



## Supporting the family while studying

Close to 50 per cent of students in RP require some sort of financial assistance. BENJAMIN TAN speaks to one recent graduate who did well in school despite having to help supplement the family income.

BY BENJAMIN TAN WEI ZHONG

If you are in school all day, can you survive on \$5 a day?

For perpetually hungry teenagers, that's the cost of one proper meal. But for 22-year-old Nur Syaidah Bte Juraimi, it is simply not an option to spend even a dollar more. Because she has to contribute to the family income as her mother, a single parent, is the sole-breadwinner and she has five siblings under her care.

"I've to pay my own bills and help my mom support the family. I give some of my bursary to my mother so she can pay for the basic necessities. So for me, a daily budget is important because I have to divide it to last a few months," said Syaidah who lives in a three-room flat with her family.

But talk to the petite and bubbly School of Hospitality (SOH) student who graduated on May 7, and you will find she has no negativity about her family situation. Beneath her demure exterior is a determined and disciplined girl who simply worked around her circumstances.

Syaidah who graduated with a Diploma in Wellness, Lifestyle and Spa Management has consistently done well enough to receive several awards, such as the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) award and the Eagles Award. She was also on the Director's Roll of Honour last year.

How did she manage all this,

while working the evening shift as a telemarketer from Saturday to Thursday, from 6pm to 9.30pm?

"The main thing is to focus in class and revise after lessons," shared the Sub-Committee Member of the Student Council. "A lot of people tend to scroll through social media and use their phones during class. For me all of that is a big no because I really don't have the luxury of time."

Syaidah soon discovered that she had to be as efficient as she can. Before leaving school for work she makes sure she completes her RJs and organises her notes. On the commute back home, she goes through readings and notes as a form of revision.

Once home, she has to help her mother with the care of her siblings, aged 15 to 20. She takes the opportunity to talk to them. "Every day I try to talk to my sisters to instil values about hard work and the importance of education. I remind them that even though our situation may be difficult right now, things would improve in the future if we work towards it," said Syaidah who was also involved in Malay dance in RP.

Being young, it is inevitable the pressure gets to her and she feels exhausted on some days. But the negative feelings dissipate when she sees her mother who works as a sales assistant. "Seeing my mother struggle to take care of the family motivates me.



**CLOSE KNIT FAMILY:** Even though there are many ups and downs, Syaidah (front row, centre) and her family always put on a smile. Their happy demeanor makes everyone around them feel welcome. **PHOTO: NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN**

She has to go through so many challenges and I feel that if my mom can do it, I can too."

Besides, giving up isn't an option.

"You alone decide what your future is so you cannot give up simply because you find it difficult. You've to pull through, for me and my family."

Her journey does not end upon graduating. If anything, it's only just begun. Syaidah is looking at part time degrees to enrol in while working full-time. She was offered a position by her internship employer Spa Esprit Group.

Her mentor in SOH, Senior Lecturer Fattimah Ally, says Syaidah was

an exemplary RP student and she has no doubt that she will find success. "She attended all the revision classes conducted during the term break, completed all her projects on time and even helped her classmates who were having challenges. She volunteered to check 30 portfolios to ensure they were up to standard before they were submitted."

Ms Ally adds that Syaidah's best attribute was in how she divided her time wisely. "It was certainly not easy for her to balance so many things. But she stayed focused and I think her success speaks for itself." **R**

## SMALL gesture gets **BIG** exposure

School of Infocomm (SOI) student Charles Wright did something he thought anyone would do. Little did he know that his act of helping a stranger made him an instant online hit. NICOLE KAM meets the knight in shining armour.

BY NICOLE KAM

It is the usual scene at the busy Causeway Point Shopping Centre. Scores of shoppers and diners gather after school or work and Charles Wright, 20, was just another RP student who decided to meet his friends for dinner after school.

While dining at fast food restaurant Texas Chicken, something caught the 20-year-old Business Information Systems student's eye. He noticed a man, quite shabbily dressed, walking in and looking around. The man soon went to empty tables and began to eat meals leftover by other diners. At one point, he even picked up food that was on the floor.

The sight of that upset Charles, a Singaporean permanent resident (PR) and immediately, he decided that he needed proper food and went ahead to buy him a meal, costing \$8.20

"I grew up in the Philippines, so I know what poverty is like. Seeing him having to pick food off the floor was more than enough for me to have to buy him a proper meal. I'm not saying you should help everyone you can, but if you find yourself in the

same situation and if you can provide some sort of help, it's the right thing to do," said Charles whose dad is a director and mum a manager.

While Charles was helping the man get a meal, a fellow diner was paying close attention to what was



**WEARING A SMILE:** Charles' good deed did not come as a surprise to his friends whom described him as a friendly individual who's always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. **PHOTO: DAMIEN KUA**

going on. Facebook user Aisha Lim came over to talk to Charles. "She came to my table and asked me what school I went to and said she was very touched by the gesture. I thanked her and didn't think much about it. But the next morning, my friends were telling me I was all over social media!"

He had countless messages and even his lecturers at SOI started getting questions from the media about him. How did the instant fame affect him?

"To be honest I feel that I'm over credited for something that was really a small action! I think anyone in my shoes would have done the same," said Charles, looking genuinely puzzled by the reaction he got.

But his Singaporean classmate who was with him doesn't quite agree.

"Not many people would actually step up to help the man so for him to be able to actually do something was quite brave of him," said Tye Kang Jie, 18, a year 2 Diploma in Business Information Systems student. **R**



# Editor's Note



Welcome back to school! I hope everyone has had a good start to the year. 2015 brings with it change - most importantly, the new academic system in Republic Polytechnic and in this issue we lay out the common terms to get used to.

As is the cycle of life, the start of a new semester also brings closure to the graduating cohort. I had the pleasure of covering a graduation ceremony and was inspired by the stories of our amazing seniors. In this issue, we speak to Syadhah Juraimi who overcome personal odds to do well. I hope you enjoy her story and are inspired by her never-say-die spirit. We have more profile stories online.

We welcome the freshmen by featuring this year's Jam & Hop along with exciting pictures from RP Orientation Programme 2015, go online to see if you've been photographed!

The writers of Republican Post have prepared a list of movies to look forward to this year as well as a few places to take great shots (some are on campus itself!). I hope readers have as much fun reading this issue as the team and I had preparing it. I wish you all the best of luck for the months ahead. Send us your views. We are at: [www.republicanpost.sg](http://www.republicanpost.sg)

Kulvin Kaur



## Republican Post Roll-Call



# Get out and get your feet wet!

That was the advice given by Minister Chan Chun Sing who was a guest of honour at RP's graduation ceremony. He was speaking at the opening day of graduation 2015.

By KULVIN KAUR



ONE RP: (From left) Special Award Winners Chan Wei Zhang, Francis Miranda, Ye Mon Soe, Muhammad Imran, Pan Shi Yu and Lim Shunyong had the opportunity to mingle with the Minister from the Prime Minister's Office Mr Chan Chun Sing after their graduation ceremony.

PHOTO: NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN

Republic Polytechnic (RP) kicked off graduation on Monday, 4th May, 2015 at The Republic Cultural Centre (TRCC). This year marks the 10th graduation ceremony and it saw the largest graduating cohort since RP's inception in

2002. A total of 4,714 graduates collected their diplomas between 4th and 8th May, over 15 different sessions.

The first day of the five-day event had students from the School of Sports, Health and Leisure (SHL) and Centre for Enterprise and Communication

(CEC) receiving their diplomas. The afternoon session for SHL students started off with the arrival of Minister Chan Chun Sing and the academic procession followed by the welcome address by the Principal and CEO of RP, Mr Yeo Li Pheow, who spoke about the importance of internship and real-world experience.

Mr Chan spent his first day as secretary-general of National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) attending Monday's ceremony as the Guest-of-Honour.

In his first public speech since taking office Mr Chan shared his "anatomies of success", like getting your feet wet. He said: "Especially for RP students who are known for their practical bent, I hope you get your feet wet by venturing out of your comfort zone to explore places and things that other people may not have."

After an eager wait, the graduates graced the stage to be awarded their diplomas in front of their proud parents, family and lecturers. Roars of lighthearted cheers and applause filled the theatre, encouraging the graduates as they each received their much anticipated diplomas.

The spotlight was on graduates with distinguished awards like Muhammad Imran Bin Md Zin, 26, previously from ITE College West, who

received the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Award for Mathematics and Science along with his diploma in Industrial and Operations Management with Merit.

It was a proud moment for Imran's father, Mr Muhammed Zin, 52, who said: "I'm honoured, he's been putting in a lot of hard work and it finally paid off. I feel like the graduation ceremony was great and it will encourage students to be inspired to do better."

For 35-year-old Outdoor and Adventure Learning with Merit graduate and father of three, Francis Miranda, he deems his RP experience as "fruitful": "The three years here have been unforgettable, there's been a lot of defining moments that shaped my life," he said.

The session ended at South Agora where guests and graduates had something to eat before posing for what seemed like a hundred selfies with friends and family. Excited parents were also seen hugging their newly graduated children.

SHL valedictorian Lloyd Tan Guan Yu, 20, gave some advice for the newly arrived year one students who have just embarked on their journey. He said: "It's a new chapter in your life, whatever you did in the past doesn't matter, it's what you do now that defines you." **R**

# Jam and Hop shifts to new venue, but wows 5,000-strong crowd

By NELLIE QISTINA MOHD SUKOR AND KUA SIEW MIN

The stadium at Republic Polytechnic's sports complex does not just serve as a venue for sporting events. In April, it also played host to Jam and Hop, the first time the highlight of the annual Freshmen Orientation Programme was held at the field.

Even though most students welcomed the change in venue, the two-hour music and dance extravaganza encountered minor hiccups.

A 10-minute disruption in electricity supply occurred in the middle of music interest group Jammerz Arena's set. "We didn't know what to do as it was so sudden," said Muhd Ja'afar Siddiq Bin Omar Yusoff, 18, a second-year Arts and Theatre Management student and bassist of Jammerz Arena.

Determined to keep the show going, the group's lead singer got down from the stage to rally the crowd and led them in an impromptu sing-along. "Our seniors taught us in Jammerz Arena, we should always carry on the show as professionally as possible despite what will and can happen. So we just acted as if nothing happened," said Muhd Ja'afar Siddiq.

Held on the second day of the orientation programme, this year's Jam and Hop featured performances from several music and dance interest groups. Marcus Chew Chin Yin, a second-year Health and Services Management student from Electronic Music Production (EMP), felt the event was "the highlight of his life so far" - the crowd of 5,000 students was the largest group the 21-year-old had performed in front of.

Marcus added: "I heard some feedback that the music wasn't loud enough for the people at the back, so it wasn't projected fairly to the whole area as the field is too big."

Nevertheless, some in the audience were impressed by the performances at Jam and Hop, as well as the week-long Orientation Programme organised by student leaders.

"I enjoyed the mass activities, in particular the Jam and Hop," said Yeo Kun Han, a first-year School of Infocomm student. "I feel it adds a creative and unique



SEA OF SMILES: An estimated 5000 RP students sat in the field for the Jam and Hop performance. This year is the first year Jam and Hop is performed at the field. The Jam and Hop was the highlight of the three-day orientation programme.

PHOTO: DAMIEN TEO

touch to the orientation programme."

Agreeing, first-year Common Engineering Programme student Muhammad Ridha Bin Ismail said the EMP performance at Jam and Hop was the highlight. "The DJs really put up a good show and mixed the songs well. It was like they were professionals," said the 18-year-old. **R**



# The new academic policy: *what's what?*

Confused about the new academic policy and what it means to you? We break it down for you.

By BENJAMIN TAN WEI ZHONG

**OLD:**  
Daily Grade (DG)

**NEW:**  
Continuous Assessment (CA)

**Implication:**  
It is pretty much the same. The weighting of CA for your final module grade varies from school to school (ranging from 20% to 40%)

**OLD:**  
Understanding Tests (UT)  
(3 UTs in one Semester)

**NEW:**  
Summative Assessment (SA)  
(2 SAs in one Semester)  
MSA + ESE = 60% to 80% per cent of total grade

**Implication:**  
Instead of a "test", it is now an "exam" - and the weighting has gone up too - Cannot play play!

**OLD:**  
Understanding Test 4  
(if you missed UT3)

**NEW:**  
Make-Up Examination (MUE)

**Implication:**  
You only sit for this if you have a valid LOA for ESE. If you are barred from ESE, you can't sit for MUE. So, don't be sick!

**OLD:**  
UTs 1 & 2 After Class

**New:**  
Dedicated period for SAs (no lessons on days of exams)

**Implication:**  
Yay to taking exams in peace (instead of taking it after a long day in class). Extra Like!

**OLD:**  
Meetings (Known as Meeting 1,2 & 3)

**NEW:**  
Learning Phases

**Implication:**  
Change in name to emphasise the "learning" portion (ie no time to eat, gotta "chiong" worksheet and PPT)

**OLD:**  
Study Period  
(Known as First Break, Second Break)

**NEW:**  
Break & Study Break

**Implication:**  
Despite the change in name, the tasks and objectives are still the same (i.e. There's more "study" than "break")

**OLD:**  
15 Weeks Lessons

**NEW:**  
13 Weeks

**Implication:**  
Two weeks of early holidays? Not quite! There's half an hour added to each lesson, so it works out to more or less the same learning hours clocked.

**OLD:**  
Banned from exams if you miss more than four lessons without a valid LOA

**NEW:**  
Banned if you are marked Late + Partial, Partial or Absences without LOA for three lessons

**Implication:**  
This is the biggest change! Three Strikes and you're debarred! This INCLUDES LOA, Late and Partial. This is deadly serious!

**OLD:**  
Students who miss UT 1 & UT2 with a valid LOA can take UT3

**NEW:**  
Students who miss MSA have no make-up. Those who miss ESE with valid LOA will have to take MUE.

**Implication:**  
With less exams, it just means your exams now carry a lot more weight. So if you miss one, the entire weight moves to the next one. Which means you only have one shot! So failure is not an option.

**OLD:**  
UTCLIENT

**NEW:**  
eQuest

**Implication:**  
The ever familiar UT Client we all use to take our exams on gets a brand new name. And since we told you how important exams are - make sure you have it BEFORE your paper.

The new academic policy places an awful lot of emphasis on our SAs. This seems to shift the focus to exams quite a bit and I am not sure how the less academically inclined will cope.

Siti Nur Atiqah Bte Ahmad A', 19  
Year 2 Diploma in Arts & Theatre Management (STA)

I feel the new academic policy helps students set their priorities right and take school more seriously, especially those who tend to skip classes quite often as they are unable to do so now. It really prepares us for the workforce where you have to show up on time.

Rebecca Sung, 19  
Year 2 Diploma in Consumer Behaviour & Research (CEC)

The new academic policy is a positive switch for the whole system. MSA allows us to take the exams in a week where no lessons will be taking place. This reduces the fatigue we normally need to endure right after a long day in school.

Bryan Lim Jun Yan, 22  
Year 3 Diploma in Pharmaceutical Science (SAS)

I think the attendance of the students affects the learning. The new policy is definitely stricter but it helps as I've already noticed more students are being punctual.

Cecilia Liew, Lecturer, 35  
Introduction to Design Module, SOH

# Five reasons to catch this year's NDP



By NATALIE ANN FERNANDEZ

If you haven't already heard, this year's National Day Parade will be the grandest. The event will be held at both the Marina Bay floating platform and the Padang, venue of the Republic's first parade in 1966. Here are five reasons why you wouldn't want to miss out on this jubilee party.

- 1 Tribute segment to the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew**  
 What better way to start off the celebration than with a moment of remembrance for Singapore's founding Prime Minister. Mr Lee Kuan Yew's usual seat will be left empty while a tribute video celebrating his contributions to Singapore will also be played.
- 2 Stunning aerial display**  
 A total of 50 RSAF's warplanes will take part in an aerial display during the NDP. Some planes will form a giant "50", while The Republic of Singapore Air Force's Black Knights aerial acrobatics team will execute a special "Five Stars" flypast in honour of Mr Lee. The five F16Cs will represent the ideals that Mr Lee spent his life pursuing - democracy, peace, equality, justice and progress.
- 3 Recreating a parade of the past**  
 Ever wonder what the NDP was like in the 1970s? The first segment of the show, 'Beginnings', will take you back in time, re-enacting the street parades of the past. Expect to see policemen in shorts and nurses in their retro uniforms.
- 4 Double the fireworks, double the joy**  
 The fireworks display at the climax of the parade will be turned up a notch. Expect twice the extravagance this year with fireworks lighting up the skies above the Padang and Marina Reservoir. LED screens will also be placed around the area so that the public can view the aerial display and fireworks.
- 5 Singapore indie pop group, The Sam Willows**  
 The group will perform Home, the song many Singaporeans regard as their favourite NDP theme song. Last year, the group received rave reviews for their rendition of the classic. Sharing the video on his Facebook page, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said: "Quite different from Dick Lee's original version, but a beautiful interpretation."

## Dick Lee pens new NDP theme song, 17 years after 'Home'

By SHANNON NG



**KEY MEN IN NDP 2015:** Dick Lee (right) composer of "Home" and "Our Singapore" with Brigadier-General Melvyn Ong, Chairman of the NDP 2015 Executive Committee. **PHOTO: NATALIE ANN FERNANDEZ**

After years of saying 'no', singer songwriter Dick Lee has finally agreed to pen a National Day Parade (NDP) theme song.

The song, Our Singapore, will be performed by pop singer JJ Lin at this year's NDP. The song was first unveiled on May 6 by Mr Lee, who performed it during a press conference.

Speaking to reporters, Mr Lee said he was initially hesitant about writing another NDP theme song after the success of his previous hit, Home. The 1998 NDP theme song performed by Kit Chan is regarded by many Singaporeans as their favourite National Day song.

"Year after year, I've been asked since Home. I know I have to top that and it is like you can't top Silent Night or Jingle Bells," said Mr Lee. He also wrote We Will Get There, which was performed by Stefanie Sun at the 2002 NDP.

Mr Lee told reporters he felt "a lot of pressure" when writing this year's song. He wrote four other songs, before settling on Our Singapore. "It just felt right especially as I was looking at all the SG50 plans and I realised there's a lot of focus on the past and not really enough about the future. So, I felt why don't I write a song about the next step and what's to come," the 57-year-old said.

Mr Lee acknowledged that comparisons between the new song and Home would be inevitable. He stressed that Home is about the present, while Our Singapore is about the future.

Quoting his favourite line of the song - And amazing as it seems, it all started with a dream - Mr Lee explained that the lyrics described how the modern Singapore started with a dream. "Our responsibility is to bring the dream forward," he added.

Mr Lee said he is "terrified" about the reception to his latest song. "It is going to be put out there to be judged. But then I thought about it, I've been judged all my life...everything I do is being judged," he added. **R**

# How RP CHEERLEADERS become champions

Rexaz cheerleading squad won four category titles and retained the championship title for three consecutive years. LYON LEE finds out the secret to their success.

By LYON LEE

Victory is a familiar feeling for Republic Polytechnic's cheerleading squad as they once again proved they were the best by clinching first place in the overall competition and winning four other categories during the recent CAS National Cheerleading Championships (CASNCC), held on 28th March, 2015.

But just three short years ago, things were not as smooth sailing. "The first three years of my position as coach were very rocky, the culture here was not strong and there was nothing to hold them together," said Miss Karen Neo, 27, the current coach of Rexaz.

In her first year as coach during the 2009/2010 season, Ms Neo was met with disappointment as the team's performance was dismal. For every competition they participated in, they won nothing. Not only was this a huge blow to the squad, it made a huge impact on Ms Neo as well. "As a coach, I started questioning my own abilities, and I told myself that if the following year Rexaz didn't win anything, I would quit," said Ms Neo.



**CHAMPIONS:** Rexaz Cheerleading Squad at the 2013 CAS National Cheerleading Championships (CASNCC).

**PHOTO COURTESY OF: CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE FACEBOOK**

But hard work, as always, does pay off. Ms Neo drew up rules and these included: punctuality, no clubbing close to competitions, no "relationships on the mat" and strict diet and exercise guidelines. Poor response to feedback was not

tolerated as was poor grades. Anyone whose GPA slipped below 2 would be asked to leave. Everyone showed up for training three times a week on normal days and in the run-up to competitions, it was doubled to six times a week.

The team also roped in an advisor who helped initiate an exchange program in Thailand where they learnt how to improve fitness and agility. Soon after getting back from Thailand, they participated in the annual CASNCC and claimed first place, beating their all-time rival, Singapore Polytechnic's Gusto Cheer Squad who was champion for the past two years.

"It was hard, but they took it positively and it motivated everyone to strive even harder," says Miss Kimberly Chen, 20, Assistant Coach of Rexaz and fresh graduate from Republic Polytechnic, Diploma in Pharmaceutical Sciences. When asked for her secret to success, Ms Neo says there isn't really one. "It really is just about working harder than the day before and that motivation has to come from within." **R**



## Graduation 2015 Highlights

*It's that time of the year again where we bid goodbye to another batch of students from Republic Polytechnic. This year we celebrate the largest graduating cohort - 4,714 students - since RP started 12 years ago. NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN and RACHEL NG capture the highlights of this year's graduation.*



### HELPING HAND:

It's vital to look good on graduation day. Staff are on hand to make sure that all graduands are properly robed before they head into the theatre.

**PHOTO: NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN**



### WISHING YOU WELL:

Student leaders were on hand to help out as well. Here, the flag bearer for the graduating batch of students from Centre for Enterprise and Communication (CEC), Nicole Gonzales, also the representative of CEC in the Executive Committee of Student Council, took on the responsibility of personally congratulating the graduates and handing out goody bags.

**PHOTO: NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN**



### GOODIE BAGS:

Hundreds of goody bags filled with the school's yearbook, notebook and pen were all lined up outside the graduation theatre as they await collection by the graduates to take them home.

**PHOTO: NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN**



### ALL SMILES AND LAUGHTER:

The TRCC theatre was buzzing with joy and laughter as classmates who became friends waited to get their two minutes of fame on stage.

**PHOTO: RACHEL NG**



**FASTER, HIGHER:**

The different CREATE IGs such as Capoeira, Replug, Jammerz Arena, Hip Hop, came together to put up a performance to close the ceremony. Showcasing the excellence of arts in RP, the performance closed with a finale item - a cover of Michael Bolton's Go The Distance.

**PHOTO: RACHEL NG**



**DEEP BREATH:**

Before they head up on stage, students from SHL loosen up by joking as they eagerly (and nervously) wait for their turn to receive their long awaited diploma.

**PHOTO: NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN**



**PROUD PARENTS:**

It's every parent's dream to witness their child develop to their full potential and be the person they know they could be. Mr and Mrs Chan not only got to see their son, Wei Zhang graduate with a Diploma in Information Technology with Merit, they also had the pleasure to see him receive the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Award for Mathematics and Science.

**PHOTO: NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN**



**MEETING THE MINISTER:**

SHL valedictorian Lloyd Tan and fellow graduate, Jovan Khoo shared a rare up close and personal moment with Minister Chan Chun Sing from the Prime Minister's Office.

**PHOTO: NUR HIDAYAH ROSLAN**

**END OF THE RP JOURNEY:**

Graduates filed out of the theatre, some feeling wistful about the end of their three years in RP.

**PHOTO: RACHEL NG**





## Discover places to snap

Republican Post photojournalists **AZMI ATHNI** and **ISKANDAR ROSSALI** give you tips on where and how to take great pictures!

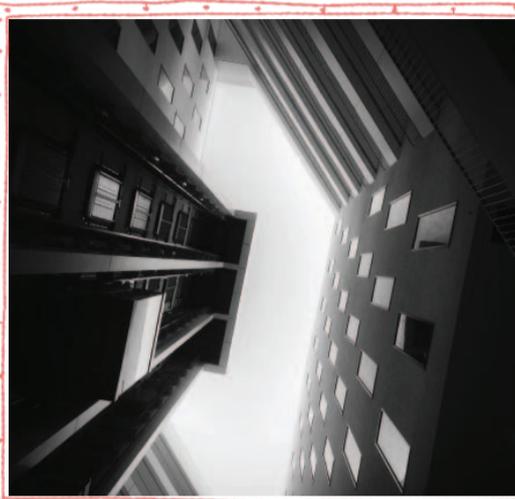


### Pearls Centre, Outram Park

This place may make your hair stand. The building's carpark has been abandoned, and a body of a man was recently found there. But Pearls Centre, which is located near Chinatown, is highly accessible. Go quickly: It will be closed in late August to make way for the construction of the Thomson MRT line. **PHOTO: AZMI ATHNI**

### Portsdown Road

Situated in the heart of One-North, it takes a bit of walking to get into the area. But nestled among the greenery are these amazing colonial-styled houses which were built in the 1940s. **PHOTO: AZMI ATHNI**



### W7, Republic Polytechnic

The recently built W7 building is the perfect place to explore on campus. Many have yet to set foot in it, so be the first among your peers to do so. **PHOTO: AZMI ATHNI**



### AZMI'S PHOTO TIP: !

Good composition is key to any beautiful photos. There are many ways to approach to it. A simple trick I love to use is symmetry. Symmetry makes photographs aesthetically pleasing because it creates a sense of balance, which is why many photographers use it.

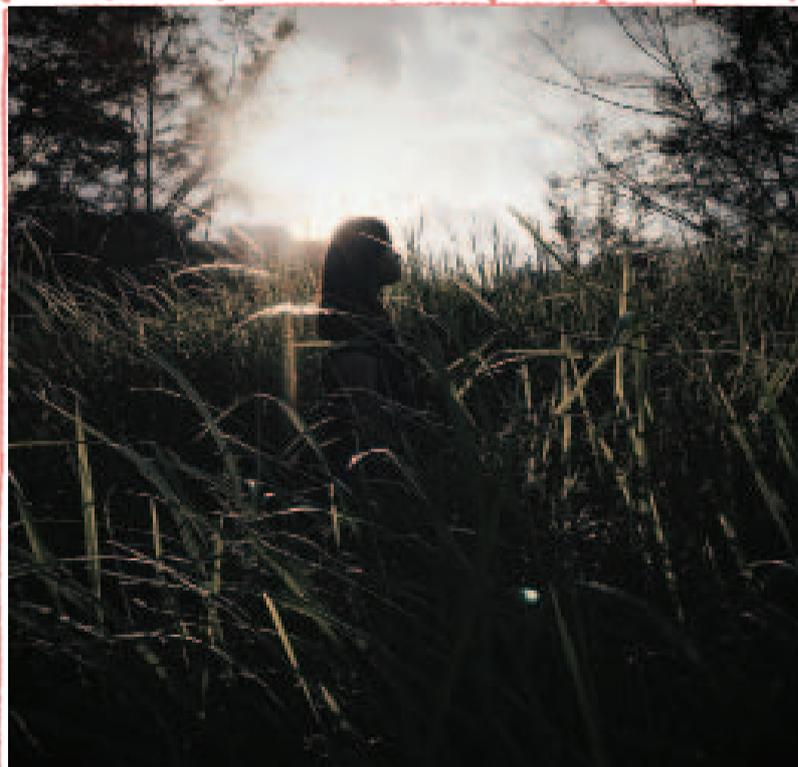
### Lalang Field, Punggol

The place many couples go to take their wedding photos. This wonderful lalang field at the Punggol Waterway Park turns magical during sunrise and sunset, giving a dreamy feel to photos. **PHOTO: ISKANDAR ROSSALI**



### Istana Woodneuk, opposite Pierce Road

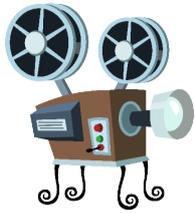
Once the royal palace for the Johor Sultan, Istana Woodneuk is now an abandoned building. One must trek through muddy terrain and a forested area to get to this heritage site, located on a small hill bounded by Holland Road and Tyersall Avenue. **PHOTO: ISKANDAR ROSSALI**



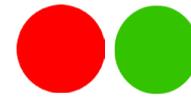
### ISKANDAR'S PHOTO TIP: !

There are many smartphone software apps available to enhance the finish of your photos. I use VSCO Cam, but I would recommend you to explore the basic editing elements such as adjusting the brightness or contrast to achieve different moods and effects. Instasize is another easy app to use, but crop and resize wisely. Always remember to crop out the unwanted details at the side of the picture first. Then resize it. Remember, every detail counts.





# Projecting an alternative cinema experience



By Woon Jiemin

A piece of Singapore's cinematic history has been given a new lease of life, after two halls at Beach Road's Golden Theatre were recently relaunched as a hip and chic venue for alternative films.

Known as The Projector, it seeks to differentiate itself from other cinema chains. Instead of offering a strict diet of commercial blockbusters, the new venue will showcase an eclectic mix of indie, foreign, cult favourites, classics, arthouse and local films.

"Many good films are produced internationally," said Mr Gavin Low, film programme curator of The Projector. "But only a small fraction is seen in Singapore on the big screen."

Golden Theatre was the largest cinema in Singapore and Malaysia when it opened in 1973. It used to satisfy 1,500 movie-goers with a steady flow of Mandarin films, but its popularity waned in the 1990s after multiplexes opened in shopping malls served by the MRT network.

Golden Theatre's single hall was then divided into three theatres, a 1,000 single-seat hall on the third floor and two smaller ones on the fifth floor of Golden Mile Tower. The larger hall managed to pull in crowds by showing Tamil and Hindi films, but the two smaller theatres eventually closed.

Last year, a group of design professionals stepped in with plans to revive the place. They wanted to redefine the local movie-going experience that vanished with the demise of drive-in cinemas. For example, one of the theatres - The Redrum - has been redesigned to fit a playful and casual theme, offering 30 bean bags at the front of the cinema for movie goers.

"Watching a story unfold on the big screen with your friends and a room full of strangers is a special kind of shared experience," said Ms Sharon Tan, co-founder of The Projector.

Much of the old school charm, however, remains. The Projector's foyer has an eclectic mix of wooden stools and tables from the 1970s, while the cinema halls' old signs - Golden 1 and Golden 2 - have been retained. Inside the halls, the original retro flip-up theatre seats with wooden arms have been repaired and reupholstered.

Snacks sold at The Projector also evoke memories of another era. Childhood treats like peanuts, tapioca chips and icing biscuits are sold in little bags to movie goers.

Temasek Polytechnic student Nicholas Heng, 19, felt the cinematic experience at The Projector was "refreshing". "The way The Projector was furnished - bright and spacious - increased the coziness of the area," he said. "Free seating and beanbag seats were definitely a first for me too. I guess it's true when they said old is gold!" **R**



**THE RED ROOM:** A new stage coupled with options of casual seating allows for a greater variety of uses that range from talks, art shows, and comedy nights.  
PHOTO: REDRUM/PETER VAN GOTHEN

## Getting there:

Alight at Nicoll Highway MRT station (along the Circle Line). Golden Mile Tower is just a five minute walk away. MRT stations Bugis and Lavender stations are both 13 minutes away. Take the lifts next to the Box Office on the ground floor lobby in-front of the building. The Projector is at level 5.

# Top 3 movies to catch this year



2014 witnessed a slate of great movies like *Interstellar*, *Whiplash* and *American Sniper*. This year, we have a line-up of amazing films to look forward to as well. But before you put on your 3D glasses and get your popcorn ready, *The Republican Post* shortlists three movies you absolutely cannot miss.

By Christopher Parwani

## Paper Towns

SOURCE: FOX MOVIES

Release Date: July 23, 2015



This teen romantic mystery film is based on John Green's latest novel. The movie follows the protagonist, Quentin "Q" Jacobsen, who sets out to find a missing childhood friend, Margo. The movie stars American singer-songwriter Nat Wolff and is sure to leave many movie-goers in tears.

Director J.J. Abrams makes his debut at the helm of this popular movie franchise with a new trilogy that is sure to push fans to the edge of their seats. Set approximately 30 years after the events of Episode VI: Return of the Jedi (1983), it will also feature Harrison Ford, the original Han Solo from the first trilogy. Judging by the excitement caused by the release of the trailer - which comes a decade after the last live-action Star Wars instalment, *Revenge of the Sith* - Christmas can't come soon enough for die-hard fans.



Release Date: December 17, 2015

## Star Wars: Episode VII The Force Awakens

SOURCE: STAR WARS' FACEBOOK

SOURCE: JURASSIC WORLD ORG

## Jurassic World

Release Date: June 11, 2015



Twenty-two years after the events of *Jurassic Park*, Isla Nublar, an island located off Central America's Pacific Coast, faces declining visitor attendance in its dinosaur theme park. To help boost ticket sales, the park's geneticists create a hybrid mutant dinosaur in hopes to attract visitors. However, all hell breaks loose as the creation of a monster causes rampage at the park. Owen Grady, played by Chris Pratt, and his team is now out to contain the dinosaur before it causes more destruction.

# Transiting out of an era

10 years ago, Singaporeans walked into army shops dotted across the island before entering National Service. Today, young men order essentials online. CHARMAINE AW speaks to the last of the army supply shop keepers at Transit Road.

By CHARMAINE AW



**DECLINE AND DEMOLITION:** Once a bustling street, Transit Road is now an empty shell since Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) introduced eMart in 1997. PHOTO: GWEN TEH

“When it’s time to leave, we simply have to let go.”

Along the corner of Nee Soon camp lies a small road stretching 50 meters that has been home to a row of shop houses for more than 30 years. Any army soldier from Nee Soon would be familiar with shops such as Hock Gift and Rambo Gift store where they would purchase necessities for enlisting in the army.

After nearly half a decade, these shop houses will soon end its journey. Recently, a successful tender for the land to be used to build a condominium

meant that all shops along Transit Road will have to go. Established since 1981, the Hock Gift Shop has been one of the mainstays along Transit Road that sells a wide array of army essentials ranging from camping accessories to customisation of tags.

Throughout decades of their stay at Transit Road, the owners of Hock Gift shop have formed friendships with their neighbours and a sentimental attachment to the lovely leafy enclave in the north. According to newspaper reports, the area used to be quite an entertainment hub, especially in the 40s and 50s when the British were still around and there were pubs to cater to soldiers back then. Today however, the area is quiet and it will be the sound of construction that will be heard soon.

Sporting a worn-out checked shirt with an old fashioned bob hair cut coloured grey that embodied her age, 62-year-old Mrs Ng Suat Leng is the co-owner of Hock Gift Shop. Their main customers were the usual army boys and with their absence saw a drastic drop in revenue. Over the years, business has been affected not once but twice.

“We did not want to continue our business after closing this store but since we have managed it for so long, we thought that we should not give up on it that easily,” said Mrs Ng.

## The Tech Tsunami

The main reason is that online stores have gradually replaced physical ones as younger and more tech-savvy men easily get what they need online. With the rise of online stores to compete with, it has made it very difficult for older and more traditional stores like Hock Gift Shop to earn much from their stores alone. To keep up with the times, they too have set-up their very own web store and are pushing to publicize it.

Lacking the experience and knowledge of technology, Hock Gift Shop’s online web store is managed by Mrs Ng’s son. They sell mostly army camping items along with a variety of customizable tags and badges.

Also leaving is the Rambo Gift Store, one of the longest tenants along Transit Road of 30 years. They find it hard to reallocate elsewhere as the rent would be too expensive.

“Rent elsewhere would be thrice the cost of my current rent here which means I’ve to sell my products at three times its current price which would definitely not work out. I would not have any customers,” said 47-year-old Mr Koh Aik Hock who runs Rambo Gift Store. The store will cease operations after closing down at Transit Road.

Many of the owners have spent a good part of their lives along this small stretch tucked behind Nee Soon Camp. However, the owners of Hock Gift believe that it’s better to face the end with grace and acceptance than tears and a heavy heart.

“When it’s time to leave, we simply have to let go,” said Mrs Ng. **R**

# Swing by Dad’s Corner for a cuppa

Want an alternative to crowded Causeway Point? CHARMAINE JACOB suggests a trip to the Woodlands Community Club for a café that’s easy on the wallet.

By CHARMAINE JACOB



**CREAMY GOODNESS:** Dad’s sexy pasta is rich in flavour and it will satisfy your taste buds for only \$6. PHOTO: HASIF HASNY

Originally a halal western food stall located at Dhoby Ghaut, Dad’s Corner has made its way to a coffee shop at Woodlands Community Club and that’s good news for RP students.

I reached Dad’s at 7.30pm on a Thursday. Since it was dinner time, the coffee shop was crowded, but my friends and I managed to find seats easily.

At a glance, the menu had a wide variety of food. What got me excited was how each food item costs less than \$10.

The food took close to 30 minutes to arrive, so expect a long wait if you are planning to have dinner there. We kick started our meal with a serving of cheese fries (\$3). They were extremely generous with the nacho cheese which was drizzled on top of the fries.

Meat lovers should definitely give the chicken cutlet (\$6.50), a try. The breaded cutlet was perfectly cooked and came with a delicious serving of fries. I would give it a 7/10.

The Fish & Chips (\$6), was a disappointment though. Although the breaded fish was cooked well, it was nothing special. The coleslaw that came on the side was too dry.

For the pasta lovers, there were two different types of pastas we tried. The Farmer’s Pasta (\$6), was a spicy tomato based spaghetti topped with delicious and tender minced beef. I was extremely tempted to get myself a second serving, as I enjoyed this dish thoroughly. Overall, this meal deserves an 8/10.

The second pasta, was a cream based spaghetti served with prawns and mussels. Unlike most cream based pastas, the Sexy Cream Pasta (\$6), was not too

thick and it did not leave me feeling bloated after I finished my meal. I am not a big fan of seafood, but the prawns and mussels tasted good, and it is a generous portion. The Sexy Cream Pasta gets a 7/10.

Apart from western delicacies, Dad’s Corner also serves Asian delights like Nasi Ayam Penyet, and Seafood Tom Yam Noodles. I would definitely come back again, to give these Asian choices a try.

Dad’s Corner is closed on Mondays. They are opened on Tuesdays to Thursday from 9am to 9pm, and on Fridays from 3pm to 9pm. **R**



## Getting There:

Dad’s Corner is a 10 minute walk from Republic Polytechnic (RP). To get there, cross the road from RP and take the sheltered walkway leading to Woodlands Community Club. Upon reaching the overhead bridge, turn left and walk into the coffee shop (first level).

# 400 RP students to volunteer at next month's SEA Games

BY LEE ZOEY

**N**ellie Qistina has been learning the rules of Sepak Takraw – not to play the sport, but to prepare herself when she volunteers as a media relations officer at next month's South East Asian (SEA) Games here.

The 18-year-old is among 400 Republic Polytechnic (RP) students who have signed up as volunteers at the biennial event. In all, over 17,000 Singaporeans and residents are volunteering their services at the Games, to be held here for the first time in 22 years.

"I think that it would be a great platform to gain exposure," said Nellie, who is a student in the Mass Communication programme. "Since this is one of the milestones for Singapore, I felt that it would be great to be a part of it."

Volunteering for the SEA Games was definitely an eye opener for Neille. She got to know more about the other different sports such as pentaque, a sport originated from France.

Apart from learning about the different sports, Nellie said volunteering also gave her a glimpse of the role of a media relations officer. Volunteers had to role play scenarios as part of their training.

Agreeing, fellow media relations volunteer Fasiha Mohd Nazren said she had learnt from the insights shared by other volunteers. "For example, one of them actually works for the Media Development Authority and has shared valuable and interesting



**EYE-OPENER:** (From Left) Nellie Qistina, Nur Syafiqah and Fasiha Nazren are among 400 RP students to sign up as a SEA Games Volunteer. The three students said they have learned so much from their peers and the people they meet along the way. **PHOTO: MARCUS TAN**

stories," said Fasiha who is pursuing a diploma in Mass Communication at RP. "Though the whole training process can be tiring and draining, I don't have any regrets volunteering for SEA Games because of all the people I met." Recruitment of volunteers at RP began as early as May, last year. A booth

was set up on campus to provide information on the different roles available. Emails were also sent out to all students to urge them to volunteer for the SEA Games.

Nur Syafiqah Bte Kamal, who is volunteering as a community outreach officer, liked meeting new people during the training sessions. "It is really heart-warming to see that some of the volunteers are senior citizens. The things people do for their own country are just amazing," said the student pursuing a diploma in Wellness, Lifestyle and Spa Management at the School of Hospitality.

All three student volunteers said they can't wait for the Games to start. "As a Singaporean, I'm definitely looking forward to see our national representatives winning a lot of medals," Fasiha, 18, said. "But as a media relations officer, I hope everything runs smoothly so that all the athletes from Southeast Asia will have a memorable and enjoyable time representing their nations in Singapore." **R**



# Ditching the safe route for art

By day, he is a RP lecturer and by night he is a local artist to watch for. We chat with 38-year-old Diploma in Media Production and Design part-time lecturer, Mr Safaruddin Abdul Hamid to talk about his solo exhibition held in March at the OCBC Art Space.

BY KRISTIE LOKE



**PASSION BECKONS:** Having been inclined towards drawing ever since a kid, it has been almost 13 years since Mr Safaruddin Abdul Hamid started painting. Plans to become an accountant or a soldier did not work out, as he soon realised that doing art for a living was what he enjoyed.

**PHOTO: OCBC BANK/VINCENT NG**

**Q: Tell us more about your "Ghost and the Shell" exhibition?**

**A:** The name of this exhibition originated from a Japanese manga, "Ghost in the Shell" and it sparked an idea for the name. "Ghost" refers to people or roles that no longer exist in modern Singapore, while "Shell" refers to the architecture. The aim is to showcase the inhabitants and history of Singapore through its people and architecture.

The paintings come in pairs and are linked. Say for example, my painting of an old Singapore bus. It will be paired with a painting of people associated with it, the bus drivers and bus conductors.

**Q: What was the motivation behind this exhibition and your paintings?**

**A:** Besides basing this exhibition on my nostalgia, the main motivation would be the curiosity of the history in where I live, Singapore. I wanted to find out more about the things and places that are extinct or soon to be, because of Singapore's ever changing landscape. This is my way of archiving things – my paintings are like a time machine!

**Q: Was being an artist what you've always wanted to do?**

**A:** It was a path I did not expect to enter as I have always felt that art was something natural for me. I initially did accounting, but soon found out that it was not something I liked. Actually, my ideal job was to become a soldier, which was what I wanted since I was a kid. But the more I thought about signing on into the army, the more I thought maybe I should try something else. After my national service, I went on to Lasalle and took on art and design. And no turning back after that.

**Q: How do you influence your students with art?**

**A:** I try to influence by showing them things that are relevant and contemporary. In terms of design, I make sure that I keep myself in the loop of what is in current demand and dated, and transfer it to my students.

**Q: What would you say to someone who is suffering from a lack of inspiration?**

**A:** Personally, I would take a break from creating art when I lack inspiration or ideas and surround myself with art work from other artists. I would usually visit art shows to look at other artists' work, check out art magazines and books either in the library or bookshops like Kinokuniya and Basher. This helps me to not think too much about it, and I will not be exhausted mentally and creatively.

Do things and occupy yourself with things that are not related to art, and then come back to it. This will take your mind off things and often results in a fresher approach – it's like a fresh breath of air. **R**



# Setting sights on a golden finish at the lanes

By KUMARAVEL TAMIL SELVOM

Many would hesitate to put their studies or career on hold to chase a dream. Muhammed Jaris Goh, however, is an exception. The Sports and Leisure Management student at Republic Polytechnic has deferred his studies for a year to train full time, with the hope of making Singapore's bowling team for June's South East Asian (SEA) Games.

But it was not an easy decision for Jaris. Last year, he had to travel overseas almost every month for training stints and competitions to prepare for the biennial games here. Often jet-lagged, the 20-year-old found it hard to balance his studies and sports. After much consideration, he decided to defer his studies for a year to focus his efforts on bowling.

Looking back at his decision, Jaris felt the preparation has put him in good stead for the SEA Games. "When I win competitions, it's not only for me. It's for Singapore as well," he said.

Jaris picked up bowling when he was nine and remembers spending his primary school holidays at Kim Seng Bowl where his dad's shop was located. While he won four golds at the National Primary School Tenpin Bowling Championships as a Primary 6 pupil at St Anthony's Primary, Jaris had not contemplated being a national bowler till a "life changing moment" when he was 14. He finished second at the Philippines Open, despite competing against bowlers who were older and more experienced.

Since then, Jaris has bagged several titles - such as the 2013 Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championships - and scored three perfect games. But his "most shocking" win came last year when he was named the 2014 Sportsboy of the Year by the Singapore National Olympic Council. With the likes of sailing world cham-



**ALL SMILES:** Muhammed Jaris Goh (first from left), who deferred his studies for a year to train for the upcoming SEA games, is confident of making the cut for the national team. **PHOTO COURTESY OF: SINGAPORE BOWLING FEDERATION**

pion Loh Jia Yi among the nominees, Jaris felt he would not stand a chance. "When he called my name, I was just so shocked and could not believe it," Jaris said, as he reminisced the moment with a smile.

The bowler is confident about Singapore's chances at the lanes for the SEA Games. Hoping to make the final team, Jaris said his focus is on the process rather than the outcome. "If you focus so much on wanting a gold medal, you might lose sight of the process," he said. "The process is extremely important getting the right physical and mental process is what often leads to success and medals." **R**

**"If you focus so much on wanting a gold medal, you might lose sight of the process."**

# Floorball set to light up 28th SEA Games

By YOGARAJ PANDITURAI



**CAUSEWAY RIVALS:** Besides the Philippines and Thailand, Singapore would also be going up against long-time opponents Malaysia in the four-team tournament. **PHOTO BY: SEAGAMES2015**

Floorball is set to make its debut as a medal event at next month's South East Asian Games, and there may be a familiar face donning Singapore colours. Jay Pal Singh Sidhu, the men's floorball team goalkeeper, is a recent Republic Polytechnic graduate. "Every team wants to win the gold medal. But for my aim, I want my team to play at our best and achieve based on our performance," said the 21-year-old - sports and exercise sciences student.

The biennial games, to be held between June 5

and 16, is making a return to Singapore for the first time since 1993. Athletes from 11 countries will compete in 402 events across 36 sports at the event.

Floorball was first featured in the 2013 SEA Games in Myanmar as a demonstration sport and no medals were given out. Both the Singapore men's and women's team clinched top spot.

In December last year, Singapore hosted the South East Asia Floorball Championships - a prelude to next month's Games - and emerged champions.

Singapore team has not rested on its laurels. The men, for example, went to Finland in April for a training camp.

Playing at the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) East, the national team aims to maximise home ground advantage during the SEA Games. "The crowd will give an extra boost and will certainly motivate the players to do well for each game," said Mr Shahizan Ahmad, 45, Singapore's floorball team manager. **R**

Find out where you can catch SEA Games for free at: [www.republicanpost.sg](http://www.republicanpost.sg)

## Other RP students to look out for at the South East Asian Games

By KUMARAVEL TAMIL SELVOM



**Who:** Veronica Shanti Pereira, 19, a Sports and Leisure Management student.

**Why:** First Singaporean female to go below 12 seconds in the 100m event. She ran 11.80s to finish second at the 77th Singapore Open Track and Field Championship in May. Her timing was faster than 2013 SEA games's silver medalist, Thailand's Neeranuch Klomdee. Hopes to set national records and personal bests for the 100m and the 4x400m relay.



**Who:** Mark Lee Han (second from left), 21, a Sports and Exercise Science diploma student.

**Why:** Won Singapore's first medal in diving in 28 years at the 2013 SEA Games. Going for gold on home soil this time, in both the Men's Individual 3m Springboard and the Men's Synchronised 3m Springboard. However, preparation was disrupted by a foot injury, derailing his training plans for three months.



**Who:** Anumanthan Mohan Kumar, 20, a Sports and Exercise Science diploma student.

**Why:** Was part of the SEA Games squad that clinched a bronze medal in 2013. Impressed fans with his tackling and range of passing in Singapore's Asian Games campaign in 2014, even though the team crashed out in the group stages.