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MediaCorp Press Ltd
Caldecott Broadcast Centre,
Annex Building, Level 3,
Andrew Road,
Singapore 299939
Tel 6333 3888 | Fax 6534 4217

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PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

A tendency to be myopic?

A committee that was more representative would have enhanced report

Letter from Kwan Jin Yao

THE report by the Programme Advisory Committee for English Programmes (Pace) reflects a considered study and overview of English programmes in Singapore.

Indeed, the observations on info-programmes on the arts, culture, and sports – as well as those catered for the elderly – are valid arguments.

Moreover, the praise for select entertainment programmes highlighting unique Singapore cultures is well deserved.

However, when looking at radio programmes, there seems to be a tendency for the committee to look through the myopic perspectives of children and the elderly.

This is reflected by the committee's persistent reference to the mild sexual innuendos and references that were meant as

light-hearted humour. On closer inspection, the committee would have realised that stations such as Class95 are aimed at a more mature audience, whom I believe have the discretion to differentiate between light humour and offensive, derogatory statements.

The committee also needs to understand that television is not catered to a specific group with perceived tastes.

In terms of children's programmes, while it is true that some depict violence and "glamorise" the supernatural, we must be cognizant of the fact that a complete removal of these programmes might turn children to the Internet, where episodes are readily available and easily accessible.

Whatever the programmes, the key is sometimes not about their content per se, but how children are educated to place moral or value judgements on what they have watched. There comes a point when rules and regulations might even provide an incentive for children to rebel against the status quo, thus rendering all these "markers" irrelevant.

Overall, the report deserves merit for

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its effort to acknowledge that, like everything else, there is room for improvement in the broadcasting industry.

However, through the process of the study, there seems to be the lack of real exchange or interaction with the producers or individuals involved in the programmes.

This absence of balance and understanding undermines the value of the report, especially when many on the committee are professionals whose job-scopes revolve around students, youths and the elderly.

Had there been a more representative and consultative committee, this report would have been greatly enhanced.

T He went over and above the call of duty.

Read Teo Peck Hwee's views on an SPCA officer at www.todayonline.com/voices

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Foreign workers' welfare important

Letter from Jeffrey Law Lee Beng

THE report, "Partnership between NTUC and SNEF to benefit migrant workers" (Sept 3) underlines the importance attached to our continued employment of foreign workers.

Undeniably, as migrant workers have and will contribute to our economy, it is imperative for employers to care for the well-being of their employees, who in turn will be productive and loyal to the company.

Having a new permanent Migrant Workers Centre at its office in Rangoon Road is a shot in the arm for both

employers and unions to have better rapport with migrant workers. Activities promoting good work habits, work safety and hygiene are beneficial to all concerned, and should be organised periodically.

Most foreign workers feel at home while working and living here. They are an asset to the development of Singapore, and recognition and trust should be accorded them.

Work issues between workers and bosses will crop up from time to time. However, with the strong NTUC-SNEF partnership, matters can be overcome and resolved amicably.

This notice in Bedok a tad unsettling

Letter from Dr Tan Chek Wee

A NOTICE put up by the Bedok Branch Office of the Housing and Development Board informs residents that certain blocks in Bedok South Avenue 3 are currently vacant as their residents have moved on to replacement housing.

It says that pending future development of the site, the residential units will be leased out, with the majority to Singapore Citizens, Singapore Permanent Residents and students, with the rest to S Pass and Employment Pass holders.

It also states that "there will be no

construction and marine sector foreign workers" in the flats.

These foreign workers risk their lives and limbs to help build this city so that we have a "good" life. However, notices such as this perpetuate the prejudice against them. The bottomline of such notices is that "you are not welcome to live in our heartlands".

I want to know how such a decision was arrived at. Is it based on the consensus of the residents in the estate (I certainly was not asked if I agreed to this discriminatory policy or not) or is this based on fear of potential complaints?