NKF Sit-A-Thon 2013 gets support from TP CCA groups

In an effort to raise awareness about kidney disease in Singapore, students from Temasek Polytechnic went all out to do their bit.

The National Kidney Foundation Sit-A-Thon 2013 saw members from Divo Diva and Fusion Percussion lending support with their power-packed vocals and rhythmic grooves.

Held at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza for the first time on July 28, the charity event brought together about 1,200 members of the public from all ages.

Participants sat on stools for four hours straight to empathise with kidney patients who have to go through dialysis treatment.

The cast of Ah Boys To Men, who took time off from their busy schedules to show their support, also joined the participants.

Members of Divo Diva opened the event with their fully energised song sequence.

Performing covers of pop hits such as Rihanna’s Umbrella and Amy Winehouse’s Rehab, the team was bursting with enthusiasm.

Nur Izzati and Natasha Demelda amazed the crowd with their rendition of Demi Lovato’s Really Don’t Care. It got the crowd amazed with their rendition of such as Rihanna’s Umbrella and Amy Winehouse’s Rehab, the team was bursting with enthusiasm.

“I even got to meet some of my favourite celebrities!”

Stay tuned till next year when the Sit-A-Thon will be back again with a better show!”

Students in the Fusion Percussion said that it was an enjoyable experience for them to be able to perform for the live audience.

“I was able to perform on the same stage as people I had watched on TV before. It was an amazing experience! I’ve learnt so much from participating in Sit-A-Thon. The experience was enriching in every aspect and I’m looking forward to the next Sit-A-Thon! Thanks to everyone who contributed towards the event’s cause!”

Some of us fail to realise how lucky most of us are to not have to go through such an arduous plight on a daily or weekly basis.

-Nur Izzati

In the light of the communal spirit, the dynamic group roped in the passers-by to join in.

The 25 man-strong troupe spiced up the event with their own unique choreography and percussive rhythm of different instruments, even attracting passers-by to join in.

In the light of the communal event, the dynamic group roped in the participants to break a local record for continuously shaking for three minutes.

Nur Adilah, 18, said: “It was a very fun-filled and enriching experience for me. We managed to break a record and I even got to meet some of my favourite celebrities!”

It was Adilah’s first public performance with the CCA group.

“May TP students continue to spread the spirit of volunteerism, especially through means that they have a passion for. I am definitely looking forward to the next NKF Sit-A-Thon.”

Student Union plans include campus-wide talent show

A campus-wide talent hunt is among the new events announced by the recently elected TPSU Executive Committee.

The TP Talent Show is a new event inspired by America’s Got Talent and the Final One, by which we aim to uncover talents across all communities in TP.

“I love singing and music and if you have what it takes, we are looking for you!”

On the goals of the new Executive Committee for the upcoming year, Kai Sheng said: “TPSU aims to expand our collaboration with various constituent clubs and interest groups with the objective to reach out to as many TP students as possible”.

He said existing successful events will also be continued.

This includes the annual TP Students’ Dinner & Dance, TP Love Snaps, Flea@TP and the Freshmen Orientation Workshop/Camp.

Last year, TPSU experienced great success in many of their events. One such event was the Toys Project Starts With U II.

The charity project collected more than 300 second-hand toys from TP students. These toys were then cleaned, wrapped and given to Children’s Homes.

This year, apart from continuing to help the community outside of TP, the new Executive Committee hopes to create an even more unified and vibrant environment for all TP students.

Phyllis Tay, the Welfare Secretary of TPSU, believes that the financial year ahead would bring more opportunities for collaboration with many more companies to give TP students the welfare benefits they deserve.

As of now, TPSU will be working together with big companies such as Sticky Singapore, Zalora, Portagram Singapore and Sentosa.

She adds: “I want all TP students to be able to receive the best of everything, I want them to enjoy their lives here in TP as much as possible.”

Phyllis also hopes to inspire more students to serve the poly.
TP celebrates National Day

By: Stephanie Gascon

In the run up to National Day, TP held a number of celebratory events in line with this year’s theme – “Many Stories, One Singapore.”

The Internal Security Department (ISD) set up an exhibition to showcase the Singapore Narrative at the Library Seminar Room, located at level 9, from July 26 to Aug 6.

It featured information about Singapore’s history to remind visitors of the nation’s progress. ISD officers were on hand to elaborate on the exhibits.

The main events were on Aug 6, when TP held its official annual National Day celebration at the Temasek Convention Centre (TCC).

Before the start of the celebration proper, students dressed in red and white formed lines along the School of Engineering concourse to usher attendees to the TCC.

These students cheered and sang community songs to lift spirits and get everyone in the mood for celebrating Singapore’s 48th birthday.

The 23rd Battalion, Singapore Artillery (23 SA) also set up a booth along the School of Engineering concourse for students to do army face painting and photo-taking.

There was also an army ration tasting segment, and discussion about National Service.

The celebration inside the TCC started at 11am. Performers included TP Malay Dance Group, TP Indian Dance Group, TP Fusion Percussion, TP Choir, TP International Students’ Group (TPISG) and children from the campus kindergarten, Play@TP.

The concert was split into three segments.

The first was “our early narrative” – the early stories and people who built the nation.

Performers were dressed as Samson women (female Chinese labourers), Mah Jie’s (female Chinese domestic workers), a satay mat and a teacher.

The second segment was “our independence” – the story of how Singapore became an independent nation. This was when the flag raising and national anthem took place, as well as a medley of National Day songs with lyrics projected on stage.

The last part was “our present” – representing the stories being forged today. Performers did Bollywood Dance and percussion numbers.

When the concert came to an end at 12.30pm, small red and white balloons descended onto the stage and seats.

The event ended on a sweet note, not just because of the sequence of National Day songs playing while the audience exited, but also because of the complimentary cupcakes with Singapore flag icing decoration that were given out.

“I felt that it was truly vibrant as the energy level and emotions of both the performers and the audience were equally high,” said Marie Ng, a second-year student from the Diploma in Communications and Media Management. “The combination of young children, teenagers and adults in different performances reflected the theme very well.”

Raising funds through fleas for meaningful causes

By: Paul Lim

Despite their numerous project submissions and examinations, students from the Institute of Public Relations of Singapore (IPRS) student chapter and Communications and Media Management Interest Group (CM-MIG) were busy conducting fleas to raise funds for meaningful causes.

For IPRS, their flea was held from July 29 to July 31, 11am to 3pm. It aimed to raise funds for future projects that will create more opportunities for TP IPRS.

From clothing to accessories, IPRS sold a wide variety of second-hand products, enticing a large crowd over the span of three days.

“The flea was a success in my opinion. Although there were leftover items, we managed to raise money,” said the president of IPRS, Nikita Wong, a second-year Communications and Media Management student.

“I really found the flea meaningful. Kudos to TP IPRS!” said Azida Mohamed, another second-year student from the Diploma in Communications and Media Management.

“IPRS is interesting because it allows members to have first-hand experience with various projects,” said Nikita.

The funds collected will be used towards organising an upcoming project, BrandStory, which is aimed to raise greater awareness for the donation of cord blood among expectant mothers.

For CMM IGS, their flea was held later that week on Aug 2, 11am to 3pm. Similarly, the flea was aimed at raising funds to organise more school events in the future.

CMM IGS sold clothes, accessories, DVDs, books and stickers. The items were donated by CMM Freshmen and Juniors and were sold at no more than five dollars each.

“The prices were cheap and the things sold were quite attractive. I really love the vintage-looking necklace I bought!” said Nadia Santos.

Farah Firzana, president of CMM IGS, said: “Overall, the flea was a success. We didn’t expect much from it but with the support from lecturers and students, we did it.”

CMM IGS has planned many exciting activities for the year, one of which includes ‘MOMOK RUN’, a fun-filled marathon, similar to the Zombie Run which aims to promote a healthy lifestyle through an interesting approach.

She hopes that CMM IGS can do more for the school and the community.

“I believe through the projects, we will not only grow as a group but as individuals as well.”
TP hosts SAF Day 2013 rededication ceremony

By: Stephanie Gascon

Military vehicles seemed to have materialised overnight at the Triangular Gardens and Plaza on July 1.

It was SAF Day 2013 and the Singapore Armed Forces Combined Rededication Ceremony (East Zone) was held on campus.

The Combined Rededication Ceremonies are held at different zones of the island so that Operationally Ready NSmen and their employers can publicly reaffirm their commitment and support towards national defence.

The theme of this year’s SAF Day was Our Story: Defending Singapore. The event in TP was sponsored by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, and the equipment displays were managed by the 6th Combined Arms Division.

The ceremony was attended by operationally ready NSmen, military guests, representatives from educational institutions and companies in the East as well as TP staff and students. Staff who were active SAF NSmen also came dressed in their uniforms.

At the start of the ceremony, members of the brass section of the TP Band played a fanfare for the entrance of the guest of honour and other distinguished guests.

In his opening address, TP’s principal and CEO, Mr Boo Kheng Hua, said that except for the years when the Combined Rededication Ceremony was held centrally, TP has been the ceremony’s proud host for the last 15 years.

Mr Boo then presented tokens of appreciation to Mr Balakrishnan and representatives from the event’s sponsor, co-sponsors and the 6th Combined Arms Division.

The audience stood for the national anthem. Serving officers in the audience also took an additional pledge.

Then, the encapsulated the TP Dikir Barat Ladies Group, whose series of rousing songs served “to remind us to never give up and be willing to explore new things”.

Later in the foyer, NSmen and staff were presented with a special door gift in a souvenir pack and were treated to a lunch reception, surrounded by booths displaying the latest weaponry, first aid and rations.

Away from the auditorium, what most TP students saw of the day’s event was the display of SAF vehicles and SAF personnel who were on hand to answer questions.

At the Plaza was the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) – the latest indirect fire system in the SAF. It is an all-weather, all-terrain rocket system offering long range precision firing on a wheeled chassis. It can also support troops in close combat in an urban environment.

Seemingly aiming at Design School from the triangular gardens was the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) – the latest indirect fire system in the SAF. It is an all-weather, all-terrain rocket system offering long range precision firing on a wheeled chassis. It can also support troops in close combat in an urban environment.

Students got a taste of military vehicles like the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (above) as well as combat ration (right).

The planned venue to hold the event was also unattainable, so they had to source for other suitable locations.

Despite the success of the event, the students faced many obstacles. For one, there were communication breakdowns between the students and various departments.

The inspiration behind the event was a Dialogue in the Dark (DID) session recommended by their tourism lecturer, Ms Sandra Goh, that the Business students attended. The experience sparked a deep urge to help the disabled.

“Not being able to see was scary as I was worried I might hit something,” said Ranjinishree. “I realised how strong blind people are and now I have even more respect for them.”

The students’ project to raise awareness about the handicapped...
Juggler with the right motivation

By: Tao Yuan Ling

People frequently ask Ang Bee Hoon how she is able to cope.

That’s because the second-year student from the Humanities and Social Sciences School (HSS), juggles a load of different priorities in her life, and makes sure she excels in every one of them.

Currently enrolled in the Diploma in Psychology, Bee Hoon describes her learning environment to be dynamic and crazy.

“Tutorials and lectures are full-filled and rarely boring with the entire class mess ing around and performing tricks or messing with each other,” shared Bee Hoon, adding that the encouraging and supportive environment that she is immersed in and close-knit culture of the course plays a big role in her learning.

Bee Hoon’s achievements thus far include her attainment of the TP Scholarship, her enrolment into the Diploma Plus Programme and her placing in the Director’s List of 2013.

An all-rounder, Bee Hoon is also active in fields out of her academic scope. She is the Vice-President of the HSS Studies Club, where she is tasked with various responsibilities, ranging from planning and attending Annual General Meetings to organising events like the HSS Freshmen Orientation.

With so much on her hands, Bee Hoon shared that her involvement in the Studies Club was exhilarating.

“Firstly, there were busy periods and life was hectic. However, when I got together with my fellow executive members, I get to shed some load off my shoulders because of the humour and bond that we have in the committee.”

Although her position in the HSS Studies Club may be one that many envy, Bee Hoon disclosed that there were occasions when she regretted joining the committee because of the high level of patience and commitment she needs.

“When may wonder how she is able to excel in almost everything she puts her mind to, Bee Hoon answered that for her, it all boils down to the amount of inspirational support received and nothing short of hard work and discipline.

She firmly believes that hard work means everything. She said: “Even if it means sleeping late at 3 or 4 am just to get assignments done, I will gladly do so. Essentially, all about motivation, the right motivation leads to self-discipline, which will then guide achievements.”

Bee Hoon cited one of her motivations to be her family.

Describing them as her pillar of support, she said: “I know they will be happy to see me excel, and that is exactly what I want to do to show my love and appreciation for all that they have done for me.”

Revealing a self-proclaimed “weird” habit of hers, Bee Hoon shared that she believes a lot in the miracles motivation can create.

She searches for motivational quotes to make sure that she does not lose sight of her goals.

One such quote she lives by is by singer Taylor Swift: “Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning how to dance in the rain.”

Essentially, it is all about motivation, the right motivation leads to self-discipline, which will then guide achievements.

Creative, effective lion dancer

By: Desiree Leong

Marcus Khoo, a third-year Logistics and Operations Management student, is one teenager who has a passion for an art most people his age are foreign to – Lion dance.

A traditional Chinese dance which mimics a lion’s movement in various lion costumes, it is often portrayed as a performance mainly for special occasions. But 19-year-old Marcus sees it as part of his lifestyle, rather than just an occasional performance for the openings of a new store or to welcome the Chinese New Year.

“Lion dance isn’t as easy as it seems. That mere 10 minutes of performance requires 10 years of hard work,” said Marcus.

As a lion dance troupe member since primary school, he has learnt that this form of art calls upon a whole lot of passion, self-discipline and perseverance.

He highlights the importance of building up the foundation even before starting to lion dance, and explains the whole experience to be actually quite painful.

He says his personal life is entirely dedicated to lion dance and he spends no time on computer games. Staying true to the sport that includes intense martial arts, dancing and music, Marcus spends his free time at weekly training and guides lion dancers at ITE: College Central. He sets aside time every Monday evening to assist his coach, who is currently training aspiring lion dancers.

“LOM has helped to stimulate my creativity in solving problems, which is also especially crucial in life. Just like lion dance performances, it has taught me to be both effective and efficient,” he explained, relating the swift movements of lion dancing to being impactful as well.

“This course gives us real life scenarios and forces us to solve them with plausible solutions,” he adds.

Rising female soccer star

By: Serene Kwek

At the tender age of 17, Nurul Khairiah Bte Azhar has literally gone far in a male-dominated sport. The first-year Aviation Management & Services student represented Singapore’s national youth soccer team, and went to the USA for a soccer training cum exchange programme from June 3 to 12.

She was one of the rare females out of the 15 players selected for this prestigious programme. Describing her experience, she said: “I was proud to be there, playing among the Americans. Their style of playing is different, so we got to learn how they play and put that into use when we have the matches in Singapore.”

Apart from training with the Americans, she also got the chance to go sightseeing and shopping, as well as visit a high school.

Having played in countries like Vietnam, Manila and Laos, this is the furthest she has ever travelled.

She started playing football when she was only eight, and has her parents to thank for that.

“I thought it’s quite fun and it’s nice and just tried it and got hooked on when I was young,” said Nurul.

Without a doubt, her parents are proud of her achievements. They have supported her since she started playing for The Football Association Of Singapore (FAS).

Apart from picking her up after training, they also frequently come down to the matches to take pictures of her, so she will get to see how she looks like in action.

“They will casually tell me where I should improve on and what I did well so I can prepare myself better for the next match.”

Passion is what keeps her going.

“I learn from the EPL (English Premier League) players, so I just want to be like them, but the female version.”
Teacher, family behind success

By: Soh Ju Eun

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second-year Pharmaceutical Science student Mohammad Shareef discovered his undying love for science back in secondary school, which inspired him to enrol in his course.

“I do believe that it depends on whether you love the science teacher for you to love science. My secondary school science teacher was always keen to teach us more than what was required in the science syllabus in order to stretch our thinking,” Shareef explained.

Shareef has also actively participated in events and competitions. He recently took part in a major project, “DRP for Recycling of Wood and Plastic Wastes as Building Components”, which involved a team made up of fellow school mates from the diplomas in Chemical Engineering and Veterinary Technology, and Technical Support Officers (TSOs).

They had to make moulds of TP’s logo, which were given out as souvenirs during TP Global Community Day 2012 when Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong launched the Global Connect Village.

Said Shareef: “I was very gratified to get to meet and talk to PM as that event was my first time seeing him face-to-face.

Therefore, that was when I decided to join politics since he inspired just by that one friendly talk with him.”

The Vice-President of the Young Scientists’ Programme (YSP)’s club has won the “Most Committed Student” Award.

Recently, he was placed in the ASC Director’s List and also clinched the coveted Sartorius Stedim Singapore Scholarships.

“I want to be a valuable asset to the society at large. If I help many people, each person will help many others. Therefore, this leads to the growth of network of care and compassion.”

His noble goals include creating new medicine to help people and travelling to countries like North Korea and Vietnam to set up medical facilities for the people there.

With all that said, Shareef is still a teenager at heart: “I still have fun by relaxing myself from my tedious school schedule by jogging around in the near-by park, designing my own soccer tricks and also choreographing my own dance moves.”

It is a surprise that everything Shareef attained just started with a flicker of interest. “As one of my life principles is ‘No harm in trying’, I always give my best shot in whatever I may do,” said Shareef.

His future plans include pursuing a degree in NUS School of Medicine and joining the PAP community to fulfill his dreams of becoming a politician.

Shareef’s words of motivation to TP students?

“Work hard towards your goal with passion and drive and success will follow in your footsteps automatically. Be humble in your actions since humility will enable you to grow your social network and have self-confidence.”

Tribute to lecturers, friends

By: Tao Yuan Ling

Nurul Ameerah, a third-year student in Interior Architecture and Design is an all-rounder.

Not only does she excel academically, she also avidly participates in co-curricular activities (CCAs) and external projects, exposing herself to multiple experiences.

Ameerah’s passion for acting inspired her to take up Theatre as her CCA. “One thing I like about the CCA is that it lets you build up confidence and that is one characteristic I use in my everyday life.”

However, Ameerah finds it a pity that her heavy school schedule makes it difficult for her to commit to her CCA.

When discussing her learning environment in TP, Ameerah describes her friends to be positive and supportive.

“Yes, there is competition but overall, we all have this common understanding to not let any of us lag behind. In the end, we all came here for one purpose, to study, master our studies, and graduate!”

She added: “My lecturers are very knowledgeable, and very helpful in every way.”

One of her lecturers, Mr Matthias Low, had encouraged Ameerah and four of her course mates to work on an external project – the Jurong Hospital Project.

“I have learnt the importance of not only delegating work, but also trusting my members to follow through,” said the team leader of the project.

Their efforts finally paid off when JurongHealth showcased their design concepts in an exhibition at a Transition Fair in June, this year.

Mentioning some of the take-aways she would bring with her when she leaves TP, she said: “The knowledge and tips passed down directly from our lecturers – that’s something one cannot learn through books.”

Always taking charge

By: Desiree Leong

“I would think of myself as someone who is in control. I would take control of my environment, rather than succumb to circumstances,” says IIT student Faith Lim.

The second-year student lives by this firm attitude and believes that by taking charge of things, it will steadily help her to overcome any obstacles that may come her way.

“The Business Intelligence & Analytics student has participated in out-of-school projects.

One of these projects involved working on a business plan proposal for a social enterprise, Bettr Barista, that helps marginalised women and youths at risk.

This was part of Salesforce BizAcademy, a globally-run business and leadership apprenticeship programme, run in partnership with Halogen Foundation.

Faith was among the 12 youths from various tertiary institutions to be selected to take part in this programme, with included a competition.

Due to Faith’s determined nature and strong team spirit, it came as no surprise that her team emerged champions.

“It is important to work as a team and to always remember that no member is less important than the other. That is one of the key points to developing a well-coordinated team,” said Faith who feels that this was one of the most valuable lessons learnt from the enriching experience.

Aside from her academic life, Faith does one-on-one tutoring as a side job, and enjoys reading almost anything – ranging from magazines to novels and newspapers.

Looking ahead, the 18-year-old feels that she has gained enough understanding of Business Intelligence and Analytics to further her studies in the same field.
Spectralmania was hosted and organised by Business students taking the Events Management module on July 17.

The event took place in the roof terrace above McDonald’s and began at 7pm. A light rain fell just before the event started. Fortunately, the drizzle cleared up in time, providing a cool and chill atmosphere suited to the event’s theme. The event then officially started with the screening of *Death Bell 2: The Bloody Camp*. Attendees came dressed as their favourite horror story characters. The turnout for the event was good and saw many students enjoying the company of like-minded peers while scaring themselves for thrills and giggles.

Props such as tombstones and spiderwebs and dark gothic drapery helped to create a spooky atmosphere for the event.

*Photos, Text & Layout: Cheryl Mui, Charmine Ang*
Support local music
Fans can make a difference to the career of local musicians by backing homegrown bands

Local pop-rock band The Summer State had their new single climbing the local radio charts. Veteran rock band The Great Spy Experiment saw their sophomore album hit number one on the iTunes Singapore album chart within 24 hours of its release; and pop-punk band Aspectrum (previously Godzilla), are featured on iTunes Singapore’s Alternative Bestsellers.

The vibrancy of our local scene is comparable to that of any other country. It’s accessible, affordable and amiable. It’s part music, part people. The main reason our local music scene excels, is because of its fans. Through word of mouth, people discover local acts that are as good as international acts (such as Sigur Rós, All Time Low, Black Flag) and the word is out!

It’s a clear conclusion that musicians are connected through music, and fans are connected through musicians. Our local scene is like a hidden gem. Only a good minority knows about our genius musicians. Pick a favourite band or a favourite song – the chances are that our local bands will become contenders of that soft spot in your heart. It’s definitely true that our local bands are good, but people look in the wrong places.

Thus, the problem is that there aren’t enough people supporting our own born and bred musicians. Bands break up easily – why? They can’t afford it. And we’re losing prodigies who end up categorising their passion for music into ‘hobby’ and not a ‘career’. Which brings me to the solution: If we’re able to chip in, be it requesting for their songs on local radio, attending local gigs, buying the band’s albums and merchandise, we’re going to make a difference to their careers.

Every local band dreams of launching themselves into the worldwide market. And I, myself, as a devout fan of the local scene, want them to succeed. But first, we’ll need to support from our own.

So here’s my plea: Support the arts. Support music. Support local fare.

Vibrancy of local scene is comparable to any other country.

YOLO doesn’t mean loco
The essence of Carpe Diem is present in YOLO but the latter is version 2.0

The majority of us Singaporeans are anything but fans of the scene. How lacks the support base it deserves.

Our local scene is drowning in passion but Corrinne May or even JJ Lin, then you, talk about singers such as Stephanie Sun, a fan of local music, and then continue to

Known local acts that are still active to—

Eventually unheard, passionate and talented music junkies; whose Friday nights are

However, when our local acts achieve even the slightest success, fans become the backbone of their careers — supporting the local acts by requesting their songs on the radio, purchasing their music, and even merchandise. This is dedication.

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Battle of social video platforms

By: Emily Heng

On Feb 1, a Turkish journalist documented 6 seconds of the aftermath of a suicide bombing outside the US embassy in Turkey. The video showed crowds of anxious civilians, fire trucks and policemen and captured the essence of the scene perfectly in just 6 seconds. The video link was then uploaded and posted on Twitter for millions to see.

But what was the application that enabled the journalist to record and upload those 6 crucial seconds? It was none other than the number one most downloaded free app within the iOS Apple store as of April of 2013 – Vine.

Vine is a new application owned by Twitter that allows users to make 6-second videos and stop-motion animations. The videos are also played and replayed in a continuous loop. It is extremely popular as many users feel that the 6-second time limit, very much like Twitter’s 140 word limit, compels users to be more creative.

“I really like how Vine allows me to make stop motion videos, I think they’re really cool,” says Alicia Lim, 16. “I find it a lot better than Instagram’s video sharing function which jams on my phone and just doesn’t look as good.”

Popular photo-sharing application Instagram, now owned by Facebook, has recently released a video sharing function that allows users to create 15-second videos. There are also 13 custom filters that users can apply to their videos and users are also able to delete segments from the video straight from the app.

Instagram’s latest video function hence poses as a large threat to Vine, especially when Instagram already has such a large following. According to BBC, when Instagram’s video sharing function was introduced June 20, the number of links to Vine videos fell by half a million on the same day.

“I personally use Instagram video, not Vine. I think it’s because I use my Instagram pretty frequently so it makes more sense and is more convenient for me,” says Rachel Goh, 18. “To be honest, I don’t really see that much people using Vine.”

A few weeks after the launch of Instagram video, Vine countered the threat by updating their system and adding new features like new focus and stop motion tools. More channels were also introduced so users have a better chance at being seen, as there is less competition in each specific category. ReVine was also introduced, which basically enables the sharing of other users’ videos — very much like Twitter’s retweet function.

“I find Vine more user-friendly than Instagram’s video function. It’s easier to use,” says Erina Leong.

While Vine is considered user-friendlier than Instagram video — with Vine allowing users to embed photos on videos on their own websites — Instagram has just recently introduced this function as well, thus evening the score for both apps.

In this battle of the social video platforms, the outcome is still unclear. Au Wailing, 18, says: “I think Instagram’s popularity will help it win. Ultimately, it is now two apps rolled into one and who wouldn’t want that?”

IOS7 - colourful and full of new features

By: Emily Heng

Apple’s latest operating system with iOS 7’s drastic departure from its usual monochromatic colour scheme was surprising, with its new design boasting bold primary colours like bright green, electric blue and red.

IOS7 introduces many new features like the Control Centre, which gives you access to many apps like the calculator, the flashlight, timer, iPod and camera.

It also allows you to switch modes and settings conveniently – such as changing your Wi-Fi settings or switching from normal to airplane mode with just a simple swipe.

One of the key new features that have garnered much excitement is multi-tasking. IOS7’s multi-tasking automatically tracks the apps you use and helps launch it even before you have selected it.

“It sounds great in theory though I think it might not actually work,” says Sarah Chua, 18. “It just sounds like a lot can go wrong with this new multi-tasking system.”

Though there are some people who are dubious of the IOS7 system, some people still remain positive about the new, upgraded system.

“I heard about the new camera functions and I think it’s really cool,” says Rachel Goh, 18. “I feel like it may even be able to take better photos than a digital camera.”

The camera in IOS7 has many new shooting formats in addition to the old ones: still, video, paranormal and now, square. They can all be accessed with a single swipe and there are also many different filters available for users to edit their photos.

Apple is supposedly developing a slow motion camera for the IOS7, which will allow users to shoot videos in slow motion by using high-speed video capture to provide an increased level of detail. This new feature is suspiciously similar to Samsung Galaxy’s S4 which also has a slow motion video capture mode.

“As a Samsung fan, I’m quite offended that there are so many similarities between the new Apple IOS7 and the Samsung Galaxy S4. Even the new design and colours used in the IOS7 looks directly copied off the Samsung Galaxy 4,” says Joan Heng, 22.

Though there are some similarities between the Galaxy S4 system and the IOS7, the IOS7 has some redeeming differentiating features. One of them is the AirDrop feature that allows users to quickly and easily share content like photos, videos and contacts. Transfers are encrypted as well so anything that is airdropped is highly secure.

There are also new security features in the IOS7 that makes it hard for anyone to steal or use someone else’s phone.

For example, the application Find My iPhone cannot be turned off unless the user provides his or her Apple ID and password. Also, it can display a custom message even after the phone’s data is wiped, thus ensuring that a user can easily find their iPhone and restore all their data.

While the IOS7 has many new and exciting features, there are some who are skeptical of its new features and capabilities.

“It just seems like too many things at once,” says Au Wailing, 18. “I have a feeling there will be a lot of issues down the road.”

As a Samsung fan, I’m quite offended that there are so many similarities between the new Apple IOS7 and the Samsung Galaxy S4.

Joan Heng

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Stop Press :: October 2013
**The Last of Us: Impressive story and gameplay**

**By: Wee Jing Ye**

All hell breaks loose when a spore-based infection spreads like wildfire across the globe; the infection invading victims’ brains, transforming them into deadly predators with the ability to infect humans with a single bite. A vast majority of the population has been wiped out, leaving only suffering survivors and the ravenous infected.

You play as Joel, a single father who has lost his daughter to the outbreak, and you are charged with the mission to protect and transport 14-year-old Ellie, a girl holding the potential to cure this catastrophic disease.

Developed by Naughty Dog and published by Sony Computer Entertainment, The Last of Us is an action-adventure game coupled with survival horror elements that sets you on an adventure trekking across post-apocalyptic United States 2033, facing tremendous ordeals against the infected and cannibals, while simultaneously having to protect the girl that holds the key to salvation.

Critically acclaimed, The Last of Us left many reviewers praising its indescribable depth in both gameplay and story, as well as its realism in its sound and environment, making it a front runner.

Played and reviewed by top celebrities and talk show hosts such as Seth Rogan and Jimmy Fallon, the game’s popularity is a testament to how well it was made. But does the game truly live up to these claims in the eyes of a normal gamer?

For most parts, it is a definite yes. Naughty Dog has successfully created a seamless and beautiful yet suspenseful game through a meticulously thought-out story progression and stage design, and the beauty in the programming is highly evident in its gameplay. The Last of Us is certainly not your run-of-the-mill horror, involving melee combat, gun fighting and a common “cover system” that lets you take cover while facing the enemy's firepower.

With that said, the X-Factor of the game is none other than the stealth system, where you are given a choice to creep up to enemies and take them out without expending any precious ammo – adding more choices and depth to your strategy and play style.

Player movement is also fluid, dynamic and realistic. From the spring in their steps to the landing of their jumps, the character models synchronize very well with the Dual Shock controller.

This is a pleasant detail that not only makes gameplay smoother, but also brings forth a nice level of realism to the game.

Speaking of realism, The Last of Us employs a real-time crafting system that lets you utilise the many things that you scavenge from the environment. Metal pipes, baseball bats and xenocrypts are just some of the things you can use to dispose of your enemies. Empty bottles can be thrown to distract the infected while you stealthily creep past them, or it can be used to start a fire. Enemies are endless, and your strategy to take on the game will change and vary continuously.

However, the gameplay has its flaws. The game often contradicts its own rules. A type of infected with well-tuned ears can hear your slightest movements you make even as you tiptoe your way through the level, but yet they remain standing passively even when Joel’s companions start blabbering loudly in the open.

Another example would have to be the several locked doors found in the game that can only be interacted with after defeating the enemies in the game, hence narrowing potential strategies to just a measly few, mostly resulting in a shoot off.

These overlooked details can actually dull the gameplay according to your preferences and makes you question the underlying themes and programming behind the game.

Still, The Last of Us is a great PlayStation 3 exclusive that impresses story-wise and in its gameplay mechanics.

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**The downside to photo messaging app Snapchat**

**By: Emily Heng**

Snapchat, a photo messaging application, allows users to take photos, record videos, add texts and drawings and send them to a controlled list of recipients with the option of a time limit.

Though it prevents users from saving images onto their mobile devices, there are some people who have overcome this barrier by simply taking a screenshot of the photo instead.

This has resulted in outrage and complaints as users find their leaked photos floating around social networking sites like Facebook and Tumblr.

“I think I would feel violated if something like that happened to me,” says Evelyn, 21, “It’s like an invasion of a person’s privacy. Snapchat is a place where we dare to be goofy and crazy, if someone was to upload my private snaps onto public sharing websites, I would be really angry.”

While most users use Snapchat to send random, innocent photos and videos to their friends, there are also some users who utilise Snapchat to send sexually explicit photos and videos.

Snapchat’s impermanence, while allowing teens to be spontaneous, also encourages teens to be more risqué, as there will be no evidence of their behaviour.

While Snapchat was initially developed as a sexting game, majority of users do not use Snapchat for sexting.

“I never considered that Snapchat would be used for sexting,” admits Joanne Lim, “I assumed that it was harmless fun. But now that I think about it, Snapchat can actually be used as a sort of blackmail. It could encourage bullying or threatening especially amongst the younger, pre-teen set.”

Snapchat is currently at its peak of popularity, with it having about 30 million users. But it remains to be seen if Snapchat would continue to reign and achieve the same status as popular social media websites like Facebook.

Felicia Loh, an engineering student says: “I like how it’s not like typical social media websites where there’s the constant pressure to look perfect.”

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**Dying to know that song playing right now?**

**By: Wee Jing Ye**

You’re grooving to that song playing on the radio, but the fun ends when it’s over! You start asking around for the name of that song, but chances are, no one knows. Lucky for you, Shazam can now be a quick and efficient solution to this hassle.

Founded by Chris Barton in 1999, Shazam is a music identification service that tells you exactly the name of the music playing through any speaker. This free application analyses the captured sound, searching for a match based on audio fingerprint, found in a database of more than 11 million songs.

Press the Shazam button, hold your phones up to a speaker. If there is a match, the information is returned to the user. If no matches are found, the application simply displays an error message.

To make the application even more useful, the results page includes certain options such as a shortcut to the iTunes music store, allowing you to buy the song directly from your phone.

However, this free application certainly has its limitations.

When tested on campus, Shazam failed to identify songs 25 percent of the time, and identified songs incorrectly 10 percent of the time.

Background noise (especially in our crowded canteens) proved to be a key factor for the poor success rate of Shazam’s ability to identify songs playing on the radio.

Shazam also faces problems identifying less well-known artists and songs. Music from less established artists may fail to identify songs playing on the radio. Shazam’s ability in identifying music from more famous artists, such as Britney Spears, but tends to have a lower consistency and a common “cover system” that lets you take cover while facing the enemy’s firepower.

The software was nearly perfect in identifying music from more famous artists such as Backstreet Boys or Britney Spears, but tends to have a lower consistency when it came to the more obscure bands such as The Dear Hunter.

With that said, constant updates are made to the servers and music database, and Shazam is certainly one of those apps you would want to keep handy.
Third spot at North Face Boulderactive

By: Joshua Yong

Temasek Polytechnic’s rock climbing team rose to third spot in the North Face Boulderactive competition. They beat 37 other teams from various national and international climbing clubs in the challenge held on Aug 4 at the Suntec City Tropics Atrium.

The win came as a pleasant surprise to the team members, Gimson Teh, Muhammad Farhan and Esther Lee, as well as Ryan Yeo, the captain of Temasek Polytechnic’s team.

“When I heard the team ended up in 3rd place, I was extremely surprised because when I saw their climb, it was not very significant as it seemed that they had the same score as the other 40 teams. But when the results came in, everybody in the team was thrilled!”

The event, organised for the 16th time by The National University of Singapore’s Climbing Club, is said to be one of the most challenging, prestigious and demanding in the region. Competitors flew in from countries ranging from Thailand to Hong Kong, all to challenge themselves on the courses set by legends in the art of bouldering, Yuji Hirayama and Masatosh Sugita.

“Bouldering is a sport that is both physically and mentally exhausting because climbers’ problem-solving skills are important when trying to plan their routes on the courses,” said Hirayama, 44, one of the two world-renowned climbers tasked with setting the courses for the competition.

More than a hundred gathered at the 25-foot wall to watch the rock climbing event on the final day. “It looked like nobody was going to be able to make it all the way up as the climbers were trying time and again, but kept falling”, said Madam Teo Ying Lin, who brought her sons down for all three days of the event, hoping to inspire them to try and take up the sport when they get older.

However, the climbers were unfazed by their failed attempts and because when I saw their climb, it was not very significant as it seemed that they had the same score as the other 40 teams. But when the results came in, everybody in the team was thrilled!”

The competition consists of two sections – “Still Waters Competition” (SWC) and “Open Waters Competition” (OWC), where possible rescue scenarios are mimicked, and participants are judged based on their speed and skills.

Still Water events are held at public swimming pools, involving swimming with manikins, fins or torpedo tubes, and the events are typically obstacle swimming related. The Open Water events are held at beaches, with events involving boarding or paddling on a rescue board, sprinting on the beach, and swimming in the sea.

Swimming secretary, Chan Ying Ying, says that observation time prior to the start of the event, which allowed them to strategically plan a route that they could take.

TP’s lofty achievement was clearly a product of the passion and dedication of the team members as most of them found it hard to juggle training and their studies.

They had also suffered minor injuries prior to the competition that could have potentially hindered their performance.

However, having overcome all these challenges, this win has only intensified their passion for the sport, motivating the climbers to aim for gold the next time around.

Ryan also has renewed confidence in his team and is eager to implement new training tactics such as endurance sessions, which would include staying on the wall for at least 10 minutes.

“The competition was one of the harder ones to win, especially when the route-setters are from Japan. The style of the competition caught some of our climbers slightly off guard. But now that TP has won, I’m sure that TP will be able to win the upcoming competitions. I would say a job well done to our climbers!”

Reeling in gold, silver at the national lifesaving contest

By: Erica Leong

Temasek Polytechnic struck gold in 10 out of 26 events at the “Still Waters Competition” of the 36th National Lifesaving Competition held on Aug 11, at the Kallang Basin Swimming Complex.

It scored a total of 181 points – 12 points above second place holders, National University of Singapore (NUS). It was an exceptional day for the girls, with a record set at a whopping 2 min 3.47 sec for the 4 x 50m Medley Relay, as well as coming in first for the 4 x 50m Obstacle Swim.

The women’s team consisted of Katherine Chen, Janine Chua, Pamela Yob, Jeryn Fok, Jannie Yen, Chua Fu Ming and Chan Ying Ying.

“The hard work really pays off, and I feel happy because you do it for the team, and you do it for yourself,” said Katherine.

The boys also had a good day, coming in first place in various categories, such as 4 x 25m Manikin Relay, 4 x 50m Medley Relay and the 4 x 50m Obstacle Relay, where yet again another record was set at 1 min 52 sec. The team consisted of Aaron Yeo, Aaron Soo, Dzulhaili Bin Mohd, Hooi Shao Kai, Law Te Hao, Poh Wei Jia and Joel Ching.

“We’ve done really well this year, improved a lot compared to last year, and we’re just really happy,” said captain Aaron Yeo.

Apart from group relays, the team also did well in the individual categories, receiving four gold and five silver medals.

“I’m pretty pleased, some of them have performed up to expectation, but some of them, of course, can do better. In general, I think it’s a good performance,” said swimming coach, Kelvin Chen.

He added: “We’ve been working hard, and as usual we will always aim for the top overall, in both the women’s and men’s categories.”

The National Lifesaving Competition is an annual event for swimming clubs from local tertiary institutes and lifesaving clubs to compete at a national level.

The competition consists of two sections – “Still Waters Competition” and you do it for yourself,” said Katherine.
By: Amirul Asyraf

Muhammad Zaidi is not too old for colouring. In fact, he wants to make it his career.

A third-year student from the Diploma in Visual Communication, Zaidi single-handedly produced and compiled a 10-page comic book in the midst of juggling his internships and his final-year project.

“Wanda”, which took months to complete, tells the story of a girl who was sent to Earth to be protected from a cursed witch, whose beauty was to be reincarnated in the next female descent of the royal family.

“Since I’m not working for any comic book publisher, I have to coordinate everything by myself,” Zaidi said.

And the steps behind producing a comic book is not what one might expect. After composing a story, Zaidi first sketches the scenes in a series of storyboards, before scanning and tracing them digitally.

He then adds colours to the graphics using Adobe Photoshop. Once that is done, he switches between Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign for the final touch of typography.

“I want to make sure everything is professionally done,” said Zaidi.

Apart from technical difficulties, other obstacles that he has to overcome include time constraints as he juggles schoolwork and external projects. However, Zaidi, who is an active member of Temasek Polytechnic’s Dramatec, never fails to set aside time for his family.

As a child, Zaidi was exposed by his father to many different types of drawing and painting methods, which sparked his interest in the fine arts. It was also then that a cousin bought him his first X-Men comic book.

“I observed how much detail was put into the comic drawings in order to make it come alive - like a movie in millions of frames,” Zaidi said.

He occasionally visits behance.net for inspiration, an online portfolio website that allows illustrators to showcase their works.

Zaidi discovered his artistic side through reading artist handbooks, watching video tutorials and tuning in to the popular TV programme, Art Attack.

He further developed his potential by attending various art classes throughout the course of his primary and secondary education. Zaidi’s father, Mr Hashim, who has always been a huge inspiration to Zaidi, supports his son’s dream in any way possible including providing him with sufficient art materials.

“If comics are his passion, then I will help him make it his dream happen. We are a team. His future is my future too,” Mr Hashim said.

“I initially planned a sequel to Wanda, but with so many things that was happening, I felt a need for some self-reflection. Hence, I decided to produce something about my life; a story about a teenager which others can relate to,” Zaidi said.

Zaidi hopes to get an internship at Marvel Comics in California after working for a few years, perhaps as an illustrator.
Bands by the Bay - a showcase for TP and school talents

By: Tan Shi Wei

Bands by the Bay was a two-day event held on July 27 at the Merlion Park in front of One Fullerton. Surrounded by landmarks such as the Singapore Flyer and the Esplanade, the event was organised by TP students from the Corporate Events Management Elective.

Performers included TP students and alumni, as well as bands from various primary and secondary schools. Up-and-coming local band, Still Sunrise, opened the show.

The alternative, indie folk band comprises various talented TP alumni. Lead singer Glen Wei, 20, was from Information and Technology and guitarist Yuresh, 20, was from Law and Management. They had both participated in the recent Channel 5 singing competition, the Final One.

Other band members included Winston Koh, 19, from Ngee Ann Polytechnic's Banking and Finance and violinist, Johnson Cheung, 21. The man behind all of their music videos on YouTube is also a fellow alumnus, Matthew Lee, 20, from Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Undaunted by the scorching sun, Still Sunrise's soulful vocals and impeccable harmonisation echoed through Merlion Park as they performed songs such as For Emma by Bon Iver, The Girl by City and Color and an emotional original composition named Untitled.

The band is currently in preparation for their first EP, which will be original.

Johnson said: “I think our music comes from our personalities and experiences. For me personally, I come from a classical music background and I believe that ‘things happen for a reason’. We sing to create an idea or a philosophy. But not just to sing. We want to focus on sharing our music instead of selling our music.”

Next on stage was singing duo Jeremy Lu, 18, from Business and Management, and Shannon Pang, 18, from Communications and Media Management. They performed an array of hits like Titanium by David Guetta, Little Things by One Direction and Sunday Morning by Maroon 5. The childhood buddies upload their song covers on their YouTube channel, “Jeremy and Shannon95”, which has garnered over 2,500 views.

“We have been good friends ever since we were 6 years old. We first performed at our secondary school's graduation. We came together to sing because we enjoy the music, not for the viewership,” said Jeremy.

Other performers included Denisha Tan, 18, from Hospitality and Tourism Management. A total of 14 school bands also performed on both Saturdays.

The organising team leader, Esmay Lai, 19, said they had limited time to coordinate the whole event. However, they were prepared and counteracted many of the challenges that occurred, such as wet weather and technical difficulties.

Dressing in step with music

More artists are teaming up with designers to match their fashion and music.

By: Serene Kwek

Lady Gaga once said: “Fashion and music goes hand-in-hand, and they always should. It’s the artist’s job to create imagery that matches the music.”

Think of a music style, and your mind immediately pictures the style of clothing associated with it.

As such, music and fashion collaborations are aplenty, like the recent Saint Laurent Paris Pre-Fall 2013 campaign that featured Courtney Love, Kim Gordon, Marilyn Manson and Ariel Pink.

A major music fan, Heidi Slimane gathered the artists for his Saint Laurent Music Project that was shot by the creative director himself.

The project saw a growing number of rock stars styling themselves in pieces from both old and new Saint Laurent collections to showcase their individualistic tastes.

This mutually exclusive marriage dates back all the way to the 90s and Hip Hop royalty Tupac was one of the first to pioneer the trend by dressing in high-end brands and introducing Versace's silk dress shirts to the Hip Hop culture.

Tupac's influence can still be seen today, evident in rappers such as ASAP Rocky, who has appeared on the covers of many fashion magazines, including Vogue.

In Fashion Killa, ASAP Rocky raps: “I love your Linda Farrow, I adore your Dior Your Damir Doma, Vena Cava from the store.” – he definitely knows what he's talking about.

The fashion lovers' eclectic mix of streetwear and high fashion has won over many fans and designers alike, and counts Rick Owens and Raf Simons as some of his favourite designers.

Now, ASAP Rocky is collaborating with Raf Simons, under the Raf Simons 1995 tag.

More artists, realising fashion as an integral part of the image they want to project (and sell), are teaming up with designers and creating their own unique styles.

Rihanna recently tried her hand at designing with her capsule collection for River Island, which has since prompted a second collection.

Sean Combs’ Sean John label, which was launched in 1998, has also enjoyed critical and commercial success, with him being awarded the CFDA Men’s Designer of the Year award in 2004.

Other successful celebrity fashion lines include Gwen Stefani’s L.A.M.B and Victoria Beckham's namesake label.

But with hits, there are misses, such as Kanye West's fashion line that has been met with mixed reviews.

Examples that demonstrate the importance of the connection between fashion and music are countless.

With the right styling, just like packaging, fashion can do wonders for the careers of musicians and elevate their mass appeal.

In the words of Karl Lagerfeld: “Fashion and music are the same, because music expressions its period too.”

Fashion and music goes hand-in-hand, and they always should. It’s the artist’s job to create imagery that matches the music.

– Lady Gaga