

'We're lucky it was just paint'

Protection before profit

Letter from Gurmit Singh Kullar

IN THE wake of the train vandalism saga, it is clear that security at train depots rests squarely with SMRT.

But let's not forget that the SMRT is a for-profit company.

Will the SMRT now raise fares to cover the cost of higher security? Can the SMRT refuse to upgrade security because it is too costly?

Whether SMRT improves its security or not, it is answerable to its shareholders.

Most residents here have little choice in our integrated public transportation system. We're not going to start taking taxis to work or school because we feel the trains are unsafe. What hits us in the pocket is often more powerful than what stirs the heart.

Regular and spontaneous security audits for all public resources managed by private entities must be conducted by the authorities to ensure that standards are met and shortcomings highlighted and resolved.

Address the weak link

Letter from Kenneth Gerard Pinto

I REFER to the article "SMRT is responsible, says Shanmugam" (June 21).

The police already actively patrol MRT stations and trains. However, the best security is only as good as the weakest link.

It would seem that the inadequate security at SMRT's depots undermines existing efforts by the Government to protect public areas of the MRT system.

What if, instead of just graffiti, it had been a bomb? The policemen patrolling the MRT network would have been powerless to prevent such a catastrophe because the back gate had been left open, by SMRT, so to speak.

While SMRT is responsible for securing its premises, who ensures that the security framework handed to SMRT is adequate and that the suggested measures are implemented in a fit and proper manner? Surely SMRT is not left to its own devices on this matter?

We are lucky that it was merely paint this time round.

How the NEA could help PUB

Weather updates could ease flood management

Letter from Kwan Jin Yao

SINGAPOREANS are angry because of the tremendous damage and inconvenience caused by the floods on Orchard Road last week; stunned by how consecutive flash floods could occur within a span of seven months; and fearful because of the degree of uncertainty and insecurity wrought.

Millions of dollars have gone down the drain — literally — shop-owners desperately try to salvage their losses. Commuters were greatly affected by traffic gridlock.

Singapore's unique drainage systems and geographical limitations can exponentially multiply the consequences of future

negligence; similarly threatening lives and property. This is a timely wake-up call for PUB to evaluate its supposedly "comprehensive" maintenance system, and tighten regulatory controls in this area.

Furthermore, it seems logical for PUB to work more closely with the National Environment Agency to get updates on meteorological data, so that resources and manpower can be sent to areas with higher water levels or those which are facing potential torrential downpours.

We cannot afford to leave ourselves so vulnerable to flash floods again. If appropriate action is not taken quickly, Singaporeans are in for a rough ride.

Roaches crawling up my chute

Letter from David Soh Jin Hoe

EVERY morning when I open the lid to the rubbish chute in my HDB executive flat, cockroaches rush out and scramble into my kitchen. I've gotten used to standing by with insecticide spray in hand, to ensure that the cockroaches do not make it as far as my kitchen cabinets or living room.

Cockroaches spread diseases including diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, leprosy,

plague and typhoid fever, as well as viral diseases such as poliomyelitis.

They also carry the eggs of parasitic worms and may cause allergic reactions, including dermatitis, itching, swollen eyelids and more serious respiratory conditions.

I've asked around and this is not an uncommon occurrence in many estates around the country. Could the authorities please look into eradicating this pest for once and for all, for the sake of health and hygiene?

THREE WAYS FOR BP TO FIGHT BACK

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Congratulations to our POSB Everyday Champions for Sports 2010!

The POSB Everyday Champions for Sports Award is a special award for the unsung heroes around us who have inspired others through sports.

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Read all their inspiring stories now at www.SingaporeSports.sg/POSBChampions!



Rajanthran MKS
Athletics and Football

COACHES AWARD

Rajanthran MKS is your POSB Everyday Champion for Sports.

Every athlete is special to Rajanthran MKS and he understands that all it takes is a little care and concern to maximise the individual's potential.

Rajanthran, 47, is someone who does not believe in idling his time away. A senior physiotherapy assistant at Tan Tock Seng Hospital by day, and a coach by night, he believes in spending every minute of his life meaningfully, and in particular, to promote sports.

Sports is more than just the means to build up physical strength. To Rajanthran, sports hones a person's mental fortitude as well.

A typical day for him begins at 5am with a series of physical training, followed by a game of football or more training at the end of the day. In fact, he is also a renowned champion for sports at his workplace. He rallies his colleagues together through sports, thus building rapport among colleagues.

Though he is disciplined by nature, Rajanthran, as a coach, manages his team of athletes with a good balance of care and concern. There have been many instances where he has gone out of his way to help those under his charge. He has no qualms about helping his team

members financially, because he feels that money should never get in the way of developing their potential.

One particular incident involved an athlete who had difficulty managing his schoolwork and training. Rajanthran modified his training and spent time counselling him and building up his confidence. His efforts paid off and the athlete won the race he was training for. Rajanthran MKS smiled when asked about the joys of coaching, "At the end of the day, it's about the athlete. It makes me happy when I see them happy. That to me, is a job well done."



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