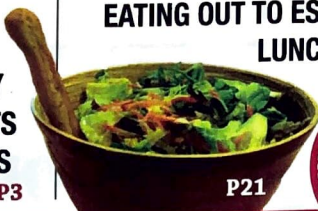




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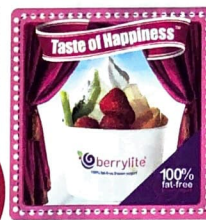
P3

**EATING OUT TO ESCAPE THE
LUNCH CROWD**



P21

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AUGUST - OCTOBER 2010

Community classroom

Student nurses apply what they have learnt for the benefit of the elderly community

Bibek Gurung

True to their school's motto, "Passion to touch lives", 25 students from the School of Health Sciences (HS) implemented a health-screening programme for the elderly in Tanjong Pagar in collaboration with the Tanjong Pagar Community Club.

The initiative, titled "Enabling the Elderly", saw the student nurses explore the early identification of chronic diseases, encourage early treatment, and provide health care prevention education for ageing citizens.

"I realised that many of the elderly residents here do not understand how diseases that they are vulnerable to, such as osteoporosis and diabetes, come about," says Mrs Sukhdev Kaur, 50, the HS lecturer who conceptualised the project.

She adds, "We wanted students to go out and do good in the community, so that they can gain confidence and learn how to relate to patients."

In the first phase of the project, student nurses conducted surveys and health checks to better understand the elderly's needs.

The second phase was launched on Jun 27 at Tanjong Pagar Community Club, with activities customised to meet the needs of the senior citizens, such as line dancing and healthy cooking tips.

One of the residents, Madam Yau Chung Yu, 79, says, "I was

very happy to see these young people taking part, especially since old people can be difficult [to work with]."

The final phase on Aug 1 saw the team evaluating the success of their efforts.

Deborah Heymamrini, 21, a second-year Nursing student, says, "I am proud to be a part of this project because the help that we have provided is important for these residents. Most of them lack knowledge on how to lead a healthy lifestyle."

Ms Lian Bee Sian, 57, Vice-Chairperson of the club's management committee, says, "With the Silver Tsunami (ageing population) coming up, we need to find out what exactly are the health risks of the elderly residents, so that we can tailor a countermeasure."

Mrs Sukhdev hopes that the success of the programme will pave the way to a long-term collaboration that will allow future students to continue to touch lives in the community.

“ We want students to go out and do good in the community, so that they can gain confidence and learn how to relate to patients.”

Mrs Sukhdev Kaur



25 students from the School of Health Sciences implemented a whole slew of health screening and educational activities targeted at the elderly in Tanjong Pagar, as part of their nursing practical module.

SPOTLIGHT

Strumming for strays

Lydia Yap

You may call it the perfect setting for the event. It was raining cats and dogs on Jul 2 when the campus radio station organised a music event to raise awareness for Animal Lovers League (ALL), a non-profit organisation for stray pets.

"Everyone knows about the SPCA, but few have heard of the ALL. When I heard that they were in need of \$18,000 for their new compound, I realised that there was something we could do to help raise awareness of their cause," says Yue Jun, 19, a representative of RadioHeatwave.com.

Called "RadioHeatwave Supports the Animal Lovers League", the event was held at the courtyard beside Block 53, where local band Trella performed acoustic sets in the name of charity.

"We perform for charity events occasionally, but this one is different. We feel that our music can bring out the spirit of the Animal Lovers League," says Leon Wan of Trella.

Second-year Business Studies student Lee Su Fern, 18, decided to attend the event when she heard that her favourite band was performing.

"My own dog was from the SPCA, so I totally support what this whole event stands for," she says.

Ms Christine Bernadette, a representative from ALL, urged the audience to volunteer and donate to ALL using the moving story of Ubin, the three-legged black dog who was also present.

"This is the first time that we have ever had an event with music performances, and it was really enjoyable," she says.

"We need people to walk the dogs and wash 350 dog bowls. I hope that volunteers will step forward as a result of this event," adds Ms Bernadette.



Members of Trella, with Ubin, the three-legged dog, during their performance.

Writing waves on the Web

News Writing students make a splash at the Singapore International Water Week 2010

A total of 14,000 attendees — including mayors, ambassadors, princes, urban-planning and water experts — from 85 countries. Deals in water management worth over \$2.8 billion. More than 70 events spanning five days. Supported by 600 polytechnic student volunteers, including 181 go-getting student bloggers from the School of Film & Media Studies (FMS) who wrote for a prestigious blog by Black & Veatch.

For the first time in their course, News Writing students were sent to cover 14 events during the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW). Their task: to conduct interviews at a variety of community, business and technology events for a newspaper project devoted to water issues.

Students found themselves rubbing shoulders with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, and the Chairman, President and CEO of Black & Veatch, Mr Len Rodman.

They also got to meet influential thought leaders on water such as Professor Robert Glennon, the author of *Unquenchable: America's water crisis and*



Student Olivia Ng receives a certificate of appreciation from Minister Yaacob Ibrahim.

what to do about it.

For the students' efforts in blogging for www.SIWWdiary.com, an influential blog on water issues hosted by engineering firm Black & Veatch, FMS received a certificate of appreciation from Dr Yaacob.

Olivia Ng Li Wen, 18, a second-year Mass Communication student, received

the certificate at an SIWW Appreciate Dinner at the Marina Barrage on Jul 27.

"We are very grateful to PUB and Black & Veatch for this very fruitful experience. They were really supportive of our students' learning and we hope to repeat the experience next year," says Ms Koh Joh Ting, module leader for News Writing.

THE GAMES THAT BIND



Students from the School of Engineering's Multidiscipline Engineering Division (MDE) came together as one faculty during MDE Games Day on Jul 9.

Students had the option of forming teams across the courses to compete in games like badminton and football.

"The purpose of this event is to give students the opportunity to experience the spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship," says Mr Low See Chu, the lecturer in charge of the event.

"We also want them to come together and enjoy themselves outside of class," he adds.

Leona Ng, 20, a final-year Engineering Informatics student and leader of her captain's ball team, 3F02, saw it as one of the last few chances for her class to come together.

"Since this is our last year together, we wanted to make it more memorable, which it was. We had a lot of fun and became more bonded," she says. - **BIBEK GURUNG**

HOMEOWN STORIES



Michael Kam has outdone himself by winning the short film award at the recent International Kurzfilm Festival (IKFF) awards for his short film, *Masala Mama*.

The motion picture revolves around a young boy who aspires to become a comic book superhero. When he gets caught by the owner of the local mama shop for stealing comic books, they learn about how people should not be judged by their appearances. The two of them eventually develop mutual feelings for each other.

"It basically started out as a story of a relationship between a boy and a provision shop owner. Through discussion with friends, I decided that it would be an interesting idea to have that [homosexual] relationship," says Mr Kam.

The Film, Sound & Video lecturer has another project in the pipelines, and he already has grand visions for it.

"It will be bigger and better. I always try to improve my films," he says. - **BJORN TEO**

CODE RED FOR BLOOD DRIVE



"Give blood, save lives." With these four words, the Singapore Red Cross tries to get people to donate their blood for those whose lives depend on it.

The Red Cross Humanitarian Network (RCHN), a student run group which has been organising blood drives since 2006, held another blood drive on May 4 to 6 at OurSpace@72.

However, only about 300 students turned up during the drive.

On the dismal turnout, Pearlyn Pah, 18, president of RCHN, says, "Most people are afraid of needles when it is actually not very painful."

Some had to be turned away because of health reasons, such as having veins that were too small, being underweight or having low iron levels.

Those who missed the drive held in May will have another chance, as the RCHN will be holding another blood drive on Oct 26 to 28 at OurSpace@72. - **BIBEK GURUNG**

A head for business, a heart for the poor

Their heart for the less fortunate will see these intrepid students go far - to Los Angeles - for the SIFE World Cup, after their victory at the national leg of the competition

Bibek Gurung

Ten students from the Student Entrepreneurship Club (SEC) emerged triumphant when they lifted the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Singapore national trophy for the first time ever.

The competition held on Jun 19 had all the trappings of a David-versus-Goliath battle, in what was NP's fifth showing and SEC's second appearance in the SIFE Nationals. The heavyweights were from Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University and Republic Polytechnic (RP).

"We were facing the best, so we had to make a lot of preparations

to prove that our enterprises have made a bigger difference," says Justine Lee, 19, leader of the SEC team and final-year Business & Social Enterprise student.

Participants had to present to a panel of 30 judges made up of business leaders their outreach projects, which were evaluated to determine the impact that they have had on their respective communities.

The NP entry comprises a mind-boggling five initiatives, including SOULE, MyTee and iSave, that are geared towards improving the lives of less fortunate children both here and abroad. The fact that the social enterprises were wholly student initiated gave SEC a precious edge against a field of strong contenders.

On their achievements, Justine



NP / MELJAMIE SIM

From left: Ezhilan Oviyum, Lim Jing Ying, Carylyne Chan, Justine Lee, Michael Tan, Latha Nadarajan and Tan Yu Chuan are jubilant about their win and eager to reprise their giant-slaying performance in Los Angeles.

says, "There were many days where we had to stand on aching feet, trying to convince people to buy our products and support our causes."

Says Mr Jonathan Chan, 38, advisor of the Student Entrepreneur Club, "The judges saw in these people the genuine heart to want to help others, and I know how much sweat and blood they have poured into this."

The SEC team will be representing NP and Singapore at the Los Angeles SIFE World Cup from Oct 10 to 12, where teams

from 40 countries will be pitted against one another.

SIFE Singapore, the committee that oversees SIFE's operations here, is helping the SEC team to prepare for the world competition.

On their battle strategy, Ms Mamie Cheong, 53, CEO of SIFE Singapore, says, "The focus will be on creating and measuring quantifiable economic impact, which is a key performance indicator of the SIFE program."

The members are excited about their prospects in the SIFE World Cup 2010.

"The greatest challenge is learning not to fear the competition, and be confident enough to take it in stride," says Carylyne Chan, 19, Marketing Director of the SEC.

She adds, "All things start small, and that's how we intend to work at it - one step at a time."

The RP team was the first runner-up in this year's SIFE National Competition. Their project utilised the GPS system to map the cave networks in rural Thailand for the benefit of its tourism industry.

“ We were facing the best, so we had to make a lot of preparations to prove that our enterprises have made a bigger difference.”

Justine Lee

Final-year Business & Social Enterprise student

Of mistakes, misfortunes and misadventures

Host of Discovery Channel's new adventure series, *Solving History with Olly Steeds* shares his experience as an investigative journalist

Amala Kannan

Having led expeditions to places such as Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and Amazon, it is no wonder that Oliver "Olly" Steeds has been hailed as a real-life Indiana Jones.

The influential explorer came down to NP on Jun 7 as part of the press tour organised by Discovery Channel to promote his latest adventure series, *Solving History with Olly Steeds*, which recently ended its first run on Aug 9.

The audience was entranced as Olly recounted the various sticky situations he had gotten into, such as being held at gunpoint while passing through an Al-Qaeda guns market at Osama bin Laden's ancestral home in Yemen.

"Ask people before you film them, otherwise they might just kill you," warns Olly, to much laughter.

In the series, he went on a quest for the Ark of the Covenant, a religious artifact that housed the original Ten Commandments, and attempted to break out of Devil's Island, a prison which is said to be impossible to break out

of, among many other equally intriguing investigations.

The 35-year-old is also the youngest among the world's leading explorers featured in *Faces of Exploration*, a biography of the world's top 50 explorers, alongside big names like Sir Edmund Hillary and Dr Jane Goodall.

However, Olly remains humble about his achievements.

"I am not an adrenaline seeker, despite what you might see in the show," he explains. "I just want to learn what is going on in the world and meet new people."

Through the sharing of his personal experiences, the students gained some precious insights into the trials and tribulations of an investigative journalist.

"Always be honest and never try to cover up your mistakes, because incompetence is part and parcel of adventures," says Olly.

Name an episode of *Solving History with Olly Steeds* and win exclusive t-shirts and postcards! Just send in your answers to contest.nptribune@gmail.com by Oct 29.



Olly chances upon a Nazca grave in the Peruvian Desert while investigating into the origins of the Nazca Lines.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DISCOVERY NETWORKS ASIA/PACIFIC

NEWS

The grass is greener in my school

BE's flagship event challenges secondary school students to lead their campuses into becoming more eco-friendly

Dhevarajan Devadas

The annual Green Competition saw 15 teams from nine different secondary schools pitch their ideas on how to introduce green building practices and features in their schools.

Held in mid-July on the theme, "Protecting Gaia - Green Schools & the Community", the competition aims to introduce students to green ideas and sustainable building design.

"You must create more awareness about the green environment so that we can make Singapore a better place to live in," says Guest-of-Honour, Mr Yeo Guat Kwang, Member of Parliament for Aljunied Grassroots Club, at the prize-giving ceremony.

The competition is jointly organised by the School of Engineering's Building & Environment Division (BE) and



The winning team from Bedok View Secondary School poses with the Guest-of-Honour, Mr Yeo Guat Kwang.

the People's Association (PA), and sponsored by the Building & Construction Authority (BCA).

The event also lets secondary school students preview the new course, Diploma in Sustainable

Urban Design & Engineering, which was launched this year.

"Through this event, we aim to reach out to secondary schools, and excite them (the students) about the sustainable building

industry and the Diploma in Sustainable Urban Design & Engineering course," says Mrs Grace Quah, Director of BE.

The winning idea belonged to a team from Bedok View Secondary

School, who impressed the judges with their stop-motion animation video on conserving energy and reducing wastage.

Comprising of Shaikh Faid, 13, Syahi Soedirman, 13, and Nadzirah Shaharum, 12, the team also won the Best Video Production Award.

For their efforts, they received \$600 worth of cash vouchers, a trophy and a five-year membership at PA's Water-Venture.

A booth was also set up to publicise the Green Mark Scheme, an initiative launched by BCA in 2005 to encourage Singapore's construction industry to be more environmentally aware.

Ms Stella Wong, Assistant Director of BCA's Communications Department, says, "This course is in line with our Green Mark Scheme, so we are here to show our support for NP's outreach efforts."

Living out her YOG dreams

A freshman won a coveted spot as a sports journalist for the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games

Janine Ong

Fuelled by her passion for sports and writing, first-year Mass Communication student, Clarissa Sih Shu Ning, 16, will be participating in the inaugural Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games (YOG) as a reporter under the McDonald's Young Journalist Programme.

"I feel very lucky and blessed to be able to do what I love on such a grand scale. I look forward to interviewing the athletes and guests from all around the world," says Clarissa of her win.

Clarissa, together with two other winners, will be reporting on their experiences at YOG in local print, broadcast, and online media. They will also get special access to select events, the Youth Olympic Village, and have the opportunity to interview the athletes.

"We wanted to create a meaningful opportunity for youths to experience YOG and share with the rest of Singapore their perspectives of the energy and excitement of the games, as young and passionate journalists in the making," says Mr Alex Yeo, Managing Director of McDonald's Restaurants.

Prior to the games, they will receive professional training in photography, print and broadcast journalism from MediaCorp

and Singapore Press Holdings.

Each of them will also receive \$800 in cash, \$200 worth of McDonald's gift certificates, and a digital SLR camera.

"As a longstanding supporter of the Olympic Movement, we hope that the McDonald's Young Journalists Programme will serve as a platform to broadcast and spread the international sports movement, and to nurture our youth talents in the community," says Mr Yeo.

"I really hope that the McDonald's Young Journalist Programme will be a catalyst for me; one giant step closer to my dreams."

Clarissa Sih
First-year Mass
Communication
student



From left: Faith Yim, Jocelyn Poh, and Hee Siao Hui from Chung Cheng High School (Main) are all smiles in front of their winning potted creation.

Green fingers create mini beauties

Siti Nafisah Bte Mohd Alias

As part of NP's outreach programme, the department of the Horticulture & Landscape Management (HLM) course from the School of Life Sciences and Technology (LSCT) organised the "Miniature Garden Competition" for secondary school students.

The competition saw 48 teams from 16 schools design and nurture their potted plants for a month prior to the finals held in July.

In her welcome address during the finals of the competition held at Lecture Theatre 76, Mrs Tang Guek-Im, Director of LSCT, says that the competition was created to

help the students "develop creative ideas in a fun yet innovative way".

She adds, "We also hope to cultivate awareness and interest in HLM."

Chung Cheng High School (Main) emerged champions with their organised and eye-catching mini garden design.

On what they have learnt, Faith Yim, 14, says, "The competition taught us the importance of teamwork and patience, as it could be quite frustrating trying to find the right kind of plants."

The winning entry was displayed with the miniature gardens from Northbrook Secondary School and Nan Hua High School that won the second and third prizes respectively at the Singapore Garden Festival in from Jul 15 to 22.



From left: Estella Hema, Aaron Leong, Sharon Chee, Shawn Teo, Dylan Heng, Felicia Liew and Rachel Phay cannot wait to welcome visitors to this little red dot they call home.

Greetings from Singapore, with love

These patriotic youths used social media to unite the rest of Singapore in playing gracious hosts to guests from afar

Kon Xin Hua

An online campaign led by seven Film & Media Studies freshmen, who call themselves FADERS', has met with unexpected success, garnering a phenomenal 15,300 sign-ups within three weeks, making it one of the fastest youth-initiated campaigns in Singapore.

The Facebook campaign, entitled "Welcome the World", aims to extend Singapore's warm hospitality to the rest of the world in view of upcoming events that will place the island republic on the global radar of mega milestones - the Youth Olympic Games (YOG), National Day 2010, and the newly launched integrated resorts.

The campaign also includes a competition, which encourages Singaporeans to join them in showing their

welcome by uploading creative photos or videos related to the campaign title.

Dylan Heng Kwok, 17, a first-year Mass Communication (MCM) student and member of the FADERS' concept, says, "I decided on a Facebook campaign as it is used by most youths, and photos and videos are easy to post up. Simplicity is the key to getting people to join the contest."

"Welcome the World" was actually inspired by a speech made by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on May 7 to mark the 99-day countdown to the start of the YOG. PM Lee said, "Be gracious to Singaporeans as well as our guests, welcome the world to Singapore, embrace them with our warmth and our hospitality."

His message has clearly struck a chord in the hearts of these patriotic youths.

"We want Singaporeans to feel proud of our country, and, hopefully, galvanise youths into contributing towards

making our foreign visitors feel at home. By managing this campaign, we also feel more excited about the upcoming events," says Rachel Phay Si Ying, 17, a first-year MCM student and fellow team member of FADERS'.

Their success caught the attention of the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS) and Ignite Lab, who promptly threw their support behind the team in the form of prize sponsorships and media publicity.

"We like campaigns that involve active youths and find this a great opportunity to create excitement on the ground. Sometimes, youths are enthusiastic, but they do not have the resources, so we provide the funds to motivate them," says a spokesperson for MCYS.

On their tremendous achievements, Dylan says, "We are ecstatic that it managed to attract so many people. We just hope that it actually does what it was supposed to do, which is to get youths to warmly welcome the world to Singapore."

Not champions, but still winners

David Lim Hong Wee

The task was daunting from the start - it was the inaugural Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Audit and Accounting Challenge 2010.

The competitors were a force to reckon with - 50 teams and almost 250 participants from NTU, National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, Singapore Polytechnic (SP), Nanyang Polytechnic, Temasek Polytechnic and NP.

The four girls from the School of Business and Accountancy who called themselves Team Creators - Zhang Xiao Yu, 21, Ooi Su Xin, 19, Zhang Xin Dan, 21, and Linda Pang Shu En, 19 - did not think that they would make it far.

But the final-year Accountancy students ended up clinching the fourth position and a prize of \$400.

The first and second positions went to two teams from NUS, and a team from SP was placed third. They won \$1,200, \$800, and \$600 respectively.

Says Xiao Yu, 21, "Our third

runner-up placing proved that we were able to compete with university students."

The challenge consisted of a preliminary round where students had to individually answer 40 multiple-choice questions. The top four teams then proceeded to the case study round, where they were tasked with presenting solutions for the case study.

Xiao Yu adds, "We were nervous. However, the moment we stepped onstage, we calmed down and smiled at each other."

Speaking also of the worry they



From left: Zhang Xin Dan, Zhang Xiao Yu, Linda Pang Shu En, and Ooi Su Xin

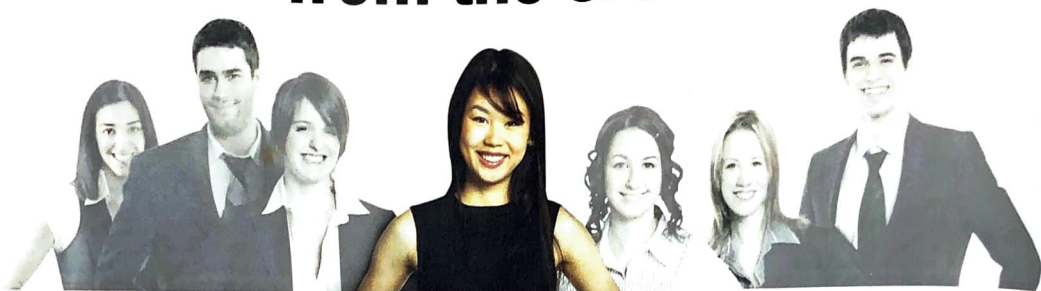
felt being pitched against more experienced university students, Linda says, "The university students are more knowledgeable than us and hence better able to tackle the advanced questions.

Moreover, the time given was really short, so we had to divide our time to complete as many parts as we could."

Already, the girls are raring to join next year's competition.

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Joining hands to give hope

NP holds summit in collaboration with a humanitarian organisation to mark three years of partnership in raising awareness about poverty in the Philippines

Amala Kannan

The Gawad Kalinga (GK) Community Development Foundation and Singapore's GK Hope Initiative (GKHi) recently launched their second GK Global Summit at NP's Convention Centre on Jun 25.

Titled "Gawad Kalinga Summit 2010: Icon of Hope against Poverty", the three-day event was organised by the School of Humanities (HMS) and the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre of Social Entrepreneurship & Philanthropy.

More than 700 people, including Noli De Castro, former Vice-President of the Philippines and Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, were present at the summit.

Mr De Castro, 61, who was the Guest-of-Honour at the opening ceremony, says, "I have been supporting this movement for the past seven years and it has been a learning and rewarding experience for me."

Founded in 2003, Gawad Kalinga, which literally translates to "give care" in Tagalog, is a non-profit organisation that builds houses for impoverished communities and developing nations.



From left: Dr Balakrishnan, Mr Chia and Mr De Castro discuss the poverty issue in Asia.

“Working with people from their different backgrounds and cultures was really hard, but it didn't matter in the end because our common goal was to address poverty.”

Muhammad Danial Hadi

Second-year Business & Social Enterprise student

Its collaboration with NP since 2007 has seen the polytechnic send more than 100 Business & Social Enterprise (BZSE) and Health Sciences students on community service trips and internships to various GK sites like Manila and Laguna in the Philippines.

Dr Mendoza Redante Delizo, a HMS lecturer, says, "[This summit] was a great learning platform for HMS students and staff to learn to plan and organise large-scale events."

"Due to its informational and inspirational nature, it has [made an impression] on the local and overseas participants [about the plight of the poor in the Philippines]," he adds.

The symposium, which aims to "launch Gawad Kalinga as an Asian model of development against poverty" and showcase the practices and innovations in this line of work, was brought from

inception to execution by 144 NP students and their NUS Business counterparts.

Muhammad Danial Hadi, 18, a second-year BZSE student from the Hospitality committee, says, "Working with people from different backgrounds and cultures was really hard, but it didn't matter in the end because our common goal was to address poverty."

Dr Redante also gave a presentation which featured stories of students who were transformed by their involvement in GK work through the GK Global Research and Internship Programme (GK-GRIP).

Teng Wei Ren Elaine, 18, a second-year Business Studies student, who attended the summit, came away with an important lesson.

"The success of the GK communities shows that every effort we make, however small, has an impact on the poor. We can all make a difference, if we so choose," she says.

The next GK Global Summit will be held in Sydney, Australia in 2011.

Silat rookies put up a rousing resistance

Melissa Tan

Although they did not come out on top, the Silat team put up a commendable fight at this year's annual Tertiary Silat Championship at the Singapore Silat Federation.

The competition, held from May 29 to 30 and Jun 5 to 6, brought together the five polytechnics, National Technological University, National University of Singapore, the Institutes of Technical Education (ITE), the Auckland University of Technology, Singapore Institute of Management, and Millennia Institute in an intense match that could have rivalled an Ip Man movie.

When the dust finally settled, Nanyang Polytechnic emerged champion, the ITEs came in second place, while NP slipped to

third place from first runner-up position last year.

"This year, a majority of our competing athletes are new, so we were very happy to be able to place third," says Shirin Az Zahra Bte Ahmad, 19, President of the NP Silat Club.

However, despite the slide from last year's second position, the NP team still had every reason to be proud. The 32-member-strong team collectively brought home a total of three gold medals, two silver medals and five bronze medals from the *tanding* (match) and *seni* (artistic) categories.

But preparations for the

championship were not easy. Intensive training for the competition started as early as December last year.

Says Muhd Redzuan Bin Abdul Samad, 18, a second-year Mass Communication (MCM) student who won a silver medal, "Having to juggle school work and other commitments was difficult, but I managed to come out of it stronger."

This was a sentiment echoed by Siti Nadia Malisa bte Jumaat, 18, a second-year Nursing student who won a gold medal.

"Good time management was very important as the daily training sessions [clashed

with] a lot of projects, tests, and presentations," she says.

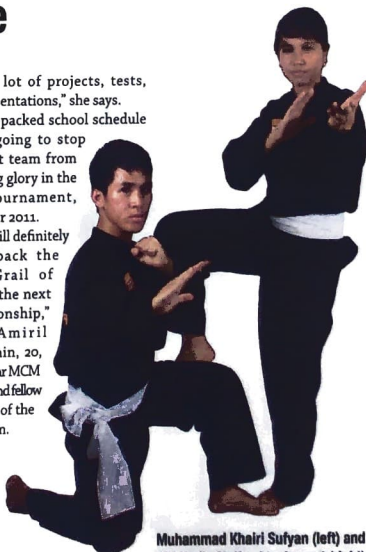
Yet, a packed school schedule is not going to stop the Silat team from pursuing glory in the next tournament, slated for 2011.

"We will definitely bring back the Holy Grail of Silat in the next championship," says Amiril Muhaimin, 20, a final-year MCM student and fellow member of the Silat team.

“We will definitely bring back the Holy Grail of Silat in the next championship.”

Amiril Muhaimin

Final-year Mass Communication student



Muhammad Khairi Sufyan (left) and Siti Nadia Malisa bte Jumaat (right)

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NEWS

More to us than meets the eye

Love them or hate them, stereotypes will always exist. We take stock of our very own stereotypes of the seven schools. Word of caution: Take it with a pinch of salt and have a good laugh at yourselves! **ZAFIRAH BTE SALIM** reports

HMS

THE STEREOTYPE: The Humanities students are always beaming sunshine and optimism. Just look at the loud yellow school shirts that they wear so proudly. They are very good at dealing with people since it is in the nature of their studies. The only caveat: you had better be able to speak Mandarin.

WHAT THE LECTURERS SAY: "Actually, the majority of HMS students are not foreign students. Yes, there are students from Taiwan, China and Malaysia, but 80 per cent of them are locals." - Ms Tiong Shiuian Shiuian, HMS lecturer



BA

THE STEREOTYPE: Be prepared to feel intimidated by these high-flyers. From their sharp office wear to their proficiency with numbers, everything about BA students scream "crème de la crème". Never make the mistake of short-changing them for their coffees, or you might just find a full financial report on how they think you are ripping them off on your desk the next day.

WHAT THE LECTURERS SAY: "It is true to some extent, as BA students know that being in the most established polytechnic business school, they have to project a good business image besides being well-rounded professionals." - Ms Cindy Yuen Mei Ling, BA lecturer



ICT

THE STEREOTYPE: Geeky spectacles? Check. An ultra upgraded laptop? Check. A maniacal typing speed equivalent to keyboard smashing? Check. These resident Bill Gates are arguably more efficient than the school's IT Care Centre when it comes to troubleshooting your faulty laptops. So hug an ICT geek the next time you see one and you might just get a lifetime warranty for your gadgets.

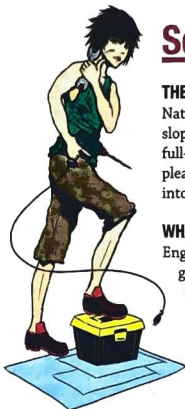
WHAT THE LECTURERS SAY: "There are all kinds of ICT students. We train them to be inquisitive problem-solvers, creative and innovative. Hence, the description of ICT students hardly describes holistically who they are." - Mr Agus Rahardja, ICT lecturer



SoE

THE STEREOTYPE: It almost feels like an initiation to National Service in this male-dominated school. These sloppily dressed Math whizzes are part-time students and full-time gamers, which is perfectly fine on its own... but please stop converting hangout places like OurSpace@72 into LAN shops and hogging the seats for hours on end.

WHAT THE LECTURERS SAY: "I don't think that only Engineering boys dress in a very laid-back style. Also, our girls have a much more distinct style, and they put in more effort than the boys to dress up for school." - Mr Lee Thian Pau, SoE lecturer



LSCT

THE STEREOTYPE: Think mad scientists with long, white lab coats or Professor Utonium from The Powerpuff Girls. You easily can find them (the NP version) in any of the laboratories around school, or at the library with their noses buried in some thick fat book about the anatomical structure of a sea slug or something like that.

WHAT THE LECTURERS SAY: "Indeed, most of our students are studious, although I would not exactly say they are quiet. But then again, when you are dealing with chemicals and microbes, you do tend to have to stay focused." - Dr Wayne Lee Forday, Deputy Director of LSCT



FMS

THE STEREOTYPE: The "coolest kids" on the block, they think that they rule the school just because they are situated atop the Ngee Ann 'hill'. FMS students are well known for their immaculate fashion sense, sharp tongues and near-perfect command of the English language. Do not expect these Macbook-wielding fashionistas to speak to you on any given day - they only interact with the people who matter.

WHAT THE LECTURERS SAY: "Our students would probably stand out when it comes to having a 'louder' sense of fashion, but that does not mean that the other schools do not have fashionable students. Regarding being arrogant, bitchy or other behaviours - it is normal. The angst, the insecurity, the inferiority - it is a given. This is the psychological pattern of today's youth." - Mr Mario Ocampo Lajarra Jr, former FMS lecturer



HS

THE STEREOTYPE: So little is known about this under-the-radar school. These future healthcare practitioners are among the nicest people you will find on campus - if you ever took notice of them, that is. Unlike the rest of the student population, they do not carry laptops. But hey, they have got PDAs or iPod Touches - they are cool.

WHAT THE LECTURERS SAY: "Ultimately, nursing is a calling - and not so much a course of convenience because the prospective student has nowhere else to go. It never fails to impress me when I see 'newbies' who are transformed into individuals who are not only competent in their skills but also speak and breathe the nursing language - ready to spring into action should an emergency arise." - Mr Abdul Rashid Mohd Yusoff, HS lecturer



VIEWS



Email your letters (no longer than 300 words) to nptribune@gmail.com

[editorial]

If you were not already aware that Singapore is on the cusp of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games (YOG), there is a very reasonable chance that you live under that proverbial rock.

The media frenzy perpetuated by the arrival of the Youth Olympic Flame to our shores on Aug 5 has led to a cornucopia of information about the YOG - some singing high praises of veneration, others pouring withering scorn of castigation.

The benefits are irrefutable. Hosting the YOG is a once in a lifetime opportunity to elevate the nation's global stature and accelerate its social, economic, and political development.

If the past few Olympic games are anything to judge by, the YOG will also prove to be a major cash cow that is expected to attract an estimated 40,000 foreign visitors and about \$57 million in tourism dollars.

Perhaps more importantly, the YOG is an excellent platform for us to showcase our athletes. It is also in Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, words, "an excellent platform for Singaporeans to rally behind a common cause."

But it is there, unfortunately, where the glitter starts to fade off.

For a much-vaunted event, YOG has appallingly failed to impress the public. In an online poll conducted by Channel News

Asia, a shocking 88 per cent of 5,639 respondents expressed a complete lack of interest in the YOG.

Public disdain only crescendoed when Mr Niam Chiang Meng, the Permanent Secretary for MCYS, announced in a Straits Times article titled 'YOG surpasses budget' on Jul 6 that the YOG budget will more than treble to \$387 million from \$107 million.

A friend of mine was scathing in his dismissal of the YOG.

"If the Government has so much money to waste on a glorified circus show featuring foreign versus foreign fixtures, they might as well invest the time and money on the nation's needy instead. The YOG is profligate waste of resources," he elucidated.

But is this public discontent fair? Are Singaporeans being overly ungracious, selfish and destitute of national pride? I do not know, much less have any sort definitive answer to this seething debacle. What I do know, however, is that the mere fact that such a substantial group of naysayers who disparage the YOG at every turn exists cannot bode well for us, or our image.

I, for one, would very much love for my friend to eat his own words.

Ng Jian Yang
Editor

[forum letters] * Forum letters may be edited for reasons of brevity and accuracy

A silent election

The student union needs to work harder to earn the students' support

Dhevarajan Devadas

Change came to NP on Jun 28, but it came so quietly that you might have missed it.

The NP Students' Union (NPSU) had elected a new President and Executive Committee on that day, but few students would have any inkling about the change.

This is just one of many examples of the poor publicity that plagues NPSU. Despite the efforts of many past presidents and committee members, most students still do not have a clue about what NPSU does.

I believe that the problem starts from the election itself.

The NPSU elections are organised by the Student Development and Alumni Relations office. Information pertaining to the election is buried deep inside the Student Portal and easy to miss.

Holding an election is one thing. Making others aware of the election is another. How are students going to vote if they do not know anything about the candidates?

With a wide variety of easy-to-use social networking tools

available, the NPSU has no excuse to not reach out to the student population. Its Twitter and Facebook pages were virtually silent on the elections.

On the actual day of voting, a simple email is sent out, asking students to vote. Since voting is not compulsory, a notification on polling day itself elicits little response from an unaware audience. Surely more can be done to publicise the voting exercise?

Also, not many are aware that the students do not elect the NPSU President. The voting process only takes place among delegates from NPSU and the academic societies of each school.

Perhaps the system should be revised, so that the student population as a whole can have a say in who they want to be represented by.

Past NPSU Presidents have always declared that they "want to raise awareness". What do they exactly mean by this?

Two years ago, the NPSU

announced plans to set up a website for students to voice their concerns. Till now, the website has yet to be launched. There were also plans to keep students updated about NPSU activities through televisions in the atrium. Nothing has been heard of it since then.

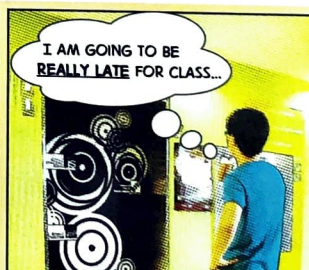
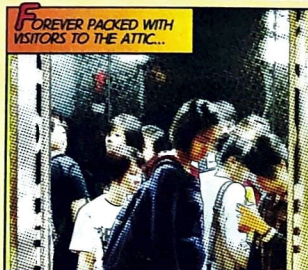
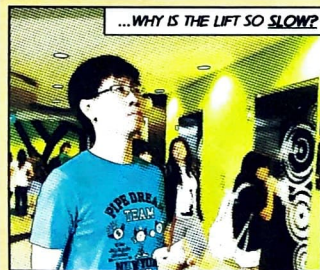
If the NPSU is serious about raising awareness, it should start by providing students with an easy method of giving feedback online, and organise forum discussions on issues affecting them, such as transport fares and parking costs. It can also conduct regular surveys to spot areas of concern.

Show us what you do, and show us that our votes matter. Show us that you care, and you will get the long-desired awareness and recognition that you crave.

Find out what Josiah Lee, the newly-elected President of NPSU, has to say in response to this at www.theurbanwire.com/nptribune.

“Holding an election is one thing. Making others aware of the election is another. How are students going to vote if they do not know anything about the candidates?”

[comic]



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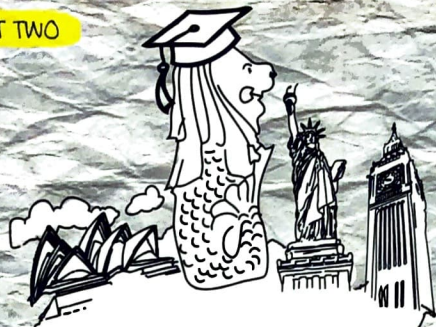
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UNIVERSITY FEATURE: PART TWO



Homebound for foreign degrees

More polytechnic graduates are choosing to get their foreign university degrees right here in Singapore

Yeung Ching Kit Joshua

Lee Xing Hui, 20, a Business Studies graduate from the School of Business & Accountancy, used to dream of studying abroad, but quickly changed her plans because it was too costly an investment.

"I decided to study at SIM University (UniSIM) instead, because I could save more than \$50,000 a year and complete my degree in a shorter time," says the first-year student, who is now studying for a Bachelor of Science in Business under the University of London International Programmes.

Xing Hui is not alone. There is an increasing number of polytechnic graduates who are choosing to pursue their degrees from foreign universities, through private schools here instead of heading overseas.

One reason is the growing number of foreign universities setting up campuses in Singapore. The other reason is the Poly-Foreign Specialised Institution initiative introduced by the Ministry of Education in 2005 to allow polytechnics and foreign universities to jointly offer

accredited degree programmes.

Foreign degrees have long been available in Singapore through local agents, who report an increased intake of polytechnic graduates in recent years.

In a Channel NewsAsia article on Feb 18, 2009, titled 'Private universities attracting more locals', CEO of PSB Academy Mr Lee Beng Choo said, "We have seen an increase in local students' applications by more than 50 per cent over the past two years."

These schools offer degrees from foreign universities at a fraction of the cost and time students would otherwise have to spend doing the same degree overseas.

For example, a three-year Bachelor of Science in Management with the University of London at UniSIM would be in the ballpark of \$24,000. A similar degree in London would cost around \$86,000, not including living expenses.

Some institutions like Curtin Singapore offer accelerated degree programmes. The Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication, for instance, can be completed in eight months. These streamlined degrees require less time and money, making them ideal for polytechnic graduates wishing to enter the workforce earlier.

But has the value of the education been compromised in what sounds increasingly like a deal too good to be true?

On the issue of academic rigour, Ms Amy Tee, Marketing Director of Kaplan Higher Education Institute, says, "[It] is highly dependent on how motivated and driven the students are."

Echoing her views, Dr David Fedo, 67, Executive Director and Visiting Scholar of Wheelock College Singapore, says, "[Our] expectations for students in Singapore and in Boston are the same [in terms of admission and standards]."

To further sweeten the deal, most institutions also offer students a chance to complete a part of their degree in the university's home country, which gives students a chance to live the dream of studying abroad.

Although qualifications still play a large part in securing a job, employers such as Mr Paul Khor, 40, owner of Actually Trading Pte Ltd, claims that he looks beyond the paper certificates at the job applicant's personality.

"Qualifications [still] play a part, but it is not the deciding factor. It is all about the whole package now," he says.

WORD ON THE STREET

RANON YU finds out what students think about the employability of graduates from private universities

"I think it depends not just on your credentials, but also on your luck. You have to be at the right place at the right time, and most importantly, you have to believe in yourself."

Abu Bakar, 22, a second-year student from PSB Academy



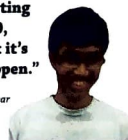
"Employers will definitely look at the school that a student is from to determine whether he or she will be employed, and students from local universities will surely have priority over those from private universities."



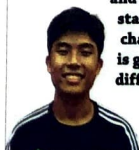
Vanessa Teo, 19, a final-year Mass Communication student

"Getting a job depends on whether or not you have the right attitude, as well as expectations. If you are expecting a starting salary of \$5,000, chances are that it's not likely to happen."

Maru Han, 20, a second-year Business Information Technology student



"I don't think it will be that difficult to find a job and get employed, but if you are fussy and expect a high starting salary, chances are that it is going to be more difficult for you."



Cheng Weibin, 23, a third-year student from SIM University

No money, no worries

RENU BEGUM speaks to financial advisor Grace Soh, 56, from finexis advisory Pte Ltd, to find out more about how you can fund your dream university education

Q: What are some of the financial schemes that students can consider?

A: Some banks that they can approach for loans are POSB (Post Office Savings Bank) and Maybank, which offer a variety of plans such as tuition, computer and study loans. There are also scholarships, which students can apply for at the university they are enrolling in, or at institutions such as the army or FIREfly. One good website they can look at is BrightSparks, a collation of most of the scholarships available in Singapore.

Q: What should students look out for when assessing bank loans?

A: Look carefully at the interest rates as the numbers given might not be what they are. Work out the sums carefully before deciding, and always keep in mind the duration needed to repay the loan in full.

Q: What about scholarships? Is there anything that students should watch out for?

A: Do be cautious when signing bonds with companies that offer scholarships because they can last anywhere from four to six years. I have seen many students who choose to repay the loan instead of fulfilling it, and this usually costs more, as they may end up paying one and a half times the sum they originally borrowed.

Q: Any final tips?

A: Apply for bursaries to help ease your expenses, and talk to your alumni for suggestions on how to survive on a tight budget, as they may have some useful advice. Also, wait until your study loans have been fully repaid before making any big purchases like getting a car. Start on your research early, and money will be the least of your worries.

SPECIAL



Violet Ng with her parents, Neo Ah Lay (left) and Ng Boon Khuee (right).

Heart begins at home

For many, the practice of benevolent giving means slotting coins into tin cans during flag days, or to donate during charitable events.

However, for final-year Mass Communication student Violet Ng, 19, charity begins with showing care to family members.

"If you can't even care for your family and loved ones, how are you going to be nice to others outside? Taking your family for granted should be the last thing you ever do. They will be the ones who care for you most, and support you in times of trouble," she says.

It is a simple method that her parents adopt to get across this cherished value.

"My parents value bonding, so

we always try our best to make time for each other. My dad's job requires him to travel a lot but despite the distance and time, he always makes time for us even if it means sacrificing his favourite golf," she adds.

Violet emphasises that acts of care and love at home are fundamental to making one care for a stranger and give magnanimously.

Helping her with school work, getting her point of view in home issues, making her feel important, and simply calling to ask if she would be home for dinner - these are all small actions that have made Violet feel so loved, and inculcated in her the habit of giving.

My mother, my best friend



Dorcas Liu Dai Yu (right) with her mother, Diana Kok (left).

Every family has its problems, but transparency is key to making the relationship a healthy one, say Dorcas and her mother.

Dorcas Liu Dai Yu, 19, a final-year Business Studies student in Ngee Ann Polytechnic, maintains her healthy and active relationship with her mother just by making sure that they do not keep secrets from each other.

"We discuss problems and treat each other as friends. We try to offer suggestions to each other and listen. Being transparent with each other [always helps]," says Dorcas's mother, Diana Kok, 45, Director of DK Associates Pte Ltd.

"I frequently give my mom hugs. You may think that it is silly, but I think that it is really one of the ways that can bond

us and make us feel closer. I am comfortable with sharing any problems that I have with my mum," says Dorcas.

Dorcas explains that her mother has also taught her the importance of moral values and how it is the core to being filial.

"Moral values hold the family together. It is a basic rule that people must keep if they want a healthy relationship with each other," she says.

On the moral values that she has imparted to Dorcas, Ms Kok says, "Discipline and being family-oriented."

"[Having moral values] is very important. It is like a jigsaw puzzle. You cannot complete the big picture if you have a missing piece," she adds.

"A person's most constant caregiver is the most influential in having a long-lasting impact on said individual's value system. Values are often passed down over multiple generations this way."

Ms Zhuang Xinyan, 25,
Social worker

"My children but just see social values kindred them not bothering for a old man."

Family holds the key

A poll by npTribune reveals that youths remember best those moral values passed on from their parents and grandparents

With many adults writing to the press about the decreasing sense of morality and the increasing adoption of individual rights as the norm among youths, have moral standards really dropped, or is it a case of one generation wanting the next to adhere to its code of right and wrong?

npTribune polled 194 students in Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) to find out.

Most students say there are societal guidelines that help them to discern right from wrong. A staggering 93 per cent claim they continue to uphold the moral values that they were taught. However, 77 per cent feel that there has been a degradation of moral values - a result of an increasingly liberal media.

Fabian Pang, 18, a final-year Biomedical Engineering student, says, "The liberal media has influenced society into thinking that some things which are wrong, such as premarital sex, are actually all right."

On the other hand, Esther Ng, 19, a final-year Business Studies student, attributes straying from moral values to the parents.

"I feel that some parents are so caught up with working that they don't spend quality time with their children anymore," she says.

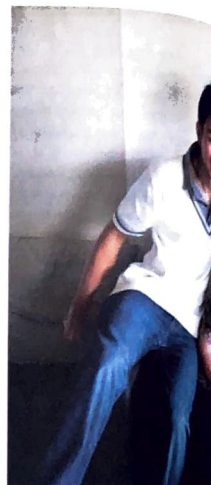
This could be the reason that in the list of cherished moral values, only 7.88 per cent of students cited the importance of filial piety. Instead, the values treasured most by youths appear to be honesty or integrity, with 23 per cent of those polled indicating as such.

Ms Zhuang Xinyan, 25, a social worker with the Student Services Centre, agrees that the one most influential in impacting the value system of an individual is his most constant caregiver.

The poll clearly underscores the importance of a proper family unit: students remember most clearly the moral values that were taught by their parents and grandparents.

This result differs somewhat from the findings of a poll of 1,500 Singaporeans and permanent residents conducted by the National Family Council (NFC), which was reported in The Straits Times on Jun 27 this year.

The NFC poll had found that eight in 10 respondents treasured the five

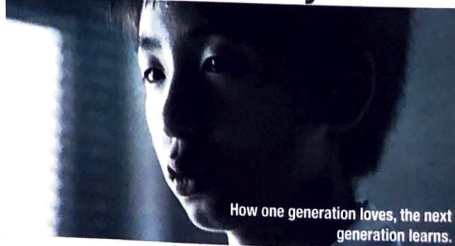


From left: Lim Wei Liang, Tan Kae Eng happiness. For this tight-knit family,

Singapore Family Values that were first marked out in 1993 - love; care and concern; filial responsibility; commitment; and communication. In addition, 90 per cent considered family to be their highest priority.

Wong Yong Hui, 19, a Network Systems & Security student, agreed that filial piety is an important value but one that may soon become extinct. "Parents nowadays spoil their kids and treat them like

Monkey see, monkey do



How one generation loves, the next generation learns.

To find out if the situation at large is happening within campus, npTribune conducted another poll with youths on the street.

The survey of 100 teenagers aged 15 to 19 found an overwhelming 96 per cent of them that they have continued to uphold the moral values imparted to them - mostly from their parents and grandparents.

However, 61 per cent agreed that moral values has taken place due to the influence of the media.

Again, this begets the questions: What are the moral values that is being taught? Which are themselves subjective by our contexts," says Zhuang Xinyan.

SPECIAL

ren are not bad
at times they
n to forget basic
lues and acts of
. I have observed
to hold a door

Mrs Leong Chai Wan, 46,
Housewife and mother of three

“Moral values should be taught by parents from young. It is important to invest time in teaching your children so that doing the right thing becomes a habit to them, not a chore.”

Giselle Tham, 17,
Second-year Innova Junior College student

“On a normal day, I'd find youths making a nuisance of themselves at the void deck, but on an "abnormal" day I'd be able to find a youth helping an elderly carry a bag of groceries.”

Mr Charles Ramakrishnan, 59,
Freelance photographer

o right thinking



Lee Puay Hwa Shirley, Lim Yee Siew and Lim Chong Hock paint a picture of all three generations fit comfortably under one roof.

kings. In the end, only 10 out of 100 will have this core value in them as humans tend to take things for granted,” he says.

Where should we start to re-inculcate moral values? Most of the students suggested starting with parents, friends and the media. Some say that, ultimately, it boils down to the individual as external influences only have a limited impact.

Ms Zhuang, acknowledging the potential of external influences impacting youths of today, says, “As long as we continue to pay close attention to educating our young – not to have good grades but rather, life’s lessons, character-building, and civic-mindedness – and put in a conscientious effort to build a society that we feel proud to live in, moral values are here to stay and guide us.”

is similar to what Tribune conducted sets of Singapore. aged 14 to 24 saw respondents claim uphold the moral by their parents

t a degradation of the liberal media. at are moral values? 'right' and 'wrong', concepts shaped nyan, 25, a social

worker with the Student Services Centre.

Says Audrey Jee, 16, a first-year Anglo-Chinese Junior College student, “Moral values are good character traits that are vital in everyone’s lives.” Her view is shared by a majority of those surveyed.

In addition, 84 per cent of the respondents agreed that “the degradation of moral values” has led to an increase in youth crime.

Despite that, experts are hesitant to call this phenomenon a degradation, the reason being that the young tend to compare what they see in the media to what they were taught as children by their parents, hence a perceived decline.

Parents were also cited by 66 per cent of those

surveyed as the most influential teacher of moral values.

Despite the oft-heard complaints about the stricter traditional mindsets of the older generations, the effects of their upbringing can still be seen in the youths of today.

“We should always abide by what is right and wrong, no matter the difficulty,” says Giselle Tham, 17, a second-year Innova Junior College student.

According to *Building moral intelligence: The seven essential virtues that teach kids to do the right thing* by Dr Michele Borba, although peers may have a huge influence on a youth’s moral development, parents can still make the

biggest impact.

“Moral values should be taught by parents from young. It is important to invest time in teaching your children so that doing the right thing becomes a habit to them, not a chore,” says Giselle.

194 IN 2009
no. of girls under 14 years old who had
consensual sexual intercourse
as compared to the previous year
TEENAGERS
AGED 16-23
POLLED



36.1%

4,200 youths
arrested
last year

93% CLAIM THAT THEY
UPHOLD MORALS

77% felt that liberal media
played a part in the
degradation of
MORAL VALUES



1 out of 5
youths access illegal materials,
including **pornography**

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Amala Kannan
Teo Wen Cheng Bjorn
Liu Xing

NPEOPLE

[BOOK REVIEWS]



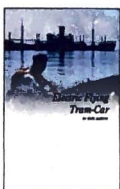
Still Travelling
Edwin Thumboo
Available at Books
Actually, Kinokuniya,
and Times Bookstores

Edwin Thumboo's sixth collection of poems, *Still Travelling*, aims to

provoke the readers' thoughts.

The overarching message, which is that the point of travelling lies in the journey and not the arrival, is powerfully iterated, and the adroit prose invites contemplation.

This brilliant collection of poems brings its readers on a journey of self discovery. With over half of the poems set in Singapore, an intimate feeling is immediately established, as local readers will find themselves recognising the places alluded to. - **BJORN TEO**



Electric Flying Tram-Car
Dr Igor Mortis
Available at www.ethosbooks.com.sg

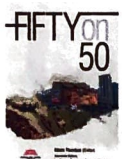
Dr Igor Mortis travelled with *Voyage 51* as the ship's

surgeon from March to June 1958.

From the seas of London to numerous cities in Asia, all his experiences were carefully recorded in a journal - and now immortalised in the *Electric Flying Tram-Car*.

There is nary a dull entry in the book, making the reader suspect that there is some stretching of the truth.

That aside, the journal entries take on a very personal tone that captivates and titillates, leaving the reader on the edge of their seats with recounts of his life-threatening accidents and adventures. - **LYDIA YAP**



Fifty on 50
Edwin Thumboo
Available at Times
Bookstores and
Kinokuniya

To mark Singapore's 50th year of self-governance in 2009,

50 local poets compiled their cherished memories of the country in the form of poems, photographs, and illustrations, hence the title, *Fifty on 50*.

Each poem and picture allows readers to see Singapore through the eyes of the authors. Edwin Thumboo and many renowned writers like Alfian Sa'at contributed to this book.

The poems are written in the official languages of Singapore - English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil, which provides readers with a multi-cultural view of olden Singapore. - **NUR HAZIRAH BTE SUKARJI**

A theatre veteran and a senior sports journalist are the latest to join the School of Film & Media Studies as adjuncts. **AMALA KANNAN & ZAFIRAH SALIM** report.

Living life to the fullest ...

"You are not late, you are absent."

Although every student is aware of the 15-minute grace period before they are considered to be absent, there are some lecturers who relax the rule; but not Mr Lim Yu Beng.

Starting off his first acting class with a harsh 20-minute lecture on the severity of tardy behaviour, the 44-year-old theatre veteran made sure that he had enunciated the message loud and clear.

Punctuality is a sign of professionalism, which, as Mr Lim puts it, is "especially [important] if [you] want to survive in the media industry".

Mr Lim boasts a diverse portfolio, having acted in television, film and theatre for over a decade.

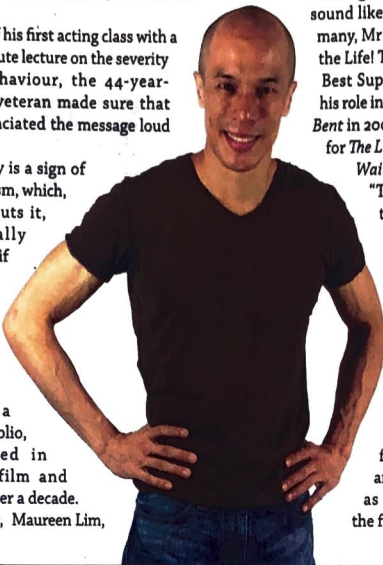
His mother, Maureen Lim,

a renowned choreographer, exposed him to arts performances from young; and his participation in his school's musical further fuelled his passion for acting.

Although acting might not sound like a viable career to many, Mr Lim, who has won the Life! Theatre Awards for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Martin Sherman's *Bent* in 2004, and Best Actor for *The Lover* and *The Dumb*

Walter in 2005, says,

"This is something that I was meant to do because of the desire to communicate some kind of truth. To me, that is what acting does," he says. "Besides, I think hardly anyone has financial security anyway, so I might as well live life to the fullest."



Mr Lim has also worked alongside stars such as Chow Yun Fat and Jodie Foster in *Anna and the King* (1999), and the late David Carradine in *Kung Fu Killer* (2008).

Though it may seem that his success is the result of a burning hunger for fame, the truth is that the humble actor's only desire in his profession is to create a bigger stage for local actors. In fact, this was one of the reasons he pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

"My goal was to bring back everything I learnt, to share it here and improve the scene," he says.

Despite knowing that not all of his students will be future actors or actresses, Mr Lim still hopes that they will pick up useful skills from acting.

Ng Yun Xuan, 20, a final-year Mass Communication student, says, "Acting has helped me become a more confident person. I no longer get the jitters when I have to perform, or present something in front of the class."

She adds, "It helps that Mr Lim is a very passionate teacher. He uses a very personal approach to teaching in class."

... & coming full circle

He received a C grade for Feature Writing and thought he would never make it in journalism.

Today, Terrence Voon, 32, a sports correspondent with The Straits Times, is back in NP as an adjunct lecturer for the Sports Journalism module, teaching alongside the very lecturer who gave him that grade.

Mr Voon, who graduated in 1998, exclaims, "I was so devastated! I thought I could never do journalism ever again."

Fresh from covering the World Cup 2010 as a journalist and photographer in South Africa, he was invited by Mr Paul Ramani, his former lecturer for Feature Writing and now the module leader for Sports Journalism to be part of the team. The third-year elective is a new addition to the Mass Communication diploma.

Mr Ramani says, "I wanted to provide students with groundings in all the different forms of media, specific to sports. So I started to recruit industry people (to teach)."

He adds, "The bonus is that Terrence was a former student of FMS, so he understands (our) working style."

The former editor of the campus magazine HYPE and avid Liverpool

"If you really want to excel in something, you need to have the interest in it and that will help you through the tough times."

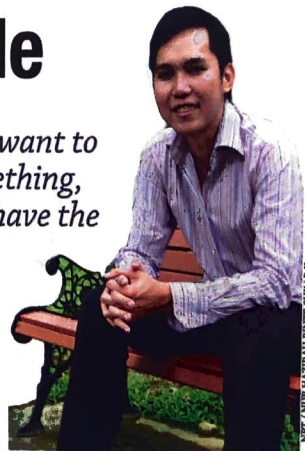
Terrence Voon

Adjunct lecturer from the School of Film & Media Studies

supporter spent the next seven years after graduation with radio station Power 98FM covering a combination of local news and sports news. He left the station in 2007 to join Singapore Press Holdings.

"Sports has always been a part of whatever I was doing and it has been the one thing that I have most interest in. So I figured that if you really want to excel in something, you need to have the interest in it and that will help you through the tough times," he says.

Mr Voon's experience in the media industry coupled with the fact that he is



an alumnus also helps him to bond with the students.

Jonathan Chua, 20, a final-year Mass Communication student, says, "The age-gap (between us) is not as wide, so it is easier for us to relate to him. He is more like a senior to us than a lecturer."

From student to media professional to adjunct lecturer, Mr Voon has indeed come full circle after 12 years.

He says, "This is a good opportunity for me to share my experiences and give back to the school which gave me a headstart in what I am doing right now."

Cultural shake-up in Sichuan

Jotham Lian Wenhui

A trip to Sichuan Province in China that is still living in the shadow of a seismic earthquake that measured 8.0 on the Richter scale might sound daunting, but for the 20 students and two staff members from The Christeara Programme (TCP), the learning experience triumphed over any fear.

The team spent two weeks in March teaching English and Physical Education classes at Juyuan Middle School in the small town of Jiyan.

"The students were amazed at the people; how resilient they were. The message learnt was that life has to go on and we have to pick ourselves up and not look back," says Mr Jeffrey Yang, Deputy Director of Alumni Relations for SDAR, who was the team's mentor during the trip.

He notes that the trip bore greater meaning beyond teaching the local children, and that lessons learnt from being in Sichuan were brought home.

Farah Diyanah, 19, a final-year Mass Communication student, gave the example of how being exposed to a different culture opened her eyes to the discrimination and prejudice that some Singaporeans harbour towards foreign workers.

"I realised that some of their bad habits, such as spitting on the floor, was because they were raised that way. We have to accept that it is a different way of life, instead of (summarily) condemning them," she says.

Sharing her views is Brandon Choo, 18, a second-year Product Design & Innovation student, who adds, "The trip really helps you in your personal character growth. By living there, I have learnt to be more considerate and tolerant of different cultures."

The cultural exchange was not only experienced by the Singaporean students, but also by Elsa Qiu, 20, one of the five Sichuan nationals currently studying in NP, who led the team around Sichuan.

Says the final-year Electrical Engineering student, "The most important thing in this trip was for me to interact with my Singaporean peers; to get to know and understand Singaporeans better, and to introduce them to my culture."

Mr Yang, who has been leading teams on cultural exchange trips since 1997, adds, "It is something I truly believe in as it is a life changing experience. In two weeks, you can change your life as well as someone else's life, so why not?"



The smiling faces of these Juyuan students betray no indication of the tragedy that struck them two years ago.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PARULU YANAMAI

Not fast, not furious, but fuel-efficient

The first eco car by NP clinches second spot in a regional race

Nur Hazirah Bte Sukarji

A year of hard work for 13 students paid off when one of their two eco cars came in second at the recent Shell Eco-Marathon (SEM) Asia 2010.

Shell's challenge was for the teams to design, build and drive an energy-saving car that maximises fuel use but limits carbon dioxide emissions. The team of 11 Mechanical Engineering students, one Mobile Business Solutions student and one Marine & Offshore Technology student, boldly took Shell on.

The eco car, "NP Fuel Cell" (NPFC), was entered in the Prototype Fuel Cell (Hydrogen) category of the race held at the Sepang International Circuit in Kuala Lumpur from Jul 8 to 11.

Running 535.4 km on just a single litre of fuel, the car lost only to the team from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, whose car managed to run 598.8 km on one litre of fuel.

"Since the competition is held nearby, we did not want to waste such a golden opportunity. It is a perfect



The NP Fuel Cell testifies to the team spirit and creative initiative of the Engineering Team.

NPFC: CHANG JIN WEI

time to make our presence felt," says Mr Kaya Totong, 51, the lecturer in charge of the project.

The cars cost around \$25,000 each, and were partially sponsored by Intermech Machinery, Shimano, Parametric Technology Corporation, Product Development Solutions, Singapore Technologies Kinetics, Wai Seng Hydraulics, and NP Co-op.

"After a whole year of building the cars and spending a large sum of money on them, I am glad that we did not disappoint NP," says Mr Totong.

For three months leading up to the competition, the students braved the scorching sun to test-drive their cars at the Sports Complex every week.

"Since it is our first time participating in this event, our [team's] goal was to just complete the race. Winning the race was the icing on the cake, and helped to affirm all our hard work," says Muhammad Azhar Bin Adnan, 24, a final-year Mechanical Engineering student and fellow driver of the NPFC.

The team received a medal and trophy for their win, as well as US\$800 (\$1100).

GLOBAL

Jiang Han in Wuhan's Hankou district tantalises with activities round the clock. **NG JIAN YANG** reports

If you're talking about entertainment in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei Province, then there is only one place to go - Hankou.

Undergraduate Mr Liu Wen Xiang, 24, swears by the allure of Hankou, one of the three boroughs of Wuhan. Highlighting Jiang Han, the most popular shopping area in the district, he beams as he exclaims, "Whatever entertainment it is that you seek, Jiang Han will have it, and then some more."

Indeed, Jiang Han is anything but typical. A 24-hour entertainment hub with the standard array of shopping centres, goods, and cinema theatres, it also has street stalls and other oddities, such as street games reminiscent of our own *Pasar Malam* (night market).

In fact, people in Wuhan have always described the Jiang Han district as "that which never sleeps", even before New York became synonymous with that title.

Although the countless seasons that have passed may have brought about some changes, the very core of the place remains unchanged.

"The things sold might have changed, but the spirit of Jiang Han remains very much alive," says Ms Chen Rui, 64, a drinks vendor who has worked in the district for over 15 years.

We walk down Jiang Han's 12-km long Pedestrian Street (Bu Xing Jie), replete with shopping centres housing international and domestic brands. Here, the resplendent lights, inexhaustible variety of things to do and archaic architecture come together to provide an experience of unparalleled entertainment.

Ms Tanya Adrienne, a French tourist, has nothing but praise for it. "The shops and department stores seem to go on forever! I love how spacious the street is,



Party revellers, hungry gourmets, arts fiends, culture vultures and tireless shopaholics congregate in Jiang Han to experience the carousel of life.



A place where the fun never

and the Chinese sculptures add another dimension of cultural sophistication to this place," she enthuses.

Due to its popularity and rich cultural significance, Jiang Han's Pedestrian Street has also received the prestigious title of China's "Golden Flower", sharing the accolade with Beijing's Wangfujing, Shanghai's Nanjing Road, Tianjin's Heping Road and Harbin's Central Avenue.

It is 6 pm in the evening and as the skies burst into a fiery riot of crimsons and purples around me, the district's nightlife slowly stirs to life.

At Jiang Han First Street, apparels, accessories and trinkets trade hands

amidst the incessant chatter of hard-won bargains. The great variety and cheap prices make it a shopping paradise for China's youths who love shopping but have tight budgets.

A few metres away, music mingles with the steam and sizzle from hot woks as musicians, young and old, peddle their artistry to diners at Ji Qing Street.

Madam Pin Ru, a 37-year-old diner, merrily remarks, "Good music aids in better digestion."

It is now fast approaching 11 pm. The hustle and bustle winds down as street vendors pack up their unsold goods. The shopping centres and stores in Pedestrian

Street had long since closed their shutters.

But if you think that that is all there is to Jiang Han, then you are mistaken.

Right beside the Yangtze River is the picturesque Jiang Tan Park. The hypnotic crashing of waves coupled with the pulsating beats of club music in the background create a surreal sensation of Zen, which draws an endless drove of lovers, who seek respite within its verdant grounds. If you tire of the park, an endless line of bars opening into the wee hours await you.

It is easy to lose track of time in Jiang Han. The clock now reads 6 am and the hubbub of laughter, shouting and



Pedestrians can often be seen crossing the roads of Wuhan with impunity.

Daily battle on the roads

When you are walking on the roads of Wuhan, do not imagine that the drivers will always look out for you

Geraldine Lee

Despite having lived in Wuhan for five years, Dr Rumana Jafarey still watches the roads carefully when she crosses them.

The 27-year-old doctor who works at Renmin Hospital in Wuhan University, says, "Some drivers are very forceful and reckless. They do not care and just want to keep going."

It does not matter that drivers in this capital city of Hubei Province in China are supposed to give way to pedestrians when they are at a pedestrian crossing.

Dr Jafarey adds, "Last year I saw a car accident happen right here in Wuhan University. The roads are supposed to be safe, but it still happened. Both drivers refused to give way and they crashed. One of them died and the other had to amputate his leg."

Collisions like these are usually caused by drivers who violate traffic rules, such as not stopping when there is a red light at a traffic crossing, or giving way to pedestrians who are crossing the roads.

But it is not just the drivers who do not seem to care much for traffic safety. Pedestrians themselves do not seem to be



ends

drunken singing rampant in the air just moments ago fades into a quiet murmur. But while Jiang Tan sleeps, shops in Han Zheng Street stir to life, prepared for a new day of business.

A street vendor wheels his cart out from around the corner of the street, his arrival heralded by the aroma of freshly made fried bean curd skin (Dou Pi). We walk towards breakfast, towards a new day.

"This is why I keep coming back. There will always be something for someone here in Jiang Han, no matter the time," sighs Mr Liu Wen Xiang emphatically.

Living life on the edge

Michelle Ng

In a narrow sidewalk at Dong Hu Road in Wuhan, a little make-shift fruit stall is propped against a single-windowed wall.

Look into it and you will see the home of Mr Huang Xiaohua and his wife, both 54, which also doubles up as a fruit stall - the rice bowl that covers their daily expenses and rent for their one-room apartment.

This scenario is not unusual among the many hawkers in China.

In search of a better life, Mr Wang Li, 25, moved from a village in Funan to Wuhan after graduating from high school to run his own food stall.

"I thought it would be better to work here (in Wuhan), but the rent is too expensive. I am putting in too much money and gaining too little back," says Mr Li, who makes a living out of selling beef noodles in Donghu, one of the spots in Wuhan brimming with roadside stalls.

He is just one in an estimated 130 million migrant workers in China, many of whom are rural folks who moved to developed cities in search for a better life. Numbers are so huge that such statistics are only rough estimates at best.

More often than not, these migrants have no official resident permit card (*hukou* card). Without it, they have no access to government benefits such as healthcare, medical insurance, education and the rights to work in the city.

Their children are also often unable to secure a place in a local school, and have



Roadside stalls like the one pictured above are a common sight throughout China.

NP/ MICHELLE NG

to enrol in privately owned schools if they want to study. This costs about 300 yuan (\$60) for each semester - when education in their home villages is free.

This adds an additional burden to their already strained finances. In most cases, migrants have no choice but to become roadside hawkers to make ends meet.

Setting up a typical roadside stall with two tables would cost about 4,000 yuan (\$800). In a good month, it can generate up to 5,000 yuan (\$1,000) in profits.

Competition is cutthroat tough, and most are pressured into slashing prices and operating for longer periods of time to gain an edge over their competitors.

Ms Qin Yan, 24, a single mother with a two-year-old child, depends on her roadside stall selling charcoal-grilled food at Guang Ba Road to bring in the dough. Working alone from 7 pm till 4 am, she does everything from setting up the stall to cooking and serving to cleaning up.

"I have a permanent backache from the long hours of standing, but what can I do? I have no choice. I have to support my child," says Ms Qin, who is not receiving any financial help from the government.

A classic example of roadside hawkers,

Ms Qin earns about 3,000 yuan (\$600) a month, of which 40 percent goes to the rent for her one-room apartment. The rest is barely enough for the family of two's daily expenses.

"I am not sure if the government provides subsidies or any other forms of help. Even if they do, I do not know where to get them," says Ms Qin.

Just as the roadside hawkers do not know who to turn to, the authorities are equally baffled on how to help.

With the increasing influx of people from rural areas to the cities, and the failure of these migrants to register themselves, it is a near impossible task for the authorities to track them down, much less render assistance.

Mr Tu Chao, 30, a policeman, says, "Today, I might offer help to one roadside hawker. But when I turn around, I see five more of such hawkers, all of whom require similar financial aid. The next week, there will be 10 more of them."

China's economy may be developing rapidly, but many of its citizens are still struggling to stay alive. Until changes are made, people like Ms Qin will just have to grit their teeth and get on with their lives.

bothered about it either.

"Pedestrians crossing the roads are also at fault. They believe that the drivers will stop for them, even if they cross when the traffic light is red," says Mr Xu, 43, a taxi driver with over 18 years of experience.

A recent report by the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China showed that the number of motor vehicles in China had increased by 12.6 per cent to 180 million since 2007.

In Wuhan alone, there are 86 million motor vehicles.

Mr Gandou Christlain Johnson, 19, puts it succinctly when he describes Wuhan as a "jungle".

"During the rush hour period, you can see the cars coming at you from all directions," says the African, who is a first-year student at Wuhan University.

One reason for the increase in cars is the relative ease of getting a driving licence and a car.

Says Mr Xu, "You just have to pay a few thousand dollars for a few months' lessons before taking the driving test to get a driving licence. It is also very cheap to buy a car, which can cost as little as 100,000 yuan (\$20,000)."

But it is not all bad news, as the Chinese government has been taking action to rectify the issue.

Since 2004, traffic safety campaigns have been launched to educate children and motorists about pedestrian safety.

This has led to an annual decrease of 27 per cent in terms of road fatalities and casualties, to the current death rate of about 166 deaths per day.

However, despite these preventive measures being taken, Dr Jafarey is not going to take any chances while crossing the roads in Wuhan.

"Even though the road situation here is not so bad now, I am still going to be cautious. I want to protect my life."

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PHOTO COURTESY OF NP DRAGON BOAT CLUB

Daring dragons triumph in Xiamen

The Ngee Ann Dragon Boat Team beats 76 teams despite rowing in uncharted waters

Erica Rae Chong

Strong winds and persistent rain did not stop the Ngee Ann Dragon Boat Team (NPDB) from clinching second place in the hotly-contested Jimei Cross-Strait Dragon Boat Race.

The 500-metre high school event was held in Xiamen, China, from May 29 to 30 earlier this year.

The competition saw 78 teams and more than 2,000 participants from countries around the world, including Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore.

The team clocked an impressive timing of two minutes and seven seconds, just five seconds behind the champions - Jimei Maritime Engineering Team from Xiamen.

This was accomplished despite having to brave chilly temperatures while rowing for the first time in unfamiliar waters.

Swah Bing Guang, 19, President of NPDB and a final-year Banking & Financial Services student, says, "We were delighted with [the win]! We were not expecting much from the trip, and went there mainly for the exposure because we were unsure about the other teams' standards."

It was a completely new environment that they had to adapt to. The pressure increased as the team was given only an hour to test the waters and to get used

to a different dragon boat in the Jimei Dragon Pool.

"(Our) expectations were not so great until we came in first for our heats," says Lynus Heng, 35, who has been coaching NPDB for the past eight years.

"After that, we realised that our chances of winning were comparable to the teams from the other universities," he adds.

They put up a fierce fight, topping the 500-metre heats and rowed against another

five teams in the semi finals before pushing through to the finals.

Their success was borne of an intensive training regime, with many a weekend spent preparing at Kallang River.

"It was not easy, but I believe my team did our best and I am satisfied with our performance," says Kendrick Ng, 20, Secretary of the team and a final-year Mechatronic Engineering student.

There appears to be no rest for NPDB. The team is now preparing to represent the school in the opening ceremony of the inaugural Youth Olympic Games (YOG), where they will participate in a dragon boat parade across Marina Bay.

"We feel very excited as it is the first YOG and Singapore is the host country. The event will highlight dragon boat as an important sport in Singapore and hopefully, it will become a more recognised sport in the world," says Bing Guang.

“ (Our) expectations were not so great until we came in first for our heats. After that, we realised that our chances of winning were comparable to the teams from the other universities. **”**

Lynus Heng
NPDB Coach



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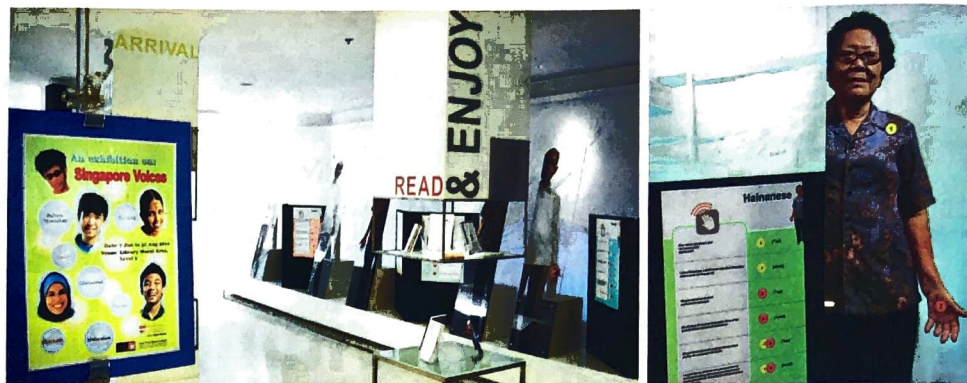
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ZEST

Surprisingly, a majority of local youths desire to be able to converse fluently in their own dialects

Crumbling cultures, dying dialects



Singapore Voices (above left) comprises many plexiglass displays like this one of an old lady and her Hainanese dialect (above right).

David Lim Hong Wee

Six in 10 students do not know how to converse fluently in any dialect, but 85 per cent of those surveyed agreed on the importance of preserving these vanishing tongues.

The npTribune poll of 100 students also revealed that a staggering 88 per cent of students would pick up a dialect, given the resources.

They feel that knowing how to speak an additional tongue has more than just practical benefits, with many citing a desire to know how to communicate with the older generation and to preserve their cultural identity.

The informal poll was conducted in response to an exhibition at the Lien Ying Chow library

to promote the learning of dialects in NP. Titled *Singapore Voices*, the exhibition was organised by the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (IS) in collaboration with Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

"I (would) want to (learn) so that I can better communicate with my grandparents, my relatives, or just any of the elderly on the streets," says Elizabeth See, 17, a first-year Early Childhood Education student.

The facts are sobering. The 2005 General Household survey showed that the usage of Chinese dialects at home fell from 30.7 per cent in 2000 to 23.9 per cent within the same year.

According to Ms Tanja Christa Woebs, an IS lecturer, this is a global trend of decline.

"In the world today, approximately 6000 languages are spoken, of which only about 600 are confidently expected to survive this

century," she says.

Ms Woebs adds that the main reason behind this phenomenon is the chase for economic advancement, an effect of globalisation.

The exhibition, which will end on Aug 31, showcases six life-sized elderly Singaporeans printed on plexiglass touchscreen panels, who "lament" to visitors when touched on their shoulders or hands about their personal wishes regarding dialects.

Ms Christa Woebs says, "Some of the languages in the exhibition are now by and large spoken by elderly people only. The elderly are our only source if we want to preserve the languages, as in some cases there is little material recorded or preserved in writing."

Still, the fact remains that the responsibility of whether or not today's youths speak dialects, lies mainly on the shoulders of the

older generation.

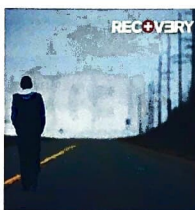
The poll reveals that parents and grandparents account for 62 per cent of people who taught the respondents how to speak dialects.

Zhang Qi, 20, a final-year Engineering Informatics student, says, "My parents never encouraged me to learn dialects. Hence, I speak almost exclusively in English or Chinese."

Says Ms Christa Woebs, "The problem when it comes to dying languages is that by the time you start regretting this development, the elderly could have already passed away and there is nobody left to teach you."

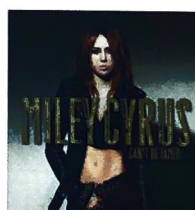
"Preserving dialects is mainly a question of general public attitude towards dialects. This public attitude is highly influenced by national policies and interests. I believe the promotion of multilingualism is the key," she adds.

[music reviews]



Recovery
Eminem

Sticking to the formula that made his previous five albums such commercial successes, Eminem's seventh studio album, *Recovery*, does not exhibit a departure in musical style. Once again, the rapper is marrying his signature motor (and potty) mouth lyrics with compositions by renowned hip-hop producer, Dr Dre, whom he has been collaborating with since his second studio album, *The Slim Shady LP*. Although there are some catchy beats in the form of "Cold Wind Blows" and "Cinderella Man", the angry tirades punctuated with expletives aimed at other celebrities got old about three records ago. Looks like a reinvention is in order for Eminem after *Recovery*.



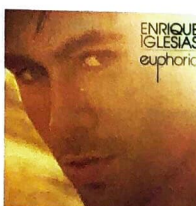
Can't Be Tamed (Deluxe Edition)
Miley Cyrus

Posing on the album jacket in a racy midriff-baring outfit, Miley Cyrus's new image for this album is a far cry from her goody-two-shoes Hannah Montana days. "Two More Lonely People" looks to be the star track of this album with its honest lyrics backed by a powerful acoustic guitar. However, the generic electronic beats that seem to have infested most of the other tracks, coupled with Miley's very obviously digitally enhanced vocals, make this album completely dismissible. In other words, *Can't Be Tamed* is strictly for diehard fans only. The deluxe edition also comes with a DVD that contains 19 live performances from various concerts and behind-the-scenes footages.



Take Two
Sezairi Sezali

Naysayers, move over. Almost as if in response to all the furore over an "undeserving win", Sezairi Sezali, our third Singapore Idol, presents *Take Two*, an 11-track album that proves his victory was no mere fluke. A surprise standout track on this album would be "Matahari", a Malay number which Sezairi delivers with a convincing Indonesian slang. The only hiccup in this album is the inclusion of Singapore Idol season three's "Touched By An Angel". The corny ballad stuck out like a sore thumb among the other clean-sounding tracks. Other than that, *Take Two* runs as smooth as the voice behind it all.



Euphoria
Enrique Iglesias

Euphoria is not only Enrique Iglesias's ninth studio album, but also his first bilingual album. Containing six songs in Spanish and eight songs in English, the 14-track album is diverse in its sound, ranging from conventional pop tunes, to pulsating club music, to soulful ballads, and even experimental reggae beats. Akon, Usher, and Nicole Scherzinger, among many others, also lend their vocals to this solid production. Although it is regrettable that there are no memorable dance tracks on this album, it is still worth a listen, as Enrique shines through in his ballads, which will sweep legions of swooning females off their feet.

Beat the lunch crowd, eat out!

With Canteen 1 dearly missed, Canteen 2 and 4 undergoing renovation, and Makan Place forever packed, famished NPhibians (NP students who have reacted to the situation with versatility) have taken to using the long breaks between classes to head out of school. **AARON TOH & ERICA RAE CHONG** suss out the popular food haunts of your schoolmates.

4 HR **SALAD STOP**

**239 Thomson Road
#02-24 Velocity @ Novena Square
6820 0158
Open: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 9 pm
Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 9 pm**

If you, like us, hate your vegetables, then Salad Stop might just be the place to change your mind.

The salad bar serves up a range of 10 unique salads, from over 40 ingredients, which are made in front of you and served in a giant salad bowl alongside a crunchy breadstick.

The Go Geisha (\$8.50) salad is certainly not your average salad. Soba noodles are tossed with liberal amounts of silken tofu, carrots, snow peas, cucumber, edamame (Japanese baby soybeans), and red and white cabbage. A sprinkling of roasted sesame seeds and a miso dressing add the finishing touches.

The stark juxtaposition of firm soba noodles with smooth tofu against crunchy cabbage, beans and peas was sublime, while the dressing was light and sweet with

a hint of saltiness that did not overpower the delicate flavours of the greens.

Other interesting salads include the Oh Crab Lah! (\$9.50) made from mixed greens, crab sticks and vermicelli, drizzled with a Singapore chilli crab dressing, and the slightly spicy Cheaper than a Facial (\$8.50), which is a combination of cherry tomatoes, cucumbers, mangoes, carrots, and vermicelli, brought to life with a tart Thai lemongrass dressing.

Each salad comes with a certain dressing, although you are welcome to switch it with any of their 16 other dressings and vinaigrettes. You can even specify how finely chopped you would like your salad to be, or if you prefer your dressing on the side instead of drizzled onto the salad.

Salad Stop also allows you to create your own salad (\$8.80) or wrap (\$7.80) from a dazzling array of 35 different toppings. Premium toppings such as feta cheese and smoked salmon cost extra, and are priced between \$1 and \$2.50 each. If you are feeling especially peckish, you can top up an additional \$2.90 for a soup. Salad Stop offers 10 varieties, but not all soups are available each day as the soup menu is rotated on a regular basis.



Seafood Chowder and Go Geisha

NP / ERICA RAE CHONG

With its brightly lit interior, cheery green walls, and minimalist wooden furnishings, it is not difficult to relax and indulge in some healthy eating at the Salad Stop.

Now, if only home-cooked vegetables tasted as good.

Send in your lunch recommendations to contest. nptribune@gmail.com and stand a chance to win Salad Stop vouchers worth \$5! Contest ends Sep 10.

2 HR **SELERA RASA NASI LEMAK**

**2 Adam Road
Stall 2 at Adam Road Food Centre
Tel: 9843 4509
Open: 7 am to 10 pm daily**

Selera Rasa uses basmati rice for its Nasi Lemak (\$4.50), which lends the meal an added fragrance and a touch of class. The smooth coconut taste complements the accompanying dishes of chicken wing, otak, egg, ikan bilis and a begedil (a fried potato patty).

The all-important sambal chilli that makes or breaks nasi lemak is rich, sweet and not too spicy - good news to those with a lower tolerance for spiciness - but still carries enough oomph to be credible. A special cuttlefish sambal chili is also available on request.

2 HR **BUDDY HOAGIES**

**170 Upper Bukit Timah Road
#B1-05 Bukit Timah Shopping Centre
Tel: 6466 1505
Open: 10 am to 10 pm daily**

Do not let the peeling facade of the building fool you, for tucked away in Bukit Timah Shopping Centre is a hidden gem - Buddy Hoagies.

Simply furnished and dimly lit, the café has a sofa at one corner - just the right touch to make you feel at home. Walls adorned with pictures of legendary artists such as The Beatles and Michael Jackson complete the cosy feel.

This quaint, little café and grill serves up a wide range of Western cuisine such as steaks, pasta, rosti and baked rice. They also have



Flame Grilled Chicken

NP / ERICA RAE CHONG

wallet-friendly student specials at \$5.90 and set lunches at \$8.90 on weekdays from 11 am to 4 pm.

Student specials are served with an iced tea while the set lunches include a soup, two side dishes (there are 11 sides), a beverage and the main course. Deserving of special mention is the Flame Grilled Chicken set lunch.

011.59 AM



Let us play a favourite lunchtime game of NP students - spot the empty seat!

The 15,000-strong student population in NP means that it is almost impossible to get a table at Makan Place during lunchtime.

3 HR **ITACHO SUSHI**

**2 Orchard Turn
#B2-18
ION Orchard
Tel: 6509 8911
Open: Sunday to Thursday from 11 am to 10 pm
Friday to Saturday from 11 am to 11 pm**

Itacho has, in a remarkably short period of time, become a favourite among youths. Its appeal lies in its superbly fresh and affordable sushi.

Forget conveyor belt fare here; everything is prepared before your eyes.

The Hotate (Scallop) Sushi (\$2) was exceedingly fresh, enunciating the sweetness of the scallops with its simple execution perfectly.



Roasted Fatty Salmon Sushi

NP / AARON TOH

For the less adventurous, Itacho Sushi also has a range of Aburi (roast) Sushi, which is basically sushi seared rapidly with a blowtorch. Simply astounding.

Do ask the service staff what is in season, as there are occasionally off the menu specials that are available by request only, such as the red snapper sushi we had.

ZEST



The Pan-Fried White Cod (left) was scrumptious, while the Seafood Pasta (above) boasted rich and piquant flavours.

Izzi-ly the best fine dining option around NP

Marinne Santiago

Tucked in a cosy corner of NP's Alumni Clubhouse is the latest epicurean thrill, a place that looks classy but not pretentiously so.

Just two months old, Izzi Restaurant & Bar (not to be confused with Indonesia's casual dining restaurant chain) is immaculately refurbished and serves an eclectic fusion of Western and Italian cuisine, alongside standard fares like pastas, burgers and pizzas.

The Chicken and Mushroom Vol-Au-Vent (\$8) is a delightful pairing of shredded chicken thigh and shitake mushroom, with garlic cream that is fragrant yet subtle. However, while it is slightly too heavy as an appetiser, this will be a perfect main course for light eaters.

Izzi's signature dish, the Pan-Fried White Cod (\$28), comes generously served with an Idaho potato salad (wrapped in cabbage leaves) and julienned vegetables. The fish is seared till lightly charred and

drizzled with a sweet-sour sauce, without compromising on the crispness outside or the sweet moistness inside.

The Seafood Pasta (\$17) is cooked al dente and comes with plenty of seafood like dory fish, New Zealand green-lipped mussels and prawns. The pasta sauce, however, stole the limelight with its offering of assorted sauces like tomato, cream, and rose.

Disappointingly, desserts were uninspired fare like Crème Brûlée and bread pudding.

The service was impeccable; the staff were prompt and attentive. To them, everyone - including students - is a VIP.

Says manager Michael Ho, "We wish to make Izzi's something that NP students can look forward to after a long day in school."

Izzi's prices might be a tad too expensive for students, with a four-course meal costing \$40. But the food is a spark of brilliance amid the *Les Misérables* fine dining scene here, and worth every bite.

INFORMATION

Address:
535B Clementi Road
Ngee Ann Polytechnic Block
75 Alumni Clubhouse

Contact:
6763-7708 / 9636-4341
izzi_restnbar@singnet.com.sg

Operating Hours:
Restaurant: 11.30 am - 10 pm daily
Bar: 4 pm - midnight daily

Power-packed!

Exams are just round the corner, and that means many sleepless nights spent on some desperate last-minute cramming. But fret not! **JILL TOH** reveals four caffeine-packed boosters that are sure to keep you awake through those arduous nights.

« CARAMEL MACCHIATO from Starbucks

From \$6.00 (small)

Taste: This classic drink is made with foamed milk, espresso and vanilla, before being drizzled with caramel sauce. The end result is a sweet buttery taste that will have you feeling all cheered up and ready to hit the books again.

Verdict: A good balance between sugary goodness and a bitter aftertaste, this hot cuppa will perk you up if you find yourself nodding off to sleep!

Location: 587 Bukit Timah,
#01-03 Coronation Plaza

Operating Hours: Daily 7.30 am to 11 pm

« VANILLA LATTE from The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

From \$6.00 (small)

Taste: Creamier and smoother than most other vanilla lattes out there, Coffee Bean's secret to making this intensely flavoured drink is the use of vanilla powder, instead of the commonly used vanilla syrup.

Verdict: Perfect for beginner coffee drinkers, this light and sweet vanilla-flavoured drink gives you that much needed caffeine kick - without the bitterness of the coffee!

Location: 10 Lorong Mambong,
Holland Village

Operating Hours: 24 hours daily

CARAMEL LATTE from Spinelli »

From \$5.40 (small)

Taste: Sweetened by swirls of caramel, this strong full-bodied coffee with its generous amount of foamed milk leaves behind a slightly sour aftertaste that the caffeine junkies among us truly enjoyed.

Verdict: If you feel like a zombie from all that late night cramming, then this is just the drink for you! One sip should jolt you right back into the realm of the living.

Location: 11 King Albert Park,
#01-05 King Albert Park, Clementi

Operating Hours:

Mon - Sat: 8 am to 7.30 pm, Sun & PH: 9 am to 7.30 pm

HAZELNUT LATTE from Tom N Toms »

From \$5.90 (medium)

Taste: Subtle at first, the nutty bitterness of the coffee gradually increases in its intensity into a creamy, aromatic flavour that lingers without leaving an acidic aftertaste.

Verdict: If you don't want to be thrown headfirst into wakefulness, then this coffee - which grows stronger with every sip - is perfect for you! It will give you that caffeine power you need - gently.

Location: 535 Clementi Road, Ngee Ann Polytechnic Alumni Clubhouse

Operating Hours: Daily 7.30 am to 10 pm



Love coffee just as much as we do? Then send in your name, student number, and contact details to contest.nptribune@gmail.com and stand a chance to win a Coffee Bean Gift Card worth \$25!

Contest ends Sep 10.

All the world's their dance floor

Having won third place in an international dance competition, Joyce and The Boys are all set for their next one in Japan. ONG WEI XIU JANINE reports

Whirling in rapture and disbelief after winning bronze at an international dance championship in Las Vegas last August, Joyce and The Boys (JATB) is all set to bedazzle the hip-hop fraternity in the Land of the Rising Sun.

JATB will be taking part in Japan Dance Delight, a renowned international hip-hop dance competition, which will be held in Osaka. The members, who were once with NP's New Revolving Age (NRA), will compete with elite dance crews from Shanghai, Seoul, Paris and New York at the Osaka Municipal Central Gymnasium in front of a 10,000-strong audience on Aug 21.

This was made possible at the Singapore Dance Delight (SDD) Vol. 1 earlier this year in April, where they beat 18 other strong contenders to a surprising win at the dance competition. SDD is the local version of the Japan Dance Delight.

Says JATB leader Terence Then, 23, "The competition was really strong and everyone



From left to right: (First row) Goh Xiang Tian, Joyce Tan, Terence Then (Second row) Seah Seng Kiat, Muhd Sophan Ng (Third row) Glen Ng, Tan Chin Sian, and Ronnie Chen

JATB's dance choreography is a refreshing combination of various hip-hop styles like popping, locking and house.

Says Muhd Sophan Ng, 23, who graduated with a Diploma in Aerospace Technology in year 2007, "We did not intentionally try to 'come up' with a new style. We are just being ourselves and doing what we are good at. The choreography naturally followed suit."

However, the journey to success for this humble crew of eight did not come easy.

Practice time together in the NRA studio is a challenging feat as they have three members who are currently serving National Service, while the rest have either work or school commitments.

"I am very thankful and lucky to be able to dance after work every day and during the weekends," says Glen Ng, 23, a full-time National Serviceman who often has to devote his weekends to practices, especially during competition crunch-times.

"All our hard work has paid off," says Glen, "because going to Osaka has always been one of my biggest dreams."


Two of the members may not be able to compete in Japan as they will be enlisted to National Service. Despite that, the morale of the zesty dance crew remains high.

"Regardless of the number of people eventually going [to] Japan, we will always be eight-people strong [in spirit]," says Sophan.


was good enough to be in the top three, so it was really unexpected to win SDD."

However, win they did - much to their jubilation. That was also not their first taste of success. In August last year, they earned the "Singapore's Best Dance Crew" title after winning the namesake competition.

Following that, JATB flew to Las Vegas to represent Singapore in the World Hip Hop International Championship, which is widely regarded as the Olympics for hip-hop dancing. There, they defeated former champion Philippine All-Stars en route to a bronze medal.



Your NP Photo Contest



NP is like my second home! I'd practically scale a mountain for NP!

From all the entries that we have received, it is evident that NP is a vibrant campus that nurtures bright and well-rounded students. Here are the photos that best embody everything the school is about, and more.

Congratulations to Natalie Chong on the winning entry, titled "I'd scale a mountain for NP!" We hope you will continue to capture more moments of your school life with your new Nikon Coolpix P6000!

Proudly sponsored by: 



With the Youth Olympic Games around the corner, npTribune speaks to our representatives to find out more about their hopes and dreams



"YOG is going to be my biggest competition yet. I am just aiming to gain more experience while competing against six other countries."

Samudra Ong, 17
First-year Aerospace Electronics student
Hockey player



"Initially, I did not think that I will be part of the team, but I trained hard and improved, and finally made it! My father is my main pillar of support."

Joshua Png, 18
Second-year Business Studies student
Reserve for Cycling



"I am proud and this will spur me on to improve further. My ultimate goal is to be the first archer from Singapore to qualify for the Olympics."

Guah Lih, 19
Second-year Leisure & Business Facilities Management student
Reserve for Archery

The doodler who dared to dream

Bullied when young for a speech disorder and subsequently home-schooled, this youth social entrepreneur has since surmounted myriad difficulties to publish a science dictionary for charity. **MELISSA TAN** reports

His bleak childhood was enlivened only by the colourful world of his dexterous doodles, through which Daniel Ng Wing Keet, 17, learnt when he was still studying in a mainstream school.

"I was listening to the lecturer explaining the science concepts and I just started to doodle to help me mind-map," says the second-year Molecular Biotechnology (MBIO) student.

Dr Noel Chia, 48, Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Education, who diagnosed

Daniel with Specific Language Impairment (SLI) when he was four, says, "Since young, Daniel loved doodling. It did not matter what he scribbled because every scribble that he did, there was a story to tell."

SLI is a developmental language disorder, where a person's verbal IQ does not match up to his brain IQ.

While most parents would have been devastated by such news, Daniel's mother, Mrs Janette Ng, 52, looked at it from another perspective. To her, Daniel was merely taking an alternative route to learning.

"There was no neurological damage. His speech and his developmental oral skills were just delayed," she says.

Daniel's awkward social verbal skills made him a target for bullies in school. He withdrew into himself, and the situation deteriorated until his air stewardess mother decided to quit her day job and home-school him in a bid to arrest the problem.

As a result of Mrs Ng's hard work throughout his 12 years of home schooling, his speech today betrays no hint of its former impairment.

Daniel was also taught from young that he should not feel sorry for himself, as there were others who were worse off than him.

Family excursions often meant visits to orphanages, and community work quickly became one of his two loves.

The other was science. Daniel liked that it was a practical subject where the "possibilities were limitless". The twin passions eventually led to his decision to publish a science dictionary.

Daniel, who was "ecstatic" when he first saw his dictionary in its completed form, says, "I wanted a product that people could really use, something more everlasting, and that was when I came up with the idea of starting this science dictionary. It is like killing two birds with one stone."

The dictionary, titled *Dan's Dynamic Dictionary on Science* and published in 2007, is filled with almost 300 doodles, all individually hand-drawn and coloured. A second edition was released in May this year.

It comes as no surprise then, that the soft-spoken boy is well liked by his peers and lecturers.

Dr Wayne Lee Forday, 51, Deputy Director of the School of Life Sciences & Chemical Technology, was effusive in his praise.

"He is mature for his age, very focused and ambitious. It is good that he wants to achieve something. He has that talent and he uses that talent for doing good," he says.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Daniel has plenty more ambitious dreams waiting to be fulfilled.

He says, "I may go into Food Sciences after completing my diploma and serving National Service; that is the one that interests me the most."

THE BOOK

Dan's Dynamic Dictionary on Science is a handy reference guide to science terminologies. The 96-page illustrated lexicon promises to aid in visual learning, as well as to make science fun to learn for primary to secondary two students.

Part of the proceeds helps to fund charities like the Starkidz! Programme by Children-At-Risk Empowerment (CARE) Association, and needy students from low-income families.

To support Daniel's cause, please go to <http://www.danscience.com>. The book, which is priced at \$19.90 (no GST), can also be purchased via the website: <http://scienceaid.blogspot.com>.

“Back when I was still being home-schooled, my parents often brought me to orphanages to meet others who were less fortunate. They wanted me to see that I was not the only one suffering.”

Daniel Ng
Second-year Molecular Biotechnology student
on what inspired him to be a youth social entrepreneur