

Food outlets complain of **freeloaders**

Students occupy tables for group discussions and assignments without ordering food or drinks from the eateries at Syopz Mall.

by Lydia George Koshy

SUBANG JAYA | The managers of food outlets at Syopz Mall have expressed their frustration that many students have been freeloading at their stores.

Starbucks Store Manager Nur Hafizah bt. Rejab said students have been occupying the seats for group discussions without buying anything and have been utilising the plug points to charge their handphones.

"The students have poor mentality as they think it's cool to look rich when they enter Starbucks but all they do is freeload and misuse our facilities instead," she said, adding that they have recently changed the set-up of their outlet to prevent freeloaders.

Subway Manager Muhd Asyraf b. Talib said students usually freeload during peak lunch hours from 12noon to 2pm to accompany their group of friends.

"They also bring in outside food which is not on my store's menu, and that is rude," he added.

The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf Assistant Store Manager Jareena bt. Johari Krishnan said she had to get her team to clean the tables frequently from cigarette buds and

chewing gums that were stuck on the tables and chairs.

"I treat Coffee Bean as my second home, so I make sure that my store is clean and arranged accordingly."

Prestige Cafe Manager Shafiullah Mahmud Saif said it was difficult for him to ask freeloaders to leave his store as they would come with a big group of friends during peak hours.

Old Town White Coffee Supervisor, Sandar Lwin said she would usually walk up to the table with the freeloaders and offer them a menu in order to convince them to buy something.

"This usually gives them the cue to get up and leave eventually," she said.

Taylor's Business School (TBS) student, Daashini Subra, 21, said she did not think it was wrong for students to be freeloaders at eateries because there were insufficient space in campus to accommodate students for their assignment discussions.

"The only place available is the library, where, there are restrictions in many aspects and I personally do not enjoy the environment in the library," she added.

School Of Communication (SOC) student, Sandhya Nair, 20, said although she did not freeload, it was understandable for those who do because they live far away from campus and it would not make sense to go home in between classes.

Elina bt. Nasution, 21, said many students would like to have food during discussion meetings.

"Students always bring food that they pack from home but the library does not allow food and beverages to be brought inside, hence why students flock to the eateries," said the 21-year-old SOC student.

TBS student Catherine Yee Choi Funn, 21, said her friends, who smoke, would freeload because smoking is prohibited on campus grounds.

For SOC student Anel Satayeva, 21, finding a place to eat during lunch time is a problem when people occupy the tables without buying food.

"Freeloading is not a good thing to do as we have limited eateries in Taylor's.

"It's difficult to find a place during lunch time, when some people freeload," she said.

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THE LAKESIDE CUP... Participants battling it out with full focus at The Grand Hall at Taylor's University Lakeside Campus. This year's DOTA 2 competition title came to a close as the winning team, Rojak Gaming, took home RM2,500 cash and RM2,500 worth of prizes.

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Carpooling staff to get special parking lots

by Lam Hoc Leon

SUBANG JAYA | Taylor's University (TU) staff who carpool will be able to park their cars in designated parking lots at the basement parking of Block C, D, and E, under a new Carpooling System that will be implemented next month.

TU Facilities, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), Sustainability and Projects Senior Manager Edward Chong Eu Siang said staff should register with TU's Sustainability and EHS Department to get a special tag, which would allow them to park in these designated parking lots.

He said staff should carpool with at least one other staff to be eligible for the special tag, adding that phase two of the project would be implemented in March next year for students.



Panel discussion held at the Green Transport Seminar.

"We want to make TU a greener University," he said at the Green Transport Seminar on 5 October.

Organised by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) and TU, the seminar aimed to promote greener methods of transportation, such as walking, cycling, carpooling, and public transportation.

Chong said they were also considering creating bicycle lanes and increasing bicycle parking lots in campus to encourage cycling.

"TU has the biggest car park amongst universities in Malaysia, and these upcoming green projects aim to encourage students to reduce their carbon footprint," he said.

theink Slingers

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Library speed gates cause long queues

by Farhah Syamilah bt. Mazmil

SUBANG JAYA | The implementation of speed gates at the Taylor's University library, which requires the scanning of student ID cards to enter and exit the library, has resulted in occasional long queues at its entrance.

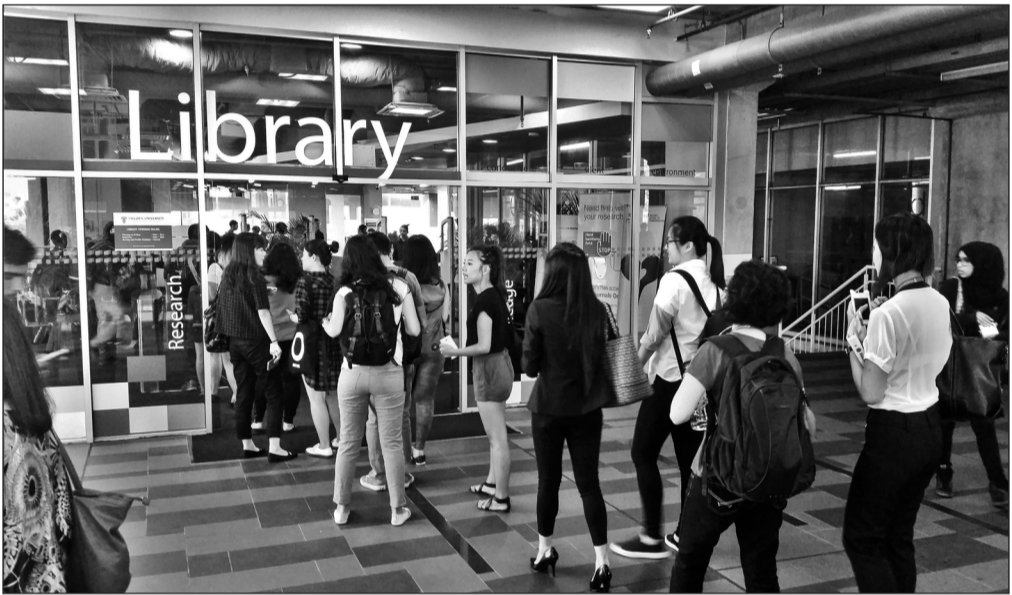
This is because students often have problems when they scan their student ID cards.

"It is quite sensitive, so if you place your card wrongly on the scanner, it would not detect your card," said Taylor's Law School student, Lavania Xavier, 22.

"If one student has trouble using the speed gate's scanner, it slows down the entering and exiting process; resulting in long queues inside and outside the library," said School Of Communication student, Aida Amalia bt. Mahyuddin, 22.

However, Senior Librarian Wilmina Lee said students find it difficult to enter the library because they do not adhere to the provided instruction on where to stand and scan their IDs.

"The gates only allow registered Taylor's staff and students to access



Students queuing in front of the library to pass through the speed gates.

the library and its facilities as it is their privilege and for security purposes as well," said Lee.

Library Assistant Manager, Stephanie Koh Hean Fong, said there have been no more theft cases since the implementation of speed gates.

She added that students should not have a problem with the speed gates as they are similar to the LRT's scanning system.

"The only problem is that the size of the scanners is smaller compared to the ones used in the LRT system due to limited space," said Koh.

She also warned students not to share their IDs with others as it can cause disputes.

"There is only one entry and one exit per student.

"If a student is found misusing his or her ID, it will be confiscated," said Koh.

Fruni Print upgrades system for better service

by Natalie Chan Xin Ci

SUBANG JAYA | Users of the free university printing service, Fruni Print, can expect faster printing time and more efficient printing service after the completion of a system upgrade this month.

Fruni Print Marketing Director Begaiym Dzhanova said there would be less delays using the new system because printing configuration and conversion of file type would be done before printing.

"It was lagging because the old system converts the file type on the

spot while printing," she said, adding that the long printing time was also due to slow Wi-Fi connection and server bugs.

Dzhanova said the system upgrade involved a migration to a new server for better stability and efficiency.

Fruni Print Managing Director Alexis Ang Wei Zhong said they also planned to upgrade the Wi-Fi soon and increase the number of printers at the Fruni Print office if necessary.

He added that they have about 1,000 registered users now but have stopped registering new users because of the system upgrade.

"After the upgrade, existing users have to re-register themselves to use the service and a whole year of printing credit will be given without extra charges because of their continuous support," he said.

Ang added that they would also look into expanding their service to other universities located in Subang Jaya area.

Solar energy to power up TU

by Muhammad Ali Imran b. Sabri

SUBANG JAYA | Taylor's University (TU) is taking a leap forward in renewable energy with a plan to generate electricity through solar power.

TU Facilities, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS), Sustainability and Projects Senior Manager Edward Chong Eu Siang said the plan, which would be implemented over the next four years, would entail the installation of photovoltaic panels on the rooftops of Blocks A to E in Lakeside Campus.

Solar panels would also be installed over the visitors' parking behind Blocks A and B, he added.

"Right now, it is an open-air parking place without any shades, so we are going to construct a wood and steel structure to act as a shade," he said, adding that the solar panels would be installed on the roof of the shade.

Chong said constructing such a structure would showcase TU's commitment for green initiatives, and provide valuable research projects for School Of Engineering students.

He said phase one, which would cost about RM1.3mil, would begin early next year.



Edward Chong wants to reduce the campus' dependence on non-renewable resources.

"Upon completion, the first phase is expected to produce peak electrical output of around 210 kilowatts, with overall output increasing to around two megawatts by the project's completion," he told *The Inkslingers*.

"Originally the plan was to install the solar project by the end of this year, but because of the economic conditions right now, we have to postpone it to next year," he added.

According to Chong, the plan also took considerable time to be approved by the local authorities

as the Malaysian Investment Development Authority and the Subang Jaya Municipal Council took a few months to review the application.

"We submitted our application at the end of December last year and we only got the approval early this August, so it took us seven months to gain approval from the authorities," he added.

Despite the setbacks, Chong said he hoped that the initiative would make the university campus more eco-friendly.

Counsellor: spread happiness through small actions

by Ili Ruzanna bt. Iqbal

SUBANG JAYA | Taylor's University students have been encouraged to offer small gestures - such as smiling to a stranger or sharing some humour with someone - to create a happy environment for everyone.

Taylor's Counselling and Psychological Services Centre (CPSC) Counsellor Sutha Balakrishnan said a simple, little action could bring happiness to everyone and their surroundings.

"Happiness is important for everyone; even the smallest action could bring happiness to many," she said.

"Most of the students failed to realise this. So, we (CPSC) want to come out with a campaign that can put smiles on many faces," Sutha added.

She said this at the Happiness Wellness Campaign, organised by the CPSC on 6 October.

Held at the Student Life Centre, the campaign involved activities in which participants wrote things that made them happy on sticky notes, in exchange for a free bag of sweets and an uplifting message.

Participants could also take out little notes from a jar that contained small gestures they can do such as give a compliment, in exchange for a smiley sticker and magnet.

Other activities involved colouring the Happiness mandala, a therapeutic way to release stress and taking pictures at a booth with a smiley background.

Aside from spreading happiness, the campaign aimed to create awareness on the counselling department and its services.

"If you have any concerns or feel that things are overwhelming, feel free to come and talk to a counsellor. We will be there to support you," Sutha added.

Law School student, Nadhirah bt. Syahmi, 20 said she had been to counselling sessions and it had helped her through bad days.

"I definitely encourage other students to go for counselling, because talking about something makes things better; we all have those days," she said.

"I hope students know that the centre is open for talking just about anything," said School Of Communication student, Anusheh Hyder, 24, who often volunteers in CPSC activities.

Team Rojak Gaming clinches The Lakeside Cup

by Kyle Roshen Jacob

SUBANG JAYA | Team Rojak Gaming has defeated 47 teams to clinch The Lakeside Cup (TLC) at the Defence Of The Ancients 2 (DOTA 2) Competition 2016 on 14 October.

"We were really confident that we had a good chance at winning this and we're so glad that we decided to just go ahead and join this competition," said team leader Tommy Kang Tze Sim, 22, from Sunway University.

The team, which also comprised Ma Xiang Long, 22, from Sunway University, Au Kai Qi, 22, from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, and Lee Jia He, 22, and Ang Yang Siang, 22, both from INTI Subang Jaya, walked away with a RM5,000 prize pool.

The competition at The Grand Hall, was organised by Taylor's University (TU) School of Computing and IT (SOCIT) students, Ch'ng Yu Neng, 21, and Tan Tian Kang, 22, and sponsored by IT and gaming companies, Illegear, Gear, Zowie and Nvidia.

Being avid players of the game, Ch'ng and Tan wanted to provide a platform for DOTA 2 players in university to not only showcase their skills, but to also be credited for it.

"I'm really glad that we were able to provide this opportunity for DOTA



Contestants playing DOTA 2 in The Grand Hall.

players in TU and other universities who are as passionate about the game as we are to come together for this friendly competition," said Ch'ng.

"We're in our final semester now and even though we've got our own assignments to worry about, Tian Kang and I just decided to go for it and we recruited people from Scholars@ Work to help us out," he added.

Ch'ng said they hoped that TLC would continue in the future and

there would be people, who were willing to take over this project from them.

"Although TLC has been organised at TU in previous years, it was the first time the competition was held as an independent event and not as part of another event," he added.

DOTA 2 competitions have been held in many universities nationwide but it was organised only on a small-scale at TU as part of other events, such as Tech Fest last year.

Remunch munches its way to success

by Natalie Chan Xin Ci

SUBANG JAYA | Remunch, a social entrepreneurship idea on preventing food wastage and giving canned and dried food a new lease of life, clinched the first prize at Startup Weekend KL at Taylor’s University.

The winning team comprised HELP University student, Kimberley Yvonne Wong Leh Hua, 19, Taylor’s University student, Lim Shu En, 19 and Business Development Executive, Lee Pui Mun, 26.

Wong said she proposed the initial idea when she recalled her experience with food wastage.

“Basically, me and my housemate bought broccoli and put it in the fridge.

“A week later, my housemate came up to me and said that the broccoli we bought was still in the fridge, after I threw away oats that were three months old.

“So I realised food wastage is such a horrible thing and that is how the idea came about,” said Wong.

Remunch’s idea was to purchase canned and dried food that is close to expiration from supermarkets, and resell it to cafes in the Klang Valley at a cheaper price compared to supermarkets.

“During the process, there will be quality control checks and standard operating procedures to ensure that the foods are safe for consumption before selling it out to cafes,” said Lee.

Remunch beat seven other teams because the judges believed that their idea can solve a real problem.

“They won because they provided a solution for food wastage, a real problem and the team has thought about the solution in a detailed way. They have answers to all our questions.

“They covered all bases and definitely have passion,” said Program Manager of Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Centre (MaGIC), Tanuja Rajah.

My Harapan’s Integrated Marketing Communication Manager, Doreen Loo said Remunch won because their idea has a social environmental mission that will win over customers.

Remunch will be advancing to compete in the mega Startup Weekend next month.

Startup Weekend is a world-wide initiative that features a 54-hour on-going camp for people who have interests in entrepreneurship to connect.

T.RIBE lights up TU pride at architecture student workshop

by Clarissa Loi Pui Ling

SUBANG JAYA | Taylorian Team T.RIBE’s futuristic *TRON*-inspired designs lit up the competition at the MATRA USM 28th PAM Architecture Student Workshop, bagging five prizes with their efforts.

T.RIBE beat more than 700 students from 21 local and international higher education institutions to become the first-place winners for the Multimedia and Photography categories.

The team also earned the second and third prizes for the Design category and third place for the Merchandise Booth’s Design category.

“It was a pleasant surprise finding out we won, because it means our work gets recognised out of all the other universities there.

“However, it’s more than just winning, as the bigger picture would be how others would remember us by as students from Taylor’s University (TU),” said T.RIBE’s Team Leader, Philia Chua Yi Suan, 20.

T.RIBE opted for a team identity influenced by the science fiction film, *TRON*, as this year’s theme was MATRA (*Dimension*).



T.RIBE hard at work preparing the team’s Installation piece. Photo Credit: T.RIBE.

“We chose a concept like *TRON*, because like *The Matrix* they have strong visuals and unique elements that are easier to be interpreted into the categories of the workshop,” said T.RIBE’s supervising lecturer, Delliya bt. Zain.

Chua said being able to represent TU while collaborating and networking with many of the participating student contingents was a highlight of their experience.

“Everyone is from an architectural background but it’s so diverse.

“It’s not just architecture – even the workshop isn’t purely focused on the field,” said T.RIBE’s Vice Leader, Hirendran Sivaganam, 20.

The MATRA USM 28th PAM Architecture Student Workshop was held from 17 to 21 August, with Team T.RIBE consisting of 33 students and two lecturers from School Of Architecture, Building and Design.

Youngsters win first place in ImagineHack 2016 hackathon

by Lim Yue Lynn

SUBANG JAYA | Team Living Night won first place in the ImagineHack 2016 hackathon with their zombie-shooting virtual reality-inspired mobile game titled *One More Day*.

Team member Beh Jie Wern, 12, said they got the idea from shooting games and the concept of virtual reality as well as from the movie *Train To Busan*.

“We were terrified of a zombie outbreak and wanted to be prepared,” he said, adding that the game required players to survive for 10 consecutive days, after which the player could access an online multiplayer mode.

However, if the player died at any point of the game, he or she must start from the beginning, said Jie Wern.

“I felt really happy when my team won first place even though I wasn’t expecting to win.

“Currently, we’re not planning to develop the product, because we want to learn more skills and gain more experience before investing time and effort into it,” said Jie Wern.

The team, comprising Jie Wern’s brother, Jie Shen, 14, and his sister and group’s mentor, Huey Ching, 26, received RM1,500 prize money.

Thirty-one teams consisting of more than 100 contestants

participated in the event on 1 and 2 October at The Grand Hall.

The event provided a platform for students who have ideas, technical and design skills to collaborate in teams in a 24-hour code-marathon event, organised annually by Taylor’s Agents of Tech.

ImagineHack 2016 Project Leader and School Of Computing and IT (SOCIT) student, Chong Jia Quan Thomas, 21, said besides SOCIT students, The Design School and Taylor’s Business School, other universities’ students and members of the public had also participated in the hackathon.

“At the end of the day, being able to see all participants developing their skills and transforming their ideas into reality makes us feel proud,” said Chong.

All teams have 24 hours to develop their ideas into prototypes before going through two stages of closed-door pitching.

Only five teams from the first stage of pitching advanced through the second round of pitching; whereby the top three winners were selected by a panel of judges.

SOCIT Associate Dean of Enterprise and Industry, Tee Wee

Jing, who also judged the event, said the judging panel was impressed by the participants’ passion and hard work in producing innovative ideas.

“During the pitching session, the participants were not only judged based on the innovativeness of the idea and the functionality of the prototype, but also the business side of the idea such as market validation, business model, Go-To-Market strategy and so on,” he added.

Two Taylorian teams - Team Syntax and Team MyCop - won the second prize of RM1,000 and third prize of RM750 respectively.

Team Syntax created an all-in-one app for students’ called *Student Gear* while Team MyCop designed a loyalty card/coupon managing app called *MyCop*.

“My team and I were very happy, also because it was my first hackathon which actually involved app development,” said SOCIT student, Roshen Maghhan, 18, of Team Syntax.

Besides the cash prizes, the winners were awarded working space at Malaysian Global Innovation & Creativity Centre (MaGIC) for a specific duration of time along with mentorship programmes and community activities.

Lai Jia Yi wins gold medal in ASEAN Skills Competition 2016

by Theodora

SUBANG JAYA | Taylor's University (TU) School of Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts student Lai Jia Yi carved a name for himself by clinching the gold medal in the Cooking Category of the 11th ASEAN Skills Competition (ASC) 2016.

The 20-year-old Advanced Diploma in Patisserie and Gastronomic Cuisine student is the third TU student to win a gold at ASC. His win brought Malaysia's medal count to 24 this year.

"With the effort of four months of professional training given by Chef Farouk b. Othman and Chef Sabri, I was pretty confident to win this," said Lai.

Lai won the judges' votes with an outstanding three-course meal comprising seafood ravioli with prawn bisque as the starter, beef tenderloin with beer jus, gnocchi and turned vegetables as the main course, followed by chocolate mousse with fruit salad and crisp strawberry as the dessert.

The contestants were judged on variety of cooking aspects including, hygiene, balance of flavours, textures, creativity and presentation.

Hosted by Malaysia this year, the biannual competition took place at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS) in Selangor from 23 to 28 September.

Lai said he had been training for 12 hours every day since June.

"The training has been repeated again and again until I am able to do it with my eyes closed," he said, adding that his training routine included kitchen practices, thorough recipe research and time management.

Lai said he had some minor injuries during the competition.

"I cut my fingers and it started to bleed so I had to wear gloves in order to continue with my tasks.

"I also burnt my hand during the rush of service time, but I feel that my hardwork and effort have paid off," said Lai, who hoped to work in a three-star Michelin restaurant in the future.

"The competition has given me chances to broaden my connection and of course, honing my skills to a higher level," he added.

As the winner of this category, Lai will represent Malaysia at the World Skills Competition next year at Abu Dhabi, which will see contestants from more than 30 countries, performing more difficult tasks and tests.



Lai Jia Yi proudly presents his perfected three-course meal. Photo Credit: Lai Jia Yi

Increase air-con temperature to reduce energy wastage, TU told

by Muhammad Ali Imran b. Sabri

SUBANG JAYA | More than half of the energy consumption in Taylor's University (TU) could be cut by increasing the temperature of air-conditioners, says environmentalist Matthias Gelber.

"I think air-conditioners make up about 60% to 70% of the overall energy consumption down here (TU) and even more so at the hostel.

"That shows how much over usage of the air-conditioning there is and we even calculated the carbon footprint of that (hostel), which is gigantic," said Gelber.

He added that to prevent energy wastage, TU management should reduce the number of lights switched on in lecture theatres and switch lights off in naturally well-lit areas.

Raising the temperature of air-conditioners across campus by several degrees would also help, he added.

According to Gelber, an awareness campaign should be held to advocate efficient energy consumption among students.

He said being aware of such consumption would not only help in reducing waste but also saving electricity bills and improving health.

"With air conditioners, we are wasting a huge amount of electricity and it isn't healthy.

"Some get respiratory problems, some have dry eyes, all of that could come from too much air-con usage.

"It's actually healthier for your skin especially if you don't use air-con," he said at an environmental talk, titled Saving Energy and Our Mother Earth, on 26 September.

Held at Lecture Theatre 12, the talk focused on conserving the environment through reusing organic materials and reducing energy dependency by the individual.

Gelber, who has lived in Malaysia for 10 years, said he managed to cut his electricity consumption by 70% by reducing his usage of air conditioning and using natural ventilation in his residence.

He added that everyone should practise simple energy-saving tasks such as using more natural light in homes, switching off unused devices, reuse household items for diverse chores, using natural ventilation instead of air-conditioning and disconnecting the Wi-Fi router when not in use.

Young eyes revitalise Sentul's forgotten history

by Clarissa Loi Pui Ling

SUBANG JAYA | Taylorians paid tribute to the rich cultural heritage of the now-defunct Sentul Depot by revitalising its historical past through artistic expression.

Titled *Sentul Works*, the exhibition in collaboration with YTL Land featured a collection of 34 contemporary artworks by 13 students and alumni from Taylor's School Of Architecture, Building And Design (SABD) and The Design School.

The artworks were inspired by the abandoned railway workshop.

"The initiative was incepted by YTL Land - they wanted to invite youths to experience the Sentul Depot, and Taylor's was one of the first universities to be invited.

"We were very proactive with the initiative," said Deputy Dean of SABD, Academic Affairs and Student Experience, Dr Veronica Ng Foong Peng.

She said the chosen students experienced tours around the private land during site recces to document their perspectives of the place.

"The broad intention is for them to be the eyes of the youth and to re-present what they see and experience to the public," added Dr Ng.

An ex-worker at the Depot, A.G. Pragasam, narrated his work



SABD's Ameer Farhan describing the concept behind his featured painting titled *Progression*. Photo Credit: Sentul East Design Centre

experiences and daily routines to the students with his personal tales inspiring a diversity of interpretations ranging from paintings, photography, printmaking, collage and digital imaging, which included a stop motion video titled *Destination* by two SABD students.

The film, which utilised digital visualisation techniques with sound as a key element, was created by Matthew Goh Seng Yang, 25, and Lee Kim Yoong, 25.

"His words gave me the idea to recreate the sense of purpose through visualisation, in order to imagine a sense of place," said Goh.

Dr Ng added that YTL Land and Pragasam were both greatly impressed and appreciative of the artistic outputs of the students.

"Mr. Pragasam mentioned the portrait of him was personally meaningful, and I believe that's what really matters as the core message of

this *Sentul Works* project is to bring out the soul and essence of the railway workshop," said SABD student Phua Jing Sern, 21, whose contributing piece was a film portrait of Pragasam titled *Uncle*.

With *Sentul Works* being a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, there was hope that other students will have a chance to channel their creativity in other culturally-significant efforts.

"Not many of these sites exist within the urban areas of Klang Valley. Since students are the leaders of the future, it is important that they are the messenger to others in appreciating the past in order to move forward," said Dr Ng.

The *Sentul Works* art exhibition ran from 24 September to 9 October at the Sentul East Design Centre and 22 October at Lot 10. It is also scheduled for a showcase at Taylor's University's Centre of Design and Architecture gallery next month.

Deepavali away from home

by Farhah Syamilah bt. Mazmil

Deepavali, or Festival of Lights is celebrated widely by Hindus across various continents around the world. Although this auspicious festival symbolises victory of good versus evil, the occasion is mainly about celebrating blessings with loved ones. Different countries have different Deepavali traditions but for those that stay away from their homes and families, the festival is an entirely different experience altogether.

Nepalese security guard at Taylor's University (TU), Rudradhal



American Degree Transfer Program student, Farhin Farnaz talks about Deepavali.

Dahal Chatri, 39, said there is a lot of similarities that can be found in Deepavali celebrations in Malaysia but there are also notable differences.

"Back in Nepal, as the population is made up of 83% Hindus, Deepavali is hugely celebrated for five days straight which is unlike here in Malaysia, where it is only given one day public holiday," he said.

As the holiday is celebrated with family members, Chatri admitted to feeling lonely as he is not able to be at their side for the festival due to work.

"Luckily I know how to cook my country's own food.

"At least this way, I still have a piece of home with me," Chatri said.

This sentiment is shared with Sanjay Khawas, 28, a fellow Nepalese who works as a janitor at TU.

"I don't have time to celebrate Deepavali because even if it's a holiday here, I still have to work to find money for my family who lives in Nepal," he said.

Khawas added that although he doesn't have time to celebrate it, he is happy to see the holiday being celebrated as joyously here as it is in his country.



Taylor's security guard, Chatri is one of the the foreign workers that celebrates Deepavali.

School Of Hospitality and Culinary Arts student from Tanzania, Jay Pradeep Tank, 21, who came from a Hindu background, also noticed the obvious differences between the celebrations held here and back home.

"In Tanzania, we have a lot of rituals that I haven't seen practised here in Malaysia.

"For example, on the morning of Deepavali, we pray to the Goddess of Books and Knowledge.

"We also have a huge mountain of food which we distribute to the poor," he said.

Tank added that in his country, they don't have the snacks, savouries and sweet dishes served here.

"The whole Deepavali celebration is celebrated in a Southern Indian manner rather than in a Gujarati manner," he said.

American Degree Transfer Program student, Farhin Farnaz, 18, from Bangladesh expressed her excitement for the festival as this would be the second time she would celebrate Deepavali in a foreign country.

"The first time I saw the fireworks burst in the sky, I was pleasantly surprised because the fireworks played here are quite wild compared to the ones used in my country.

"Also, *Kolam* (a form of art made of colourful rice), which is typically created either with rice or powder back in Bangladesh, is created using a blend of both here," said Farnaz.

Despite the differences in traditions and celebrations, Deepavali remains the most awaited celebration for the Hindu community around the world, no matter where they are.

Sydney to the rescue for canine physiotherapy

by Lydia George Koshy

Rehabilitation and physiotherapy for pets in Malaysia is a relatively new field when it comes to veterinary treatments. Canine physiotherapist, Sydney Chik decided to start her own pet rehabilitation centre, known as Paws Rehab Centre.

Located in SS18, Subang Jaya, Paws Rehab Centre is a home-based centre which offers electrotherapy, heat therapy, treadmill exercises, gym ball exercises, aquatic therapy and cryotherapy.

After graduating from her degree in United States, Chik realised the growing need for pet rehabilitation in Malaysia. Right after graduating, she worked for animal shelters such as Furry Friends Farm, Second Chance, Lost Animal Soul Shelter and Cherish Life Home. She then decided to put aside an investment to start her own place.

She expressed how canine rehabilitation may take a long time to bloom here in Malaysia and admitted that it was tough when she started her career three years ago.

"It is quite difficult to become recognised here in Malaysia as a canine physiotherapist.

"Getting certified is tough, so that's why my rehab centre is home based," said Chik when asked on the possible opportunities for canine physiotherapists here in Malaysia.

The common cases Chik receives on a daily basis would be arthritis, senior cases, hip dislocations in young dogs and even paralysis.

She gets three to five cases on an average per day and each session can go up to RM80. Chik further explained that owners have to book her one week in advance in order for her to plan ahead.

"Each session usually takes a maximum of one hour, and I don't allow any dogs to board overnight so owners are always with their pets for the whole session," said Chik.

She expressed that she would be willing to work together with Taylor's Paws Club if ever given the chance. Chik added that since she works alone now and if her business picks up, she'll definitely be open to students working part time for her.

"I never knew there was a rehab centre just for dogs, it would be really interesting if we could spend a day with Chik at the rehab centre to get to know more about what she does," said



Sydney Chik posing with Kakak in her customised wheelchair.

Taylor's School Of Communication student and member of the Taylor's Paws Club, Sandhya Nair, 20.

Not only did Chik set up a rehab centre, she designed a wheelchair device to help paralysed dogs. Each wheelchair is custom-made to suit the size of each dog who needs it.

"I definitely would love to move to a shop-lot while providing grooming and boarding services.

"The location for this would definitely be in Subang Jaya," said Chik when asked on her possible career plans for the next few years.

She continued to express on how she hopes the very best for her business to take off. Helping dogs who can't help themselves makes her happy and that has always been her main motivation in why she chose to be a canine physiotherapist.

Grim Film: makes feature film debut

by Park Jung-A

Five years after establishing a YouTube channel that is now famous for its comedy vlogs and short films, Grim Film founder Jared Lee Wei Sheong has finally managed to make his first feature-length romantic comedy movie entitled *Sex Operator*.

"This is my first time making a completely self-funded go-minute feature (film). We've faced a lot of challenges, especially financially," said Lee.

He added that the film was shot in 16 consecutive days, with only two to five hours of sleep a day.

"It was a miracle we made it through without anybody being hurt. I'm very thankful for the team we had, because most of them have more experience in production than I do.

"It was really a learning experience on my part, they were very patient," said Lee, 31. He said making a full-length movie has always been his dream, ever since his first short film in 2011.

"It was always a dream to make a full-length feature film and to be in the movie-making industry; YouTube was something that happened by chance.

"This is my first step towards what I've always wanted," he said.

Lee began in animation, before moving to the events industry and finally settling as a YouTube content creator. He had also dabbled in hairstyling and playing the guitar as well.



The face of Grim Film, director of romantic comedy, *Sex Operator*, Jared Lee.

Lee's career in the film industry began when he submitted his short film *Long Distance Relationship* as an entry for the BMW Shorties short film competition in 2010, after which he founded Grim Film.

He initially wanted to make short films but a YouTube partner manager

advised him to change the direction of his content. Mixed feedbacks from audience were harsh at first but he still pursued what he wanted to do.

Despite all the challenges, the joy that Lee and his team felt from the production process kept them moving forward.

"Do not think so much when you consider to pursue your dream, just do it. Worry later.

"At least you will find out if you really like filmmaking and that if you're built for it," said Lee.

He encourages people who are interested in production to seek guidance from other people when they have doubts.

"Join film events and screenings, immerse yourself in a community of creative minds, and let it all flow.

"There will always be a way to overcome any obstacles," said Lee.

Lee's feature film is currently in the process of editing and they are aiming to release it next year.

With the experience they have built, Lee and his team are already planning to produce their next feature film.

A new form of scary: irrational fears and unusual phobias

by Samantha Sin Macy

Everyone is scared of something but not everyone has a phobia. Phobias are irrational fears that are caused by experiences while some phobias are unexplainable to why people have them hence, the term 'irrational'.

You avoid phobias as best as you can. For instance, a person with acrophobia (fear of heights), would try their best to avoid the view of heights. On the other hand, some phobias cannot be avoided.

If a person has germophobia (fear of germs), it is almost impossible to avoid and may lead to severe obsessive compulsive disorders (OCD).

There are several ways to identify one's phobia. The first sign would be irregular breathing. Other signs would be nausea, accelerated heartbeat, skin crawling and chills down the spine.

"I've always cringed at specifically school uniform buttons," said Man.

There are tons of different phobias and not many people know the scientific term for phobias. The most common phobia is claustrophobia (fear of small spaces). Many people



Lepidopterophobia, the fear of butterflies.

who have this phobia fear elevators the most, since an elevator is an enclosed area.

Other common phobias would be arachnophobia (fear of spiders), coulrophobia (fear of clowns), acrophobia (fear of heights) and katsaridaphobia (fear of cockroaches).

"I hate cockroaches. I mean, it's tolerable but when I see cockroaches, I just... No," said Taylor's Business School student, Aaleyxia Intan Termizi, 22.

"I have slight vertigo. Vertigo is kind of like when I look down from a certain height, I get very dizzy and I could lose my balance easily. Unfortunately, with vertigo, it kind of makes me phobic of heights," stated School

Of Engineering student, Ryan Jerome Lee, 22.

On the other hand, there are unusual but common phobias. The infamous unusual common phobia would be trypophobia (fear of holes).

Many peoples' skin crawls just hearing the word. Another unusual phobia is koumpounophobia (fear of buttons).

Actress, Nicole Kidman has an unusual phobia; lepidopterophobia, (the fear of butterflies). The co-founder of Apple, Steve Jobs, has koumpounophobia; that was how he developed touchscreen phones.

School Of Communication (SOC) student, Jerrold Man Jing Wei, 21, shares somewhat of a similar phobia with Jobs.

"I've always cringed at specifically school uniform buttons, the white-ish transparent ones. I never look at my shirt when I button or unbutton them. Thankfully, I had to wear a tie in school. I wouldn't have to look at them.

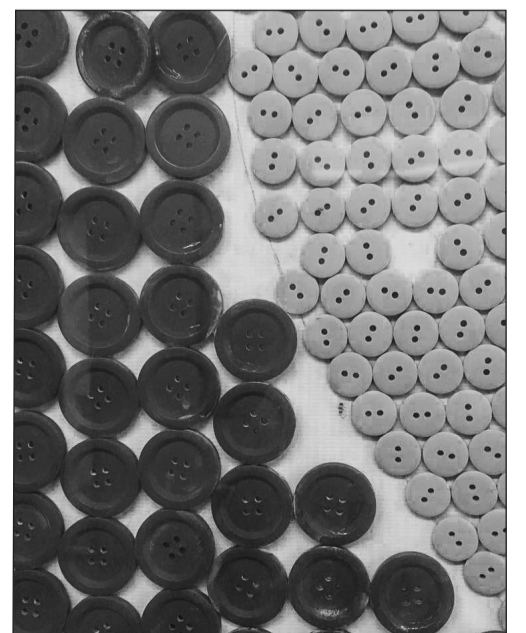
"Actually, I hate jade colour as well. Every time I see anything with jade colour, I feel super nauseous," he added.

Some phobias are so rare that there might not be a scientific name for it. SOC student, Carrie-Ann Lee Keng Sue has a strange fear of octopus tentacles.

"It's not trypophobia, I don't like the idea of suction and vacuums, especially from octopus tentacles. I can't even listen to suction-like sounds, which makes my neck tighten," said Lee.

Avoidance of the phobia is an easy way to treat mild phobias but treatments are available for severe phobias. Most phobias can be cured with proper treatment and medications.

A popular way of treating phobias is through behaviour therapy, or better known as desensitisation. In this case, exposure to the phobia in progressive steps would slowly help in curing phobias.



Koumpounophobia, the fear of buttons.

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Yemeni students and forgotten war

by Khaldoon Alwan

Early in the morning and under the anti-aircraft shotguns, Amal Almontaser, 22, and her family were driving to the Yemeni borders in May last year.

Jets were hovering just as they did for the past two months. The sound of bombardments would grow closer and then further away.

As they were hastening out of the city, everyone in the car was just numbed, suddenly, the mountain in front of them was struck by a jet's missile. However, even that did not necessitate a reaction from Amal or her family.

"At that moment what are you going to say? It was a very quiet drive," said student of Taylor's Design School, Amal.

"I was in constant fear for my family and friends," stressed Omar.

It has been 18 months since an airstrike campaign began in Yemen. The war in Yemen is described by many as one of the most underreported conflicts in the world. Despite being one of the largest humanitarian crises, the Yemen crisis remains ignored.

Amal was one of the lucky people who managed to flee the country during the complete shutdown of the airports. However, it was still an arduous journey.

"It was devastating. I had to fit everything in one small suitcase and leave. I left everything behind, my books, my belongings," said Amal.

Amal was already in her third semester in a university in Yemen and had to start all over again here.

"I contacted my old university to get the reports and documents but there was no reply," added Amal.

Unlike Amal, Omar Al-Eryani, 21, was already studying in Malaysia when the war broke out.

"I knew the war had started through Facebook. I called my mother immediately, and I could hear the airstrikes sounds very clearly.

"It was a nightmare, still a nightmare," said School Of Business student, Omar.

Jets rumbling over, flashes in the sky, a sickening pause, then the thud and boom of explosions as the missiles strike.

This is what the people in Yemen have been encountering restlessly almost every day.

"When I ask my friends in Yemen how they are doing, they never want to talk about it. They just want to know how I am doing here.



The constant fear of losing someone back home in Yemen still haunts Amal.

"It's like they are looking for distractions. They want to be somewhere else," added Amal.

As shattering as it must feel for people to experience all of this horror, looking at the situation from the outside seizes you with an impotent and overwhelming frustration.

"I was very angry at everything and everyone. I wasn't able to study for exams or do any assignments.

"I was in constant fear for my family and friends," stressed Omar.

During my conversation with Amal, it was clear that she is lost in cluttered memories, as if they were something she is used to locking away.

"You can't empathise with a person who is going through all of that. You can try to feel bad about it, but you can never really feel the same as they do.

"I have learnt to numb everything out, I'm really upset to say this, but I have been locked away," said Amal.

There was a long silence. Amal was struggling to express her thoughts. Her hopes and dreams for Yemen's future were deflated.

"I feel guilty because I don't know what to do, how to fix things, how to make things better," she added.

Omar, being the active person he is in social media, decided to do something to express himself.

"I had this idea of making a video, a message in different languages to everyone to stop the war.

"I wrote the script, contacted my friends and made it. It went viral, 110k views, 5k shares, it was even aired on the Yemeni's TV," Omar elaborated.

After making that video, Omar felt some sort of satisfaction. He did what he could, as small as it might seem.

"Many people liked the idea of the video. I spoke for thousands who couldn't express themselves," stressed Omar.

Though Omar might lose hope sometimes, the war did little to shake his persistence to demonstrate for Yemen.

"The media is not covering what is happening in Yemen. I think it's our fault that we couldn't make our voices reach the world," said Omar.

Even though Amal seemed to be upset with all the perpetual sorrows in Yemen, she still could not despair.

"I have such a dead image of Yemen right now but I still wish for a brighter future.

"I hope that people (of Yemen) would be able to overcome all they have been through.

"We are the future of Yemen, and it is on us to make a difference," said Amal.



Smoke rises during an airstrike on an army weapons depot on a mountain overlooking Yemen's capital, Sanaa, April 20, 2015. Photo Credit: REUTERS Khaled Abdullah.