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BE A

IN
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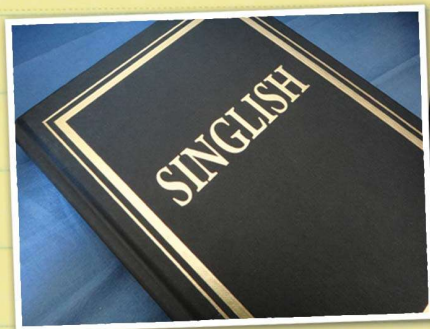
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Cheat Sheet

By Nicole Hilary Teo

#30 Mastering the art of being a Singaporean

SINGLISH AND THE SINGAPORE SLANG

From the 'lah's, 'leh's and 'loh's to the use of two to three languages in the same sentence, the way Singaporeans speak has baffled and amused many people around the world. There is even a handbook for tourists to buy to understand our unique use of language! If you are new to this, try getting your friend's attention by saying "eh!" while tapping them on the shoulder, or using 'lah', 'leh' and 'loh' in your speech— you'll fit right in!

Lah!
Leh!
Loh!

"KAY-POH"

It kills us Singaporeans inside if we miss anything worth noticing, making us extremely eager to be in the know about everything— a trait we know as being "kay-poh". We slow down on the highways to get a better view of accidents, and glance discreetly at the mobile phones of people who laugh to themselves. The next time you feel bored at a family gathering, try out your 'kay-poh' skills and find out more about that cousin you hardly know.

Wonder what happened?



"KIASU"

The fear of losing, affectionately known as being 'kiasu', is a common trait that Singaporeans have. We are somehow wired to believe that we need to pull every trick in the book to achieve our goals and be the first in everything we do, even if it is something simple like getting a seat in a crowded food court. To display this trait, for starters, you could place a packet of tissue paper on a food court table to "chope" it (mark it as your territory)— everyone around will immediately know that that place is off limits.

Essential for keeping seats at lunch



Not sure how to distinguish yourself as a Singaporean when you're overseas? Or maybe you'd like to help some of your international friends blend in? Here are a few tips you can follow to get you started on the path of becoming Singaporean.

"Uncle, can give discount please? I'm a poor student."



BARGAIN HUNTERS

Singaporeans are award winners when it comes to bargaining and discount hunting. We somehow manage to coax store owners into lowering their prices for us, and we always know where the freebies are at. So the next time you feel that a product is not worth its marked price, put your bargaining skills to use. After all, practice makes perfect.

NEVER-ENDING QUEUING

Remember the crazy queues for the Hello Kitty plush toys at McDonalds? It's been said, once a Singaporean sets his/her eyes on something, they'd brave downpours and scorching heat to get it— literally. Some might commend us for our determination, but the sad part is that this determination only applies to the next freebie giveaway.

"Wow! Free ah? Better queue then, don't worry I have an umbrella."



BY CLAUDIA TAN

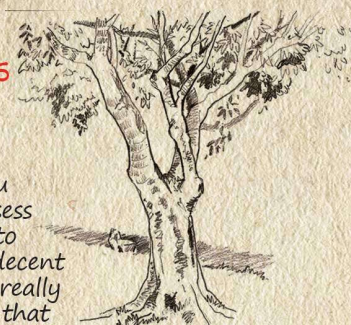
OLD WIVES' TALES

LOCAL VERSION

We've all heard our fair share of old wives' tales, be it not to open the umbrella in the house (it's bad luck) or if a bird craps on you (that's good luck). These superstitions all probably have rich origins, or it could just be the doings of overly cautious people. Either way, none of us really escape these fears because it's always better to play the safe card, so here's a bunch of superstitions that we've uncovered.

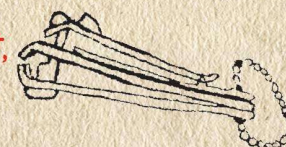
Don't stand under the trees at night, especially with your hair untied

It's been rumoured that if you do so, the pontianak will possess you. Probably, a scare tactic to get kids to reach home at a decent time, this superstition hasn't really been proven. It has been said that the plausible reason behind this superstition leads to a mother who is exhausted of washing bird poop off her child's clothes.



Don't clip your nails at night, especially on a Tuesday or Saturday

With enough nail clippings, it said that the wandering spirits will be able to possess your body. A superstition that probably started with a bunch of angry family members, tired of stepping on barbed nail clippings in the dark, this superstition varies with race; according to the Indians, it's best not to cut your nails on Tuesday or Saturday for that same reason. On the flipside, the best time to clip your nails is right after a shower, as they would be most pliable and not prone to cracking.



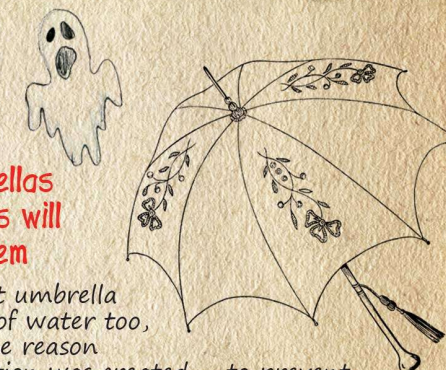
Don't leave your plate dry after finishing your meal

Leaving your plate to dry or with leftovers is said to bring bad luck in ways like you'd have a stagnant income or there will be no progression in your career. A familiar saying among Malay and Indian mothers, the belief reminds their children to pour some water on their plate to prevent this superstition from coming true, or maybe they really didn't want to have a hard time scrubbing off the stains on plates.



Don't open umbrellas indoors or ghosts will gather under them

Dragging in a wet umbrella drags in puddles of water too, which could be the reason why this superstition was created — to prevent the sloppy from creating a mess. There are, however, various repercussions of this superstition, from incurring bad luck to having someone dear pass away. Either way, Chinese whispers clearly failed big time with this belief.



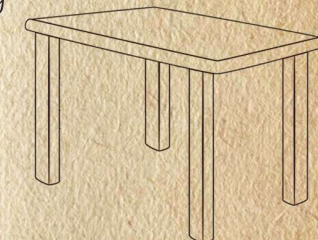
Don't wash your hair before an exam, or everything that you have learnt will be washed away

The remedy to a scorching day, baths may not have been every kid's ideal activity, but it sure kept them busy with all the splashing around. This would eventually cut into their studying time if there was no parental supervision — thus the birth of this superstition. That said, I don't think many of us even bother to wash our hair before an exam because we're mugging all through the night.



Don't crawl under tables or you will be short for life

A belief that probably stretches the truth by a whole lot, this belief actually came about to prevent kids from getting into accidents or bumping into things. On a scientific scale, this superstition might not hold a lot of weight, but it has been proven that bumping your head one too many times will impair IQ, and affect social learning in children.



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BY DEBBI TAN

ODD DRINKS AT KOPITIAMS

What drinks do you usually order at kopitiam? You've probably ordered drinks like kopi-o, milo peng and teh-si, but what about the less common ones? Dare yourself and give these drinks a chance. For all you know, it could end up being your favourite. As rare as the drink is, the weirder it gets, and some stall owners might not realise that these drinks exist so introduce it to them and pass it on.

MILO KA KOI NENG (Hot Milo with raw egg)

Order a cup of hot milo and break an egg into it. Stir this combination quickly to avoid streaks of cooked eggs floating in your beverage. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. The taste of the egg is barely there, but the milo ends up thicker and more fragrant. Forget about energy bars, this drink is recommended for people who need a pick-me-up or strength for a tough day ahead.



NESLO (Nescafe and Milo)

If you can't decide between coffee or chocolate, then this beverage is made for you. NesLo, which tastes like a dark chocolate drink, and is a kopitiam's version of iced mocha latte and won't leave holes in your pocket. It is such a good combination that Nescafé Dolce Gusto has even taken on the idea and created their own NesLo drink.



MILO HALIA (Milo Ginger Tea)

You've probably heard of Teh Halia, what about Milo Halia? Halia, simply means ginger in Malay. So, by adding ginger into the drink, it helps to relieve the stomach from bloat and aids digestion.



BANDUNG DINOSAUR

You've read it right. The term Dinosaur means "a heap of Milo powder" in one drink. Those with a sweet tooth - and fans of rose syrup - should definitely give this drink a shot.

TEH SI SIU DAI HALIA PENG (Iced ginger tea with evaporated milk, lesser sugar)

Teh Si Siu Dai is a common cup of milk tea with less sugar. Now, add ginger to spice things up. The stall owner might not understand your order at first, as it is a mixture of two drinks in one.



MICHAEL JACKSON (Grass jelly/chin chow and soya bean)

It don't matter if you're black or white. This drink is made of 50% grass jelly (or chin chow) and 50% soya bean. The grass jelly adds a refreshing taste and leaves a cooling effect on your tummy. Remember to stir the drink well before sipping it, as the grass jelly and syrup will sink to the bottom.



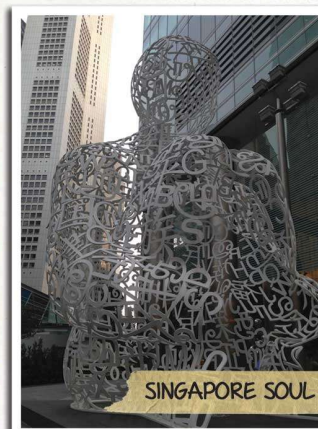
KOPI GU YOU (Coffee with butter)

Rumour has it that by adding butter to coffee, it helps to soothe the throat. The older generation believe that coffee is a "heaty" drink and by adding butter, it acts as the "cooling" food, which maintains the balance in the body. This dissolving butter may not be pleasing to the eyes, but it adds a nice aroma and taste to the thick coffee.



A STAGE FOR ART

By Nurshurina Sariff



Singapore Soul

Jaume Plensa only visited Singapore four times and yet the nation left such an impression on him that he created an artwork about her. Placed at Ocean Financial Centre, Singapore Soul is a human figure made of painted stainless steel shaped in words such as "unity", "justice", "happiness" and "prosperity" but in Singapore's national languages - Malay, Tamil, Chinese and English. Jaume made the sculpture in a way that reflects Singapore's multicultural society.



NUTMEG AND MACE

Nutmeg & Mace

Created in 2009 by Kumari Nahappan, Nutmeg & Mace is more than just a bronze sculpture outside ION Orchard. Many might wonder about the link between a nutmeg and a futuristic-looking building; the answer is - its past. Before Orchard Road was baptised with its name, it was just a land awash with pepper farms, fruit orchards, and nutmeg plantations. So the sculpture serves as a reminder that Orchard Road is not just a series of glitzy, towering buildings, it had a heritage that served Singapore well. Moreover, nutmegs are considered a symbol of prosperity since it used to be a sought-after spice for hundreds of years.

Planet

Don't be alarmed when you see a giant floating giant baby at the Meadow, Gardens by The Bay. The sculpture is a form of the son of its artist, Marc Quinn. The message was simple: vulnerability. Because even with its enormity, a baby is defenseless and unguarded, which is similar to Earth's existence in the solar system as the largest terrestrial planet that is susceptible to factors like climate change and asteroid attacks. Before settling in Singapore, this art piece called 'Planet' also appeared in England and Monaco.

PLANET



Pedas Pedas

Located on the lawn of the National Museum, Pedas Pedas is a humongous bronze chili pepper and is also another work of Kumari Nahappan. What inspired Kumari to create a chili pepper sculpture is the connection Singaporeans have with the ingredient. A staple in plenty of our local dishes, it essentially packs enough flavour and punch to power any dish, which if put in the context of Singapore, applies wholly.

All the essentially essential

You may have seen a giant toy-kit in Raffles Place Park and attempted to play with it, only to figure out that it's all part of an art piece. Created by Tan Wee Lit, this stainless steel artwork is similar to a plastic car model kit but instead of car parts, it has objects like bicycle wheels, a keyboard and a pair of slippers, representing the things we require for a healthy work-life balance. There is an empty space in the sculpture, meant to emphasise that we need someone to stand in the empty space to make us feel complete as a human being. What a lovely touch to a playful-looking artwork.



PEDAS PEDAS



BY JOHN THIO

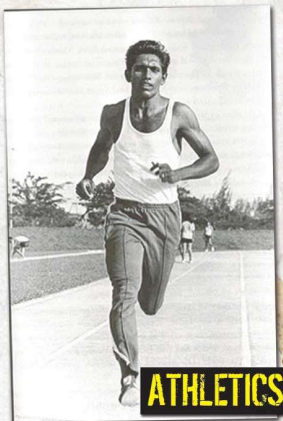
GLORY TO GLORY

The crescendo of cheers erupting from the stands. Fists pumped into the air. National pride swelling up in the hearts of many. The Kallang Wave. Such are the emotions you get when our national athletes work towards bringing glory to our nation through competing in the many international events. We might currently be under the radar with our sports achievements, but this shouldn't stop you from knowing some of the names that have put Singapore on the podium.



CANAGASABAI KUNALAN

BEFORE: Widely considered as the most successful track & field athlete in Singapore, he has garnered countless achievements. His most notable triumph was in the 1969 Southeast Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games where he won a total of three gold medals. He was also named 'Sportsperson of the Year' consecutively, in 1968 and 1969.

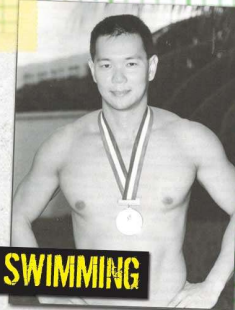


ATHLETICS

NOW: Currently serving as the vice president of the Singapore Athletic Association, he was also a member of the Singapore Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (SYOGOC) back in 2010.

ANG PENG SIONG

BEFORE: Best known for winning the 50m freestyle in a record-breaking 22.67 seconds at the US Swimming Championships in 1982. In the same year, he also won gold for the 100m freestyle in the 1982 Asian Games.



SWIMMING

NOW: After his successful career, he founded the APS Swim School which is dedicated to grooming Singapore's next generation of swimmers. He was also made head coach of Singapore's National Swim Team in 2012, a position he still holds today.

REMY ONG

BEFORE: Remy made headlines by grabbing gold for the singles, trios and masters events at the 14th Asian Games back in 2002. In that same year, he ranked number one in Asia and fifth in the world - the highest position ever achieved by a Singaporean.



BOWLING

NOW: In February this year, he was appointed the Singapore Bowling Federation's (SBF) new national head coach.

JOAN LIEW LEE TING

BEFORE: A strong lady with the ambitions to match. Joan Liew has defied every critic on her way to success at bodybuilding. She clinched gold at both the Asian Bodybuilding Championship and Asian Women's Bodybuilding Champion in 2000 and 2002 respectively.



BODYBUILDING

NOW: Although considered still active in her professional career, she took on a different challenge in 2005 and started a fitness consultancy company called Fitness Factory to help others with their fitness goals.

FANDI AHMAD

BEFORE: Arguably Singapore's most well-known football player, his accolades are numerous. He was the captain of the Singapore Armed Forces Football Club (SAFFC) side, that achieved considerable success in the league and cups. He also played for FC Groningen in Holland and left such an indelible impression that he was eventually placed in their best eleven of the twentieth century.



FOOTBALL

NOW: Fandi is currently the head coach of the Singapore Lions XII.

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SOCIALLY STUDIED

BY: AMOS ANG

Looking around, it is sometimes hard to fathom that this modern city-state of ours has only been around for 49 years. Though much of our history can be gleaned from the textbooks, there are a few occurrences that continue to stand the test of time. Here, we take a trip down memory lane, where the Singapore you and I know had a heady mixture of adrenaline, mystery and drama.



10 March 1965 MACDONALD HOUSE BOMBING

With the recent furore over the ill-advised naming of two Indonesian warships, the history and reasons behind the attack are already well established.

Perhaps the solution is a common dictionary, where hero and terrorist could be antonyms.

1 October 1972

A GREAT WAY TO FLY

Singapore Airlines was founded and the iconic Singapore Girl soon followed. French couturier Pierre Balmain first coined the term when designing the sarong kebaya and the design as we know it has remained largely the same since then, proving that you can in fact, move forward while remaining static. Today, the Singapore Girl in her signature cobalt blue sarong kebaya is the epitome of service excellence.



26 March 1991

SQ 117 HIJACKING

This hijacking is well known for introducing the capability of our special forces at dealing with terrorist threats. The terrorists were found later to have fireworks and inflight cutlery at their disposal - a bit of an overkill really, considering they were going up against guns that could shoot actual bullets faster than they could say "Boom!"



5 August 1993 CLEMENTI MRT COLLISION

The 1,800 commuters on board an east-bound train got a rude shock when another train chose that particular morning to acquaint itself with the one they were on, in a bruising experience that left 156 injured.

October 2007

THE REPEAL OF SECTION 377

Oral and anal sex between consenting heterosexual adults became legal after the repeal. In its place, fornication with a cadaver was made illegal and no, coitus with your 'cold fish' of a partner does not count. Section 377A - which prohibits similar acts between homosexuals - however, still stands.



THE SHOCKING SIXTIES

THE STUNNING SEVENTIES

THE EMOTIONAL EIGHTIES

THE "NO NONSENSE" NINETIES

THE NERVOUS NOUGHTIES



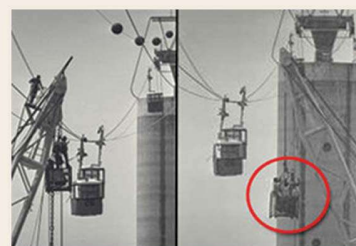
9 April 1966 SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX

Singapore had a Grand Prix way before we clinched the Formula 1 deal back in 2007. 1966 was the year of the inaugural Singapore Grand Prix and it was the first Grand Prix we held as an independent nation. Singaporean Lee Han Seng took the chequered flag, a feat probably inconceivable in the context of today since road rage tends to overshadow our affinity for the track. Ironically, this event was discontinued in 1973, as it was said to promote reckless driving.



6 January 1979 THE GEYLANG BAHRU MURDERS

Considered the most brutal and inhuman murder in Singapore - three brothers and their sister, ages between 5 and 10, were viciously slashed to death in their one-room flat in Geylang Bahru. The bodies were found stacked, almost systematically, in the bathroom and each one had been hacked so much they were reduced to pulp. The sadder news? The police have not found any leads and continue to be flummoxed even to this day.



29 January 1983 SENTOSA CABLE CAR ACCIDENT

Around 6pm, a vessel unceremoniously struck the cable of the Sentosa Cable Car, plunging two cable cars into the sea and killing seven. The 13 others that were left stranded on the island were given a second lease at life as a helicopter came to their rescue, which took over 3 1/2 hours of rescuing in the blustery conditions. The cable car unsurprisingly, saw a dip in popularity after that.

13 December 1984

FIRST CHRISTMAS LIGHT UP AT ORCHARD ROAD

Originally the brainchild of the predecessor of the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), the first light-up lasted for just twenty days but its success saw it become the 44 day-long annual affair of today. The resplendent setup is now a tourist attraction on its own right. Perhaps somewhat disappointingly though is that the traditional Christmas colours of red and green are not used in current light setups to prevent from muddling motorists who might confuse the lights for traffic signals.



March-May 2003

SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME (SARS)

This was the time of home quarantines, temperature taking and perhaps more importantly, school closures. Casinos were also not needed back then, because every breath taken felt like a round of Russian roulette. On the flipside, it was also a time of courage, self-sacrifice and resilience, as many risked their lives to help the infected and in some instances, paid the ultimate price.

LEND A HELPING HAND

BY GIVON LIM

With the summer holiday in full swing, students are about with vigour and time; instead of becoming mallrats or couch potatoes, try volunteering. With Singapore awash in charity organisations and not-for-profits (NFPs), here's a checklist of some of the places you can lend a helping hand and bring a smile to someone's day.

TRYBE!

Trybe! lives by the vision that every youth can achieve success in their own ways. They exist to inspire youths and help them to discover their dreams and forte. Programmes include boosting their self-esteem through leadership development and resilience training, which aim to shape youths' perspectives and approaches to life, and offer proper guidance to work towards noble goals.

GET INVOLVED!

Be a facilitator in their workshops and holiday camps, as well as conducting workshops to inspire and engage fellow dynamic youths.

CONJUNCT CONSULTING

What differentiates Conjoint Consulting from other organisations is its refreshing perspective. Here, you can helm the role of a consultant to other non-profit organisations and social enterprises. Through offering pro bono services, you will be part of the team to help equip organisations with better skills and knowledge to maximise their services to their beneficiaries.

GET INVOLVED!

If you want to boost your leadership skills, be their project leader or a consultant responsible for overseeing the whole progress of a project, from research to mentoring new associates!

TODDYCATS!

If carbon footprint, green living and energy conservation are some of your buzzwords, then Toddycats! may just be for you. Originally established to encourage undergraduates at NUS to be environmentally-friendly, this scheme has now widened its viewership and is looking to the public for assistance. Other than conducting seminars and exhibitions to educate the public on the importance of conservation, Toddycats! also holds frequent guided trails and coastal clean-up activities.

GET INVOLVED!

As an advocate of green living, you can take on the role as a guide and a site captain on trail walks or coastal cleanup activities.

SOCIAL CREATIVES

'A picture paints a thousand words' is an idea often harped on by many, and Social Creatives promotes that idea that art can be a tool of communication and interaction among the community. As an art enterprise, the organisation has created some 150 murals, which can be easily spotted at HDB void decks or on empty walls along the streets.

GET INVOLVED!

If you want to flaunt your flair in art, you can volunteer in a slew of programmes such as painting in needy homes or at void deck art galleries!

AIDHA

Nelson Mandela once resonated that education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to change the world. Aidha strongly believes in education among domestic workers in Singapore to equip them with skills that they can bring back to their countries, allowing them the opportunity to escape from the vicious cycle of poverty. Aidha provides financial training programmes, computer literacy, and other business and entrepreneurship skills which would also enhance their working experience in Singapore.

GET INVOLVED!

If you have a passion for teaching, you can be a volunteer mentor and impart what you have learnt in schools to them.

Statistically Speaking

Singapore loves numbers and stats - after all we are ranked **#3** in the world in math. So here's a quick look at stats on some of the things we do well (and not so well):



We're not the worst in the Olympics

We're actually **ahead of 36** other nations, including several large countries that spend well on sports, like Vietnam (#108) and Saudi Arabia (#113).

- IOC



Long Lived

Singaporeans have the **4th** highest life expectancy in the world (even despite the haze). Half of Singaporeans alive today will live to be **85 years** old, and **1/3** will live to be **90**.

- National Population and Talent Division



Longest Retirement

Singaporeans are the longest-lived "post-retirement" people in the world, with men and women respectively living **20.8** and **25.6** years beyond retirement, mainly due to our good healthcare system and (probably) spicy food.

- Bloomberg Sunset Index



Cheap and Good!

NUS and NTU are among the world's top schools, with **NUS** making world's **top 8**. Compared to other top schools like Harvard or Oxford boasting 6-figure, multi-year tuition bills, it makes an hour bus ride and <\$10,000 annual tuition fee for most BA courses look like a very, very good deal.

- QS University Rankings Asia



Or Baby-Making

Singapore has the **3rd** lowest fertility rate, just ahead of Hong Kong and Monaco. And we're only fractionally behind Germany, South Korea, Austria and Japan.

- CIA World Factbook



Behind Closed Doors

Singaporeans have surprisingly **more active sex lives** than many nations, including Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, the UK and USA. Conversely, we're one of the nations least-satisfied with our sex lives. Perhaps this comes from our penchant for high expectations and *kiasu*-ism.

- Durex Sexual Wellbeing Survey



Play (station) time

We're the **11th** cheapest country in which to buy a Playstation 4. Brazil is the most expensive (over \$2,500). This may be why Brazil statistically (according to the W.H.O.) was the 17th most stressed-out country (we're the 62nd). This may also have something to do with our declining birthrate...

- Sony.com

5 Forget-me-not Places in Singapore

By Debbi Tan

When something new happens, the old one is often left forgotten. As mentioned by Kami Garcia, "old things are better than new things, because they've got stories in them". So, take a break from the newfangled sights and sounds of Singapore, and set out on an adventure to the forgotten places that dot this tiny island. Although some places mentioned here are ulu, you might just find your new favourite spot to get away from the hustle and bustle.

THE JAPANESE CEMETERY PARK

Maybe not wanting to conjure up bad memories of those who suffered in World War II, little awareness about the Japanese Cemetery Park has been made. Established in 1891, it is situated at Chuan Hoe Avenue, off Yio Chu Kang road. It houses the burial needs of the Japanese from different walks of life including prostitutes, businessmen and merchants. Regarded as a place of peace and tranquillity, the walkway is decorated with flowers and the tombstones are surrounded by lush greenery. It is also notable that students have turned this place into their very own study corner.

HAW PAR VILLA

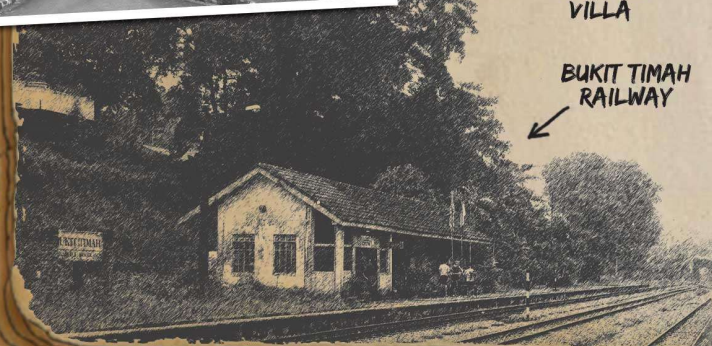
Haw Par Villa is not your average theme park like Universal Studios. It is a place rich in cultural learning containing statues that bring life to Chinese legends. The best attraction is the 10 Courts of Hell, which features the gruesome depictions of Hell in Chinese mythology and Buddhism. Unlike rides with seats, this theme park requires you to walk for your entertainment. With the graphic nature found here, it is not recommended for the faint-hearted. Said to be the entrance to Hell, security guards even have stories to tell of the sightings of statues coming alive at night painfully screaming from the 10 Courts of Hell, while other rumours include that the statues were actually people covered in wax.

JAPANESE CEMETERY PARK



HAW PAR VILLA

BUKIT TIMAH RAILWAY



SEMBAWANG HOT SPRING

We've our very own hot spring here in Singapore - the one and only that is. However, do not expect abundant greenery like the ones in Taiwan or Japan. It is well hidden within concrete walls and locked securely to prevent kids from falling in. Frequently visited by the elderly, who believe spring water can relieve pain caused by arthritis and rheumatism, it is best to bring your own buckets and chairs, or feel free to rent them from the caretakers. Some visitors even bring their own eggs to boil as snacks! Just don't forget the soya sauce and pepper.



SEMBAWANG HOT SPRING

KAMPONG LORONG BUANGKOK

KAMPONG LORONG BUANGKOK

Kampung Lorong Buangkok is the last surviving kampong in Singapore, outside Pulau Ubin and is still a residential area. Built in 1956, Kampung Lorong Buangkok is located near Gerald Drive and it houses less than 30 families (mostly Malay and Chinese). A mix of the older generation and even young couples with kids, the area consists largely of zinc-roofed houses and marshes. A favourite spot among Instagrammers, this village sticks out for obvious reasons, in comparison to the rest of the concrete jungle.

BUKIT TIMAH RAILWAY STATION

Although no longer in use, Bukit Timah Railway Station still exists as a sentimental reminder of Singapore's railway history and heritage. If you love nature, this is the place to be. Take a stroll on the railway track. The large trains meant that the paths are wide and spacious, leaving plenty of room to walk without bumping into bushes and trees. Not unseathed from horror stories, an accident which occurred in 2009 when a train knocked down two Republic Polytechnic students, killing them on the spot has been the source of ghostly tales for many, as there have been reported sightings of the two students.

by Amos Ang

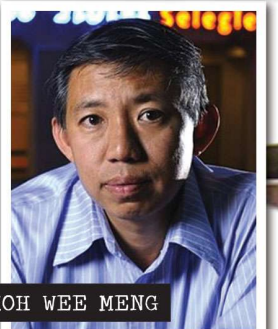
THE LIST

SINGAPORE'S RICHEST

With Singapore making headlines in every ranking and list, the island has lots to boast about. One of it is the record number of homegrown billionaires - some of whom have made it to the Forbes' list. Here are a number of those bigwigs.

KOH WEE MENG (SGD 1.6B)

Founder of the Fragrance Group - perhaps best known for his chain of budget hotels, this enterprising hotelier was once known as the 'Geylang King' for his group's beginnings in the red-light district. An avid collector of vintage cars, he famously sued a Rolls-Royce dealer back in 2008 for selling him an allegedly defective Phantom.



KOH WEE MENG

SAM GOI (SGD 2.5B)

Another business magnate with a royal title - the 'Popiah King', Sam Goi transformed a small operation of manufacturing popiah skins to the frozen foods behemoth that is Tee Yih Jia, which gave this high school dropout a whole new meaning to the term 'skin business'.



SAM GOI

PETER LIM (SGD 2.6B)

Known now as the owner of Valencia CF, a football club playing in Spain's top division, he could well be Singapore's very own Warren Buffet, having amassed a vast majority of his wealth from a string of successful investments. Not just a football fan, the petrolhead is also said to be the owner of a fleet of 25 Ferraris and calls an entire 11-storey condominium block home.



PETER LIM

GOH CHENG LIANG (SGD 2.65B)

Mention Nippon Paints and the image of a lumbering sumo wrestler holding a can of paint is likely to come to mind. Japanese in origin, the brand was only able to make inroads into South-east Asia after its partnership with this reclusive billionaire. His name might not ring the bells of many, but buildings built by him certainly do - Mount Elizabeth Hospital and Liang Court in Clarke Quay are just to name a few.



GOH CHENG LIANG

KHOO FAMILY (SGD 8.4B)

Heirs to the fortune of the late banker Khoo Teck Puat (yes, the hospital is named after him), the family also owns Goodwood Park, the hotel that makes arguably the best durian puffs in Singapore. And oh, son Eric Khoo is a film director, known for making My Magic - the first Singapore film to be nominated for the Palme D'Or, the top award at the Cannes Film Festival.



KHOO TECK PUAT

ROBERT & PHILLIP NG (SGD 13.3B)

The billionaire brothers share the coveted title of being Singapore's richest, albeit the majority of it inherited from their late father and real estate tycoon Ng Teng Fong. Surprisingly, the bulk of their fortune stems from investment stakes in Hong Kong and not from Far East Organisation - their local flagship.



PHILLIP NG



ROBERT NG

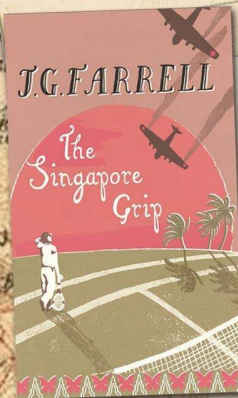
A WRITER'S MAP OF SINGAPORE

BY JINGXUAN TENG

When you think of British writer Anthony Burgess, what comes to mind first: A Clockwork Orange, or The Malayan Trilogy? Does Rudyard Kipling's name seem more closely connected to some men who would be king in faraway Afghanistan, or to our own Raffles Hotel? You'd be surprised at the number of famous foreign (i. e. "western") writers who have been inspired by Singapore, or chosen to set their works here.

For most of the twentieth century, Singapore's biggest connection to the rest of the world was through its role as a British colony. So it makes sense that most of the international literature set in Singapore is concerned with the British Empire and the processes of colonisation and decolonisation.

Between tense conversations exploring the tortured imperialist psyche, and descriptions of how horrible it is to have too many nice things in such hot weather, we catch glimpses of some familiar Singaporean landmarks and districts. Here's how a few of them look through foreign writers' eyes:



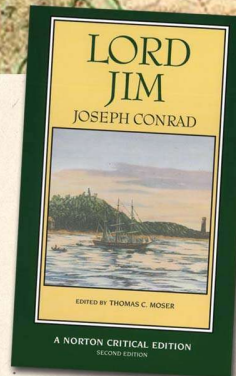
TANGLIN

In *The Singapore Grip* (1978), Booker Prize-winning author J. G. Farrell details the waning fortunes of the Blacketts, a British commercial family. The Blacketts live in Tanglin on the eve of the Japanese Occupation. Farrell describes the neighbourhood as looking like "any quiet European suburb", but "burst at the seams with a dreadful tropical energy." Present-day Tanglin has more high-rise condos than black and white bungalows, but the windy roads and overgrown tropical gardens are definitely still as Farrell saw them.



THE COAST

Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* (1900) was probably inspired by a 19th century British ship's troubled voyage between Singapore and Penang. The SS Jeddah left Singapore in July 1880 and started sinking soon after. The ship and its passengers were promptly abandoned by its British officers, one of whom was eventually buried in the now defunct Bidadari Cemetery (soon to house yet more property developments). In Conrad's novel, a young British officer with a similar back story becomes the leader of a remote Malayan region. If you've read Conrad's more famous *Heart of Darkness* (also narrated by seaman Marlow), you'll know that things don't end well for European men who try to control tropical communities...



THE LONG DAY
WANES
A Malayan Trilogy
Anthony Burgess

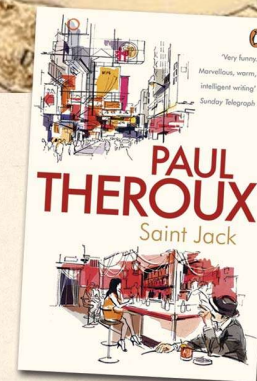
RAFFLES INSTITUTION

Anthony Burgess's *Malayan Trilogy* - which included *Time for a Tiger* (1956), *The Enemy in the Blanket* (1958) and *Beds in the East* (1959) - is centred on a history teacher (Victor Crabbe) at the prestigious Mansor School, and takes place during the Malayan Emergency of 1948-1960. Crabbe struggles against Chinese and Malay insurgents during the decade of guerilla warfare, and gets embroiled in complicated relations between local communities. Burgess apparently got inspiration for his fictional Mansor School from the real-life Raffles Institution, which boasts some insurgents and Malayan nationalists from the period among its many alumni.



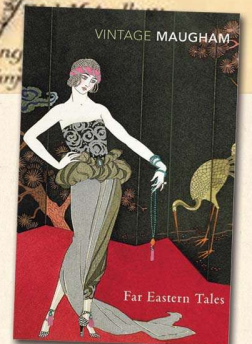
BUGIS

Saint Jack (1973), by Paul Theroux, is not like other Singapore novels - it's more interested in the city's seedy underbelly than in its high-tea places. Theroux's protagonist, Jack Flower, is a pimp who leads readers through the Bugis Street underworld where boys "who in skirts were more winsome than girls" mingle with brothel owners and lost American tourists, eating steamed garoupa and talking business. Today's Bugis Street is, for better or worse, significantly less colourful. There's a reason the film adaptation of *Saint Jack* was banned for 26 years in Singapore after its release!



RAFFLES HOTEL

This 127-year-old hotel doesn't appear much in literature, aside from the occasional quick reference, but it's where plenty of authors hung out. When playwright Noel Coward (who was best pals with Lord Mountbatten, for whom Mountbatten Road is named) stayed here in 1931, he complained that it was like "being inside a hot cardboard box, which was growing rapidly smaller". W. Somerset Maugham (yes, you know him from Somerset MRT station) and Ernest Hemingway probably had a better time. Maugham sat behind plants in the courtyard restaurant and eavesdropped on socialites' conversations, getting inspiration for *Far Eastern Tales* and *The Casuarina Tree*; Hemingway loved the hotel's famous bar.



The Growing Skyline

Singapore's addiction to jazzing up its skyline with towering superstructures has hit an all-time high in recent years; some of them come with exorbitant price tags, while others flaunt eco- or spatial-friendly features. So, while you're awing at its magnificence, here are a few fun facts to chew on provided by Jonathan Choe, author of urbanARCHnow.com.



Marina Bay Sands

One of Singapore's (and the world's) most expensive structures, the Marina Bay Sands, is estimated to have cost 11 billion dollars to build. The second most expensive building is Resorts World Sentosa.

The Pinnacle @ Duxton

With two world records, The Pinnacle @ Duxton is currently the tallest public housing, featuring the world's longest sky garden.



Parkroyal on Pickering

PARKROYAL on Pickering is well known for its lush sky gardens, as it was designed to act as a vertical extension of the adjacent Hong Lim Park, and replaces 75% of its site with green areas.



School of the Arts

The School of the Arts (SOTA) building features natural ventilation (classrooms have no air-con) which is achieved by the placement of towers and the use of green walls, which also kept the rooms glare-free.



Sports Hub

Breaking a world record at 312m in diameter, the new national stadium – Sports Hub – has the largest dome ever built.

Bras Basah MRT

To stave off the heat, the glass roof at Bras Basah MRT Station – with its beautiful ripples of filtered natural light – uses a layer of water to bounce heat away from the glass skylight, naturally cooling the station.



Tree House

Entering the record books as the world's longest vertical garden, the Tree House condominium not only filters out pollutants, it helps reduce the building's heat absorption with its 'green walls'.



OLD PLACE, NEW FACES?

While it seems like the face of Singapore never stops changing, the fact remains we're an extremely young nation. And what may seem like ancient history often lies just beneath the latest coat of paint, or a thick blanket of jungle. If you're a fan of history or architecture, here are the stories behind some of Singapore's lesser-known interesting locations.

250 MIDDLE ROAD

Built in 1940, Doh Jin Hospital served the local Japanese community pre-WWII. After 1945, it was re-purposed into the ambiguous 'Social Hygiene Hospital' - treating both innocent skin diseases, and less-innocent STDs; apparently, eczema and VD were both seen as social ills. Closing its doors in the late 80s, today it's home to the TMC Academy.



Then
Now

THE CATHAY

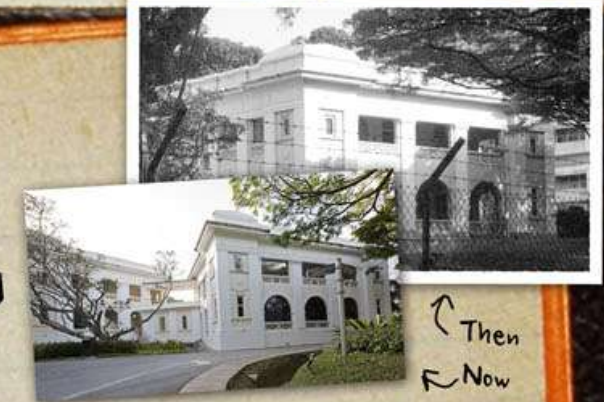
Built in 1936, the Cathay at Orchard was Singapore's first skyscraper and its first public place with aircon - hence its very popular cinema. Seized by the Japanese in WWII, it was their HQ for propaganda, which included displaying decapitated heads of victims on poles along Orchard Road. Liberated in 1945, it became a hotel and apartments, before morphing into the Cathay we know today.



Then
Now

10 HYDERABAD ROAD

Built by the British as a summer palace in 1935 for the Nizam of Hyderabad (who needed a safe refuge after an assassination attempt in India), it was filled with period artwork, regal furniture and rumoured to have a secret tunnel. Inhabited for a few months, it was later repurposed into an officer's hall and Institute of Dental Health before becoming the SP Jain business school campus today.



Then
Now

SHAW MOVIE STUDIO

Located in a sleepy residential neighbourhood, No. 8 Jalan Ampas used to be the heart and soul of Singapore's film industry in 1950s and 60s. It was here at Malay Film Productions Ltd. that the Shaw brothers (Runme and Run Run) - along with the famous P. Ramlee - produced over 160 films, launching the 'Golden Age of Malay Cinema'. Closed since 1967, it's now home to a caretaker and several chickens.



Then
Now

TEMENGGONG AND MARANG ROAD

Recently re-discovered by the Urban Explorers of Singapore (Urbex) and situated at the foot of Mt. Faber, Temenggong and Marang roads are some of Singapore's oldest, dating back to the days of pre-Singapore. Named for Sultan Hussein - the 'Temenggong' who signed the treaty transferring Singapore to Sir Stamford - you'll find his tomb next to the Temenggong Mosque.

Neighbouring Marang Rd. is the site of an old Malay kampong originally settled by immigrants from Marang in Terengganu. Presently, there is a jungle-encrusted tomb (believed to be that of a high-ranking Malay official dating from 1866) just a few metres off the road.



Then
Now

Photo (right) by Prabhu Sivam

Cafe Map

of Singapore

Cafe culture is experiencing a crazy boom in Singapore, and it's no surprise since we all love to eat and drink. We've scoured all over Singapore for some of the quirkiest joints where you can have your next cuppa (or brunch).



1 Slappy Cakes

Unleash your creativity and appetite with Slappy Cakes - a restaurant that allows you to custom-make your own pancakes. Pick from a list of different ingredients, toppings and batters, and spend the day flipping pancakes right at your table.

2 The CornerStone

Located inside of Bishan park, The CornerStone - which also has outdoor seating amid lush greenery - offers mainly western dishes. The desserts are said to be the best part of this particular cafe, with marshmallows, cupcakes and cookies galore. It's also a dog-friendly cafe.

3 Kombi Rocks

This quaint cafe not only showcases vintage Kombis and Bugs, you can even rent them out. The affordable menu is on the local food side (ie. mee goreng, fried beehoon), and they also have a Ride & Dine combo where they pick you up in a Kombi from the MRT.

4 Rider's Cafe

A far-flung place accessible to drivers or taxis, this cafe is a well-known brunch spot. While not the cheapest, you can enjoy your cuppa with a serene view of horse barns and riding turf. In the mornings, you can meet some of the horses and trainers, who go for early walks.

5 Carvers & Co

As its name suggests, it offers roasts which can be ordered in whole, half or individual portions. This carvery encourages communal dining, offering large portions for sharing. Helmed by a barista, the coffee here is a good accompaniment to their brunches.

6 Craftsmen Coffee

Known for using different types of methods to brew coffee - such as the V-60, Chemex and Siphon - this cafe caters to the most discerning of coffee connoisseurs. It also prides itself on using coffee beans from Dutch Colony Company, a premium coffee bean retailer.

7 Hatter Street Bakehouse & Cafe

Taking inspiration from Lewis Carroll's classic, names like Mad Hare, Alice & Rabbit Hole are on the menu. This cafe serves comfort food influenced by Asian culinary traditions, which is apparent in the signature dessert - waffles with pandan ice cream glazed with gula melaka.

8 Chock Full of Beans

This small cafe has a cosy interior with exposed brick-and-wood walls, and free Wifi. Specialising in coffee, they have some interesting latte art (with 3D art available on request) and coffee varieties. Their extensive menu includes all-day breakfasts and waffles.

9 Carpenter and Cook

A vintage furniture store and artisan bakery cafe, Carpenter and Cook serves a selection of homemade baked goods. While their tasty tarts are a favourite of regulars, you shouldn't miss out on their coffee too or better still, grab a jar of their homemade jam.

10 Bollywood Veggies

Bollywood Veggies' premise is to serve wholesome, fresh and organic food - mostly sourced from their own on-site farm - at affordable prices. Jackfruit Lemak and Banana Curry are must-tries. Farm tours (and shuttle services) are available.

11 Baker & Cook

Co-owned by New Zealand TV personality and celebrity chef, Dean Brettschneider, Baker & Cook doles out fresh batches of European breads, pizzas and cakes on a daily basis. The Carrot Cake and Lemon Tart are some of the must-tries at this bakery.

12 W39

Highly accessible by public transport, this gem in the West has a laid-back kitschy vibe reminiscent of an English cottage. This home-styled bistro and bakery serves mainly western dishes (and brunch) with a variety of cakes baked fresh daily.

13 The Reading Room

If you're into reading and eating, The Reading Room's cosy interior is filled with books from floor to ceiling. Comfortable sofas add to the charm of this daytime reading space, where you can order drinks with tapas. By night, it turns into a relaxing bar.

14 My AweSome Cafe

Resembling a Chinese medical hall, especially with its signage that says 'Chung Hwa Free Clinic', My Awesome Cafe is decked out in vintage furniture with its school desks and high wooden stools, serving a fusion of Asian, French and European cuisine.

15 Neko No Niwa

This is the very first and only cat cafe here in Singapore, where you get to mingle with adorable felines while chomping down on some high tea delights like muffins, cakes and ice-cream sandwiches served alongside tea and coffee.

16 Manicurious

An all-in-one space comprising a retail store, cafe and retro nail bar (complete with vintage armchairs), Manicurious' cosy cafe section serves a range of coffees and teas, as well as pies by Windowsill Pies and ice cream by The Ice Cream & Cookie Co.

THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

BY
PRABHU
SILVAM

There is a gravel path that winds down Jalan Lempeng, innocently enveloped amidst thick foliage and the bustle of traffic. Trod down and you will soon notice the picketed sides lined with corroding covers of used biscuit tins hastily put into place to indicate a shoddy path. A downward hike will bring you to a vast clearing of grass, demarcated with an oversized tent. An empty tent. This is the fabled "Lim Barbershop", a makeshift salon known for trims and snips below \$5. Inducted into local folklore because of his professionalism and cheap prices, the fabled "Lim" used to be a hit amongst National Servicemen and nearby school children. But Lim is no longer in sight and neither are the snaking queues that used to line the area.

Many a trade like that of Lim's have been swept under the veil of modernity in the polyglot nation of Singapore. Many such trades lay at risk of similar fates of being reduced to the confines of history pages. Here are 5 trades to check out before they run out of time :

DHOBI GHAT : THE LAST OF THE WASHERMEN

Dressed traditionally in a cotton top singlet and immaculately-pressed matching white dhoti, 86 year-old Mr. Suppiah - founder of P.Suppiah Laundry - is a walking bible of dhoobi history. As one of the few remaining South Indian pioneers of the dhoobi industry in the Southeast Asian Peninsula, his eyes glisten with animation as he reminisces his first-hand experiences as a dhoobi during the colonial rule. "I was 18 when the British sent us over from India to serve as washermen. Singapore was a very different place back then."

Clothes are hand washed with a blue dye designed to enliven the colour of the garment before the ironing process which is aided by charcoal steam irons weighing 5kg each. Not one to compromise on the attention given to details, his employees can spend up to 7 minutes ironing a simple t-shirt to give it that special, personalised oomph. As the only remaining traditional dhoobi shop in Singapore, he feels morose as he speaks about the future of his shop. "After my grandsons settle down in a few years, I might call it quits." Located at the corner of St. George's Road, P.Suppiah Laundry is an ode to a centuries-old profession.



THE ARTIST OF AMOY STREET

Seventy four-year old Mr. Lee is a picture of calm even as the onslaught of the mid-day sun looms over his stocky frame. Down to his final haircut of the day, he contours his customer's sideburns with the intricacy of a seasoned sculptor. The entire procedure is over in a matter of seconds as he artfully negotiates the blade in his palm with swift but measured downward strokes.

"I've been a barber for 50 years - it's seen me through the good times and bad," says the amicable Mr. Lee. He is part of a shrinking list of alleyway barbers who once shaped the hairstyle of a nation. Once a common sight in places like Serangoon, Bugis and Chinatown, alleyway barbers have had to make way for swanky salons and designer barbers. Located at 23 Amoy Street, his clientele includes long time customers well into their 60's and migrant workers who appreciate the low price tag of his services. "I'll work as long as my body lets me, we'll just have to see for how long," he remarks with a warm smile.

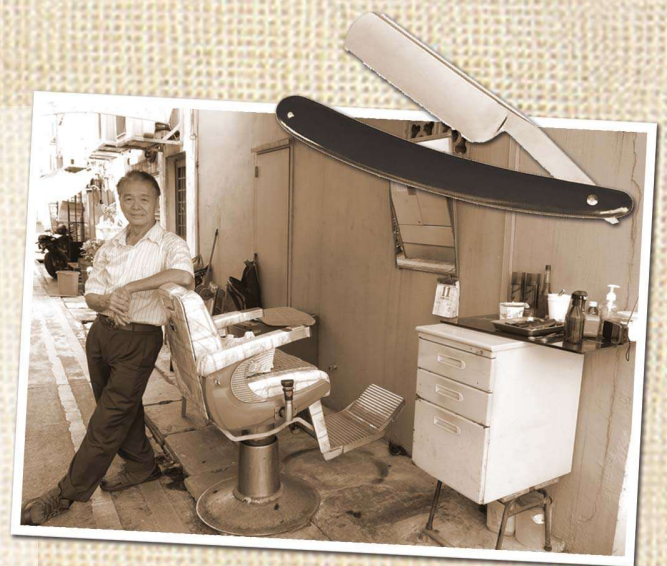


Photo by Chew Keng Kiat

A GRAVE MATTER

Touted as the biggest Chinese graveyard outside of China, Bukit Brown Cemetery houses the tombs of many Chinese forefathers who helped shaped Singapore; some of which date back to the mid 1800s.

A common sight at Bukit Brown are pockets of grave minders - individuals hired by families and clan associations tasked with the duty of preserving the cleanliness and sanctity of the graves. Usually operating as a family unit, these minders often take on the responsibility of 50-80 tombs at any one time. Clear demarcation of tombs ensure that minders don't overlap each other's duties in the painstaking process.

The rise of government-regulated grave minders who offer cheaper rates remains the main cause of declining numbers for the job.



THE SNACKPACK CHRONICLES

"In the past, my shop used to be a stopover point for couples who were going to the cinema. Nothing much has changed," chuckles Mr. Nagappan Arumugam. The 70 year-old is regarded as an institution on his own amongst history buffs locally and abroad. And, with reason too.

He appears to be the sole original "kachang puteh" pushcart vendor remaining in Singapore. Operating from his metal pushcart outside Peace Centre, he boasts a remarkable collection of nuts and savouries that continue to intrigue the tastebuds of the young while satisfying the appetites of the old. Once an integral fixture at theatre lobbies, the "Kachang Puteh Man" has had to make way for Westernised snacks and health regulations and food hygiene factors have slowly reduced the numbers of "kachang puteh" sellers in Singapore. In this small corner of Selegie Road, lies the taste of generations past.



SOLE BROTHERS

A fellowship of cobblers gather every Saturday and Sunday morning outside People's Park Complex. Comprising of men late into their 50's and 60's, their strength in numbers each weekend is a tribute to the vanishing art of shoemaking.

Decked out comfortably atop stools, these cobblers ply their trade from the shaded comforts of individual shelters. Despite the makeshift exterior of their stick and tent stores, the cobblers provide an array of services ranging from sole-stitching to shoe-shining.



OVER THE YEARS:

BY NURSHURINA SARIEF

SINGAPORE'S MISS UNIVERSE OUTFITS

Year after year, we've all faithfully caught Miss Universe on television but not many of us can actually remember the costumes worn by these ladies, as we were all too busy ogling at these beauties. As an audience, you might think the national costumes have a similar theme to it but that's not true because they each have a different story to tell. Here is a compilation of Singapore's national costumes over the last 5 years.



THE YEAR OF FLOWER (2007)

Zhang Xiao Qing was a 2nd year Fashion Design student when she designed her first national costume. Her inspiration was taken from Singapore's iconic national flower - Vanda 'Miss Joaquim', thus the costume was coloured fuchsia with an ombre effect. To show Singapore's resilience and tenacity, she used a silk satin corset to embody sturdiness. Xiao Qing also designed a headpiece consisting of petals, which completed Miss Singapore's transformation into Vanda 'Miss Joaquim'.



ARCHITECTURE MEETS FASHION (2010)

Tracy Wu took a fresh and different approach by focusing on Singapore's evolving architecture as her inspiration. There is no better way to show how Singapore's architecture has changed from colonial to sleek and contemporary than through the shades of grey, which may often associated with dullness but in this case, it truly brought out the message Tracy wanted to portray.



FUSION OF CULTURES (2011)

Hayden Ng's inspiration for the national costume he designed in 2011 is the Peranakan wedding gown. Keeping in mind that Singapore is a multi-racial country, his costume was red, as the different ethnic groups here consider it an auspicious colour that symbolises joy, life, energy and creativity. Adding to the racial diversity were handsewn embroidered flowers to portray Singapore's image of a garden city.



DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING VILLAGE TO URBAN (2012)

Looking just like a cheongsam, but with a little more pizzazz, the costume was designed by Irene's Creation (a bespoke tailor). Resembling the elegance of a wedding dress, the dress came with a netted veil that was decked out with flowers and diamonds, which depicts the transition of Singapore's fishing village years to the urban landscape that it thrives in now.

BRIGHTEN UP WITH COLOURS (2013)

At 23, Riyan Haffys may be a fresh face in the industry but he has been designing Singapore's national costumes for two years now (in 2007 and 2008). After taking a break to find his place in the fashion world, Riyan returned last year to design Miss Universe's dress. Spotlighting Singapore's vibrancy as his inspiration, the dress displayed various colour palettes plastered on a sunny yellow dress that was coupled with Singapore's national flower.



By Amos Ang

The Nightclubs of Yesteryear

Youths with an abundance of energy on Friday night are most likely to be found gyrating in one of the many nightspots that line Clarke Quay. And they are not picky about which club they do it at either. A common lament is that this has led to a somewhat 'sterile' scene, where clubs mostly play the same music and events held are of a similar nature. Back in the nineties, things were quite different. For one, Orchard Road instead of Clarke Quay was party central. And, each club offered a distinctly unique experience. Let's take a closer look.

Sparks (Ngee Ann City)

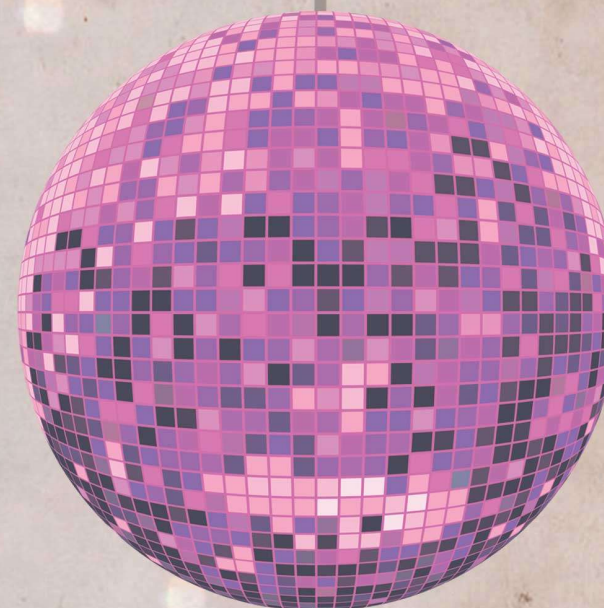
This was a place rumored to have in its employ bouncers who "daylighted" as gang members. When bored, they would clear the dance floor, turning it into a makeshift arena for taking on rival gang members that they had spotted in the crowd. The sound of bottles smashing were often a fitting accompaniment to the techno beats that played. Contacts were often exchanged through fists, rather than numbers.

Fire (Orchard Plaza)

Ran by the same management as Sparks, one imagines that brainstorming for the name took perhaps for all of 30 seconds. Famous for being one of the largest clubs around at that time, it blared the latest in Cantopop. The music that was often played with background chanting by inebriated clubbers can still be found on YouTube. It was also known for its alcohol-free tea-time dances, which gave younger teens access to the club from 3pm.

Venom (Pacific Plaza)

Originally known as Studebaker's, this place was famous for its one particular use of technology. It was the first and possibly only local nightclub to incorporate the use of webcams on the dance floor. While seemingly voyeuristic, the ostensible purpose was to allow users a better gauge of current dance floor capacity simply by accessing their web browser. However, privacy concerns raised by patrons eventually saw the demise of this innovative scheme.



Plenty more clubs used to make Orchard Road the place to be at night. These include *Chinois Chinois* (a Oriental-themed club specialising in Chinese and English Top 40s), *Europa Ridley's* at ANA Hotel (both the club - which was popular for NTU students with its membership card - and the hotel are now gone), *Lava Lounge* (with its 70s-themed lighting) and the high-end *Pleasure Dome* (which played retro music).

The clubs mentioned are now all defunct and maybe (or maybe not) for good reasons. It's impossible to say, as they were all before our time. What is certain is that clubs today operate in a manner different from these earlier establishments. While these places of yesteryear might have offered an experience unlike any that can be found today, we are perhaps too hasty to label what can be found today as 'sterile' when considering the fact that no nightclub then was internationally recognised, in stark contrast to today where we have the likes of *Zouk* and *The Butter Factory*.

OUT AND ABOUT

TECH GIVEAWAYS

RAZER: KRAKEN PRO NE HEADPHONES

Trailblazing the world of gaming with their devices, Razer has upped the ante by releasing the Razer Kraken Neon – a special edition of their brand's best-selling Kraken headphones. As the name suggests, these heavy-duty headphones are available in six fluorescent colours, and like its predecessor, it's out-fitted with a series of powerful bass blasters and drivers that set the bar for high-quality gaming audio. Equipped with a fully retractable microphone that makes it easy to connect to any smartphone, tablet or voice-enabled devices, this gadget is a must-have for any audiophile. It retails at S\$89.90.



BRAUN: CRUZER 6 SHAVER

Form and function are both present in this latest offering by Braun. Not just touted for its sleek design, the cruZer6 also boasts a host of impressive features including a beard trimmer that helps with the styling, the SensoFoil technology that reduces skin irritation, and perhaps most distinctively – the ability to be used even while in the shower. However, the lack of a portable case might put off those interested in a more travel-friendly option. It retails at S\$119.



MOVIES

Guardians of the Galaxy (July 31)
Cast: Chris Pratt, Bradley Cooper, Vin Diesel, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista

From Marvel – the studio that brought you Iron Man, Captain America, Thor and The Avengers – Guardians of the Galaxy is an action-packed adventure where Peter Quill, aka Star-Lord, finds himself the target of a manhunt after stealing a mysterious orb. Ronan, the film's villain, desires the orb and will stop at nothing until he gets his hands on it, threatening the universe in the process. To stop Ronan, Quill has to join forces with four unlikely teammates: Rocket Raccoon (a gun slinging raccoon), Groot (the sentient tree), the deadly and enigmatic Gamora, and the revenge-driven Drax the Destroyer.



JU ON 3: Beginning of the End (July 24)
Cast: Nozomi Sasaki, Sho Aoyagi, Reina Triendl

Yui (Nozomi Sasaki) takes on responsibility as a teacher of a primary school where one of the pupils, Toshio Saeki, has been refusing to come to school for a while. Since the day she visited him at home, inexplicable phenomena began to happen to her. The house turns out to be the "cursed house" where everyone who sets foot in the place dies in strange circumstances. Strange cases unfold one after another, yet Yui returns to the house, as if drawn by it. Is this the karma of those who died holding a strong grudge? What is the hidden secret behind this "cursed house"?



Singapore Selection vs Juventus Football Club

When: 16 Aug, 7.30pm | Tickets: \$45-\$180
Location: Singapore Sports Hub

Coming from the back of a record-breaking season, Juventus FC bring their star-studded squad down to sunny Singapore on 16 August 2014 to go up against a Singapore Selection side at the new Kallang Sports Hub. This highly anticipated clash features World Cup winning stars such as Andrea Pirlo and Gianluigi Buffon, as well as renowned Argentine striker Carlos Tevez. Tickets available via www.sportshubtix.sg.



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2 PAIR TIX

22 Mar - 13 Jul
4pm, 5pm & 6pm | Sat & Sun
Tickets: \$70, incl. drinks & light bites

The Inside Job



The Inside Job is an interactive theatrical performance where you have 3 hours to gather clues in order to accomplish your mission, while being hindered (or helped) by various actors planted at some of Singapore's neighbourhoods and landmarks that will reshape your perspective on Singapore. Tickets available via www.theinsidejob.com.sg.

PRODUCTIONS

18 - 22 Jun | 3pm & 8pm
Drama Centre Black Box,
The National Library
Tickets: \$30 (Students: \$26)

Dear Nora

In this local production by Our Company, the characters of Henrik Ibsen's classic, *A Doll's House*, are reimagined and transposed to contemporary Singapore. The play, with its captivating plot and gripping narrative, explores the role of an individual in a society as seen through the eyes of its stoic female protagonist, Nora.



1 PAIR TIX

27 - 29 Jun | 3pm & 8pm
Goodman Arts Centre
Tickets: \$25 (Students: \$15)
LiTHE 2014

The third installation of LiTHE features new masterpieces by 3 talented choreographers – Goh Shou Yi, Lee Ren Xin and Marcus Foo – working with 21 semi-professional dancers to produce works like 'She's Chinese, and I'm Twenty-Five' and 'In Notes of Last Thursday'.



1 PAIR TIX

18 - 20 Jul, 25 - 27 Jul
7.30pm
Fort Canning Green
Tickets: \$20 & \$25

Ballet Under The Stars

In its 19th year running, the Singapore Dance Theatre presents a list of international award-winning dances such as the George Balanchine's 'Allegro Brilliance and Theme and Variations', Val Caniparoli's 'Chant' and Edwaard Liang's 'The Wind of Zephyrus and Opus 25' set against an outdoor backdrop of Fort Canning.

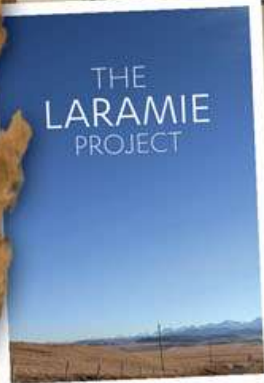


2 PAIRS TIX

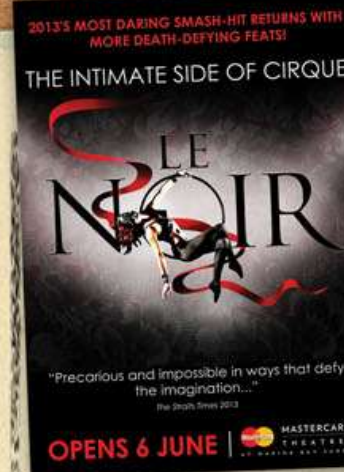
25 - 26 Jul | 8pm
DBS Arts Centre
Tickets: \$25

The Laramie Project

The play showcases the reality of how bullying and hatred can cause destruction to a person – particularly in Laramie, Wyoming. It is about the true story of Matthew Shepard, a kidnapped university student who was abused and left to die near the outskirts of the city.



1 PAIR TIX



7 - 29 Jun
Mastercard Theatre,
Marina Bay Sands
Tickets: \$70 - \$145
Le Noir

1 PAIR TIX

Not an ordinary theatre show you'd expect it to be, Le Noir's cast is back in Singapore with another round of new and exciting cirque-style performances. Look out for their new addition, The Wheel of Death, which involves dangerous stunts that can only be carried out by experienced acrobats.

19 - 21 Jun, 26 - 28 Jun | 8pm
Flexible Space, LASALLE
Tickets: \$35

Women of Asia

GenerAsia presents Women of Asia, a production directed by Asa Gim Palomera, which showcases a series of stories that illustrates the problems that women face in the present day. Be prepared for a night filled with laughter, drama and heart-warming scenes that will leave you speechless.

2 PAIRS TIX



11 - 27 Jul | 12pm, 2pm, 6pm & 8pm
Mastercard Theatre, Marina Bay Sands
Tickets: \$65 - \$165

The Sound of Music

Set in Austria against the backdrop of an imminent World War, this classic has enthralled people for generations since its inception in 1965, which starred Julie Andrews in her iconic role as Maria, the fun-loving governess who uses music to transform the lives of the Von Trapp family.



GIGS

Bridging Frontiers



21 Jun | 7.30pm
Esplanade Concert Hall
Tickets: \$15 - \$90

Bridging Frontiers

In line with the Metropolitan Festival Orchestra's vision to enrich lives through rousing orchestral performances, this concert showcases some of Singapore's most esteemed classical musicians such as Han Chang Chou (horn), Ling Hock Siang and Wilson Neo (erhu).

27 Jun | 8pm
Kallang Theatre
Tickets: \$58 - \$118

Sam Tsui & Kurt Hugo Schneider Asia Tour 2014

YouTube sensations Sam Tsui and Kurt Hugo Schneider return to Singapore this June. With over 5.3 million subscribers on their YouTube channels, their most watched videos are Nelly's 'Just A Dream' and Glee's 'Don't Stop Believing'. The dynamic duo teamed up with Coca Cola recently for a campaign called "The Sounds of AHH", using only Coca Cola glasses, bottles and cans for the song.



1 PAIR TIX

SINGAPORE:

THE ORIGINAL SIN CITY

When it comes to Geylang, it's obvious what comes to mind – and it's not durians or frog porridge. However, the world's oldest profession did not actually begin here, but somewhere closer to the Singapore River, as it was where boatloads of immigrant men came together in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Most of the immigrants were single men in need of feminine comfort, as many were separated from their families. Seeing a need for relief, the British rule legalised prostitution, and the trade mushroomed as more men came.

In 1877, there were 212 registered brothels, which increased to 353 by 1905.

Between the 1880s and 1920s, red-light districts were often boundaries for the many races that coexisted here. Registered brothels catering to the Chinese were primarily located south of the river, while brothels for non-Chinese (ie. Japanese and Europeans) were located to the north.

Brothels indicated their trade by hanging red gas lanterns under their verandahs, giving rise to the nickname 'red light district'.



NORTH OF THE RIVER: BUGIS

While Bugis is a magnet for youths to congregate for shopping, dining and movie-going today, the area served a different purpose way back in the 1870s. The first recorded arrival of the Japanese was in 1877, when a mostly-male wave of immigrants settled along Middle Road, which was then known as 'Chuo Dori' (Central Street). This made the nearby area – around Malay, Malabar, Hylam and Bugis Street – an ideal location for Japanese brothels.

In 1905, as many as 109 registered brothels

employed some 633 'Karayuki-san' (Japanese girls mainly from Kyushu) who were often decked out in colourful yukata and beckoning customers from balconies in the Bugis Junction area – then known as 'Japanese Street' by the locals.

The shophouses here were also famous for Chinese and European girls who plied the streets. Curiously, during this period, St. Anthony's convent was diagonally across from the area, and many of the girls who stayed there had excellent views of this

red-light district until the brothels were abolished in the 1920-30s.

In the 1950s, the Karayuki-san were replaced with another breed of 'ladies of the night'. Transvestites (or lady boys) were rampant until the mid-80s, catering to foreign seamen on shore leave. Bugis Street back then gained a reputation for its squalid bars, brothels and transsexual shows (as immortalised by Paul Theroux's 'Saint Jack') before it was razed to make way for the MRT and redevelopment.

SINGAPORE RIVER

SOUTH OF THE RIVER: CHINATOWN

Mention Chinatown and images of tightly-packed shophouses with their colourful shutters, souvenir shops and bustling food stalls will come to mind. However, step back in time and you'll see that Chinatown was a district made for vice.

Back in the 19th century, Chinatown was a place where brothels, as well as gambling and opium dens proliferated. It's no wonder that it was known as 'Bu Ye Tian' – A Place of Nightless Days.

In 1877, there were 159 licensed brothels in Chinatown alone (with countless more unlicensed), and in 1887, it was said that brothels were as many and as close together as the teeth of a comb.

Roads like Sago Street, Hong Kong Street, Upper Hokkien Street and Smith Street were peppered with Chinese brothels, where men found comfort in the arms of 'Ah Ku' who were from many parts of China. Before WWI, it was common to see a dozen women – whose clients included Chinese, Malay, Indians and Javanese men

– soliciting from doorways, proving that competition was stiff.

After WWII, brothels were relegated to Keong Saik Road and Sago Lane (which became a red-light district in the 1960s). The last of these pleasure houses – with their red lit box at the front entrance – disappeared altogether from the late 1990s onwards with the proliferation of boutique hotels like Royal Peacock Hotel and Hotel 1929 that took over these shophouses. Who knows what stories lie within these rooms?

STRESS RELIEF

If you've got spare time to blur out and stare at nothing during lectures, study sessions or dinner, then you'll need to put your blank skills to use. This template, called the Benham Top, is easy to make if you have lots of spare CDs you bought in bulk just before the popularisation of thumb drives. Once you've got the Benham Top assembled, you can challenge your friends to a stare test and see what colours you see pop up when you spin this black-and-white top.

METHOD 1

1. Find a random CD (make sure it's not something important like your parents' wedding video). Carefully stick the Benham Top cutout to the CD.

2. Find wooden rod or pen (or a dowel that fits into the hole in the middle of the CD). Make sure it fits tight – maybe use rubber bands.

METHOD 2

1. Find a random round plastic lid (something from your snacks will do) and a toothpick.

2. Poke a very small hole in the middle of the plastic top. The hole should be smaller than the width of your toothpick.

3. Insert the pointed end of the toothpick through the centre hole, leaving the top of it long enough for you to hold and spin it.



MANY PEOPLE SAY THEY SEE GREEN, OTHERS SEE YELLOW AND A FEW SEE RED. WHAT COLOUR DO YOU SEE?



Benham Top

First, cut out the template and choose your method of making the top. You can also improvise with cardboard and a pencil.

Try spinning the top in low light and bright light. Try spinning it at different speeds. Try spinning it clockwise and counter clockwise. The colours are seen best at slow speeds (between 3-5 rotations/second).

Ever since it was invented in 1894, science still can't explain the Benham Top phenomena.

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GOING GLOBAL SPECIAL

WHAT'S YOUR MAJOR?

By
Debbi Tan

Instead of taking the usual path of common majors such as business, engineering and IT, choose a different route with these uncommon majors that are not available here in Singapore.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Whether it's decreasing the pain, improving range of motion or restoring function, a degree in physiotherapy opens career opportunities in hospitals, rehab centres, sports clinics, and maybe even with celebrity sportsmen. With modules to develop students' understanding of pain and disability, physiotherapy - a 4-year programme at the University of South Australia - involves plenty of hands-on experience.



ASTROPHYSICS

Have you ever wanted to go "to infinity and beyond"? Astrophysics is the study of all celestial objects - galaxies, stars, black holes and planets - where you'll learn about supernovas and meteorites. By obtaining a PhD in astrophysics, which is available at the University of New South Wales, you might just get the opportunity to work at NASA (or the Starship Enterprise).



ZOOLOGY

Zoology is the science that explains the world of animals - their structure, function, ecology and evolution. From planktons to elephants, more than 10,000 species of animals are discovered a year, and you could discover the next one. If playing the role of Sir David Attenborough appeals to you, a 3-year degree programme in Zoology is available at the University of Queensland.



ARCHAEOLOGY

More than just digging up bones, archaeology is the study of the past through historic artifacts left behind - romanticists will liken the course to being Indiana Jones or Lara Croft. You'll understand when and how people lived, and maybe change history as we know it. A degree in Archaeology at the University of Otago (New Zealand) is available as part of a wider Anthropology degree at Otago.



VETERINARY SCIENCE

In vet science, you can specialise either in veterinary bioscience, medicine or biotechnology, all focusing on the health and well-being of animals. From disease prevention to pet care, a degree programme includes treating creatures from domestic furry critters to wild reptiles. Available at Murdoch University, this 4-year programme will have budding Dr. Dolittles working at private clinics or zoos.



METEOROLOGY

Meteorology students will learn to understand the dynamics of weather systems, from hurricanes to earthquakes and the impacts of global warming, helping folks predict the next weather catastrophe (like the duration of the next haze). A major in Geographical Science is offered by the University of Queensland, which focuses solely on the tropic and sub-tropical regions of Australia.



AGRICULTURE

As Singapore imports a whopping 90% of its food supply, food security is at the top of the country's concerns. More and more rooftop gardens and aquaculture projects are currently underway, but with a lack of qualified graduates in the field, a degree in Agribusiness - like one offered at Curtin University - could give you a head start into this potentially lucrative industry.



By Amos Ang

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective International Students

We've all heard about the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People and how it has helped transform the lives of those who have read it. We have done our own research and asked the right questions to the right people. So here are the 7 habits of highly effective international students - the essential qualities needed to thrive in a foreign land.

☑ BE ORGANISED

The overseas experience begins way before you even get on the plane. Going abroad usually entails a lot of preparation and can be a daunting experience. Being organised can help reduce the clutter, so come up with a to-do list to help streamline the duties. To begin with, make arrangements for getting a student visa. Next, sort out accommodation - be it on campus, private hostel or home stays. It will also be helpful to join Facebook groups set up by student unions dedicated to assisting international students.

☑ BE FINANCIALLY PRUDENT

This habit is useful to adopt regardless of where one studies. The key is to avoid spending beyond your means, which can and will often be carried away with new friends, new books and living on your own costs. It is without a doubt that within the first 3 months, your expenses will go through roof, but instead of fretting over it, keep a careful record of your expenses so that you can better assess your future expenditure and not go overboard with spending.

☑ BE ADVENTUROUS

A huge draw of going overseas is the opportunity for travel and discovery. Once there, aim to push the boundaries of your comfort zone. Take long walks, see the sights, try the local cuisine and don't be afraid to make new friends. Studying abroad is an immensely exciting experience; not many get that opportunity and doing this will go a long way in ensuring that you come back from your overseas sojourn a more worldly individual.

☑ BE STREET SMART

Staying out late without a second thought is often taken for granted, where the streets are brightly lit and the police ever watchful. The same conditions might not be present overseas and thus, actions such as taking shortcuts through dark alleys or staying out late are generally not advisable, even if you are in a group, so always be aware of your surroundings and think with your head first instead of your heart.

☑ BE MINDFUL

It is common to hear of friction arising when people fail to recognise that every culture is different, and no one culture is superior to the other. Remaining open-minded and neutral is the best solution in avoiding such occurrences.

☑ BE INDEPENDENT

We're all probably used to having everything picked up after us, as we're living with parents, but it is perhaps wise to start doing things a little differently. Learning how to cook and shopping for groceries would be a fine start, as eating out usually costs a lot more there than it does here. Learning how to do laundry and the other basic habits that keep your sanity and hygiene in check is always a step best put forward.

☑ BE PATIENT

Singapore's infrastructure is known for its modernity and efficiency. As such, matters such as getting around and administrative issues are usually done and resolved swiftly (train breakdowns aside). In some places however, things might be different, especially in situations involving paperwork, so knowing how to take a deep breath or two when these scenarios arise is a must.



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STUDYING OVERSEAS

BY NURSHURINA SARIFF

THE GOOD AND BAD

If given the choice, many would opt to study abroad because honestly, who would want to miss an opportunity like that? Imagine hitting the restart button in an untrodden environment, and learning about something new. The thought of it sounds tempting, but with every situation there are ups and downs. Read on to find out which matters to you most.

GOOD

NEW INDEPENDENT STREAK:

Definitely the thought on many students' minds - living life by your own rules, making your decisions, having to do things at your pace and time. These may all sound exciting and daunting at the same time, but it's the independence we instinctively crave for.

WHOLE NEW EXPERIENCES:

Yes, the sole purpose of you travelling to another country is to study in a new environment, but a little fun wouldn't hurt right? During your free time, get out and get your hands dirty with activities that are usually not seated within your comfort zone. That's the only way to grow, and to push yourself to new heights.

NEW FRIENDS:

One of the best parts about studying abroad is making new friends, especially with people out of the traditional multi-racial quota that applies to Singapore. You'll learn plenty, and your knowledge and thoughts about the world will grow with each interaction.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE:

Having to live in Singapore your entire life, you ought to know that we have it good - a proper education, home, health care and transportation. We're always complaining about little things like the waiting time, weather, living expenses that we don't realise other people might have it worse than us. This experience will teach you to look at things from a different perspective; you may not enjoy everything right off the bat, but there are things to learn.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES:

The word out on the streets is that employers prefer their employees to be worldly, flexible and a go-getter. These are some of the qualities you may cultivate if you opened yourself to new experiences and adventures while studying overseas.

BAD

HOMESICKNESS:

After unlocking your sense of independence, you'll start to realise that homesickness weighs in. It could be your mom's cooking, the comfort of your friends, or even the environment - these little triggers might dampen spirits. But a reminder or two that you are broadening your horizons is the best way to go.

COST:

The whole studying abroad idea sounds exciting but the reality is it's costly. The key here - whether you're taking on a loan or if your parents are funding your expenses - is to be responsible. If you have time to burn, take on a part-time job. If not, be prudent so that you don't end up with a giant bill of frivolous spending once university is over.

ADAPTING:

It's not the intelligent or the fastest that survives a new environment, it's the one that adapts to new changes easily. Getting out of your comfort zone can be hard, but the load gets a lighter with time. Do your research on the country you're going to should help.

LANGUAGE BARRIER:

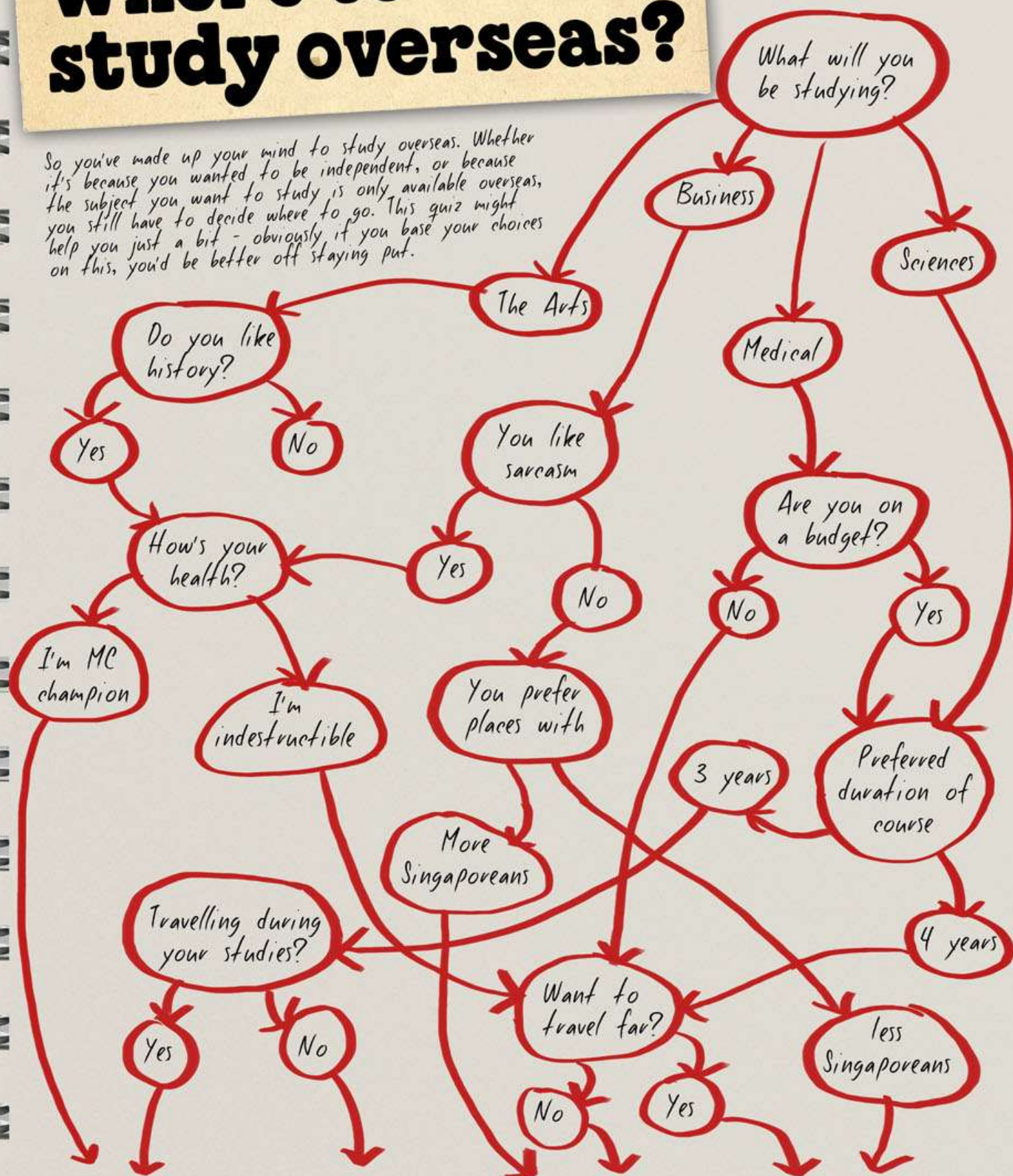
This will only be an issue if you're planning to study in a country where English is not their first language; for instance, France, Germany and Japan. While many locals are able to converse English, most of their curriculums are taught in their respective language. If you're looking to study in one of these countries, be sure to brush up on the language. Even if it's an English-speaking country, some accents may take time to get used to.

A DIFFERENT WAY OF STUDYING:

Academic systems differ with countries; some countries value projects over exams, others a little different. Before heading to your new school, understand the mode of curriculum, so you don't get lost when school starts.

Where to study overseas?

So you've made up your mind to study overseas. Whether it's because you wanted to be independent, or because the subject you want to study is only available overseas, you still have to decide where to go. This quiz might help you just a bit - obviously, if you base your choices on this, you'd be better off staying put.



United Kingdom

A land steeped in history, yet embracing modernity, the UK is a popular choice for many, especially in medical, law and engineering courses.

New Zealand

A rare choice for Singaporeans, New Zealand has made a name for themselves in the media and hospitality industries. It's also a cheaper study option.

Australia

Not too far from home, the land down under is known for a wide range of subjects, ranging from the sciences to marketing and hospitality.

USA

Home to pop culture, the US makes a good choice for those in the media. Its science and medical courses are also some of the top in the world.

- > Ranked 26th in the 'Regional University West Rankings' (US News and World Report Best Colleges Rankings 2013)
- > Ranked 39th in 'Best Values in Private Colleges 2013' (Kiplinger, a Washington, D.C. leading financial advisement firm)
- > Accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)

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