

# echo

A SUNWAY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE STUDENT MAGAZINE  
2008 ISSUE 1, VOL. 10

## REBIRTH

IN THIS ISSUE:

**TARA 2**  
Strong Chongs p 37  
and other personality highlights.

**ROCK Your  
SOX!** p 23

**GIRL-STARING:**  
Acceptable? p 58

**SPEAK UP!**  
Student Voices



# WHAT'S ON











Checked by

Fm7

30/7/13



# THE MENU ?

Acknowledgement	4
Editors' Notes	5
Rewind 	7 - 11
Student Voices 	15 - 26
Student Care 	29 - 36
Entertainment 	40 - 50
Coming Up 	51 - 52
A Girl's World 	53 - 57
He Says . She Says	58 - 59
Guy Stuff 	60 - 66
Simply Malaysian 	67 - 70

Tun Hussein Onn Library



S0153752





# Acknowledgement

ECHO would like to extend their thanks  
and gratitude to those who have made  
the publication of this issue possible.

For greatly valued opinions:

Ms. Elizabeth Lee

Pamela & Vanessa Chong

Joel Neoh

Doris Thian

Jet Chan

Phang Kein Yew

For Sponsorship:

CELCOM

For cooperation as well as help:

Shiseido

Student Council

Association of International Students

Sports Council

Lim Kee Chicken Rice

Kee Kee Bentong Chicken Rice

As part-time writer:

Foo Sue Symm

For amazing cooperation:

Sunway Aqualites

Chinese Cultural Society

Sunway Sri Lankan Society

Yoga Club

Bangladesh Student Association

For sharing with us your side of the story:

Contributors

Participants of surveys and polls



# Editor's

# Note

A prologue to  
the magazine  
by Yeang Su-lyn



Greetings, dear reader. The magazine you are holding in your hands has the power to change your life, or just make it a whole lot more exciting, if only for the day. But before you embark on your great journey, cross the pages of this digest into a realm beyond the ordinary, allow me to give you a brief introduction, and perhaps a few safety precautions so that none shall fall to ruin.

First and foremost, I thank God for an amazing team, each and every one of them are real gems. It gets pretty awkward every time someone congratulates me on having the editor post because I don't see how having this title makes me any better than any of the other members of the ECHO team.

"One piece of log creates a small fire, adequate to warm you up, add just a few more pieces to blast an immense bonfire, large enough to warm up your entire circle of friends; needless to say that individuality counts but team work dynamites." [Jin Kwon]

Dynamic, fun loving and long-suffering, it's been a great privilege to work with all of you.

Also, a big thank you to all the student leadership bodies, clubs, and societies. Much gratitude to each and every one of the different courses in Sunway University College. Last but not least, many thanks to all the students, who this magazine is actually for. Without all of you, none of this would've been remotely possible.

Sentimental stuff aside, this year's ECHO team truly has brought a sense of **rebirth** to the magazine, hence the theme for this issue. When we attended the Student Leader's Camp at the beginning of the year, we all agreed that we really wanted to connect all the students through this publication, in a new, fresh, young, and exciting way. We wanted to produce something that everyone on campus could relate to, that anyone would be able to find something that appealed to them. So far, we've made substantial progress, pioneering things like the online counterpart of our magazine. If you haven't visited it yet, you should be very ashamed of yourself, scoot to the nearest computer and visit <http://echonline.wordpress.com>. Also, for the very first time, ECHO will be published not once, but twice in a year! So be excited. Other than our numerous projects and launches, ECHO has experienced a **rebirth** because of the magazine itself. Besides attempting to appeal to the masses,

in terms of the format as well as content, we have tried to break away from a magazine that somehow resembles our nostalgic school yearbooks. We purposed to produce a magazine that would be as sought-after as CLEO or Seventeen, and maybe even FHM. (Well, we hope we've succeeded.)

While we're on the topic of themes, look out for our next edition, where we will be focusing on the "Face of Sun-U" theme, which means that aside from an exclusive article centered on the winners of the "Face of Sun-U" competition, we will also be featuring plenty of distinguished personalities in and around Sunway University College, so watch out for that!

Finally, plenty of thanks to our supervisor, the 'tai kor' Terence Lim, who has so lovingly and patiently \*coughs\* guided, necessarily advised strictly, and has always kept us planted firmly in reality when our dreams became too big and unrealistic for one college magazine.

Well, that's all from me, I wish you a safe and pleasant journey, dear reader. Please remember to keep your hands and feet in the carousel at all times, thank you and have an enjoyable ride!

(This 'is the only way I can  
actually receive a soppy  
NY touristy postcard (3))



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CARNIVAL 2008

SUNWAY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

8-9 AUGUST 2008

"ONE GLOBAL VILLAGE"

CALLING ALL INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS!  
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE. TO REGISTER  
OR FOR MORE ENQUIRIES, SEE US AT  
THE STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT!

**SPORTS • FORUM • CULTURAL SHOW**

Officiated by:

YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Minister of Higher Education

Hosted By:



Co-Hosted By:







# FRESHIE NITE

For some of the freshies, clueless and unsure of happenings, their plans for the night of the 24th of January were set in motion long before they stepped onto college grounds, courtesy of the Student Services Department. Freshie Nite was here.

As it happened, newbies both local and international from all the various programs in Sun-U trickled into the multipurpose hall slowly that night—those who got lost on the way needed only to follow the crowd.

Having just settled into college not too long ago, Freshie Nite was the night for the new, reserved and unannounced to let their hair down. Dressed in their best, they were greeted with goodie bags and pin-ups of Freshie King and Freshie Queen nominees grinning out at them.

Finger food laid out at the back of the hall provided the perfect atmosphere and excuse to mingle around (people bond over food, you see). Before long, refreshments were

gone, the lights were dimmed, and students could only settle into their seats as the emcees for the night welcomed them.

Freshies had their first glimpse of Sun-U's Ravelution Performing Arts club when its members performed dance routines to the likes of popular tunes 'Apologize' and others.

**"So much for being innocent freshies ..."**

To spice up the night, Ferrero Rocher junkies were made to sizzle up to a human pole for their coveted box of chocolates, much to the merriment and wolf-whistling of the crowd.

Up next was supposed to be the highlight of the night: the talent time showcase of the Freshie royal nominees. Three girls and three guys got to display their skills in the battle for the throne—and entertaining relatively unknown spectators was no easy feat.

But they went ahead with their best anyway, demonstrating their singing, dancing, acting and even mind-reading abilities to a largely captive audience. During the momentary lull as judges made their decisions over the Freshie King and Queen, a handful of students got lucky during the lucky draw and were set to go home with prizes from sponsors. It seemed like America got all the talent for the night (yes, pun intended), for both the throne of Freshie King and Queen were snatched away by ADTP students Oriyomi 'Papi' Ayoola of Nigeria and Guamaral 'Kira' Zorig of Mongolia respectively.

And finally, the dance floor was opened for their subjects, and the night became relevant again as the crowd lost themselves in the music. It was theirs to begin with after all.

So much for being innocent freshies...

By Brenda Chan





# OPENING DAY



**W**ho doesn't know about Open Day? Besides, it was one of the reasons that affected your decision to study in Sun-U. Held almost every other month of the year, it's the usual fare of talks, talks and talks—nothing much to shout about... or is there?

What do you get when you add a mini zoo, a Rubik's cube, some cocktail crepes, 20-odd booths, several hundred students, and a lot of parent-teacher meetings in one very large campus? Although the actual result might vary (do NOT try this at home), these were some of the more interesting ingredients that made up our March Open Day.

Breakfast was provided by the cafeteria staff, but there was also a bonus from the School of Culinary Arts. Their booth offered fruit cocktail crepes and zucchini and crabmeat sushi with wasabi dip. Best of all, the sample dishes were prepared right in front of you! This booth certainly attracted a lot of attention (and whetted appetites) and within minutes the apprentice chefs on duty were busy flipping crepes and rolling out sushi refills.

Of particular interest was the showcase of several shorts by the Department of Performance + Media at the Rooftop Theatre. Suffice to say, the performances were top-notch and thought-provoking, especially some of the short movies produced by the students shown at the foyer.

All in all, the day progressed quickly: Parents and students alike visiting booth after booth, attending the various career talks interspersed throughout the day, bearing such

foreboding titles as "Choosing Your Career" and "Is This The Right Course For You?" that gave a boost to the educational experience. As one parent succinctly put it to ECHO, "Very good and educational."

By afternoon, the Psychology and Biology exhibits had opened in the North Block laboratories. The Psychology exhibit was eye-catching, challenging visitors to a slew of mental puzzles and mind games, including the famous Rubik's Cube. Apparently, the Psychology students took a lot of time to analyse these puzzles; I noticed one student solve the cube in 5 minutes! Other than games, the Psychology booth also offered a free psychological assessment.

Right next door in the biology lab was (surprise, surprise) the Biology exhibit! Rows of plants from the common 'lalang' to rare bougainvilleas, animals with names that sound like they came out of the Marvel universe (the Mexican

**"...I think it is the best one held so far."**

**-Ms. Elizabeth Lee**

Black King Snake, anyone?); the Biology showcase certainly had plenty to offer. Visitors, especially the children, were particularly attracted to the adorable sugar glider, a small marsupial resembling a squirrel with two very large black eyes.

It takes little deliberation for me to say that this March's was arguably the most interesting Open Day that I've been to. As Ms Elizabeth Lee put it to ECHO, "This year's Open Day is very interesting as it has something for everyone. I think it is the best one held so far." And this comes from the first lady herself!

By Nick Ong





# AMAZING G-RACE

Always been a junkie for reality TV shows? Always laughed at the mistakes the contestants did? Ever thought you were smarter or that you could have done better than those knuckleheads on TV? Well, the Student Council returned this year with its third serving of the Amazing G-Race on March 29 to give all those The Amazing Race fans out there a taste of the show's medicine.

The Amazing G-Race, organized by the Student Council, has been around for three years now, but who's complaining? It just keeps getting bigger and bigger!

Sure, there're more teams and a larger area was covered this time around, but perhaps the biggest surprise this year was that the well-loved team Malaysia pair from The Amazing Race Asia Season 2 (TARA2), Pamela and Vanessa Chong were here to flag off the race! But the spunky sisters also brought a surprise with them: Sawaka Kawashima from TARA2's team Japan.

Talk about an overdrive of excitement! You can bet contestants spent more time taking pictures and stealing time with the threesome than warming up.

But a race is a race, and eventually all 23 teams (each consisting of four members) were flagged off, racing against time to claim the prize of RM300 and a hamper of sponsored goodies.

Also competing this year was Team Something, the same team that won last year's G-Race (under the name of Team Reebok). And the Student Council wasn't going to let them off so easily, announcing their reputation to the rest of the crowd and putting tremendous pressure on them.

"We became the pack to be hunted down by the other teams!" said team leader Phang Kein Yew, of A-Levels.

The race got everybody running in circles, starting from campus, leading to the Elephant Walk and from there stretched all the way to the South Quay before leading teams back to Sunway Pyramid (how can we ever not have that in the race?) and Monash University.

Easily said, this year, endurance played

**"It just keeps getting BIGGER and BIGGER!"**

a very important factor considering the large circuit span. But a lot more was demanded of the contestants with the varied challenges.

This included munching down wasabi-filled crackers, shooting baskets, memorizing coloured sequences, counting stairs, and – perhaps every contestant's nightmare from the race – solving the utterly complicated mathematical puzzle known only as Project Bravo Equalization (no, seriously, virtually all teams were penalized for failing to solve it within the allotted time).

But ultimately, unlike The Amazing Race shows, where time was the key factor, a combination of point-collection during the challenges and time would determine the winner of the G-Race.

So being the first to finish didn't necessarily mean being the winner. It was also about being quick and efficient.

Once again, teams were made to collect a set of items throughout the race which included tin cans and slippers (but no lipstick), and how could we not end the race with a misleading clue that led to a booby trap? Remember the flour attack from last year? Well, this time the deceived were locked into a toilet cubicle and pelted mercilessly with water balloons. Not as messy, but effective, nonetheless.

Eventually, after all teams returned to campus exhausted (and many drenched), they were rewarded with lunch while Council members quickly totalled up team scores to determine the winner.

And it seems that pressure can sometimes be a good thing (and experience as well), for Team Something, winners of the race in 2007, emerged on top once again for this year's Amazing G-Race!

By Sean Yap

*Flip through the magazine and look out for our Personality Highlights section scattered throughout to get up close and personal with Team Something, as well as Pamela and Vanessa Chong!*





# TEACHER'S DAY

"Happy Teacher's Day!"

While this proclamation may grace Hallmark cards throughout the globe for years to come, Teacher's Day this year was celebrated in varying degrees of grandeur, from the basic thank-you notes to extravagant songs and dances.

Of course, it goes without saying that the grandest Teacher's Day occasion this year was the Appreciation Day, held at Michelangelo's Italian Kitchen. Complete with a message dedication board and flower delivery service prior to the occasion, this event was made even more glamorous with the addition of starlet singer Mia Palencia. The 150-strong crowd of students and 40 staffs and lecturers were feted to a sumptuous buffet, followed by a few jazz melodies by Mia Palencia!

But in the end, Teacher's Day, grand or not, really comes from the heart. Here's how some programmes celebrated this day.

## A-Levels

The January '08 batch of students was in charge of the celebrations this year. To start things off, the A-Level lecturers were given personalised, hand-painted rocks, courtesy of the A-Levels Student Council. Particularly interesting was the inclusion of a guessing game by the emcees; a short paragraph describing the lecturer would be read, after which students would try their best to figure out the lecturer in question. And of course, at the end of it all were the heartfelt thank you's and good wishes from the students to the teachers.

## AUSMAT

AUSMAT planned a Cultural Theme Day to coincide with the event, all classes were even cut to half an hour per class to squeeze in the planned Teacher's Day celebration!

The event itself was held in the Multi-Purpose Hall where students

were feted to a video by the AUSMAT Student Council featuring student's views on lecturers and viceversa. After the eye-opening video, two 'AUSMATians' performed a vocal duet piece and a solo piece backed by some good ol' guitar followed by an AUSMAT lecturer singing a capella on stage, which was met by the students with much enthusiasm.

## MUFY

MUFY students held a small class lunch on the 2nd floor foyer. As put by one MUFY student, the event was no grand celebration, yet as enjoyable and meaningful as any good Teacher's Day Celebration should be. The highlight of the event was the lecturers toasting the students, and vice versa. All in all, the feeling of mutual sharing was definitely there, and it was indeed enjoyed by all.

by Nick Ong



11299513251251 12512412418 999A2359 125359350051251 12412412414 42141

REWIND



# SPORTS CARNIVAL

Only a handful of people could come up with an ingenious method of using fireworks, cloth, a lot of chicken wire and some Chinese dancers to make a really great event opener. The Sports Council are obviously one of these few as they used these to great effect in the Sports Carnival 2008 Opening. The interesting fiery letters sure attracted a crowd, as any good pyrotechnics should do.

Overall, the Sports Carnival was a great success. Over 10 teams from various courses ranging from Monash University to Financial Courses and CAT in a variety of sports, such as chess, badminton, swimming, bowling, tennis, handball, netball, tug-of-war, and of course, the Telematch. Not all teams participated in all the sports due to a lack of team members; as a result, for most of the sports there was a guaranteed placing.

According to Faisal, an ex-Sports Councilmember who had a role in bringing this project to fruition, the most exciting sports event to watch this year was basketball.

According to him, all the basketball teams were very evenly matched and therefore there was a good fight in every round. On the

other hand, the hands-down winner in badminton were (surprise!) the Financial Courses with an immensely superior team compared to the competition, proving that accountants don't just count numbers, but can kick some serious sports butt as well.

Another interesting element to this year's Sports Carnival was the Scoreboard, which was located in the Student Services Department. The large, near-excessively colourful board displayed all the current standings to the public in all the sports. The standings were based on a point system; 10 points for 1st place, 8 for second place, and so on. Even participation earned a point.

The ceremony itself was a small affair, with the trophies and medals lined up neatly on a table next to which the Scoreboard was placed. Within half an hour, the individual sports awards were given out. It was time to announce the final winner. With bated breath, it was announced that A-Levels were the runners up, much to the joy of the sizeable A-levels students on that day.

The winner was, of course, Financial Courses. With participation in nearly all the sports, and winning over half of that they participated in, they were the clear winner this year. With much jubilation, they accepted the Sports Carnival Trophy, proving once again that accountants are indeed multitalented.

By Nick Ong







# WINNERS OF THE AMAZING G-RACE

**PHANG KEIN YEW**

**DANIEL HON CHONG  
KWONG**

**HARJUN RAJ PILLAI**

**SOH E-YAN**





# THE INTERVIEW

**Last year, it was Reebok, now it's Something. Where do your team names come from?**

The team name was random because we registered without thinking about it, so Daniel named us 'SOMETHING'. And his brain was somewhere else probably...

**So what was it like to be the winners the second time around? Were you guys confident about pulling it off again?**

We were a bit skeptical of our chances this time because there were many teams with the fervour and capability to claim the coveted crown.

Moreover, just before the race, some of the teams were told about our previous victory. We became the pack to be hunted down by the other teams. Above all that, we had a new team member (E-Yan) as one of us had completed his course here. So it's always a great feeling retaining success. That shows how strong our team spirit is and also the fact that we did not need our old teammate to win it again!

Oh yes, on the way home, after we were announced winners, we immediately called the ex-team mate to share our pride and glee.

**Did having a new team mate this year affect Something's team dynamics?**

(E-Yan) When one ex-team mate finished his course here, the remaining ones asked if I was interested to join their team to participate in the G-Race. Since we were all pretty close anyway and were all in good terms with each other, I decided, "Why not?"

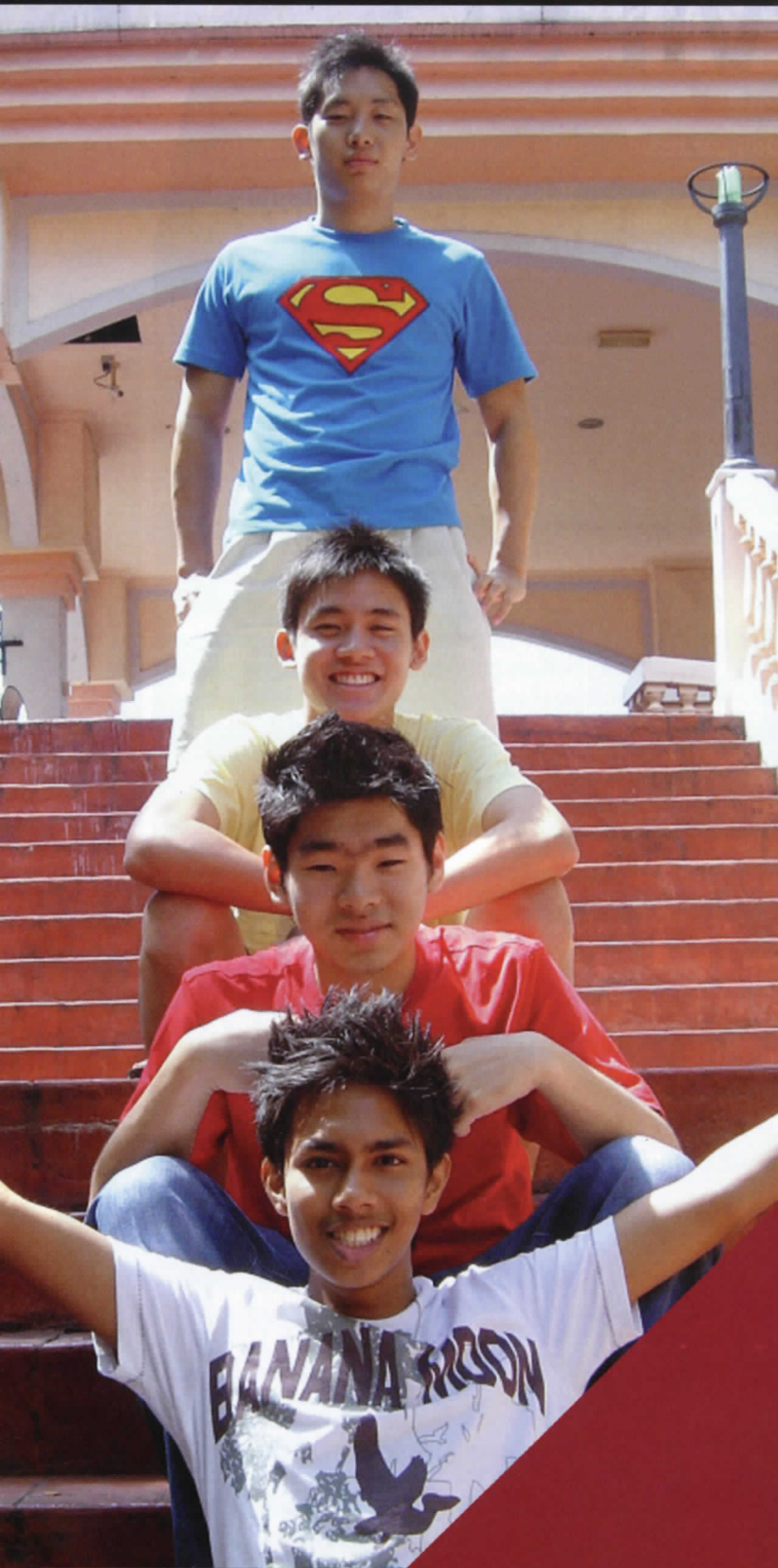
It didn't change anything as this race was a team effort. Like a player does not change how a football team plays (unless the player is imbalanced like Ronaldo). And yes, we are all Man-U fans. Except for Daniel, who is a Liverpool fan. He walks ALONE.



The boys back in 2007...

They had won the Amazing G-Race in 2007. A year on, A-Level students Phang Kein Yew, Daniel Hon Chong Kwong and Harjun Raj Pillai return with newcomer Soh E-Yan from MUFY, digging through a bucketful of worms and maggots, gobbling a plate of wasabi-crackers, and solving an impossibly complicated puzzle, amongst other things, to come up tops once again! Despite having to replace one of their team mates for this year's race, the bunch have come a long way, having all been schoolmates since their secondary years in Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Damansara Jaya. And they've displayed that such a strong bond, as well as a mutual love for Manchester United, can do wonders.





Let's face it, you've won twice now; there has to be some sort of game plan you guys have on to pull that off. Care to share with us your strategy? A little bit?

As a matter of fact, we didn't really have any strategy to start with. We joined this race last year just for fun and experience. However, being the champions of last year's race gave us more enthusiasm to win it again this year. We just did the tasks according to our own abilities. In a way, we had an extra advantage in this race because each of us are different in size and have our own abilities to excel in different tasks.

For example, some of us could eat the wasabi-crackers like peanuts and some of us can shoot the basketball into the hoop with ease. We had delegated the tasks amongst each other before each challenge. For instance, one of us would do the gross stuff (like the worms and marbles) and so on.

Probably the only strategy (if there was one at all) was to finish our tasks as fast as we could and set the pace for the other teams.

### What makes a good team player, in your opinion? How does Something work?


People that are willing to work for one another, that can cover for another player's weakness.

The team functioned well together and gelled easily because we all had a common goal, that is, to win. And that pushed us forward.

### If you could have a superhero ability, what would it be?

(Harjun) Given the chance, I would certainly like to control time. I can then turn time back into the past and correct the mistakes that I've done. On the other hand, I can also look into the future so that I can take measures to prevent any disasters that would happen.





# Opinion & polls

## Premarital Sex:

### Social Norm or Taboo?

Malaysia caught in between

Written by Brenda Chan  
Design by Sara Lim

**Suppose** you're sitting in a cinema, watching a cheesy romance peppered with allusions to nightly activities between the (unmarried) characters onscreen. You, who woefully wandered into the wrong cinema with your parents for 'family movie night', are cringing in embarrassment, and sink further into your seat as the actors get hot and heavy with each other. Now watch in envy, as the group of friends sitting a few rows ahead of you howl in laughter at the appropriate parts, and you find yourself wishing you were with pals, or at the very least, not too self-conscious with your folks around to enjoy it.

Despite premarital sex being as socially acceptable as smoking in the United States and the United Kingdom these days, Malaysia retains most of its conservativeness. However, the

western media continues to seep heavily into local pop culture in the form of music, clothes and even reading material, where Malaysian youths find themselves increasingly westernized. Malaysia, whose society encompasses the baby boomer generation to Generation Y and more, faces an obvious clash between its eastern values and the more liberal western values that are slowly being incorporated into its social structure. So where does that leave Malaysian youngsters in their beliefs?

There is a huge disparity in the views of our generation and the one that came before us, and the fact is, our youths are struggling to find a balance between keeping their open-mindedness while staying true to their traditional values. In the process, we get a dichotomy of opinions on the importance of chastity.

When questioned on premarital sex, an eighteen year-old answered "It's better if it didn't happen, though it's not too huge a deal if it does", perfectly exemplifying the ambivalence in our society's views towards the premarital sex culture. A girl professed she wouldn't do it outside of wedlock, but when pressed, agreed that it wasn't such a big deal once other external factors like social prejudice and unwanted pregnancies were taken out of the equation. Still, another girl believed in the importance of saving sex for marriage, but refrained from judging others if they didn't. Sex before marriage wasn't okay, yet it was.

Both groups are subjected to influences by each other, and this is where the conflict begins. Those who do not believe in the importance of abstaining until the wedding night are hampered to a certain extent, by the social stigma attached to premarital sex, which in turn also causes some guys to develop double standards, where they condemn girls for doing it while being sexually active themselves.

Those who do believe in the need for abstinence however, are confronted by temptation in the form of peer pressure, innate desires, and what the world at large tells them.

### The writer's say...

Take a deep breath, and go back to all the right reasons sex should be kept for marriage, which is not to avoid STDs, unwanted pregnancies, and malicious gossip. Those are valid, but not enough to stop you from going all the way that one fateful night when your logic has shut down and your animalistic instincts (cough) take over. If you choose not to for any reason at all, it should be because sex is tied in with love, while being a highly pleasurable act that can bind you and your significant other together in ways you don't want to bond with other people. Your wedding is supposed to be the happiest day of your life, so why not coincide that with your first time? Besides, it can only get better ;P

Even if you're not convinced, be sensitive. Sex isn't something to be taken lightly, or as a social pleasure like eating and drinking. It involves two people with very real feelings, and as mentioned, sex is tied in with emotion, so tread carefully.

In retrospect, what Malaysian youths face are not very different from youths in any other non-western nation that are slowly being westernized. As for whether the older traditional values win out or the liberal ideas of the west, or even the coexistence of both is in the future, that is ultimately in our hands. While a certain extent of open-mindedness is encouraged, we should be careful not to objectify sex.

## Student's Thoughts

Based on your personal values, should sex be saved for marriage?		
Yes	No	Depends
32	3	15





**Disclaimer: The following events have been over-dramatized for purposeful effect.**

**There are secrets forgotten that lie hidden in the deeps of the foundations of our campus. But this one has finally been revealed... There is a recycling bin. And there is a boy. He could be anyone. He could be you, or me. He could even be a she. This is 'his' story...**

# The Recycling Story:

## An Epic Search for a Better Environment

**This** is the story of a rather strange boy from our very own college. You see, he was one of those people with a sentimental attachment to the environment and so sought to make full use of the colour-coded recycling bin in campus whenever he could.

There was only one colour-coded recycling bin around, but it was a very attractive one – and a huge one at that – with a silvery sheen to it with such luscious curves that might have seduced every metal thief in town if only they'd known of its dull existence in the foyer of our campus, right next to the elevator.

Once, after finishing a bun while waiting for the bus to college, he almost threw the plastic wrapper into the rubbish bin – like every other nice person – when a thought struck him.

"My, why don't I throw this plastic wrapper into the recycling bin in college? After all, there is one special one for plastic wastes, the orange one! Indeed, it is much better to utilize the recycling bin than other rubbish bins, for what you throw in the rubbish bins will only go to the landfills to store

landfills to store and stink, while things in the recycling bin would be reprocessed, instead of just being left to rot. Furthermore, rubbish in the landfills will only worsen the environment!"

And so the boy held on to the wrapper until he reached college to throw it into the colour-coded recycling bin.

On another occasion, while spring cleaning his room, he found a stack of waste paper. Once again, before he threw them into the bin, it hit him: why couldn't he throw it into the recycling bin at college, the blue one? And so he did; waiting for the next day to get to college to do so.

Then on another day, just after finishing lunch in the college cafeteria, plastic fork and spoon in hand, the boy saw a tiny plastic bag at his feet. He picked it up, thinking of disposing both plastic cutlery and bag, when it caught him: why not throw them into the recycling bin? And so—just before he did anything as obsessively, and compulsively, and disorderly as that, another thought got him: "My, a crunched up wrapper is one thing, but to carry these all the way would seem strange!"

So the boy threw them into a normal bin nearby. But immediately, he went sick to the stomach. Would they recycle the contents in this normal bin?

"Not to worry," said one of his friends. "I'm sure everything in college goes to recycling. The colour-coded bin is just to sort things out and make life easier!"

And so for a while, the boy was content with his friend's assurance, and occasionally, he would throw rubbish into the normal bins instead of the recycling one. It wouldn't make a difference if everything was recycled anyhow.

But soon the boy became increasingly troubled. Sleepless nights were fraught with worries. Worries that the rubbish bins did not follow the recycling process. Worries that he was doing the environment injustice!

The questions pelted him, on and on, until he fell into a swoon... When he awoke, he found himself in the Health and Safety Department located at the Student Centre, seated before the wise Mr. Simon who held all the wisdom and secrets of the recyclable world...



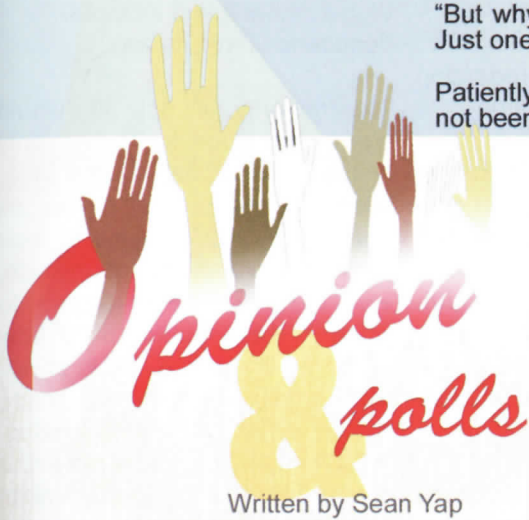


you did it out of ignorance. Haven't you at least, used the recycling bin well where you had the chance? There are those that simply ignore the colour codes.

"But now, the truth has been revealed to you, and you must act wisely if you wish to change our fortunes."

"But why can't we have more recycling bins? Just one is much too troublesome!"

Patiently, Mr. Simon said, "Has anything ever not been difficult, my son? But all in



Written by Sean Yap  
Design by Sara Lim

"So, you seek to know whether there is a difference between the normal rubbish bins and the colour-coded bins, do you, child?" spoke Mr. Simon, gently and calm.

"That is right, O wise Mr. Simon," the boy replied.

"Are you sure you wish to know the answer?" Mr. Simon asked, for he knew it would crush the boy's soul. "Simply said, a rubbish bin is a rubbish bin. But a recycling bin, ah, it recycles..."

And the boy's heart sank like an anchor. "So you mean to say that the rubbish in the college rubbish bins would all go to the landfills and not be recycled?"

Mr. Simon nodded simply. "And you know the consequences, don't you? Rubbish won't simply disappear—once all the landfills are occupied, we will need to look for more land... If you do wish to save the world from being overloaded with waste, you must make the sacrifice to travel all the way to the recycling bin at the foyer."

And the boy was nearly overcome by guilt, but Mr. Simon raised his hand firmly, "Be calm, son, be calm, for

time... Perhaps some day there will be more recycling bins around campus. But until then, the fate of the college's environment will lie solely in the foyer... Can you bear this burden? Will you spread this knowledge to the rest of us out there?"

And the boy felt rejuvenated. "Y-yes... I will bear this burden and task for the sake of the environment. I will utilize the colour-coded recycling bin as best as I may!"

"Then I am relieved," said Mr. Simon. "Good luck, dear boy. The road to the recycling bin will always remain clear..."

"Thank you, Mr. Simon," the boy replied as he headed for the door. "Will we meet again?"

"Well now," Mr. Simon said, "we will be holding a campaign in the month of August, an environmental campaign." And Mr. Simon winked at him.

"And so our paths shall meet again," said the boy, and he left. And Mr. Simon gave a knowing smile.

**Should we have more colour-coded recycling bins in college?**

Yes	No	Do they make a difference?
32	7	11





# The Superficial Factor

Written by Brenda Chan  
Design by Sara Lim

First impressions were important, and Eva knew just how pivotal those would be in her interview today with the accounting firm of her dreams. Stopping to check herself out in a reflective storefront window, she smoothed her hair, gave herself a critical once-over, and flashed the smile that narrowly missed the 'Best Smile' award in high school. Self-esteem boosted, she slid her gaze across the window to the reflection of her best friend, Jen (who had won 'Best Smile'), and her countenance dimmed. Eva wasn't a bad-looking girl, but she always felt a little plain standing next to Jen

Jen, who was currently checking her teeth for stuck bits of food. Out of the corner of her eye, Eva noticed that even then, a group of adolescent boys from across the road were gawking at Jen appreciatively.

"So much for moral support," Eva thought dryly. Well, at least Jen wasn't looking to be an auditor. Eva didn't think she could stand it if she had to face competition from her best friend in the workforce as well as in high school. That the day Eva had met her first boyfriend also happened to be the rare day she'd been without Jen, didn't help much with her confidence. And she needed a lot of that today.

As Eva realizes, a lot of impressions made are to do with physical appearance. For Eva, it has come to play many parts in her life: her insecurity around her prettier, more popular best friend; catching the attention of a member of the opposite sex; even her upcoming job interview that would rely somewhat heavily on how much she looked the part.

We make snap decisions regarding the people around us all the time, consciously or unconsciously, and physical appearance usually factors in heavily then. Whether to ask that cute guy whom you might never see again for his number or the interviewer who retains her impression of you made within the first three seconds, being judged by how we look is an inescapable fact of life that most of us have to work around.

Studies have shown that infants show preference for attractive faces, indicating we have a built-in predisposition to physical attractiveness. Moreover, the world in general usually assumes the good-looking to be more socially competent, and that leads to a self-fulfilling prophecy which in turn feeds the stereotype. Still, as we develop our own personalities and what we term our 'individuality', how we view and perceive the people around us changes as well. People have varying degrees with how much importance they place on looks, usually in relation to how they view degrees with how much importance they place on looks, usually in relation to how they view themselves. Those who don't think they're high on the scale of attractiveness are usually more sympathetic, whilst pretty people tend to judge more harshly because they can afford to.

Thus, life may be easier for those whose outer beauty match their inner beauty (or not), but what about those who lack the former? If judging someone by his or her appearance is apparently bound to happen, what can we do about it? Labeling something as 'inevitable' isn't an excuse for us to just sit back and let moral decadence have its way.

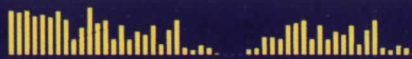
The majority, if not all, would agree that good looks can only last for so long, before their inner beauty (or lack of it) makes us praise or curse our luck in their presence. We should, at any rate, limit the appearance-judging to when it least matters. And how much is too much? Any at all, when your opinion is made known. For the good-looking, while some may appreciate the compliment paid, some might think it cheapens them and consequently, you. For the not-so-good-looking, it hurts, period. It isn't fair to judge anyone so superficially. Yes, we know, life isn't fair, but repeating that mantra like an answer-all only makes us sound like bitter cynics out to get back at the world, so try something new.

Physical appearance matters and we're aware of that. We bathe and brush our teeth everyday, comb our hair before we leave the house, and choose clothing that flatters us when possible, all in testament to that. More importantly though, what matters is how we let ourselves judge others. We may not be able to control how the world sees us, but we can adjust how we see the world. So go do your thing – groom your shoes, style that hair, and shave those legs – but at the end of the day, it's the immaterial that really counts.

## Student Guesses

How much does a person's physical appearance matter to you?				
Not at all – it comes from the heart	Not so much – good looks won't hurt	Moderately – A balance of inner and outer beauty	A lot – Looks make up for those bad habits	Totally! – Looks are all I care for
4	3	29	8	6





# Floccinaucinihilipilification

(FLOK-si-NO-si-NY-HIL-i-PIL-i-fi-KAY-shuhn):

To a certain extent, I've always wondered if students would be able to roughly guess the meaning of a word just by the sound of it, or perhaps even the word that it may have been derived from. Hence, the 'floccinaucinihilipilification' poll. Thinking of a very long and bombastic word was

The awesome thing is that each and every root word has a similar meaning to the others.

"Flocci" originated from the Latin word "floccus", which means "a tuft of wool", which is obviously rather trivial and of

"Pili" has the same meaning as "nauci", but is also synonymous with a whit or jot.

The Latin word 'nihil' means "nothing", and "nihili" indicates likewise.



## Floccinaucinihilipilification

A poll carried out by the ECHO team.  
Report written by Yeang Su-lyn.

indeed a challenge, especially since I kept humming

"supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" under my breath while pondering on it. But as I watched several people look and mouth the word with such bewildered expressions, it was obviously the right word for the job. However, out of the 50 people who participated in this poll, 18% of them answered correctly!

To everyone who's been waiting in unbearable anticipation, wondering what the word really means, here it is. Floccinaucinihilipilification is **the estimation of something as valueless**. But wait, the fun doesn't stop here! Read on for the word's interesting origin.

Floccinaucinihilipilification has an eye-widening 29 alphabets in this single word and 12 syllables, but surprisingly, is not the longest English word in existence. Its first recorded use was by William Shenstone when he wrote: "I loved him for nothing so much as his flocci-nauci-nihili-pili-fication of money". He used this word in a letter he wrote in 1741.

I've mentioned that I wondered if people could make a rough guess of what a word meant just by identifying the word it was derived from. Well, this is exactly what makes floccinaucinihilipilification a very interesting word. If you break up the word into the root words, you would get, "flocci-nauci-nihili-pili-fication"

very little value, if of any at all. So the 12% who chose the option 'the detailed study of fur tufts' weren't that far from the truth. (Perhaps in her song 'Glamorous', Fergie was actually echoing 'flocci, flocci' instead of 'oh the flossy flossy', indicating that all the material things are of no value to her. That, or she has a huge collection of fur tufts.)

Next in line, the word "nauci" was derived from the word "naucum", which means "a trifling thing". Besides meaning 'a hair' (Which is actually quite valueless as well, if you think about it. Unless you're infatuated with the donor, that is.),

Finally, in an attempt to end the word in style, the noun suffix "-fication" was added in.

## Student Guesses

### WHAT DOES FLOCCINAUCINIHIPILIFICATION MEAN?

the options were:

A: the ideal method of oral hygiene.

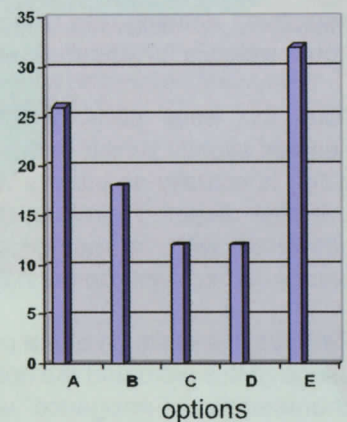
B: The estimation of something as valueless

C: The detailed study of fur tufts

D: Skill in making a certain bread

E: Inability to grasp physical limitations or realities

% of peoples answer





# Pulchritudinous

(puhl- kri-tood-n-uhs):

When the idea of the 'language series' (the two polls that were about the meaning of words) first came up, the Editor (otherwise known as plainly 'Boss') surprised me when he gave an accurate definition of the word 'pulchritudinous'. So, unlike the 'floccinaucihlipilification' poll, there was no doubt that there were people actually knew this word.

However, ECHO writers are cunning and merciless people



## Pulchritudinous

A poll carried out by the ECHO team.  
Report written by Yeang Su-lyn.

Yes, we admit that we unjustly included misleading options such as "a barely visible bump" and "the protruding part of an orange" which could have possibly been the options chosen by those who participated in the poll, because the first syllable of the word does sound a lot like the word "bulge" as well as the last syllable "nous" coincidentally rhyming rather well with "citrus", which is more often associated to the orange, rather than any other fruit from the citrus family.

However, this did not change the fact that Sunway students know their stuff (or simply got lucky), as 22% of the poll-respondents identified 'pulchritudinous' as the characteristic of physical beauty, which was absolutely correct!

Derived from "pulchritude", "pulchritudinous" is used as an adjective, echoing the meaning of the noun, which is "physical comeliness".

Also, the word 'pilch', which may have seemed slightly similar to the 'pulch' in the word, is actually an infant's wrapper worn over the diaper. Therefore, the 14% who answered with "a method of folding a baby's diaper" were on the right track.

Perhaps it is because of the royal (literally) usage of this word that the option "the characteristic of arrogance" was the most popular choice, standing at 36%.

Apparently, the word "pulchritude" was used to describe King Henry VIII. In 1522, Cardinal Wolsey recited :

**"Your noble persone, so formed and figured in shape and stature with force and pulchritude."**

This was evidently a very flattering comment, which was meant to please the King. In that sentence, the Cardinal actually equated King Henry VIII to beauty itself.

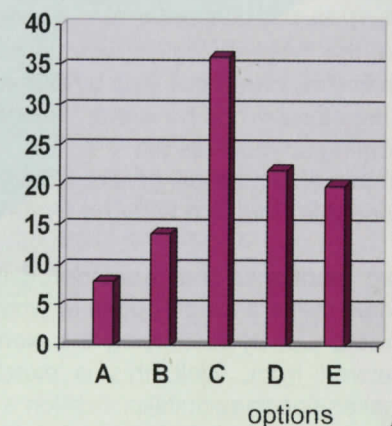
### Student Guesses

#### WHAT DOES PULCHRITUDINOUS MEAN?

\*options:

- A. a barely visible bump
- B. a method of folding a baby's diaper
- C. the characteristic of arrogance
- D. characteristic of physical beauty
- E. the protruding part of an orange

% of peoples answer







## How do You Solve a Problem Like the Cafeteria

In Malaysia, it's all about the food! And with places like Pink, Orange and Medan but a short walk away, it's hardly strange why people try to get away from the blandness of the cafeteria as much as possible. But is the cafeteria really that horrible?

When I was first a newbie at campus, I never bothered to go outside for lunch. I thought the cafeteria was quite alright.

Well, coming from a school that served rather dismal meals, you'd have to forgive me for being so easily complacent. Then again, coming from a household that threatened me with pictures of starving children if I was ever picky, you couldn't expect less. But I can't exactly say that the food is that bad either, really. So I'm rather stumped when people keep telling me about how expensive or bland the food is, and how they never eat at the cafeteria.

The 'economic rice' varieties are really quite okay, although eventually the combinations are repeated and may get on your nerves. The à la carte they serve is not too pricey either—you can't get a large portion of fried rice for RM4 in too many places these days. And there're always the chee cheong fun, roti canai, Bollywood Bites and the like to add into the variety.

But being the typical gastronomic Malaysian, it was inevitable that I would one day venture out beyond the comfort borders of the cafeteria. And when I had finally run out of permutations for my economic rice combinations, it was time to 'expand my horizons'.

Of course I must say that to be released into open ground is a breath of fresh air from the mundane and over-tried flavour of the cafeteria. After all, one person can only have so much economic rice in a week. Spooner or later, you're going to want for some western or just more variety that the cafeteria can't offer.

I'd seen 'Orange' before on the way to college and, as expected, it was the typical good ol' hawker fare of char kuey teow, chicken rice and claypot noodles with all the rawness of a Chinese hawker that can be asked for. There're also some Indonesian dishes there, which I've yet to try...

Pink, on the other hand, I had heard previously only in name and never really knew what made it quite so popular with everyone. It turns out that Pink has an interesting mix of western and local delights (perhaps the only place nearby you can get decent western food), but it's a tad too pricey for me.

As for 'Medan', well, that was another name I'd heard of quite often before. But if it wasn't because of my friends, I would never have known there existed a food court right behind those two colour-coordinated eateries (I wonder why we don't refer to Medan as 'Yellow', by the way, considering what we've done to Orange)!

As for 'Medan', well, that was another name I'd heard of quite often before. But if it wasn't because of my friends, I would never have known there existed a food court right behind those two colour-coordinated eateries (I wonder why we don't refer to Medan as 'Yellow', by the way, considering what we've done to Orange)!

'Medan' is, well, massive—you'll probably graduate from Sun-U and still not have had everything on there (and you can bet the economic rice at Medan has much more to offer, furthermore, there are more than three economic rice vendors there!).

And after I had seen it all, I realised why people preferred to eat out so much. Of course, I do like the food outside compared to the cafeteria—there's a distinct and authentic flavour that only hawker stalls out there can provide that just sets things apart.

Nonetheless, the cafeteria still isn't that bad. I mean, so bad an impression do some people have of the cafeteria that they fail to notice some of the good food it actually has. And once in a while, you'll keep finding something new and rather good. (Hint, did you know that the dry chicken noodle is actually quite tasteful? And especially so if you have it with kuey teow!)

These days, though, the routine affair is to go lunching with a bunch of friends somewhere out there. But if I'm ever alone or at a rush for time, the cafeteria remains my best bet (after all, you really can't get a large portion of noodles for only RM4 much anywhere these days), unless I'm really tired of the food.

Yup. Being out there hasn't really made me a changed man. In fact, I'm glad that I've managed to introduce to some friends the surprising delight of the dry chicken noodle. Now, if only I can start getting people hooked on the mamak fried mee hoon! After all, there's no where in Bandar Sunway you can get a large-sized fried rice or noodle from only RM4!



**Alex Wong, William Wan & Chua Xen Yong**  
SHTLM

We only eat at Pink sometimes. Medan is quite far so we rarely go there. Depending on our timetable, it's usually either Orange or the cafeteria. Sometimes it depends on our mood, like if we've been to Orange for a while, then we'd go to Pink. But actually, the environment at Pink is better than Orange. The cafeteria is also okay. Orange is kind of messy, untidy and packed. The cafeteria food expensive and some of the food is not fresh enough. But if the food were fresh, we really wouldn't mind paying more.

**Ariff Azmi, Mhd. Ieza & Jessie Tey**  
Monash University

We come to Pink almost every second day, and if not Pink then either the Monash cafeteria or Pyramid. At Pyramid, we usually eat at Wendy's because the burgers are pretty good, while Pink has a selection of Western and Asian. We usually eat at campus when we have classes or exams. But if we could, we'd rather not eat in campus—the food is expensive and there aren't many choices. Monash also has San Francisco Coffee and 1901 hot dogs, which is great, but it's just too expensive to eat those everyday. But the Sunway cafeteria is larger than Monash's and is better!

**Mibsam Nasseed, Chan Li Chuin, Karen Chie & Samira Behiyat**  
Psychology

We eat here at Medan almost everyday; if we only have short half-hour breaks, the cafeteria. We don't go to Pink because of the smoke and as for Orange, the food is non-halal so we have to accommodate to Mibsam. Moreover, the food in Medan is tasty and the portion is big. [Mibsam, Li Chuin & Samira] The cafeteria food is expensive and lacks choice. [Karen] For me, the cafeteria food is actually okay, except that some stuff are quite expensive. Sometimes, even if there's only a half-hour break, we'd rather rush to Medan and takeaway the food back to eat in the cafeteria. But if we were to recommend cafeteria food, we'd go for beef fried rice, the Indian rice or the yong tau foo.

**Fildza Haifa & Michelle Chan**  
A-Levels

The food in the cafeteria is disappointing. Well, it's okay but we could do with better food: some lack taste. Other times, we eat at Pink. We don't eat at Orange because it's apparently non-halal. You can't say that Pink is that expensive. It still depends on what you eat there. Sometimes we also go to Nando's or Kenny Roger's at Pyramid, but most of the time we eat in the cafeteria because it's convenient.

**Jason Hoh, Jeevan Sivapathan & Edward Chor**  
FITM

For lunch, it's Orange most of the time. We have ventured to Pink just to try it out. Between Orange and Medan, we'd pick Orange, because it's nearer to college. And Medan is stuffy so that makes it all the further away. And we personally prefer Orange's food too. The price in the cafeteria is quite the normal Subang price standard, so it's nothing to complain. But we usually only eat in the cafeteria because it's raining and we can't get out of college. The cafeteria food wouldn't be that bad to say it sucks, but we still prefer Orange's variety.

**Ella**  
ACCA

I usually eat lunch in the cafeteria because I only have a very short lunch break. For dinner I usually pack food from Orange. But if I'm bored with Orange then I'd eat at Medan. I usually takeaway the food to eat in my hostel room because it's more comfortable. And when I have exams, I want to eat and study at the same time in a comfortable place. (laughs) I think the cafeteria food lacks taste compared to Medan, but the price is quite standard.

**Cathleen Rabian**  
BIS

I usually eat in the cafeteria. Sometimes I go to Medan, but I eat here more often. I prefer food like mixed rice, and Medan has that as well, but sometimes I'm too lazy to go there because it's hot. Medan is cheaper though, and they have more variety. So I actually prefer Medan, but I eat here because it's more convenient. I sometimes have chicken rice and noodles instead of mixed rice for a change, so I'm quite satisfied with the cafeteria for now.







## ROCKING' (in) YOUR SOCKS"

Ever heard of the phrase "rock your socks" (ie: "this album rocked my socks!")? Well, ECHO unleashed a quirky survey across the campus one Friday afternoon, where various students who were unsuspectingly having their hang-out sessions, studying at the foyer, or simply hanging about, were asked (rather politely, mind you) to hitch up legs of long pants, take off their shoes, and try to hide their amusement or shock as they tried to pose for a decent photograph as our ECHO photographer snapped away.

### Questions asked:

1. Name?
2. Course (studying in...)?
3. Where did you get your socks from (this particular pair)
4. How important are your socks to you? (all socks owned in general)
5. Name this pair of socks you have on, if you haven't already done that.

Here are the "victims":

- 1.-Lee Yee Eng
- A- Levels
  - Studio R
  - I must wear it with shoes everytime
  - Sweat...



- 2.-Rachel Quah
- MUFY
  - Supermarket
  - Very important?
  - Unknown.



- 3.- Sharon Tan
- MUFY
  - Night market
  - To keep my feet warm
  - Stockings



4. - Tay Jun Yin
- AUP -VU
  - Sport Equipment shop
  - Very important
  - Pro Ace / Yonex



- 5- Thay An Na
- AUP
  - Anywhere
  - Depends - sometimes
  - Pinky



- 6.- Yeo Jun Meng
- A- Levels
  - Shop
  - Not much
  - Tom & Jerry



- 7.- Yeo Jun Seng
- AUSMAT
  - Shop
  - Not important at all
  - No name



- 8.- Lee Ai Suan
- BPSY
  - My aunt bought them for me from the UK
  - I like them a lot. Wore them during many trips in and out of M'sia!

### Additions

Your ECHO photographer pops in:

- Jaqueline P'ng Ree Naa
- A- Levels
- Pasar Malam
- Sooooooooooooo .... Important!
- Chicky matches my shoes!
- Chicky!



Your sub-editor drops a line:

- Yeang Su-lyn
- A- Levels
- No idea... mum bought them for me!
- They're so important. I wouldn't be able to survive college without my socks!
- Colour on a rainy day.







## ARE EMAILS DYING OUT?

### Syarqawi Rabin MUFY

I think IMs and all are just advancements in technology: E-mail, I'd say, is considered 'old' already because it's not as fast: you have to open your inbox, all that hassle, whereas IMs are... instant. Facebook, on the other hand, is much more interactive – with games and all. If it's for formal stuff (like university enquiries), yes, I'd resort to e-mails. I used to e-mail pen pals but I've got IMs for that now. I don't think e-mails are as dead as letters yet, but soon, yeah.

### Elaine Lee SHTLM & Patricia Goh AUSMAT

**Both:** Of course we'd prefer IMs when communicating with friends!

**Elaine:** But, sometimes if I can't meet up online with overseas friends, I'd resort to e-mails. I think e-mails are still doing okay, though. I still e-mail frequently because it will surely deliver messages to your friends, whereas for IMs, you have to wait for your contacts to come online.

**Both:** We also use e-mails to send chain mails! And oh—especially if we're on sick leave, e-mails are important to pass up assignments to lecturers!

### Lau Jann-Lim ADTP

E-mails are not a form of socialization for me. I never actually e-mailed much. They are just too slow while IMs are, well, instant. I wouldn't really find e-mails 'sentimental' except maybe when I used to exchange e-mails with my first girlfriend, but eventually that just got..... you know, it was always the same thing with all the "I miss you". E-mails, for me, are just for sending loads of attachments. But they're still better than letters because you can attach videos and send them to many people all at once.

### Chin Ming Lee A-Levels

I don't think e-mails are dead; people still use e-mails to socialize. I still e-mail friends when I have the time, maybe once a week or so. I'd e-mail my brother or friends back in my hometown, people I don't usually see. And I don't use IMs often because the people I have in my contacts list are the people I see everyday—and I don't really like 'chatting' because my eyes get painful!

### Max Chooi Business & Management Studies

Yes, I think e-mails have lost out to IMs, social network sites and such. I still e-mail my friends in London but for those around here, I'd prefer IMs because they're faster and more convenient. Social network sites let you get to know more people, plus you can look at their uploaded pictures and read their profiles. But e-mails are still going strong, I think, compared to letters. My mom still e-mails relatives and friends!

### Mentor Nzube ADTP

Well, you can send many things through e-mail with attachments, but e-mails are more formal, for when you want to contact your lecturers—official stuff. There's no need to e-mail friends now because you've got IMs and all that—you can even meet friends live. I used to contact friends through e-mails before, but not now. Actually, I rarely check my e-mail, maybe once a week, but I log on to Facebook and Friendster everyday.

### Sabrina Jazman MUFY

I don't really think we use e-mails to keep in touch anymore. I prefer Facebook and such because you can directly communicate with people whereas I feel e-mails take too much time. I don't even check my e-mails often. I usually only check my Facebook and Friendster... Actually, I never e-mailed much; I prefer IMs and SMSes anytime. So yeah, e-mails are quite as dead as letters.





# One and a Half, With Five More

By Foo Sue Symm

“£1.55.”

The haggard man drops the money into her hand, noticing the brief flicker of disgust, wariness, and irritation on the cashier's face as she receives the payment in pennies. He would have given her less of a job of counting all the coins, but it is not as if he has any other form of money to give her. So he waits under her watchful eye as she totals them up, knowing that they will be a hundred and fifty-five in the end. After all, he has checked three times over at least, if not more.

Collecting the small brown coins day after day, dropped by pedestrians who did not realise they had done so, or even if they did, did not care – but he does, quickly scooping them up from rough floors, fishing them out of leaf-clogged drains, picking them out of a puddle of water where they have been abandoned and storing them in a small, dirty pouch in his threadbare overcoat. Sometimes, when he is sure that he is alone, he takes out one of them and holds it carefully in his weather beaten hands as if it was a precious stone, recalling the total amount in the pouch for the day. It is something that comforts him, especially during those cold autumn nights.

She turns her head quickly to the side in a gesture of acquiescence, eliciting a tiny smile from him as he takes the loaf of bread that she hands him. It has amounted to something at last. He is thankful for the time being, as there is food for another week – proper, decent, fresh food, nothing that he has to scrounge off rubbish bins or anything that he has to steal, in a long time.

My heart races as critical green eyes scan my drawing, taking in every line and curve. The urge to pace the carpeted floor of his office is, honestly, barely suppressible, yet I struggle to appear nonchalant.

“Hmm. Interesting interpretation of the gardens, although ... what did you say was your medium of choice?”

“Blue ballpoint pens, sir. The ones that you can get for a pound and fifty-five pence in packages of threes.”

He looks up and raises an eyebrow at me. “Just that?”

“Yes. I hope the detail is sufficient to make up for the lack of colour? And paper, of course.”

“I can see that,” he replies, resuming his examination of my work, but what exactly does he see? That the detail is indeed sufficient? That I used paper? Both? I dare not ask, noting that he might not appreciate any interruption. It is probably about paper, anyway.

It is some time before he stands up and holds the drawing out for me to take.

“Refreshing, but it does not hide the fact that your submission for the contest is late. Yes, late,” he emphasises, as I open my mouth to protest, “I did specifically say that all entries have to be handed in at precisely nine in the morning, did I not? Yours missed the dateline by ...” A turn of his wrist allows him to check his watch. “Five minutes. Roughly so.”

“Sir, can't you overlook just five min-”

“No. Perhaps you might want to consider entering next year.”

He is serious. I sigh and take the drawing, placing it carefully in my pocket file. There is obviously nothing I can say that would change his mind. “Well. Thank you for your time, sir.”

He nods, turning back to his newspaper, and head towards the door, but pause before I turn the knob. “Sir. Frankly, do you think that I stand a chance?”

“I would not have suggested that you enter if I was not of the opinion that you could. Work at it, and above all, do try to be on time with your art in the following competition.”

Upon finishing his sandwich, the boy rummages through his pockets for a tissue but touches a few stray peppermints instead. The search for a handkerchief is forgotten as he pulls them out, remembering that they were part of the £1.55's worth of sweets that he bought at the shop the other day. Selecting the best two and dropping the rest back into his pocket, he turns to the girl who has been sitting beside him for the greater part of lunch break.

“Er, would you like one?” he asks hesitantly, opening his palm to reveal the two white, albeit partly squashed, sweets.

She looks up at him before taking the one on the right. “Sure, thanks.”

They sit in silence for a while with the candies in their mouths before she speaks. “They look like something that the cat sat on, though.”

“They're from my pocket, actually,” he says, then pauses. “I think they're still fresh. Somewhat.”

She stares at him. “You think?”

He can't help but laugh at the incredulousness of her expression, prompting a giggle from her in return, and a new friendship is formed.

Somewhat.

- inspired by 'How to Write Fiction (And Think About It) [written by Robert Graham]'s writing burst of '£1.55.' -





# SILENCE

By Cheryl Lim Yen Nee

I kicked the Geography notes that were stacked on the floor. Finals are next week and my current standing for that particular subject wasn't good. Frustration. I stood in front of the mirror. Eye bags were reflection of the past few sleepless nights.

It felt like heaven as I lay gently on my bed.

I closed my tired eyes.

"Do you think Najib will step down?" my lecturers voice popped into my mind, eyes still closed as my body still rested on the bed. That question was thrown at me in class earlier today. I remember giving her my personal opinion. She stood in class with only silence for the next 3 seconds. She started the class after the pause.

Politics. An issue that I haven't been keeping up due to lack of time towards the daily newspaper.

What's bugging me? I quietly asked myself. Ah, the Com 2000 text book that I borrowed from the library was still lost. I violently cursed the person that stole the text book in my mind. I would have to cough up RM 150 just to replace the book. I could have bought my hooker heels with that money and not forgetting that high-waist skirt that I wanted from Forever 21. I continued to curse.

My mind was somehow changing channels; friends. What happen to all of us? Aussie stole some of them. The others are scattered somewhere else. I forced a blank white background in my head. The friendship thing was giving me headaches.

I tried to block out the statement/advice that was given to me on the table at Williams 4 hours ago. I love my friends because they told it to me right in the face and I think these are true friends because they don't talk shit about you behind your back but say it in your face.

It's not because of the person that told me the advice but it hurt because the possibility of issue was true.

Naturally, love somehow crept into my thoughts. Questions arose wondering why the past lover called. He never calls. The conversation was filled with awkward silence. Not knowing what to say and worst, wondering what he was thinking. We ended the call without saying the L word. The call.. Reminded me of the times he would call before I slept each night, seemed like a lullaby at that time. Reminded me of the ring that he gave me a year ago on Valentine's day. Oh, sweet memories. The ring was shining brightly over the moons reflection as my head turn to steal a glance of its beauty on my dressing table. I knew that he wanted to fix things but I knew that I was in love with our memories and not what he has became. That chemistry, that feeling..fading as the days goes by. I got use to living without you, all those phone calls and I can't fight anymore for you. I secretly wished that things turned out better for us.

Somehow I manage to open my eyes to read a sms which was dated a week ago that was sent by someone.

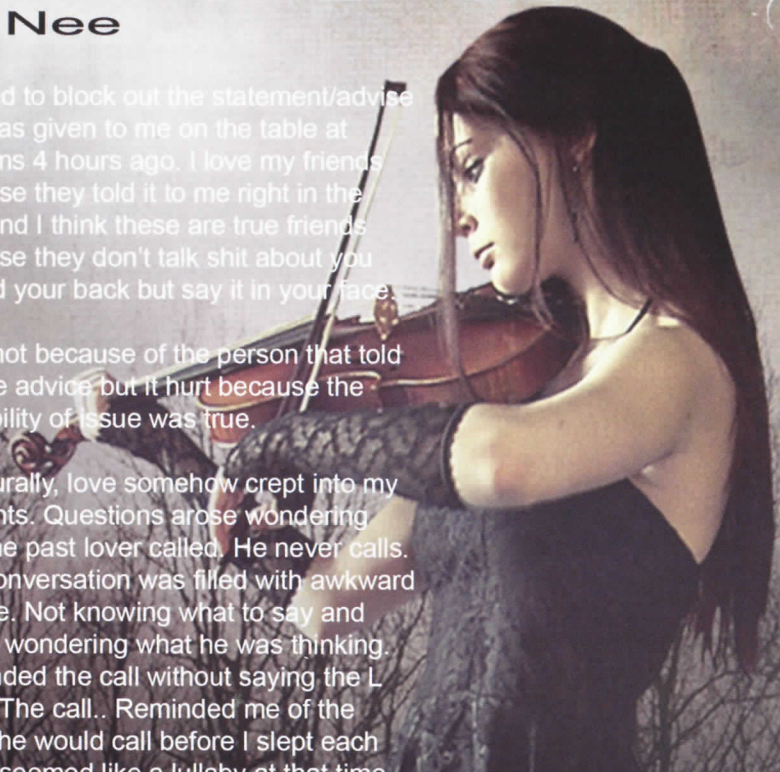
My thoughts traversed the whole day as I wait at this traffic light. How her spontaneity started it all. The post office, then the drop of my phone and jams in PJ. Yet the only murmur to myself was simply, "I wish people had to renew their license every day." I smiled softly.

I always enjoyed his random and unique messages that he would send. Seems like everyone in college has been asking me and the other person if we were an item. More than best friends? Less than a couple? I stand strongly that I'm single and I will continue building that wall around my heart to protect it. Not ready to love and not ready to get hurt. He isn't my boyfriend but I love his hugs, his advice, his support, and the times we laugh together but I guess I'm in love with our friendship.

I closed my eyes for the last time.

Silence was all I heard.

Silence is now my lullaby.





A close-up portrait of a young woman with long, dark hair, looking slightly to the left with a gentle smile. The background is blurred, showing some papers and a blue wall. A dark horizontal bar is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the name 'DORIS THIAN'. To the right of the name is a decorative graphic of four stacked, downward-pointing chevrons in a dark red color. In the bottom left corner, there is a dark red rectangular area with a diagonal cutout, containing the text 'FOUNDER OF RAVELUTION'. The page number '27' is located in the bottom right corner.

**DORIS THIAN**

**FOUNDER OF  
RAVELUTION**





# THE INTERVIEW

**Why performance? Why not missionary work or counselling? Why reach out to people via performance?**

First of all, of course, it [performance] is my passion. Also, the reason why I chose to convey positive values through performance is because people usually like to watch shows. I mean, when people go for events, they're expecting some sort of performance. So I find that performance is a good platform to convey messages rather than doing missionary work where you can only reach out to a certain extent.

Besides, people in college like to perform and not many people can commit to missionary work. But speaking of missionary work, I'm hoping to arrange some community service projects for Ravelution. That's definitely something we'll want to look into.

Ultimately, I hope that the club will be able to give performances that carry messages, positive messages. I feel that, right now, a lot of people tend to be saturated with the media and are hardly stimulated anymore, and, you know, we hang out at clubs, smoke, and drink. This is not to say that they are absolutely bad, but hopefully when people watch our performances we can touch them and align them back to positive values.

If you've caught performances around campus, you've probably seen a few by the Ravelution Performing Arts Production club. But before you might narrow down Ravelution to another dance club in college, its founder Doris Thian will quickly tell you that it's much more than that. For the record, it's a performing arts club. "Most of them are dancers because, well, people love to dance. But we've also got musicians (including a trumpeter and a bongo player!), vocalists, yo yo players, and beat boxers," says the 23-year-old lass from the School of Computer Technology. "Hopefully we can organize our vocalists into an a cappella group, and I'm actually hoping we can recruit some actors, people who are into theatrics and all." Although having recently graduated in May, Doris has big plans for the club. "Our vision consists of five P's: Passion, Performance, Purpose, People and Positive Values. To put it into a sentence Ravelution is a Passionate group that wants to Perform for a Purpose so that we can reach out to People and instil in them Positive Values."

**So what inspired this vision you've set up for Ravelution, this 'contributing positively to society' focus?**

Well, before this year, Ravelution was only a dance group where we only recruited people for performances; without a vision or anything like that. If there weren't any performances, the group wouldn't gather performers or practise at all. So what made me decide to reorganize it was an idea I had on a bus ride to Singapore. I was actually inspired by Bono [from the Irish rock band U2]. It amazed me to know that, considering how much he had at present as an artist, he could still contribute so much to society. He convinced me that I could use my passion [for performing] to make a change. But it all only began after I watched a documentary of him, and then two days later on that bus. From there, everything fell in place.

**What was your first love? Did you have any passion for something?**

Passion... Well, according to my mom, when I was a baby, I never watched cartoons. I only watched dance videos – or so my mom says – stuff like Michael Jackson and all. If she played a cartoon show I'd just walk away, so if she wanted to cook or something she'd repeat the Michael Jackson video for an hour and a half and I'd just sit there and watch it, over and over again... Actually, I would say that I'm quite blessed to have been involved in performances since I was young, like when I was in kindergarten, I had the chance to play one of the orphans in a production of Oliver Twist.

**What are the most important things to you in life?**

First and foremost, of course, my family, the God that I serve, and my purpose in life. I believe that I've been given my talent for a reason and I see myself as an instrument to be used to make a change in society. I feel that my purpose is not to serve myself but the people who can be inspired and changed. Oops, I forgot to mention my studies! (Laughs.)

**Now that you're graduating from Sun-U, what are your plans for the future?**

I don't really have an answer yet. But I will definitely work on my dreams-lah. I really want to contribute as much as I can to the community and society. But before that I'll have to make sure that I at least get proper shelter and food to eat! So I'll work along my faith and visions, eventually. We'll see what open doors will be available for me!





Stumped on what to do with your free time?  
 Dying to be part of Sunway University College  
 besides simply studying here?  
 Have no fear, as ECHO features a few of the many clubs that we have here.



## SWIMMING AQUALITES

We aim to:

Create awareness of the sport of swimming and any activities related to it, as well as create an environment for social interaction & healthy competition. To facilities and training for swimming competitions or leisure swimming

What do we do?

- Water Polo
- Water Aerobics
- Social Gatherings
- Swimming Lessons by external swimming coach

(Mr. James Yap - [www.swimlesson.com.my/019-6531318](http://www.swimlesson.com.my/019-6531318))

- Swimming Competitions

We're looking for: anyone

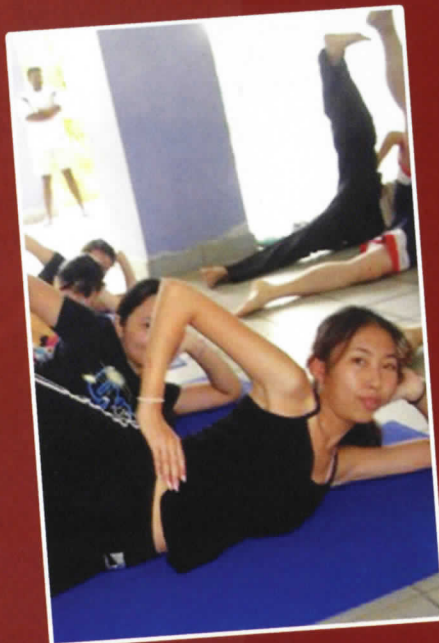
For more enquiries, contact...

Mr. Lawrence Welch

(Club Advisor): 012-317 8002

Emmanuel Yong

(Club President): 017-383 1879



## Yoga Club

We aim to:

Achieve common goals of unity of mind, body and soul through yoga. Yoga helps to promote complete wellness, fitness and concentration.

What do we do?

1 hour of yoga sessions every Thursday

We are looking for:

Anyone who has interest in yoga is welcome!! (Students & Staff)

For more enquiries, contact :

Ee Lin

(012- 938 4236)

or

([eeelin\\_tay@yahoo.com](mailto:eeelin_tay@yahoo.com))



## Bangladesh Student Association

We aim to: Make the country and

culture of Bangladesh heard as well as allowing Bangladeshis to socialize with each other.

What do we do?

Host cultural nights and events for all the Bangladeshi and International students at Sunway University College. We are also ready to assist all new students from Bangladesh to know the college and the area better, as well as help meet people from Bangladesh.

We are looking for:

Enthusiasm and interest. All who want to know about Bangladeshi culture are welcome to join BSA.

For more enquiries, contact:

faisal\_dacca@yahoo.com or

0173463740 (Faisal) Facebook

group: "Bangladesh Student Association at Sunway"





# CLUB-SOCIETIES



## CHINESE CULTURAL SOCIETY

**We are:**

a group of young students that is passionate about Chinese culture. Reformed in January 2008, we are here to promote and liven up the Chinese culture and to teach the 21st century how to incorporate it to our daily lives.

**What do we do?**

The club is made out of 4 groups;

1. The Entertainment group which is in charge of games and Chinese music art.
2. The Inter-Management group which is in charge of the debate team.
3. The Publicity group which is in charge of Chinese chess and design
4. The Educational group which is in charge of Chinese classes and calligraphy.

**We are looking for:**

people who are interested in and passionate about Chinese Culture, with a heart to learn good team work skills, leadership skills, and most of all, ready to make some true friends!!

**For more enquiries, contact :**  
Yongerwin@gmail.com (President)



## SUNWAY SRI LANKAN SOCIETY

**We aim to:**

Promote Sri Lankan values and culture, to unite the Sri Lankans of Sunway.

**What do we do?**

Avurudu Utsawe (Sri Lankan New Year celebrations), Independence Day celebrations, Wesak celebrations, Cricket and Futsal tournaments

**We're looking for:**

True Sri Lankans, those willing to uphold the values and principles of our country. And of course those willing to have fun, Lankan style!

**For more enquiries contact:**

Raashid (President) : 017 3057592

Azhan (Secretary) : 017 6952496

**"Look out for more clubs and societies in our next issue!"**



# Lives Like Autumn Leaves :

## In Memory of Heath, Bruce and the Departed of Sun-U

While grappling desperately on the tips of tree branches, no one knows when shrivelled autumn leaves may snap off in the wind. And like autumn leaves, our youthful lives remain fragile. If we are not mindful, and allow ourselves to be bombarded and swayed by the wind of change, we might just get swept off the brink without ever knowing what hit us...

I won't deny it: At this stage of my life, still racing for the pinnacle of my youthful heights, I can see no reason how I might fall. You'd probably think the same. Indispensable:

jumping with such vigorous health, it is impossible that we could be struck down by some twist of fate. No, we will always rise again... Or, at least, we ought to...

For one thing, I've never watched a Heath Ledger movie, but you can bet I was excited over his Joker role in *The Dark Knight*. With that freakish performance from the trailers, not to mention that Oscar nomination to boot, great things were on the way for him.

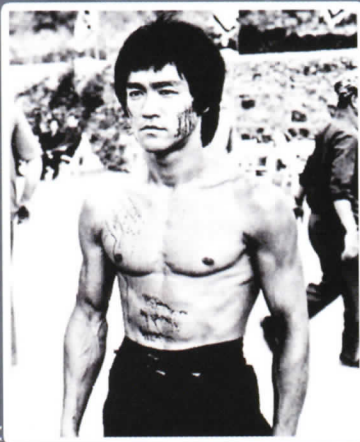
But on one unassuming afternoon, Heath Ledger died.

And everything that he could've been, or might have been, or would have been, will never be, again. But he's not the only one to have shattered under the fragility of youth: Bruce Lee. Aaliyah. Tupac Shakur. Jimi Hendrix. Selena. Daijiri Kato.

You'd have thought that these people would live off the fat of the land until old age took them—that should be the ideal of every other living person in any case—but a single unanticipated

instance was all it took to reduce all of them to mere memory.

Our youth is the prime time to try things and discover ourselves. And with so many things out there to be thrived on by our boundless energy, we can't be expected to be fraught with



paranoia and concern over the remote possibilities of dying. Not just yet; we have just started to run, so why hamper our potential?

To be terminally ill is something to worry about when we are old. As for the dangers we

may sometimes immerse in, well, risks have to be taken some time in our lives. This is all part and parcel of our self-discovery, our growth.

And that may well be, but does that grant us the immunity against the realities of such hazards? Are we really any further from harm as that druggie in the street? Is any one disease so discriminating as to spare us for the sake of being 'young'?

Here's a familiar phrase to bring you to perspective: 'you-know-what' happens. And don't think it won't, because it will.

Everything in moderation, as they say. Draw a line. Strike a balance. Go ahead and take the risk, but take the risk with some proper thinking and calculation: life is beyond the present, so are you sure you can make it through safely in your next joyride? Is it worth taking things for granted? Within the first half of this year, we have already lost a shocking number of students, many who, like James Dean, met fatal car crashes.

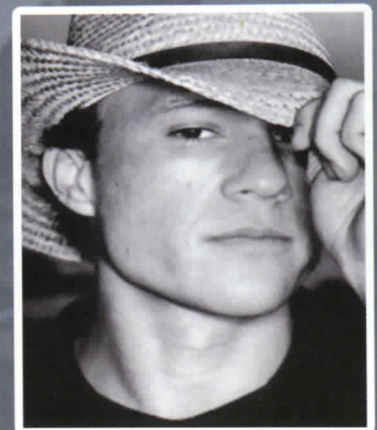
But I personally lost a course mate who succumbed to a sudden attack of meningitis, a disease of the brain. There was no sign of it coming—now who'd ever think something like that could happen?

To most of us, these casualties may be mere strangers—perhaps a superficial brush of the shoulder in the elevator, an uninterested glance across the cafeteria, a shared breath of air...

But this does not make them anymore different from you and me.

Like us, they had laughed and loved; they had friends, loved ones, people who cared for them, people that they could talk to, people that had held their hands and toiled with them in their journey through life. When tragedy strikes, will these people not hurt? Will they not feel anguish?

Think of how many countless souls have invisibly passed on and then you can imagine how many people have to silently break down and mourn alone over a friend whose death everyone is oblivious to. So maybe nothing in this world is certain but for death and taxes, and maybe, for all the rest, you can risk the gamble. But is it worth to gamble over your loved ones as well?







## Lives Like Autumn Leaves : Elizabeth Lee's Take

To lose a loved one can prove to be very painful, and this is something Elizabeth Lee, Sun-U's Executive Director, has continuously seen and come to understand over the years. Corresponding through email, she shares her feelings and rationale over the fragile lives of our youth.

**1. What do you think about the subject on the fragile lives of the youth? Do you see it as a waste of potential and effort? Is it not agonizing for loved ones?**

To me, you are all at the cusp of life. For years your parents have nurtured you, and we, as your surrogate parents at the University, try hard to put in the last finishing touches to prepare you to embrace the exciting life ahead. To be killed as you take your maiden flight is just unbearable to those of us who see our primary role as preparing you for this very mission.

I get angry. Yes, I get angry that my students spend their God-given lives by living dangerously and that, in a couple of cases, they chose to end it prematurely for reasons which were just never important enough to warrant such fatal decisions—and that is when I feel helpless and agonise over why we had never seen it coming and could not prevent such a tragic action.

**2. How has the loss of our students affected you? After so many years, is it still a painful experience to go through?**

When I lost my first student to a horrendous accident, I just burst into uncontrollable tears upon receiving the news. She was a young Monash student, whose life had been ripped from her as she was driving to class.

I have lost far too many students over the years (and this year has robbed us of an unacceptable number of lives from amongst our young

charges). It doesn't get any easier with each announcement of death.

Most of the time, I have not had the privilege of having known them personally while they were still alive with us and it has become a case where I've gotten to know the student at death. I feel cheated.

But it is a consolation that I get to know the family; and some of the parents and I have become close, bonded by the fact we have lost a child between us.

**3. What were you like in your youth? Were you cautious with yourself or were things little different with you?**

I was actually a lot braver than I am now! My older colleagues remember me as a 'hell driver', impatient to get to our point of destination in the shortest time. I had no qualms about camping out in the open and considered the ultimate thrill to be jumping out of an airplane and free-falling before landing with the aid of a parachute.

But that feeling of thrill diminished as years progressed and I hope that my daughters have not inherited such yearnings from me as I would hate for them to sky-dive and hang-glide. I agree with my mother now that these activities are certainly much too dangerous indulgences.

**4. Why do you think we, us youths, are sometimes so careless with our lives and the risks we take? Do you think that it's because we view ourselves as indispensable?**

I guess it's the sense of adventure and wonder which comes with new-found independence. The risk-taking is good preparation for real life and it does augur



well for each young person.

But like all things, it's the balance we need to have. We need to have a grounded grip of reality and assess the actual risk so that we do land on our feet safely when we take that jump out of the plane and sky-dive.

I don't think young people feel that they are indispensable, but, rather, that they still have to take risks in order to grow, just as they took their first steps twenty years or so ago as toddlers...





# NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK: COLLEGE LIFE FOR NEWBIES

BY BRENDA CHAN

Entered college recently? We're guessing you've made it through the Sunway University College initiation rites in one piece then (the one involving steel forks, old boots and a robbery attempt). The last few who didn't...  
...But anyway, if you haven't, make your way to the Student Services Department quick or stand to face five solid months of shunning! And toilet bans! Bless the brave souls.

Really, besides the messy beginning, you'll find Sun-U a warm environment conducive to learning, with its warm atmosphere and warm faces and warm colours. In fact, you'll fit right in next to the Cookie Monster, he's taking ADTP ;)

We do hope we've given you a good impression of Sun-U. Meanwhile, our writer here has in the past five months, considered herself somewhat 'settled in' and shares a few nuggets of insights, observations and advice. So brace yourselves for obvious statements and a touch of cliché!

They're not here to change diapers

Does "Open your mouth and say 'ah' while I shove this spoonful of rote learning down your throat," ring a bell? Not in the exact words of course, but you get the general idea – the last 11 years (10 for you smarts and/or non-government school students) of your life revolving around that system.

Well, blow your noses and wave goodbye to that. College lecturers are more lenient than your high school teachers, in the belief that we are all mature adults and can be responsible for ourselves when it comes to our own grades. They're here to guide, not spoon-feed us. Squashing down that teeny sense of loss (admit it, it's there), this can only benefit us of course. Plus, with the lecturers treating us like lesser equals, there is the mutual respect, and the increased approachability of the lecturers (they're one of us now!). Ever ready to help, they in a way, represent the safety harness as we rock-climb to the top, never obstructing or coddling, but hold us when we slip. We don't need our diapers changed for us, do we? Maybe a little hand in picking out the brand, is all.

## Moving stairways à la Hogwarts

Show of hands: who has never gotten lost, or at least slightly disoriented within the vast maze of our campus? \*cricket silence ensues\* That...can either be a 'no' or the fact that I'm talking to myself.

Going with the former, who hasn't indeed? Most of us have been frustrated at the confusing layout of our college at one point or another (what do you

**"We don't need our diapers changed for us, do we? Maybe a little hand in picking out the brand, is all."**

mean you can't get from one end of the college to the other on the same floor?). I once spent ages wandering around the old block trying to find my LAN teacher's office to hand in an assignment. That classrooms mostly change with every period doesn't help either.

Alas, fear not! It'll all come to you one day, with an audible 'click', and your feet will automatically take you to your next class, you'll know the shortest routes from your mind map (oh my, you can go through the library to get to the other side?). For the lazy people, you'll know which lift to use while taking into account the amount of time it'll take and the time you have (hmm the big slow one that goes all the way to the 4th or the faster 'bomba' lift to the 3rd and climb the last flight?)

All in due time, newbies

In Need Of Help.....







### Away with the 'sexy' uniforms and Luddite rules

A blessing for the fashion-savvy, a bit of a chore for the less fortunate (i.e. I, who have as much sense of style as a...random unfashionable object).

'I dress according to my moods, so it's a pretty instant decision, and it portrays my individuality...somewhat.' Well I wish I could do that, but seeing as I'm usually on autopilot in the morning, there isn't really a particular mood to bring out ('really-didn't-want-to-get-out-of-bed-today' doesn't count)

Or I could just alternate pants with skirt every other day, and pray no one notices a pattern (routine is considered unfashionable, you see). Not much of a dilemma I suppose, when compared with the perks: free reign for bursts of creativity like theme days! A colourful atmosphere to match our colourful students! And...I'll think of more!

**"You practically see new people on a daily basis, which is, by far, the best part about being in college"**

Gadgets: boon or bane? Balancing the mounting distractions against efficiency, convenience, and just plain coolness, I'd say it's pretty fair, though some lecturers might say otherwise.

### What's that peeking out from the corner? Oh, your future.

Yes, yes, you've all heard about this since way back in Form 4, heard the seminars and talks and attended the fairs, and really, is there any need to remind you of this again? You've thought about everything thankyouverymuch. Well I'm not the one doing the reminding, the rest of the college is. For those of us who've managed to blithely put off making any concrete decisions for our future in high school, this is the time to start, and you know it. You're constantly surrounded by brochures and ads from different universities, the different courses offered, and bombarded with higher-learning-jargon credit transfers, subject requirements, TER scores, GPA scores – there's no end to it.

And all that only serves to heighten your senses, your ears, to the ticking sound in the background growing louder and louder. You can't ignore it, because this is where your future starts taking shape in your hands.

The wind of change is in the air! I myself have become more grade-conscious ever since I started college. Greedy for every mark, every percent, no matter how miniscule (yep I'm one of the annoying kinds). Bad(ish) boys turned nerds, the transition so sudden you couldn't imagine they used to not give a moment's thought about exams or listened to their teachers in the past five



years. Bad boys who stay bad boys but significantly more attentive in their studies anyway. Yes, anything is possible. Even a robbery attempt with forks and old boots.

Well, anytime's a good time to start. Pay a visit to PrePARE, Career Services Department at the SSD if you're stuck. You're never too old to ask for help!

### Extending your network of friends

Sunway University College has approximately 7500 students, local and international. You practically see new people on a daily basis, which is, by far, the best part about being in college for me. Perhaps not for the occasional misanthrope out there ("I know where you live") but meeting new people is an inevitable side effect from going anywhere new, so bury that innate cynicism, keep an open mind, and mingle (or be mingled with)! Who knows? You might find a few friends worth holding on to, years after you're out of here :)



# Of Roommates, Free Independence & Homesickness

By Nick Ong

Boarding in a hostel for the first time is similar to one's first experience with roller coasters; it can be one of the best or worst experiences of your life, depending on how one does it. Here's some tips from ECHO on how to turn what could be a dull stay into an interesting one.

No matter how great a time you are having boarding, there is one factor that will determine your boarding experience; your roommate. Your roommate can either be your best friend or your worst nightmare and bear in mind that you will be spending the next year or so sharing your living space with this person. If you have a bad roommate (a.k.a. one who smokes, breaks hostel rules, has bad/unsettling behaviour, etc.), ECHO recommends that you SWITCH ROOMMATES IMMEDIATELY. To do this, one applies for different lodgings with the Hostel Management together with a complaint about your current roommate.

Of course, it is not enough to just keep a good relationship with your roommate. Once one has established a good relationship, we recommend exploring the hostel. It is always a great idea to know thy neighbours, especially when there are several dozen of them. Always keep in mind an open attitude when meeting your neighbours, as their personalities can be varied. ECHO recommends that you do this with your roommate, several of your friends, or someone already staying at the hostel. This makes the experience less

daunting and a lot more fun. One can learn many new things from these "hostel-mates", from roller-blading to cooking. And, of course, have a lot of fun along the way.

The next step to a great boarding experience is to KEEP YOUR ROOM CLEAN. Yes, all those quotes and anecdotes on how a clean environment makes you feel better are true. Although the hostel does provide cleaning services once a week, we recommend that you do some additional cleaning yourself. Buy some basic cleaning tools like a broom, a mop, and the all-important damp cloth (for wiping dusty surfaces), which one can buy almost anywhere. We recommend a light cleaning once or twice a week, or right after holidays. Obviously, don't devote too much of your time to this; there are many things one can do besides this. As for your clothes, there is always the launderette on the ground floor of the condominiums and the launderette just outside the back entrance of Sunway College.

Your next concern would be food. You would may not be keen on cooking your own food, especially as it is disallowed in the hostel, so we strongly recommend eating out. The best places to go in our books are Medan Food Court, the ubiquitous restaurants known to us only as Pink and Orange, and the local 'mamak' stall, Jafaar, all within a 10-minute walk from the condominiums. These eateries serve great food for a good price. Of course, if one desires something else besides the above options, there is always the Pyramid, which is a 15-minute walk via the back

entrance of the college or a 5 minute drive by taxi (RM5).

To survive in the hostel, financial support is essential. Always ensure you have enough funds to carry you through the month. ECHO recommends that you do not splurge your entire monthly allowance too early for obvious reasons, as hard as this may be for many. One way to do this is to ration your funds by setting a weekly quota. And of course, always put aside a bit for a rainy day (a.k.a. something really interesting you saw in the Pyramid or to pay for an extra dinner).

Finally, even if you have established all of the above, life for a student staying at the hostel one can become boring very quickly. Fortunately for you, there are many things one can do to pass the time besides studying. One way to pass the time is to go to Sunway Pyramid Shopping Centre. From archery to bowling to arcades, this place seriously has everything. And oh yes, plenty of designer clothing shops. Also another way to pass the time is the Cybercafe above Medan Food Court, which is a great place to socialise by shooting your friends down in a friendly game of Counter-Strike. Even better, buy a form of home entertainment. Even something as mundane as a novel can be exciting after several hours of studying.

Of course, all of the above are merely guidelines; how you choose to live your boarding life is entirely up to you. All we can really assure of, though, is a new experience. And plenty of house-cleaning.



# OF SMALL PIECES OF PAPER THAT CARRY A LOT OF WEIGHT\*

By Yeang Su-lyn

**L**et's admit it now, at the very beginning of this article; despite money being the root of all evil, we obviously can't survive without it. It puts the food on the table, slaps the clothes onto our backs, holds up the houses we live in, and even secures us the education we seek. Now I'm not saying that making money should be of top priority, as I believe that there are many things that are of far greater importance as compared to money. However, it is still a very eminent factor in our lives, and therefore should be handled responsibly and with a bit of intelligence.

Especially with the recent hike in petrol prices (and just about everything else following suit), financial management is of, or rather, should be of great significance. Below are a few tips and pointers that may help in the area of financial management.

The "need" VS "want" rationale is something that is very basic when it comes to anything close to consumerism. When about to buy something, besides weighing the pros and cons of buying something, one should also take into consideration the actual need to possess it. "Do I really need this?" should be one of the questions that pop up in one's head. Thinking along this wavelength is an effective way of minimizing impulsive buying as well as reduce that pile of untouched and unused objects back home.

"I'm broke!!" came the wail from

across the table, and I lift an eyebrow in response. This scenario is a recurring one, and I, being the loving friend / sister never fail to point out the things that the person who had just complained could have refrained from spending on.

More often than not, I get looks that greatly lack gratitude / enlightenment, but receive sarcastic remarks and prods in return for my attempt to educate them. While most of the time these people aren't really broke, there is a very real possibility of that happening, and while we can joke about it, we will find it hard to even lift the sides of our mouth when it actually happens to us. I'm no auditor, nor am I someone who has a spreadsheet of her monthly expenses, but I find that a budget as well as keeping track of money spent conscientiously can reduce unnecessary expenditure. Allocate a certain amount of money over a certain stretch of time. Having a limit sets things in a more responsible perspective and curbs over expenditure.

Also, keep your receipts! As simple as it sounds, this is a highly effective way to reduce exuberant spending. When you're aware of where your money goes, then you'll be more conscious of not spending on unnecessary things that may blow your budget. There's a saying "small foxes spoil the vine", which can be interpreted as the small knick knacks that add up into something of substantial value. Imagine going on a shopping trip. Well, you've successfully refrained from forking out a few hundred ringgit to splurge on

some designer bag or that new PC hardware that you've been eyeing. Triumphant, you walk away, and decide to treat yourself to some Starbucks (RM15), and maybe some doughnuts for the family (RM 15), pick up a few magazines (RM10), some mints (RM5), some... You get where I'm going with this.

It sometimes drives me up the wall, this business of shopping with my father. While mum walks into a shop, locates what she's looking for, pays, then is on her merry way, dad is just the opposite! He will go into one store, find the item, study it, then go to a few other shops, repeating the same routine for the same item, until at least he may very well end up buying the item from the very first shop he'd walked in to. As difficult as it is for me to say this, he's got a point.

I mean, why pay more for something that may be of lesser value or functionality when you can get a better version for half the price? So, as tedious as it may be, price comparison is actually a habit we should pick up.

Like any other positive trait or habit, good financial management has to start with us wanting to make a change. So start today!

\*Taken from the song 'For the Love of Money' by the O'Jays





# VANESSA AND PAMELA

THE STRONG CHONGS

## THE AMAZING RACE ASIA 2

TEAM MALAYSIA  
CONTESTANTS

THE  
RUNNER UPS





# THE INTERVIEW



Who better to flag off Sun-U's The Amazing G-Race than Malaysia's very own The Amazing Race Asia 2 (TARA2) contestants Pamela and Vanessa Chong! Sawaka Kawashima of team Japan, who had come to visit the sisters, also made a surprise appearance, belting out a tune before the race began, even. And while TARA2 might be over, the 'Strong Chongs' icon prevails and the sisters sure ain't quitting where it comes to reaching out and inspiring the youth. Life is, after all, one big race as they say.

**So the three of you (the sisters and Sawaka ) have become fast friends after the race?**

**Vanessa:** Oh yeah, definitely. At the end of the day, although you're racing, we all become friends, but obviously you'd become closer to some teams as compared to others, and even more so amongst those who make it more than halfway through the race—you'd obviously have a much stronger bond. And that's a bond that you'll never have with any of your normal friends because it's something you guys HAVE to do together in order to understand: the stress, the craziness, the adrenaline rush... So it's a bond that you share, the memories that you can always look back on and laugh about and all that.

**So what does it feel like to be on the other side now, flagging the race off instead of racing?**

**Vanessa:** Oh, it's definitely cool. It's interesting to be on the other side. I mean, like, [back then in TARA2] before Alan Wu actually said "Go", you'd think to yourself, "Can I even race? Do I even know how to race? Will I understand the clues?" So I understand that it's very 'kan cheong' [nerve-wrecking].

**Pamela:** However, while flagging off the race is great, I wouldn't even mind racing today! I love competition. So whatever challenge, whether it's around Sunway or around the campus itself, I would love to [take it on].





**There's a saying that life itself is 'one big race'? Do you believe that's true? What do you say about that?**

**Vanessa:** Yeah. The only thing is that, with life, you don't know where the finish line is. So it's a different kind of race. But just like in a race, sometimes there's the prize, the knock around the corner. In TARA, you'll have challenges along the way. Even in a car race, you have bumps and corners that you are not aware of. Similarly in life, if you come across a challenge that you think you can't do, I guess you just have to think that you can achieve it. Like Pam told me before the final task [in TARA2], "If you think you can do it, you can do it. If you put your mind to it, don't panic, then you can do it." So sometimes in life you just have to take a step back and tell yourself, be confident that you can do it, so that you can achieve your dreams and achieve whatever task at hand.

**Pamela:** I think the thing is, in life, we have phobias, things that we're scared of. Even on TARA2, there were contestants like Daichi from Japan, Paula from Thailand, who had a phobia of heights, but when it came to it, they just did the task without question.

**Vanessa:** Actually I think that even though it's a show, TARA actually has real similarities with life. I know that in the race, we're all so full of adrenaline, but it shows that you can actually do it in real life as well.

**What's life like after TARA2? Like now, you guys are the Malaysian hosts for iTALENTSTAR, so how have things changed for you?**

**Vanessa:** Oh, it's given us other opportunities to do things that we haven't done before. Like--

**Pamela:** --getting to flag off the Amazing G-Race!

**Vanessa:** Yeah! (laughs) Like being an inspiration... People come up to you and they recognize you and it's not like, "Oh, I can recognize you!" but it's more like, "Wow, you know, you made us proud!" You become -- not to say an icon -- more like a-- role model.

**Vanessa:** And if the race can give that to us, the ability to inspire young people, young women, and the youth, then it's for a good cause. Because then people look up to us in a way and we can

**If you could be a certain fictional character, who would you be? And Pamela, what's with you and Lara Croft?**

**Pamela:** (laughs) Yeah, I do love Tomb Raider and Lara Croft. I love, like I said, adventure, clues, and stuff like that. I wouldn't know if she [Lara Croft] is my favourite, but if I were to be a character, I would love to be Lara Croft, solving clues and all.

**And what about you Vanessa?**

**Vanessa:** Fictional character ah... Hmm--

**Pamela:** --Anne of Green Gables!

**Vanessa:** Oh my god! (laughs) Err... I've always wanted to fly!

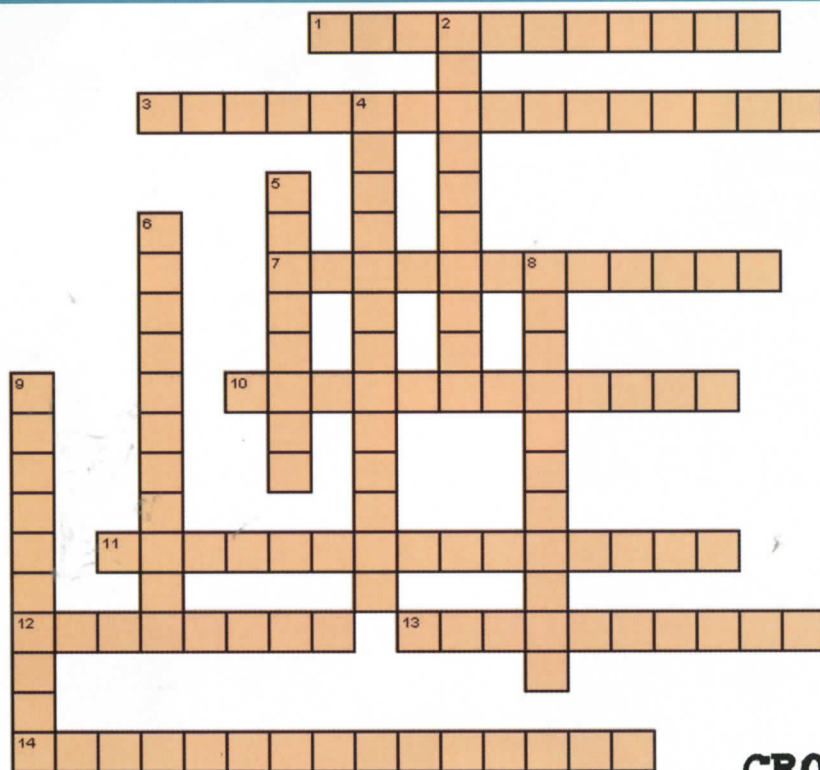
*iTALENTSTAR is a South East Asian online talent competition in collaboration with Friendster® which recently ended; with Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Singapore battling it out.*





14 V A R I O U S

G A M E S



## SUDOKU

3	4	6			
9	7	5			
	1	2	4		
8			2		9
	9	6	1	4	8
	3	9			2
			5	7	4
				8	9
			9	5	3

## CROSSWORDPUZZLE

### Across

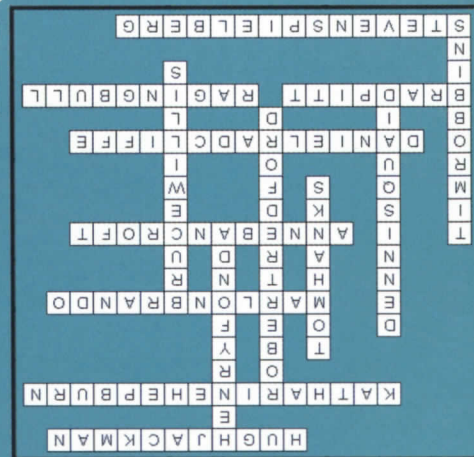
1. Logan/Wolverine in the 2000 movie, X-men (4,9)
3. Rose Sayer in the 1951 movie, The African Queen (9,7)
7. Don Vito Corleone in the 1972 movie, The Godfather (6,6)
10. Mrs Robinson in the 1976 movie, The Graduate (4,8)
11. Harry Potter actor (6,9)
12. Rusty Ryan in the 2004 movie, Ocean's Twelve (4,4)
13. 1980 movie, starring Robert De Niro as Jake La Motta (6,4)
14. Director of the 2005 movie, War of the Worlds (6,9)

### Down

2. Tom Joad in the 1940 movie classic, The Grapes of Wrath (5,5)
4. Johnny Hooker (Kelly) in the 1973 movie, The Sting (6,7)
5. Robert Langdon in the 2006 movie, The Da Vinci Code (3,5)
6. Professor Adrian Hall in the 2004 movie, The Day After Tomorrow (6,5)
8. Jack Mosely in the 2006 movie, 16 Blocks (5,6)
9. Andy Dufresne in the 1994 movie, The Shawshank Redemption (3,7)

## ANSWERS

4	7	8	1	9	6	5	2	3
5	2	3	4	7	8	6	1	9
1	6	9	2	5	3	7	4	8
7	3	1	6	8	5	4	6	2
2	6	5	9	1	4	3	8	7
8	4	6	7	3	2	1	9	5
6	1	2	3	4	7	8	5	9
9	8	7	5	2	1	6	3	4
3	5	4	8	9	6	2	7	1





When? 26th July 2008  
Where? Sony Ericsson Traffic Jam  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Here's good news for those of you who faithfully followed American Idol finalist Chris Daughtry through season 5 and his music thereafter - the hugely successful band formed by the suave rocker responsible for popular hits 'Home' and 'It's Not Over' is coming home right here to Malaysia, live! The actual location is yet to be released, so keep tabs on their official site for updates.

<http://www.daughtryofficial.com/>

# upcoming concerts

'The Best Damn Tour: World Tour'

When? August 2008  
Where? Unavailable at time of writing

What do you know? Canada's rock princess is finally hitting Malaysian shores! And this is purported to be Lavigne's only show in South-East Asia, so you can expect fans flocking from all over the region just to see the rocker, who brought us 'Complicated' and the highly-infectious 'Girlfriend', tear the stage apart with her spunk and energy! So you'll definitely not want to miss rocking out with Lavigne and everyone else out there!

Tickets are available via [www.galaxy.com.my](http://www.galaxy.com.my) or [www.axcess.com.my](http://www.axcess.com.my)

avril lavigne

To all music fans out there, here are a few notable upcoming events happening near you to keep a lookout for and definitely wouldn't want to miss!



## MTV Asia Awards 2008

When? 2nd August 2008  
Where? Arena of Stars, Genting Highlands, Malaysia

For the first time ever, MTV Asia Awards will be paying homage to international and regional artists in Malaysia! The annual affair, to be hosted by Jared Leto from 30 Seconds To Mars, is anticipated to be one of massive proportions and expected to see the presence of many widely-known artists - the Holy Grail for music lovers.

Unfortunately, the event is invitation-only, and tickets cannot be bought. They can only be won through contests or roadshows. So go check out their website for contest details, vote for your favourite artists, turn up the volume on your radio, and keep an eye out for roadshows near you to stand a chance to win these highly-coveted tickets! For the less fortunate and less aggressive, I guess we'll have to settle for telecasts on the couch at home...

<http://www.mtvasiaawards.com/>

## Panic At The Disco

When? 4th August, 2008  
Where? Stadium Negara, Kuala Lumpur

There's a fever you can sweat out at the Panic At The Disco concert in KL this August! The popular band (who hasn't tapped their foot to 'I Write Sins Not Tragedies'?) is all set to drop by on their world tour, so don't miss this opportunity to show them just how big a fan base they've got here in Malaysia!

## SINGfest 2008

When? 2nd & 3rd August 2008  
Where? Fort Canning Park, Singapore

If Malaysia isn't giving you an adequate dosage of live performances, why not head down south to neighbouring Singapore for their share as well? SINGfest, the biggest music event of the year for the Lion City, is a two-day affair with a line-up of popular artists the like of Alicia Keys, Jason Mraz, Newfound Glory, Lost Prophets, One Republic and many more. With so many big names coming this close, it's a good excuse to head down South this once! Ticketing details can be found at their official website.

<http://www.singfest.sg/>

## Death Cab For Cutie

When? 12th August 2008  
Where? Esplanade Concert Hall

The indie band will be performing at the Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore on August 12th, and it seems to be their only South-East Asia tour date, so Malaysian fans, you'll have to remain steadfast and travel quite a bit if you don't want to miss it!

Tickets are available via Sistic counters.  
[www.sistic.com.sg](http://www.sistic.com.sg)

**For more information on the latest news on concerts and tours around you, you can check out**

**[www.morethangoodhooks.com](http://www.morethangoodhooks.com)**





# VIDEO GAMES

## STAR CRAFT II

YOU SCRAMBLE ACROSS THE BLASTED TERRAIN, WITH YOUR GUN IN HAND. THE WOUND IN YOUR SHOULDER IS BLEEDING PROFUSELY, BUT GOES UNNOTICED UNDER THE BUZZ OF ADRENALINE. YOU HEAR THE SOFT PING A GRENADE MAKES AS IT LANDS BESIDE YOU. YOU JUMP TO SAFETY, THE GRENADE BOOMING BEHIND YOU. TOO LATE. SHRAPNEL RIDDLES YOUR BODY AND YOU BLEED OUT ON THE FLOOR AS YOUR OPPONENT GETS A POINT FOR HIS KILL. OF COURSE, YOU COULD RESTART IF YOU LIKE.

THAT IS HOW IT FEELS TO BE PLAYING CALL OF DUTY 4, ARGUABLY ONE OF THE MOST REALISTIC GAMES TO HIT THE MARKET. FROM GAMES LIKE CALL OF DUTY 4, OR COD 4 FOR SHORT, TO MMORPGS (MASSIVELY MULTIPLAYER ONLINE ROLE PLAYING GAMES FOR THE UNINITIATED) SUCH AS RUNESCAPE AND (GASP) HELLO KITTY ISLAND ADVENTURE, TO 'PROFESSIONAL' RTS (REAL TIME STRATEGY) GAMES SUCH AS WARCRAFT AND STARCRAFT, VIRTUAL GAMING IN THE YEAR 2008 WILL ONLY GO FORWARD. HERE ARE SOME OF THE COOLEST RELEASES ECHO HAS SEEN SO FAR.

### 1. STAR CRAFT II: A NEW BEGINNING

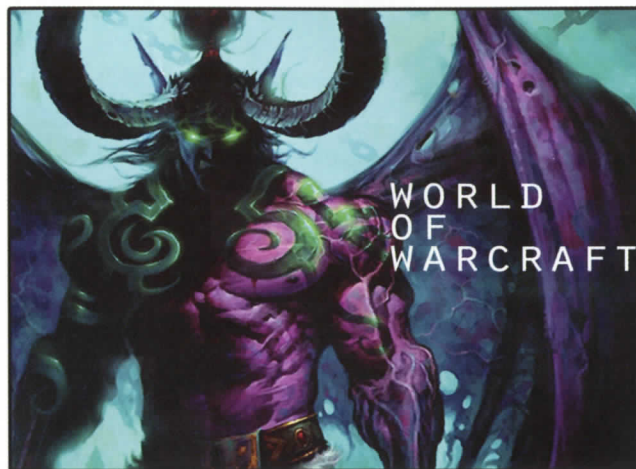
THINK STARCRAFT WAS GOOD? ACCORDING TO BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT AND FANS WORLDWIDE, THIS MUCH AWAITED SEQUEL IS EVEN BETTER.

AS IN THE ORIGINAL STARCRAFT, THERE WERE THREE RACES PLAYERS COULD PLAY, THE PROTOSS, THE TERRAN, AND THE ZERG. ONE THING TO LOOK OUT FOR IN THIS GAME WOULD BE THE BRAND-NEW CAMPAIGN, WHICH IS NON-LINEAR, SO EXPECT PLENTY OF SURPRISES. BLIZZARD HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SEVERAL UNITS WILL BE REMOVED, AND SEVERAL MORE WILL BE ADDED OR REDESIGNED. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT WATCHED THE TRAILER

YET, THOUGH, STARCRAFT II'S GRAPHICS PROMISE TO BE MIND-BLOWING, WITH THE LEVEL OF DETAIL SO GREAT IS IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE IN AT ONE GO. SO, FINGERS CROSSED, LET'S HOPE THAT THIS SEQUEL CAN LIVE UP TO ITS HYPE.







# THE ULTIMATE ESCAPE FROM REALITY

HERE ARE SOME OF THE COOLEST ONES NOW

## 2. CALL OF DUTY 4

AS MENTIONED EARLIER, THIS FOURTH INSTALLMENT IN THE CALL OF DUTY SERIES HAS CERTAINLY LIVED UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF ITS FANS.

IT IS WORLD WAR 2, AND YOU ARE A SOLDIER ON EITHER THE ALLIED OR AXIS SIDE. TO PUT A LONG STORY SHORT, YOU ARE TASKED TO COMPLETE VARIOUS MISSIONS. AND OF COURSE, IT DOES NOT HURT TO SHOOT DOWN PLENTY OF THE ENEMY ALONG THE WAY. THE CONTROLS ON THIS GAME ARE EASY TO USE, ALTHOUGH SOME CONTROLS LIKE THE CROUCH DOWN BUTTON TAKE A BIT OF GETTING USED TO. ANOTHER UP POINT IS THE AMAZING GRAPHICS AND ATTENTION TO DETAIL; YOU CAN GET SHELL SHOCK IN THIS GAME FROM GRENADES EXPLODING NEAR YOU, AND YOU CAN CARRY A VERY LIMITED AMOUNT OF WEAPONS.

ALSO, YOU EXPERIENCE RECOIL FROM THE GUNS, AND, LIKE IN REAL LIFE, ONE SHOT OF ANYTHING TO THE CHEST REALLY DOES KILL. UNLIKE SEVERAL OTHER GAMES OF THIS GENRE, ALSO INTERESTING IS THE PLAYABILITY OF THE LANDSCAPE; SHRAPNEL FROM WALLS CAN INJURE YOU, AND EXPLOSIONS FORM PITS THAT ONE CAN USE FOR COVER. THE AI ON THIS GAME IS ABOVE AVERAGE, WITH THE ENEMY KNOWING WHEN TO GO FOR COVER AND HAVE QUITE GOOD AIM, THOUGH THEY TEND TO CLUSTER AROUND NARROWER PATHWAYS. OVERALL, COD 4 IS A GREAT GAME WITH PLENTY TO OFFER FOR A BLOODTHIRSTY PLAYER.

## 3. WORLD OF WARCRAFT

THIS PARTICULAR MMORPG IS SO COMPELLING THAT IT HAS EARNED THE INFAMOUS NICKNAME "WARCRACK" FROM ITS LEGIONS OF ADMIRING FAN. THERE IS EVEN AN EPISODE OF SOUTH PARK DEVOTED TO THIS GAME.

LIKE ALL OTHER GOOD MMORPGS, WOW, AS IT IS KNOWN, OFFERS PLAYERS A CHOICE TO PLAY 6 DIFFERENT CHARACTERS, FROM A MAGE TO A DWARF. PLAYERS THEN STRIVE TO COMPLETE VARIOUS QUESTS RANGING FROM THE EASY TO THE INSANELY HARD TO GAIN INCREASES IN LEVEL AND THEREFORE AUGMENT THEIR CHARACTER'S POWER. ALL OF THIS IS SET WITHIN THE BEAUTIFUL GRAPHICS THAT HAVE DEFINED THE STANDARDS OF MMORPGS WORLDWIDE. ALTHOUGH THE MONTHLY FEE REQUIRED TO PLAY THIS GAME MAY BE A BIT PRICY FOR US COLLEGE STUDENTS, MANY SAY THE PRICE IS INDEED WORTH IT.







Well, here are some highly useful German phrases that everyone should know.

English	German	Pronunciation
Hello. How are you?	Hallo. Wie geht s?	Hah-lo. Vee gay-st?
Bye, see you later.	Tsch ss/Tschau, bis sp ter.	Cheuz/chau, bish schpay-ter.
Could you help me please?	K nnen sie mir bitte helfen?	Koer-nen zee meer bi-te el-fen?
I m sick.	Ich bin krank.	Ish bee-n kraangk.
I love you.	Ich liebe dich.	Ish lee-ber dish.
Are you from Germany?	Sind Sie von Deutschland?	Zind zee von Doi-tsch- lahnd?
Oh, I ve run out of petrol.	Ach! Ich habe kein Benzin mehr.	Ah-k! Ish haa-be kain ben-tseen maer.
The grass is green.	Der Gras ist gr n.	Der grahs eei-st grue-n.
Where is the toilet?	Wo ist die Toilette?	Vo ist dee toil-le-ter?
Do you speak English?	Sprechen Sie Englisch?	Shpreek-en zee Eng-lish?
Excuse me/sorry.	Entschuldigung.	Ent-shul-di-gung.
Goodbye.	auf Wiedersehen.	owf vee-der-zayn.
Thank you.	Danke Sch n/Danke.	Tahn-ker sch-en/Tahn-ker.
Look! Tomato juice!	Schauen Sie! Tomatensaft!	Schawen-zee!To-maa-ten-zaft!
Go away!	Gehen Sie weg!	Gay-en zee-vek!
Yes. No.	Ja. Nein.	Yar. 9 (As how you pro- nounce the number nine ).
I cannot sing.	Ich kann nicht singen.	Ish kahn ni-sh zing-en.
Enough! Enough sausage!	Genug! Genug Wurst!	Gie-nooge! Gie-nooge vu-ir-st!
Help! My hair is on fire!	Hilfe! Mein Haar ist auf dem Feuer!	Hil-fer! Myne hah-r ei-st auf dem fai-er!
Sunway University college is really first-class!	Sunway University College ist wirklich klasse!	Sunway University College ist virk-litch klah-zer.
This article is weird.	Dieser Artikel ist unheimlich.	Dee-zer ah-tee-kel ist oon-hyme-litch.

Stuck in Germany with only an ECHO magazine? Do you have a crush on a German girl, but don t know how to express your feelings without accidentally insulting her in the process? Is some German pyromaniac keeping you locked up somewhere? (I seriously hope you didn t answer yes to the last question.) Or maybe you'd just like to learn a new language, or wanted to find how something is said in German?

# Ach! Deutsch

## Oh! German.







THE DARK KNIGHT

# UPCOMING MOVIES

So you've braved the queues, bought the popcorn, and prepared yourself for a long period of time without toilet relief. Looks like you are ready for a movie marathon, except you don't know which movies to watch. Don't worry, let ECHO do the picking for you. Here's our top 10 pick of movies coming out soon!

## 1. THE DARK KNIGHT

How can we not award this blockbuster the top spot? We assure you that all the hype surrounding this movie is indeed well-deserved. From the really creative posters to the superb trailer, this sequel to *Batman Begins* certainly has a lot of expectations to live up to. But it goes without saying for anyone who has watched the trailers that late Heath Ledger has provided a mind-blowing performance as the Joker. But as this is really Two-Face's movie, it's been frustrating that we have not seen much of him yet. Add in the new Batcycle and you'll have no excuse as to skip this movie at all. And, if anything, the unfortunate passing of Ledger will only make the film even darker than it was meant to be. May he rest in peace...

In an age of mostly poor comic-to-movie adaptations, Guillermo del Toro (*Pan's Labyrinth*) has been one of the best directors out there to handle the fantasy-genre. And the first *Hellboy* movie did not disappoint. This upcoming sequel, however, carries an original plot written by *Hellboy*-creator Mike Mignola and del Toro himself. This time around, the Big Red Guy (Ron Sherman) and his Bureau of Paranormal Research Division must stop an elfin prince and his Golden Army from taking over the human world. Definitely a must see for all as the effects are simply stunning, and that's beside the fact that Seth McFarlane, creator of *Family Guy*, plays a pile of goo.

## 2. HELLBOY II: THE GOLDEN ARMY





### 3. THE X-FILES: I WANT TO BELIEVE



Weren't you ever frightened by the eerie whistling tune coming out of your TV indicating that it was X-Files time? Well, believe it or not, it's back just when we thought it was over! Based on the hit series, this movie, the second X-Files movie to date, is totally separated from the 'mytharc' of the X-Files series. Although the project development for the movie is still top secret, no one can say 'No' after such a long hiatus from the X-Files. All we can say based on the trailer is that this movie involves psychics, cyrogenics, long needles, a lot of dead bodies and of course, that eerie whistling tune.

### 4. IGOR



With Dreamwork's Kung Fu Panda out of the way and with only Disney-Pixar's Wall-E to contend with, The Weinstein Company's animated feature opens the door to a world of evil geniuses and their trivial unthinking Igor's. But there is one special Igor (voiced by John Cusack) with a brilliant mind. Unfortunately, he is not taken seriously by everyone else and is forced to become an assistant to the brilliant Dr. Glickenstein (John Cleese). But when Dr. Glickenstein suddenly dies, Igor gets a chance to enter Eva, his creation, into the Evil Science Fair. The theme of this movie is similar to The Nightmare Before Christmas but Igor looks set to change the way we view Igor's forever!

### 5. STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS



Think you have seen this before? Think again. George Lucas is going 3D with this latest Star Wars instalment. Unfortunately, as much of the details about this movie are under wraps, we can't say much more than that the movie bridges the links between The Attack of the Clones and The Revenge of the Sith. Spielberg himself was so impressed that he has been quoted to do a sequel, also in 3D. It is, however a pity that only Samuel Jackson and Anthony Daniels will be reprising their roles in this one, but let's hope it will carry off anyway!

### 6. CITY OF EMBER



Based on the captivating novel by Jeanne Duprau of the same name, City of Ember is about an underground sanctuary city that is stocked with enough resources and defences for mankind to live out the apocalyptic disaster it was designed to withstand. The catch, however, is that it was designed to be impregnable for only 200 years before it self-destructs, which everyone in Ember has pretty much forgotten about. But two 12-year-olds discover this none too soon and find instructions on how to escape. Will everyone be able to escape Ember in time?





## 7. SAW V

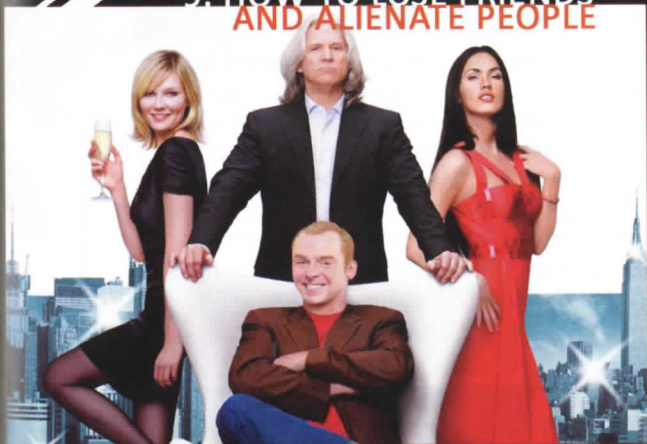
Ah, yes, the great trailblazer of the slasher genre is back with another sequel. Featuring the near-same cast (who can forget that good ol' Mr Painted-Face? ), the near same plot devices such as several interestingly shaped devices with safety issues, and, yes, gallons and gallons of blood and tears. Oh, and of course, the screams. As exciting as this saga has been, *Saw V* seems more intent on refining the *Saw* brand rather than redefining it. However, as their tagline guarantees, there WILL be blood, so regardless of opinion this should be a great slasher flick to watch. (Unfortunately, there's no leg-cutting this time around)



## 8. TROPIC THUNDER

Starring powerhouse comics Jack Black and Ben Stiller, along with the super-cool Robert Downey Jr., this movie looks set to be a promising comedy of epic proportions. *Tropic Thunder* sees an action star (Stiller), a slapstick comic (Black) and an award-winning actor (Downey Jr.) collaborating in a war movie. However, when the director is frustrated by this doomed combination, he decides to 'take them off the grid' into a real war situation, only that the trio think it's all one long shooting. Downey pulls a double surprise playing an Australian trying to play an African American (talk about splitting personalities!). We already saw this funny trio in the *American Idol Gives Back* episode in which they cameo-ed as backup dancers—this movie looks set to be even funnier. Check out YouTube for their promotional video while you're at it for more laughs.

## 9. HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS AND ALIENATE PEOPLE



Sean Pegg has hardly failed to disappoint. This time, Pegg plays Sidney Young, a British tabloid writer who regularly mocks celebrities and their fans' adorations and who is offered a job in New York-based *Sharps* magazine. Of course, he soon gets entangled in the strings of publicist Eleanor Johnson (Gillian Anderson) as well as the attentions of Sophie Maes (Megan Fox) and Alison Olsen (Kirsten Dunst), all along his path to success in the magazine. Based on the memoirs of the same name by Toby Young, this movie looks quite similar to *The Devil Wears Prada*, but with the hilarious Sean Pegg to boot.



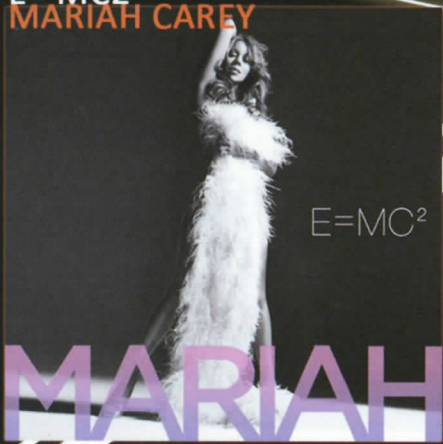
## 10. MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA

Directed by the one and only Spike Lee, this film should not disappoint. As with most of his works, this movie is basically a historical war film about the Sant'Anna di Stazzema Massacre in World War II during the German invasion of Italy, so be prepared for blood and gore. The only thing still unknown about this film is the purpose of that strange 5-million dollar marble bust and it looks like we'll have to wait until the movie comes out September this year. Despite some premature criticism over how the Massacre was treated in the movie, we can assure fans of this genre that this will be a promising watch!





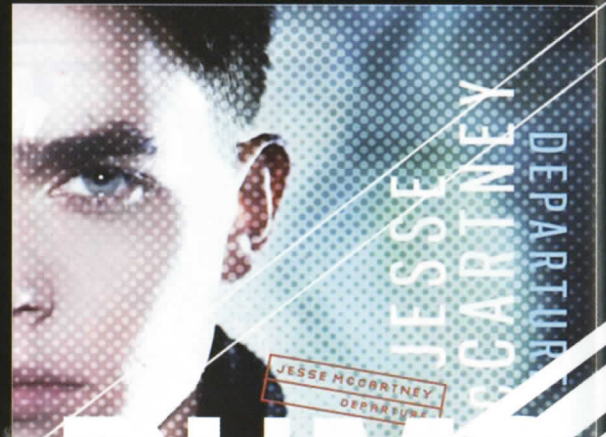
E=MC2  
MARIAH CAREY



After the first listen to this album, it doesn't take Einstein to figure out that  $E=mc^2$  (yes, I am referring to the album and not the world-changing scientific discovery) is yet another album of foot-tapping and infectious beats with highly suggestive or bland lyrics. I mean, "Touch my body"? C'mon! There's got to be plenty of other things to write songs about besides your sexual escapades (or fantasies), no? This album somehow gives off the same feel as the previous one, the songs even showing similar themes. Take 'Bye bye bye' for instance, which sounds eerily like 'Don't forget about us' from "The Emancipation of Mimi (TEoM)". Rapper T-Pain tried to save 'Migrate', but all in all, I still feel that this album offers nothing special and even "TEoM" is a better bet.

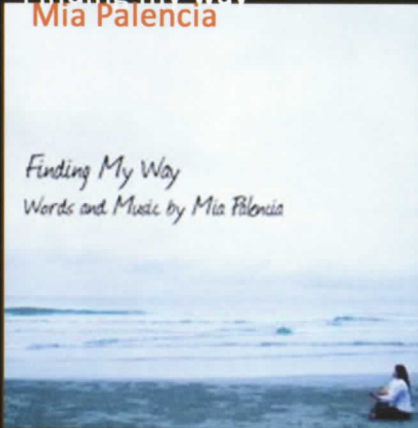
DEPARTURE JESSE McCARTNEY

Somewhere between breaking up with his long-time girlfriend Katie Cassidy and writing the song "Bleeding Love" which brought Leona Lewis to fame, Jesse McCartney produced an album. Titled "Departure", it was hyped up as having a more mature sound (and looks it, from the album cover and related photo-shoots). Generally, as compared to the hits off his last album like 'Just so you know' and 'Right where you want me', Jesse's latest songs have a less "rockin'" feeling to it, though his singing style is essentially still him. The first song from this album that played over the radio "Leavin'" made me laugh, with the synthetic sounds in the background that greatly resembled a toy that can be found (and heard) easily at a 'pasar malam'. However, songs like "Told you so" and "My baby" are very much like the hit "She's no you" — melancholic but catchy and maybe a little touching. We may not always like Jesse McCartney, but as always, he manages to produce songs that still end up (though maybe only for short periods of time) in our mp3 players or iPods.



# ALBUMS REVIEW

Finding my way  
Mia Palencia



Released in April this year, "Finding my way" is Mia Palencia's first solo album, despite the fact that this jazz queen has already been singing for quite some time and has released two albums while singing with Roger Wang when they were known as 'Double Take'. With her soulful voice that carries tunes ever so easily as if she needn't even breathe between words, this was a very satisfying listen. Songs like 'What it means' and 'I Am' are even better because of the beautiful lyrics. Oh, and if you can't get enough of her, check out a video on YouTube of her singing 'More than Words' on a live-audience show. It's fantastic!

A YouTube sensation even before she had her cover of Rihanna's 'Umbrella' taking over the air waves, Marie's debut album "Unfold" is far from disappointing. Clinching a record deal allowed Marie to make proper recordings of the amazing songs she had written and produced at home, and posted on the aforementioned site. With her wholesome and straight-to-the-heart sound, Marie's music has some sort of magic that keeps listeners captivated. Songs like 'Say it again' and 'Girlfriend' beautifully capture the things that make relationships worth it, though the themes of both songs are almost antonyms to each other. Her innocent and sometimes hilarious lyrics coupled with simple piano arrangements or the strumming of a guitar make songs like "Stupid for you" so effortlessly a favourite. "Spell" and "Unfold" are very well written melancholic songs, perfect for those dreamy rainy days. All in all, this is one of those rare albums that will keep spinning in your CD player years from when you first lay hands on it. One problem, though. You're still here. Why haven't you rushed to the CD shop and gotten yourself a copy?! Get going, then!!

Unfold  
Marie Digby







# SPORTS

## Highlights in Retrospect

Yes, we have all been there. In the midst of studying, studying, and studying, we open the newspaper cover to discover that it is actually 2008 and the EURO Cup is around the corner. Don't worry; ECHO has got it covered. Here's our coverage on the latest (as of the time of writing) sports news.

### FOOTBALL



Finally, the long-awaited EURO 2008 is here to satisfy our Zaddiction to good football; sadly neglected since the end of the Premier League. Yes, unfortunately, England is not playing this year, much to the chagrin of a particular English fan in ECHO. However, the usual teams seem to be putting out some top notch football this year. As usual, the expected top dogs like Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands, at the time of writing, are leading in their respective groups with a score of 6. Surprisingly, Italy is far behind in the score tally, with a score of only 1. Of course, some pundits may claim this is due to Italy's aging players, but they may yet be in the running. Germany is one team eager to make it to the top, as captain Ballack proclaims. As for the victor, we are keeping the board open as this year it is very likely a dark horse may overtake the more accomplished teams. ECHO expects the real fight to start within the top 4. So, till then, we await with bated breath for the winner this year.

Much to the chagrin of Federer fans, the current world Number 1 has failed to live up to his reputation as the genius, with his recent performance in Roland Garros leaving much to be desired. Indeed, the winners this year appear to be 2nd and 3rd-seeded Rafael Nadal, affectionately known as Rafa by fans, and Novak Djokovic respectively. The question on our minds now is: Is Federer too old for the job? ECHO thinks not. His performances in the earlier matches leading up to the Grand Slam Final, including his stunning match against Monfils, indicates that he can still play some good tennis. However, he is still recovering from a recent illness, say reports, and therefore will not be at his best by Wimbledon, which has been under his belt since his reign as the longest ever world number 1 began. However, ECHO predicts that he will most probably not win the Wimbledon this year based on his current performance and Nadal's stunning play at the grass courts during the Artois Championships in London recently, proving that Bjorn Borg may be right about Nadal winning this year. Of course, this is assuming that Federer does not improve his performance on the grass courts by the time Wimbledon comes around. Federer fans at ECHO wish him all the best for his first Grand Slam win this year.

### TENNIS







## FORMULA 1

Why did the McLaren car crash last year? Because they used too many Ferrari parts, that's why! Okay, maybe that was a horrible joke, but the hubbub surrounding the Ferrari-McLaren fiasco has seemingly subsided, with Louis Hamilton's dreams of becoming the first rookie in history to win the Grand Prix title. For the uninformed, the fiasco involved McLaren stealing vital engineering information from Ferrari. Whether they actually used this information or not is unclear. One thing is clear, though; it certainly took the fight out of the race and gave Ferrari a clear win last year. Depressing as this news was to us Hamilton fans, he seems to be on track yet again this year, trailing second behind Kubica, although he did win the Monaco Grand Prix, which is a huge achievement for one so young. Of course, although it remains to be seen if he will actually regain his top standing, ECHO predicts that he will, based on his more consistent performance than Kubica, and the fact that Kubica's win was basically luck due to an unbelievably unlucky set of coincidences that put both Kimi Raikkonen and Louis Hamilton out of the race.

Malaysia's unofficially official sport, badminton has truly become one of our nation's top performers in recent events. Singles shuttler Lee Chong Wei is still on track in terms of his gameplay, unlike some of his predecessors, who were akin to flashes in the pan. Our doubles team of Tan Fook/Wan Wah were also doing quite well until the horrendous decision to pair them with other partners. Besides our wonderful players, the Malaysian Badminton Association can expect to be under a lot of pressure with the Olympics coming up. Let us hope for the best for our teams in the future and *Malaysia Boleh!* (How could I resist?)



## BADMINTON

## The Olympics: To Tech or Not to Tech?



Finally, the much-awaited Olympics are around the bend, and it's China's turn to play host. It is therefore not surprising that on the 8th of October 2008, at 8.08.08pm (that's 5 eights for those who have not been counting), athletes will begin to compete in venues with names like the Water Cube and the Bird's Nest. Feeling auspicious yet, anyone? Of course, not all is as auspicious as it seems. The Olympic news concerns, of all things, the level of technology allowed for competitive use. Recently the Olympic Committee granted Japan the right to use the new Speedo swimsuits that incorporate shark-like denticles, which in turn give swimmers less viscous drag underwater. Yet, how much is too much? This technology race is being taken very seriously by all countries involved this October, with almost all the countries involved funding their own individual research teams to improve their respective athletes' performance, even if it means shaving off 0.02 seconds off the 100 meter sprint world record (seriously). All ECHO can say is that the results are looking very, very cool thus far and we wish all the teams good luck.

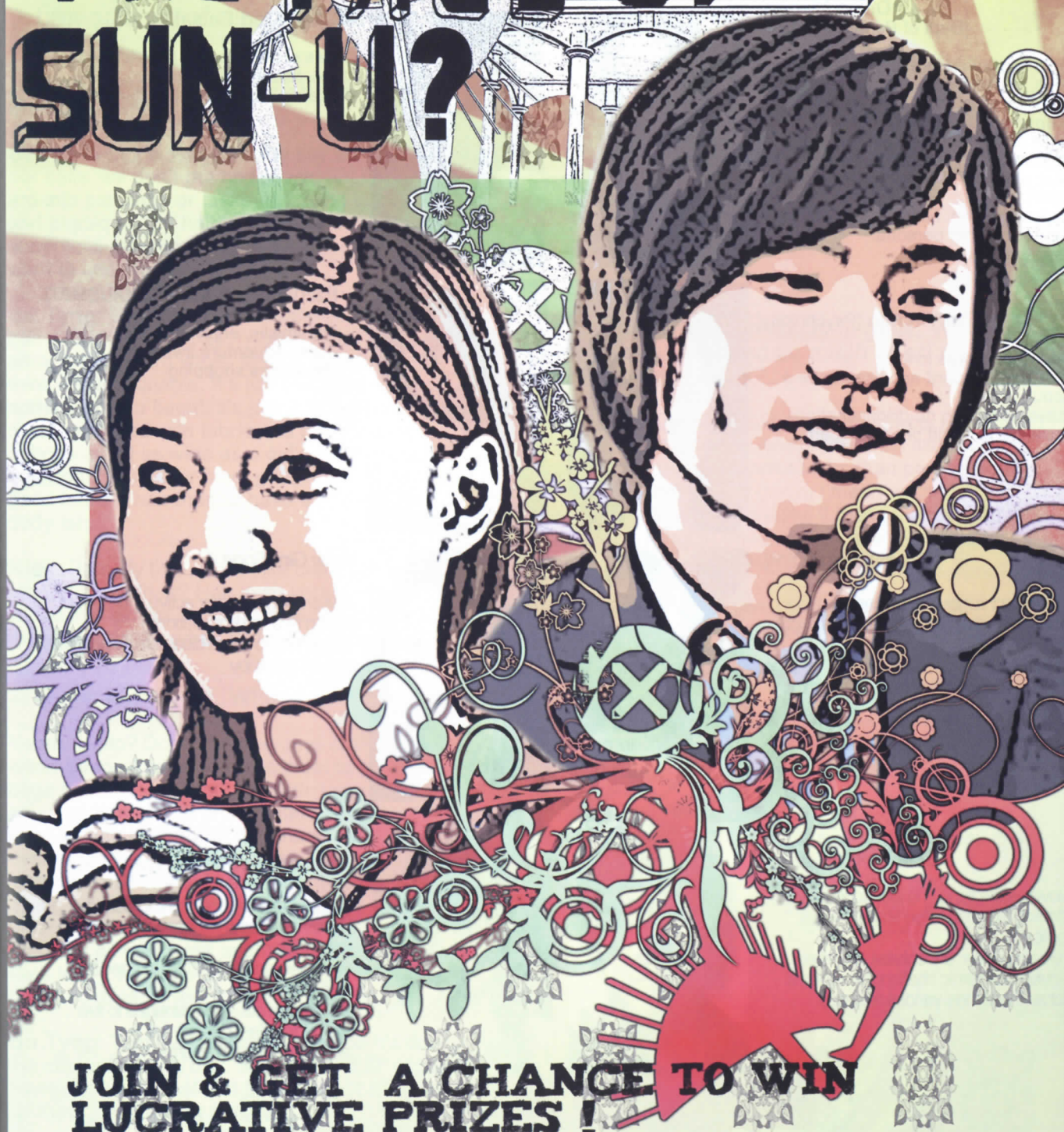




COMINGUP



# ARE YOU THE FACE OF SUN-U?



**JOIN & GET A CHANCE TO WIN  
LUCRATIVE PRIZES !  
GET THE FAME & FUN THAT COMES ALONG WITH IT !**

**EMAIL, ENQUIRE, REGISTER @ [ECHONLINE.BLOGSPOT.COM](mailto:echonline.blogspot.com)  
26-28TH MAY 08**



### Amino Hafidz [ADTP]

- he's very athletic, playing rugby and futsal among other sports.
- He loves movies.
- He is also really resilient
- a good writer as well, and he tries his best to make everyone around him comfortable.



### Divya Menon

[Dept of Performing Arts]

- puts best effort in everything she does, enjoys interacting with people, loves dancing, taken part in CIMP talent night, Sunway Cultural night, 2004, Monash Cultural Night 2006, Monash Ball, 2006/07.
- was nominated as valedictorian for CIMP.
- people person, believes Sunway is a platform for her personal development.



### Pui Yih Min [Psychology]

- loves judo, was in the prefectorial board and used to be a scout
- says no to war, no discriminations,
- believes in world peace & liberty



### Calvin Yong [ADTP]

- committed rugby player and manager of the Sunway Stallions rugby club.
- disciplined in what he does
- interested in leadership and military science



### Jann [ADTP]

- loves exercising, 'no junk food or soft drinks, exercise three times a week policy',
- weaknesses: chocolates & waffles
- loves academic challenges, reads a lot and watches various tv series.



### Cassie Kok

- loves blogging, plays the piano, writes own songs.
- known as people person, believes in living life to the fullest.
- doing psychology-interested in individual differences



### Muhammad Faisal [ACCA]

- loves sports (playing & watching)
- food, travelling, and experiencing different cultures



### Patricia Goh Mei Hui, [AUSMAT]

- optimistic, enjoys life,
- loves adventure, swimming, chocolates, shopping



### Koay Gim Soon

- loves sports, former active member of st.john (first aid competitions)
- belives in no more disasters, is positive and living happy



### Joanne Chia [Psychology]

- bubbly, has a good fashion sense,
- loves art, was a winner in an art competition,
- volunteered for SPCA n in special needs centre
- loves animals and manages to live life to the fullest despite the assignments and exams



FACE  
OF SUN-U  
NOMINEES





# What's with guys

The guys of ECHO demystify some of the questions on guys that baffle those of the opposite sex.

## 1. What's with the hair? Is there nothing else to flaunt?

**Sean:** Well, I would certainly say so! We don't do our nails, we don't put on lipstick, not many of us are into piercings or makeup... Next to our looks and physique, the hair is probably the only other superficial thing we have to look good. Unless you want to see tattoos...

**Su Tyng:** Seriously I don't really bother about my hair. I'm fine as long as it doesn't look abnormal or attractive in weird ways. Maybe the other guys think it's fashionable. It's not that guys have nothing else to flaunt, it's just that our bodies are mostly covered with fabric and our dressing options aren't as wide as a girl's, so that leaves the hair right? I think for most guys, it's easier to have good looking hair than to have a good looking body lah.

**Nick:** Partially true; what else can guys fuss about other than clothes? Hair is so versatile; it can be styled into almost anything depending on our mood, especially when it's football time.

## 2. Guys and crying. What's wrong with that?

**Sean:** Hello? Don't you see guys crying openly when Simon Cowell reduces them to punching bags on American Idol? I wouldn't say there is anything wrong with crying, although guys often want to look strong and dependable in front of everyone else. If everyone else breaks down, at least he's still standing and putting up a fight and giving people support. Or maybe guys just have different emotional channels. What girls might perceive as sad, guys might not. In the end, no one likes to cry in public do they? They'd rather cry in private circles, or just alone.

**Su Tyng:** Yeah what's wrong? Maybe it's due to the Chinese saying that '男人流血不流泪' (what flows from men shall not be tears, but BLOOD). Or they're just acting macho.

**Nick:** Guys in general think that crying shows sensitivity, which is a big no-no for guys as it simply does not fit in with the masculine profile we try to emulate (when was the last time you saw Bruce Willis cry? ). Also, guys feel that a better method of releasing stress is to laugh it off as some cosmic joke. Besides, to cry one needs tissue:)

## 3. Girls look for sensitivity in guys. Why then, do guys spend so much effort on building their looks?

**Sean:** Well, superficiality is what attracts first and foremost, isn't it? And which girl would like to approach a guy who looked less than presentable? Besides, to look good doesn't mean we're jeopardising our personality. If the girl is repelled by our looks, it would be less likely she'd be able to know us and our 'sensitive' side at all.

**Su Tyng:** Who said we build on our looks to attract girls? Whether you like it or not, looks matter in first impressions. And first impressions matter. Not just with girls, but with everyone else. How we look

reflects to a certain extent who we are. Before you assess one's sensitivity, you assess his looks. Shallow it may be, but it's damn true.

**Nick:** Because looks are the first judge of character. Like with girls, for example; makeup is a must when going out as it gives a good first impression. Similarly, guys like to look good when going out as it is the first thing a person judges you by, like a person wearing glasses must be smart.





#### 4. What boosts guys' egos (the things to do, and the ones to avoid, being a girl.)

**Sean:** I think guys love it when they're the centre of attention, shows that they've got people eating out of their hands. Perhaps even better would be being popular with girls. As for girls hoping not to step on a guy's toe, I guess it's about not making him feel useless. Give him some attention to let him know he exists in your life.

**Su Tyng:** I think it varies from individual to individual. Generally, compliments and praises boost egos, insults and criticisms diminish egos. Some guys can be quite sensitive with their size, weight or height, so watch out when you comment on those. Guys like me don't give a hoot.

**Nick:** Obviously commenting on our looks. Another thing that girls can do would be to let us do the suggesting and the decision making; that gives us a HUGE ego boost as it shows that you believe we can make the decision. We in general dislike being asked to carry handbags when you go somewhere as it is really embarrassing. Also another thing to avoid would be dragging us around for shopping; we prefer movies for a date.

#### 5. Explain the fine line between metrosexuality and femininity.

**Su Tyng:** When a guy acts feminine, he's called a metrosexual. When a girl behaves metrosexually, she's being feminine. Okay nolah. Metrosexuality is about a straight, urban man going against the traditional perception of what a man should be, i.e. wanting to look good, being fashion-conscious/trendy, not being silent about their personal problems, at the end of the day, he's still a man and is presented as one. Metrosexuality is not just a sexual orientation or anything, it's a philosophy. Femininity is when someone behaves like a girl, and does things that a metrosexual would not ordinarily do. A girl should be able to tell when a guy is behaving like one of them.

**Nick:** Metrosexuality is a habit whereas femininity is a personality. To be metrosexual means the need to look appealing to the opposite sex, a.k.a you, regardless of whatever is needed, from facials to hair scrubs. Femininity means feeling compelled to behave like girls, or like girls the way the person believes them to behave.

#### 6. What would a 'guy' pet (animal) be?

**Sean:** A lion. Or a snow leopard like Lord Aslan's from His Dark Materials. Roar, feel the masculinity!!! No, it varies, really. Guys aren't that generic.

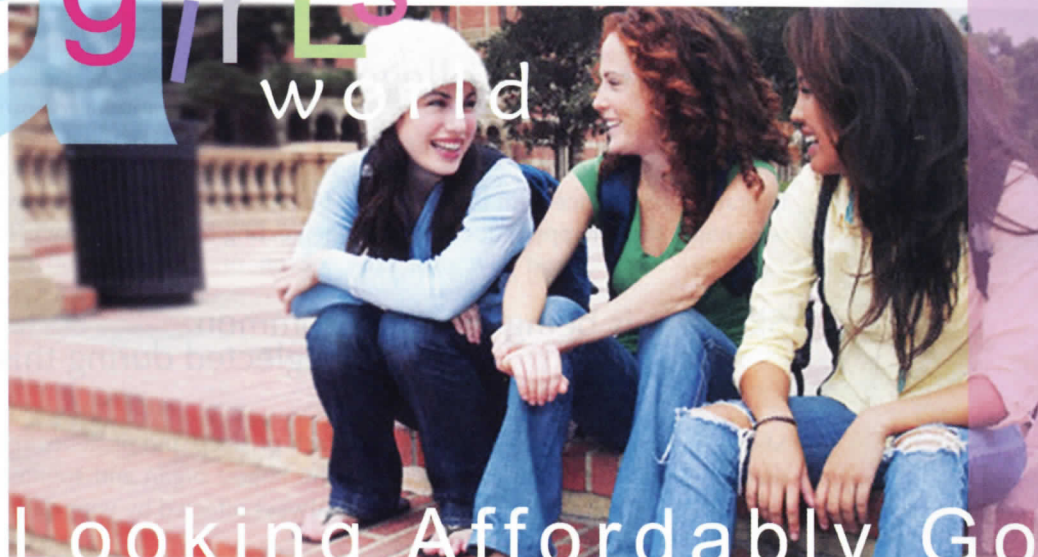
**Su Tyng :** Dragons and gryphons!! Well I'm fine with a medium or large dog, a stallion if I have the resources.

**Nick:** Definitely a big dog. Nothing exotic because we are too lazy and usually have insufficient funds to buy one to take care of them, and nothing too small because small pets are usually considered by us to be feminine.





# girl's world



## Looking Affordably Good

AFFORDABLE CLOTHES, SHOES OR ACCESSORIES

**L**et's face it, we are students without our own personal earnings (kudos to you if you work part-time for extra pocket money), with limited allowance and with the recent rise of the price of petrol, it doesn't help much with finances. As much as we want to splurge on designer handbags to look amazing, we can't. So the million dollar question: Is it possible to find affordable and fashionable clothes, shoes or even accessories without burning a hole in our wallets?

Yes there is.

### 1. Vintage is back

Remember that time when your parents decided to pass down their clothes to you but you ended up throwing them away because they were "old" and out of fashion. Hope this doesn't hurt because those old and out of fashion vintage clothing is now back in trend. Yes, I'm talking about your parents' clothes which are 10 to 20 years old. The rusty large leather belts and those worn-out yet beautiful leather boots. Thanks to famous celebrities like Kate Moss and Dita von Teese, vintage is definitely back in trend. The thing about fashion is that it's a never ending cycle; old trends will always come back. Lucky for me, I've saved up my parents' old vintage clothes. It works miracles because you get to save money by reusing them and still manage to look like you've walked out of a magazine.

Tip: the older the garment looks, the better.

### 2. Online shopping.

Ah, the wonders of the internet. This year a new way of shopping has hit Malaysia; online shopping. What is online shopping, you ask. Well local entrepreneurs have now set up blogs to sell clothes, accessories and shoes to readers on the World Wide Web. So far, it has been a big hit in Malaysia because you can actually see the difference in price, variety and convenience. The majority of the prices of the items that are sold online are more affordable for the same items that you see in malls. There are hundreds of online Malaysian shopping blogs out there for you to compare till your fingers drop! Last but not least, hands down, it is convenient for us students to shop online because all we really need is money, a laptop and online connection. You get to save time and definitely eliminate the stress of finding a parking spot in malls on weekends. Personally, I remember seeing a top that I was head over heels for until I saw the 'attractive' price tag, I went back home the same day and saw the exact same top on one online shopping blog, cheaper by RM30. I bought it in a heartbeat.

Tip: Don't know where to start? Try out the Malaysian daily online shopping directory 'A Shopaholics Den' <http://ashopaholicsden.blogspot.com/>

### 3. Boyfriend shirts

This is one of the moments when I wish I had a boyfriend. If you window shop around Sungai Wang plaza, you'll realize that boyfriend shirts are also back in trend. No idea what to wear to college? Just borrow your boyfriend's over sized button-up shirt, buckle on a vintage belt and pair it up with shorts or long pants. I guess that's the advantage of being a female, we can wear males' clothes without looking weird. You get to save money and prove to your boyfriend that he has good fashion sense.

### 4. Junk yard sales.

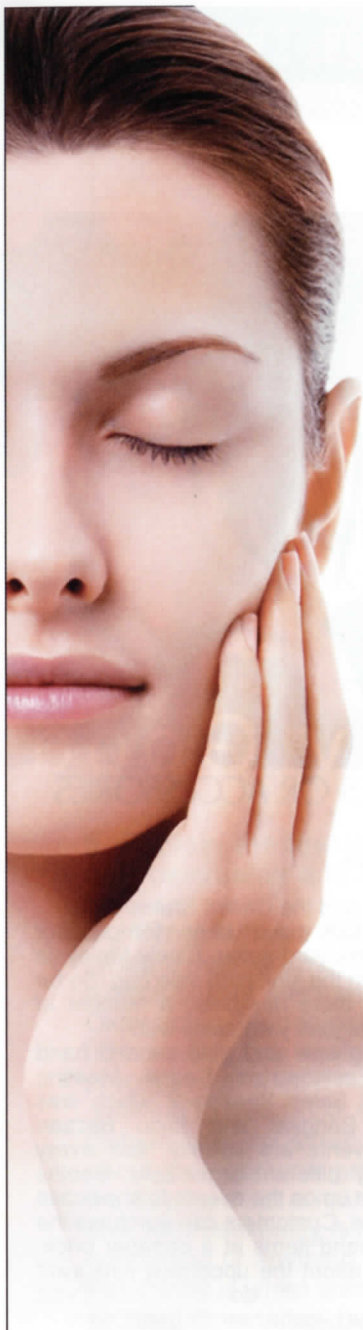
Australia and the United States of AmericaUSA have been famous for having junk yard sales. Lately Malaysia has gotten the junk yard sale bug. So far this year there has been a number of successful junk yard sales with interesting new and also second hand items, Fashionistas Secret Meeting Junkyard Sales Season 2 which was held in Bangsar and Bijou Bazaar. These events are usually held every month by different organizers. Booths will be set up on the events to showcase their items. Customers can purchase the second hand items at a cheaper price. To learn about the upcoming junk yard sale, do visit <http://www.bijoubazaar.blogspot.com/>

Tip: When purchasing a second hand item, remember to always double check the item for stains on the item.

## power

Hopefully these tips will help you in improving and also exploring the fashion trends and maybe even reinventing your own personal style without splashing too much money on clothes. Good luck.





## Skincare and College

Everyone says that the best time of life is college times. Young adults enjoyed the most liberating experience with total freedom being away from home. However, most of them who enjoy these happy times tend to be neglecting something very essential.

Skincare is being the most common  
that is neglected during this stage of life.

Many times, college life involves stress, lack of sleep and presents different environment that is not easy to cope up with. Being the largest organ and spending most of the day exposed to the air, your skin condition is always affected by your daily routine.

As most of the time students stays indoors in college, they do not realize the importance of skincare because they are not exposed to sunlight. Also, makeup comes first for most ladies during college times. Therefore, makeup comes to the top of the list to look pretty and skincare is very much forgotten.

The most surprising beauty secret we discovered and would like to share here is that a good skincare routine can take years off your skin, where else makeup is to enhance your beauty. With healthy and problem-free skin, any makeup applied is beautiful. The more natural a woman wears makeup, the younger she looks.

College can bring about levels of different stress, late-night study sessions and unhealthy food which leads to breakouts, skin dehydration and other symptoms of declining skin condition. While thinking of ways to lower down stress, why not start on your skin. It will be much easier to make sure your complexion stays clean and healthy by paying attention to it constantly.

For skin to look its best, **moisture** is one of the important elements. Without moisture, skin can feel tight and uncomfortable or oily. Dry skin condition can appear shallow, obvious lines, lost of elasticity and unexpected blemishes can crop-up.





Make it an effort by starting on the 3 simple steps: **cleanse, soften and moisturize.** Repeat these 3 steps at least twice a day in the morning before starting your day and before going to bed. Also, always remember to wash off your makeup before going to bed as failing to do so, your skin will be suffocating while you sleep.



Being indoors during college does not mean that you are immune to UV rays.

Always remember to wear sunscreen each time you step out of your house and to enhance protection, you can always use makeup that contain SPF.

For effects of late-nights, use a good eye cream to banish puffiness or bags top continue looking fresh. For upset skin, use a facial mask to soothe stressed skin to bring back the radiance in you.

Maintain your skin's beauty by **simple skincare** routines and you will have beautiful skin throughout the years without regrets. The future of beauty skin is now.



SHISEIDO



# HE says, SHE says

"Chinese girls are hot!" exclaims Hassan, a friend of mine, as two fair and willowy girls with big round eyes pass our table in the cafeteria. God knows if they had heard him there and then amid all the buzz. But they didn't turn around to stare at him into smithereens, and even if they had, I suspect Hassan has been in enough hot soup to know how to hold his cards shameless.

If you're a seasoned bum in the cafeteria, you're bound to notice that the tables that straddle the Student Centre entrance form the favourite haunt for a notorious bunch of guys including Hassan (whose real identities and course programme I shall keep discrete for the sake of my amiable ties with them) who indulge in the activity of Ogling (a.k.a. Checking Girls Out).

I for one know of this because... well, destiny has ordained that this bunch of wolves (perhaps hawks would be the better word) are my friends and that I'm often in their midst during their voyeuristic rituals.

Okay! So maybe I also join in with them once in a while. Alright, fine! So I also do a bit of ogling on my own—but you must understand how difficult it is to resist such voyeuristic pleasures when testosterone and all those other hormones start to kick in!

But wait! Before you girls flip the page in disdain thinking the worst of me, let me say that I am hardly as loud or brash as the other guys at the table. I may look (maybe even stare), but I prefer to keep my boyish excitements to myself (those hormones, I can keep in check).

Nevertheless, I must admit: I do feel guilty for being that occasional creep. Sometimes I wonder whether the girls are actually aware of it when we hot-blooded boys are ogling, and if they are (and I'm sure they sometimes are), gosh, what they must think of us! Staring, after all, is rude.

Is guy's ogling acceptable? But the worst starts when guys share their 'catches of the day', spicing things up with a little fantasy and dissecting the girls into most vulgar and biologically-aesthetic proportions with words that are worse than rude. It's just plain disrespectful.

written by Sean  
design by Sara Lim

Some guys argue that girls ogle at guys too. But I suspect they are ever less menacing than us—much less direct, much less perverted and much less obvious. So while we boys might feel flattered if we ever catch a girl staring at us (and what a boost to our ego that must be!), it might not exactly go the same for girls.





**Tanisha Biafpal AUSMAT**

I think guys staring at girls is typical Malaysian. Me being a girl, if a guy is checking me out, it's actually pretty obvious and it feels pretty cheap at times. But... if the guy's attractive himself then I actually wouldn't really mind! Catcalls, on the other hand, are really irritating. If I caught a guy staring at me, I'd usually ignore it; if he was actually a real nice guy, he would come up



**Ho Ee Yong SCT**

Guys check girls out because they're sexy and hot. They always stare but I don't think it's disturbing—it's a natural thing. If I'm in a good mood, I'd stare back at them. If I'm not, then I'll show them the hand. (laughs) I think being checked out gives a girl confidence. It's fine, and it will build their self-esteem.

**Moza Al-Azri SHTLM**

Looking from far, sometimes, and looking for signals—those are okay. But staring is just annoying. I just ignore guys who stare, but sometimes I do feel disturbed. Don't just stare at us! Approach us. If you get rejected, at least you tried. Girls are more shy in checking guys out. They wouldn't approach them. They would just hint for him to approach. How do girls hint? I guess they'd just give looks and smile. (laughs)



**Jasmine Lee Psychology**

If guys start to flirt or whistle, it gets very irritating and annoying. Of course it's obvious when guys check girls out, and it's disturbing! Usually I'd just walk away from the place. I'd rather if a guy approached me and asked me whatever he wanted to ask, instead of sitting there staring and commenting about me.



**Mhd. Hussain SCT**

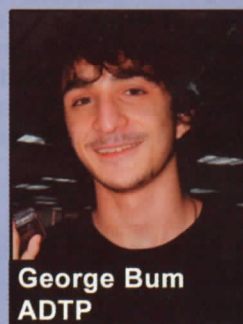
Well, it's the regular thing to do right? Normally I don't stare at girls, but sometimes when a gorgeous one comes by, well... But you'll probably creep the girl out if you stare for too long. You should just take a glance. But, really, you should approach them if you're interested. I approached a stranger I was interested once. It went out okay, not as good, but yeah, okay.

If you stare at someone for a really long time, that someone might think you were a nutcase. And if you stare at someone with a dirty look, then you're a maniac. If you get caught looking, just smile at her and that would be all. But it's probably best if you don't look at the person for too long cause she might get wrong signals. There are definitely better ways to check girls out but I'll keep mine to myself. In the end it depends on the signal you're sending, and the signal the person is sending back. And no, Facebook-ing is way too predictable.



**Ruben Chong Monash University**

By looking at them and giving them the special twinkle in the eye. (laughs) I usually just look once. I've been caught checking a girl out before but it's normal! If they look at you, just smile at them. The only thing you need in this country is to smile and everything will go fine. The first step to getting a girl is by checking her out, and from there, you make your second move.



**George Bum ADTP**



**Shafiq Azim A-levels**

When a guy's staring at a girl that doesn't mean he's in love or anything. There're different kinds of stares, and I don't think we're like some guys in KL who stare and make catcalls. I guess there are two ways to it if a girl notices you staring: she might be flattered or she might say, "Oh my God, what's this creep looking at?" I think staring is one of the basic things in tackling a girl. Of course, instead of staring you should just go and talk to them, ask for their contact details—that's better than staring for an entire year. Talk to them for a week and then the week after, you'll be friends.





# ! WHATS WITH GIRLS?



WHATS WITH THER  
LETS GO SHOPPING??

DUDE...WHY ARR WE LIKE GOSSIPING?  
THATS SO UNCOOL MAN...

YEA LIKE TOTALL



Girls, girls, girls. One of the greatest mysteries of the world. Not to say they're complex, just sometimes a little... complicated. Our ECHO girls **BRENDA CHAN** and **YEANG SU-LYN** help clear a little bit on these complications.

**1.** Girls say something and expect guys to read between the lines. What's with that?

**Brenda:** It's called subtlety, and it works between us girls, so we expect it to work for guys too. But we forget that they're an entirely different species.

**Su-lyn:** I suppose that it's due to the fact that girls want someone who's able to truly understand them. Maybe even to the extent that some girls are unconsciously demanding for guys to be psychic, or mind readers. But the truth is, no guy's that perfect. (Or freaky, depending on how you look at it).

**2.** Why do girls react based on what they feel more often than what they think?

**Brenda:** I suppose we're just made that way. If, generally speaking, all guys were to think first and feel later, this world would be a grey, grey place. And that's why we're here to balance it out.

**Su-lyn:** This probably has relation to the fact that females generally have higher EQ as compared to guys.

**3.** Why do girls tend to experience mood swings?

**Brenda:** More often than not, they're not actually mood swings, but pent-up or delayed reactions to certain things. PMS could be another reason (hormones can screw us up pretty bad).

**Su-Lyn:** Like I've said. The higher EQ makes girls more sensitive to nuances in feelings, hence they are more susceptible to frequent and dramatic mood changes.

**4.** Why do girls almost always go to the toilet in groups?

**Brenda:** Believe it or not, girls don't go to the toilet only to do their business. If you ask me, the toilet sort of chains off the area as girl territory (duh) like our own personal Venus where we're all girls and can identify with that. In there, gossip flows, and girls bond and analyze and scrutinize themselves in the mirrors (definitely the mirrors). Toilets bring out girl power. Or it could be they just happened to need to use the toilet at the same time.

**Su-lyn:** This is probably something that started from the days of secondary school. Girls were always advised to go to toilets in at least pairs, as it was safer. Even now, it's like a death wish, going off on a toilet-trip

**5.** What's the thing with girls and window shopping (a.k.a going into a store for like an hour to look at stuff and buy nothing?)

**Brenda:** I assume you're talking about clothes. One, she has no money but wants to try it on to feel pretty anyway or to buy it later. Two, she decides in the end that the item isn't worth its exorbitant price. Both sound pretty reasonable to me.

**Su-lyn:** Lack of resources. Or picky consumers





6. Is it true that girls are better gossipers than guys?

**Brenda:** I think by that you mean that more girls gossip than guys. I suppose that may be true. If as above, we have agreed that girls feel more than think, then that would probably make them people-persons. They would be more likely to be interested in the relationships and going-ons in the lives of other people than guys would.

**Su-lyn:** I'm pretty sure guys gossip as much as girls do, just not in such an open and malicious way as many females do.

7. What's a girl's opinion on guys wearing pink?

**Brenda:** Totally cool with it. In fact, guys are more likely to have our attention wearing pink.

**Su-lyn:** Personally, I find it disturbing. I won't shoot a guy who does, but I will most definitely question his motives for doing so. Honestly, let's keep pink for female signs or indications, artificially flavoured strawberry products, and all that jazz. Guys, keep it suave.

8. Girl's view on feminism.

**Brenda:** Feminism isn't about being masculine (that would take 'feminine' out of feminism) or aggressive or constantly trying to usurp males in the power balance, but about believing that both sexes are equal. Based on that definition, any self-respecting girl would be a feminist.

**Su-lyn:** Referring to "the doctrine advocating social, political, and all other rights of women equal to those of men" or simply "feminine character"?

9. What do girls carry in their heavy handbags?

**Brenda:** I don't carry heavy handbags.

**Su-lyn:** Laptops that couldn't possibly be any smaller, iPods, planners, sweets, wallets (which contain currency as well as dozens of cards and other stuff), hand phones, stationery, tissue paper, and random things that may be needed during an emergency. But then again, it would depend on what kind of girl is in question.

10. Why do girls view shopping as recreational whereas guys view shopping as a necessity?

**Brenda:** Because girls shop for clothes and guys shop for...I don't know, but something that doesn't require walking around and looking out for.

**Su-lyn:** There are many sides to this argument. While it is possible that guys simply have more things to do as recreation, it is equally possible that girls do many things (beside shop) during their 'shopping escapades'. It's hard to say.

And the mystery lives on...





# Where'd All the Good People Go?:

WHAT THE ARTHURIAN KNIGHTS GOT THAT WE DON'T HAVE

Have you watched any of those Elizabethan period films, where, when the Queen's path is obstructed by a puddle of water, her royal knights stumble in with such God-urged haste as if a life-sucking black hole had surfaced, making such a kerfuffle just to cover the muddy pool with their velvety capes for fear of defiling her oh-so royal highness? Or perhaps that Victorian-esque one where, whenever the ladies are about to leave the table, the men would get up in courtesy and not sit themselves again until the belle dames had left? How troublesome!

Well, some time late in March I met up with some friends. There came one of them, a girl, marching with a backpack, and a shopping bag in tow, as fit a picture of health as any rosy youth could be. Okay, so maybe she had a rather large backpack, but, being a frequent at the gym, it looked like she had everything under control, really. So then came the other friend, a guy, and we chatted for a while before setting off. And then it hit us: like a storm, our testosteronal egos were stripped clean away.

"Oh my God! Here, I've been standing for a good few minutes and neither one of you guys offered a hand to carry one of my bags: Is chivalry dead or what?" cries the girl friend.

And then she repeats, "Seriously, is chivalry dead?!"

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, well said it! But, come on, I thought a female, in all her intimate and sensitive nature, would treasure, above all, her beloved luggage – secrets, paraphernalia, and all – and so would never want to be parted. But instead of being rewarded for my earnest empathy, NO, she fires the gun and buries chivalry six feet underground.

One thing isn't dead for sure: women and their nervous breakdowns.

Gone are the amorous sentimentalities of Romeo and Juliet, the forbidden romances of Guinevere and Lancelot, the centuries-worth of loyal love harboured between Arwen and Aragorn (and the sacrifice the elf-princess makes in marrying a mortal—héy, it's romantic, no?).

Today, the Man is a beer-gutted couch potato that swears His name upon the English Premier League, oblivious and insensitive to the needs of the Woman. He does not give his seat to the lady standing in the bus nor does he hold the door open for her to pass (if that ever does happen, it is probably coincidental). He does not offer her his coat when she is cold nor does he offer his muscles to protect her from the dragons and monsters of the postmodern world.

Instead, today's Man prefers to check her out from afar, deal her overused and unoriginal and unromantic pick up lines, and 'pamper' her (if pamper at all) with all the stuff his wallet can afford, all in the name of getting inside her pants.

Ouch. But perhaps you boyfriends out there would say that you ARE such sweet gentlemen when it comes to your girlfriends. Ah, but you see, if you search for 'chivalry' on Wikipedia and scroll down for a bit, you'll find out that a Man's chivalric duties to Women is to be duly served to, 'a lady, and after her, all ladies' [emphasis added]. You'll see that treating all other girls right is all enough to show her your sincerity.

Diamonds? Flowers? Ugh. Open the door. Offer to carry her load or bear her burden. Be gentle and less aggressive. And, for the extra oomph, write a loving message to that special Woman straight and genuine from your heart.

As for what happened to me and my friend, well, you can bet that I've been offering to carry her stuff whenever I get the chance! And for the record, I don't like football (hint to all you single girls out there).

Chivalry prevails!





# 5 things guys dream to have

GADGETS AND CARS.JPG

LET'S IMAGINE, FOR A MOMENT, THAT WE HAVE SOMEHOW STUMBLED UPON A LARGE SUM OF MONEY (DON'T ASK WHERE IT CAME FROM). HERE'S THE CATCH, THOUGH: YOU HAVE ONLY 24 HOURS TO SPEND IT BEFORE IT VANISHES.

WHAT TO SPEND IT ON? OUT OF THOUSANDS OF THE COOLEST GADGETS AND GIZMOS, HERE'S OUR TAKE ON THE FIVE THINGS A GUY MUST HAVE, OTHER THAN DEEP POCKETS, OF COURSE. (NOTE: SEVERAL REVIEWS IN THIS ARTICLE ARE PARTIALLY BASED ON REVIEWS FROM [WWW.CNET.COM](http://WWW.CNET.COM))



## 01. LAPTOP



They come in all shapes and sizes, from the insanely huge 20" HP Pavillion HDX to the miniscule concept wristwatch Tablet by Microsoft. Without a doubt, a laptop is THE gadget a guy needs. However, with more laptops in the market today than there are pixels on a screen, it can be hard to find the right one. ECHO compares our top picks for you.



APPLE MACBOOK PRO  
APPLE MACBOOK PRO  
APPLE MACBOOK PRO  
APPLE MACBOOK PRO  
APPLE MACBOOK PRO  
APPLE MACBOOK PRO  
APPLE MACBOOK PRO

With all the hype surrounding the latest MacBook, how could I not test this baby out? I took a look at the 17 inch MacBook Pro. Its guaranteed cutting-edge graphics is backed by the 250 GB hard drive with 7200 rpm. The feature I loved, though, is the multi-touch keypad, although it takes a bit of getting used to. The generous keyboard handroom from the previous Macbook has been retained (yay!) but they've got rid of the dreadful battery life of previous versions with a boost of 4.5 hours (another yay)! Although it still doesn't have a built-in card reader, everything else makes up for that, making it one of our top laptops for 2008.

LENOVO THINKPAD X300  
LENOVO THINKPAD X300  
LENOVO THINKPAD X300  
LENOVO THINKPAD X300  
LENOVO THINKPAD X300  
LENOVO THINKPAD X300  
LENOVO THINKPAD X300

Sure, the Macbook Air might be turning heads, but in the world of ultra-ported laptops, nothing beats this baby in terms of features and functionality with three USB ports (the Air has only one), a VGA output, audio jacks, and an ethernet port; all for an extra 0.4 pounds of weight compared to the Air. Sure, it doesn't look great but it's shockproof and spill-proof. What I loved, though, was the one-touch cure-all Thinkpad button. Another interesting feature is the keyboard, which has a good feel to it, although its slim design can cause one to graze the touchpad when typing.





## 02. GAMING CONSOLES



Does the term "Microsoft v.s. Nintendo v.s. Sony" ring any bells? Well, it should, as these manufacturing giants have produced one seriously hot game console apiece. Given a choice between the Xbox 360, Wii, and the PS3, how is one to decide? Here's ECHO's review on the Big Three.

The Xbox 360 can definitely deliver, considering its comparably solid performance despite being the earliest of the three to appear in stores worldwide. The controllers are ergonomic and easy to use, despite their warped appearance, and with the flexible joints of the connecting port, you need not worry about any 'accidents'. Despite rumours abound about heating problems experienced by the Xbox 360, this console goes down as the first to revolutionise our way of thinking about consoles.



... XBOX 360 ...  
... XBOX 360 ...  
... XBOX 360 ...  
... XBOX 360 ...



... PLAYSTATION 3 ...  
... PLAYSTATION 3 ...  
... PLAYSTATION 3 ...  
... PLAYSTATION 3 ...  
... PLAYSTATION 3 ...  
... PLAYSTATION 3 ...  
... PLAYSTATION 3 ...

The most expensive of the three, and for a reason, the PS3 was meant to beat the Xbox360 flat. Its online network known as the Playstation Network seems to be on par with the Xbox Live. However, it has a 60 GB hard drive and an OS install option, supports Blu-ray and DVD playback, and has the best graphics we have ever seen, putting it ahead by far. The only downside is that it is not backwards compatible, so there goes all our PS1 and PS2 games.

The Nintendo Wii looks unique, no question. Who would have thought that that white, blockish controller thingy would sell? Yes, that thing shaped like a TV remote. The motion sensors linked to the Wii controller certainly puts you to a workout (a game of Tennis got me sweating, man!). Unfortunately, the Wii is hardly a contender, especially where its poor graphics is concerned. In conclusion, the Wii is but above average, with nothing to shout about except its really, really, really (did I say that three times?) cool controller!



... WII ...  
... WII ...  
... WII ...  
... WII ...

## 03. PHONES

Need to call someone? How about surfing the Web, playing multiplayer games, video conferencing, using GPS, taking pictures and listening to music; all at the same time? All you need is a handphone.



If there is one phone that can truly do it all, it would have to be the Nokia N95. Among its numerous features, including a 5 megapixel camera, the one feature that has been greatly publicised is the GPS feature, which really does cover over 100 countries, although it supposedly has some trouble with postcodes. For all of its features, it has an above-average battery life of 3.5 hours talk time. Nonetheless, it was so bulky that I could barely stuff it into my jeans! But hey, since when did size really matter?

... NOKIA N95 ...  
... NOKIA N95 ...  
... NOKIA N95 ...  
... NOKIA N95 ...  
... NOKIA N95 ...  
... NOKIA N95 ...  
... NOKIA N95 ...







... IPHONE ...  
 ... IPHONE ...  
 ... IPHONE ...  
 ... IPHONE ...  
 ... IPHONE ...  
 ... IPHONE ...  
 ... IPHONE ...

Like all Apple devices – including Steve Jobs – this baby is amazing. First up is its superb design, which should be one of the Wonders of the World. Without any visible buttons, it feels and looks sleek, especially the unexpected solidity of the phone and its glass panel. Its revolutionary touch screen is surprisingly accurate and, for once, does not leave those ugly fingerprints, and just like the MacBook Pro, its got multi-touch functions. Overall, it is indeed a phone, as Stevie predicted, we would love.

## 04. CARS

It is amazing how much a three letter word can change someone's life. It is even more amazing when that three letter word can go from 0 to 60mph in 2.7 seconds without breaking anything but the speed limit. If you haven't guessed it yet, the word is 'car'.

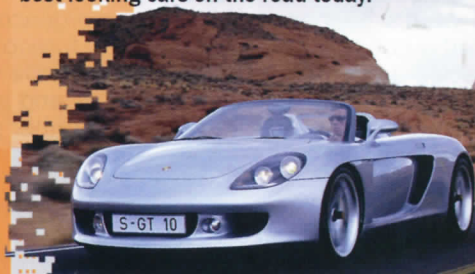


SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO  
 SSC ULTIMATE AERO



With a name that sounds like a government school aside, the SSC is making heads turn quickly. Very quickly, in fact, as it is officially the fastest production car on the planet, with a 0 to 62 mph acceleration in 2.78 seconds and a maximum speed of 250 mph. Sadly, speed aside, its boxy exterior leaves much to be desired. But then again, design is no big deal if you are too fast for people to see it.

As the saying goes, old is gold. This is especially true with the Porsche, which started production in the late 90s. However, it still looks stunning, even when compared to more recent supercar models. Although not as fast as cars like the Ferrari Enzo or the Bucati Veron, it trumps all in terms of its superb leather seating and precision driving—steering is top notch. There is really nothing to complain about this car, and it is still one of the best looking cars on the road today.



PORSCHE CARRERA GT  
 PORSCHE CARRERA GT  
 PORSCHE CARRERA GT  
 PORSCHE CARRERA GT



## 05. SHOES



Shoes?? One might have expected something more, but let's face it—shoes are what define us, even more so when they have built-in suspension, weigh less than this magazine and still manage to carry hefty price tags. Price tags aside, the coolest pair of shoes on the market now hands down is the Nike Air Zoom Moire. Like all Nikes, it's a good sports shoe with superb flexibility, but the main feature of the Air Zoom is that it has a built-in iPod sensor, which matches your walking speed to the music you are listening to—talk about worldwide iPod domination!





# Testosterone and Metrosexuality

**Testosterone** [tes-TOS-tuh-rohn] Biochemistry, the sex hormone, C19H28O2, secreted by the testes, that stimulates the development of male sex organs, secondary sexual traits, and sperm.

**Testosterone** is evidently one of the closest words that would be associated to males. To have testosterone would be synonymous with masculinity and all things male. So obviously the subjects under discussion are males.

For as long as there were distribution and allocation of roles, males have been the 'stronger' gender, for example, it was the cavemen who went out to track down, tackle and kill wild (and probably dangerous as well) animals for food. Males were the ones with strapping muscles who would build huge structures for shelter, or as traps.

But what's happening with the emergence of this thing called metrosexuality? Is it alright to forego the strapping muscles and 'macho' front? Alright, for the sake of those who know hardly anything about this and are wondering what metrosexuality is, here are two rather good explanations.

*"At dinner the other night, my date listed the calorie count of the main entrees, raising an eyebrow at my chicken Alfredo selection after he had ordered a salad. I saw him check his reflection in the silver water pitcher three times. During dessert, he looked deeply into my eyes and told me he thought what we have together is very special. It was our third date.*

*It was then that I realized why my dating life has been as mysterious as the Bermuda Triangle since I arrived in Washington. This city, unlike any other place I've lived, is a haven for the metrosexual. A metrosexual, in case you didn't catch any of several newspaper articles about this developing phenomenon (or the recent "South Park" episode on Comedy Central), is a straight man who styles his hair using three different products (and actually calls them "products"), loves clothes and the very act of shopping for them, and describes himself as sensitive and romantic. In other words, he is a man who seems stereotypically gay except when it comes to sexual orientation."*

[Alexa Hackbarth, The Washington Post]

Or if you'd prefer, here's a comment written by a guy:

*"Macho man has bitten the dust: he's been replaced by something just as tough inside, but softer at the edges."*  
[Peter Gotting]

So, what about guys today who take extra care of and great pride in how they look, often pampering themselves as much and as elaborately as women do?

For this article, many guys were actually questioned on their views on metrosexuality, and sad to say, the replies were very disappointing. So perhaps with this article guys may be a little bit more aware of the existence of this new breed of males, and perhaps even realize that they are metrosexual themselves!

Personally, I find metrosexuality a very positive and intriguing thing. It shows that guys too have the capacity to take good care of themselves and take pride in their appearance (and not feel a lack of dignity by doing so) as well as ensuring that they feel good about themselves. I mentioned cave men grunting as they set their catch before their wives. Metrosexuality introduces this new pleasant as well as more dignified version of today's men.

Now don't get me wrong. While I can appreciate the fact that men have moved away from the grunting homosapiens that they once were, that does not mean that men should be emasculated and stripped of whatever allowed their testosterone-driven forefathers to survive the wild. Guys can easily remain a strong-looking figure, that would defend their family as well as spouse, and have moisturized skin and well trimmed nails all at the same time.

All it takes is balance.





# Chicken Rice!

By Foo Sue Symm (Winnie), Nicholas Wong, and Yeang Su-Lyn

**C**raving for some good Malaysian-Selangorean food? Many locals will recommend chicken rice! This dish is Chinese in origin, and was brought over by Hainanese immigrants to Malaya (now known as Malaysia) when they settled here.

Well, if you're jumping at the chance to have some check out, our (Agents Lyn, Nic and Win's) search for great chicken rice (better known here locally as 'kai fan')

## Lim Kee Chicken Rice

**Address and landmarks:**  
Kedai Kopi DU, No. 2, Jalan SS 21/58, Damansara Utama, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor (corner lot, in the DU Uptown district, opposite Alliance Bank and on the same row as Baskin Robbins and Puzzini).

**What we ordered:**

Steamed chicken rice + soup:  
RM 4.50  
Roasted chicken rice + soup:  
RM 4.00



## Report

Resting in a river of sauce which was neither too thick nor diluted, the chicken meat was tender, with the skin of the roasted chicken slices not burnt even at the wing joint. The cucumbers, though fresh were a bit too thickly sliced for Agent Lyn's liking. The small bowls of soup were just okay; though not particularly tasty. On the other hand, the rice itself was fragrant and good, and the chilli sauce was tinged with plenty of lime and garlic.



Agent Lyn: Nice food, good for when rushing

Agent Nic: It's good! It's good!  
Oh my, I'm so loving it!!

Agent Win: My recommendation, so my opinion may be slanted towards the positive. Love the sauce that comes with the chicken. A filling and fast meal

Agent Nic: It's really a place worth going for a worthy plate of chicken rice. Oh the chilli ~ ♥ ♥ !!  
The cost of the meal was just a price to pay for good chicken rice. Be prepared for generous slices of chicken!

Agent Win: May I propose to the chef of the soup? It was a good change from the usual 'kai fan', though. The 'taugeh' was delicious and fresh too!

Agent Lyn: Biased opinionsince this was my choice place, but with things like free soup, garlic sauce, 'taugeh' and an overall sumptuous meal, I most definitely recommend this place!

## Kee Kee Bentong Chicken Rice

Address and landmarks:

Restoran Yat Yeh Hing, No. 33, Jalan SS4D/2, Taman People's Park, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor (corner lot, directly opposite Loong Foong and St. Ignatius Church on the road back to campus using the LDP).

What we ordered:

Steamed chicken for three people + complimentary soup, and fried bean sprouts ( 'taugeh'): RM 21.60



## Mission Accomplished!

Agent Nic: Oh gosh this trip has made me fall in love with 'kai fan' once again!

Agent Win: It was a great privilege to work with these two mad agents. A great outing, and even better food!

Agent Lyn: This has made the 'kai fan' addict very very satisfied.

We hope we've convinced you!

## Report

Agent Lyn went to grab two bowls of the peppery, savoury, and very good soup for us to share (it's offered on a self-service basis, so help yourself!). The chicken itself was very nice, tender, and obviously not too tough. However, Agent Win thought it was somewhat bland due to its understated flavour. The fresh and crispy 'taugeh' was easily demolished by Agent Lyn and Agent Win, while Agent Nic fell head-over-heels for the chilli sauce, which had a liberal amount of ginger in it. Sadly, the cucumbers that came with the chicken were still not thinly sliced enough for Agent Lyn.

## DID YOU KNOW ?

- In Malacca, the chicken is served with chicken rice balls rather than a bowl of rice.
- They sell chicken rice in the Common Place in SUC's cafeteria!
- You can locate a chicken rice hawker in almost any Chinese coffee shop in Malaysia.
- (...but if you can't, there's always The Chicken Rice Shop in Sunway Pyramid...)
- Hainanese chicken rice is considered as one of the national dishes of Singapore, and probably one of Malaysia's too.





# Speak ENGLISH like a Malaysian

So you've stepped off the plane into sunny (and sometimes rainy) Malaysia, setting foot in our beloved Sunway campus, and besides getting used to the weather, food, culture and your course syllabus, you have no idea what your roommate is saying (okay, maybe not 'no idea' but you still don't really get what he/she's talking about) Talk about argh. We at ECHO sympathise, and provide you with this handy, brief guide to Malaysian-speak.

## "Fuyoh." ['foo-yeoh']

This term is used by one of Malaysia's leading mobile phone service providers, Digi, as their tagline. Has the same meaning as the words 'wow' and 'whoa'; used as a release or expression of emotion when something particularly 'wow-worthy' happens.

Example: "Fuyoh. So much ar? Can you really eat all that?"

"...wan/one." [pronounced the same way as the number one]

Usually used at the end of a sentence, as an emphasis to what was said earlier.

Example: "He's like that wan. Gives a lot of homework, and expects you to pass up tomorrow...get used to it."

## Mat salleh/ang mor

['maat sahl-leh/ahng more']

Two non-derogatory terms used to describe Caucasian foreigners (and actually, non-foreigners as well). The second term is part of the Hokkien [Chinese] dialect.

Examples: "Isn't your father a 'mat salleh'? Not bad, he can eat super hot curry also..." "Fuyoh, that 'ang mor'... she's so tall!"

## Outstation [pronounced how it looks]

The phrase 'outstation' refers to people who are still in the same country, but in a different state than the one they're usually in (eg. one who lives in Selangor, but has to go to Terengganu for a business meeting for a couple of days).

Example: "Where is your father? Outstation?"

## "Haiyo." ['ha-eye-yeoh']

Another expression of emotion; used at the beginning of a sentence. Has the same value as the chat term '\*sigh\*', and is used...well, ever heard of the Japanese sweatdrop? This is kind of the Malaysian equivalent. It is also used to express feelings of exasperation.

Example: "Haiyo, give your project partners some work lah! Don't try to do everything."

## "Can wan/one!" [pronounced how it looks]

Has the same meaning as 'it can be done'.

Example: "Don't worry, surely can do wan!"

## "Like that ar? Like that ar."

[like that 'arh']

The first phrase generally means 'is thatso?' or 'is it done like this?', while the second one is an expression of 'oh, so that's how it's done' or the more subtle 'oh'. The term 'ar' is merely a suffix, giving slight emphasis ['wan/one' is heavier] to previously spoken words.

Example of usage of 'ar': refer to example of 'fuyoh', please!

## Dong/blur ['dhong']

A non-derogatory term that refers to someone who is confused, slow on the uptake, distracted, or has so much on his/her mind that he/she cannot grasp what is being said.

Example: "Why you so blur today? Don't be like that guy, he's very 'dong' wan."

## Rojak ['roh-jark']

Has two meanings. One refers to a Malaysian dish, which consists of a jumble of vegetables or fruits, covered in sauce. The other a Malaysian slang phrase meaning 'mixture/a jumble of sorts', and usually refers to how Malaysians speak English with Malay, Chinese and Indian phrases added here and there – draws a parallel with the actual dish, no?

Example: "Make sure you don't 'rojak' all over the place in your speech!"

## Leng chai/leng lui

['lehng chai/loo']

A phrase of Cantonese [Chinese] origin, which basically means 'handsome guy/pretty girl', or refers to someone who is hot.

Example: "That actress very 'leng lui' lah."

## Mamak ['mah-markh']

Refers to Indian-Muslim restaurants which serve 'roti canai', 'teh tarik', and 'nasi kandar' (go to one to find out more about these dishes, but be prepared for spicy food!), which are more often than not open-air and show football games – a common hang-out of sorts for most Malaysian youths.

Example: "Hey, let's go 'mamak'!"

## "But then right/but then ar..." [pronounced how it looks]

The Malaysian slang equivalent of 'however' or 'then again'.

Example: "He seems like a nice person...but then ar, you never know..."

## Belanja ['ber-lahn-jar']

Something like 'my treat'.

Example: "Come on, let's go for drinks together. I 'belanja' you lah!"



**Ta pau/bungkus** ['tah-pauh/buhn-khus']

Used in restaurants, when one wants some food packaged for take-away, or when one cannot finish the order and wants to bring the leftovers home/doggie bag.

Example: "Aunty, can you 'bungkus' this chicken rice for me? I'm 'ta pau'ing it for a friend."

**Lepak** ['leh-park']

A phrase meaning 'hang out'.

Example: "Hey, you free after class? Let's go 'lepak' at Pyramid!"

**Action** [pronounced how it looks]

Refers to someone who is proud or stuck-up.

Example: "Sorry to say, but your boyfriend very action lah..."

**Teman** ['teh-marn']

As a verb, it basically means 'accompany'. Of Malay origin.

Example: "Can you 'teman' me to the bookshop for a while? Need to get a pen."

**"Choi!"**

Expect this phrase to be followed by mass touching of something that's made out of wood. It's usually said when someone says something that may bring misfortune, which is apparently nullified by touching wood, or wood-made items. Don't ask me why. Superstition and all.

Example: "I mean, let's say you get cancer and die too - "CHOI! Touch wood! Don't say such things!"

**Syok sendiri/LOA** ['shiok sen-dee-ree']

Refers to actions made by a person who puts himself/herself in the spotlight for no apparent reason; hence the acronym LOA, which stands for 'lack of attention'.

Example: "Haiyo, stop being so 'syok sendiri' - dancing in the foyer like a chicken, of all things! So LOA."

**"Mad ah/ar?"** [pronounced how it looks]

The Malaysian counterpart of 'are you crazy?', or 'have you gone mad?'.

Example: "Mad ar? Why are you driving so fast for?"

**"...lah/lar/la."** ['larh']

Ah, the ultimate Malaysian slang - 'lah'. Generally used at the end of a sentence, and is also another term used to give emphasis to the words before.


Example: Just have a conversation with a Malaysian lah. It's bound to pop up soon.

So there you have it, a brief guide to interpreting Malaysian-English (or Manglish). Hope this comes in handy!



Forget the horoscope.  
Here's something that could REALLY happen to  
you by the end of this month!



**Watch out** for our  Bonanza draw. Stand a chance to win Notebooks, 3G Handphones and many more lucky draw items. Don't delay. Submit your contest forms now at the Student Services Department and prepare to win! For more details, see us at the Student Services Department!

\*Terms and conditions apply.

Brought to you by:



Official Telco Partner:







JOEL NEOH

WINNER OF  
THE FIRM







# THE INTERVIEW



At 24, Joel Neoh still looks like one of us, with the semi-formal dressing offset by his baby face and rolled-up sleeves. As a driving force for youth empowerment, he really isn't all that different from his young audiences, and he's much aware of it. It is our similarities he cashes in on, using pop culture to relate with us. The tips are refreshing and most of all, pertinent. The winner of *The Firm*, Malaysia's first corporate reality TV series, was recently in campus to share his experience as a 'youth entrepreneur' at the AUSMAT Career Week.

The trump card, according to him, is no longer held solely by our elders, and this brings smiles to the faces of those of us who have been subjected to the oft-repeated "I have had more salt than you have rice" adage. Carpe diem! Don't let anything hold you back!

**How does a guy who has a degree in Mechanical Engineering go on to do something like winning the Warman Design Competition or become a member of the National Rock Climbing Team?**

**Joel:** I want to start off realistically on this. I see life ultimately as a journey. You can ultimately determine what you want to do. Like right now you are interviewing me. When I was 18 years old, I was doing my matriculation, I was just like any young person. Just like any person I was into things like Counter Strike, DOTA, you know? Just your average young boy. Then I found that rock climbing was pretty interesting. I fancied rock climbing. The girls also kinda of dig rock climbing, you know what I mean? (Laughs.) Although I was doing rock climbing for fun, I eventually got very good at it because I liked what I was doing. I was passionate about it. From here I started climbing for the national team. After about two years, doing what I liked to do, teaching people [to climb], one of my students got me into modelling. So [as you can see], it went from climbing to modelling. I would say that things are very interconnected.

**So you believe anyone can do anything as long as they have the passion for it?**

**Joel:** As long as they have the passion and take action over it. Like, for example, you have a passion for writing, and you're acting on it. Like now, you are writing for ECHO.

**Is there one thing that you would like to do that you haven't been able to achieve yet?**

**Joel:** I would like to work for someone. People tend to think that life is about moving forward and forward but I think that the journey of life is made such that you can go anywhere at any point of time and do anything that you want to do. So I don't want to close off my options for working for someone else because I've actually never worked for someone full time in a multinational company. A lot of people tell me that work is tough and all, but I can't register the thought because I have never done it before! So I can't really say, 'I can feel you'. When you want to advise someone, you'll have to know what they are going through, so that you know the challenges and you know what to tell them. So working at an MNC is something that I would love to do, although not at this point in time.



**In this issue we are writing an article on metrosexuality. What are your views, yourself being quite well-dressed, on metrosexuality?**

**Joel:** I don't really understand the term 'metrosexuality'. The term sounds very.....bad? I don't know, I mean people have been using it a lot: They've even associated David Beckham with it, but I still don't see the word being coined to a guy in a very cool way. To be honest, metrosexuality sounds very feminine, or at least at this point in time it does.

**Okay, fine, can we just rephrase that as guys wanting to take pride in their appearance?**

**Joel:** Actually, I'm very 'chin chai'-lah [simple]. At one time I was very vain. I would look in the mirror probably like 10 times a day. I went through that phase, but after that I realised that your hair still looks the same whether you comb it left, right, centre, front, back...  
Or at least that's just being a guy. Ultimately I think that you just have to look presentable and look good and be confident with what you are wearing. It's about what you wear and how you feel.

**What makes or defines Joel Neoh?**

**Joel:** I think I am just like any other ordinary Malaysian. I am just someone who wants to make a difference, who wants more in life, to do/achieve more things. If someone has those kinds of traits, ultimately they will go far and do well in life. I mean, as you are all inquisitive, you would want to improve yourself.





# ***Don't Fight!***

*There's **MORE** of ECHO  
to go around these days!*



# **ECHO***Online*

[echonline.wordpress.com](http://echonline.wordpress.com). **LARGER** than life.





## Sunway University College

No.5, Jalan Universiti, Bandar Sunway, 46150 Petaling Jaya,  
Selangor Darul Ehsan

blog: <http://echonline.wordpress.com>