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FOR UPDATES ON 27 JUNE
Cheat Sheet
#30 Mastering the art of being a Singaporean

By Nicole Wilkey Tan

SINGLISH AND THE SINGAPORE SLANG

Lah! Loh! Leh!

From the 'lahs', 'leh's' and 'lohs' to the use of two to three languages in the same sentence, Singlish speaks volumes 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 'lah' while keeping them on the subconscious 'lohs', 'lah' and 'lohs' in your speech— you'll fit right in!

KAY-POL

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

BARGAIN HUNTERS

Singaporeans are bargain hunters 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 bargains are at. On 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 QUEUES

Remember the crazy queues for the Hello Kitty plush toys at McDonald's? It's been said, once a Singaporean sets his/her eyes on something, they'd brave闩mours 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'll bring an umbrella.*

OLD WIVES' TALES

BY CLAUDIA TAN

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 drops on you (that's good luck). These superstitions probably have many 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 unfixed!

It's been rumoured that if you do so, the wind will pull your hair, leaving you defenceless against the evil spirits. Actually, this superstition hasn't really been proven. It has been said that the plausible reason behind this superstition is that hair is exhausting of washing and 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 broken nail clippings in the dark, this superstition varies with race, according to the Indian, 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 open umbrellas indoors or ghosts will gather under them.

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

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 the long run, 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 crowd 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 too many times will impair IC, and affect social learning in children.
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**Odd Drinks at Kopitiamis**

What drinks do you usually order at kopitiamis? You’ve probably ordered drinks like kopi-o, milo, teh siu mai, and teh si-l, 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 waiter gets it, 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 mix 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.

**TEH SI SIU MAI HALIA PENG**

(Tea with ginger tea with evaporated milk, sugar)

Teh Si Siu Mai 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.

**BANDUNG DINOSAUR**

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

**MICHAEL JACKSON**

(Glass jelly/deco and soyabean)

It doesn’t matter if you’re black or white. This drink is made of 50% glass jelly (or chun chow) and 50% soyabean. The glass jelly adds a refreshing taste and leaves a cooling effect on your tongue. Remember to stir the drink well before sipping it, as the glass jelly and syrup will sink to the bottom.

**KOPI GU YOU**

(Coffee with butter)

Kopitiam of late have added butter to coffee. It helps to soothe the throat. The older generation believe that coffee is a “healthy” 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.

**Nescafe and Milo**

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

**Milo Halal**

(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 bloated and aids digestion.

**Nutmeg & Mace**

Drummed up by Kwamai Nahkpam, Nutmeg & Mace is more than just a bronze sculpture outside IOI 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, but 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.

**Pedas Pedas**

Located in the lawn of the National Museum, Pedas Pedas is a huge bronze chilli pepper and is also another work of Kwamai Nahkpam. What inspired Kwamai to create a chilli 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.
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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**
**ELEMENTI 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.

---

**60s**

**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 Hon 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 1975, as it was said to promote reckless driving.

**70s**

**6 January 1979**
**THE GEYLING BAHRU MURDERS**
Considered the most brutal and inhuman murder in Singapore - three brothers and their sisters, ages between 5 and 10, were viciously stabbed 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 to such much they were reduced to pulp. The saddle news? The police have not found any leads and continue to be flummoxed even to this day.

**90s**

**29 January 1983**
**SENTOSA CABLE CAR ACCIDENT**
Around 6pm, a vessel unerringly 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 3½ hours of rescuing in the blustery conditions. The cable car unsurprisingly, saw a dip in popularity after that.

**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 Rippled, 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 abound with vigour and time; instead of becoming mallrats or couch potatoes, try volunteering. With Singapore awash in charity organizations 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!

Through the Trybe Foundation, every youth can achieve success in their own ways. Trybe aims to inspire youths and help them to discover their dreams and make programmes. With the mission to equip youths with the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue their dreams, we will work together to reach our goal.

GET INVOLVED!

As a volunteer, you can become a mentor and a guide to those who need help or guidance.

TODDYCATS!

If you wish to learn about the Green Economy and have fun, Toddycats is the place for you. The team is dedicated to encouraging sustainable living, and you can help make a difference in the community.

GET INVOLVED!

As a volunteer, you can help teach kids about the importance of sustainability and how they can make a positive impact.

CONJUNCT CONSULTING

What distinguishes Conjunct Consulting from other organizations is its unique focus on social enterprises. Through its programmes, it empowers youths to change the world. As a volunteer, you can help make a difference in the community.

GET INVOLVED!

If you wish to make a difference, you can volunteer to assist in the running of the programmes.

SOCIAL CREATIVES

It’s time to paint the thousand colors! An idea often heard on the streets and Social Creatives promotes that idea. It is an initiative to engage the community in art, which can be found anywhere, whether it is on a wall or in a street.

GET INVOLVED!

If you wish to paint, you can volunteer to help in the programmes, whether it is on walls or on streets.

AIDHA

AIDHA is a non-profit organization that focuses on teaching youths the power of education. By helping them find their way to success, they can bring back to life and create new opportunities. Through its programmes, AIDHA provides vocational training programmes, computer literacy, and other business entrepreneurship skills.

GET INVOLVED!

If you have a passion for learning, 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

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, and Japan.

- CIA World Factbook

Longest Retirement

Singaporeans are the longest-lived "post-retirement" people in the world, with men and women respectively living 28.8 and 26.5 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

Play (station) time

We’re the 5th 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 52nd). This may also have something to do with our declining birthrate...

- Sony.com
Forget-me-not Places in Singapore

By Debbi Tan

When something new happens, the old one is often left forgotten. As mentioned by Kian Hoon, "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 old, you might just find your new favourite spot to get away from the hustle and bustle.

THE JAPANESE CEMETERY PARK

Maybe not wanting to engage in bad memories of those who suffered in World War II, little awareness about the Japanese Cemetery Park has been made. Established in 1858, it is located at Chuan Foh Avenue, Off Yio Chu Kang Road. It houses the burial places 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 bamboos 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 to life Chinese legends. The best attraction is the 50 Castles of Hell, which features the gruesome depictions of Hell in Chinese mythology and Buddhism. Unlike rides with a theme park, Haw Par Villa requires you to walk for 2-hour entertainment. With the unique nature found here, it is not recommended for the heartburned. Said to be the entrance to Hell, accurately guarded are nine stories tall of the Nghingmok of statues standing at night, painfully screaming from the 10 Castles of Hell, while other nine indicate that the statues were actually people scared in life.

JAPANESE CEMETERY PARK

KAMPONG LORONG BUANGKOK

Kampung Lorong Buangkok is the last surviving kampung in Singapore, notable Pudhu Ulam and is a listed residential area. Built in 1861, Kampung Lorong Buangkok is located near Goodwood Park and it has at least 15 families mostly Malay and Chinese. All the houses date from the 1800s and are made of timber. They are surrounded by trees and flowers. A favourite spot among tourists, this village stocks 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 colonial reminder of Singapore’s railway history and heritage. If you have nature, this is the place to be. Take a stroll on the railway track. The large trains meant that the tracks are wide and spacious, leaving plenty of room to walk without bumping into bushes and trees. Not unattractive from horror stories, an accident which occurred in 2001 when a train knocked down two Kopitiam Polychrome students, killing them on the spot. It has been the source of ghostly tales for many, as there have been reported sightings of the two students.

SEMBAWANG HOT SPRING

We’re on your very first spring here in Singapore - the one and only that is. However, do not expect abundant greenery like the area in Taiwan or Japan. It is well hidden within concrete walls and looks rather peculiar to find in the middle of Singapore. Frequently visited by the elderly, who believe spring water awakens pain caused by arthritis and rheumatism, it is best to bring your own umbrella and chair, or feel free to rent from the caretaker. Some visitors even bring their own eggs to boil as an added bonus.

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KAMPONG LORONG BUANGKOK

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THE LIST

SINGAPORE’S RICHEST

SAM GCI (SGD 2.2B)

Another business magnate with a royal title - the Popiah King. Sam GCI transformed a small operation of manufacturing popiah skins to the frozen foods behemoth that it is today. The company, which gave this high school dropout a whole new meaning to the term skin business.

PETER LIM (SGD 2.6B)

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 exclusive billionaire. His name might not hit the bells of many, but buildings built by him certainly do - Mount Elizabeth Hospital and Iking Court in Clarke Quay are just to name a few.

GOH CHEE LING (SGD 2.6B)

Known as the owner of Valencia CF, a football club playing in Spain’s top division, he could well be Singapore’s very own Warren Buffett, 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 Ferrari and calls an entire 10-storey condominium block home.

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 ‘ragtag Xing’ for his group’s beginnings in the red-light district. An avid collector of vintage cars, he famously sold a Rolls Royce dealer back in 2005 for calling him an allegedly defective Phantom.

XHO FAMILY (SGD 888)

Heir to the fortune of the late banker Xho Tock Put. His family also owns Woodland Park, the label that houses arguably the best durian puff in Singapore. And oh, one little knick in film director, known for making Ny Magic - the first Singapore film to be nominated for the Palme D’Or, the top award at the Cannes Film Festival.

ROBERT & PHILLIP NO (SGD 1.3B)

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 Long Kong and not from NEB’s local flagship.

Robert & Phillip No (SGD 1.3B)

NEB’s local flagship.
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 sound more closely connected to some men who would be singing in Rawayn Afghanistan, or to your own Raffles Hotel? Could it be surprising at the number of famous foreign or “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 in concerned with the British Empire and the processes of colonisation and decolonisation.

Between tense conversations exploring the tortured imperial 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 (zip 0307), Booker Prize-winning author J. G. Farrell describes the waning fortunes of the Blakstas, a British colonial family. The Blakstas live in Tanglin on the eve of the Japanese Occupation. Farrell describes the neighbourhood as “looking like any quiet European suburb”, but “burnt 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 17th century British ship’s brouhaha voyage between Singapore and Penang. The SS Jacobean left Singapore in July 1860 and started sailing soon after. The ship and its passengers were promptly abandoned by its British officers, one of whom was eventually buried in the new defunct Madirun cemetery town 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 Malay 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.

RAFFLES HOTEL

This 137-year-old hotel doesn’t appear much in literature, aside from the occasional quick reference, but its share plenty of authors hung out, when playwright Noel Coward and poet Laureate John Betjeman stayed here in 1975), he complained that the hotel was “like being inside a hot cardboard box, which was growing rapidly smaller”. A former Raffles Hotel manager (who knew him from Governor W.T. Shaw) and Norman Longden’s biographer, Cordelia Gooch, says Coward missed the grandeur.

RAFFLES INSTITUTION

Anthony Burgess’s Malayan Trilogy — which included time for a Tiger (1950), The Lion in the Box (1955), and Beds in the Head (1959) — is centred on a history teacher (Owen Callow) at the prestigious Raffles Institution, and takes place during the Malayan Emergency of 1948-1950. Inside struggles against colonialism and Malay insurgents during the decade of guerrilla warfare, and gets entangled in complicated relations between local communities. Burgess apparently got inspiration for his fictional Raman School from the real-life Raffles Institution, which hosted some insurgents and Malayan nationalists from the period immediately after the war.

BUGIS

Saint Jack (1979), by Paul Theroux, is not like other Singaporean novels — it’s more interested in the city’s newly underclass than in its high-ten glasses. Theroux’s protagonist, Jack Plover, is a pig who leads readers through the Bugis Street underworld where boys “who in choir were more whisper than girls mingled with brutal women and lost American tourists, eating steamed grenades and telling businessmen Tokay’s Bugis street in for better or worse, considerably less colour. There’s a reason the film adaptation of Saint Jack was banned for 20 years in Singapore after its release.
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 $5.7 billion dollars to build. The second most expensive building is Resorts World Sentosa.

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

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

Peck Royal on Pickering
Peck Royal on Pickering is well known for its lush sky garden, which 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 aircon) which is achieved by the placement of towers and the use of green walls, which also kept the rooms glare-free.

Tree House
Entering the record books as the world's largest 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, the building served the local Japanese community pre-war after it was repurposed into the then-Singapore Social Rehabilitation Hospital - treating both innocent and innocent alike. It was both seen as social illia. Closing the doors in the late 80s - today it’s home to the 78 Academy.

The Cathay
Built in 1956 the Cathay was Singapore’s first skyscraper and its first public place with cinemas. Hence it’s very popular cinema. Renovated by the Japanese in 1970, it was their up for propaganda which included displaying deplorable scenes of victimized people along Orchard Road. Liberated in 1945, it became a hotel and apartments, before opening into the Cathay we know today.

Shaw Movie Studio
Located in a sleepy residential neighborhood, No. 8 Dalman Road used to be the heart and soul of Singapore’s film industry in 1960s and 70s. It was here that Shaw Theatres Ltd. produced over 30 films, including the "golden age of Malay cinema". Since 1995, it’s now home to a crescent and several colonies.

10 Hyderabad Road
Built in 1910 by the British as a castle, the small structure was later repurposed into the National Museum of Art, which was filled with period artwork, royal furniture and mementos. It was later repurposed into an officer’s hall and museum of national health in the old police station. Today it’s home to the 78 Academy.

Temenggong and Marang Road
Recently rediscovered by the urban explorers of Singapore (SgE) and situated at the foot of Mt. Faber, Temenggong and Marang roads are some of Singapore’s oldest, dating back to the days of British colonial Singapore. The Temenggong Residency was once the residence of the Sultan of Johor and the Temenggong who lived in a wooden house. Today, it’s a rare glimpse into Singapore’s past, now home to the SgE and several colonies.
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 for 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 sauces, and spend the day flipping pancakes right at your table.

2. The Cornerstone
   - Located inside of Bihan Park, The Cornerstone - which also has outdoor seating among 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 guest 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 chicken), and they also have a Ride & Drive combo where they pick you up in a kombi from the NTU.

4. Rider's Cafe
   - A favorite place accessible to drivers or taxis, this cafe is a well-known brunch spot. While not the cheapest, you can enjoy your cups with a serene view of horse races and riding turf. In the mornings, you can meet some of the horses and their trainer, who go for early walks.

5. Carvers & Co
   - As the 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. Served by a barista, the coffee here is a great accompaniment to their brunches.

6. Craftsmen Coffee
   - Known for using different types of methods to brew coffee - such as the V60, Chemex and Siphon - this cafe caters to the most discerning of coffee connoisseurs. It also prizes itself on using coffee beans from Dutch Colony Coffee, a premium coffee bean retailer.

7. Hatter Street
   - Taking inspiration from Lewis Carroll’s classic, Alice in Wonderland, this cafe offers the the most whimsical of settings. From the cafe, you can enjoy meals from the signature desserts - waffles with panna cotta and ice cream and green tea ice cream.

8. Check’s Full of Beans
   - This small cafe has a coffee interior with exposed brick and wood walls, and free Wi-Fi. Specializing in coffee, they have some interesting late art (with 3D art available on request) and coffee varieties. Their extensive menu includes all day breakfasts and waffles.

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

10. Bollywood Veggies
    - Co-owned by New Zealand TV personality and celebrity chef, Dean Bretz-Madire, Chef Rishi Visvanathan, Baker & Cook does 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.

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

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

13. My Awesome Cafe
    - Reimagining 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.

14. Nelo No Naja
    - This is the very first and only cafe here in Singapore, where you get to mingle with adorable felines while chomping down on some high tea delights like muffins, scones and ice cream sandwiches served alongside tea and coffee.

15. Manicurious
    - An all-in-one space comprising a retail store, cafe and retro nail bar (complete with vintage nail varnish), Manicurious' cute cafe section serves a range of coffees and tea, as well as pies by Windowill. Pass and ice cream by The Ice Cream & Cookie Co.
THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN’

BY PRABHU SIVAM

There is a gravel path that winds down Jalan Lempang, innocently enveloped amidst thick foliage and the bustle of traffic. Tread on, and you will soon notice the picketed codes lined with corroding and the battle of traffic. Tread on, and you will soon notice the picketed codes lined with corroding...Text continues...

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. A few, there 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 and skirt and immaculately pressed matching white dhoti, 90-year-old Mr. Soppil – founder of ‘Praiahills Laundry’ – is a walking embodiment of Delhi history. As one of the few remaining North Indian pioneers of the dhobi industry in the Southeast Asian Peninsula, he exudes character with an aura that reminds his first-hand experiences on a dhobi during the colonial rule. He told how the British sent in their new ladies to serve as washermen. Singapore was a very different place back then.

Clothes are hand washed with a blue dye designed to enhance the colour of the garment before the ironing process which is aided by charcoal steam irons weighing thirty pounds. Not one to compromise on the authenticity given to dhobis, his employees can spend up to 7 minutes ironing a simple t-shirt to give it that special, personalized mark. As the only remaining traditional dhobi shop in Singapore, he feels worse as he speaks about the future of his shop. "After my grandchildren settle down in a few years, I might call it quits." Located at the corner of St George’s Road, ‘Praiahills Laundry’ is an ode to a centuries-old profession.

THE ARTIST OF AMOY STREET

Seventy-four year old Mr. Lee has a picture of codes even as the unacademic of the old-day can hold over his sandy frame. Down to his first district of the day, he contemplates his customer’s skeletons with the intimacy of a seasoned sculptor. The entire procedure is said in a matter of seconds as he aptly negotiates the blade in his right with swift but measured downward strokes.

"I’ve been a barber for 50 years..." says the unshaven Mr. Lee. He is part of a shrinking list of alleyway barbers who once shaped the beard style of a nation. Once a common sight in places like Serangoon, Bugu and Chinatown, alleyway barbers have had to make way for the snazzy stand and designer barbers. Located at 23 Amoy Street, his clientele includes long-time customers with their 60s 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.

A GRAVE MATTER

Transfixed on the biggest Chinese graveyard outside of China, Bukit Brown Cemetery is the final resting place of many Chinese forefathers who helped shape 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 close associates tasked with the duty of preserving the cleanliness and sanctity of the graves. Usually operating in a family unit, these minders often take on the responsibility of 50-60 tombs at any one time. Clear demonstration of funds ensure that minders don’t overlap each other’s duties in the pot-hunting 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 showpiece for couples who used to go to the cinema. Nothing much has changed," chuckles Mr. Ngapun Arapuny. The 70-year-old is regarded as an institution in his own name of Hong Kong's mouth-watering Chili Crab.

He appears to be the sole eating ‘Kochang Poda’ (local food) vendor remaining in Singapore. Operating from his metal cardboard outside Peace Centre, he breaks a remarkable collection of eats and commentaries that continue to intrigue the foodlovers of the young while satiating the appetites of the old. Once as integral fixture of snakes ladders, the ‘Kochang Poda Nasi’ has had to make way for the Westernised version – health regulations and food hygiene factors have slowly reduced the numbers of ‘Kochang Poda’ sellers in Singapore. In this slim corner of Selegie Road, 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 from the 50s and 60s, their strength in numbers each weekend is a tribute to the waning art of cobsmaking.

Decidedly outmoded shop signs, these cobblers ply their trade from the shadowy corners of individual shelters. Despite the makeshift exterior of their store and tiny offices, the cobblers provide a range of services ranging from sole-washing to shoe-shining.
The Nightclubs of Yesteryear

Sparks (Neve Han City)
This was a place rumored to have in its employ honorees who “daylighted” as gang members. When bored, they would clean 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 lists, rather than numbers.

Fire (Orchard Plaza)
Run by the same management as Sparks, one imagines that brainstorming for the name took perhaps a mere 30 seconds. Famous for being one of the largest clubs around at that time, it blurred the lines in Cantopop. The music that was often played with background chanting by unrelated clubbers can still be found on YouTube.

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 browsers. However, privacy concerns raised by patrons eventually saw the demise of this innovative scheme.

Youths with an abundance of energy on Friday night are most likely to be found gravitating to one of the many nightspots that line Clarke Quay. And they are not picky about which club they’d 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 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.

Brighten Up with Colours (2013)
At 22, Ryan Haryat may be a rising star in the industry but he has been designing Singapore’s rocksteady costumes for two years now (in 2007 and 2008). After taking a break to find his place in the fashion world, Ryan returned last year to design Miss Universe’s dress. Spotlights Singapore’s diversity on its aesthetics, the dress displayed various colour palettes placed in a shiny yellow dress that was coupled to Singapore’s national flower.

Fusion of Cultures (2011)
Inspired by the national costume he designed in 2011 for the Miss Universe beauty pageant, Ramly’s design alludes to Singapore as a multi-racial country. His costume was not red, on the different effects, groups here consider, as an auspicious colour that symbolises joy, life, energy and creativity. Adding to the racial diversity were handcrafted embellishments in portraying Singapore’s image of a garden city.

The Year of Flibun (2007)
Zhiqhong Liang was a 2nd-year fashion design student when she designed her first national costume. Her inspiration was taken from Singapore’s national flower, the Vanda Miss Joaquim. Here, the costume was coloured orange with an orange effect. To show Singapore’s resilience and strength, she used a silk sateen corset to embody strength. Zhiqchong also designed a headpiece consisting of petals, which completed Miss Singapore’s transformation into Vanda Miss Joaquim.

Architecture meets Fashion (2010)
Thong Wei took a fresh and different approach by focusing on Singapore’s evolving architecture as its inspiration. There is no better way to show how Singapore’s architecture has changed from colonial to sleek and contemporary than through the stacks of grey, which often associated with dilapidation in this case. It truly caught out the moment. They wanted to portray.
**Out and About**

**Tech Giveaways**
- **Razer: Kraken Pro Headphones**
  - Razer has upped the game by releasing the Razer Kraken Pro, a special edition of their brand's best-selling Kraken headphones. As the name suggests, these heavy-duty headphones are available in six translucent colours and like its predecessor, it's outfitted with a series of powerful bass boosters and drivers that set the bar for high-quality gaming audio.

- **Braun: Cruzer Shaver**
  - Smart Film technology that reduces skin irritation and perhaps most distinguishing - the ability to be used even while in the shower. However, the lack of a competitive price might put off those interested in a more travel-friendly option. It retails at $89.99.

**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彼得·奎尔, aka Star-Lord, finds himself the target of a manhunt after stealing a mysterious orb. Roman, 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 Roman, Quill has to join forces with his unlikely teammates: Rocket raccoon (a gun-shy raccoon). Groot (the sentient tree), the deadly and enigmatic Gamora, and the revenge-driven Drax the Destroyer.

- **Juno 3: Beginning of the End (July 24)**
  - **Cast:** Nozomi Sasaki, Shee Ayagi, Reina Friend
  - Yu (Nozomi Sasaki) takes on responsibility as a teacher at a primary school where one of the pupils, Toshiro Sasaki, has been returning to come to school for a while. Since the day she visited him at home, inexplicable phenomena began to happen to her. The house was called the "cursed house" where everyone who sets foot in the place dies in strange circumstances. Strange cases until one after another, yet Yu returns to the house, as drawn by it. Is this the karma of those who died holding a strong grudge? What is the hidden secret behind this "cursed house?"

**Productions**

- **The Inside Job**
  - The Inside Job is an interactive social game where you have 1 hour to gather clues in order to solve a mystery using your mobile, while being tracked (if helped by various characters planted at your venue) and surrounded by Mysterious and Unusual objects that will make your experience unforgettable. Tickets available via: theinsidejob.sg.

- **FlexiSpace, LSPACE**
  - **Time:** 18 – 22 Jun, 8pm & 8.30pm
  - **Venue:** Drama Centre Black Box, The National Library
  - **Tickets:** $30 (Students: $20)

**The Sound of Music**

- **Time:** 11 – 27 Jul, 2pm, 6pm & 8pm
  - **Venue:** Mastercard Theatre, Marina Bay Sands
  - **Tickets:** $66 - $146

**The Bridge**

- **Time:** 21 Jun @ 7.30pm
  - **Venue:** Esplanade Concert Hall
  - **Tickets:** From $77 - $117

**The Laramie Project**

- **Time:** 25 – 26 Jul, 8.30pm
  - **Venue:** Drama Centre
  - **Tickets:** $28

**Women of Asia**

- **Time:** 19 – 23 Jun, 6pm & 8pm
  - **Venue:** Goodman Arts Centre
  - **Tickets:** $26 (Students: $13)

**Bridging Frontiers**

- **Time:** Various
  - In line with the Metropolitan Festival Orchestra’s vision to enrich lives through meaningful orchestral performances, this concept showcase celebrates Singapore’s most esteemed classical musicians such as Ke Chen, Cheng Chen (corno), Ling Rong, Sheng and Allison (vln).
**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 back in the 1870s. The first recorded arrival of Japanese women was in 1877, when a mostly male wave of immigrants settled along Middle Road, which was then known as ’Chun Don’ (Kentral Street). This made the nearby area – around Malay, Madura, Hylum and Bugis Street – an ideal location for Japanese brothels.

In 1905, as many as 209 registered brothels employed some 633 ‘Karasaki-san’ Japanese girls mainly from Kyushu who were often decked out in colourful yukatas and beckoning customers from balconies in the Bugis junction area – then known as ‘Japanese Street’ by the locals.

The brothel houses 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 Karasaki-san were replaced with another breed of ‘ladies of the night’. Transvestites (or lady boys) were rampant until the mid-40s, 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’). We’ll be happy to make way for the WBT and redevelopment.

**SOUTH OF THE RIVER: CHINATOWN**

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 Hokkian 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 WWII, it was common to see a dozen women – whose clients included Chinese, Malay, Indian and Japanese men – soliciting from doorways, proving that competition was stiff.

After WWII, brothels were relegated to Kong Siak Road and Sago Lane which became a red-light district in the 1960s.

The last of these pleasure houses – with their red line stores at the front entrance – disappeared altogether from the late 1990s onwards with the proliferation of brothels in the main hotels, hotels like Royal Pacific Hotel and Hotel 1929 that took over these shophouses. Who knows what stories lie within these rooms?
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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, why 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 a huge opportunity in hospitals, rehab centres, sports clinics, and maybe even with celebrity athletes. With modules to develop students’ understanding of pain and disability, physiotherapy – a key programme at the University of South Australia – has a variety of hands-on experience.

**Archaeology**

More than just digging up bones, archaeology in the study of the past through historic artifacts left behind - remains that will tell us the course to being landmen cows or Java crofters, 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 specialize either in veterinary biomedicine, medicine or biotechnology, all focusing on the health and well-being of animals. Your disease prevention skills to pets. A degree program includes treating creatures from domestic furry critters to wild reptiles. Available at Murdoch University, this degree program will have you being Dr. Doolittle vetting at private clinic or soon.

**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 supernovae and meteors. 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 on the Hubble Telescope.

**Meteorology**

Meteorology students will learn to understand the dynamics of weather systems, from hurricanes to earthquakes and the effects of global warming. Helping folks predict the next weather phenomenon (like the duration of the next heat wave) is a major function of the scientific climate science offered by the University of Queensland, which focuses solely on the tropics and subtropical regions of Australia.

**Zoology**

Zoology is the science that explains the world of animals. Study structure, function, ecology and evolution. From plankton to elephants, more than 300 species of animals are discovered a year, and you could discover the next one. If playing the role of David Attenborough appeals to you, a 3-year degree programme in zoology is available at the University of Queensland.

**Agriculture**

As Singapore imports a whopping 90% of its food supply, food security is at the top of the country’s concerns. Here and sours rooftop gardens and aquaponic products 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

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 ORGANIZED**

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 organized 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 host or home stays. It will also be helpful to join Facebook groups set up by students who are dedicated to assisting international students.

**BE STREET SMART**

Staying out late without a second thought is often taken for granted, where the streets are brightly lit and the police are very 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 recognize that every culture is different, and no one culture is superior to the other. Remedial 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 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 on schedule and quickly (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.
By Nurushina Sariff

STUDYING OVERSEAS
THE GOOD AND BAD

GOOD

NEW INDEPENDENT STREAK:
Independence is something that many adolescents strive for - being able to take care of themselves and make their own decisions. However, this new independence can sometimes lead to difficulties, especially when it comes to managing finances and responsibilities.

WHOLE NEW EXPERIENCES:
Going to a new country can be an exciting experience, but it can also be overwhelming. New places, new people, new customs, and new languages can all be challenging.

NEW FRIENDS:
Meeting new people from different backgrounds and cultures can be enriching, and it can help expand your horizons.

ADAPTING:
It's easy to adapt to a new environment when you're surrounded by familiar faces, but it can be more difficult when you're in a new country. However, adapting to a new environment can also be rewarding.

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE:
Hearing how other people view the world can be enlightening. It can broaden your understanding of different cultures and perspectives.

WORK OPPORTUNITIES:
The job market is often more competitive in other countries, and this can be an opportunity for growth and development.

BAD

HOME SICKNESS:
After settling into a new country, many people experience homesickness. This can be more challenging when you're far from home and friends.

ADAPTING:
It's not always easy to adapt to a new environment. There can be cultural differences, language barriers, and other challenges.

LANGUAGE BARRIER:
The language barrier can be significant, especially if you're not fluent in the local language. This can make it more difficult to communicate and navigate daily life.

A DIFFERENT WAY OF STUDYING:
Academic systems differ from country to country, and this can be challenging for students who are used to a different system.

Where to study overseas?

Do you like history?

How's your health?

Are you on a budget?

You prefer places with...

Preferred duration of course

Travelling during your studies?

Want to travel far?

More Singaporeans

More Singaporeans

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 itself 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 some of the top in the world.
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