

Remember S'pore's founding fathers

THE passing of Dr Goh Keng Swee, a humble leader and undoubtedly the architect of modern Singapore, shows that there is not enough coverage of the old guard and their achievements.

It is obvious that the former deputy prime minister touched many generations of Singaporeans.

This is evident from the accolades from an opposition MP, on online portals and from the common man.

He delivered no flowery speeches nor gave empty promises to win votes. Instead, he was a highly principled leader that cared for the people he governed and he delivered on so many fronts.

In my opinion, he knew he had had the opportunity of a great education at a time when many Singaporeans were not educated, and he held a deep belief that he could make a difference in Singapore.

Such leaders are a dying

breed in an ever-growing materialistic and individualistic world.

His genius and insights were evident when China requested him to be its first foreign adviser.

The late S. Rajaratnam said it best in 1985 when he noted that Dr Goh was willing to relinquish power when he retired from politics.

This is the mark of a true and confident leader. Future generations of Singaporeans should not forget the massive debt of gratitude we owe to the old guard.

Although Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew has made enormous contributions to the nation, let us not forget the other founding fathers who took up the "impossible" challenge with him, risking their lives to change this backwater with no natural resources into the thriving and ultra-modern metropolis it is today.

Thank you, Dr Goh, and rest in peace.

MR JAMES ANG

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Memorable experience at Universal Studios



BY KWAN JIN YAO

MY FAMILY and neighbours visited Universal Studios Singapore (USS) for dinner and a walk around the place last Saturday.

We paid \$2 each for tickets under the Hollywood After Hours deal, which allows visitors into the Hollywood Boulevard on Fridays and Saturdays from 7pm to 9pm, for dining and shopping.

We had a wonderful time enjoying the sights and sounds there.

We were captivated by the festive and cheery atmosphere. My mother was delighted with the overall experience, and the effort put in to design and conceptualise the theme park.

Having been to a few theme parks in various countries, I find that the quality of USS and its innovations are just as remarkable.

There were service trams to take visitors from the large carpark to the lobby conveniently, movie screenings, and background music playing throughout the boulevard, making the visit enjoyable.

Of course, there are areas for improvement. First, it might be wise to extend the opening hours for families who have dinner at restaurants in USS. We barely had sufficient time to enjoy the boulevard's ambience after our meal.

Also, the narrow configuration of some shops makes them almost inaccessible, especially for those pushing prams, when huge crowds gather.

There may be long queues and crowds, but what is an entertainment hub without the hub-bub of activity?

The presence of Singaporean visitors and visitors from all

over the world reflects USS' immense popularity.

However, whether it stays attractive depends on its ability to maintain standards and innovate further.

The slightly smaller area of the theme park should not deter its development. Rather, it should encourage the USS team to continue pushing boundaries.

A big thank you to all USS staff for the commitment to their work, and for making our experience a memorable one.

◆ The writer is a full-time national serviceman who blogs about current affairs at <http://guanyinmiao.wordpress.com>

HELPDESK 我的字典

Wonderful: 极好的 jí hǎo de

Theme park: 主题公园 zhǔ tí gōng yuán

Trams: 电车 diàn chē

Innovate: 创新 chuàng xīn

Aviation Gallery not for studying or sleeping

I REFER to Mr Raja Mitra's letter, "The misuse of Changi Airport's Aviation Gallery" (*my paper*, May 12).

We thank him for his compliment on the Changi Aviation Gallery in Terminal 2 and his suggestion on how to improve the facility.

The public, young and old, are most welcome to enjoy the various facilities in the public areas of Changi Airport, including our new Aviation Gallery.

The gallery provides interesting insights into Changi's ground operations and Singapore's aviation history, while engaging visitors in a fun and enjoyable learning environment.

It is neither intended nor designed to

be a place for studying or sleeping. Signs to discourage such activities are placed within the gallery.

We agree with Mr Mitra that students and other members of the public who go to the airport should conduct themselves well and not cause inconvenience to others.

With the aim of preserving an enjoyable experience for visitors to the Aviation Gallery, our duty managers may request people not to study or sleep in the facility. In this regard, we seek the understanding of students and the public.

MR JEREMY YEO
HEAD, TERMINAL 2
CHANGI AIRPORT GROUP

Let stakeholders help write school mottos

I AM often intrigued by schools' mottos and mission statements. Most of them attach importance to qualities and ideals such as integrity and success.

Although students are aware of the mottos (which are printed on some school badges), some treat the words on the badge as a mere decorative item.

This is usually due to the apathy of the school management, which did not place emphasis on advocating the mission statement.

This might be because the creation of the school motto was not a shared effort.

For a motto to reflect the school environment and its aspirations, its creation must be a joint effort by key stakeholders of the school: teachers, parents and alumni members.

These stakeholders can help by speaking up about their perceptions of the school and indicating what values are most important to them.

MR JEFFREY LAW LEE BENG

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