

ROUND-UP  
OF VIEWSSTRUCTURES AT MACRITCHIE  
PARK INSPECTED REGULARLY

PUB, the national water agency, and the National Parks Board thank Mr Chin Kee Thou for his letter "Inspect MacRitchie Park structures for safety" (*my paper*, March 9).

We would like to assure Mr Chin that the zigzag bridge is regularly inspected and maintained.

In addition, the second phase of MacRitchie Reservoir Park's redevelopment under the Active, Beautiful, Clean Waters (ABC Waters) programme is expected to commence in the middle of this year, and will include a new deck and lighting for the bandstand and zigzag bridge.

The public is welcome to call PUB's 24-hour call centre on 1800-2846600 to provide feedback.

**MR TAN NGUAN SEN**  
DIRECTOR  
CATCHMENT & WATERWAYS  
PUB, THE NATIONAL WATER  
AGENCY

**MR KONG YIT SAN**  
DIRECTOR (PARKS)  
NATIONAL PARKS BOARD

SPREAD OUT LOCATIONS  
OF NEW NURSING HOMES

AS THE population in Singapore ages, more nursing homes will be needed.

A recent report stated that two new nursing homes will be located in Jurong West Street 91 and Bukit Batok Street 51.

But why build two nursing homes in the west?

The facilities may be too far away for many citizens. Perhaps these facilities should be built more evenly across the island for residents' convenience.

**MS CHUA KIM CHOO**

CLOCKS IN TOA PAYOH MALL  
NEED MAINTENANCE

IN TOA Payoh Mall, there are four arches with two clocks each.

Two of the clocks have stopped, and one has a dislodged minute hand.

The time on the rest of the clocks is also not synchronised.

Furthermore, some of these clocks are not lighted in the evenings.

The town council should be more proactive in ensuring the clocks are maintained properly, not only for the residents' sake but also to portray a good image to visitors and tourists visiting the heartland.

**MR CHIN KEE THOU**

Flexible public-transport  
system must cater to the elderly

REFER to the parliamentary report, "S'poreans happier with public transport" (*my paper*, March 12).

Singapore has one of the best public-transportation systems in the world. The network of buses, trains and taxis has been developed and enhanced throughout the years.

Despite its high standard, the system still has to cope with challenges such as an increasing population size, limited land area and the easing of road congestion, as well as global warming.

The call for greater use of public-transport services must be **complemented** by an improvement in the quality and quantity of those services.

And, indeed, there have been improvements made, catering to the needs of different groups of individuals. For example, in terms of the installation of safe-

ty barriers and other infrastructure to assist the elderly and less mobile.

Priority seats have been labelled and courtesy campaigns held to encourage commuters to be more civic-minded.

The extension of the bus-lane scheme is also a step forward in convincing the public of the efficiency of bus rides.

However, public-transport-system operators should never rest on their laurels.

Trains and buses remain extremely crowded during peak hours.

It would be ideal to not only increase the number of trains during peak hours, but to also do so during **fringe** peak hours – a designated time period before and after peak hours – so that waiting times can be shortened significantly.

With more train stations

and, perhaps, bus routes opening up in coming years, the public-transportation system will become more comprehensive, but getting around on the different transport services may become too **complicated** for commuters, especially the elderly, to understand.

Genuine integration between MRT, LRT and bus services seems to be lacking.

It would be ideal to have an easily accessible online system to help commuters plan their routes, by allowing them to map out how best to travel seamlessly on a range of different services to get to different destinations.

To benefit the elderly and people who do not have access to the Internet, staff at bus interchanges and train stations should be trained to have such information at their fingertips.

Such proposals might seem daunting initially, but the same was said at the time when the decision to construct the MRT train system was made.

Our public-transportation system must remain **flexible** as we advance as a nation.

**MR KWAN JIN YAO**

## HELPDESK 我的字典

**Complemented:** 互补 hù bǔ

**Fringe:** 边沿 biān yán

**Complicated:** 复杂 fù zá

**Flexible:** 灵活的 líng huó de

## WRITE TO US AT MY PAPER.

E-mail your opinions to [myp@sph.com.sg](mailto:myp@sph.com.sg)  
Please include your full name, address and a telephone contact number. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and length.

Jack Neo's family  
needs space to heal

JACK Neo's family must be going through a tough time.

Few events cause as much turmoil in a marriage as infidelity. However, as devastating as its impact on the relationship may be, the marriage can be healed, albeit slowly.

It takes a lot of courage for Mrs Neo to forgive her husband.

Now is not the time for a public lynching of Neo. He has contributed much to the entertainment industry here, beginning from his TV career in the 1980s.

Perhaps a support group for spouses dealing with infidelity in a marriage should be set up.

We need to give such families care and support. With both spouses' desire to rebuild their relationship and given time to heal, some couples emerge from the trying period with a stronger and more honest relationship than before.

**MR GEORGE KOO**

## Regulate movie industry

ONE of the women linked to Jack Neo – Foyce Le Xuan, 25 – said in an interview that she did not know how to reject the director's alleged advances when she was a newbie in 2004, as she did not want to offend him.

There is a perception that movie producers have the power to blacklist young talent. This is disturbing, and I hope that the authorities will regulate the industry.

**MR COLIN ONG TAU SHIEN**

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