

## Health fair sees good response

by Bharati Jagdish & Mona Wahab

The Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) Health Fair saw an overwhelming response of about 360 students signing up for a free health screening conducted by the National Kidney Foundation on campus.

Between 29 September and 1 October, enthusiastic students were seen proceeding to the Octagon to determine whether or not they were in the pink of health.

"I don't usually take the trouble to go for regular health check-ups. But since this is happening on campus, it's more convenient," said Constance Liao, 21, a third-year Business Studies (BS) student.

The health screening comprised four components – an urine-analysis, a blood pressure check, determination of waist-hip ratio and an examination of body composition index. Seiko Optical Products conducted a free eye-screening in addition to offering spectacle lenses at a special rate for students.

In addition to the health screening, a variety of health-related activities took place around campus. Sports and games were held for students who preferred to sweat it out and have a good time. Netball and soccer were modified to suit the limited area around the Octagon. Three-on-three netball matches,

organised by the NP Netball Club, were held at the Octagon's car park, while the soccer game was held at the Octagon's foyer.

Unlike traditional soccer where a team of eleven aims to score goals, the modified soccer only required one player to keep the ball in the air for as long as possible. "The players will be confined to a small area and they are required not to let the ball touch the ground. There is no time limit for this game," explained Mr Gopi Retnam, Student Development Officer. But just like the traditional game, it drew crowds and cheers.

Apart from the games, there were also other sports activities held during the week. On 30 September, the Mass Swim at the Sports

Mr Bernard Teo, an officer at the Student Development Centre.


"The fair reminds us that health is important. Most of us don't realize this," said Jeffrey Lim, 23, second-year Mechanical Engineering (ME) student.

The ZA, New York cosmetic booth was also a popular component of the fair. The cosmetic company was offering a free makeover with the purchase of one item.

"Many of the girls in polytechnic are fresh out of secondary schools. Tips on how to look better would contribute to their self-esteem. Good self-esteem is part of health too," said Ms Denise Michael, a Student Development Officer, who was also the co-ordinator of the fair.

The fair's holistic approach also saw health-related books being prominently displayed at the Library. "It's good that all the activities are spread out, so wherever you are on campus, you'll be aware that there's such a thing going on," said Mohammed Hafiz, 17, first-year Accountancy (ACC) student.

"At this age, most people think that they are never going to become ill. The truth is that anything could happen any time. Keeping fit and knowing about diseases is important," he added.

The Health Fair, organized by the Student Affairs Office and Human Resource Department has been an annual event since 1992. 



Care for a free test? The eye check was one of the many health stations set up in the Octagon.

cer only required one player to keep the ball in the air for as long as possible. "The players will be confined to a small area and they are required not to let the ball touch the ground. There is no time limit for this game," explained Mr Gopi Retnam, Student Development

Complex swimming pool, which drew encouraging response despite the poor weather. "Swimming is included in the Health Week because it is considered an aerobic sport, a good cardio-vascular workout...a very good way to keep the body healthy and fit," said

## Interactive boost for FMS

by Jamie Teo

The Centre for Film and Media Studies (FMS) launched its digital radio studio and interactive website for Radio Heatwave, its campus radio station, on 25 September.

The launch was in conjunction with the first FMS Parents' Day where parents were invited to visit the centre's facilities as well as engage in dialogue sessions with FMS lecturers. The principal, Mr Khoo Chin Hean, was the guest-of-honour for the event.

The event kicked off with a welcome speech by the director of FMS, Dr. Victor Valbuena, who presented the fully operational Radio Heatwave studio to the guests.

With the introduction of the latest facilities, Radio Heatwave is the first radio station to adopt web interactivity in its programmes. Unlike Radio Corporation of Singapore (RCS) and SAFRA radio stations, Radio Heatwave presenters can have an instant exchange of views with NP students who tune in on the web. Other functions such as instant dedication of songs, feedback sug-




Taking out the old and bringing in the new with the opening of the digital radio studio.

gestions and online chat channels further enhance the interactive communication.

In recognising the extensive use of the internet in future, lecturer-advisor of Radio Heatwave, Mr Rafael Oei commented, "With the digital radio studio, our students will be ready to function in the new digital communication environment."

exciting. I'm glad my daughter has such opportunities on doing such meaningful practical work like this in school."

NP officially celebrates Parents' Day on 9 October, according to the event co-ordinator, Ms Juliet Ho, from the Polytechnic Education Consultation Centre. 

Mr Chai Theong Ham, manager of the Advanced Information Technology Application Centre of NP, who assisted in the interactive website project, agreed that the website will enable the students to harness the potential of the web.

The guests also lent their voices in a live presentation in the new radio studio. One "parent presenter," Mrs Jumali, said, "It is so

### insight

forefront

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NP Tennis Teams

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Agony for the men / Pg 8



# Forefront

## 60 Seconds

Lavina Raghani

**CHEWING GUM.** pornographic material and pirated VCDs. They have something in common – they are all banned in Singapore.

Dubbed one of the strictest countries in the world, it often feels that Singapore is filled with so many rules and regulations, that it is getting hard to keep up with them.


Perhaps the greatest irony of all is that many Singaporeans often choose to either ignore or break the rules by simply going across the causeway to get what they want. Many of us have either chewed gum or watched a pirated VCD at one time or another. Pornographic sites are also easily available on the Internet to just about anyone if you know where to look.

Probably the most difficult part about having rules and regulations is actually implementing them. It is difficult to make sure that rules are being followed all the time. And it is harder to accept rules when they are not implemented clearly or when they can be interpreted subjectively.

This thought reminds me of some of the rules we have in NP. When I first joined the polytechnic, I was given a student's handbook that clearly stated that cropped tops and revealing clothes were not allowed on campus. But who determines what is revealing? What a campus supervisor may deem revealing might not necessarily be revealing attire for the fashion-conscious student. This subjectivity in opinions make these rules very difficult to follow.

Adding to that, some of the rules enforced in NP are not even indicated in the student's handbook. In fact, a few weeks ago, my classmate was reprimanded by a campus supervisor because her red hair was too outlandish, while, another friend who has purple hair, was not questioned by the supervisor at all. Why the double standard? So how are NP students supposed to know that they are actually breaking campus rules when all they think they are doing is experimenting with some hair dye?

It seems that some NP rules and regulations fall into a "grey area" where half the population is not aware of them while the other half, who do know the rules, often interpret them incorrectly and therefore, end up breaking them.

Having said all that, I also want to acknowledge the fact that it is not easy for the supervisors to control the entire population of NP students. On the other hand, students also find it very difficult to accept rules that they didn't even know existed. Perhaps, the solution to this problem is to make sure that the rules are clearly and explicitly stated and therefore eliminate any doubt about what is wrong or right in NP. 



The Ngee Ann Tribune is a publication by final-year students of the Diploma in Mass Communication programme.

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The Tribune notice board is located at Blk 27. Do drop by for an update on the latest happenings in Ngee Ann. We welcome feedback and suggestions from our NP readers. You can contribute by writing to: **The Editors, Ngee Ann Tribune, Centre for Film and Media Studies, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, 535 Clementi Road, Singapore 599489**, by visiting the newsroom at Blk 56, #02-01 or e-mailing us at [nptribune@hotmail.com](mailto:nptribune@hotmail.com). Letters should include your full name, contact number and department. The editorial team reserves the right to edit all letters where necessary.

# NYAA visits Jordan

by Ho Ling Nee

**T**wo Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students were among the group of ten Singaporeans chosen to visit Jordan from 4 to 11 September. Their trip was made after 14 Jordanian youths visited Singapore last year.

Mohammad Yazid B. Embarak Abdad, 19, final-year Biotechnology and Chemical Engineering (BCE) student and Barakkathunnisa d/o Shahulhameed, 19, second-year Electronic and Computer Engineering (ECE) student, were chosen because they were actively involved in the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA).

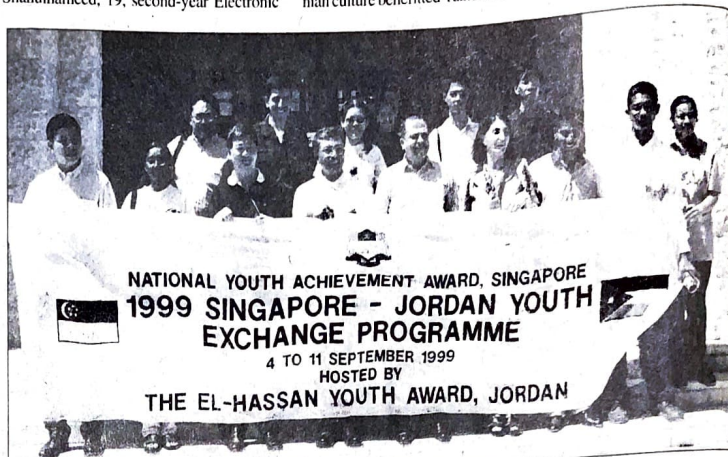
The two students met Princess Rahmah and Prince Hassan of Jordan. One of their aims was to discuss youth issues and problems with the governors

from Jordan as well as their counterparts who are members of the Al-Hassan Youth Award, the equivalent to Singapore's NYAA.

Barakkathunnisa also raised the possibility of an industrial link between the two countries. "I am trying to establish a network for NP students. Jordan specialises in import-export businesses so I think this industrial attachment will benefit Business


Studies students more. I feel that communication must be strong in order to keep an on-going network...communication is important and is the key to a good relationship," she said. The proposal is currently put on hold as Barakkathunnisa continues to keep in contact via electronic mail with the Jordanians.

The Singapore group had many outings during the eight-day visit, touring ancient sites as well as the Amman Baccalaureate School, an international private school. Learning about Jordanian culture benefitted Yazid as he realised that the Jordanian youths

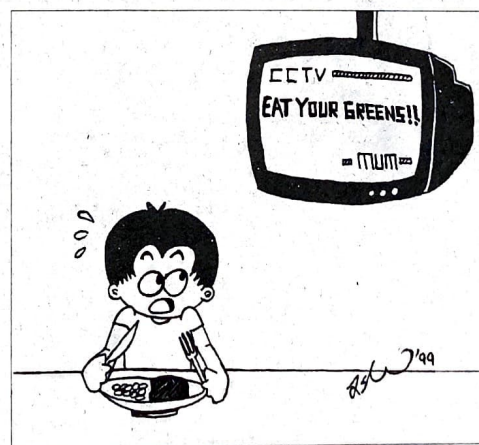


Barakkathunnisa (second from left) and Mohammed Yazid (second from right) with the rest of the NYAA youths.

have the same aspirations as Singaporeans. Both look forward to getting a degree and settling down with a good job.

The patriotism and unity of the Jordanians was also observed by the two NP students. "They really look up to the royal family...they respect the Prince and the Princess a lot," said Yazid. 

# Flash your messages



by Ho Ling Nee

**N**gee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students can now enjoy a new 24-hour service, called Community TV@NP, while having their meals at The Terrace, formerly known as Canteen One.


The 16 television screens in the canteen serve as community information bulletin boards, offering a varied stream of information and upcoming events from cultural clubs and societies, as well as announcements from academic departments and sports clubs. Students can also use CTV@NP to buy and sell products and broadcast personal messages.

Mr Greg Hoy, a Film and Media Studies (FMS) lecturer supervising this new service, feels that the televisions in the canteen are under-utilized merely "showing afternoon serials on TCS 5 and the Pyramid Game".

According to Mr Hoy, his concept, which was based on similar advertisements found on teletext and cable television, helps to maximise available facilities with minimum resources. He also said that it is a low maintenance service by using available resources and creating messages with Microsoft PowerPoint and other graphic software.

The advantage of CTV@NP over the traditional notice boards found all over NP is that it offers more colour and graphics to better attract students.

"It is quite cute and attractive, not boring. It is less troublesome...do not have to go to specific noticeboards," said Norhayati Bte Haron, 19, third-year Centre for Computer Studies (CCS) student.

This value-added facility is a combined effort from the various contributing clubs and societies, the library, the Student Affairs Office, the various academic departments, Radio Heatwave and the Estates Development Office. 

For more information, please contact Mr Greg Hoy at [hgr@np.edu.sg](mailto:hgr@np.edu.sg) or [npectv@hotmail.com](mailto:npectv@hotmail.com)



## Focus

# NP ready to battle the millennium bug

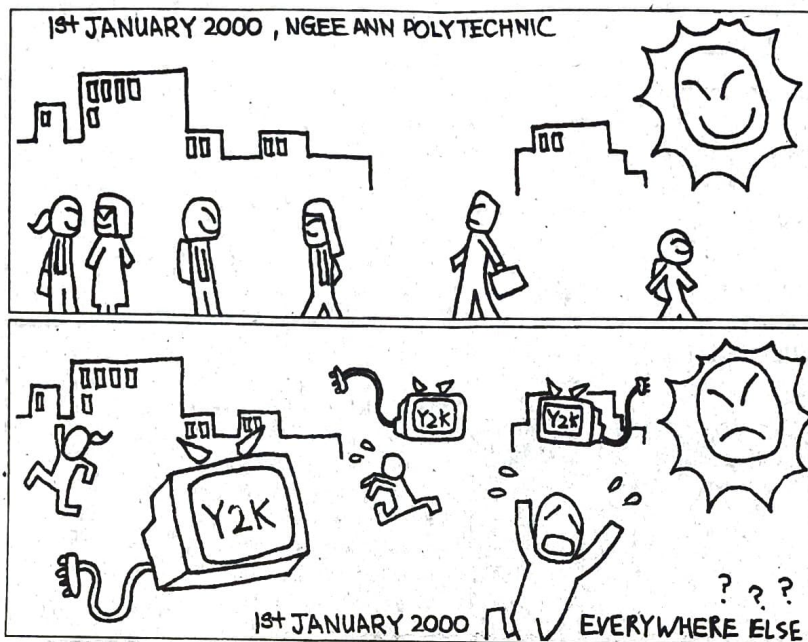
by B. Puvanes

In line with the government's effort to be prepared for the next century, Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) has declared itself Y2K ready.

The polytechnic began its battle against the bug as early as 1996. The millennium bug, otherwise known as the Y2K problem, is said to cause complications on 1 Jan 2000 as computer systems and programs, which use only two digits to represent the calendar year may not be able to distinguish between the year 2000 and 1900.

The Computer Centre (CC) however is certain that such problems will not arise in NP.

"Many people like to associate the millennium bug with all things IT. We would like to stress that this is not the case. In our Y2K initiative, we have tried to be exhaustive and extensive in our coverage. However, resources will not permit us to cover every nook and crevices. The onus will be on relevant departments to ensure that their systems outside of IT are



promptly updated and maintained by their own team of professionals and experts," said Mr Henry Chiang, a programmer with the NP Computer Centre.

The CC has done a full cycle review on the network infrastructure, PCs as well as the operating systems on campus. However, if departments fail a series of system tests, they can rely on their

contingency plans drawn up as part of the Y2K exercise.

Despite all these assurances, some students cannot help but feel a little skeptical after all.

"I am a little scared. After all, we are very much dependent on computers and anything may just happen," said Azlina Dewi Ahmad Huzairi, 20, a first-year ECE student.

On this note, the CC hopes to address public confusion and ease fears about the millennium bug through a website.


Mr Chiang explained that this website serves as a public education and information centre in the event of a Y2K catastrophe, adding that it would be a "public communication tool".

"The most dreaded aspect of the Y2K problem is its unpredictability. Otherwise, it would be a non-event,"

- Henry Chiang (CC)

The CC is also certain that checking of examination results online will not be affected in any way. However, it does not give such assurance for the Internet.

"The Internet was designed by US defence as a means of communication in a potential nuclear holocaust where all other forms of communication network failed. Still nothing can be ruled out. The most dreaded aspect of the Y2K problem is its unpredictability. Otherwise, it would be a non-event," said Mr Chiang.

NP also has earned itself the "Y2K-in-action" logo given by the National Computer Board for its efforts and commitment in making the campus Y2K ready. 

## Feminism in a book It's party time in 2000

by Ridwan Abbas

It is not often that a student gets to showcase his or her work in public.

But this was the opportunity a group of Mass Communications diploma students had when a collection of their literary work was published this month.


The anthology, which includes poems, anecdotes and scripts, was compiled by Desmond Kon, a lecturer from the Centre of Film and Media Studies.

The publication, entitled "the long and short of it", was sold for \$10 and sales in the first two days were very encouraging with half

the 350 copies being sold.

Unlike conventional publications, it has no cover and no pages. It has both bound and unbound material, thus making it a "loose" read.

On his source of inspiration to write, Kevjn Lim, 20, said, "It was from seeing the degeneration of the world, that I'm now more aware of the under-privileged classes and women."

In line with the publication's theme of feminism, proceeds from the sale are donated to the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE) to contribute to the association's month-long fund-raising drive. 

by Mona Wahab

Start the new millennium with a bang, at the campus fiesta that will be held at Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) come Saturday, 15 January 2000. The event, called "NP@2K: Retro and Beyond", is organised by the Student Affairs Office.

The day-long event will be packed with activities to keep NP students and staff busy. There will be a flea market styled like the "pasar malam" of the 1950s and 1960s. Movie buffs will also be pleased to know there will be a movie marathon from 10pm to the next morning, featuring all-time favourites in the past decades.

Local fashion design students may also be showcasing their creations for the new millennium. In a related inter-departmental


"I'm quite excited and really look forward to the party. I just hope that the so-called happening party will be as good as it sounds, and not just hot air,"

- Loh Eng Jun

competition, male-female pairs of students will get to design and model their own version of "the Millennium look".

Those who prefer the adrenaline rush, can hop down to the Administration Field, where the game of Giant Pushball will be played.

For those who prefer to look good than sweat it out in the hot sun, ZA cosmetics brand will be offering makeovers at special prices.

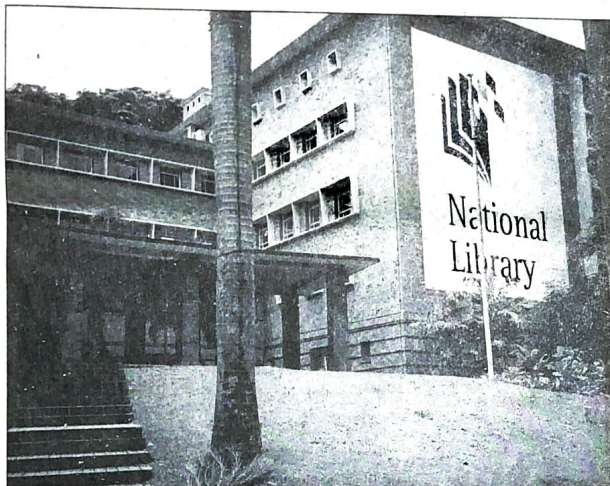
"I'm quite excited and really look forward to the party. I just hope that the so-called happening party will be as good as it sounds, and not just hot air," said Loh Eng Jun, 19, second-year Building Department (BD) student. 



# Centrespread

# Gotta hit Study Hot Spots for NP s

With the examinations approaching, more Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students can be seen burying their heads in books all over the campus. Study tables, the Library, canteens and even the Atrium are filled with students studying. However, those who lag behind in "conquering" these study areas need not worry since there are other locations to study besides the campus.



The convenient location of the National Library is one of the reasons why many students study there.

by Jamie Teo

Located just down the road from campus, you can spot groups of NP students filling up almost half of the popular McDonald's outlet at King Albert Park. Armed with stacks of notes, reference books and friends, they are all ready to face the battle of examinations. In addition, they can enjoy the luxury of the air-conditioning as well as a ready supply of fast food at reasonable prices.

Michelle Lee, 18, second-year Business Studies (BS) student says, "My friends and I walked here after our lessons to study as well as to grab a bite, after all it is so near."

Students can even spend their entire day at McDonald's right up till the restaurant closes at 11pm on weekdays.

A little further from school is Holland Village, another popular location for students to study. Cafes there offer some peace and serenity, which is conducive for studying. One example is the café, Simply Bread, located in Lorong Mambong. This cafe attracts students because they can dig into bread and books at the same time without much distraction.

On the other hand, students who need a lot of references in their study, go to the Central Library at Stamford Road. This three-storey building which re-opened after the recent upgrading, is widely used by students.

John Tan, 18, second-year Electronics & Computer Engineer-

ing (ECE) student, who goes to the National Library as early as 10am, said, "It is not as noisy here. Also, I can obtain essential reading materials for my subjects here."

Students can use the library till 9 pm at night on weekdays and 5 pm during weekends. For the hungry as well as thirsty, food and drinks are available at the 24-hour food centre outside the National Library or the coffee outlet in the library itself.

However, if you do not wish to travel too far, consider the reading rooms at nearby community centres.

Accessibility is a definite plus point for some students when the stress of examinations increases. "I took 5 minutes to walk

here from my home with some of my school mates living around the neighbourhood. It sure is convenient for us," said Steven Tan, 19, third-year Electrical Engineering (EE) student, who studies at the reading room at a community centre in Woodlands.

Doing away with the hassle of even walking out of your block of flats, the next best place to study is the void deck just below your housing block. A study group can easily be formed with schoolmates living around your neighbourhood at any time of the day. You need not even worry about forgetting to bring your notes since your home is just a few minutes away.

Another favourable factor for studying out of campus is doing group study, according to Bee Leng, 19, final-year BS student. Mr Lee Thian

Pau, an EE lecturer, who encourages group study, said, "There is a bond created when a study group is formed among students since you can get peer help at the very moment."



Students can tuck in to freshly baked bread while going over their notes at Simply Bread.

Sick of studying in the school library? TRIBUNE scours the campus for alternative study areas.

by Michelle Lim

## Atrium

This is one of the most central hang-outs among NP students. Gone are the rows of old, wooden benches and tables that used to mark the Atrium's study area. With new food outlets like Coffee Club XPress and a re-vamped Campus Deli, the renovated Atrium has packed in even more students than before.



The combination of fresh air and hot coffee never fails to draw students to the atrium.

"I come here to study more often than before the renovation, because it's much brighter now. And now there's more food to choose from," said Mohammed Isa, 17, first-year Mechanical Engineering (ME) student.

According to John Lim, 19, second-year Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE) student, the Atrium is also a perfect spot for group study, as "you can discuss with your friends without being restrained by the librarians".

"They should bring in more tables and seats. It's always so hard to find a seat here...can't imagine when the exam period comes."

- Tan Sze Ling

However, the popularity of the Atrium might not necessarily mean a good thing for some.

"They should bring in more tables and seats. It's always so hard to find a seat here...can't imagine when the exam period comes," lamented Tan Sze Ling, 20, a final-year Business Studies (BS) student spotted studying there.

## Megabites & Foodcourt

Located at the Singapore Institute of Management building, opposite Block 82, Megabites Café can be described as a nice, comfortable contrast to the bustling Atrium. A banner outside the



## Centrespread

# the books!

## Students

café screams, "Stress Free Zone is now open!" Indeed, nothing can be more comforting to know that you can relax in a clean, cool environment while revising your work.. complete with food and drinks as well.

Students can also easily access the Internet, and even print out materials through the four computer terminals inside the restaurant. If they want to take a short break from their books, they can check out the computer games at the terminals.

Said Eddie Lim, 21, final-year Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering student, who was visiting Megabites for the first time, "I will like to study at quieter places like this one...it's easier to concentrate. They also have some magazines at the couch, that part feels like home...but I think this place will not have so many distractions."

Just opposite Megabites Café is an air-conditioned food court, which is also clean and quiet enough for relatively undisturbed self-study.

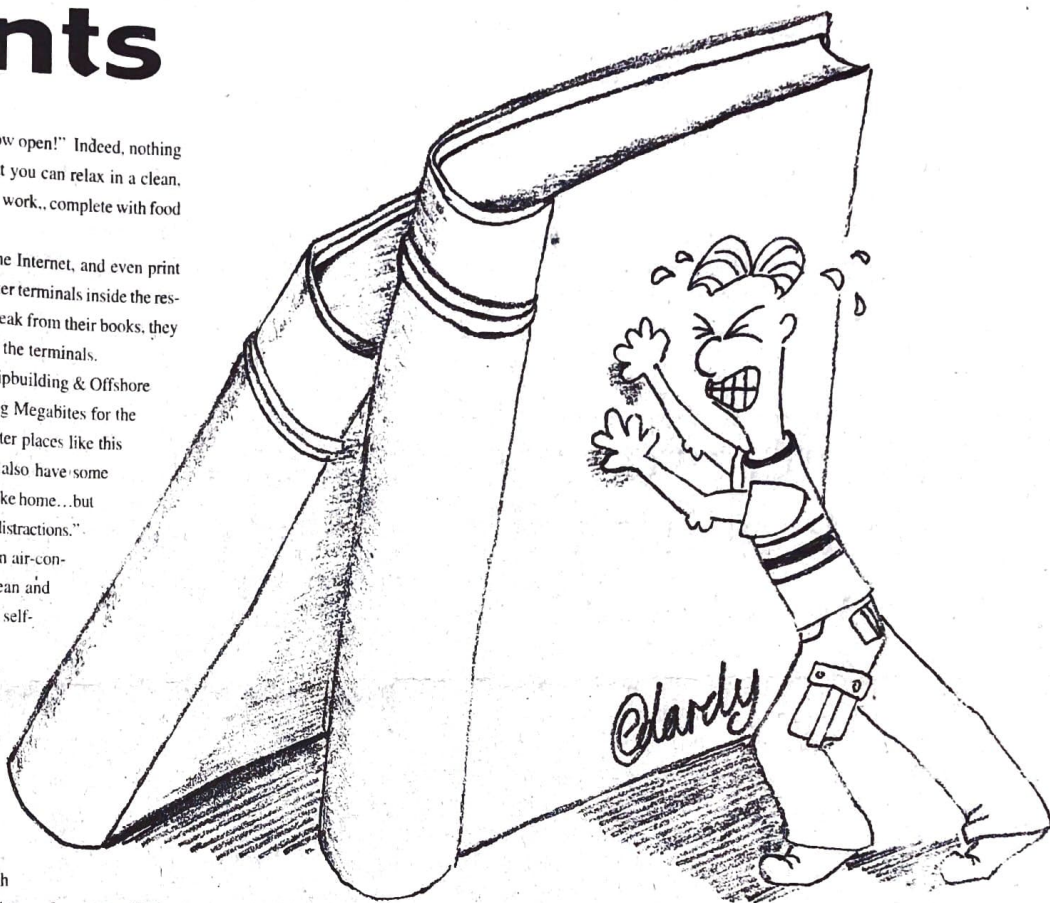
Two places in the same building for you to choose, if you do not mind a fair bit of uphill walking. It takes about 10 minutes to get there from the Octagon.

### The Terrace

Except for the crowded and noisy lunch hours, canteens do double up as a study area for some avid students. This is especially so in the mornings and in the evenings, when these students wait for their morning or evening classes to start.

"This place is near the Co-Op, near my classroom, and there's music also. We can use our laptops here...and also it's actually quite interesting because you get to see all sorts of people," said Nora, 18, a first-year Business Studies (BS) student, who was seen studying at The Terrace in the mornings.

However, the idea of studying in canteens did not seem to go down well with the other students Tribune interviewed. As Sze Ling put it, the "tables are dirty, wet, oily...and lighting is usually not very good for reading." ☹



**T**he days leading up to examinations can be very trying. Having to grapple with unread notes and struggling to commit facts to memory can be overwhelming tasks. Stress management is vital during this period.

"I usually just turn on some music and scream into the darkness," said Christina Tan, 22, third-year Business Studies (BS) student. "I simply stare at the ceiling for at least 5 minutes. It's a great way to clear your mind! It's one of the best ways... I do it all the time!" enthused Marcus Wong, 18, second-year Electronic and Computer Engineering (ECE) student.

*Here are some tips to revive those frayed nerves.*

#### \* Set priorities

Do not allow yourself to be overwhelmed by the number of different modules you have to study for. Write down a list of things you have to do and arrange them in order of urgency. You will be able to see things clearer when everything is down on paper.

#### \* Concentrate on the task at hand

Do not indulge in mental clutter. Knowing that you have so many things to do within a limited time frame may faze you. The thing to do is to concentrate wholly on the task you're working on without thinking of impending tasks. Take a step-by-step approach.

#### \* Go to the gym, work out

Take a constructive break between study sessions. Regular exercise never hurts anyone. Going to the gym with a friend can be very therapeutic. You'll feel much better physically after a rejuvenating workout. A healthy body makes for a healthy mind. Just don't over-exert yourself.

#### \* Practise Relaxation Techniques

Breathe deeply and slowly in succession for about 5 minutes. Don't think about work while you do this. This will relax your muscles and obliterate mental clutter.

#### \* Listen to Sounds of Nature with Music

Compact discs and cassettes which contain the sounds of nature set against soothing music are readily available. Go and get one. In times of extreme stress, these can be very valuable. Pretend you're on a beach or a faraway paradise.

#### \* Doodle or Draw

You don't have to be a Da Vinci to do this. Take a short break between study sessions to doodle shapes or words. You'll soon realize that certain structures, when drawn on paper actually comfort you and distract you from impending tasks for a short while.

-by Bhurati Jagdish



For easy reference to the Internet, Megabites is an ideal place for some.



## Around Campus

# Public speaking made easier

**Ever had sleepless nights before your presentations? Ever froze at the thought of talking in front of an audience? Well, fear no more and give a toast to the latest club set up on campus.**

by K. Jayanthi

**T**hey spoke, they laughed and above all, they left feeling confident, all thanks to the newly formed Ngee Ann Students' Toastmasters Club (NPS TMC).

Set up in July, the 13 members of the club meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. There, they practice their rhetorical skills through activities such as making impromptu speeches or delivering clear and concise presentations.

Beyond these meetings, the members receive the international Toastmasters Magazine monthly. Written by professional speakers based in California, in the United States, the magazine provides insights on new communication techniques, ideas and opinions.

Said Michael Wee, one of the coordinators of the club, "The magazine gives the members a learning tool and helps them refresh what they learned during our meetings as well give them ideas for new communication techniques."

Slated for official affiliation with Toastmasters International in the United States in early

March next year, the members are also provided with professionally prepared educational materials and resources on speech-making tips.

On how the club would benefit the students, the President of the Club, 18-year-old Barakkathunisa said, "Making speeches and presentations can be difficult for some people. This is where the Toastmasters Club would be able to provide help for the students to better prepare them."


One member, Steve Kang Sien Pheow, 18, a first-year Electronics and Computer Engineering (ECE) student, could not agree more, "I feel refreshed and confident after each session. Before, I was afraid to stand in front of many people. Now, I feel capable of doing it, all thanks to The Toastmasters Club," he said.

Vice President Jameson Koh, 18, said, "The

Toastmasters Club focuses on enhancing social skills and one of the most effective ways this can be done is through building the confidence to approach strangers and strike a conversation."

The 'second-year Computer Studies (CCS) student however lamented on the small number of members in the club.

Said Jameson, "The number of members is presently rather low. I can only hope that more of our students would join the club as the skills they learn here can be applied in the future."

Commenting on the small membership, Michael Wee said, "We are stepping up our publicity to highlight how the club can enhance their social and communication skills." 

**Those interested should contact Nissa at 9-600-6626 or Yong Xin at 9-560-0811.**

## BS students promote charitable spirit with Thai tour package

by Bharati Jagdish

**I**n a bid to gain hands-on industrial experience while engendering a spirit of charity, a group of Business Studies (BS) students put together a Thai tour package with a difference.

"Most people would think of Phuket when deciding where to go in Thailand. This tour package brings people to Korat, in Northeast Thailand. This location is not as popular as the resorts, but it is rich in culture and we have also devised programs where we bring donated items from Singapore and distribute them in Korat," said Kelvin Ling, 20, a third-year BS student who was part of the tourism sales team.

The BS students, majoring in Tourism and Leisure, were targeting Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students as well as students from


they will stop over at the Human Development Centre to gain an insight into the efforts made to bring education to street kids.

"This exercise serves as a learning experience for the Business Studies student team and gives them a chance to develop their selling skills. However the success rate for the package itself is questionable since the activities lined up are different from the usual," said Mr Ronald Ng, a BS lecturer.

NP students interviewed by the Tribune, expressed an interest in the trip although the

tourism sales team said that it has only received three confirmed prospects so far.

"The package is different from other tours and gives us a chance to learn more about the hardships that people face in Thailand. But, I am not sure if I would go on the trip. I may want to spend the time relaxing at some resort," said Cherrilyn Neo, 19, second-year Shipbuilding and Offshore Engineering (SOE) student.

The BS tourism sales team said it needed at least 20 people to sign up before the trip can take off. Subsequently, donations of books, canned food products and other items will be collected around campus. The package costs \$475 per person. For more information, contact Kelvin Ling at 9684 2144 by 22 Oct. 

other tertiary institutions and selected secondary schools. The BS Tourism team worked hand in hand with GBC Travelcentre to devise the itinerary for the trip.

In Thailand, besides visiting cultural monuments, students will stay overnight at a Korat village where they will distribute clothes, toys, books and other donated items from Singapore. They will also get the opportunity to join villagers in offering alms to monks and helping out in the rice fields. A highlight of the trip is a visit to slums of Klong Toey in Bangkok where

**"This exercise serves as a learning experience for the Business Studies student team and gives them a chance to develop their selling skills."**

- Mr Ronald Ng

## Education Minister meets student leaders




*The Education Minister Rear Admiral Teo Chee Hean conversing with the student leaders over a light buffet lunch. Looking on is Principal Mr. Khoo Chin Hean.*

by K. Jayanthi

**M**inister for Education, Rear-Admiral Teo Chee Hean and Senior Minister of State for Education, Mr. Peter Chen visited Ngee Ann Polytechnic on 22 September to hear from NP students their views on polytechnic studies.

The two-hour closed-door session was held over a buffet lunch at the Staff Hub Restaurant in Block 16. It was attended by the heads of departments, lecturers and twenty student representatives.

One of the representatives, Ranjeet Rajan, 18, second-year Computer Studies (CCS) student. President for NP Sailing Club, said, "Meetings like these are good as students get to put their thoughts across. At the same time they get to suggest what they feel about the educational structure of polytechnics and how it can be improved."

Martin Leq Chen Hong, 20, last year's top graduate from CCS added, "This meeting proves that the opinions and feedback of students are respected. This gives us some kind of importance and belonging as well." 

### What it should have been

We refer to the story "Student elections go unnoticed" in the September 99 issue of the Ngee Ann Tribune. 65 students were involved as nominees in the election and not as nominees and voters as stated. We apologise for the error.

The Student Union wish to clarify that all union members are entitled to stand for election. Every full-time student shall be and is a member of the union. It is entirely up to the individual's decision as to whether to stand for election. It is also the right of every Union member to decide whether to exercise their voting rights since voting is not compulsory.



# Around Campus

## Bites


### FMS introduce Advanced Diploma

A NEW COURSE for filmmakers was introduced with the launch of the Advanced Diploma in Film Production (ADFP) by the Centre for Film & Media Studies (FMS) on 1 September.

The two-year full-time course commenced in July with an intake of 24 students.

In support of the launch, Dr Ismail Sudderuddin, director of the Singapore Film Commission (SFC), said that the ADFP would help produce "creative people who are able to generate compelling content", an element he said was currently lacking in the local film industry.

Echoing Dr Ismail's opinion, Mr Vijay Chandran, course co-ordinator of ADFP, said that the ADFP would serve to address this need.

"The purpose of the ADFP is to elevate the level of film-making by having filmmakers, who have things to say but don't know how to say them, learn the craft that's required to be able to say what it is they want to say, as movies," said Mr Chandran. 


### Launch of Tamil Language Movement

THE TAMIL Language Movement was launched at the Octagon on 4 September, keeping the Tamil language high on the agenda.

The audience witnessed the unveiling of the official logo and website alongside a video showcase of prominent local Indians who learnt to speak the language in spite of their busy schedules.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chief Advisor for the Tamil Language Movement, Prof. S. Jayakumar, said in his speech, "It is the society that has got to work on enriching the Tamil language in order to preserve its culture and heritage."

The movement, in addressing the purpose of maintaining the growth of the Indian culture and language in society, went down well with the Indian community.

Over a thousand people attended it, ranging from public figures such as Members of Parliament as well as students from kindergartens to secondary schools. 


### Launchpad '99

A FASHION show and free handphones in a lucky draw were highlights of Radio Heatwave's Launchpad '99 on 10 September.

Despite the low turnout - 500 this year compared to last year's 900, the audience had a great time.

Host Glenn Ong, 29, of The Perfect 10 jazzed up the night's festivities with his humour. NP students also modelled clothes designed by students from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA).

Glenn enthused about the NP crowd and the venue, "The capacity of the Octagon is a perfect place for gigs, and it'll be great if more shows were held here."

Launchpad '99 also marked the first time a telecommunication company sponsored an event organised by Radio Heatwave. 

## Lending a hand in Turkey

By Tan Puay Hwee

**N**gee Ann Polytechnic (NP) demonstrated its compassion when three students initiated a donation drive to help the Turkey earthquake victims.

Led by Benson Lim, 19, a second year student from the Centre for Computer Studies (CCS), the idea to aid the casualties started when he heard his lecturers talking about the tragedy. He hoped the donation drive would involve the NP population to come together and "use our efforts to help out others".

Together with classmates Adeline Wu, 18, and Sri Herrganto, 20, they started collecting donations in late September.

Although the collection period clashed with their common tests, the group was determined to take on the task. Explained Benson, "We had only one week to collect the items for the victims to allow the donations to be processed and sent to Turkey as quick as possible."

Contacts were established with the Turkey Cultural Centre, the Singapore Red Cross, and the Boys' Brigade to

transport their donations to these organisations. The short collection period also meant minimal publicity, leaving the group to rely on flyers, letters to Clubs and Societies and word of mouth to secure donations.

**"We felt a sense of achievement when we saw things coming in...we received a lot of items from students and lecturers."**

- Adeline Wu

Their efforts paid off. The group managed to collect \$300 in cash donations and boxes of canned food, blankets, towels and diapers, from lecturers and students over the five-day collection period.


Adeline described the experience as an enriching one. "We felt a sense of achievement when we saw things coming in, especially from the second day onwards where we received a lot of items from students and lecturers."

After the collection period, the

group was still handling cheques from well-wishers and have since referred all donations to the Singapore Red Cross.

The group has no plans to form another donation drive at the moment despite the recent Taiwan earthquake, stating that projects and assignments take precedence for now.

For a first-time student effort, the group is pleased that they have made a difference. Added Sri Herrganto, "Hopefully more NP students would take the initiative to do such projects, just take a little bit more effort and the results would be very satisfactory."

Benson also stressed the project would not have been successful without contributions from students and lecturers. "We would like to thank everyone who helped us, especially those who helped us man the collection booth as well as the donors, without which the event would not have been possible." 

You can call the Turkish Embassy at 7329211, and the Taipei Representative Office at 2786511, to make cheque donations or other contributions.

## A Date with Spring

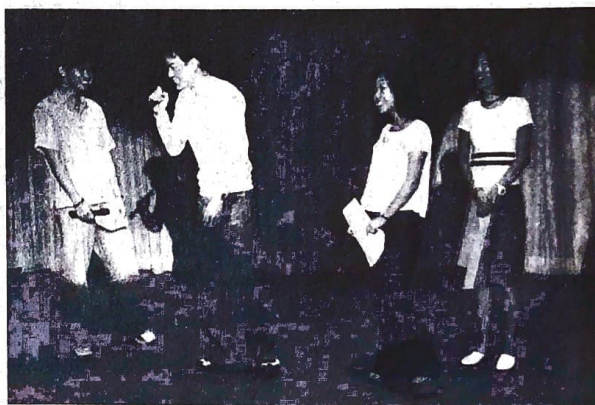
by Cheryl Teo

**F**or the first time, instead of concerts, a musical was promoted in Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP). The event, which was held on 16 September, attracted a crowd of 450 students.

"I Have A Date With Spring", a promotional effort by Poly Stage Productions, featured Television Corporation of Singapore (TCS) artistes Thomas Ong, Constance Song and Aileen Tan.

Aileen Tan, who played one of the main roles in the musical, said, "It is an altogether different thing when acting a play and acting for the television screen. The play's setting allows the cast to move with fewer restrictions."

Seven members of the cast all played their part to introduce songs from the musical. The songs were sung in Mandarin, Cantonese and English.



Two members of the audience took on the roles of TCS artistes Thomas Ong (second from left) and Constance Song (far right) and re-enacted a scene from the musical, much to the amusement of the crowd.


The pair, Thomas and Constance, who played the main roles, impressed the audience with their acting skills.

It was a lighthearted atmosphere as occasional jokes were created along with game segments. Several students were selected to answer simple questions. Two other students also had to act out a scene from the musical that was demonstrated earlier by Thomas and Constance. The soundtrack and autographed posters were given to these students as prizes.

Alicia Tham, 20, a second-year Accountancy student, said, "This promotional event was fairly well done

and interesting. I will encourage the school to come up with such events more frequently."

Another student who thought that promoting musicals was an interesting concept was Aileen Teo. The 19-year-old, second-year Building and Real Estate Management (BRE) student said, "This is quite a fresh idea. My friends and I like the programme, especially when you get to see the local celebrities acting live before your eyes. I will definitely support more of such activities."

The musical, presented by Toy Factory Theatre Ensemble, was held at Victoria Theatre from 4 to 13 October. 



# Sports

## Mixed fortunes for NP tennis team



The women's team has successfully maintained their third placing at the IVP tennis competition.

by Richmond Tan

Finishing fourth in this year's Inter-Varsity Polytechnic (IVP) competition brought mixed reactions for the Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) men's tennis team, while third place for the NP women's tennis team was satisfactory.

The women's team was the best-placed polytechnic team for the second consecutive year. Its captain, Liew Yee Ling, 19, was delighted at the overall performance of her teammates.

"The team had trained very hard for the past three months and we are glad to have maintained our third place standing," said Yee Ling, 19, final-year Business Studies (BS) student.

The women's team outclassed the other polytechnic teams with identical 4-1 scorelines before succumbing to the challenges of the two university teams 5-0 each.

Commenting on two university teams, Yee Ling said, "The university teams are just too strong for us again this year, but I hope that NP can match

them next year."

Another outstanding player, Pamela Teng, 19, third-year Film & Media Studies (FMS) student, said, "I am quite happy with my performance and I feel that the entire women's team have done a good job."

The third place feat by the women's team was accomplished with only six registered players compared to last year's eight. This was seen as a serious handicap as it presented the team with a deficiency in depth.

As NP's coach, Mr Mah Poh Soon explained, "I have faith in my players. Although we had a smaller team this year, I was confident they will still do well and they certainly did not disappoint me."

Meanwhile, it was a case of "so close yet so far" for the men's team. Aiming for a top three placing, the team began their campaign on a losing note as they were edged out by Singapore Polytechnic 3-2.

One of the highlights of the IVP competition for men's teams was the exciting encounter against NTU.

Despite the fact that the NTU team had national trainee Kelvin Chew, the NP team met the challenge and against all odds, beat NTU 3-2.

"The boys were excellent. They played beyond themselves and achieved something totally unexpected. I couldn't be more pleased," said Mr Gopi, Student Development Officer in charge of tennis.

Andre Huber, 19, third-year BS student, won his closely fought singles match as he saved five match points before winning the deciding encounter.

"During those match points, I

told myself that I must hold on for I was not prepared to simply give up a match I had fought so hard and long for," he said.

"When Andre and Nicholas won the match point, the team celebrated as one and it was a magical moment. Definitely one of the highlights of my time with the team," said team captain Liew Wen Hsiung, 19, third-year Electronics and Computer Engineering (ECE) student.

The men's team then went on to beat Temasek Polytechnic 3-2 before losing to National University of Singapore (NUS) 0-5.

	Men's team	Women's team
NP vs SP	2-3	4-1
NP vs NYP	5-0	4-1
NP vs NTU	3-2	0-5
NP vs TP	3-2	4-1
NP vs NUS	0-5	0-5

## NP unlucky at the pool

by Ion Danker & K. Jayanthi

It was a luckless outing for the NP swimming team at this year's Inter-Varsity Polytechnic (IVP) swimming competition as they failed to win any medals and were disqualified five times at the National University of Singapore (NUS) swimming complex.

The NP team was disqualified for incorrect strokes and illegal kicks in two individual events - men's and women's 100m backstroke and three relays - men's 4x100m freestyle and men's and women's 4x50m medley.

Swimming captain and second-year Mechatronics Engineering student, Marcus Tan Er Han, 20, said, "The disqualifications were rather unfortunate but it was a genuine mistake on the part of the team and we will have to pick ourselves up from this."

Marcus, who was involved in both the men's relays, felt the swimmers were rather nervous and lacked the experience to compose themselves during the competition. Despite this, he was pleased with their efforts.

"If you look at the times they reg-

istered, they were all much better than the times at the swimming carnival two months ago," said Marcus.

While the team can console themselves for their efforts, the same cannot be said for Adeline Mak.

Having won two bronzes at last year's IVP competition, she finished third in the 100m backstroke event only to be stripped of her bronze medal after the judges ruled she committed an illegal kick at the halfway point.

Not agreeing with the decision, the bemused 19-year-old final-year Accountancy student said, "I did not think it was an illegal kick. I have been using this technique all along and this is the first time I was penalized for it."

The NP team appealed against the decision but it fell on deaf ears as the judges decided not to overturn the decision.

Team manager Michelle Seetoh, 21, was disappointed with the decisions made by the chief judge.

"It's a pity that swimmers like Adeline are robbed of a medal because

## Soccer team disappoints



Our men in blue conceding yet another goal.

by Ion Danker

The NP Inter-Varsity Polytechnic soccer team failed to win at this year's competition to record their worst performance in four years.

Champions in 1996 and 1997, our boys in blue began this year's campaign with three straight defeats at the NP Sports Complex losing to Nanyang

of something she's been doing all this while," said the second-year Film and Media Studies student.

Student Development Officer in charge of the swimming team, Mr Bernard Teo, was philosophical on the disqualifications. He said, "The judge

Polytechnic (0-2), Singapore Polytechnic (1-2) and National University of Singapore (0-2).

Their losing streak continued in the fourth match when NP lost 1-2 to Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The team then drew the next two matches against Temasek Polytechnic (TP) 1-1, and 0-0 to the combined ITE team.

knows the rules best and when he makes a decision, the ruling is final. As competitors, we should accept the decision gracefully and look ahead."

On NP's chances next year, Mr Teo feels the team needs more quality swimmers to compete next year.

The disappointing performances by the team were even more puzzling when the team has seven players currently involved actively in the Singapore Prime League.

Student Development Officer in charge of the soccer team, Mr Gopi Retnam, said, "Talent is something this team has. But sadly, we have not been able to work well as a team yet and this proved to be our weakness."

Commenting on the team's performance, Mr Gopi said, "We were not outplayed in any of the matches. But we ended up losing our games through errors which shouldn't happen."

Team captain Joe Liew, 18, a second-year Computer Studies student, said, "The team dominated all the matches but we made a few mistakes and that caused us the results."

Meanwhile, Mr Gopi was optimistic about next year. He said, "We have to look at the mistakes made and work on them. We were champions before and I am sure we can do better. We will learn from this."

"The team did their best and I am very proud of them. But the number of swimmers we have is relatively small and I just hope that next year, more students will come and join the swimming team so that we can add more depth to the team," he said.