

SINGAPORE'S BIGGEST CAMPUS MAGAZINE

hype

MAGAZINE

April 1998 No.6

futurescape

Inside:

Brace yourself as we take you into the next millennium.

Plus:

Jars of Clay, Caleb Goh & Simon Lim confess.

Exclusive **GODZILLA** premiums plus freebies from Warner Music & Borders.

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hypertension

The recession in Asia began, The Straits Times was revamped, the haze is poised to return in May, the Titanic won 11 Oscars and Leonardo DiCaprio has yet to hit puberty. Those are just some of the things that have happened in the first half of 1998. Many can't imagine how the rest of the year will be like, not to mention the future.

However, WE dare to dream and visualise. With the millennium going to hit us right smack in the face, there's been much buzz as to what might or might not happen when the year 2001 arrives (Yes! The millenium actually starts in 2001, not 2000).

HYPE has gone through a deep creative process and we present to you our vision of the near future and what to expect. Read about prophecies, religious or secular, related to the millennium and find out about cloning from a fresh local perspective.

On the lighter side of things, HYPE presents to you possible lifestyles of the future – will we live like the Jetsons, zipping around in futuristic space cars? And you'll have a laugh reading about the "10 things we aren't looking forward to in the future".

Let's not forget the Internet. Amid all the overexposure on this exciting medium, innovative websites must lurk somewhere in the nether regions of cyberspace. We've found those sites and compiled them in "dotcom".

It may seem like it, but we aren't entirely gripped with millennium fever. No, not at all. In our new pull-out section, HYPED, our honest opinions on books, movies, music and eating places just might show you how to have a good time.

But most importantly, the millennium is about us – human beings. Our achievements, failures, past glories, future triumphs. Just 30 odd years ago, it was "impossible" to fly to the moon – but the world watched in awe as Neil Armstrong took a giant leap for mankind. With "not possible" having been proved "possible", it's definitely going to be exciting times ahead for us mortals. No doubt, you'll read about the end of the world, hear about the destruction of countries by nuclear warfare and watch cheesy "alien autopsy" videos, but frankly, we think that the earth's got a chance.

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Entering The Hung Gate by darren ng

"The first duty of a brother is to honour his parents. It is forbidden to abuse his brothers and parents, and if he should be so dishonourable as to break this law, may he, within a month, be drowned in the ocean, his flesh float on the surface of the waters, and his bones be buried in the ocean bed."

The above is a translation of the first oath from the initiation ritual of the Ghee Hin Kongsi Secret Society. Ghee Hin who? Well, enter **The Hung Gate** at the National History Museum and you'll learn all about this and other Chinese Secret Societies in Singapore.

The exhibition boasts a complete set of original items used during the initiation rituals in the 1820s, (presented in constructed scenarios based on original drawings of the process). These artifacts include a sword, numerous flags, three "tung" coins, an umbrella, a lamp, a mirror, two pagodas, a white paper fan and a pair of grass sandals.

Upon entering the exhibition space, you can even take part in your own initiation ritual to become a secret society member! Just follow the instructions posted on the pillars and memorise all the 36 oaths to be taken throughout the process. And if you're even the least bit tempted to become a secret society member, spare a few minutes to watch a video presentation on the dangers of becoming one. The blood shed and mindlessness of these people should soon deter you.

If you are baffled by the reasons behind the awful dress sense of today's Ah Bengs and Ah Lians, look to the Hungs. They just might have the answers as to why gangsters nowadays swear by Versa-chee, Gass?, and Soo-nia Leekell.

Entering The Hung Gate is on till July at National History Museum, 93 Stamford Road. Opening hours: 9am to 5.30pm daily except Monday. Student admission is \$1.50.

Balls! by melvin tan

Balls! It's about the "macho thing", about being a man, having friends, and playing with it. Football, that is. That's the title of Singapore Repertory Theatre's next play, taking a fresh and lighthearted look at guys and their obsession with soccer.

With the historic 1994 Malaysia Cup final, when Singapore trashed Pahang, as its setting, the story revolves around three Singaporean soccer-crazed friends who take their fantasies off the field into the office and their bedrooms, much to the displeasure of their girlfriends.

Directed by Lim Kay Siu, **Balls!** kicks off on 23 April and runs through to 10 May at the DBS auditorium. The cast include Alex Tok, who acted in the original staging of **Army Daze**, Bonnie Sta Maria, who first made an appearance at the TCS Fame Awards and Daniel York, who was the first Asian to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

But if soccer isn't your goal in life, Singapore Repertory Theatre which previously staged **Golden Child** and **Kiss of the Spiderwoman**, has two other plays lined up for the first half of 1998.

Positive Attitudes, Ovidia Yu's play based on true Singaporean confessions about living and loving with HIV, will be staged by Ivan Heng in May. And come July and August, get ready to be invited to **Ah Kong's Birthday Party**, a night of theatre involving drama and food at the Orchard Parade Hotel. It will feature some of Singapore's funniest and most famous faces, such as Neo Swee Lin, Tan Kheng Hua and Lim Kay Siu. Created by Dick Lee and Ivan Heng, it will be the duo's first official collaboration.

Call Singapore Repertory Theatre at 2215585 for dates and ticketing details on all the above events.



Visages: Ten Years of Trimurti by dabbia lau

Hinduism, Islam and Taoism are three very different beliefs embracing various Gods and ideals, with one crucial similarity - the triumph of good over evil.

Come 21 November, the Singapore Art Museum will unveil **Visages: Ten Years of Trimurti**, an art exhibition which will feature paintings, sculptures, installations and performances drawn from Hindu, Islamic and Taoist philosophies. Trimurti is a Sanskrit term which shows that different ideals and traditions can co-exist in harmony.

Organised by graduates from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, the exhibition is set to be a milestone in the development of contemporary art in Singapore. The exhibition will showcase artwork inspired by personal religious beliefs but is presented in a way which displays the unity of our diverse cultures.

A selection of works completed by various artists over the last decade will also be featured, with key examples that will illustrate continuity as well as a change of concepts and styles after **Trimurti**.

The exhibition begins on 21 November and will run till 21 February 1999. The Singapore Art Museum is located at 71 Bras Basah Road (the former SJI) and is open everyday from 9am to 5.30pm (except Mondays). Entrance fees are \$3 for adults and \$1 for children.



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Buddhist Society Annual Camp

A "spiritual" experience lies in wait for those interested in joining this year's **Buddhist Society Annual Camp**. The three day-two night camp will be held from May 9 to May 11 and is open to members and non-members of the society.

A host of activities have been planned for those who sign up for the camp, including games and singing sessions, meditation as well as Dharma discussions which centre around the teachings of Buddha. The highlight of this year's camp involves a light procession during Vesak Day itself.

Celebration plans include the bathing of the Buddha, in which a statue of the Buddha is placed in the pond and campers can scoop water off the pond to pour over the statue. Also known as "Kwan Yok", "Yok Bul", and "Kwan Jung", the process of bathing the Buddha symbolises congratulations to the Buddha on his birth. In carrying out these rites, the people are also praying for a quick awakening to Buddha's teachings.

Other activities include chanting of prayers, as well as a talk given by monks and nuns invited by the society. They will also lead the contingent present on Dharma discussions and other rituals.

The main aim of this camp is to let members and non-members having better knowledge of the Dharma as well as to serve as an annual gathering of the society's members. This year's camp promises to be a fun as well as spiritual experience.

Those interested can approach the Buddhist Society at Blk 73, #03-06 and registration costs are at \$15 for non-members and \$10 for members.

NPB
by wesley teo

2nd India Immersion Programme

It'll be "Goodbye Singapore!" and "Hello India!" come this June holidays for students from our ECE, EE, ME and TCQ departments as they embark on the **Second India Immersion Programme**. This study trip, which will take them to Bangalore, located at the southern tip of India, will give the students a chance to broaden their horizons.

Reputed to be the "Silicon Valley of Asia", Bangalore will play host to a group of about 30 second and third-year students who will be accompanied by three of their lecturers from the polytechnic. The trip follows the success of the first programme in 1997. The polytechnic has since formed a collaboration with BMS College of Engineering in Bangalore - where the students will be studying - to continue future programmes.

During their stay, students can look forward to special lectures and seminars by industrial experts, industrial tours and even hands-on training experience relevant to their area of study. They will also be exposed to the culture of Bangalore - its people, their living environment and of course, their rich and colourful religion and traditions.

According to Mr. Anthony Khoo, Vacation Training International Liaison Unit, "Vacation Training there are no special requirements expected of the students participating in this programme except that they must have a heavy subsidised the cost of the trip, which covers lodging, meals and transportation, the students will still be required to pay about \$2000. The trip, which is expected to last three weeks, will begin on June 14 and end on July 2. Although the polytechnic has heavily subsidised the cost of the trip, which covers lodging, meals and transportation, the students will still be required to pay about \$2000. The trip, which is expected to last three weeks, will begin on June 14 and end on July 2. Bangalore, India, here we come!

by gina ann sebastian



Forget garage bands, boy bands, and Barbara Streisand.

Debbie Lau

introduces you to the **Music** you'll be loving - **Electronica**

The sound of the future is already in our midst, just open up your ears, clean out the ear wax and pay attention.

The music scene is notoriously fickle, but as the beginning of a new century approaches, an electrifying brand of music is taking centre-stage.

So what constitutes electronica? Well, heard of drum & bass, jungle, big beat, and trip hop? They are all subsets of electronica. With drum and bass, you can expect the wild beats of Goldie, Roni Size, Phatek and Adam F, while trip hop worships the cool sounds of Portishead, Massive Attack and Howie B.

It's interesting to note that jungle and drum & bass are essentially the same thing. Modified from its roots in hard-core techno, jungle encompasses almost every musical flavour of the dance floor. The characteristic trademark of drum & bass has been described by Rob Green of **The Mix** magazine, as "Slow dubby basslines and manic, pitched-up breakbeats of jungle."

Music trends change from decade to decade, but as the beginning of a new century approaches, an electrifying brand of music takes centre-stage.

Loosely-termed as electronica, this genre of music is a native of the UK underground dance scene, and with the success of bands like Prodigy, the Chemical Brothers and Goldie, the excitement has only just begun.

Making its presence felt only in the last few years, electronica is a term used by Americans to brand and market electronic dance music coming out of the U.K. But more importantly, it's a new breed of music built on soundscapes of drum beats, infectious bass lines and grooves that will make you move. In fact, there are bands who refuse to be categorised in any way as their music defies classification.

Dubbed by Chris Ho (host of local radio programme **Hit Parade**) as the "now sound of the future", Britain's progressive dance music offers sensible glimpses into the future. According to Chris, it could be "strange and baffling at first" to experience music that does not conform to the rules of normal composition, but it becomes a real listening treat if you're willing to open up.

Contrary to popular belief, electronica *is* music, and not just a lame attempt at simulating the real stuff with hi-tech equipment.



Goldie



Chemical Brothers



Phatek



It's really no mean feat to synergise a piece of dance music with intricate sounds by manipulating machines and traditional musical instruments.

For those who still have the notion that electronic music is cold, metallic and unfeeling, what you'll hear on the tracks of bands like Fat Boy Slim, Propellerheads, Phonte and Chemical Brothers, will change that perception. From the underlying drums that are so impossibly real to the tweaky chirps in the background, they have all been thoughtfully programmed by synthesisers and rearranged through effects processors.

An interesting fusion of modern MIDI technology with traditional sounds, electronica also borrows from hip hop, rock and jazz. The

Contrary to popular belief, electronica is music and not just a lame attempt at simulating the real stuff with hi-tech equipment. It's no mean feat to synergise a piece of dance music with intricate sounds by manipulating machines and traditional musical instruments.

elements in these various forms of music are then mixed and blended with electronica's own distinct style - big beats punctuated by break beats.

An important aspect in creating this genre of music is "sampling", and many bands dabbling in electronica swear by it. Sampling is basically recording a particular sound or instrument, and then using it wherever it is needed in the music. The sampled sound may or may not be processed. This "cut and paste" technique is boundless in its possibilities to create and recreate sounds, and that is what

"You wanna go until the thing blows up. It's about getting the adrenaline kick."

- Keith Flint, Prodigy

attracts people like DJ Shadow, David Holmes, Future Sound of London and many others to use it in their music.

"Unlike a keyboard or synth module which only have a certain range of sound options, sampling's only limitation is your creativity," says Case Woo, composer and arranger for Quadmix, a local dance remix team.

Among all the subsets of electronica, the category that is getting a lot of attention is big beat. Known for their addictive drum loops, big beat proponents include bands like The Crystal Method, Fat Boy Slim, Propellerheads and many more. However, it is the Chemical Brothers and Prodigy who can take credit for bringing the good vibrations of this futuristic

dance music to the foreground.

The enigmatic Keith Flint, frontman of the Prodigy, told **Future Music** in an interview that playing the music of Prodigy is like doing 160mph on a motorbike: "You wanna go until the thing blows up. It's about getting the adrenaline kick."

Coming from the original techno rave scene in the UK, Prodigy has given us that phenomenal number one single in 1996, "Firestarter", while Liam Howlett - the brains behind the music - masterminded **The Fat of the**

Land, an album full of smashing hits like "Breathe" and "Smack My Bitch Up". The record hit the number one spot both in the UK and USA.

Liam has since been voted by **Select** magazine as the second most important music person in the world. **Select**'s Steve Cullick has even credited his music for "prophecy the musical world of the next 20 years."

With the success of top bands like Prodigy and the Chemical Brothers, many others have emerged. Bands like Rhythm Ace (BRA), Death in Vegas and Dub Pistols are beginning to be featured on Radio programmes like **Hit Parade** and showcased at clubs like Zouk.

In fact, Singapore's developing music scene has its own Chemical Brothers in the form of Quadmix. Creating a stir in the dance scene here, Quadmix has had a top five hit on the **Perfect 10** with "Trick Rider" from their new album, **Rocking the Third Floor**. This is a clear sign of electronica's far-reaching influence since the Singaporean listener hardly gives a chance to anything that is not mainstream.

Proof that electronica's appeal has extended beyond the dance floors comes in the form of advertisements by Levi's and Adidas who are cashing in on the action. The music of Portishead ("Glory Box") is featured in the latest Levi's ad, while Propellerheads' debut single "Dive" ended up in an Adidas commercial.

We are also hearing big beat dance sounds in movie soundtracks like **Event Horizon**, **Spawn** as well as **The Jackal**. Even the traditional James Bond theme has been given a new lease of life in **Tomorrow Never Dies**, with the electronic treatment by Moby.

Clearly, there is a lot going on for the music of the new millennium, and with more technology, experimentation and innovation, electronica looks poised to make a spectacular leap into the 21st century. And like Chris Ho says, "when the future is here, we would already have been there."

Jars of clay

the quartet from Nashville, Tennessee, popped into town on 23 and 24 January for a two-night concert at the Harbour Pavilion. **Eileen Wee** catches up with lead vocalist, **Dan Haseltine** and talks to him on his sources of inspiration and his relationship with the rest of his bandmates.

We never thought about a year ago that we would be here in Singapore. It's been great to travel a bit more," smiles Dan Haseltine, Jars of Clay's lead vocalist. He was commenting on his band's appearance in Singapore while the rest of his band members were doing their sound checks at the Harbour Pavilion. Unlike most celebrities who put on airs once they achieve stardom, soft-spoken Dan strikes one as a very down-to-earth, approachable guy who generously provides information on himself and his band.

These talented and wholesome Christian contemporary musicians first started off writing and producing songs in college. Their self-titled debut album met with critical acclaim, and went platinum shortly after it attained gold status. The album has now sold over 2 million copies, going double platinum. In Singapore, some of their songs, "Liquid", and more recently, "Crazy Times" have found major success, lingering at the number one spot on local radio for weeks.

All these achievements certainly have not gone to Dan's head as, despite his fatigue, he seems very obliging, answering questions as best he can. After arriving at 1 a.m. and having since gone through two radio and two television interviews, Dan was proving to be very accommodating in revealing his sources of inspiration and his relationships with his other band-mates while they were touring the United States.

"A lot of our inspiration comes through reading a wide variety of books. We pull from different authors their writing techniques," says Dan on what inspires him lyrically. "Musically, our influences come from singer-songwriters like Seal and Sting, artistes creating intelligent pop."

Having toured most parts of the States in the past two years, one wonders if he has ever thought of giving it all up. He says, "Yeah. There were



days when the last thing we wanted to do was get up and do another concert or ever sing again. You get really tired, but you keep moving on because meeting people is still what we enjoy most."

However, he quickly adds: "we are people pleasers and people people. So, I don't think we could ever be just locked in a studio or trapped at home without that

“ Our next record is potentially going to be more aggressive.”

outlet of meeting people and playing for audiences."

Such is the vivacity that led the band to continue with their mission—to act as a bridge between Christianity and pop culture and to break down some boring stereotypes of Christian bands by injecting some fun in their musical styles. Their focus also comes from their friends, pastors and people who have invested time in their friendship.

Their tremendous success comes with a price though. "Being on the road for over two years, dropping out of college, and learning how to deal with our finances was difficult. At times, we felt that the band was about to fall apart as it was so tough to keep the friendship in priority, but after having been through that, our relationships with one another have become stronger and more focused," Dan confesses. "We've now grown more and more like brothers."

Since their formation at Greenville College, Illinois, in 1993, the band performed at cafes and schools before opening for Michael W. Smith and Sting.

"The band has progressed a lot in terms of learning how to live with each other on the road. Musically, we've had a real opportunity to refine our live shows and to try to make it worth seeing for people," says Dan. He also feels that they have matured and improved with the second and latest album, **Much Afraid**, with the addition of electric guitar and better sounding performances, not to mention his increased vocal range as a result of performing at different venues.

Dan's favourite songs from the latest album are "Tea and Sympathy", which is about a struggling relationship between people and "Hymn", a song inspired by old

hymns. "These are the songs that I gravitate towards," professes Dan.

Most of the band's songs reflect on humanity and the fragility of people through vulnerable, honest lyrics. But there is a sense of hope running through their songs, which sets them apart from other bands and earned them respect in the Christian arena.

Dan and the other members of Jars of Clay are also very family-oriented. All of them are married (sorry girls), and they would love to have children in about five years' time. Their professional lives are well-charted as well. "We're trying to stay focused and to write some more songs. Our next record, probably later in the year, is potentially going to be more aggressive," enthuses Dan. The one constant factor is that they will continue to write and play songs for their listeners for as long as possible.

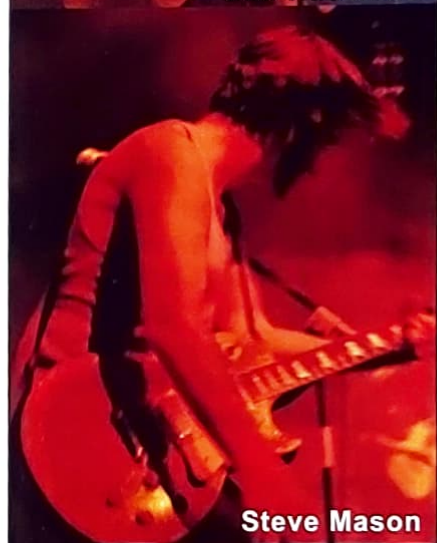
A final parting question: describe Jars of Clay in three words. Dan chuckles, and says, "Silly, clumsy and passionate." With this, he returns to the stage, checks his voice levels and jokes with the rest of the members.

For most, the three words that **“ Being on the road for over two years, dropping out of college, and learning how to deal with our finances were difficult. At times, we felt that the band was about to fall apart as it was so tough to keep the friendship in priority, but after having been through that, our relationships with one another have become stronger and more focused.”**

come to mind when asked to describe them might be "humble", "wholesome", and "obliging". To add to their affable personalities, they're also scoring well on the musical front, as their album, **Much Afraid**, clinched an award in the "Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album" category at the recent Grammy Awards. All in all, Jars of Clay is definitely one band that has the right ingredients that will see them climb to greater heights.



Dan Haseltine



Steve Mason



Scott Savage



Charlie Lowell

Cloning is, in theory, a very simple biological process. It only requires an embryo, the nucleus of a donor cell and an uterus, all of which can be provided by one female. The nucleus in the embryo, which requires the embryo to be "fertilised" with sperm will first be removed. The nucleus of a donor cell is then injected into the embryo to replace the previous nucleus. This embryo will then be put in the uterus, and *voila*, a cloned baby will be on its way nine months later.

Even back in the 1970s when research and studies on cloning started, there were negative reactions from scientists of other scientific fields. The only difference was that the research was not publicised then as it is now. The world only knew about the experiments when Scottish scientist, Dr Ian Wilmut announced that he had successfully cloned a sheep called Dolly in 1997.

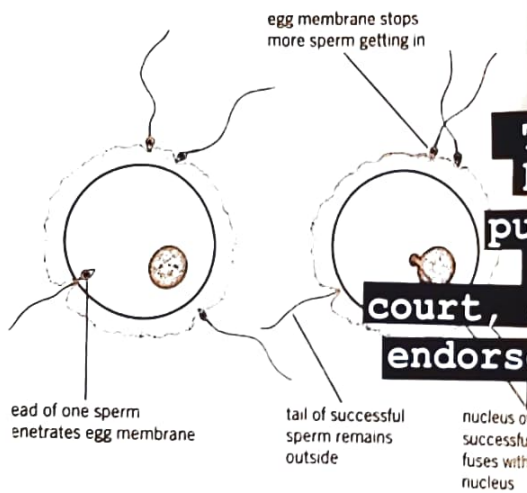
Since the news about Dolly broke, many religious groups around the world - the most vocal have been from the United States and Europe - have been protesting vehemently against the use of similar techniques for human cloning. Many feel that the scientists are "playing God".

United States President Bill Clinton has since taken steps to outlaw human cloning. Within days of the published report on Dolly, he even instituted a ban on federal funding related to attempts to clone human beings. In addition, President Clinton also appointed the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) to report on the ethical and legal issues surrounding the potential cloning of human beings.

European leaders, too, held a meeting at the Strasbourg summit of the 40-nation council of Europe in October last year to support the prohibition of human cloning.

Despite public speculation and fears, a human clone will never be an exact replica of the individual according to experts like Dr. K. Jeyaseelan.

The associate professor from the Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics department at the National University of Singapore says, "Though genetically, we can get an identical human being, the environment plays a part in shaping our characters, giving an entirely different individual."



There are other concerns which have been raised by Michael Mautner, a research professor of Chemistry at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. Mautner worries that cloning will spell an end to the institution of marriage and the need for love and sex. Mautner commented in the journal, *The Futurist*, that if cloning becomes the main mode of reproduction, human evolution will screech to a halt. Cloning will only produce the same genetic makeup of an existing individual, and there will no longer be room for new genetic traits to be born in a human being.

Mautner also mentions that in this age when man is threatened by nuclear and biological warfare, they may eventually explore other environments in space to expand their chances for survival. In order to succeed, people of different genetic traits have to work together to get used to a new environment. Thus, Mautner maintained that the natural mechanism of human evolution must be allowed to continue without the threat posed by human cloning.

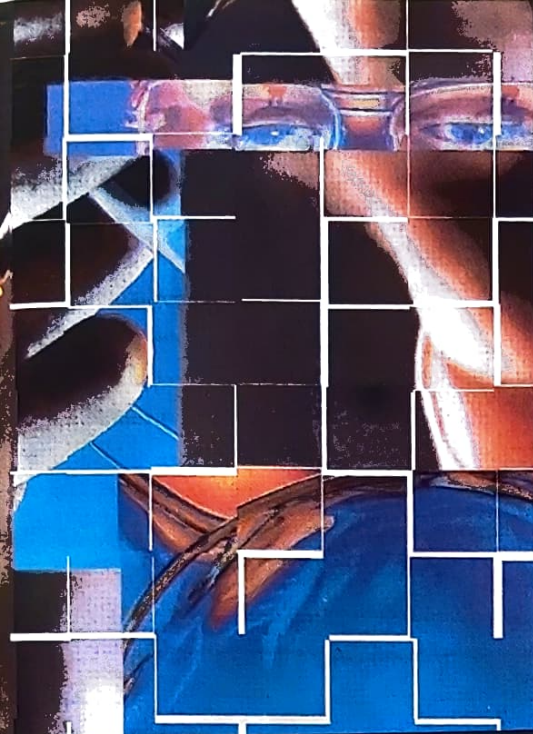


There may be a day in hundreds of Adolf Hit pushing for the extermin thousand Michael Jord court, out-dunking one another endorsements. All these might eventually master the

On the other hand, Dr Jeyaseelan looks at the same issue from a different angle. He feels that human cloning may actually help the human race to venture into space, instead of inhibiting its chances. "Cloning may be the only way, where we don't send the person himself to test the environments of space. It may be emotionally difficult for the human to travel to faraway planets, but to send a clone, it may be easier."

As attractive as this option sounds, it opens up the issue of how a human clone should be treated: as an individual human being or just an inferior carbon copy? If a human clone is to be treated as an individual human being, it will then be as inhuman to send a clone to space for the dangerous task of testing the environment in place of man. This issue of the legal status and rights of human clones is currently being debated in the United States.

Ruth Macklin, a professor of Bioethics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City, feels that human clones



the near future when
 lers walk the streets
 nation of Jews. Or a few
 ans rule the basketball
 er for billion dollar.
 ht become reality when scientists
 art of human cloning.

journal, **Science**, saying that Dr Wilmut did not provide sufficient proof that Dolly was an adult clone. Dr Zinder contends that since Dr Wilmut had used the cell from a dead ewe to clone Dolly, there was no way Dolly can be compared to the ewe to prove that Dolly is indeed an adult clone. Dr Wilmut hopes that by repeating the experiment, such doubts about cloning can be removed, and experiments on human cloning can then continue.

One supporter of human cloning and research is Albert Einstein College of Medicine's Macklin. In her article in **U.S. News**

Sperm + Ovum



scientific information which says that cloning is still not safe enough to be practised on human beings.

Shapiro suggests that federal legislation should prohibit anyone from attempting human cloning for now. But he also adds that federal legislation should review the issue after a specific period of time to decide if human cloning is safe in, for example, five years' time.

Dr Jeyaseelan agrees that studies on human cloning should be allowed to continue. "Instead of banning it, laws can be made to restrict the use of this technology," he adds.

At the moment, Dr Jeyaseelan thinks Singapore should not be involved in the issue of human cloning. "It is a very sensitive issue as we have all kinds of religions and races living in Singapore," says Dr Jeyaseelan. "Moreover, Singapore doesn't tend to get into today's 'hot' issues."

should enjoy the same rights as other human beings. In the journal, **CQ Researcher**, Macklin mentions that legal rights are accorded to every baby who is born, regardless of how they are conceived.

Others like Jeremy Rifkin, President of the Foundation on Economic Trends, feels that the legal system is based on human reproduction, thus giving human clones a different legal status.

Notwithstanding the legal restrictions and all the negative reactions from the government, the public, and the religious sector, research on cloning is still continuing. In fact, Dr Wilmut intends to clone another animal, this time from a cell of a live creature.

He recently announced this decision at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting after Dr Norton Zinder, a microbiologist at New York's Rockefeller University, published a letter in the

& **World Report**, Macklin comments that infertile couples could seek cloning as an alternative. This is especially helpful in circumstances where the husband has a genetic defect. Using human cloning, the couple can have a child that carries at least the genetic traits of the wife.

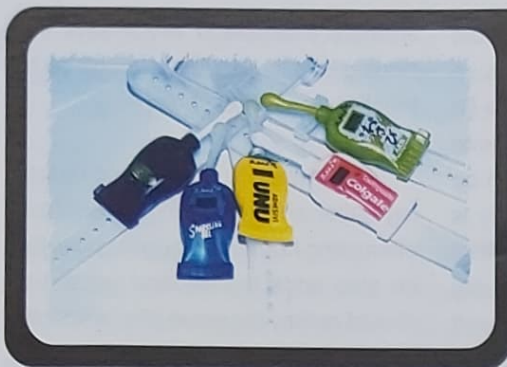
In her article in **Cosmopolitan** magazine, Nicole Noyes, a fertility expert at New York University Medical Centre, says infertile women or couples with genetic defects are not the only ones to benefit from this scientific technology.

Researchers have been looking into using cloning as a means to manufacture human skin, which will benefit burn patients, and generate bone marrow for patients with leukaemia and Hodgkin's disease. Eventually, cloning may even be used to produce whole organs for transplants, which would be a great help for the masses on waiting lists for the short supply of human organs.

Harold Shapiro, chairman of the NBAC, agrees that human cloning should not be written off completely. However, in his report in the journal **Science**, he cites current

According to him, Singapore also lacks scientists of sufficient calibre to venture into the cutting edge of human cloning experiments. "Even if we try, we may not be successful," he adds. In the near future when human cloning is tested to be safe and Singapore feels that human cloning can be beneficial to the people in Singapore and its economy, Dr Jeyaseelan says that Singapore can then weigh its chances of entering into this field. He adds that with time and better understanding of cloning, there will be greater acceptance of the science. Dr Jeyaseelan is also confident that there are many experts in Singapore who can pick up this technology quickly.

Whatever people may feel, one thing is sure: human cloning is not as far-fetched as we imagine and will affect everyone. The human race should learn more about this scientific technology before rejecting the idea completely. Whether human cloning proves to be a scientific boo-boo or a technological marvel, you can be sure we'll hear more of it beyond the next millennium.



Time Warped

Gina Ann Sebastian

The next time you ask someone for the time, he might just whip out a tube of UHU glue instead. Not that he's misheard you, chances are he's wearing a 'Tubey' watch. One of the latest watch sensations to hit town, Zan's 'Tubey' watch from Japan got its unique nickname from what else but its shape – a tube.

Small enough to sit comfortably across your wrist, each 'Tubey' watch comes attached to a transparent plastic strap and even has some coloured paste sticking out of the mouth of the tube just like your regular tube of superglue.

A must-have accessory for the fashionable and the young at heart, it comes in a collection of five different models. The watches can be bought in a variety of bright and

bold colours like lemon yellow and electric blue, and can be passed off as Colgate toothpaste and UHU adhesive glue.

But the best news is that the 'Tubey' watch is guaranteed not to burn a hole in your pocket. Priced at a mere \$1.99, this fun digital timepiece can be found at the One 99 Shop.

So whether it's just to tell the time or simply to add the final touches to an outfit, the 'Tubey' watch should be the one to get the next time you go shopping.

The 'Tubey' watch is available at The Heeren, 260 Orchard Road, Level 4, #03-05. Tel: 835 1080

Heavy Metal Shakespeare

Azreen Noor

What do you get with a box of magnetic pieces with words on them? Hours of fun that could raise your creativity levels to the max! With the Magnetic Poetry Kit, you could just discover your latent ability to create prose, in the most unorthodox way.

Each kit consists of little magnetic pieces with words that you can use to form sentences. Take the kit with you wherever you go. As long as you have a metal surface, the possibilities are endless.

The kits come in several variations such as the Original Poetry kit, the most fundamental one, which offers over 400 words for you to play around with. If your vocabulary grows, there's also the Etetra kit, which contains additional words for the Original kit.

However, the most popular of the magnetic poetry kits is the "romance" version, which contains words suited to form romantic poems, such as "love", "marriage", "madly", "sincerely" and even 'foreplay'. For the person who is constantly on the go, there is the Magnetic Poetry Composition Journal, which comes complete with a metal folder. As for those who are not so poetically inclined, there is the Picasso Kit, which also consists of magnetic pieces, but has components of faces for you to put together instead. The kit also comes in French, German, Italian and Spanish.

The Magnetic Poetry Kit makes a wonderful gift for almost everyone. At least they won't be at a loss for words to thank you!

All variations of the Magnetic Poetry Kit cost \$29.99 at Borders Books and Music, 501 Orchard Road, #01-00 Wheelock Place. Tel: 2357146



Make your mark

Eileen Wee



Move over Neo Print, here comes Stampnomoto, the latest fad from Japan to hit town. This new concept which is currently catching on with Singaporeans, allows you to create an ink stamp with your face on it.

Like its predecessor Neo Print, the Stampnomoto is based on the same principle — that is taking your photo in a booth, after which the photo would be imprinted onto a stamp. One added advantage of Stampnomoto when compared to Neo Print is that the quality is very sharp and clear and can produce up to 200 prints, versus 16 stickers.

There's also a wide variety of designs to choose from. Not only are there a total of 60 different border designs, you can also choose from eight different ink colours. The colours for the casing ranges from light sky blue to saccharine sweet pink and there are even a variety of stickers supplied inside the Stampnomoto packaging for that personal touch.

The Stampnomoto booths are attractively designed and are conveniently located at most video arcades to cater to teenagers and young couples who like to stamp their pictures on greeting cards, letters and envelopes.

Gauging from the success of the Stampnomoto in Japan, there is no doubt that Stampnomoto-mania in Singapore will last for a long time. Even if it does not, Stampnomoto is definitely one novelty that is hard to miss and is incredibly addictive. Don't say we didn't warn you!

Stampnomoto machines can be found at Takashimaya S.C. Level 5 arcade. Each Stampnomoto costs \$6.

Drive-time music

Debbie Lau

Picture having hundreds of dollars worth of records scratched beyond redemption, all because of your little brother's active imagination of seeing the plastic grooves on vinyl as a racing track for his toy cars.

However, this unthinkable scenario will not have you breaking out in cold sweat if the toy car is the Vinyl Killer - a zesty little Volkswagen about the size of a fist. Looking just like any other innocent toy car, the Vinyl Killer comes complete with a stylus which can be found in the undercarriage, and built-in speakers at the top. It works on one 9V battery and will make its journey around your record, playing music as a turntable would, and the level of sound quality is comparable to any transistor radio.

In this hi-tech age where CDs and laser discs seem indispensable, Vinyl Killer, far from what its name suggests, may popularise record playing again with its easy and fun-to-use appeal. Just set your record on a flat surface, place the feisty Volkswagen on the desired track, flip a switch by the side of the car door and watch it travel round and round while you jive to the music.

An amusing Japanese innovation, the Vinyl Killer seems more like a child's toy, but it does offer an alternative to the traditional turntables which are usually expensive and generally used by club DJs. Priced at \$125 (COE included), it is definitely a set of wheels worth considering.

Vinyl Killer comes in 3 colours - Yellow, Red & Blue. Priced at \$125, it is available at AudioSports ProShop, located at Paradiz Centre, 1 Selegie Road #01-29.



Light my fire

Ryan Reuben

For an aura of mystique and a dose of the quirky, try using a lava lamp as a night light. Watching the brightly-lit globules of "lava" slowly bob up and down in a darkened room can certainly be a relaxing, if not psychedelic, experience.

The lava lamp is actually a container filled with clear or coloured liquid as well as "lava" (a waxy substance). When switched on, a bulb under the container heats the wax, causing it to rise to the surface.

As it moves higher up, the "lava" cools and starts to fall. The process is then repeated, resulting in constantly changing luminous shapes that have a soothing, almost hypnotic effect. Looking at a lava lamp is certainly one good way to beat stress and take a 'time-out' from these hectic lifestyles of ours. Indeed, you could well stare at one for hours without realising time sneaking right by you.

Made in the US, lava lamps come in a variety of colours like teal, red, blue, purple and black. Other than keeping your eyes glued to the "different phases of lava action", as the makers describe it, they also make interesting conversation pieces for your friends. Plus, they look cool to boot!

The lava lamp costs \$169 and is available from Centro Surplus Store, #02-01, Pacific Plaza, 9 Scotts Road. Opening hours are 10.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. For more information, call 733 8202.

Getting Cornea

Melvin Tan

Just as you're getting used to your neighbour changing her eye colour to suit her moods, she gets you questioning your sanity by planting flower petals over her corneas as well. No, it's not just a figment of your fertile imagination.

Coloured contact lenses and glow-in-the-dark lenses have recently caused a slight revolution to the definition of what we know as eyewear fashion. Now, manufacturers have added a new range to these practical lenses. (Hoping, perhaps to cash in on the flower power revival not too long ago?)

In any case, the petal-designed coloured contact lenses are a sure winner if you 1) have always wanted to change the colour of your eyes and add designs to it, 2) are in a constant dilemma just because your eyes do not match your clothes or 3) can't get enough of yellow sunflowers on every fashion accessory.

Even if you don't fall into any of these categories, you will still have great fun wearing them to your favourite nightspot to achieve the ultimate freakish look. Still, if you look at it a second time, it really isn't all that bad.

So the next time you see that neighbour, try looking her straight in the eye. Who knows, the flower could have blossomed into Tweety bird.

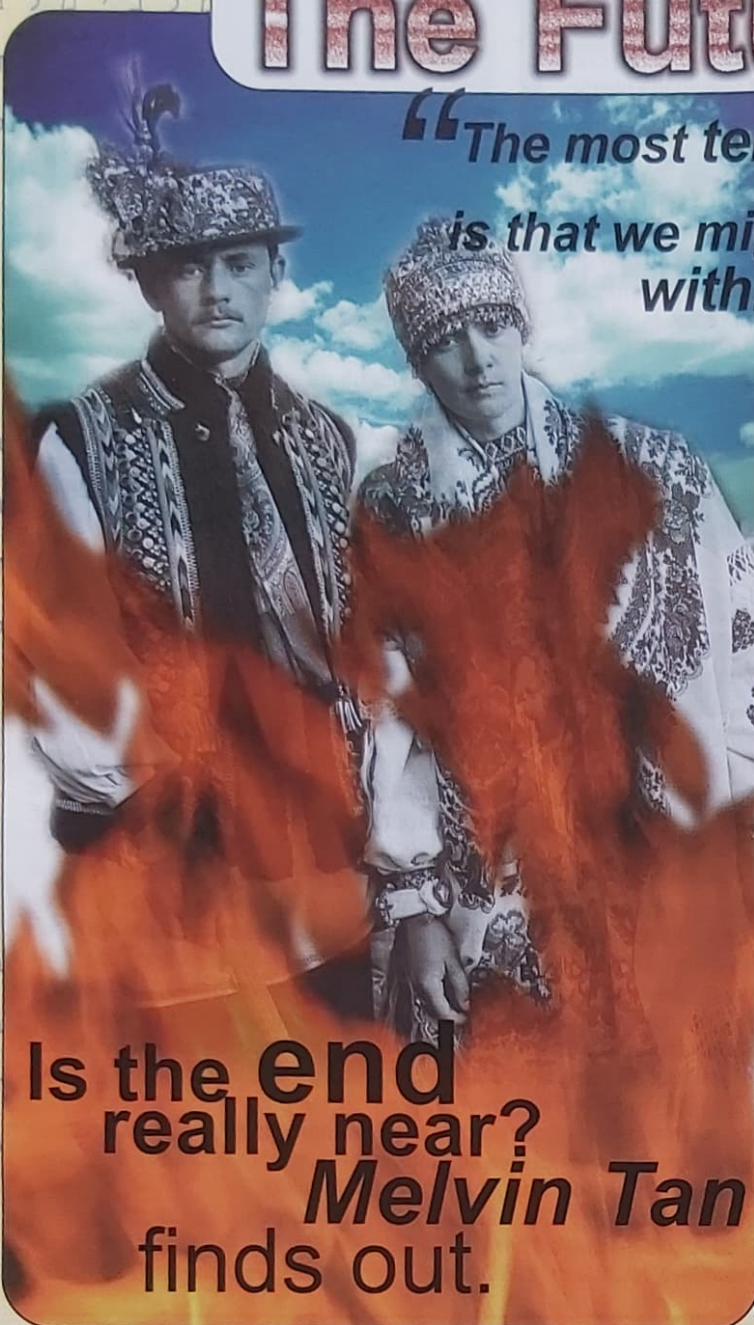
The lenses cost between \$250 - \$400 dollars and are available in 8 different colours from YES - Your Eyewear Specialist, #01-073, Suntec City and other leading optical stores. For more information, call 3325232.



The Future's End

“The most terrible warning encoded in the Bible is that we might face a nuclear world war within the next 10 years.”

- Michael Drosnin, author of The Bible Code



**Is the end really near?
Melvin Tan finds out.**

As the end of this century approaches, there is a steady rise in worldwide anxiety. The year 2001, which seemed to be some far-off future, is suddenly only three years away.

Not only is it the advent of a new century but it is also the beginning of a new millennium. This is a time that is seen and looked upon with many uncertainties as well as excitement. The question is whether we are approaching the beginning of the end of the world or the start of a new form of revolution.

There are a number of people who eagerly anticipate the coming of the new century. They see the potential of advances in science and modern day technology to cure diseases and solve many world problems as a positive outcome of the years ahead.

Others, however, believe that the new millennium will bring devastating changes to the earth and cataclysmic upheavals, which will drastically change the global surface and even bring an end to our existence.

But, because many think that the year 2000 is the dawn of a the new millennium, most of the hype has centred around that magical number instead of 2001.

Joseph Jochmans, author of the **Top 10 Prophecies for the year 2000**, noted that historically, when humanity approaches a year whose number is a round figure, there has been a psychological tendency to see it as a sign of completion, as well as a possible end to life as we know it.

In fact, during the last years before the advent of the year 1000 A.D., the beginning of this millennium was preceded by dire predictions that God was going to destroy the wicked cities and their inhabitants. Not surprisingly, these predictions caused widespread riots and panic. People abandoned their homes and left their crops unharvested. A great number of devout Christians took refuge in churches, while others fled to the Holy Land.

Richard Landes, a professor of medieval history and director for Millennial Studies at Boston University, confirms this: "The medieval period of the year 1000 proves to be rich in apocalyptic ferment."

He notes that the period around 1000 A.D. was a time when intensified activities like mass pilgrimages, waves of collective penance and peace assemblies took place among the people.

Now that the year 2000 A.D. draws near, experts are beginning to make similar observations. Professor Landes adds that it is the fear of the end of all things, and the need to somehow escape an imagined inevitable destruction that cause people to carry out cult-related mass suicides and to believe that aliens are coming down to claim their bodies.

Sociologists call this phenomenon the "millennium madness". The psychological effects of approaching a new millennium come from a deep-seated sense that such a monumental calendar event will surely be matched by a large-scale historical occurrence.

"Consequently, we are on the look out, we become interested in anything which reinforces this belief or suggests what this 'historical event' will be," explains Professor Landes.

Sociologist call this phenomenon - millennium madness.

The psychological effects of approaching a new millennium come from a deep rooted sense that such a monumental calendar event will surely be matched by a large-scale historical occurrence.

their visions for the future. Others are even more believable as they are foretold alongside prophecies that have proven to be true so far.

The Bible Code is one good example. The code is believed to be a 3,000-year-old riddle hidden in the Bible which foretells the occurrence of events thousands of years after it was written. Some detailed predictions were fulfilled to an eerie degree of accuracy.

Predictions which came true include the date of the Gulf War, the date of the planet Jupiter's collision, and the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, which was foretold more than a year before the murder. The author claimed that although he had forewarned Rabin in a letter on Sept 1, 1994, the leader did not believe him and was killed on Nov 4, 1995.

Michael Drosnin, the author of the controversial book says in an interview with America Online, "The most terrible warning encoded in the Bible is that we might face a nuclear world war within the next 10 years. The words "atomic holocaust" and "world war" are encoded in the Bible, and both are encoded with the same two years, the years 2000 and 2006. I think that might be the real Armageddon, but I also believe that we can prevent it from happening."

His argument is that God did not mean for men to know when the end of the world would come, so there are many possible futures that can happen in the years ahead. Does the code then describe an

unavoidable future, or a series of possible futures whose ultimate outcome we can still decide? Of course, no one knows if the Bible code accurately foretells what is yet to come. But the code

may be a warning to this world. The real Apocalypse, a nuclear world war and the destruction of the earth by meteorites, are likely futures described.

This is just one of the many predictions that have surfaced over the past few years. The prophecies of Nostradamus are well regarded as well.

Nostradamus, a famous seer who predicted his own death, and wrote **The Quatrains of Nostradamus** appears to describe a future world of war, famine, death and destruction at first glance! But, this 16th century French prophet actually seems to give choices to mankind in his predictions. He wrote:

At the revolution of the grand seventh number,

Shall appear at times those of massacres,

Not far from the grand millennium,

In which the deceased shall come out of their tomb.

People have interpreted this to mean that he is talking about the end of the world at the coming millennium. This is based on his belief that the earth was created around 4000BC, the seventh millennium that he refers to, would mean the year 2000A.D.

But that's not all that is predicted. In the full version of the quatrains, 'Nostradamus' prophetic visions actually forecast events for the 21st, 23rd, 32nd, 54th and 86th Centuries.

He even offered a counter prediction, against the one stating the year 2000A.D. as doomsday, causing this to be interpreted as not the end of the world but merely one of great change and progression.

All things shall be set into a new order of the ages.

The new century and millennium, (2001) will see an opening to a new way.

Those who have hidden behind masks of lofty power will be utterly changed.

Few will be found who shall remain in leadership.

But his immediate prophecies for the 21st century seem very real and frightening. He talks of a united Muslim attack on France at the beginning of this new century and of the Pope being forced to flee the Vatican with worldwide repercussions.

THE BIBLE CODE

YITZHAK

“At the revolution of the grand seventh number, Shall appear at times those of massacres, Not far from the grand millennium, In which the deceased shall come out of their tomb.”

-Nostradamus

we are approaching a time of significant change. Cayce was an American psychic in the early 20th century who gave a prolific 14,000 'readings' on subjects ranging from health problems to great Earth changes before the end of the present millennium.

Writer and anthropologist Dr. Kathy Callahan believes the anticipated drastic changes will take the form of three interrelated changes affecting the human psyche rather than physical disasters.

In her book **An Evolutionary Perspective on the New Millennium**, Dr Callahan argues that the most significant of changes - besides the geographical shifts foretold by psychic Cayce - will be the development in the sensory perception of the human species, and an evolution in human cognition and consciousness.

It is perhaps this oversensitisation that has got some quarters speculating on the years 1998 and 1999, for example.

1998 can be seen as the number of the devil (recorded in the Bible as 666) multiplied three times. With only these two years left before we head into the 2000A.D., it will not be surprising if more heresies continue to erupt. And if you think 1998 is a scary number, others have argued that 1999 gets even worse. This is because it is a direct inversion of the number 666 with a number one in front to symbolise the supremacy of the 'Beast' or devil. All these again, are just heresies.

Whether it contains any truth remains to be seen but understandably such heresies can have an effect on the minds and thoughts of people.

Leaving behind Bible-believers, both the ancient Mayan and Hopi tribes believe that we are reaching the end of a World Age. According to the Mayan calendar system, the year June 6, 2012, marks the end of our present age of the fifth sun. They think that this will be followed by a shift that will create a New World order.

The Mayans, ancient inhabitants of Central America, believe that a new

era will be marked by the return of the old gods and their civilisation. They feel that they can look to a time when good will finally overcome evil and men will enter a golden age of brotherhood, peace, and remembrance of ancient spiritual knowledge.

On the other hand, the Hopi, a western tribe of Native American origin, consider the swastika, sun, and a red hat and cloak as the signs that will mark the coming of the end of times. The swastika of course, refers to the reign of Hitler, while it is believed that the sun refers to the rise of Japan during World War II, thus the red hat and cloak is said to be significant of World War III. They believe that this is the time when we will move into the fifth world.

Like the Mayans, the Hopis view the fifth world as an environment based on peace, brotherhood and the teachings of their ancient spirits. The warning that this present world will end in destruction if everyone does not unite as one people is a sombre one.

But both prophecies emphasise that in entering the future ahead, it is our resistance or acceptance that will determine whether the transition is a drastic one or a gradual handover to a new realm of peace and tranquillity.

Joseph Jochmans notes: "True prophecy is thus more than merely a forecast. Its purpose is to provide the lesson that is to be learned from a potential future catastrophe so that, if possible, the lesson is accepted and processed beforehand. Thus the course of the future can actually be changed, and a different pathway of prophesied events can be manifested into reality."

Thus in this context, the period of time between now and the year 2012, appears to be a crucial period where important choices will have to be made.

What Jochmans is suggesting is that by looking at prophecies we can determine what the different timelines are and make the right choices.

However, not all religions and beliefs think that the end is near. The Buddhists believe that the next Buddha is coming and that the world will not end till beyond the 31st century.

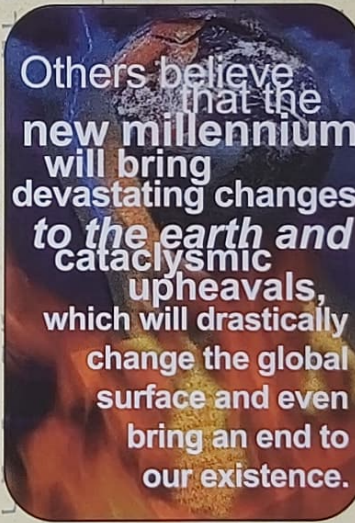
The Hindus believe that we are presently in the era of Kali Yuga, (darkness) and because of what they believe to be the Great Cycle or Maha Yuga, the year 2000A.D. falls greatly short to the end of times.

With so much debate, what are we to believe and what to dismiss? Now that the year 2000 is approaching and uncertainty growing, it does seem all the more important for positive thinking to be emphasised so the millennium madness of 1000A.D. will not repeat itself.

Considering that millennium parties are planned all over the world from London to Tokyo and Sydney to New York, it seems that every effort is taken to welcome the year 2000A.D. with much fanfare and hype rather than pessimism and gloom.

So we can either prepare ourselves for the coming of the new century by taking part in the large-scale millennium events happening around the world, or we can continue listening and believing in the many more predictions to come over the next few years. The decision is yours.

Dr. Callahan sums it up most aptly: "We can either fight and resist them (prophecies), seeing them as destroyers of the familiar and comfortable, or we can accept them as harbingers of transformation which will open new doors and appetites for spiritual growth."



Others believe that the new millennium will bring devastating changes to the earth and cataclysmic upheavals, which will drastically change the global surface and even bring an end to our existence.

Meet

Caleb Goh

voted one of

Singapore's most
eligible bachelors.

Praised by critics for his acting,
he already has a string of
successful performances
under his belt.

The young actor,
with a maturity
beyond his 21 years of age, speaks to
Dwayne Tan on the
television and theatre industry,
being a role model and his
goals and dreams.

"I was very baffled, very shocked. Not that I'm not eligible. I've always thought I was okay lah, just okay looking."

That's Caleb's modest response to being one of **Cleo** magazine's 50 most eligible bachelors. You'd think that a guy who's enjoyed such an early success would be self-absorbed, but this third-year student at the SIA-La Salle School of Drama is certainly not. He doesn't consider himself a celebrity and neither does he think he is a role model of any sort. Instead, he treats everybody like friends and expects to be treated likewise.

"You grow old very fast and you look like s**t all the time, but make-up does wonders, that's all I can say."

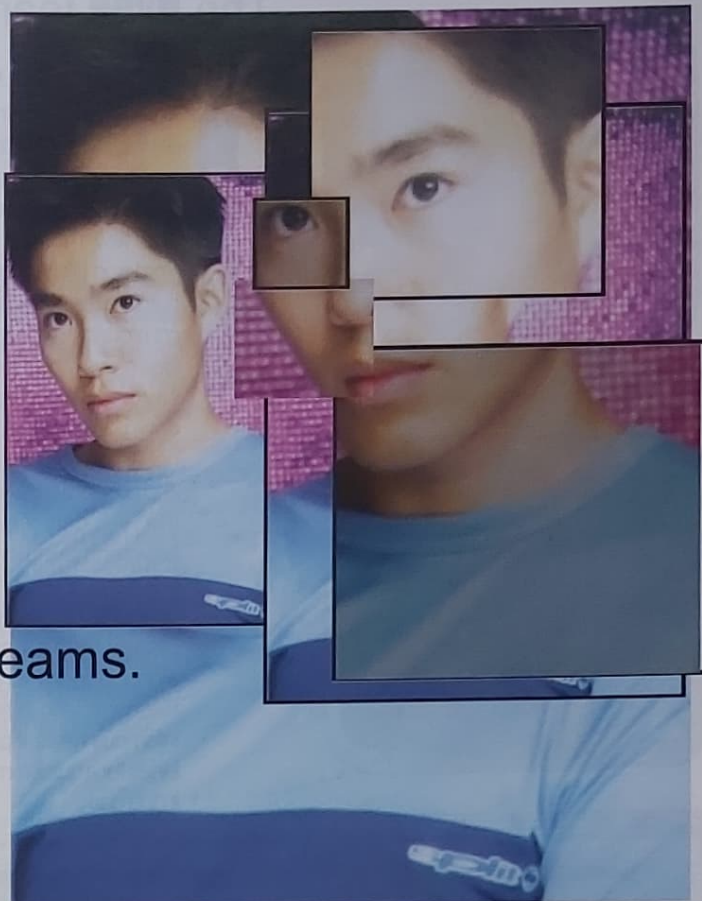
Caleb found his Channel 8 debut in **A Piece of Sky**, even tougher than acting for Channel 5. Juggling studies with the filming schedule, while still trying to look good, he feels that the people on Channel 8 work more than thrice as hard as those on Channel 5. There's no doubt that this boy-wonder deserves special mention for the perseverance he's put in - even going without sleep at times.

"I think as long as the Singaporean audience is willing to accept local stuff and not have any biases, local theatre, television and movies will continue to grow."

Caleb is excited that the arts industry in Singapore is growing. There are already at least six local movies in the making this year. However, at times he feels there are double standards. He highlights an example where the stamping of one's foot and pouting on Channel 8 is acceptable while on Channel 5 it's bad acting.

"For local shows that try very hard to become like other shows, it's not a bad thing. The danger is that the more you copy, the more [audiences and critics] will try to compare."

That's why Caleb's a firm supporter of working with local themes, believing that there are many more aspects that can tug at the heartstrings of Singaporeans than those already being exploited on screen.



"Theatre is most real to me. It gives you more scope so that even young people can act."

In other words, it doesn't matter if you don't look the part - one can always rely on costumes, make-up and accessories. What matters is that you can act it.

Theatre is still Caleb's favourite medium. To date, he has starred in **Six Lonely Oysters**, **Sing to the Dawn**, **Ballroom Dancing** and **Hot Pants**. He believes he wouldn't have landed these roles if they were meant for television.

"I'm also looking forward to [doing] **The Teenage Textbook** [movie] because when I was 11, I read the book and I knew I had to be Chung Kai and now I am."

According to Philip Lim, director of **The Teenage Textbook**, it was Caleb's eagerness that earned him the part.

The motivation came from the fact that Caleb felt there was a little of him in the character Chung Kai, in the story written by local author Adrian Tan who falls in love with girl-next-door Mui Ee.

Caleb will also star in another local movie, **Forever Fever**, to be released in May. He plays a medical student going through a life crisis.

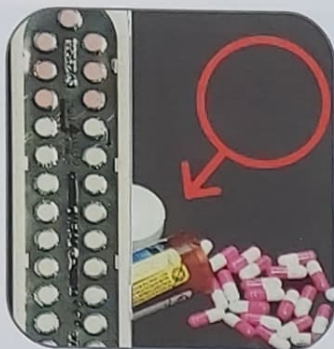
"I love to write and direct. I also want to groom a group of artistes that are solid actors."

That's Caleb's goal. The challenge will be to transform these actors into as many different believable characters as their potential will allow, irrespective of how they look.

"Don't tell anyone!"

Caleb reveals that he hopes to cut an album in Taiwan one day and sing a duet with Taiwanese singer, Zhang Hui Mei. Sorry Caleb, you didn't say "off the record."

The **Hype** team takes a hard look at some futuristic phenomena



2) Black Boxes In Cars

The monitoring device, just like the one on the plane, has already been installed in a few models of Ford and BMW cars, but people still aren't comfortable with the idea of everything they say being recorded down. While it may help with traffic control and accident analysis, the difference between having one in a plane and having one in a car, is that planes don't park along Upper Pierce Reservoir and other infamous newspaper lanes for a quick romp in the dark.



1) The Male Contraceptive Pill

Guys beware. While there's still no possibility of you getting pregnant (as yet), the responsibility of birth control can't be conveniently pushed to the girls now. What this pill does is to make the little fellas so sluggish, they won't be able to reach the egg before the 100th sheep comes prancing along. Such a diabolical invention could only have been masterminded by a female.

Kinda like a life-sized Tamagotchi, don't you think? The babies are kept in extra-uterine incubators until they are mature enough to be "born", and then "bing", instant babies without ever having to say a tearful goodbye to your figure. The downside though, is that there's no bond to the mother, and it makes for a rather strange decorative ornament for the home.

3) Foetuses Produced in Vitro never ever having to be in the human womb



things
looking f o w
next mill



4) Robotic Pets

These critters will actually be programmed to carry out household chores. So instead of giving little Rover a bath, little Rover might just be the one dunking you in a tub of cold water. But honestly, a pet that cleans, scrubs, and makes itself useful? Why would anyone want a pet that does anything at all besides lazing around and being oh-so-adorable?

5) Longer Human Life-spans

With advancements in medical technology, the average human being will live till 140 instead of 78, although bone mass will probably deteriorate once you hit 80. Sounds great, but really, what's the difference between a wheelchair-bound 78-year-old and a wheelchair-bound 140-year-old? Besides, who really wants to spend an extra 62 years with their grouchy spouse?



What aren't exactly...erm, thrilling.

6) Humans on Mars

Scientists predict that man will settle a permanent colony on the Red Planet by 2044. This will be made possible through hi-tech human hibernation procedures that allow us to travel to faraway planets. Yippee, now we can escape from the harsh conditions on Earth to the even harsher conditions on Mars. Makes a lot of sense doesn't it?



7) Holographic Telephones

Alexander Graham Bell should be alive for this: telephones that allow one party to see the other in a life-size holographic image. You can now use body language to emphasise your point, and best of all, you can tell if someone is lying about his or her appearance. Of course, that means *you* can't lie either. One other minor drawback as well: no more phone calls when you're in the loo.



8) The Millennium Bug

Not of the garden variety. Due to a software glitch, most computers will not be able to tell the difference between the year 2000 and the year 1900. Sounds trivial, but experts warn that this oversight will cause computers around the world to crash when what most of the world thinks is the new millenium comes round, thereby crippling several important industries and causing foul-ups in services like airline reservations and credit card purchases. It's definitely no fun being billed \$10,000 for an economy class ticket to Kuala Lumpur, only to find out that your reservation has been cancelled.



9) Global Warming

For Mother Nature, the new millenium does not look good. Due to the greenhouse effect, global temperatures will reach all-time highs, thus melting all those cute polar icecaps. The sudden influx of water will drown out small islands worldwide, so it might be a good idea to invest in an inflatable dinghy and some life-vests.

10) Cheesy Boy Bands and Sappy Love Songs Still Topping the Charts

God help us all.



Compiled and exaggerated by Azreen Terrence Noor Voon Wong Phin Wei

Love-struck couples
tune in
and call **Simon Lim**
to express their opinions
about subjects related
to romance
on Class 95 every weeknight.

Daphne Tiu

meets up with the
radio presenter to find out how the
"Captain of Your Heart" navigates
on the sea of love.

"Mass Communications started off as just being the latest sort of course that was available in Singapore... [and is especially ideal if] you're going into radio or television. I think that was why I chose Mass Communication."

Before graduating with a diploma in Mass Communication from Ngee Ann Polytechnic in 1994, Simon already had one foot in the media industry. He was involved in the Armed Forces Radio Show during his stint in National Service. After that, he wanted to explore other media-related fields that he could venture into besides radio, and decided that Mass Communication studies could help him do that.

"I had to say that one of my best subjects which I really enjoyed was Radio Production, of course. That is because when you learn it in a tertiary education, it is very different from working."

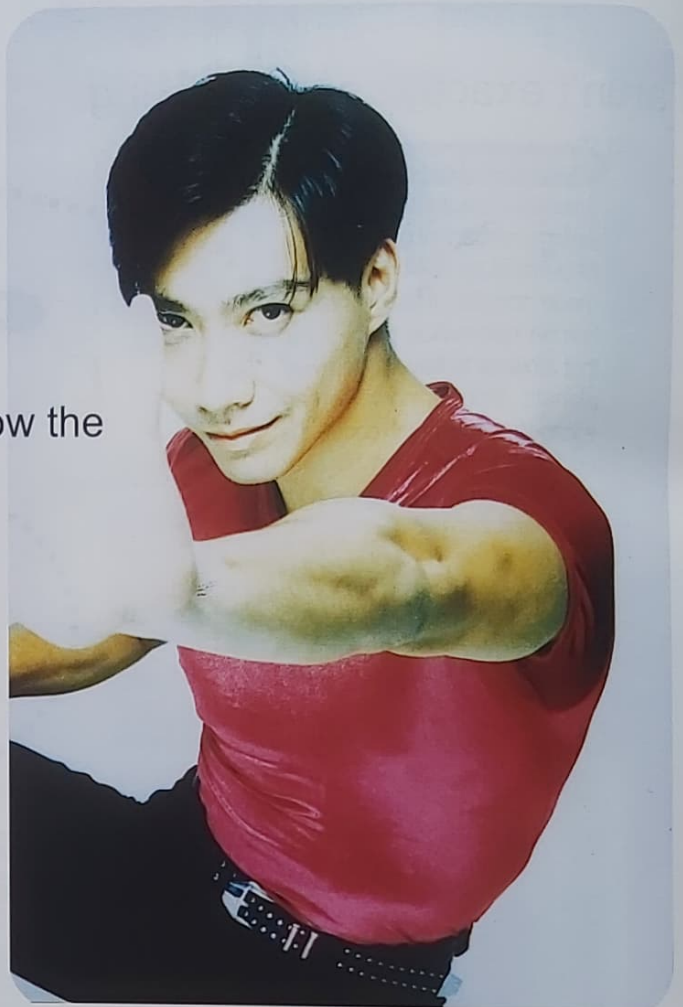
Simon remembers his polytechnic years with fondness. He explains that in the working environment, you are on your own, whereas in the polytechnic, someone will be there to explain the little details. Besides that, having lecturers who can make the subjects interesting also helped. After graduating from NP, Simon went to Australia to obtain a degree in marketing and advertising.

"After my degree, I came back and bumped into Florence Lian, who was then the program manager for Class 95. She said, 'There is a vacancy and would you like to consider going into radio?'"

That meeting changed Simon's original plan of going into the marketing or advertising industry. Before this, he had only worked as a part-timer with Radio One, Perfect 10 and Radio Singapore International. Going into Class 95 was the first time he did full-time radio production work.

"I'm doing more adventurous things now like planning my own art exhibition. I've been painting. I'm doing pop art."

He was an exceptionally good art student back in secondary school, scoring As in the subject. However, Simon began to take his artistic talents seriously after he met a taxi driver who told him that he could make good money out of his drawing and painting talents. His first art exhibition will be held at The Substation on August 25, 1998.



"The whole exhibition is called Pop Revelations, because I feel that there're some revelations [about] the millennium."

Simon believes that the world will come to an end in the year 2000, not only because of what he has observed happening around the world, but also because of some apocalyptic dreams he has had. He describes one of his dreams where a volcano erupted in a part of the world and the aftermath, like acid rain, wiped out all life forms. In fact, one of his paintings is based on this particular dream.

"I'm very open to the 90s woman, as well as the 90s way of thinking for men. That means you cannot be someone who's chauvinistic."

Having this attitude sits well with the programme he hosts, Love Songs. Just as with his art, his main concern is to reach out and relate to his audience. He claims that he tries not to side with either males or females, but to address each individual's problems regardless of gender.

"Whatever good opportunities there are, I think I'll just go with the flow."

Most of the audience don't seem to have a problem with Simon taking over from Suzanne Walker. He's also not too bothered with the minority out there who have different views, because he feels that one can't please everybody.

Simon really relishes the challenges of being the "Captain of Your Heart" every night, dealing with sensitive as well as personal affairs of the heart. Looks like his Marketing and Advertising degree will have to wait a while before it is put to use.

Overhyped

Underhyped

Fancy electronica music with a zillion remixes and computer effects

1

The soothing sounds of nature (eg. sealions mating)

Saddam Hussein, chemical weapons, world domination...blah blah blah

2

A good ol' game of RISK

The Asian currency crisis

3

Not having a 10-cent coin for a public phone

Sex, Lies and Bill Clinton

4

Love, Trust and Respect (awww...)



Titanic and Leonardo DiCaprio

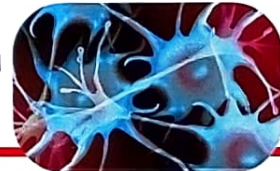
5

Moby Dick and Patrick Stewart

Man-eating bugs, acid-spitting aliens and deadly asteroids

6

The bird flu



E-mail valentines and cyber-love messages

7

Handwritten love letters

Making new friends



8

Keeping old friends

Brunches, high teas and midnight buffets

9

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The millenium bug



10

Cockroach-infested public buses

"Imagine
if you can,
a small room,
hexagonal
in shape, like the cell of a bee.



by
Alvin chan
Sew
jiamin

*It is lit neither by window nor by lamp,
yet it is filled with a soft radiance.
There are no apertures for ventilation, yet the air is
fresh. There are no musical instruments,
and yet...this room is throbbing with melodious sounds. An arm-chair is in the centre, by its
side stands a reading desk - **that is all the furniture.** And in the arm-chair there is a swaddled lump
of flesh - a woman, about five feet high, with a face as white as a fungus. It is to her that the little room belongs."*

Maybe that is how E.M. Forster saw the world years from now in his short story **The Machine Stops**. It's a world in which humans are so advanced that they've created what they thought was the infallible Machine. All needs are provided by the Machine, and man no longer has to move around. As a result, human limbs waste away from the lack of exercise and people soon develop a "horror for direct experience", even a revulsion for human touch.

Although such a lifestyle in **The Machine Stops** will probably never come about because we are way too vain to let ourselves turn into massive piles of flab, the story was spot on about the fact that machines and technology are very much part of our lifestyles and will continue to integrate themselves in our lives in years to come. The question is how far will that affect our lives.

The answer has kept many scholars worried. Neil Postman, a communications theorist, voices concern in his book **Technopoly**, that with the "advent of different types of technology, human skills and traditions are being lost by our immersion in a computer culture." Marshall McLuhan, another famous communications theorist, echoes the same view. "We become genderless and sexless through technology, and the mind loses the image of itself as a human being."

Whether we lose ourselves or not, the march of progress, technology and time is relentless. We can either hold back in fear, or bravely step forward to embrace it.

Singapore not only welcomes the new millennium and its changes, it is literally riding into it on the back of a cybernetic fibre-optic horse thundering down the information superhighway.

In 1996, the government unveiled Singapore ONE, a broadband cable network designed to wire up the whole island to a single giant computer network to transform Singapore into an international global hub. Or to put it a simpler way, to let the world know that Singapore is

not part of China.

Said IT analyst Koji Mochizuki from Proactive Media Pte Ltd, "I feel that Singapore One is just a means to draw attention to Singapore...the technology is not new, because computer networks have already existed for a long time. What is new however is the attempt to wire up the whole country." He feels that if Singapore ONE is successful, it will be Singapore's ticket to establishing a greater world-wide presence in the 21st century.

In a networked Singapore, many things that we do will be automated. Various transactions such as paying your bills and traffic fines, submitting your tax returns and maybe even primary school applications will be conducted online. Will the day come when the certainty of securing a place in a prestigious school is reduced to a race of who has the faster modem?

Mochizuki is cautious about freely adopting and endorsing Singapore ONE as the next big thing. "Singapore ONE is basically a very big and different directory of information," he declares. Although information will be more easily available, it does not automatically translate into mass usage on the part of Singaporeans. He believes that people will use Singapore ONE, but only when other avenues of obtaining information are not as convenient. An obvious example

would be shopping. "Before someone buys something," he says, "she can, and probably will, search for information on the product so as to have a rough idea of whether this thing is worth the trouble of going to the store to get in the first place."

But with the good, the bad always follows suit and technology is no exception. Although jobs are created in rapidly growing sectors such as information technology and computing, jobs can also be lost as machines increasingly take the workload off human shoulders. Nicholas Negroponte wrote in his best-selling book **Being Digital**, "As we move towards a digital world, an entire population will be [replaced]. When a fifty-year-old steelworker loses his job, unlike his twenty-five-year old son, he may have no digital resilience at all..."

However, the Singapore government has foreseen this and has taken steps to train and retrain workers to keep them viable in the new economy. In fact this initiative has gone further down to education in schools. Step into the classroom of the future and you won't be confronted by whiteboards and rows of desks with inky graffiti on them. Secondary schools have already included IT lessons as part of the curriculum and teachers also use software designed for students to assist pupils' progress. There may not even be a classroom as Singapore is starting to bring in on-line education. Already, both Singapore and Temasek Polytechnic have started to offer on-line education courses to make it easier for students to access research material.

However, Associate Professor Chua Beng Huat, a Sociology lecturer at the National University of Singapore, doesn't think that social interaction will change much with Singapore ONE and the Internet. To him, it is just a lot of hype. Once the particular technology becomes more of a routine, the impact on lives wouldn't be significant. "I think that there is a certain excitement about it so far but nothing much has really changed."

In fact, Dr Chua questions the importance of a lot of the content on the networks. "I suspect quite a lot of it will eventually end up being entertainment...," William Gibson, creator of such movies like *Johnny Mnemonic*, would agree with Dr Chua. Gibson already holds the opinion that the bulk of Internet communication is "cracker barrel stuff - aimless chatter among people you'd be grateful to escape at a cocktail party".

In his groundbreaking 1976 book *Future Shock*, futurist Alvin Toffler predicted that technological and ideological changes are moving too fast for the human race to comprehend and that people will be overwhelmed. Therefore humans would try to return to a more primitive existence, when there was very little automation, and technology existed on a simpler level. They would try to cut themselves off from the rest of the world and lead a life that is less complicated.

Dennis E. Henley believes otherwise. In his book *Millennium Approaches*, he argues that we have been bombarded by so many changes in so little time, very little seems to dazzle us today. In fact, people are "blasé and nonchalant about many of the current breakthroughs", and instead are either angry at the slow pace of important breakthroughs (e.g. "Why haven't they found a cure for Aids yet?") or distrusting of people who seem to have influence in shaping the future.

It's common knowledge that the human race develops behaviours and attitudes to deal with change. Faith Popcorn, an American trend watcher/predictor offers 16 such adaptive behavioural trends in her book *Clicking*.

A recent article in *Lifel* reported that people are feeling more stressed out even though the actual amount of time spent in the office has been decreasing over the years. This is because of technology that enables us to keep in touch with our work beyond mandated working hours. For example, many of us bring our work home on computer diskettes or laptops and keep in touch with the office via pagers and handphones. As work becomes increasingly invasive, people are finding it more difficult to

get away from it all.

Therefore, Popcorn posits that people will want to indulge in "Fantasy Adventure", which is to actively seek excitement in basically risk-free environments to help them break away from modern tensions. If this comes true, we might just see the rise of mega-complexes in Singapore housing nothing but the latest virtual reality games.

"Cocooning" is another trend predicted by Popcorn. This is the desire to stay at home and build soft and cosy nests in order to protect ourselves from the harsh realities of everyday life. Those of you who have always known that candlelight and velvet drapes were the way to go, give yourself a pat on the back.

More forward-looking are authors John Naisbitt and Patricia Aburdene. In their 1990 book *Megatrends 2000*, Naisbitt and Aburdene predict homogenising of human cultures. As we exchange food, music, fashion and other icons of popular culture, a universal lifestyle takes root. And technology like the Internet will only facilitate this exchange, accelerating the development of such a global way of life.

However, they also predict a counter-trend, one that "goes against uniformity, a desire to assert the uniqueness of one's culture and language, a repudiation of foreign influence."

Faced with a tidal wave of "sameness", and the fear of being washed away and becoming part of

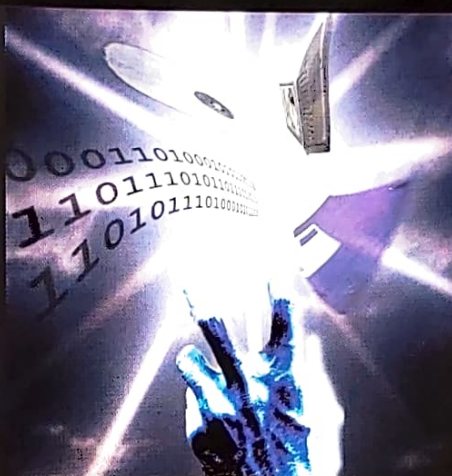
the dull gray sea of uniformity, people will assert their individuality by steadfastly clinging to their deeper values, like art, religion and culture... along with branded underwear, spiky hair and body piercings in the most inconvenient places.

They also predict that there will be a spiritual revival and a return to religion, a so-called "Religious Revival of the Millennium". It seems that with more and more people talking about being picked up by aliens to start life on another planet as the millennium approaches, people will begin to call out for a return to religion to give them peace and exorcise feelings of emptiness. Apparently, even the Tamagotchi has its limitations.

But seriously, Mrs Patricia Aw, parish worker with St Andrews Cathedral thinks that if there is going to be a revival, it's probably because churches are coming together. She offers, "Churches are uniting together, when earlier they worked alone, now they are networking together. So that's why it would seem as if there's a religious revival." Generally speaking, Mrs Aw thinks that the religious revival may be true to a certain extent, but, "not everyone is turning to Christianity." She said new age spiritualism is getting to be very popular too.

So it seems that as the clocks count down towards the final days of the 20th century, life as we know it will change. That is a certainty, but what is not certain is how. Even the best efforts to determine the new trends are but speculations at most. Will human beings once again demonstrate the resilience and adaptability in the face of sweeping revolutionary changes that never fail to astonish, or will changes this time be too fast, too soon for our own good? Quite literally, only time will tell...

As we exchange food, music, fashion and other icons of popular culture a universal culture takes root



#1 the dominion

No Java-fuelled UFOs streaking across the screen, only an understated design with a simple gray and black backdrop. Welcome to the official site of the Sci-Fi channel, **The Dominion**.

With minimal distracting animation, **The Dominion** has its own unique style and a genuinely innovative approach to many internet-freaks' favourite genre. The site provides in-depth information and up-to-date news on science-fiction happenings. The section "Science Fiction Weekly" is its news source for the site's fans and is a good example of its resourceful approach. Offering its readers everything they need to stay current in the world of sci-fi happenings, the section also covers interviews with celebrities like Xena (Lucy Lawless), reviews of science fiction books, movies and TV shows - all in a no-nonsense format.

Part of **The Dominion's** unique draw is the incredible scope of its content. However, being as comprehensive as that can make finding what you want quite a headache. The site is divided into six main categories. "Sci-Fi Feed" is a collection of sites devoted to programmes that air on the sci-fi channel. "Pulp" is the home of Science Fiction Weekly while "Free Zone" is a library of graphics and video and audio clips, all downloadable for free. "Trader" is the Sci-Fi channel's online store, "Colony" is its chat and bulletin board and "Orbit" is a collection of science fiction related links.

The Dominion is also fair enough to give its competitive sites enough space for equal competition. For instance, in "Trader", you can actually buy **Star Wars** merchandise and unlike some of its competing sites, it is definitely not a single-minded ad-ver-tainment site.

You can find **The Dominion** at <http://www.scifi.com>

by cindy gui

#3 manimals

Shockingly intense images of men morphed into beasts greet you as you enter the bold "**Manimals**" website. You've stepped into a new world, albeit one that exists in your subconsciousness.

The website is filled with works by international artist, Daniel Lee, who highlights the similarity between man and beast. Of particular interest is the "Manimals" exhibition, which consists of pictures of humans who represent the 12 animals in the Chinese horoscope.

The most amazing thing about Lee's works is that he does not simply superimpose a picture of a tiger over a person to get the "Manimals" effect. He first takes a photograph of a person born in the year of a Tiger and then digitally manipulates it with graphic software to finally bring out the tiger in the man. It then brings you to the realisation that there is a hidden animal in every person.

In this website, he showcases "Manimals", "Judgement" and "108 Windows" all of which centre on Chinese traditions and religion. The site, which is quite an experience to surf through, not only displays his works, but also features his biography, an interview with the artist himself and even explanations of the technical details in his artwork.

Design-wise, the site is nothing fabulous, but the artwork is extraordinary. One minus point is that the website is graphically intensive and thus takes a little longer to load. Rest assured though, it's worth it.

The "Manimals" Website can be found at <http://www.daniellee.com>

by dawn lee

#2 piercing mildred

Piercing Mildred is a bizarre site that lets you create a cute little character of your own to pierce, scar and tattoo - kind of like a morbid Tamagotchi.

Owners of the Mildred start out with a minimal \$100 (not real cash) although each week, "money" and prizes are awarded to the most freaky-looking characters. Simply let your creativity take control but don't forget to buy ointment to heal the wounds! Pierce a couple of ears, choose and create your own tattoos or do some major scarring.

This website has a clean interface and even provides a discussion area for Mildred character owners to get all excited and exchange tips, questions or hints about their beloved ones like how or why Piercing Mildred can be so addictive.

This website should provide an intriguing alternative for those who always wanted to pierce their bodies but never had the courage to actually do it.

Piercing Mildred is at <http://www.mildred.com/>

by dwayne tan

#4 celebrity slugfest

Here's a website that brings you past the bodyguards of celebrities (where you can do real damage). You can break David Letterman's glasses, give Madonna a black eye or make Pamela Anderson's mascara run down her cheeks! Why do it in your dreams if you can virtually make it happen on the **Celebrity Slugfest** website.

You can go one-on-one with either your favourite celebrities or personalities you simply hate. Take a pick from the site's three categories (Bullies, Meanies, and Wusses) of famous people like Tori Spelling, Johnny Depp, Fabio, Dennis Rodman and even the President of Scandal, Bill Clinton!

Engage in a punch-out with them, disfigure them and make them bleed. But watch out for their punches too, because you'll lose the game if you let them hit you too many times. You can also custom-make your own bruises for the celebrities or submit suggestions for other personalities to be included in the selection (quick, someone send a picture of Benedict Goh to them!).

Before you spit-shine your knuckle dusters though, you need to download the Shockwave software, which is available on the same page. Also, listen out for your opponent's "words of wisdom", like Madonna's "Welcome to the 90s version of intimacy", before you start the game each time.

Celebrity Slugfest is located at <http://slugfest.kaizen.net/>

by darren ng

What's with... the electronic lifestyle?

"We're being thrust into the future at an unstoppable pace."

Mohammad Ridzuan, 19, 2nd year, SOE

Daphanie Teo, 18, 2nd year, FMS

"It's pretty cold and heartless, a step towards the desensitisation of culture."

"I think people are too caught up with computers. I prefer to hang out with old friends or strum my guitar."

Joseph Lim, 20, 3rd year, EE

Adrian Yong, 20, 2nd year, BS

"Electronic gadgets and automation. There is less manual work, so this is good!"

"IRC is pretty cool, you can pick up girls easily. It's also a better alternative to socialising and drinking coffee."

Tan Boon Leng, 18, 2nd year, FMS

Soo Joo Huan, 20, 2nd year, ECE

"You always have to upgrade yourselves, if you don't, you'll just lose out!"

"It's going to be part and parcel of our lives, we have no choice but to accept it."

Daryl Tan, 19, 1st year, BSE

Joseph Tan, 19, 3rd year, CCS

"I hate it. It has made life worse. I've all kinds of assignments dealing with the Internet."

"Along with electronic lifestyle comes discipline. As many advantages as it provides, there are disadvantages should it be abused."

Andrew Chong, 19, 2nd year, EE

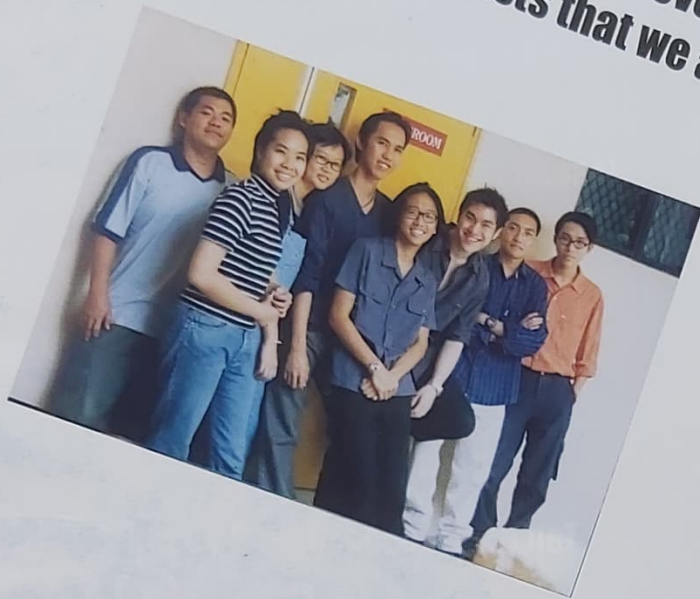
Tabitha Jane Ong, 19, 3rd year, FMS

"It's an alternative of life, but we have to be very careful of it. When you get addicted to it, you breathe, eat and sleep in front of the computer. It has become a lifestyle."

OurSay OurSay OurSay OurSay

we
editorial
97-98

As promised in the last issue, we are publishing the letter we deemed worthy of your attention (you can do that when you get your own magazine). On a personal note, we're saying our final goodbyes, as a new team takes over. It's been fun (being the masochists that we are), but we gotta go. See ya!



Our World

Before we came onto Earth
Natural was all there was
Green, wet, hot, cold
And air of virgin purity
Rainforests full of flora and fauna
A world in which
The term that fitted
Was vitality
Now time moves unceasingly

An on the scene
Came the modern Man
And Woman
With his new McDonald's chain
Trees chopped, cattle killed
Polluting carnivore fits the bill
What is the harm in a sewage outflow?
A climate change can be
As good as a holiday you will see
We breathe in
Breathe out
We live, drink, eat, sleep
A herd obeying its primeval call
But what is the point of it all?
A cycle has an end
A dog has a tail
Those doing wrong it will all become clear
Someone will tell me why we are here

Anonymous International Fellow

mail us
YOUR LETTERS
hype magazine

department of film & media studies
block 23, ngee ann polytechnic
535 clementi road
singapore



Gee, business must be really bad.
Someone pass the guy a tissue.



The sales staff really mean it when they say, "Can I help you?"



They've turned blue from the high altitude.



We recommend a very tall glass of prune juice.



"How many times must I tell you?
Sticking large objects up your nostrils
is not the least bit amusing."



Ooh La La! A franchise!



bitched by the eds

all the gossip and entertainment news

hype

gossip and entertainment news
singapore's biggest campus magazine

Tell us what you think of hype
and we'll publish you

and we'll publish your letters...

movie reviews

its free hype

campus new

where to eat

and books

tattletale

Mail us at...

hype magazine

Department of Film and Media Studies

Block 23 Ngee Ann Polytechnic

535 Clementi Road

Singapore 599489

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movie reviews

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