

MY VIEWS IN

6 SECONDS

FIT CABS WITH
TrafficGEM DEVICE

I REFER to the report, "Beat traffic jams with this GEM of a device" (*my paper*, Sept 2).

There is no doubt that the TrafficGEM service, which is made available through a portable device developed jointly by the Automobile Association of Singapore, V3 Teletech and MiTAC, will help motorists reduce their commuting time by avoiding congested roads.

Cabs should be equipped with such a device if the service can help passengers get to work in time during the morning peak hours.

Taxi operators should take the initiative by studying how they can improve their services with the use of this technology.

Mr Nelson Quah

NO SEASON TICKETS
FOR NEARBY CARPARK

I LIVE in St George's Road and have parked my car for the past eight years in a Housing Board carpark at the foot of my block under the season-parking scheme.

On Monday evening, I was not able to renew my season-parking coupon online or at the AXS machine.

Instead, I received a pop-up notice with the message: "Season-parking tickets fully sold. Please approach the HDB branch office for alternative carpark."

An early notice should have been given to residents, instead of such a last-minute notification.

My household includes my ageing parents and two young children.

Shouldn't residents of the blocks nearest the carpark be given priority when it comes to the allocation of season-parking coupons?

I hope HDB could look into the matter and ease the inconvenience faced by residents.

Mr Steven Liew



MY SAY

Write to us at my paper. Please include your full name, address and a telephone contact number. E-mail your opinions to myp@sph.com.sg. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and length.

Suicide is never a solution

I REFER to the report, "Gone in their prime" (*my paper*, Sept 2).

It was a great pity to read about the Korean celebrities who had committed suicide.

Not only did a lot of potential and talent go down the drain, but the deaths could have had consequences for society and individuals, particularly their fans.

The thought that suicide could be glamorised as a way out of one's problems is terrifying.

Many might be misled by the belief that stress, guilt and shame are justification for suicide.

Celebrities, like the rest of us, have a moral responsibility to ensure that others do not entertain suicidal thoughts because of their actions.

Earlier this year, Time magazine ran an excellent article entitled "Deadly business".

In the story, the author observed a symbiotic relationship between economic downturns and suicide rates in Asia.

There are many reasons for this, but the pressures of unemployment and the stress to make ends meet are often seen as reasons for a spike in suicide rates during a recession.

Indeed, in the midst of a downturn, these trigger factors abound.

Nevertheless, it is crucial for us to keep the faith and remain strong, and believe that the best days are ahead of us.

This has been a challenging time for many, but suicide should never be the way out.

The Health Promotion Board is running an advertising campaign to remind Singaporeans to stay positive.

This is an excellent initiative. Perhaps the Government could complement it by boosting measures to help those most affected by the recession.

Many programmes are already in place, but it would not hurt for them to be enhanced.

Every effort helps and would be appreciated.

It is during these trying

times that we must remain resolute and mentally strong – not just for ourselves, but also for our family and friends.

The road ahead might be a bumpy one, but help will always be there.

Mr Kwan Jin Yao

Where to get help:
Samaritans of Singapore
Tel: 1800-221-4444

Singapore Association
for Mental Health
Tel: 1800-283-7019

HELPDESK 我的字典

Glamorised: 魅力化
mèi lì huà

Symbiotic: 共生的
gòng shēng de

Faith: 信心 xìn xīn

Resolute: 坚定 jiān dìng

I REFER to the report, "Gone in their prime" (*my paper*, Sept 2), on Korean celebrity suicides.

It is sad to know that young people are choosing to take their own lives so early.

What is "face" all about?

I wonder about it sometimes, and have concluded that it is worth nothing.

If one is in need of help, he or she should ask for it.

One could also seek professional or religious guidance.

This is called courage, and celebrities in particular should set a good example for their fans to follow.

People who look down on those who ask for help have issues and are cowards.

Ms Grace Luo Peishan

Too many malls, not
enough green spaces

I THANK Ms Leona Boey for her commentary on the upgrading of Yishun Pond (*my paper*, Sept 2).

Sentosa and Marina South were beautiful getaways from the city with a unique feel, but no longer.

The rate at which every bit of green space is being filled up with shopping centres, apartments or restaurants is scary.

This short-sighted approach to development would lead to a lower quality of life for Singaporeans as it does not cater to a range of lifestyles.

There are too many restaurants and shopping centres, but not enough parks for people to exercise in.

It also does no favours for the architectural landscape.

WHERE I live, there are places where one can enjoy peace and tranquillity, such as Bishan Park.

Alas, there are hardly any visitors there, especially on weekdays.

Why do Singaporeans not relish the opportunity to be close to nature and enjoy the greenery?

Perhaps it is because many of

Void spaces enhance the beauty of their surroundings.

If you were to fill St Peter's Square in Vatican City with eateries, you would destroy not only the beauty of the square, but also the beauty of St Peter's Basilica, which adjoins the square.

When countries reach First World status, residents tend to value parks over shopping centres.

Singapore should be no different.

Ms Boey's article voiced the concerns of many of us who believe that it is in Singapore's long-term interest to provide its residents with facilities for a balanced lifestyle and a beautiful environment.

Mr Carlo Rossi

us feel lonely and uneasy in secluded places, as we are used to living in densely populated areas.

Another reason could be that there are too many shopping centres in Singapore, where we can while away the hours in air-conditioned comfort.

Mr Jeffrey Law Lee Beng

Window-cleaning chore
could turn deadly

I LIVE in Tampines Street 71 and took this photo of a domestic worker cleaning the windows of a nearby flat.

She was on the ninth floor, but did not seem bothered about her safety.

My mother was worried for her when she saw her going about her chores, and was glad that she finished them

safe and sound.

Hopefully, this is the last time the worker had to clean the windows in that manner.

I hope the authorities could further raise awareness about the dangers of cleaning windows this way.

Mr Vincent Teo