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Matters of the Mind
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CONTENTS

04: Island Paradise or Pressure Cooker?
Trials and tribulations of Singapore life

05: The Classroom Survival Guide
Things to do during a boring lecture

06: Wander-ful Taiwan
Back to Nature

08: To Pirate or Not to Pirate?
The SOPA debate

10: When Skinny Becomes Deadly
Eating Disorders

11: All in Good Humour
An interview with a comic artist

12: Matters of the Mind
Celebrity Issues

13: Bilingual Blunders
Woes of (not) being bilingual

14: Snow Country
Winter in Hokuriku, Japan

16: Pass the S-Pass
Foreign Talent Issues

17: Romper Stomper
Interview with a Skinhead

19: Campus Icon
by Zalora

20: Future of TCM
More than needles

21: The List: Trendy Causes

22: Out & About

REGULAR STUFF

09: Cheat Sheet: Activism 101
18: Bloggers Have Their Say
21: The List: Trendy Causes
22: Out & About

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Art by Shumin Kang, Faculty of Media Arts Animation Art, LASALLE
Island paradise OR Pressure Cooker?

By Lavanya Kanathuss

I had my first taste of an uncertain future when I returned from Sweden nine years ago after my father finished his posting in the Swedish Navy. Despite all my warnings about leaving Sweden at first, a part of me didn’t want to come back.

It should have been the relief state of things in Sweden. No one was worried about what they were going to do during summer when winter had just begun, or planned for their second year. But one year, they had even started on their first. I had grown comfortable in a stress-free environment.

So when I graduated last year from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) with a degree in Creative and Professional Writing, I was ready to return home a second time. While relatives and old friends welcomed me with open arms, their lips would be almost burning with the question:

“Hey, long time no see. How are you? Oh, so what are you doing next?”

Perhaps they were concerned for my future, because a future in Singapore is synonymous with a degree and a steady career. But for Mr. David Williams, a 24-year-old student from Indonesia who moved to Singapore a decade ago, it was this rush for success that drove him out of Singapore again.

“I wanted to get away from the pressure where everyone was thriving for good academic results,” he said. Mr. Williams, who is doing a Masters in Finance at the University of Technology Sydney, added that the overwhelming competitiveness of society wore him out.

Mr. Anish Attygalle, a student at QUT, also left Singapore to study overseas because she wanted to broaden her worldview. The 24-year-old disliked the fast-paced lifestyle here, and said it created unwelcome pressure to accomplish new things quickly.

But for Indian expatriate Mr. Rajesh Sathiyas, the pressure is worth it. Mr. Sathiyas, who works as a quoting inspector in a painting company, said he enjoys working in Singapore because the environment is safe and opportunities for advancement are fair.

“Where I come from, employers look at what degree you have and what favours you can do for the company before hiring you,” said Mr. Sathiyas.

Perhaps it is a matter of perspective, and seeing both the good and bad in a situation. Not where it will be in the future, but where it is right now. A good friend of mine, commenting on my desire to see the world, once said, “Lau, one foot of yours is already out of Singapore. Make sure you get the other foot out soon.”

There will be two for that. For now, I’m good where I am, sitting on my desk contemplating, not what lies ahead or what has been, but where I am in the present.
WANDERFUL TAIWAN BACK TO NATURE

BY CLARA LOCK

ALL FARMED OUT

If all the fresh produce you’ve ever eaten can be found in the midst of a metropolis, this place is where you want to be. Have fun. It’s a great adventure!

WHEN COWS FLY - FLYING COW RANCH

If the only cows you’re familiar with are the ones milked up and served medium rare to the flying cow ranch in Nantou, you’re in for a treat. Take your taste buds on a journey of the senses as you enjoy this unique culinary experience.

SOUTHERN INDULGENCE

At the heart of Kaohsiung, the main street can be covered easily within an hour. Discover the local culture and traditions through a variety of food and drink establishments.

SPRING SUNSET

A unique sunset experience awaits you at the Spring Sunset Cafe. Enjoy a relaxing atmosphere with stunning views of the setting sun.

GEIJIN ISLAND

A peaceful retreat surrounded by calm waters and the sound of crashing waves. Geijin Island offers a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

A REEL GOOD TIME

Alden’s Island is a fisherman’s paradise. Go fishing for a day, or take a leisurely stroll along the shores. Don’t forget to enjoy a fresh catch at one of the local seafood restaurants.

LEGENDS OF TAIWAN

Discover the rich history and culture of Taiwan through its legends and stories. Learn about the fascinating myths and traditions that make Taiwan unique.

LIFE’S A BEACH

In spring, the beaches come alive with tourists of all ages. Whether you’re looking for adventure or relaxation, the beaches of Taiwan have something for everyone.
BY IZAN HAZIO
TO PIRATE OR NOT TO PIRATE

with the advent of peer-to-peer sharing being online distribution of copyrighted content has become increasingly common among platforms such as Reddit and the now defunct Megaupload.

The US government felt that greater enforcement of the law against such acts was imperative. Thus SOPA
was introduced attempt to stop this violation of the copyright act.

WHAT IS SOPA?
SOPA stands for Stop Online Piracy Act and is a bill in the US that aims to control online distribution of intellectual property by blocking access to copyright infringing content.

The US government believes that this bill will stop the sharing of illegal content.

CASE STUDY: The FBI warns that SOPA will prevent the sharing of illegal content.

say no to SOPA

On the other side of the spectrum, there are few people who feel that all Internet should be freely available with no charge lifters. For instance, the Internet Group Invites has made several protests against companies claiming that they will not allow the government to control them.

They aim to stop the websites of organizations such as the National Park Service and the BBC from being blocked. They aim to keep the Internet open.

Companies Speak Up

Many companies, especially those in the music industry, are in support of SOPA. Yet face it - you wouldn’t want anyone to steal your music and distribute it without permission, would you?

Prominent companies such as Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, and Apple are all on board with SOPA because they take lost millions of dollars through piracy and unlawful distribution of their intellectual property.

So how does this affect me?

If SOPA were to be passed, it may well be that your favorite websites such as YouTube and Facebook would be blocked. The FBI warns that SOPA will prevent the sharing of illegal content.

In addition, the music industry is trying to stop online piracy.

December 11, 2018

The list of companies that support SOPA is quite long, including Microsoft, Yahoo, Google, and Apple. The FBI warns that SOPA will prevent the sharing of illegal content. They aim to stop the websites of organizations such as the National Park Service and the BBC from being blocked.

The Internet Group Invites has made several protests against companies claiming that they will not allow the government to control them. They aim to keep the Internet open.

Cheat Sheet

Are you one who desires to change the world? Whether you want to fight the system as a cause of dissent medium rare steak, here are three ways to make sure the world hears your message loud and clear.

1. Everyone has a Right

The first to remember is that everyone is entitled to fight for their cause, as long as it means something to them. Take a look at the recent Black Lives Matter. For instance, it supports fight for women’s rights to dress but they do without being disrespected and that a woman’s appearance should not be an excuse for sexual violence.

Perhaps you’re a pro-burning feminist who believes that timeouts should burn in hell. Or you might think, as some netizens do, that there are far more pressing issues in the world to fight for. Whether you camp by your king to always respect the right side of every issue.

2. Stay on your computer

Why take your fight into the real world when you can just do it by gathering Facebook and YouTube? It’s a really good idea and street demonstrations will not get you anywhere but prison or hospital. (See in point Jason Russell, director of Eyes Wide Open, who was on a naked rampage in public and ended up having to seek psychiatric treatment).

Who will continue your mission to make the world a better place if you get hurt or die? Stay home, stay safe, and keep posting photos of massachusetts’ American kids. For added affect, throw in a sweet caption — "Share or like this photo if you care about me" and tell yourself you’re saving the world, one week at a time.

3. Build your guild

It is imperative for a social group to have enough numbers in order to pursue its cause and appear formidable. This is actually one of the best parts of being a social activist - discovering that you are not the only one who shares the same feelings and there is need to Occupy Wall Street (demand failure工业园区).

But how do you get enough lovely and like-minded people? Scout internet forums, join hobby clubs, and generally at least you should find yourself part of a petty crew ready for world domination. Rappers may try to burst your bubble, but ignore them, and remember — even if you are underestimated by half the world, there is another half just as biassed.
All in Good Humour

We all remember them from our childhood or from this morning when we tuned in, very briefly, to watch The Chronicles of Spongebob Squarepants.

The effect of cartoons go way back to our childhood, and we never quite grew out of them. For Mr Lee Chee Chew, who has been a print cartoonist for more than 25 years, it has become his daily bread. If his name sounds familiar, that’s because he is the man behind local comic strip Chew On It, which features regularly in The Straits Times.

The cartoons, which have become a form of expression to showcase issues relevant to Singapore, have a distinctively local flavour.

Taking a humorous look at society, the cartoons take pot shots at Singaporean idiosyncrasies, like our ART woks, penny-pinching nature and penchant for giving off work.

But his comics do more than make jibes at Singaporeans. Mr Lee highlighted one of his previous comic strips, which featured a comic strip titled “Those that tiptoe in bomb shelters”, as an example of how comics can be used to educate readers about terrorism.

In his view, good old toilet humour can draw the laughs, but its purpose is to inform readers that underground SMT platforms also double up as bomb shelters. For Mr Lee, humour in cartoons is an effective tool to capture the readers’ attention. In turn, that helps to disseminate information to the target audience.

There are always two camps,” Mr Lee said of his comics. “One likes them, the other gets upset with anything I draw. You can’t please them all.”

“We don’t have a large audience, but that’s what makes it fun,” he says. “I like to mix things up.”

Mr Lee points out that cartoons may not reach out to everyone, because he knows of people who do not even read the comic pages in the papers.

But for those who do, it’s more than comic relief - it’s also holding up a mirror to the Singaporean identity, wants and all.
**Matters of the Mind**

**Strange Obsessions**

Hollywood bad boy, Megan Fox suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), a disorder that requires strange obsessions in people to reduce anxiety associated with intrusive thoughts. He smokes 20 cigarettes daily, and they flash all over his face into the air, with the available transfusion site.  

On the other hand, football icon David Beckham has a passion for keeping his home spotless. Apparently, Beckham likes to keep his house in order, living clean up in the closet according to color. He also manages his food in a certain order, having a total of 8 bottles in his house.

wife Victoria Beckham said: "In the dinner through everything is symmetrical. It looks like a meal at DfC but they are not only having their - because it has to be an even number."

**Private Hell**

After the birth of her firstborn, Princess Catherine, Prince William (who suffers from postpartum depression, which was aggravated by pressures she faced as a Princess in the Royal Family. At times, postpartum depression wasn’t as well understood or accepted as it is today and because of that, she dealt with intense feelings of isolation and abandonment, including from her husband, Prince Charles.

**The Tortured Genius**

Going back a few centuries, prototypical composer Ludwig van Beethoven suffered from bipolar disorder and had music episodes of paranoid, mania, depression, and psychotic delusions. During his illness, he wrote some of his most famous works.

**The Bilingual Blunder**

A friend of mine, tongue only partially in check, summed up today’s race for employment:

“CEOs seek academic brilliance, fluency in at least three languages, at least twenty-five years of prior field experience, but anyone applying cannot afford to be a day over 20 years of age.”

**SLANGS**

The importance of bilingualism is clear, with parents and teachers stressing the mastery of a second native tongue. In many cases, though, children and adults with basic communication skills in both languages but are competent in neither.

If you speak multiple languages, you may have noticed a difference in the way you think and process information. This is because language is not just a tool for communication, but also a way of organizing and interpreting the world around us. Some people believe that learning a second language can enhance cognitive function, improve memory, and even delay the onset of certain neurological disorders.

The second type of disorder that is often visible in a neurologically disabled person is a disconnection syndrome. This occurs when the connection between the brain is not strong, making communication between parts of the brain occur. This is often seen in stroke patients, who may have a disconnection between the left and right hemispheres of the brain.

Perhaps it is more visible in those who are bilingual, as the brain has to work harder to process information in two different languages. This is often seen in bilingual speakers, who may have a disconnection between the left and right hemispheres of the brain.

Learning a language through theory and scholarly education differs from the way it is spoken on the street, where people sometimes communicate through colloquialisms. And communication in a language is essential in order to learn how to think in a language.
SNOW COUNTRY

JAPAN'S HOKURIKU REGION

If you’re tired of the heat, you might fancy a trip to the ‘Snow region’ of Japan, whether you’re looking to experience white winter or just idling for a snowball fight.

The Hokuriku region, which includes Fukui, Ishikawa and Toyama prefectures, experience some of the most beautiful winter scenery in Japan. The area is a combination of rugged coastline with sheer cliffs and one-sculpted rock cliffs, while the mountainous interior is known for its dramatic colours and steep gorges. Basically, all the trappings missing from pancake-flat Singapore.

Dotted around the region are numerous historical sites that get your imagination going, and traditional villages where you can experience a Japanese farming lifestyle. At the end of the day, stuff yourself silly with fresh seafood that you won’t be able to get back home.

FUKUI

If you’re a fan of okra, shellfish and all things fish from the sea, hit the coast of Fukui for a culinary adventure. You won’t find Singapore’s chilli crisp here, but what they have is much healthier.

ECHIHEI COAST

The Echigo coast is known throughout Japan especially for its crab - which are softly-cooked Echigo crab. And when locals fish here in search of these delightful crustaceans, they know they’re going to get the freshest.

Head to any of the local seafood markets along the coast and try the Echigo crab, which is plainly boiled in salt water and served sprinkled with a spicy sauce called wasabi. Crab lovers will not get your juices flowing, but if you’re a fan of seafood and fish, you can’t go wrong here.

CLIFFS OF FUKUI

Fukui’s coastline is also famous for its dramatic cliffs. Tohoku to known nationwide, and it is perfect setting for your regular sotopy Japanese soup opera and rice döner)

TOYAMA

TOYAMA

If you’ve ever fancied walking through beautiful fields of flowers, then head to Toyama’s Tottori Sand Dunes - the largest sand dune field in Japan. If you come between May and July, you can even drive through a 2km-high sand dune and get off the bus to walk it. If you can handle it.

GOKAYAMA

Can’t get enough of snow? Then you can head to Gokayama and the 1200-year-old hot springs. Even in July, you can enjoy hot springs and even sail in one with walls that give new meaning to the word paper-thin. So, no need to worry, as there are no real walls, they’re all paper sliding doors and the comfort is merely. If you want something more exciting, why not try surfing with a monoski, which is a hot version of a surfboard? You can even fish with your home-cooked dinner in hot-sauce rice flavoured with a grilled dish as you sit around the fireplace.

ISHIKAWA

If you’re one of those people who watched lots of movie scenes and thought it was all downhill, then Ishikawa won’t disappoint.

Ishikawa is considered the traditional heart of the region, and its unyielding Japanese spirit comes here to see Kanazawa City, which is called the ‘Little Tokyo’.

KANAZAWA CITY

Kanazawa City had a good mix of past and present. You can enjoy a stroll through ancient old districts and Asamachaya, a large beautiful building in the heart of the city, and get lost in the back streets.

Guided tours of Kanazawa Gorge (Kanazawa district) - although you don’t need to pay your entire year’s allowance just to see them, they are worth a trip. The shops in this district are full of souvenirs, and there are no entrance fees. You can also enjoy some of the great former homes, now turned into Canarian houses, and imagine you’re one of them (optionals).

It’s also worth noting that Kanazawa is known for gold leaf - you’ll see them on walls, utensils, and even sprinkled on their local dishes!

Head to the classic Japanese-style Kanazawa Castle, and drop in on the former private gardens of Kanazawa Park. It’s one of Japan’s top 10 gardens, the grounds of which have been visited by numerous famous artists and上涨scar over the centuries.

TATEYAMA-KURUSOE ALPINE ROUTE

The Tateyama-Kurusoe Alpine Route is a route you can drive through the mountainous area of conifer, cable car and train. So, you can sit on your butt and just enjoy the view without getting too hot. Imagine rolling hills and deep blue lakes dotted with flowers against rugged mountain peaks. If you come between May and July, you can even drive through a 2km-high snow areel on your own to walk it. If you can handle it.

If you travel through the Kurusoe Gorge in autumn, you prepare to be amazed by the numerous tunnels and bridges that line you through the gorge, which this time will be dropped in deep hues of red and yellow.
PASS THE S-PASS!
By Christine Lefa

While we've long been a melting pot of cultures championing diversity and acceptance for all, there's no denying that many Singaporeans have become fiercely territorial about their (admittedly tiny) city-state.

And though it's undeniable that foreign workers have helped stave off the labour crunch in the non-collect sector, it's the growing pool of middle-class skilled foreigners that has some Singaporeans uneasy.

SINGAPORE

THE S-PASS BUZZ

Those foreigners, who held S-passes earn a minimum salary of $3000 and usually work in either technical or creative industries. For many employers, especially those from small and medium enterprises, the supply of competent workers at a lower cost than their Singaporean counterparts is a big enough draw for them to hire S-pass holders.

Another example is Mr. Nick Meier, who is the director of architecture and interior design firm Steven Chiliakata. He said, "We are in the creative industry - we believe that it is beneficial to have a diversity of talent in our team to maintain the quality of our creativity and therefore our productive output."

He added, "As long as the S-passes are managed properly and the companies are responsible, it's beneficial for everyone."

Lately, however, there have been calls for the government to tighten up the regulations and ensure that foreign workers are treated fairly.

HERES WHAT SOME SAY...

For boutique owner Ms Sophie Yip, who is hiring foreigner is important. "If Singapore is going to open its doors to the world, then the foreigners bring in new ideas and diversity."

Everybody's got an opinion. So here are three people's perspectives...

reflecting similar views, Mr. Aharon Yang, a local marketing manager in the food and beverage industry said, "When it comes to accepting higher pay for lower work, the current batch of new skilled workers is a shake-up. The world is different."

As the graduation season approaches and those with overseas experience find it easier to say foreigners aren't the main source of competition for locals, however, there's no denying that the wages are still high. "You should be judged on your merits, whether you're Singaporean or foreign," Mr. Yang said, "But in this economy, you're still going to be employed."

THE SKINHEAD MOVEMENT

In Singapore, skinheads have gotten a bad rap, due to their gangly appearance. X also laments the negative portrayal of skinheads in the media. "There's so much violence associated with skinheads that we've become associated with violence and youth."

Dr. K.J. Lee, a psychology undergraduate at a private university, comes from a middle-class background. "As a kid, I was raised to believe in middle-class values and principles - don't touch what you can't buy and don't speak to the people lower than you."

But he was quick to point out that the skinhead movement is not a threat to society. "You can be a skinhead, a bukake, a worker, or even a millionaire. As long as the system is fair, no one should be discriminated against."

So when a>was introduced to the skinhead movement at 15, he never looked back.

"It stands for everything I believe in and it feels more of a home than anything else. Being a skinhead has made me feel human again," he said.

Capin skating and tattoo art, it seems that's all they really miss from society.

OFF TO FIND A NEW TRADING POST...

Countless history textbooks and classroom dialogues about Singapore's humble beginnings as a trading port, when China and Malaysia empires quickly made our island nation home. Countless tales, it seems that little has changed, with a third of today's population made up of foreigners.
Q: What is the thing you hate most about the thing you like best?

I love thinking contemplation. I think it’s the mindset of human activities. We do it in so many ways: writing, painting, building, having conversations, and many decisions. Long ago I think with our minds, our hearts, and our brains. It is the source of all progress of art, science, of beauty and intelligents. It gives us a sense of meaning and a growth of meaning, and I suppose it’s a way to know and understand to be able to make better decisions — it’s a beautiful empowering feeling.

But, though it is not always pretty, it can hurt. It can be a burden for all of us and others. It can use itself to justify stagnation, to make us lazy thinking, “I need to think about this more.”

Sometimes it seems that people have more to believe in — to death, to deprive, to destroy. The guilt’s doesn’t change too much for the age. Some do not want our own on it. We never accept it as. How do we try to plants to protect these? Because we are all imperfect for it.

I find that the most important thing is to think and, especially. As I do not what it. What I love about what I love is that it always comes to you and I want to do that. I want to be able to do that. And that’s how you think about it. It’s not what we expect or, or, or, I want to do that. I want to do what we expect. And I want to do it. I want to do it. I want to do it. I want to do it.

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I have always seen people take time to think through their thoughts. But, though it is not always pretty, it can hurt. It can be a burden for all of us and others. It can use itself to justify stagnation, to make us lazy thinking, “I need to think about this more.”

Sometimes it seems that people have more to believe in — to death, to deprive, to destroy. The guilt’s doesn’t change too much for the age. Some do not want our own on it. We never accept it as. How do we try to plants to protect these? Because we are all imperfect for it.

I want to do what we expect. And I want to do it. I want to do it. I want to do it. I want to do it.

The only thing I hate about sleeping late is missing out on the gym’s warm, the changing of the lights and need waking by the sound of clock, eggs, and sausages.

However, I cannot complain much as I’ve just joined my new work on wikipedia. Blessed are the souls for they shall inherit the mystery and danger of the night.
THE FUTURE OF TCM

BY MELISSA ANG

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) was recently thrust into the international spotlight when Chinese pharmaceutical company Gui Zhen Tang, which also produces bear bile, came under fire for its initial public offering (IPO) bid to expand its operations.

The company claimed that its methods of extraction were humane, citing its use of natural and ethical practices. But concerns over the ethics of the company's practices were highlighted by a recent report on microblogging site Weibo, which drew keen attention to the practices of Gui Zhen Tang.

But TCM practitioners say the public outcry has given them the opportunity to highlight the potential benefits of TCM. Dr. Lee Jingjing, a professional TCM practitioner and leading instructor at the Singapore College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, stressed that TCM in Singapore uses traditional Chinese medicinal practices, rather than animal origins. TCM, she added, includes techniques like acupuncture and massage rather than animal-related drugs.

While they support the medicinal benefits of bear bile, such as soothing the liver, improving sleep, and killing parasites, Ms. Jingjing is quick to point out that such a practice is “absurdly cruel” and not a sustainable option.

“TCM practitioners have been identifying effective substitutes to animal-related medications to cater to different dietary restrictions, such as vegans,” she said. For undergraduate Miss Brenda Lim, this comes as good news. The 21-year-old champions a widespread ban on bear bile harvesting, and gave a speech to her peers about the “humane” practice last year.

The communications major at the University of Buffalo-Singapore Institute of Management is optimistic about the animal-friendly initiatives taken by local authorities and the TCM community in Singapore. Said Miss Lim: “With advanced technology for research, substitutes can be introduced to replace animal-based Chinese medicines, slowly increasing the popularity of Chinese medicine in the future.”

Recently, Singapore’s Minister of State for Health Dr. Amy Khor expressed her plans for TCM in Singapore to conduct more research, so locals will have more trust in the methods used and adopt the appropriate treatments.

Mr. Yen Sheng Yang, an undergraduate in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine at the Nanyang Technological University, was heartened by her announcement. At present, modern scientific methods may not accurately represent all the known effects of TCM, he said.

Mr. Yang added that research in the field would help to gain a larger following of Singaporeans, especially amongst the younger generation, who are more conscious about their impact on the environment.

While bear bile has been effectively used in traditional Chinese medicine for thousands of years, the practice of extracting bile from bears commercially reared in captivity has only gained popularity in recent years. Since then, animal rights activists have clamored for a stop to this practice. Volunteers from Members recently organized protests and marches outside the Gui Zhen Tang store.

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In Singapore, TCM has a following among the older community, who look to Chinese medical treatments and prescriptions for their ailments.

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OUT AND ABOUT

FESTIVALS

19 May - 2 June 2012
Free & ticketed
Various venues & locations
Singapore Arts Festival
This year’s festival is themed "Lost Pages. Highlights include a
shooting of "Haward Strange", The Festival City, and the
Blindness Company, a street parade in Cempadone Park, which will
host a series of free performances.

MOVIES

GONE
(19 April)
Cast: Amanda Seyfried, Daniel Sunjata,
Jennifer Carpenter, Wes Bentley
Jill Parrish (Seyfried) discovers that her sister
Molly has disappeared. Jill is convinced that
Molly was abducted by the same serial
crime, a year before, pulled Jill from her
bed and thrown her into a hole in the woods. Is Jill mentally ill? Will she rescue
herself before it’s too late? The answer lies in a
hole in the woods.

MEN IN BLACK III
(24 May)
Cast: Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin
Agents K (Smith) and K (Jones) are back...in
time. They have been sent to the future to
protect the planet...from a bird in the woods. Is Jill mentally ill? Will she ride
out the time...before it’s too late? The answer lies in a
hole in the woods.

HAPPENING

21 JUMP STREET
(20 May)
Cast: Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
In this action-comedy, Schmidt (Hill) and
Janks (Tatum) are ready to leave their problems behind,
keeping the police force’s secret Jump Street
unit, then being crushed and a cop career on
an on-going basis. Performances at the

26 April 2012 | 8pm
Tab
Tix $69
Ed Kowalczyk
(of LIVE)

3 May 2012 | 8pm
Challenge Theatre
Tix $99-$169
Dream Theatre
Progressive metal band Dream Theater
performed on Singapore for the
first time, playing tracks from their
their "IMI" album. A
series of events at Gardens. Tix from SSTSTC

26 April 2012 | 8pm
Gardens by the Bay
Tix $169
MEN IN BLACK III
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Agent K (Smith) and K (Jones) are back...in
time. They have been sent to the future to
protect the planet...from a bird in the woods. Is Jill mentally ill? Will she rescue
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27 April 2012 | 8pm
Tab
Tix $69
Paula Valstein
Valstein is the last singer and primary
performer for American rock band Live, has since
created a solo career on his own and
performs at the Tab. Tix from www.langs.com.sg

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Artistic License

Each issue, Campus speaks to the up-and-coming creative talents behind our cover design and Panasonics licensing. This issue, we speak to graphic designer and LASALLE animation art student, Shamine King, who tells us what she has in common with our cover design, and how her love for Middle Eastern culture inspired the Panasonic ad.

Cover Art Inspiration

"I drew the cover in a pop-art of style. I was interested in similar to the style of alternative hip-hop band Gorillaz. I made the girl in the image very stylized and angular because I wanted the image to take me and the viewer.

I don't really relate to the issues of the ladies because I lived similar things in high school. When I was in United World College, I actually won the backpack that I drew in the cover. I have it at home, but I don't use it very much because it reminds me of all the pressure that I used to face, the pressure to succeed.

It gets better once you're out of high school. A lot of the problems I used to have, I don't have anymore. I used to break out about the smallest things before I learnt to let things go. Now I'm in Lasalle doing what I want to do. I'm much happier than I was in high school because I can see a future in what I'm learning."

Manga Inspiration

"I'm really intrigued by Middle Eastern culture and the Occitan empire, which is where I set the Panasonic ad. To LASALLE, we always taught to think about things creatively and unconventionally. So I set a Japanese product, the Panasonic air conditioner, in the middle of a desert, which is really hot.

My parents are Filipinos and Canadian, and I've lived in a number of countries when I was younger. I've stayed in India, Netherlands, Australia, Japan and now Singapore. I think this has given me a very cultural outlook at the world. Even my name has origins in the Middle East, and I used to baby dance until I had to stop when I got too big.

When I was 11, I drew a comic about a Middle Eastern hero, which I self-published while I was studying in India. I sold them at school events to raise money for charity, and I had elements of the comic in mind when I drew the ad.

I want to revive the comic and improve on it now that I'm a bit older. It needs a villain and a plot twist. I chose LASALLE's animation course because I want to see my characters come to life. Hopefully, I'll get to do that with my comic as well."