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VIRTUAL LIVES



They are everywhere! Internet cafés have popped up on every corner of every major area in and around Perak. In Ipoh alone, there are approximately 50 - 60 such outlets. Some are even housed above hawker stalls. The popularity of an Internet Café cannot be disputed. They are always full of young people intent on keeping in touch with friends – virtually

Nisha Devina Roy's story on page 2



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VIRTUAL LIVES

Conducted in cyberspace, one's social life can balloon into incredible proportions. One can now speak of having five hundred, even a thousand friends!

On an early Thursday morning, Ipoh Echo visited an Internet Café in Ipoh Garden East. It was 12.30am. It was amazing to see the number of teenagers that were still clicking and typing away on the computers. Not one looked up. All were captivated by the monitor screens before them.

I asked the manager how long a "regular" usually spent in front of the computer. His reply: "Very long...some have been here the whole day already."

"Do they stop to eat? Drink?" I pursued.

"Sure, sure", he answered. "But they need not go far. We have everything here. Food as well as drinks. They come to the counter, buy what they want and take it back to their console. Very convenient."

This is how I discovered what mesmerised the young people around me. The obsession is **online social networking**.

Social Networking is all the rage. Numerous websites have been launched for the sole purpose of providing a place for users to express themselves, share thoughts with like-minded individuals, discover new things and communicate with others.

Social Network websites have become so popular that even the Goliaths of cyberspace have leapt onto the bandwagon. **MySpace** was bought over by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. Microsoft now has a large stake in **Facebook**.

The concept of social networking has extended to other areas. There are websites like 'YouTube' which allow individuals the freedom to express themselves creatively, network with others, rate their favourite video clips and so on. Websites like 'PhotoBucket', 'Flickr', 'DropShots' and 'Multiply' provide users the capacity to post as well as share photographs and family videos.

With the rise of various "creative outlets", 'meeting people' with similar interests and goals as well as staying connected with friends and family has certainly been made easier. And if practised intelli-

gently, with moderation, there can be many positive benefits.

Meeting someone in person is not the only way to catch up. "Poking" has become the new handshake and 'hugs' and 'kisses' are flung about all over cyberspace. Jokes and pranks can be played by selecting the option to virtually 'drop an elephant' on family members and



All over the world, people get glued to monitor screens, getting their fix: instant friendship.

friends. With a click of a button you can "greet" or "insult" someone (see box). All in fun.

These social networking sites offer people the chance to create the image they want to project to the world.

LYING IS EASY

So what if your mother has been telling you for 15 years, that you are stubborn, unkind and selfish. Is there a need to change in order to "make friends"?

Now you've got cyberspace! On **Facebook** and the like, you can claim anything - you can say you are a member of the Peace Corps, claim to be a tidy person while you are clicking away in a room that smells of dirty clothes and stale takeaways, say you are a linguist and was a musical prodigy. You can say anything. Somehow, in cyberspace, one feels less accountable. Who will ever know that you cannot play Beethoven's 5th?

There are even instances when minors lie about their ages just to get an account on Facebook. All it takes is a little maths. A twelve year old girl volunteered to *Ipoh Echo* that she lied about her age. She was proud and happy to report that she was now kept busy exchanging news and impressions with over 100 online friends on topics ranging from school life to sex!

Needless to say, cyberspace has become a world without borders. Online social networking has provided the shy and the withdrawn an outlet to express themselves without the fear of embarrassment and rejection.

It provides a false sense of wellbeing. The dependence on these social networks, can resort to one becoming a total social

cripple. Many people have lost the ability to communicate with each other on a real level. Social networking removes the need to really talk and associate with our peers. That click of a button removes one's capacity to be social and interact with people in everyday life.

OTHER ISSUES

Parents and guardians really do have something major to worry about.

Scam artists, child molesters and sexual predators have discovered that these sites can be exploited to find new victims.

Potential exploiters of these websites can and do use information provided on a vast collection of profiles. Predators use this aspect of social networking to entice or sexually exploit teenagers.

In May of 2007, Attorney General of North Carolina, USA, Roy Cooper, made a stunning announcement. According to him, social networking website **MySpace** had found 29,000 registered sex offenders' profiles on its website. This is in the USA alone! This is shocking as the number only refers to sex offenders who have been tried and convicted. What about the faceless, nameless others?

Quite often, cases of online sexual predators and their victims are reported in the United States.

Robert Wise, a 38 year old, sexual predator frequently trolled the internet looking for sex, according to Sgt. Dan Krieger of the League City, Texas police department. After a 14-year-old girl started receiving some graphic messages from Wise, officers from the League City police department assumed her online identity and started having "conversations" with Wise. "He made it very clear he wanted to meet her for sex", said Krieger. He added that, after investigating further, the police department was able to locate another 14-year-old female whom Wise actually had sexual relations with. Robert Wise was then charged with multiple counts of sexual assault.

It should be remembered that posting information i.e. home addresses, mobile phone numbers and school addresses allow sexual predators, paedophiles and kidnappers easy access into lives of their potential victims.

DISTURBING

The stories are shocking and disturbing, especially for parents of teenagers who frequent these social networks.

Sexual predators are not only connected to social networking websites. They can be found in chat groups, newsgroups, on discussion boards and file sharing networks. They have become part and parcel of cyberspace.

The question is then, how can these predators be stopped?

Authorities are now claiming that many parents are clueless about their children's social network profiles. A CBS News Technology analyst had a look at one personal profile on social networking site **MySpace**. It belonged to a 15-year-old girl. The analyst noted what the girl had posted about herself: "Drink a 40 (standard sized liqueur bottle in the US - 40 ounces), smoke a bowl (refers to a part of the smoking device - a pipe or a bong- which holds the substance to be smoked - usually marijuana), sex is good, life is great, we are the class of 2008".

Aside from sharing inappropriate personal descriptions, an increas-

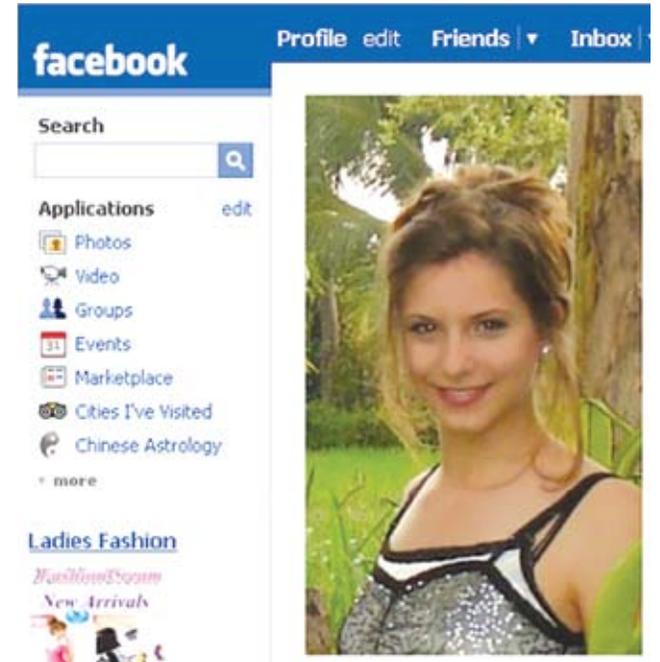
What is Social Networking?

In general, social networking services allow users to create a profile for themselves. There are two broad categories; internal social networking (ISN) and external social networking (ESN) sites.

An ISN is a closed/ private community that consists of a group of people within a company, association, society, education provider and organisation or even an "invite only" group created by a user in an ESN. An ESN is open/public and available to all web users to communicate.

Users can upload a picture of themselves and can often be 'friends' with other users. In most social networking services, both users must confirm that they are friends before they are linked. For example, if Rosli lists Ramesh as a friend, then Ramesh would have to approve Rosli's friend request before they are listed as friends.

(from wikipedia.com)



With a click of a button you can send her:



ing number of teenagers tend to include very provocative photographs and videos. While researching the dangers of social networking, *Ipoh Echo* discovered many profiles of Malaysian teenagers on **MySpace**, **Facebook** and **Friendster** that included pictures of 14 and 15-year-olds in poses that would, without a doubt, attract the wrong kind of attention.

Parry Aftab, author of 'A Parents' Guide to the Internet' acknowledges that there are underage kids on every social networking site on the Net. Adding to this, Aftab mentions that "they are engaging in highly provocative

conversations and doing things they would never do offline."

In any case, parents and children should be aware that a danger in cyberspace does not just lurk around dark corners - they are everywhere.

Millions of social network users have made themselves vulnerable to identity theft. A report in a London-based daily newspaper mentioned that identity thieves are being served new personalities on a silver platter due to all the easily accessible information. A similar report stated that web users aged

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From the Editor's Desk

THE ORDER THAT BOUNCED BACK

What lurks behind the Nizar-Jamry impasse

By Fathol Zaman Bukhari



Dato' Jamry Sury - one day he's there, next day he's not. Then, in a flash, he's back again.



He goes out!

It's tough enough to be reprimanded by your superior. To have an order you have given openly revoked - and by a Sultan - is decidedly unpleasant. How the new Menteri Besar of Perak must have felt when he was told the other day to reinstate Dato' Jamry Sury to his post as the Director of Perak Religious Department is not difficult to imagine.

Our MB, Dato' Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin on the morning of Tuesday, April 29, gave a 24-hour marching order to Dato' Jamry Sury. By late Friday morning, May 2, the MB was told to reinstate the disgraced director to his former post.

Nizar's order had lasted barely 72 hours.

FRICION BREWING

Friction between MB and the religious department head had been brewing since the day Nizar

assumed office. Jamry was the District Officer of Kuala Kangsar before he was transferred to the State Secretariat in 2004. The following year he was appointed Director of the Perak Religious Department, a Super Grade C post.

As religious matters come under the purview of the Sultan, Jamry's appointment was with the blessing of the Sultan. Jamry was also the state's Malay Customs and Islamic Council secretary.

How could matters come to such a touchy end? There are several reasons for the impasse.

PERSONAL DIFFERENCES

According to an insider it is due to personal differences between the two.

Nizar wants to reform the state religious department and make it more pliant based on current needs. Jamry, on the other

hand, wants none of that. He forbids the MB from delivering a sermon during Friday prayers and resists attempts to appoint new mosque committees within the state.

Jamry's insistence that old committees must remain runs foul of Nizar's wishes. The MB feels a reformation is in order now that a new government is in power. Many of the committees have been around for years and have proven ineffectual and also irrelevant. There have been calls from the grassroots for the election of new office bearers and the calls have become more vocal of late.

IMAMS RESPECTED

A village mosque committee wields much power and influence as it decides on matters pertaining to religion. An imam in a kampung is a well respected person. He will be asked to lead and perform religious

rites in and outside of the mosque. He holds an exalted position in society, so do members of the mosque committee.

If the imam and his mosque committee are being appointed by the state religious department chief they will, inevitably, become beholden to him.

Jamry is a PTD Officer and this does not go down well with aspirants for the top post. Tajol did not entertain their complaints in the past but Nizar, being new, is less dismissive.

NEW TO THE JOB

It is a steep learning curve for Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin. He should not have acted arbitrarily. Being new to the job, Nizar should have consulted the man nearest to him - the State Secretary (SS).

When Tan Sri Isa Abdul Samad was the MB of Negeri Sembilan he was never overly friendly with

any of his SS. Isa Samad could do so because he had been in office for nearly two decades.

WHO NEEDS WHOM

Nizar's term has just begun. He needs the SS, the Director of Upen (State Economic Planning Unit), who is also the Deputy SS, the State Legal Adviser and the State Financial Officer.

Regardless of their political affiliations, civil service officers should remain apolitical and serve the government of the day. But after 50 years of BN rule many civil servants have taken this pledge for granted.

Should the palace interfere in the running of the state?

That is best answered by those in the know. We have seen what took place in Trengganu, Perlis and Penang. An unhealthy precedent has been set and this could be counterproductive.

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EDITORIAL

SEEKING SOME ANSWERS

For the past six months, *Ipoh Echo* has been asking the Perak Police what happened to the reported police officer apprehended by the public for alleged bag snatching in the Taman Ipoh area. Each time the answer is the same, "the case is under investigation."

At one time we were told "not to interfere" as it was a police matter. May it never be argued that there are two sets of laws in our state – one for the public, another for the police.

Is seeking the truth a sin?

Is information of common interest only available to a privileged few?

If communities at large are to be deprived of substantive details to which they are undoubtedly entitled, to whom do they turn?

The Taman Ipoh incident for which we have been seeking answers is far from trivial. Those in authority must recognise this fact. The crime of bag snatching is rampant in our city.

If police want the cooperation of the public – and this is undoubtedly essential to their work – they must recognise that members of the public have their rights, too. Access to information on matters of significant public concern is definitely one of those rights.

Changes are taking place in our society. Concepts like transparency, truthfulness, accountability, trust and honour at both civic and civil service levels are being demanded and, hopefully, being achieved.

We had intended publishing in this issue the third and final part of our bag snatching investigation.

We have delayed this until next issue in the hope police will answer the questions we have posed on the Taman Ipoh issue.

Meanwhile, we will continue to ask these undeniably valid questions until we receive an appropriate response.

This quote by Sir Robert Peel, founder of the modern British Police Force (circa 1829), should ring a bell:

"The police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and that the public are the police; the police are the only members who are paid to give full time attention to the duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interest of community welfare".

TESTING THEIR FIRST
AID SKILLS

Preparing to be of optimum assistance is mandatory

The Perak chapter of the Saint John Ambulance Malaysia held its 52nd Annual Competition at its headquarters along Jalan Raja Muda Aziz last April. The Perak State Education Department helped in the two-day affair. The organising committee was headed by State Medical Officer, Professor Dr Gurbachan Singh.

According to committee secretary, Kelvin Peter, 120 competitors and 200 officials were involved in this year's event. They represented the districts of Ipoh, Taiping and Telok Intan. District-level competitions had been held earlier. The Perak chapter

has over 5000 members 80 per cent of whom are students. This year's event was divided into four categories - Ambulance Adult, Nursing Adult, Ambulance Cadet and Nursing Cadet.

This State winners were: SMK Poh Lam Ipoh (Ambulance Adult championship title); SMJK Ave Maria Convent Ipoh (Nursing Adult); SMJK Poh Lam (Ambulance Cadet) and SMJK Ave Maria Convent Ipoh (Nursing Cadet). They will represent Perak at the national-level competition to be held at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Skudai, Johore beginning May 31 to June 1, 2008.

FZB

ISSUES TO WATCH

"We'll study the proposal," Nga Kor Ming tells ICW.

The assurance has a somewhat familiar hollow ring.

A five-man team from Ipoh City Watch (ICW), led by its president, Chan Kok Sun had a discussion with State Executive Committee Chairman for Housing, Local Governments and Transportation, Nga Kor Ming.

The meeting, scheduled for 11 am, was delayed for nearly two hours. There was a long queue of people waiting to see Nga. His office was crowded and busy. The secretary resorted to issuing queue numbers to visitors. Remarks were made about how the active scene was in stark contrast to how it was with Dato' Chan Ko Youn of the previous administration.

AWKWARD START

When the ICW party finally got their turn to see the new leader, they found him "a little apprehensive and somewhat defensive" at the beginning of the discussion. However, the atmosphere improved when Nga realised that the team was not there only to convey the rakyat's wishes. As a member of the ICW party observed: "He somehow calmed down."

Kok Sun explained to him the suggested "888 Formula" for proposed local councils, arrived at in the April 20 public forum. The formula allows for an equitable distribution of council seats to politicians,

professionals (inclusive of the business community) and members of non-governmental organisations. "It has been adopted by the Keadilan-led Selangor State Government," Kok Sun told Nga.

A memorandum, prepared as a follow-up to the public forum was handed over to the Executive



Nga Kor Ming. Just getting used to the hot seat

Councillor. Nga agreed to study the contents of the letter and would raise the matter with his counterparts in Pakatan Rakyat.

"We have a methodology," explained Nga to his guests. "Our 30 per cent allocation for professionals and NGOs still stands but we'll study your proposal." He added: "Party loyalists who aspire to a post in local councils have to be entertained. So do hawkers, fishermen and taxi drivers. They may not have much education

but they want to be represented."

Nga then alluded to councillors nominated by the previous administration who were reluctant to relinquish their posts. "There are still 394 of them. They should follow the examples of MCA and Gerakan members who resigned en bloc," he quipped. "They have no shame. I have no qualms about forcing them to resign if they don't do so voluntarily."

A GOOD WORD
FOR NGOS

Nga appreciated the roles played by NGOs. He suggested that a member of ICW be incorporated in the soon-to-be formed Local Council Advisory Board. The board's function is to advise him on matters pertaining to local councils in the state.

"A decision on the composition of local councils will be made soon," assured Nga. He suggested that NGOs submit their nominations after an announcement is made and requested ICW to do the same.

What did the team think about the meeting? Their conclusion: In spite of all the brouhaha, the "888 Formula" will be conveniently forgotten. So much for restructuring local councils in Perak.

FZB

PAY UP!

Task force to be more active and determined



Lonely at the top. Many absentees from the full board meeting of the Ipoh City Council since the March elections.



M. Kulasegaran (second from left) and other DAP men in the public gallery.

In the first full board meeting of the Ipoh City Council since the 12th general elections, Mayor

Dato Mohamad Rafiaai Maktar addressed the issue of assessment arrears.

Personnel from the Ipoh Council task force will soon be knocking on doors to remind homeowners of their overdue rate obligations.

As of end March, 2008, a staggering RM18.77 million unpaid dues are owed by 45,432 private property owners. This has prompted the council to list the top seven errant areas within its jurisdiction: Pengkalan (RM2.37 million);

Menglembu (RM1.53million); Silibin (RM1.28million); Lapangan (RM1.19); Rapat (RM1.116million) and Perpaduan (RM1.07).

In the industrial (factory) category, arrears amounting to RM2.32million from 1,033 are to be collected.

COMPROMISE

The mayor made it clear that parties who feel they cannot afford to settle the outstanding debts should come to the City Council office to work out a reasonable monthly payment scheme.

Ipoh Barat MP Kulasegaran followed the proceedings from the public gallery. All MCA councillors were conspicuously absent from the board meeting.

PK

Thumbs Up

KHOON HONG'S NOT-SO-SECRET RECIPE

Sixty years of marriage. How did they manage the distance?



A cherished photograph taken in 1948 at the Ipoh Jubilee Cabaret. Behind the newlyweds are Best Man Chang Kong Foo and Bridesmaid Ng Siew Lee.

What's the recipe for a lasting marriage? Retired teacher Ng Khoon Hong appears to have perfected it. Sixty years: that's how long his union with Leong Siew Yong has been, so far. The retired teacher is 84; she is 82. The ingredients he suggests: the virtues of tolerance, patience and understanding.

Ng, 84, and his wife were a picture of contentment at their diamond wedding anniversary party last April. They celebrated with their children, grandchildren, relatives and close friends at a restaurant dinner.

Yes, Ng acknowledged, the road to a happy marriage has its share of challenges and obstacles. But if one is serious about a relationship, both husband and wife would go all out to make a success of it.

Ng is a former St John Ambulance Malaysia Perak state commander and adviser. He helped save hundreds of lives during the Second World War, the 1969 racial riot and the 1970 great floods in Kuala Lumpur. He was among the rescuers mobilised for search and rescue missions.

UNDERSTANDING

After more than 68 years of dedicated service, Ng has stepped back and now serves as adviser to the organisation. He said in all his years at St John's, his wife demonstrated and showed great understanding. He was away often doing community service.

When *Ipoh Echo* visited him for an interview, Ng brought out a sixty-year old photograph. He said it was his favourite. The grainy, black and white

record which he treasures and cherishes, is his wedding photograph taken at the Ipoh Jubilee Cabaret in 1948.

"We threw a tea party for friends and relatives," Ng remarked. "It was a happening venue then where guests were entertained. We had hours of dancing."

"During those years, it was not necessary to have dinners. A tea party with friends and relatives sufficed for a great time."

'TRIVIAL MATTERS'

While admitting that Leong sometimes grumbled about "trivial matters", Ng said he had, over the years, found a way out - not to take the nagging seriously. Leong's anger, he mused, was "suppressed" if he didn't react to it.

Ng and Leong are blessed with three sons - an

engineer, a lawyer and an accountant. They have six grandchildren. Four reside in Australia; the other two are in Kuala Lumpur.

When asked about his parenting style, Ng replied: "My children were taught the basic values - honesty, discipline, integrity and respect. When they were younger, I always emphasised to them the importance of education."

LIFE-LONG FRIENDS

At the anniversary dinner, Ng acknowledged the presence of his classmates like Datuk Yeoh Kian Teik (otherwise known as actress Michelle Yeoh's father) and Chang Kong Foo, both 84. Chang, who now resides in Singapore, was the best man at Ng's wedding. The crowd was thrilled when Ng announced bridesmaid Ng Siew Lee (his younger sister). She was 16 in 1948.



The Ngs cutting the anniversary cake.



Sixty years on, the 1948 bridal party. Inset: the way they were.

And what is his recipe for long and healthy life?

Get involved with social work, suggested Ng. He also has his daily dose of at least two hours of *mahjong* with friends. The game keeps him on the move and alert.

Asked to speak at the dinner celebration, Ng repeated the three tried and tested qualities that had served him and Leong for 60 years - tolerance, patience and understanding.

Peter Khiew

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**Ipoh:
Facts and Fancies**

by Ho Tak Ming

Our Country's First Dredge

The first dredge in the country was built in Ipoh. In 1892 the Perak Government Gazette reported:

'A new departure in mining has been undertaken by Mr. A.G. Mackie, who has obtained a concession to work the bed of the Kinta river above Batu Gajah by dredging and working the tin out of the sand dredged up. The system has proved very successful in New Zealand for obtaining gold. His dredge is at present in course of construction at Ipoh.'

Alexander Grant Mackie was born in Moray, Scotland, in 1854 and studied Engineering at Edinburgh University. In 1875 he went to Ceylon to plant coffee.

When coffee failed, he proceeded to the Malay States in 1883. The following year he arrived in Perak, having been given a job in road construction by Thomas Heslop Hill, a coffee planter in Selangor and senior partner of the contracting firm of Hill and Rathborne.

ONE OF THE FIRST

Mackie was one of the first Europeans to arrive in Ipoh, at a time when it consisted of but a few attap huts on the banks of the Kinta River. In 1884 he was asked by the British Resident, Frank Swettenham, to prospect for a road from Kuala Kangsar to Kinta.

He set out with a party of thirty men and three elephants, hacking his way through dense jungle, taking three days for the journey. In Ipoh he built a bamboo hut for himself (near the present Post Office), clearing a path through the jungle to the river to bathe. The



One of the last dredges to function in Malaysia

Dato' Panglima Kinta had a few patches of cultivated land along Kuala Kangsar Road, but all around was jungle.

Mackie was involved in constructing many of the roads in Perak including sections of the main trunk road. However, having seen the excitement of the Kinta Tin Rush in 1884, he dreamt of striking it rich in tin mining. He stayed on in Ipoh, became a government contractor involved in road construction and other engineering works, and built the dredge in his spare time.

In 1911 an old Ipoh resident recalled the tin mining activities in the early 1890's:

"But besides these and various other mines we had a dredger at work for tin on the Kinta river just about where Messrs. Wearne and Co's motor garage now stands. The Kinta river then flowed thereabouts and the present People's Park covered the old course of the river."

'LOMBONG HANTU'

"Well, this dredger, describing it from memory, was a floating platform from which jets of water spouted upwards quite as lustily as do the feathery sprays from the fountains in the gardens of the

Crystal Palace. The proud possessor and engineer of this "Lombong Hantu," as some called it, is still among us in the person of Mr. A. Grant Mackie. He is a Scotchman. It is not known if the first white man in Perak was a Scotchman: but researches in this direction would lead to a period bordering on the prehistoric when we were only in embryonic existence and which was considerably more than twenty years ago

"Well, on a memorable day, in due course, the reward of his labours was brought in to the Straits Trading Company's godown to be priced by the Manager, Mr. Ortlepp.

"The test having been duly applied, the result of the assay was - well, not too gently communicated, in a strong German accent, "Dat vos not tin-ore, dat iss amang, Ach!" "What!" exploded the irate Scot. "So!" was the quiet rejoinder. The rest is not on record, but the dredger with its beautiful fountains and admiring crowds is no more.

"Who at the time would have thought that a motor garage would one day stand in its stead!!! Not even a bicycle was then to be seen on the roads, much less did we ever dream of witnessing an aeroplane flight in

twenty years' time."

Mackie's dredge was constructed even before the "Iron Horse" was built connecting Ipoh with its port of Teluk Anson, and everything had to be transported from the coast by boat.

Sometimes, when there was not sufficient water in the Kinta River, the materials had to be downloaded on the bank of the river to be further transported to Ipoh by bullock cart. But all Mackie's labours were for nought.

HUGE TREE TRUNKS

He had not thought of the huge tree trunks that clogged the bottom of the Kinta River, preventing dredging.

The first dredge in the country was a spectacular failure, to say the least.

Alexander Grant Mackie was ahead of his time.

Technological improvements continued to be made in dredge construction.

In 1912 a bucket dredge belonging to the Malayan Tin Dredging Company became the first dredge to mine tin successfully, working on a section of the Kinta River above Batu Gajah, and heralding a revolution in tin mining methods in the country.



**THE WAY
IT WAS**

**100 YEARS AGO
THIS FORTNIGHT**

Local & General

The recent sudden visit of the High Commissioner to the Federal Capital and the summons to the

various Residents to meet His Excellency gave rise to no end of conjecture. One rumour was that the meeting was convened to discuss the loss of opium revenue, the prohibition of which traffic had already been received! Another was to the effect that the administration of the new States of the Federation was the point to be considered, together with the selection of a new federal and more central capital than Kuala Lumpur. Some people even went so far as to say that Taiping was going to come into her own again.

But the well-informed Taiping correspondent of the Straits Echo has pricked the bubble, and it turns out that the last gathering of the clans was for the discussion of the question of loans to the planting clan.

* * * * *

A correspondent writes:- Regarding Reuters' cable of the 12th that 'the Hongkong opium monopolists threatened to claim for compensation should the opium resolution by the House of Commons be carried out,' I would

like to say that Mr Loke Yew is the Hongkong opium monopolist, and that I have seen him about the matter. He wishes to state that Reuters' cable is untrue and that he has never made such a statement, as his agreement with the Government provides that it can be broken at any time by the Government stopping the traffic. He himself will welcome the gradual suppression of opium and will put no opposition in the way of the Government.

* * * * *

Malay-Sino Chemical Industries Sdn Bhd

We are an ISO 9001:2000 certified company involved in the manufacture of basic industrial chemicals. We invite suitable qualified and highly motivated candidates to apply for the following positions:

IT Support/Engineer (Ipoh-Perak)

Responsibilities:

- To provide first level IT related hardware and software application support.
- To setup, troubleshoot and repair computer systems and related peripherals.
- To assign and manage network server, login ID and access right.
- To assist and maintain LAN/WAN network, system backup and daily computer centre activities.
- To liaise with third-party or supplier for IT related issues.
- To maintain IT hardware and software inventory list.
- To coordinate hardware maintenance, new hardware purchase and delivery/ installment from time to time.

Requirements:

- Diploma or Degree in Computer science or related discipline.
- Preferably with 1 or 2 years working experience in manufacturing environment and ERP concept.
- Writing SQL statements and using relational databases (e.g. MS SQL) - Creating reports and using reporting tools (e.g. Crystal Reports) - Those with functional experience in implementing/support SAP B1 will be an added advantage.
- Knowledge in SAP B1 system will be an added advantage.

Accounts Executive (Ipoh-Perak)

Responsibilities:

- Ensure timely reporting of monthly financial reports, monthly management accounts and quarterly group consolidation reports.
- Responsible for auditing, statutory reporting and tax computation.
- Maintain effective liaisons with parties such as external and internal auditors, tax agents and bankers.
- Assist in preparation or review of annual budgetary process.

Requirements:

- Bachelor Degree in Accounting or at least final-level professional accounting qualifications.
- Minimum 3 years of relevant working experience preferably in audit or manufacturing environment.
- Possess good interpersonal, communication and strong analytical skills.
- Able to work independently to meet deadlines.
- Familiar with accounting software preferably SAP.
- Conversant with Financial Reporting Standards.
- Good in excel spreadsheet and reporting functionality.
- Good spoken and written English and BM.

Project Manager (Ipoh/Kemaman)

Responsibilities:

- Preparation of feasibility studies, costing for tender and bid submission.
- Responsible for project management.
- Commissioning and testing.
- Coordinate with Departmental Managers/Subsidiary companies to ensure budgetary compliance.
- Responsible for materials sourcing and costing, project manpower planning, budgeting, scheduling and quality control of projects.

Requirements:

- Degree in Chemical/Mechanical Engineering or equivalent.
- Possess leadership quality, good interpersonal skills and ability to work independently.
- 5 years working experience in a project and manufacturing environment preferably in the Chemical Industries.
- Team player, with good communication skills and the ability and willingness to train subordinates.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Good spoken and written English and BM.

Human Resources Executive (Kemaman-Terengganu)

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the full spectrum of Human Resource functions which include Recruitment, Training and Development, Compensation and Benefits, Employee Relations and Industrial Relations.
- Assist in handling of staff disciplinary issues and workplace counselling sessions.
- Plan, implement and execute employee relations initiatives/programs with the aim to create a positive organisational culture and enable management effectiveness.
- Analyse training needs, implement/coordinate relevant training programmes and evaluate training effectiveness.
- Work with Group HR in identifying, developing and retaining talent through appropriate career planning and development programs.
- Ensure employee welfare and benefits are administered in accordance with the terms and conditions of employment.
- Conducting salary benefit surveys and updates as well as formulating salary and benefits packages.

Requirements:

- Degree/Diploma in Human Resource Management, Business Studies or other related field.
- Minimum 3 years exposure in Human Resource functions, preferably with exposure in a unionised environment and collective bargaining.
- Knowledge in Employment Act, Labour Laws and IR practices are added advantages.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Result oriented, resourceful, strong planning and problem solving skills as well as the ability to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Positive attitude towards handling staff/work related issues.
- Good spoken and written English and BM.

Process/Project Engineer (Ipoh/ Kemaman/Pasir Gudang)

Requirements:

- Candidate must possess at least a Diploma, Bachelor's Degree in Chemical/Mechanical Engineering or equivalent.
- Possess analytical skills and able to trouble shoot engineering related problems.
- Knowledge in DCS system will be an added advantage.
- Good spoken and written English and BM.
- At least 3 years of working experience in a manufacturing environment preferably in Chemical Industries.
- Candidates with project experience will be an added advantage.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Ipoh/Kemaman/Pasir Gudang.
- Applicants must be willing to work in rotating shifts.
- Applicants should be Malaysian citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Interested candidates are to submit a complete resume giving full details of qualifications, experience, current and expected salary, contact telephone number and non- returnable photograph to:

HR Department
Malay-Sino Chemical Industries Sdn Bhd.
4 ½ Miles, Jalan Lahat
30200 Ipoh, Perak
Tel no: 05- 3224255 Fax: 60-05-3224097
or email to : administration@malay-sino.com.my or
vvijayabalan@malay-sino.com.my

Musings by See Foon Chan-Koppen



See Foon

Is Quality Obsolete?

Oh for the good old days when one could have both quality and durability . . .



I was in Switzerland recently and staying with an old friend of mine. Making myself a cup of coffee in the morning, I noticed that it was easy to use his Espresso coffee machine . . . the old fashioned kind where you put the coffee into the small metal holder, screw it in place and press a button and voila! The delicious coffee comes spewing out from two spouts. Unlike another friend's machine which required a PHD in Engineering to operate.

Considering that my Swiss friend's machine was 35 years old – a present from his mother – it was still working well. Meanwhile, my other friend's machine in Ipoh is brand new and, already, had to be sent back for servicing!

DISPOSABLE

Nobody appears to expect quality and durability in what we purchase any more. In this current disposable environment – from plastic bags, food containers, chopsticks, to underwear – it is considered unreasonable to expect the more expensive items to

last more than two or three years.

I blame all this on the widespread use of the computer.

I remember a friend telling me 15 years ago:

“Once you start using computers, you need to budget for a new one every two to three years.” I thought at the time, “He’s so extravagant. No way am I going to change my

relationships with their PCs and gadgets and machines these days!

As gadgets and equipment fail, you find yourself shopping for new technology, be it a PC, coffee maker, washing machine, mobile phone, whatever.

FRUSTRATING

The frustration begins when the goods are delivered. Firstly, you need to be a rocket scientist to figure out all the knobs and buttons on this new device. Secondly, you need a dictionary to understand all the technical terms in the manual. Most importantly, you realise that you’ve been a fool to have paid for that extra 5-year warranty which the glib salesman

sold you at the time of purchase. This gadget won’t last more than two!

The term “in-built obsolescence” doesn’t only apply to electrical equipment—it is now blanketing quality in general. Quality is becoming obsolete!

Will our grandchildren be cherishing that sofa set they bounced around in at age 3? All the electrical equipment certainly won’t be, nor the bed or table linen which crumble to pieces after a few trips to the washing machine, unlike the heirloom linens which some of us were fortunate to have inherited.

The same applies to mobile phones. God forbid that one is caught dead carrying last year’s model. Each new phone promises to be better than the previous one. Now you can get mail, listen to music, take beautiful pictures, file contacts, send messages and oh yes, lest we forget – talk to your friends – carrying one compact gadget. But drop it once, or spill a glass of wine over it and your latest wonder toy is history

Those were halcyon days when we used to pound our chillies with mortar and pestle, hand wash our clothes and sleep with a simple fan. Unless we go back to labour intensive chores, I guess that in-built obsolescence is here to stay and it’s time to say farewell to Quality and Durability.



PC or notebook every few years!”

And guess what? I buy a new model every two to three years! Not because I’m a follower of fashion. The trouble is, technology becomes obsolete and the Big Boys Behind the computer companies want us to spend, spend and spend some more while they run laughing all the way to the bank.

After two or three years with a computer, most folks find it tedious sitting in front of the screen and wait eons while the PC or notebook creakingly loads up. Then



The chops should be lean with the little bone and fat left on. The vegetables have to be chopped into very small dice, which may sound tiresome but it’s worth doing. You will need a shallow flameproof braising dish to hold the chops in one layer. Serves: 4

INGREDIENTS

- 2 carrots, finely diced
- 2 celery sticks, finely diced
- 2 onions, finely diced
- 1 leek, finely diced
- 50-75 g (2-3 oz) unsalted butter
- ½ garlic clove, crushed
- 2 large sprigs of fresh rosemary
- 4 thick, lean lamb chump chops
- 150 ml (5 fl oz) dry white grape juice
- 900 ml (1 ½ pints) Veal jus or bought alternative
- 4 large potatoes, peeled
- 1 tablespoon lamb fat or beef dripping
- Salt and freshly ground white pepper
- A sprinkling of chopped fresh parsley

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C/400°F/gas 6. Lightly cook the diced vegetables in the butter with the garlic & rosemary. Drain and keep to the butter with the garlic and rosemary one side. Fry the chops in remaining the pan until golden. Remove

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and drain. Add the white grape juice to the pan and boil to reduce until almost dry. Add the jus, bring just to the boil, then strain. Shape the potatoes into cylinders and slice them 3 mm (1/8 in) thick. Fry the potatoes in the fat or dripping until golden. Drain well. Place the chops in the braising dish and spoon the vegetables on top, covering all the lamb. Season with salt and pepper. Layer the potatoes on top of the vegetables, overlapping them. Pour the gravy around and bring to the simmer. Place in the pre-heated oven and allow to braise for about 40-45 minutes. Remove the chops with the vegetables and potatoes still on top. Bring the sauce to the boil, skimming off any impurities. It should be rich and dark, just thick enough to coat the back of a spoon. Place the chops in hot bowls, pour the sauce around and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Introducing our new column on stamp collecting



Straits Settlements stamp Issued 1867. Featuring Queen Victoria

The postman featured prominently in my youth. Every day, I waited for the dogs to bark, heralding his arrival.

The morning mail usually came at around 11 am in my area of Penang. I would race out, eager to discover what the man in a brown uniform and brown pith hat had for us. He would be riding down the street. He pedalled like mad on a sturdy red bicycle and cushioned by a mammoth brown bag

full of letters and small parcels strapped between the front handle bars. He was eternally fending off ferocious yapping dogs. He gave huge side kicks into the air. I thought it was a miracle he managed to stay on the saddle.

MAIL ARRIVED

It was a joyous sight, twice a day. The sound of his bell ringing at various houses announcing - you had mail – was music, well, almost.

I was interested in the stamps. Letters arrived with glorious stamps glued on white, blue and brown envelopes. My only concern was to get the

FROM MY ALBUM

by stamp master QUICKSILVER

stamps off the envelopes.

Almost everyone collected stamps in various shapes and sizes in those days.

It was an absorbing, delicate process. Stamps were cut away from the envelopes, then soaked in water. In a few hours, they floated off. One gently picked up the stamps and dried them on pieces of paper.

I had a precious Stamp Album. Licking a folded piece of transparent gummed paper called a hinge, I would gently attach it on the back of the stamp.

Then, with the other half of the gummed paper licked, I would anchor the

stamp between the lines printed on the sheets of my album.

Do you collect stamps?

The fine hobby of kings, I am informed, is dying, changed forever by the Internet and electronic mail. Progress, so they say.

SEARCHING FOR BARGAINS

Yes times have turned turtle in the last 20 odd years. But I know, out there in space, there is a committed bunch of die-hard collectors who are still actively cuddling their stamp albums and searching the net for bargains.

I am one of them. So

what’s in a Stamp? For answers, use this link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stamp_collecting

I will explain in great detail all there is to know about stamp collecting in a later issue. When I appear again I will introduce you to my world of Stamps of the Straits Settlements.

My fascination for these stamps developed long after the Straits Settlements disappeared from the real world.

The last issue of Straits Settlements stamps under the British was way back in 1941. The stamps were overprinted and used during the Japanese occupation. In 1945, the same type was overprinted



Straits Settlements stamp Issued 1867. Featuring Queen Victoria

BMA (British Military Administration) and issued for use within the Straits Settlements until 1948. That year, the three states of Singapore, Penang and Malacca issued their own stamps. The Straits Settlements was dissolved in 1946, when Singapore became a separate crown colony (ultimately independent), while Penang and Malacca joined the ill-fated Malayan Union, which eventually became The Federation of Malaya, eventually, Malaysia.

Know Your Assemblymen part 2

THE NEW LEADERS FOR IPOH BARAT

Your concerns on state issues should be addressed to them



Sum Cheok Leng.

Constituency: Bercham
Party: DAP
Age: 58
State Assemblyman for Bercham / Ipoh Barat

Contact info:
HP #: 017 5762 367

Service Centres:
Hala Bercham Timur 11,
Taman Pakatan, Bercham.
Operation hours: Monday
to Friday. 11am till 5pm.

636 Taman Tasek Damai,
on Jalan Kuala Kangsar
main road.

Operation Hours: Thurs-
day and Saturday. 8am to
10am and 8pm to 10pm.

Blogsite: Under construc-
tion. It will be in Chinese.

Education: Completed
his primary and secondary
education with Yuk Choy
School.
Form 6 was completed at a
private school.

Marital Status: Married,
with 4 children.

Hobbies: He still plays
football and table tennis.
"I am very healthy and
don't have to wear spec-
tacles."

Life in politics

Sum has been with
the DAP for 38 years since
the time of Lee Lam Thye
and Lim Cho Hock in the
1970s. He was on the par-
ty's Perak State Committee
until 2007.

He retired in 2007 and has
been full time politician
since.

He joined the DAP
in 1970 because he was
not accepted as a trainee
Police Officer even though
he had good grades in his
Form 5 examination and a
strong pass in Malay. He
was drawn to the DAP
because of its constitution
and idealogy.

Since the 1970s, he
has actively worked doing
English /Chinese transla-
tions for the party. He
stood and lost in three elec-
tions. After losing in 2004,
he decided to set up a serv-
ice centre at Bercham. It

was the best move of his
long political life. He final-
ly won an assembly seat
last March.

Complaints from his constituents:

The bulk of his daily
complaints is about sampah,
longkang and rumput
(slr) plus no street lights,
etc. Sum feels very ex-
hausted attending to these
complaints which are MBI
issues.

He'd much prefer to
give full attention to state
issues all related to more
than 60 housing estates in
his constituency. The con-
cerns:

- The access road
into Bercham is always
congested and there are
frequent accidents

- There is no gov-
ernment clinic. Based on
the size of the population,
the place needs one.

- The post office
is still run from a shop.
Daily, there is a long queue
of people waiting for their
turn to post things or pay
bills.

- Regular flooding
at Taman Desa Impian and
Megah Anjung.

- Security and
crime. There are only
38 police personnel at
Bercham to police 60
housing estates.

- Illegal factories.

- The Dewan Orang
Ramai is overdue for an
upgrade.

- Assisting the resi-
dents to obtain their land
titles.



**Diamond Loke
Chee Yau**

Constituency: Kepayang
Party: DAP
Age: 38

Service Centre.

142A Jalan Kuala Kang-
sar, next to Proton Zaman
Motor. It operates every
Monday, Wednesday and
Friday between 10am till
5pm.

Education:

Primary education at
Sekolah La Salle Caning
Garden.
Secondary education at An-
glo Chiese School Ipoh.
Completed his MBA in

2000.

Marital Status: Married in
the year 1992 Has 3 chil-
dren.

Hobbies: Doesn't have
time for hobbies except for
the occasional badminton
game.

Life into politics.

Without his knowl-
edge, he was registered
by his friends as an MCA
member sometime in 1999.
Apparently before the year
2000 when you purchased
a hand phone you got in-
troduced as a member with
the MCA. He only found
out that he was a member
when the secretariat asked
him to settle his subscrip-
tions. He paid up and then
cancelled his membership.

He became interested
in politics only much later.
Joined the DAP in 2007.

His interest in politics
was probably piqued after
he was invited to join the
Lions Club sometime in
2001. He participated in
the usual charity projects
- visits to old folks' homes,
orphanages and the like.
During these outings he be-
came aware of the plight
of the poor. He remembers
a family of 5 (father, mother,
2 children and a sick grand-
father) who subsisted on a
total income of RM800 per
month.

Complaints from his constituents:

- 80% of the com-
plaints he receives is re-
lated to SLR (*sampah*,
longkang and *rumput*) and
other MBI issues.

- Flooding at Jalan
Kuala Kangsar is a recur-
ring problem.

- Security too is
a concern though a lot of
the complaints he gets are
about petty scrap metal
theft. Metal covers on lamp
posts are stolen, leaving
the wires to be exposed. He
has brought up this issue
to the Officer at New Town
Police Station.

Loke's proposal to stimulate activity in Ipoh:

"Trying to enhance
tourism would be a good
strategy to stimulate
activity around Ipoh in the
evening. He thinks Taman
DR in his area is being
under utilised. Taman DR
should be used for cultural
shows to attract tourists.

Ipoh has a lot of old
buildings and 100-year old
temples. Upgrade the old
buildings and indicate it on
a heritage trail map.

More tourists stimu-

late business concerns.
Hotels, gift shops and oth-
er retail outlets within Ipoh
town will benefit from the
increased activity.

Does he like being in
politics?

"Of course". He is
already a full time politi-
cian. He enjoys the job and
is very happy to serve the
rakyat.

Last question: Why
does he call himself
"Diamond"? Some good
friends from Manchester
called him that when he
lived there.



A Sivasubramaniam

Constituency:
Perak State Assemblyman
for Buntong / Ipoh Barat
Party: DAP
Age: 42

Service centre:
589 Jalan Gunong, Bun-
tong. (behind the market)
When it is shut, a sign gives
his hand phone number so
that his constituents can
contact him: 012 400 1978

Education: Studied at
Sekolah Rendah Raja Di-
Hilir Ekram, Jalan Pasir
Puteh (primary and second-
ary education). He took a
long-distance study course
from an Open University
and graduated in 2007 with
his Degree in Business Ad-
ministration.

Marital Status: Married
with 4 children.

Hobbies: He does not have
the time for football any-
more.

Life in Politics:
In the late 90s, he
was living in the Jelapang
area which was a squatter
area. The residents from
57 households and 1 tem-
ple were told to vacate the
land. That started his in-
volvement in politics. He
was made the 'Land Action
Community Chairman'.
Around that time, he was
an ordinary member with
the DAP. His lobbying re-
sulted in all the residents
being relocated to an alter-
native site at Buntong 3.

During the period
2000 to 2004 he success-
fully resettled 218 families

to Klebang. He ran un-
successfully in the 2004
election. The residents
of Buntong asked him to
open a service centre. He
won in the recent 2008
election with a majority of
5,315 votes.

Complaints from his constituents.

Siva has his fair share
of SLR (*sampah*, *longkang*
and *rumput*) complaints.
In some areas the grass is
not cut for 6 months re-
sulting in stagnant drains.
During festive seasons, the
garbage is not cleared for
a whole week due to a "lack
of manpower" Siva is to-
tally in favour of Local
Council Elections.

The State issues facing his constituency.

- The squatters
at Kampung Tailee and
Kampung Chikadee who
have been squatting on
their respective sites for
over 80 years. This needs
to be resolved.

- The Sungai Pari
flats. Of the 135 units, only
35 were occupied. MBI
owns the Sg Pari flats.
Could the 2 faulty lifts be
a factor?

- The residents of
Buntong do not have any
objections to locating a
crematorium at Buntong.
The MIC had announced
in year 2000 that the gov-
ernment had approved the
setting up a crematorium
at Buntong. Nothing has
materialised.

- The market is
old and in poor condition.
The residents deserve one
similar to the market at
Bercham. The present one
was due to be upgraded
in the 9MP. The funds are
"still unavailable".

Siva's proposals to stimulate activity in Ipoh.

He agrees that bring-
ing in investors will help
the Ipoh economy.

His area has a lot of
temples which can be in-
corporated in tourist bro-
chures. Kampung Kacang
Puteh is also worthwhile
being packaged as part of
a visitor's itinerary.

He has no regrets at
all. "It can be tiring" but
am happy to serve the
rakyat. He then adds: "Do
you know there are a lot
of red IC holders in my
area.? This is an issue and
something must be done
about it."

JAG

**BUNGALOW
LAND
FOR SALE**
Location:
Jalan Gopeng

Lot size
13,035 sf
Price
RM50 psf

Interested,
please call
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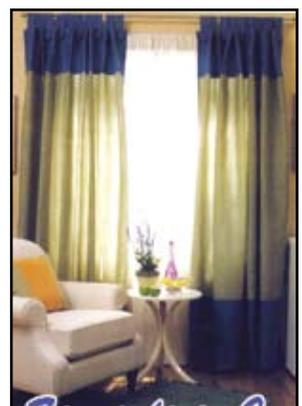
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SETTING FINE EXAMPLES

Learning by osmosis is the better way

What started off as a leisurely office conversation between a headmaster and a teacher in late December last year is bearing fruit. Literally. They had discussed an ambitious project not many dare to tread. It was seen by most as “not economically viable, generate low and slow returns and - well, it won’t work!”

But early this year, Sekolah Kebangsaan Tanjung Rambutan headmaster Encik Abdul Aziz Mohd Zain and Farid Hassan, a Living Skills teacher, started working on their project. They first sought professional advice from the Agriculture Department. They were to grow chilli plants using the fertigation technique.

Fertigation is the application of fertilisers, soil amendments, or other water soluble products through an irrigation system. It is similar to the technique used in cultivating strawberries in Cameron Highlands.

WHY?

What prompted it all? It differs so much from his daily work in the classroom; so far removed from his administrative duties.

“I always believe in generating funds to help finance projects which benefit the pupils in my school,” he explained. “The process in seeing our hardwork materialised is a valuable lesson - working hard and being enterprising - for everyone in school.”

To start off, the intrepid duo levelled up the once uneven ground adjacent to the school canteen and some classrooms. Then they put up a metal-framed shade to block off excess and direct sunlight. Then they purchased a fertiliser and chemical metering pump and other related items. The project needed RM8,700.

Abdul Aziz forked out RM3,000 while Farid contributed RM1,000. As for the balance, the headmaster had to “borrow” from the Parent-Teacher Association

fund. A little explaining and convincing had to be done. Believing that his project was noble and “not to extinguish the strong fire that burns within” such an enterprising and strong-willed school head, the parents’ representatives gave the nod of approval.

The first seeds were sown in March this year.

to pay back the association, his teacher and himself, leaving something sufficient to buy some books and dictionaries to top up the school library and reading corner.

“Next, I will try out rock melons or any produce which is marketable,” he volunteered, pointing to a space behind his office.

the world of economics. He wants students to be enterprising.

“I am sending out the message that there is money in agriculture,” he remarked. “There are ample opportunities for those who want to venture into farming where income is much more attractive than many indoor-based jobs.”

Abdul Aziz started at Tanjung Rambutan in 2004. He had been with a rural school, SK Tualang Sekah in Malim Nawar. In just four years, the school now boasts excellent landscaping, great amenities and, most importantly, disciplined pupils.

Once, the rate of pupils borrowing books was low at the school library. The teacher voiced her concern. Abdul Aziz thought the matter over and suggested that, for every book borrowed, chocolate would be given as an incentive. It worked. The pupils’ passing rates for monthly and yearly examinations have improved significantly.

OTHER AREAS

Abdul Aziz has also initiated a programme to ensure that those who scored well in public examination, UPSR are rewarded with a buffet meal in a hotel. “Most of the pupils have never set foot in a hotel, much less eaten in one,” he explained. “By giving children little opportunities, they get to realise that they need to work hard.

“They get to see that effort is rewarded.”

He added: “I believe direct education builds a foundation but indirect education enriches and empowers one to be equipped with skills and confidence.”

The headmaster is also a strong advocate of recycling. He has encouraged pupils to bring in plastic bottles, old newspapers and aluminium cans.

The school has so far collected a total of RM7,000. The money is used to buy second-hand books and magazines to stock up the reading hut.



The intrepid headmaster



Students admiring the garden plots



The reading hut



The harvest will buy more books

The germination process was rapid. Soon, the school should be having its first harvest.

“If a kilogram of chilli

“The school is blessed with abundant land area which we can cultivate and work on.” He harbours hopes of rearing catfish or even



Future entrepreneurs

fetches RM4 in the market and an average of 10 kgs are harvested daily, we can bring in RM40 per day. Multiply that with 30 days and the school will be able to earn RM1,200 monthly,” an optimistic headmaster said. He estimated that in eight months, the sales of chillies should generate a total of RM9,600, enough

goats! Abdul Aziz holds a degree in Mathematics. From his desk flanked by stacks of books, he talks about the importance of both idealism and being practical raise the academic level of his charges. Indirectly, Abdul Aziz said, pupils are slowly but surely being exposed to

virtual...
continued from p 2

between 14 and 21 are more vulnerable to identity fraud because of the careless way they volunteer personal details.

CyberSecurity Malaysia, confirms that there have been incidents involving local teenagers who have had their personal data posted on *MySpace* stolen. In Malaysia, it is believed identity theft between young people between the ages of 14 and 21 occurs mainly out of vindictiveness or jealousy. Details stolen are used to tarnish the reputations of certain individuals and so on.

An Ipoh student, Kathleen (not her real name), aged 17, reported to the *Ipoh Echo* about a girl who had signed up with *Facebook* using Kathleen's profile. "One of my friends told me about

it," Kathleen related to the *Echo*. "She was searching for me on *Facebook* and discovered that there

right to use whatever photograph and information she wanted."

Kathleen admitted that



Nobody needs to know about her moods

were two different accounts, both using my photographs and data!"

Kathleen decided that she would confront the person. "I asked why she was using my photographs and information and that she had to stop doing so. She simply swore at me and told me she had the

this incident "creeps her out". Despite her being "internet savvy," she was still aghast at how blasé people her age could get about lying when social networking.

Britain's privacy watchdog warned sternly in a report that young people who are active on so-

cial networks and make available too much information are putting their future academic and professional prospects at risk by recklessly posting personal data online. Experts note that a large number of students are now getting in trouble with University administrators for "incriminating and inappropriate information or pictures on their social networking profiles that are violations of school policy or the code of conduct."

It has become a trend for potential employers to check the social network accounts of prospective employees. Due to this, many students and young adults are being turned down for internships, interviews and jobs as the information they have posted online may not be in line with company objectives and policies.



I AM TRYING TO
ADD MORE FRIENDS

an employer said that that at the end of the day, an applicant's resume and life achievements still hold the deciding factor. "Inappropriate pictures that suggest laziness, etc are surely worrying but

I don't place 100% trust in cyberspace. If I did see inappropriate pictures or comments on a social network account of a potential employee, it would still boil down to their resume and what they have done with their lives thus far. There is a need to be fair. When all is said and done, we come back to reality. I might consider a face to face assessment."

But who has the time and the patience?

PLAY SAFE

So there is the need to stay safe. It is essential we assess carefully our social network accounts and postings. According to media and internet experts, the rule of thumb is to use discretion and ask yourself if anything posted on the account could cause harm. Consider whether in five or ten years, the information you are about to post could affect or embarrass you in any way. The advice: "If you don't think you'll want it to exist somewhere in ten years - don't post it!"

Generally, it is wise not to divulge private information, including home addresses, social plans, mobile phone numbers etc. The availability of this personal data makes the task of tracing and exploiting an individual, a walk in the park.

Always utilise the "Privacy" settings on social network accounts. Social Networks like *Facebook* provide features that allow adjustments of settings so as to control who has access to your personal information. It is advisable, when putting together a friends list, to add only people whom you know and trust. Also remember that by posting information about friends, they too could be put at risk.

Remember this next time you are about to take off into cyberspace.

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THE CAT LADY AND HER TIRELESS VOLUNTEERS

There's no stopping Dr Ranjit and her group from pursuing the goals of TNR.

Story and photographs by Nisha Devina Roy

It was 42C on a Saturday afternoon, yes, unbearably hot. Most people had decided to stay indoors paralysed by the mere thought of going out in the sweltering heat. Not, however, the volunteers of "SOS Cats" - "Sterilise Our Street Cats". They were at the Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium Food Stalls. There was work to be done.

Susleen, one of the volunteers, pointed out a straggly cat lazing under a table. "He's one of ours," she announced.

IMMENSE LOVE

Dr. Ranjit Kaur, a prominent veterinarian in Ipoh, has never hidden her immeasurable love of animals. She had long been worried about the heartbreaking number of homeless cats—often starving, ill or suffering. So she decided to translate her anxiety into action. She gathered a group of fellow animal lovers together to do something to alleviate the situation.

Dr. Ranjit explained: "Female cats can get pregnant every three months. This means more stray cats that end up starving or ill." Her message is clear - there is a genuine need to prevent an overpopulation of homeless cats.

In an effort to reduce the multiplying number of stray cats, Dr. Ranjit explored the option known as 'Trap, Neuter, and Release'



Dr Ranjit (right) and Susleen with a 'patient'

(TNR). The method begins with the trapping of feral cats usually using a humane cage trap or a specially designed net.



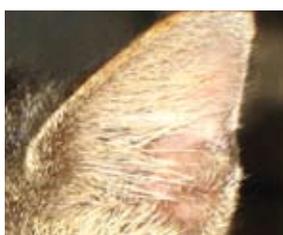
Waiting to be released

Captured strays are then taken to Dr. Ranjit's veterinary clinic where they are neutered. At the same time, Dr. Ranjit and her extraordinary team of volunteers provide the cats with vaccinations, individual to every cat's needs. "We also de-worm the cats we bring into the clinic", Dr. Ranjit added.

She also declared that after the whole treatment programme, the left ears of the cats are clipped. This enables the 'SOS Cats' team to identify the

animals that have already been sterilised easily.

Looking around the number of stray cats around the Stadium Food



Clipped for identification



Still at large as we go to press

Court, I wondered how difficult it was to catch them and posed the question to the volunteers.

"It really depends on the cat," replied Susleen. "Some are more aggressive than others. But we

manage."

Stall owners sometimes help the volunteers capture the stray cats. But here are hawkers who simply do not want to co-operate at all.

On this particularly humid day, I was told that one of the cats the team had been trying to catch for a long time had just been spotted. We rushed to the scene to see it running up a tree!

RELEASE DAY

On this same day, Dr. Ranjit and 'SOS Cats' volunteers were releasing two cats. The first was let out at the Stadium Food Court, the other at Wooley Food Centre in Ipoh Garden South.

"We have trapped and neutered 90% of the cats in the Stadium Food Court area. We spent hours at the beginning determining the number of cats here," Susleen informed me. There are about 15 to 16 cats at this food court. So we are almost done here. We have just started with the Wooley Food Center Food Court in Ipoh Garden South."

The 'SOS Cats' team intend on tackling all major food court areas.

Speaking of one of the two strays about to be released, Dr Ranjit said, "We found her at stall 49. We have got to take her back there." According to her, the volunteers have to resist the urge to relocate

cats.

A cat, I was told, knows its territory and will be able to find food and shelter.

"HOME AGAIN"

Dr. Ranjit opened the cage door to release 'cat from stall 49'. We all watched as it slowly emerged from captivity. She was back in her territory. She was home.

Amid the background noise of the food court, the volunteers looked sadly upon 'cat from stall 49'.

This, they told me, was the hardest part for them. "I have two hearts about this always", volunteered Dr. Ranjit, "I want to take them home. They know me now and I know them."

DONATIONS & ADOPTIONS

The entire 'SOS Cats' programme relies on donations from the public. "At the moment, I have someone who donates generously to this cause," Dr. Ranjit is pleased to announce. "But all help is well and truly embraced.

"What we need, however, are volunteers.

"We need people who genuinely love animals to come and join us.

"Students as well as adults are welcome."

Volunteer Susleen chirps in the background, "If anyone wants to adopt a stray cat, that would help too!"

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Sport

by Steve Darby

“GIVE ME A CHILD AT THE AGE OF SEVEN... AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE MAN”

The following is a two-part adaptation of an award winning article written by perak fa coach Steve Darby. It was published in Australian and English coaching magazines and lectured upon at the Australian coaching council elite coaches seminar. While not specific to football, the principles apply to our national game and are well worth thinking about

What does the Jesuit education philosophy have in relation to a sporting philosophy of coaching? The answer lies in the statement that the child's first coach is the most important one it will ever have. Quite often, elite coaches in all sports are lauded for their work with international standard athletes. Their work is of course invaluable and will possibly have made the difference between winning and losing at the highest level. However, would they have had the elite athlete in their charge if, somewhere in this player's past, there hadn't been a first coach who instilled and encouraged in him/her an intense love of the sport?

Perhaps the word coach is a misnomer in the case of the person in charge of a team of seven year-olds. Perhaps it should be leader, counsellor or

guide! However, the word coach is entrenched in the Malaysian vocabulary. The coach of the team of seven year-olds has a vital role to play in the sport and a heavy responsibility to the child.

If both sport and society accept that the first coach a child has is both vital to the sport and a major social influence on the child, then it is inappropriate that we

National Sporting Organisations and relevant Government Sporting Agencies must work towards the aim of a minimum level of accreditation before a person can be put in the position of being called a coach. This minimum accreditation must not only be enforced but also be worthy of the words 'coaching education'. The syllabus of a minimum

olds! Too often, sport administrators have bowed to the anti-accreditation vocal minority who echo the unsubstantiated myths of: "People will not coach if they have to take a course".

"People don't have time to do a coaching course".

"I've played the game therefore I can coach".

These irrational statements are easily countered with intelligent argument. Perhaps the most important ingredient for a sports administration is to find out the real reasons why people are not attending coach education courses. Ask: how can the coaching course be seen as developing and improving people, not threatening their self esteem?

The following broad framework is essential to a successful minimum accreditation programme.

- Quality instruction by well trained staff coaches.
- Appropriate duration of the course.
- Accessible to all the community, males, females and disadvantaged groups.
- A syllabus relevant to the sport's needs.
- A philosophy of enjoyment and participation.



Is there a point talking about tenacity to this child?

allow the person to be often press ganged into the position. The predicament gives him little resource and educational support and, in some cases, little respect.

accreditation must be as sound as a more formal educational curriculum. It must be relevant to the developmental stage of the child. It's no point screaming abuse at 7 year

Royal Perak Golf Club: A Brief History

Royal Perak Golf Club began as Ipoh Golf Club (IGC), a humble nine-hole course on the Race Course, before the turn of the last Century. In 1932, as a result of the growing membership, 180 acres of land were acquired along the then Tiger Lane to construct an 18-hole golf course, and a new improved clubhouse added.

During the turbulent World War II years the Clubhouse and the Golf Course land were used to serve interests of the Occupying Japanese Forces. Post-War, the scale of destruction of the Club resulted in the IGC Committee seeking and getting the help of the Perak Turf Club (PTC) to resuscitate the Club. By 1947, the golf course was again in play and a new body called the Ipoh Sports Club was formed to run the course.

By 1950, the expense and organisation of running the 18 hole golf course and

the six tennis courts proved too much for the resources of the Club and once more the PTC was approached – this time to take over the full time management of the Club. And so the Perak Turf Club Sports Club (PTCSC) was born.

On November 10, 1968 the then President of the PTCSC, the late Almarhum DYT M Raja Muda Perak, Raja Musa Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Aziz, declared open the new \$500,000 club house which included facilities for squash, billiards, a six-lane fully air conditioned bowling alley, and a spacious dining hall and kitchen. Eventually a swimming pool was added to the facilities, and thereafter the PTC leased out the Clubhouse and land around it to PTCSC for a nominal annual fee. With this autonomy the PTC's financial support was withdrawn and upon approval by the members the Royal Perak Golf Club (RPGC)

was born, having been given the Royal status by Royal Charter, with the consent of DYMM Sultan Perak, the Patron of the Club.

The RPGC, or Kelab Golf DiRaja Perak (KGDP), functioned independently but the land on which the golf course lay was never alienated to it; instead it was leased to the Perak Turf Club. The lease expired in 1991.

In 1992 the State Executive Council (EXCO) offered to renew the lease to KGDP, vide PTG letter dated 7 October 1992, with 16 Conditions to be adhered to by the Club (KGDP). The Club accepted all the Conditions, except Clause 16. Despite several attempts at resolution Clause 16 remained a point of contention. Since there was no full acceptance of the Conditions by KGDP, the offer lapsed. In 1996, the matter was brought back to the EXCO for its deliberation and it

decided to give the land to SSI.

On 16 February 2006, Royal Perak Golf Club Bhd (RPGC Bhd.) was formed as a wholly own subsidiary of SSI, to operate the new Club, to be known as Royal Perak Golf Club. Eight Directors were appointed to RPGC Bhd, with Dato' Abdul Habib Mansur, a former Perak State Secretary, as its Chairman, to manage the new club.

The RPGC Bhd Board of Directors subsequently held several meetings with the Management Committee of KGDP to iron out issues prior to Bhd taking over completely.

By the end of December, 2006 all outstanding issues with KGDP and the PTC were resolved and Bhd took over management of the Golf Course on January 1, 2007.

On March 1, 2007, with the Club House and its facilities completely handed over to Bhd, a new era under RPGC Bhd began.