interactive in the future, especially if NP students begin to identify with the magazine. Hope you enjoy the food voucher!

Dear Hype,

Congrats on the successful launch of your first issue. The magazine is great stuff. Its colourful, informative, hip and FREE! I particularly enjoyed the X-page, Time Out, and Previews and Reviews sections. The features and Interview were great too.

But, how about a greater variety for In Your Face such as articles on fashion trends, sports events and news.

Also, how about additional sections on health and fitness, hobbies, technical products, community service projects for youths, and a PC column for computer buffs.

I look forward to the next issue. Outstanding piece of work!

Robby Lim

Film and Media Studies Dept.

Dear Hype,

Okay, here's what I like and don't like about Hype. I like your contents page. I especially like the editorial. "A Rose By Any Other Name" was informative and timely for Valentines Day. I like the Swatch section and the gaudy MTV centrefold. The DIY feature was well-written. So bold, so unconventional. And finally, my praises for the designers. Excellent job.

Now for some swipe. The movies, music and book reviews and the calendar at the back can be improved. Can't wait for the next issue!

Laurent Leong

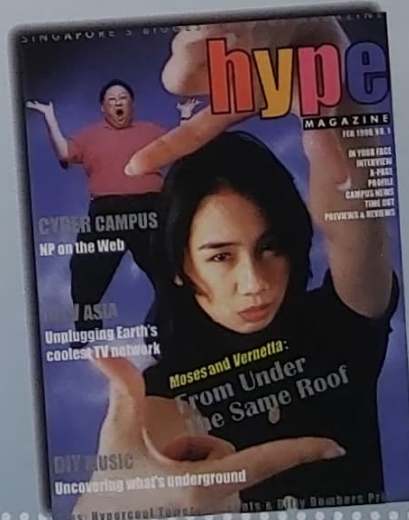
Film and Media Studies Dept.

Hello Hype,

Overall the magazine was great. Very original. Very colourful. Very informative. However, it would look better if the articles on page 19 were presented vertically, not slanted in a haphazard manner. It is such a tedious task to keep turning the magazine every time you need to read a certain article. Also, the layout and design for page 4 was excessively claustrophobic.

Kilian Tan Kuaen Ping

Building Department.



WIN A SWATCH!

Here's your chance to win one of two hyper-hip 'Sina Nafasi' Swatches from the Ethnosense collection courtesy of SMN South East Asia (Singapore) Pte Ltd. Just keep those letters coming in and the two best will each win a timepiece.

Contest Details: Please include your full name, address, telephone number, student number and department.

Mailing Address: HYPE Magazine, Department of Film and Media Studies, (Blk 23), Ngee Ann Polytechnic, 535 Clementi Road, Singapore 599489.

Contest open only to students of Ngee Ann Polytechnic except HYPE editorial team. Closing date is 1 Sept '96.

The Editor reserves the right to edit letters to fit. Winners will be notified by post.

Fore Thought

At the threshold as we stand,
the world lies pregnant in our hands.

Reflecting a time that we have spent,
then cast with aspirations,

we are empowered today

for a journey that lies ahead

to pursue our expectant destiny.

Lest we forget the passages of rite,

the friendships we have made,

the knowledge we have gained,

remember the saplings we once were

with care we were nurtured to grow.

From hence there is no stopping us

in the gestation of our dreams

as we face the reality of our graduation.