



# PEACE

## Please

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Tribune highlights the current Afghanistan situation and goes a further step to do its bit for the Afghan refugees.

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So hot was Tension that there was a black market for the tickets for their concert held at the Octagon.

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Ngee Ann goes to the Sea Games. We profile some of the athletes who did our nation proud.

# Possible transport solution

BY WAYNE CHAN

**S**tudents Affairs is considering running a free shuttle service from Clementi for Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students, according to Director of Student Affairs, Mr David Lui.

Speaking to Tribune, he said that he is aware that students find the current transport system from Clementi to NP insufficient during the peak period between 7.30 am and 9 am.

In response to students' feedback, NP is exploring the feasibility of providing a shuttle service between Clementi, NP and Bukit Timah for students and staff.

"What we can't decide right now is whether to charge, or if we charge, how to collect the money," he said. "Because the moment there is payment of fees involved, then collection becomes quite a hassle - accounting for it, collecting it, checking, banking...."

"But running a free service would mean getting a lot of approvals from the various authorities."

These authorities would include the Singapore Land Transport Authority (LTA) and the Public Transport Council. The LTA has said that a free shuttle bus service will not be allowed to use public bus stops.

To tackle this problem, Mr Lui said that suitable car parks next to the Clementi MRT station have been identified as possible pick-up points.

But there is a problem finding a suitable pick-up point along Bukit Timah road, behind Bukit Timah Plaza, where people from the north arrive.

The cost of this service is also a concern.

"If we are paying (for) shuttle bus service at 10-minute intervals, we would be looking at probably around \$5000-\$6000 a month if it operates between Monday and Friday, and only during the hours of 7.30 am to 9 am," said Mr Lui.

He also said that NP has approached SBS, which runs bus service 154 on Clementi Road.

But based on its statistics, SBS felt that the frequency of its bus service meets commuters' demands and it maintains that it has no problems transporting students to NP, said Mr Lui.

Tribune spoke to several students who use the bus

stop at Clementi.

"There are too many other people taking the same buses that go to NP," said Calvin Boh Tse Chuang, 19, third-year Information Communication Technology student. "That's why you can still end up being late for lectures despite coming early to wait for the bus."

Tan Chee Meng, 18, first-year Electronic and

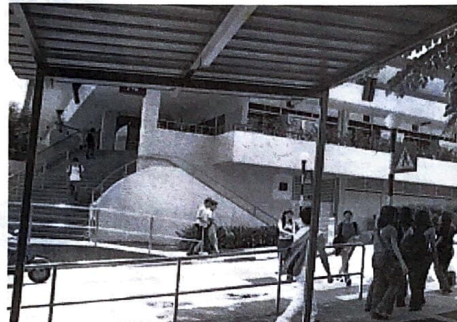
Computer Engineering (ECE) student said, "You got to be fast, if not, just wait and be late."

Chee Meng added that the buses were often late and that he wished they would come at eight-minute intervals.

A second-year ECE student, Jonathan Liew, 19, put it very simply, "Too little bus and too many people."

## Weather forecast: Dry

BY RAHMALISA RAHMAT



Just not long enough: It's fine on sunny days like these but when there's rain, students have to dash and get wet.

**S**tudents can look forward to more sheltered linkways by 2003 according to Mr Ng Say Kiat, director of the Estates and Development Office (ED).

At this point of time, "About 95 percent of the campus buildings are already linked by covered linkways or buildings," said Mr Ng.

Further covered linkways to be constructed include linkways to Block 34 and at the junction of Canteen One leading to the Octagon. The two new linkways will be built upon the completion of Phase V of NP's

development plan. This also includes minor road extensions, construction of a convention centre and a new teaching block in place of the Octagon and Block 56 respectively and new car parks around the new buildings, according to ED.

A few students Tribune spoke to felt that the main entrance needed covered walkways the most, especially at the zebra crossing. Despite two alternative sheltered routes, they preferred a shorter, "more direct" way.

A group of second-year Early Childhood Education students complained that the walkway along NP Orchard Road leading to the Co-op does not help shelter them from the rain. One of the students in the group, Stefan Koh, 18, felt it was "badly designed".

In reply, Mr Ng explained, "The linkway has a higher roof but it has a wider coverage." He added that the coverage was at least "30 percent more than the old metal roof".

While it is impossible to ensure total coverage from weather elements in NP, some students appreciate what is already there.

Jodie Tay, 17, a first-year Business Studies student said the sheltered links are "good" and "more convenient". However, she felt they there should be sufficient maintenance as some parts along certain sheltered walkways were leaking.

In response, Mr Ng said, "There are some old linkways built many years ago. If they leak, you should report to us and we can repair them." However, he said students can rest assured that the sheltered walkways "are maintained regularly to ensure that they are in good and serviceable condition".

## My two cents worth



WINDY CHAN

So, who's to blame?

It took 85 minutes for the world to fall into yet another struggle for military and economic superiority.

"Avenge U.S.A. Kill a Muslim." These words in red were found on the walls of a mosque in London. This is just one of the many anti-Muslim confrontations after the terrorist attacks on the US on 11 Sept.

An Afghan taxi driver was paralysed from the neck down after being dragged from his cab in southwest London, and beaten senseless by three men who claimed they, according to a Scotland Yard spokeswoman, did it because of the attacks on New York and Washington.

Nihilism, which some say means the desire to defy, is also why others say the enemies of freedom fly planes into office buildings.

So, why don't we blame all nihilists? And while we're at that, why haven't we brought to justice other terrorists from around the world?

The spotlight instead is on the suspected perpetrators of the terrorist attacks: the Taliban, who have banned television, dance, film, photography, kite-flying, non-religious music and World Heritage sites such as the giant Buddhas in Bamiyan, which they destroyed in March.

The world watches, appalled, as many see that the

Afghan people do not have access to what most of us take for granted, like radio and television; the Taliban bans influences it considers offensive to Islam.

There was no television in most families even before the Taliban rule; twenty years of civil war had destroyed power lines and hydroelectric stations. But, did we care then?

After 11 September, the media highlights the plight of the hungry, the poor, the children and the oppressed women in Afghanistan. CNN airs documentaries about Afghans and how the Taliban rule is claiming daily lives.

But since the 1980s, millions of Afghan children have been orphaned and made homeless. Nearly 6 out of 10,000 children under five die every day. With missiles and food raining on them simultaneously now, even more children are expected to die. Women are left to die from curable diseases, because male general practitioners are not allowed to give physical medical attention to women. Did we take sides then?

Taliban means "seekers of truth" in Arabic. Whose truth?

A New York mayor asks the world to "be on the side of civilisation", appealing for support for the bombing of Afghanistan. But is a war the only way?

In searching for a cure, does the doctor wrench out more body parts? The US is opting for surgical strikes, claiming to root out the disease. But shouldn't we have been caring for the patients who started dying decades ago?

So, who's to blame?

I am.

The Ngee Ann Tribune  
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### Tribune

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# Volunteering some sunshine



Children with painted faces added much colour and fun at the Botanic Gardens charity concert where NP students volunteered.

BY S. NIRMALA

Sixty five first-year students and six student leaders volunteered in a two-day event organised by the Children's Voice Charity to raise funds for the Assisi Children's Home.

The event consisted of two segments - a golf tournament held at the Tanah Merah Country Club and a charity concert at the Botanic Gardens held on 7 and 8

September, and aimed at raising a total of \$200,000.

The first-year students were involved in the event to meet a requirement of their community service module with the School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

They were either event ushers or event umpires at the golf tournament which saw close to 150 golfers paying \$380 each to participate.

The tournament's guest of honour was Dr John Chen, Minister of State for Communications and Information Technology and National Development.

## Cash Cards for Charity

BY RENE YAP

Armed with a business plan and a real-life client, 15 final-year students from the School of Business and Accountancy set up a "business unit" on campus offering instant services for personalised CashCards, and in the process, hope to under-privileged children under the World Vision programme.

The CashCards were sold at Canteen Two and cost \$12.50 each but had no monetary value. Each time a purchase is made, a dollar went to the World Vision Fund.

The students worked closely with The Singapore Mint, which provided training, equipment and materials. Communication Manager for World Vision Singapore, Ms Joycelyn Tan, welcomed the move. "With the money collected from donors, we are able to provide these children a place to live in, education and also, keep them off the streets."

Response for the service has been "better than expected" with more than 100 CashCards sold over two weeks.

The project spans the entire academic year with the team hoping to sell more than 150 cards by April 2002.

Customers interviewed in NP found the personalised CashCard "expensive but worth it" as they are chipping in for a good cause.

"It may be a little expensive considering there is no monetary value in it, but at least a small portion of the money goes to helping others," said Ng Tian Fu, 18, a second-year Building and Real Estate Management student.

The money collected will benefit children from Cambodia, Vietnam, Kosovo and Mongolia, amongst other countries.

## Helping through Teaching

BY LIN WENJIAN



Ms Chiew Suat Li, 35, a recipient of the free AutoCAD courses receives her certificate from ME Director, Mr Foo See Meng.

For the second year running, Mechanical Engineering (ME) lecturers dedicated their time over four days to conduct a free AutoCAD 3D course for the Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf).

According to the course co-ordinator, Mr Lim Eng Seng, 49, an ME lecturer, the department conducted a free 2D course for SADeaf in August last year.

Based on the good response, they decided to do it again this year in July and August.

spark to spread."

Ms Valerie Lim, from the secretariat of the Children's Voice Charity, described the student volunteers as "a great help... responsible, dependable and on the ball".

The event fulfilled its two objectives, to raise funds of at least \$200,000 for the Assisi Children's Centre and to raise awareness of the charity.

In view of the success of this year's event and last year's event, another golf tournament-cum-concert is slated for next year.

Said Mr Lim, "The people from SADeaf were very keen to learn and I thought this is a good way to contribute to society."

Mr Lim added that his three colleagues and he did not face any communication problems during the course because SADeaf provided an interpreter.

"It's like everyday teaching except that this is conducted at a slower pace and with more written illustrations to explain the steps," he explained.

Ms Ann Tay, 32, vice chairman for IT Training and Education, from SADeaf Cyberlab Committee said that the main objective of this training scheme was to provide the 12 beneficiaries with opportunities to upgrade their IT skills in order to better face challenges in the working world.

"Cyberlab has limited facilities plus I really hoped that our members can improve their skills and find better jobs in their respective industries," said Ms Tay.

The AutoCAD software is used by architects, engineers, drafters and design-related professionals to create and use information-rich drawings. It is generally used to transfer drawings of physical systems into a computer.

Responses from the beneficiaries were very encouraging as well.

One of them, Mr Andrew Tay, a 35-year-old draftsman, found the course lecturers very patient and helpful.

He said, "The course is very useful to my job scope and I can understand it very well with the help of our interpreter."

Ms Shirley Chew, 31, another member from SADeaf who attended the course agreed.

"This course is valuable because it provides us with the skills to keep our future secure," she said.

SADeaf plans to approach NP for further courses next year.

# For Whom T

The 11 September terrorist attacks were but a taste of true terror. The repercussions  
Tribune says:

## My experiences

BY LIM WEILIN

MY feet were starting to ache from standing, my arms starting to hurt from holding out the donation tin and I was beginning to feel a headache coming on.

Until I turned around and saw an Indian construction worker standing next to me. Without saying a word, he slipped a bunch of 10-dollar and two-dollar notes into my donation tin.

I thanked him profusely but he just smiled and walked back to resume his work near the Octagon.

This was but one of the many experiences which totally humbled me while I was doing my bit raising money for the refugees in Afghanistan.

Putting this fund-raiser together was not an easy task. It involved numerous discussions with my other two student editors, one of which ended in tears of frustration.

The amount of red tape we had to clear was at times tedious but on 17 October, all hardship and frustration were forgotten when we saw our volunteers had managed to fill up 10 donation tins within a few short hours.

One of our volunteers Rahmalisa Rahmat, 19, a third-year Mass Communication student even said that she wouldn't go home until her tin was full.

Two days of fund-raising saw us raise a total of \$3491.28.

The fund-raiser was an experience I will never forget because it gave me incredible faith in the human race.

It wasn't easy going up to people and approaching them for money. In the beginning, I was close to tears when people walked right past me or rejected me but as the hours passed, I was smiling and sometimes even laughing.

For every person who declined to make a donation, there was a truck driver who stopped his truck by the side of the road to run to me and give me money and there was a group of cleaning ladies who pooled their money together to make a donation to those in Afghanistan who desperately need help. I started off this fund-raising event thinking I was just doing my bit for charity. What I never bargained for was bringing back so many lessons the many donors taught me just by being themselves.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

### Students tell Tribune how they feel about the US attacks

**"Americans are at a disadvantage compared to Afghanistan. Basically life in Afghanistan is almost worth nothing but it is the direct opposite in America. Now the world is also feeling the effects of the war. The world is in recession because of the war. I hope the outcome will be an American victory and wipe out the terrorists."**

**Steven Guan, 19, third-year  
LSCT student**

## A muslim voice

BY RENE YAP

IN the wake of American air strikes against Afghanistan, the Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) Muslim Students Society (MSS) has taken on a "neutral stand" towards the war.

According to the society's President, Muhammad Hisham Bin Alias, 19, a third-year Electrical Engineering student, "The MSS does not support the US strikes on Afghanistan, and neither do we support acts of terrorism by Muslim extremists."

"But with the US taking on Afghanistan, they are no different from being terrorists themselves," added Hisham.

"The lives lost at the WTC incident are as valuable as the lives lost during the air strikes in Afghanistan - no war is justified," said Hisham.

"Islam does not teach anyone to go to war. If the Muslim extremists use Islam to kill innocent lives, then they are not preaching the religion, but their own ego and pride," he explained.

"America is a superpower and it can afford to wage a war against Afghanistan. But look at Afghanistan, which is already a poor country... the Afghans are suffering too," he said.

Tribune spoke to 15 students and all interviewed agree that the war could be avoided.

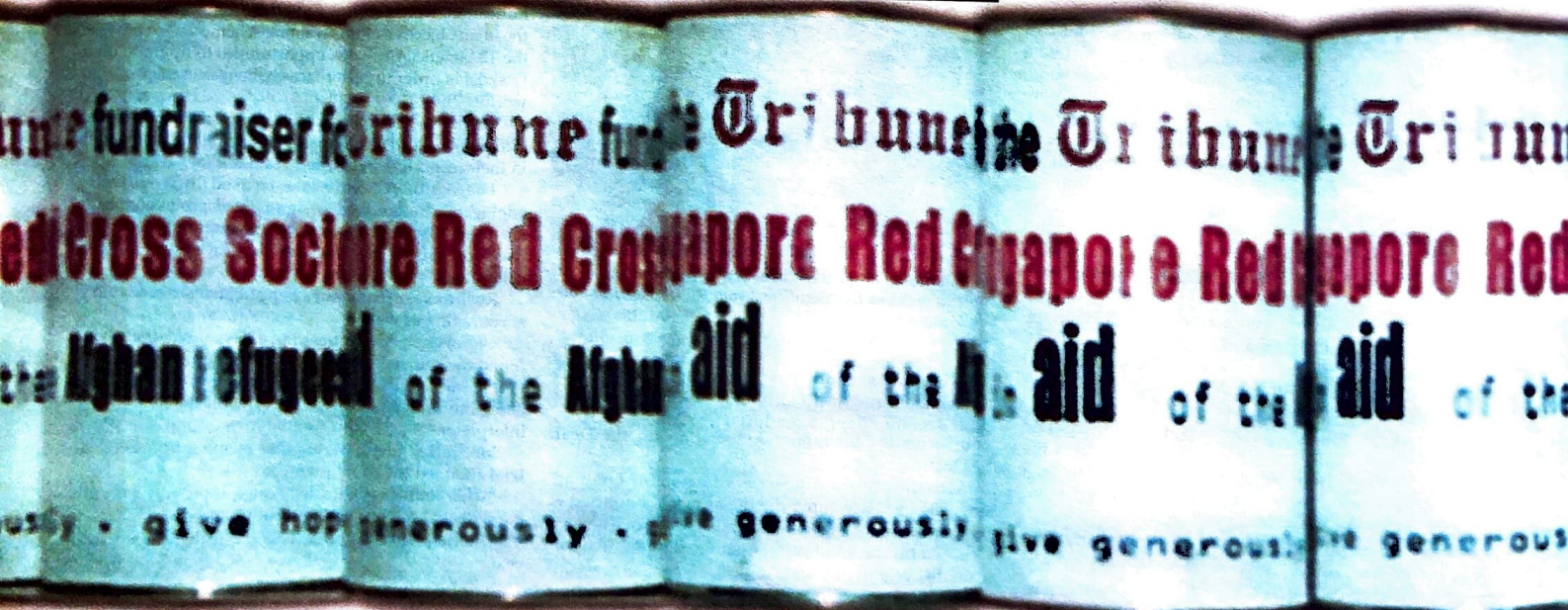
Muhammad Thahir Bin Shaik Dawood, 19, a third-year Electronic and Computer Engineering student, felt that America initiated the war "purely to prove that they are still in power".

"The Americans should learn from the Vietnam and Korean war that nobody wins in war. It's very sad that innocent Afghans have to suffer because of their religion," said Thahir.

Even though the US insisted that the war is against terrorism, not Islam; students interviewed were not convinced.

"Everyone is saddened by the WTC incident, but two wrongs doesn't make one right. The US is too quick to point fingers," said Pang Zhao Di, 19, a third-year Business Studies student.

"The US should concentrate on rebuilding the damages and not cause more damage. They don't have to fight to win," she concluded.



# he Bell Tolls

missions have been grim – the US is bombing Afghanistan. Is war the answer?  
Peace Please.

## Afghans' story

BY SKYE TAN

"AFGHANISTAN is one of the most over-bombed countries in the world." These are the words of Professor Bilveer Singh, 45, associate professor with the political science department of National University of Singapore.

The United States (US) launched military strikes against Afghanistan on 7 October in retaliation for the 11 September attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon. Chief suspect Osama bin Laden, guest of the ruling Taliban, is believed to be in Afghanistan.

According to the Pakistan High Commission in Singapore, there were 2.5 million Afghanistan refugees in Pakistan before 11 September's attacks. An estimated 800 to 1000 refugees are crossing the border every day. Since the US strikes, this number has risen to 8000.

The conditions at the refugee camps are poor and many Afghans - who have been refused entry into Pakistan - are waiting on the no-man's-land between the two countries.

"The Afghans have always been victimised," said Professor Bilveer. "Theirs is a barren land in a highly harsh climate. They have not been blessed with good leaders. Afghanistan has always been seen by outsiders as something to be used."

"The Russians [went] in there. Historically, the British did that, the Iranian did that, the British empire did that, the Indian empire did that, so on and so forth," he said in an interview with Tribune.

The impact and consequences of the terrorism attacks on the US and now, its retaliation on Afghanistan is not limited to the Middle East and the US.

"Because of globalisation... we all have become victims in one form or another. We can't travel, we can't do this and that. Take myself for instance, I am a Sikh. One of the first casualties of the whole thing was a Sikh who was shot dead because he looked like an Arab."

Professor Bilveer's son was stopped by the police in Australia because "he looks like Osama".

"I don't think there was ever an event in the world that got more direct effect - politics, security and economics and within the racial-religious consequences," he said. He noted that it is especially so when the world is facing an economic downturn.

"We can't escape from what is happening... It's hard



Mixed reactions: That's what greeted our volunteers' efforts to raise money for the Afghan refugees.



Digging in deep for change: People were generally willing to help.

to say how long it will last but this war wouldn't be short."

The effects will be global.

And for the Afghans, it creates an even bleaker future than before.

"They never had a chance to control their own destiny. If you look at the people of Afghanistan, they just had too many tears. Their people suffered so much and they will continue to suffer," he said.

### More students' quotes:

"Though I do not condone acts of terrorism, the US should instead of plainly using force, also rethink its foreign policy."

Kamahl Kaweri, 19, second-year LSCT student

"I think that US should just try to target Osama and his headquarters and to spare those innocent Afghanistan people."

David Lee, 19, third-year ACC student

the Tribune fund raiser the Tribune the Tribune fund raiser  
Singapore Red Cross Society Singapore Red Cross Society  
aid of the Afghan refugees aid of the aid of the Afghan refugees  
generously - give generously - give generously - give

# Northern Star, Landy

BY MARCO WONG

**D**espite her provocative dancing in front of a packed Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) audience, Landy Wen Lan maintains that she is "not really wild".

The 22-year-old Taiwanese singer delivered an energetic performance at LT 26 on 4 October. The event was co-hosted by NP's Radio Heatwave and UFM 100.3.

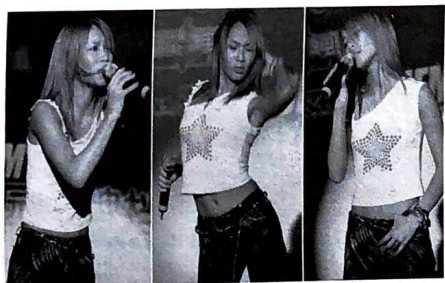
Once the hordes of students managed to squeeze into the theatre, Landy kicked off the showcase with a quick number, "Can you feel it?". Parading her lean muscles in a sexy white sleeveless blouse and dyed-blue bell-bottom jeans, the audience warmed up to Landy almost immediately.

Unlike most concert halls, the lecture theatre allowed students to be within inches of Landy. "She looked very healthy and sporty. I'll pay to watch her if I've to," said Ng Kok Ping, 18, a second-year Building and Environment student.

In between belting out hits from her current album, Landy also engaged in much chatting and joking with the students. When Landy had to perform a short dance routine with a female member of the audience as part of a dancing competition, she asked if she could stand facing the crowd instead of sideways so that she could hide her "flat chest".

The young singer from Taipei showed no signs of nervousness on stage when she spoke at length to the students about Singaporean students and even her rumoured relationship with Taiwanese singer Jay Chou.

"When I arrived in Singapore, I actually found it cold. Everywhere seems to be air-conditioned. People in Singapore must be very rich to afford this," she candidly



LOUIS KWOK

**This northern star has many faces: Landy charms her fans with many hits and funky dance moves.**

told the students in Mandarin.

When asked about her unusual name, Landy explained that her name was given to her by her mentor, Jacky Wu, famed host and singer in Taiwan, when she first started out in the entertainment business.

In the middle of her set, Landy surprised the audience by walking around the LT to give away posters as well as shaking the hands of those who were near her.

As the evening drew to a close, it was obvious that the audience would not let her leave without watching her perform her hit single. Landy obliged by singing her final piece, "Northern star" with the enthusiastic crowd waving their hands and singing along.

After performing her set of seven songs, an autograph session was held for audience members who had Landy's debut album or poster. In seconds, the posters of Landy pasted onto the walls by the event organisers had been torn down in a bid to get Landy's signature.

Makeshift stalls set up outside the Octagon selling Landy's debut album also saw brisk business as numerous students rushed outside to purchase her album.

"There's a wild feel to my present image. And that's because of this album 'A little wild'. It's actually just the dancing, my hair and how I look. I am not really wild," Landy told Tribune before she was hastily ushered off after the post-concert press conference.

# Tension brings Octagon down with performance

BY CLARICE SEAH NILI

**D**emand for tickets to Taiwan-based boyband Tension's concert at Ngee Ann Polytechnic's (NP) Octagon was so high that fans had to resort to buying tickets off the black market.



PHOTOS BY SWEET TAN

**At-Tension (from left to right): Andy, John, Jimmy, Brian and Raymond gave their fans what they were there for.**

The concert held on 6 September was Tension's first in Singapore and they performed to a full house.

The group of five - John, Brian, Andy, Jimmy, Raymond - sang and danced to a capacity crowd throughout the one-hour concert. The audience, most of which were female, consisted of both NP students and members of the public as free tickets for the concert were given out at NP, Bishan Junction 8 and HMV.

However, fans who did not manage to get the free tickets found sellers on the Internet. Evelyn Ooi Siang Ting, 15, paid \$40 for two tickets. Another fan, Sharon Peng, 14, paid \$60 for two tickets. Commenting on the black market for these tickets, president of Poly Stage Productions, Lenus Chong, believes "that it is still beyond our control as they may carried out this under the table".

Fans had been queuing for entry to the concert, which was due to begin at 7.30 pm, at as early as before 11 am. By 5 pm, the queue had snaked from the Octagon to Block

23. Poly Stage Productions took steps to control the queue. "We actually fenced up some of the areas to form a queuing line for the audience and at the same time we deployed our working members there to make sure the line was in proper manner and nobody was cutting queue," said Lenus.

Host DJs Cai Wei Bin and Chen Li Yi from Y.E.S. 93.3FM and Tension faced glitches with the sound system but the undeterred fans continued to cheer and whistle in support of the group.

An autograph session was held right after the concert. As soon as the hosts bid the audience goodbye, fans started rushing up to get Tension's autographs. Only those with the group's first album were allowed on stage to get autographs. "Some of them in fact queued twice. We made sure everyone who went for the queue got the autograph," said Lenus. Fans even tore down posters that were pinned up in the Octagon.

Most people Tribune talked to said the concert was "okay" aside from the sound system. Lee Huiling, 22, commented that the concert was "too short" and that "the sound system was atrocious". Huiling, who came with a friend, who was seated at the back also said "the people were screaming and we couldn't really hear them. We couldn't hear what they [Tension] were saying."



**Fans queued many hours, all for a better view of their young idols.**

Tension was nominated in the Singapore Hit Awards 2001 for Best Group. They were in Singapore to promote their debut album.

# NP 'starlets' with UFM

BY WAYNE CHAN

**N**gee Ann Polytechnic (NP) students are getting first-hand exposure to the ever-evolving radio industry, thanks to a collaboration between UnionWorks UFM 100.3 and NP.

Currently, five NP students are actively involved in production and presentation work for UFM while NP graduate Ng Wanjun, 22, has been selected to be a full-time presenter on UFM.

When asked about her job scope, Nix Tang, third-year Mass Communication (MCM) student said "I'm a producer-presenter for UFM's chart show namely (Utopia) that features the top 20 songs voted by listeners."

The five polytechnic students were chosen after a series of interviews conducted on campus in September. According to Danny Yeo, 28, Creative and Music Director of UFM, they were looking for individuals "with minds of their own" and "opinions about issues happening around them".

According to Danny, NP is the only tertiary institution that UFM has approached so far to search for new talent.

"It's a good experience definitely and I get credit for the chartshow. It is something good for my resume in the future and despite the fact that it is free of charge, it's

really fun and I enjoy everything that I am doing because I have a passion for this. I am proud and really glad that UFM is giving me a chance to do this," said Charlene Goh, 19, another third-year MCM student involved in the collaboration with UFM.

The interviews conducted were at a road show held at the Atrium on 5 September as part of its island-wide search for a mystery voice to go on air. The selected candidate's identity will be kept secret until the end of December.

Speaking to Tribune at the road show was UFM presenter, Celeste Chong, who is also a MediaWorks artist.

"Most of the time I will be interviewing people I don't really know of," she said. "I'm going to try to interview people off the streets."

Danny added, "She'll make mistakes, and she'll be embarrassed [on air] and hopefully the listeners will be closer to her."

Celest was joined by five MediaWorks artistes - Jeanette Aw, Adam Chen, Evelyn Kok, Gabrielle Lee and Sean Lee - at the UFM road show which drew a crowd at the Atrium.

# The fine way to go

BY RENE YAP

Ever wonder where the fines collected from student offenders go? According to Mr Vickneshwaran Thangavelu, 31, a student affairs officer, the money collected goes to the Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) Student Activities fund "where all the students' clubs and societies draw their money from".

Under the NP Act of 1983, "the school is authorised to fine any students found committing an offence of up to \$50," said Mr Vickneshwaran.

"There is a big misconception that the campus supervisors have a quota to fill. Students think that the campus supervisors have to book as many students as possible and the fines become a bonus for these campus supervisors. There is no bearing on how many students they have to book, or the amount of fines to be issued out," clarified Mr Vickneshwaran.

When asked how many fines have been collected, Mr Vickneshwaran said "This is an admin detail that we do not discuss. I will not say that it is confidential but there is no bearing."

The fines are issued to ensure that students take the school's rules and regulations seriously. First-time offenders are usually let off with a verbal warning from the campus supervisors. A warning letter will also be sent to parents. However, second-time offenders will have to pay a fine within a stipulated time. Students who do not, will have to face disciplinary action.

"If the student is not willing to cooperate, then he might have to face suspension. They may also be liable for dismissal. However, the form of action taken will vary on a case-by-case basis," added Mr Vickneshwaran.

"Although \$40 is very expensive, it doesn't make me stick to the rules because if I have to, I need to get a lot of new clothes! I only get \$10 a day for allowance.

Even though I was broke after paying the fine, I would still wear my usual clothes. Besides, Singapore is so humid... tank tops are comfortable," said Poh Si Yun, 19, third-year Business Studies student on how effective she thought the fine was.

What about students who cannot afford to pay the fines?

"We understand that there are students who have difficulty in paying the fines. When this happens, we will try to make other arrangements, like extend the deadline. We also look into the financial background of the student to decide on what can be done," said Mr Vickneshwaran.

"Of course, when students have been issued with a warning, they are expected to take it seriously. If they disregard the rules and regulations again, then the campus supervisors will have to carry out their duties," said Mr Vickneshwaran.

Kenny Tan, 17, a first-year Building and Real Estate Management student, who has been booked once for sporting blond hair, feels that the fine will not be a deterrent to students.

"I don't think the fine is really useful because they can just give me a fine but I will still want the colour of my hair. Besides, one can't judge a person's character by their hair colour or the way they dress," he said.

In reply, Mr Vickneshwaran noted that though the fines worked to a certain extent for some students. Students who can afford the fines do not feel the pinch.

"Ultimately, everyone is entitled to his or her personal opinion. To some students, wearing bermudas and slippers are nothing wrong. But things are different when they come to an institutional organisation. They have to conform to the rules and regulations of the institution. We cannot have an organisation without rules," said Mr Vickneshwaran.

Mrs Ang Beng Wah, Director of Finance, said, "Each year, we spent \$200,000 for the maintenance of sports complex and another \$150,000 on sports and games. New equipment [for] example for gym or major renovation for swimming pool was separately funded and amount varies from year to year, depending on needs."

Though money has been available for upgrading of sports facilities, it takes time for the upgrade to progress. Mr Koh said "In whatever you do there is always a long process."

According to Mr Siow Chow Sid, Manager of Student Development, "We have plans to expand the student gym but funds have not been allocated yet. This being a difficult year, we may have to wait for limited funds to be made available for new equipment."

Right now, the best way to improve the standards of NP's performance in the IVP seems to be to further motivate the students to feel committed to their sports.

However, Mr Koh said, "There's not much we can do to make the students more committed except talking to them. Incentive-wise there's not much we can do as there's a budget cut this year. We also don't intend to motivate students by material incentive."

**"I think students are not serious in sports than they used to be. Maybe work is taking priority in the games they play." -- Mr Koh Say Yong, Student Development Officer**

## Will we or not?

THAT was the question the Film Forum 2001 held at LT26 on 31 August tried to answer. Will we be the next Hollywood in Asia?

On the panel were Eric Khoo and Wei Koh of Zhao Wei Films, Meng Ong of Dreamchamber Films, Gallen Mei of Underpressure Films, Daniel Yun of Raintree Pictures and Dr Ismail Sudderuddin from the Singapore Film Commission (SFC).

Mediator Kenneth Tan from the SFC asked questions on the development of the local film industry and it was generally agreed that Singaporean movies needed to gain more exposure which Eric Khoo believed would lead to more recognition, criticism and improvement in local movie-making.

Other issues tackled during the forum included piracy, limited resources, film budgets and the lack of popularity of local films.

- Erin Toh

## "More pearls please."

THESE are the words from most students queuing for their bubble tea. And indeed these edible pearls are pleasing a sizeable following of student tea-lovers here at Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP).

In NP, students are served by three bubble tea outlets. Each-a-Cup first started out at the Lifestyle Library on 17 July, followed by Splash! at the Atrium and Bubble Jazz at Canteen 1.

Mrs Jennifer Lim, outlet supervisor of Splash! explained that they started manufacturing bubble tea two weeks into business after realising what a big sensation bubble tea was with students.

"The younger ones, like my own children prefer this bubble tea. So, we are like computers and must upgrade to suit their tastes," Mrs Lim said.

However, Miss Kris Teng, supervisor of the Each-a-Cup outlet in the library feels that the bubble tea business is a fad. "Business is all right now because it's comfortable and convenient in the library," Miss Teng said, "but once the fashion runs out, sales will definitely drop." In anticipation, she revealed that Each-a-Cup intends to add new drinks such as mock-tails to the menu soon. "This is a crazy business!" she exclaimed.

- Marco Wong

## Tennis Mania

THE Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) women's tennis team clinched the third spot in this year's Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) Tennis Championship while the men's team came in fourth overall.

Seven teams participated - each comprising eight men and eight women - from all tertiary institutions. The result is an improvement from last year when both teams finished fifth.

Said Mr Gopinathan Retnam, Student Development Officer, "We wanted to finish at least third or fourth... you know the universities are gonna be the strongest teams so we only set the target of trying to be the best polytechnic."

The tournament saw a tie-break situation for the second placing in both the men's and women's categories with NP locked at this stage with Singapore Management University for second spot in the women's tournament. The men's tournament saw Singapore Polytechnic, Nanyang Technological University, NP tied behind National University of Singapore (NUS).

Defending champion NUS claimed top spot for both the men and women's categories.

- Najib Ahmad & Theresa Wu

# Why don't we perform?

BY SHARON GUAN

With higher commitment level from students and better sports facilities, Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) might just perform better in future Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) games. In past years, NP has ranked fourth or fifth in most IVP sports.

Giving a reason for NP not performing well in the IVP, Mr Koh Say Yong, Student Development Officer said, "I think students are not serious in sports than they used to be. Maybe work is taking priority in the games they play."

Mr Koh added that some students have to take common tests every six weeks, which prevents them from being serious in a particular sport.

Frederick Foo Shen Lit, a third-year Electrical Computer Engineering student who coaches the NP swim team, shares Mr Koh's sentiments.

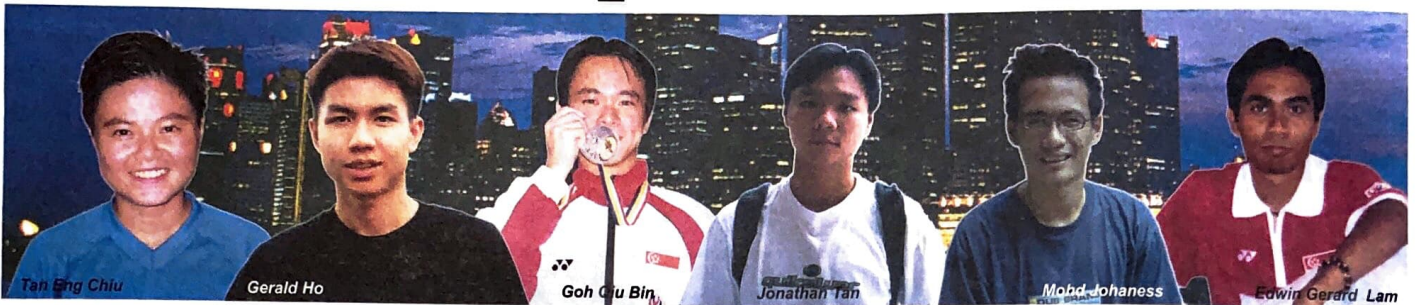
"The swimmers sometimes don't give enough attention. The team is very new, mainly consist of freshies," he said. The swimming team has only managed to achieve a bronze in the 4x50m mixed relay in this year's IVP. With no full-time professional coach to train the swim team, Frederick, also an NP representative, has to do the coaching himself. He is also the coach for the NP water polo team.

Frederick feels that if NP upgrades its sports facilities, for example, to have a bigger gym with new and better equipment, training could be more intensive. The swimmers physical build up will improve and maybe improve their chances of doing better in competitions.

So should NP spend more money to upgrade the sports facilities?

"Money is always there. Last year they just re-turfed the track. That is money spent. But our poly is one of the older ones, you can't expect the facilities to be the same standard as newer polytechnics like Temasek Polytechnic and Nanyang Polytechnic" answered Mr Koh.

# NP powers up at SEA games



PHOTOS BY INDERJEET KAUR AND COURTESY OF GOH QIU BIN

**They went, they saw, they conquered. Six NP students represented Singapore in the South-East Asian (SEA) Games in Kuala Lumpur and came back with three medals. Inderjeet Kaur reports.**

Indeed, they did Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) proud at the recent SEA Games in Malaysia from 8-17 September.

Third-year students - Edwin Gerard Lam, 19, Multimedia Computing; Gerald Ho Hee Teck, 18, Information Communications and Technology (ICT); Goh Qiu Bin, 19, Horticulture and Landscape Management; Mohd. Johanness Bin Mohd. Idris, 21, Mechanical Engineering and Tan Eng Chiu, 19, Biotechnology and Jonathan Tan Choon Wei, 18, a second-year ICT student represented Singapore in Tae Kwon Do, Badminton, Wushu, Soccer, Women's Soccer and Sailing respectively.

Qiu Bin won a gold medal in Wushu, earning a total of 18.64 points, beating Vietnam, in second place, with 18.52 points.

Edwin got a bronze medal in Tae Kwon Do and Gerald got a bronze medal in badminton.

With the exception of Gerald, this is the first time the athletes represented Singapore in the SEA Games. This is Gerald's second time.

All the athletes underwent intensive training amidst

trying to juggle their schoolwork.

"It's very difficult to cope but I just take one day at a time. I try and push myself," said Edwin who remembered having to train on his own in the morning before school began, and still having to go for official trainings after school before the SEA Games kicked off.

Johanness agreed.

"I have to stay up until two or three, and then the next day I have to wake up in the morning and go to school and then training. Sometimes I'm also tired at training," said the school team player who is also with Tanjong Pagar Football club.

Eng Chiu faced the same scenario having to handle her schoolwork, being in the national team, her league team, Home United Football Club, and the school team.

"I guess it needs discipline. Schoolwork and national team comes first," said Eng Chiu who was the only NP representative in Women's Soccer.

To attend the games, they had to miss between four days to six weeks of school.

The length of time they missed depended on whether their competition was scheduled before or after the

opening ceremony and how far their teams or they proceeded.

The athletes thought that NP was encouraging.

"They have been very kind to grant me leave for the SEA Games. Overall, they've been very supportive," said Jonathan when asked what kind of help NP rendered to him as a national sportsman.

On catching up with schoolwork, Gerald said, "The teacher in-charge of ICT is quite understanding. She'll try her best to help me out. But most of the time, my classmates help me. My teachers help me too, in terms of test dates, tutorials, etc."

So was all the effort worth it?

"It's a sacrifice. I had to sacrifice or else I can't represent. It's worth it because I get to represent Singapore," said Edwin.

"Yes, 'cause I always wanted to do well and I finally have an achievement - a gold medal," Qiu Bin.

EngChiu summed up the passion they each have for their sport.

"I want to play (soccer) till the day I can't play anymore," she said.

## Rowing into the national team

BY CANDIDA NG

Three Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) female students represented Singapore and emerged third in the International Dragon Boat Festival in Tianjian, China from 1 to 5 October.

Ong Wanxin, 20, a third-year Building and Real Estate Management student, and Ngian Limin, 20, a third-year Accountancy student are new to the national women's dragon boat team, while Leong Yuen Fern, 19, a first-year Electronic and Computer Engineering student has been with the national team for fifteen months.

They were chosen based on their performance, attendance and attitude, according to Ms Elise Lee, captain of the national women's team.

It has not been a smooth ride for the three sportswomen who recognise the honour of being selected.

Yuen Fern - who is hearing impaired - faced problems in the beginning.

"When I first joined the national team, I realised that it was very tough for me. I could not hear very well. So I tried very hard to understand what my coach and friends said," she said.

She added that she was fortunate because many of her team-mates learnt basic sign language so that they could communicate with her.

There are currently three hearing-impaired students in the national team.

The intensity of the training also took getting used to for Wanxin and Limin who have to juggle national training sessions six days a week along with their

training sessions with the Ngee Ann Dragon Boat (NPDB) team.

Besides acquiring many blisters and having to carry heavy gym weights during training, Wanxin also had to contend with an added obstacle - distance.

Travelling daily between school, the Singapore Dragon Boating Association headquarters in Kallang and her Bukit Batok home was agonising.

"The distance travelling is almost the same as my training hours," she said.

Despite the gruelling national training, none of them felt their schoolwork had been affected.

On the contrary, the training might have helped them be more focused.

As Wanxin explained, "After training, you feel fresh. It teaches you to be more disciplined and allows you to be strong."

Both Wanxin and Limin intend to share what they have learnt at national level with their NP team-mates.

Their fellow NPDB rowers also shared this view.

"It's good for them, they can improve themselves," said Ang Weishun, 19, president of NPDB.

"I think it's beneficial to the whole team because they are

able to gain experience and bring it back to the team," said Ng Po Hui, 18, publicity officer of the school team.

There were also three NP graduates who were among the 26 rowers selected to join the national team for the first international race in Tianjian, China.

The team was made up of NP students and graduates, NTU students and working adults.

Other countries which participated in the five-day race included the host China, Macau, Hong Kong and the United States.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HELENA FANG

All smiles and oars: Limin (Front row, 2nd from left) and Wanxin (Front row, 3rd from left) represented Singapore in the International Dragon Boat Festival and came in third. Yuen Fern is not in the picture.