

Help students pursue passions as careers



By KWAN JIN YAO

I READ with tremendous interest the report, "Creative industry gets a boost" (*my paper*, Aug 13), particularly because of the **underlying** message that academic excellence is not the only path to success.

The Ministry of Education has made inroads into diversifying the education landscape in Singapore.

In recent decades, we have

seen the establishment of new institutions such as the Singapore Sports School, and the introduction of curricula such as the Integrated Programme and the International Baccalaureate.

Pedagogies and teaching approaches have been modified to expose students to more diverse fields of interest, and to grant them ample time and space to explore and grow.

Nevertheless, many young individuals may have given up their passions in more obscure fields and, instead, are functioning as cogs in our fiscal machinery.

The first step in encouraging more young Singaporeans to

pursue their passions is to expose them to more career options, such as those in the field of arts.

There should also be an increase in the number of study awards and scholarships to encourage students to further their studies in **institutes** that cater to their specialised interests.

Upon their graduation, corporations and agencies in the private and public sector may be able to tap on their talent to help groom more people, allowing others the chance to marry their passions with their careers.

Parents and educators must also recognise that while the fields of engineering, medicine,

business and law remain important and relevant, they should allow their kids to pursue their interests based on their abilities.

Just as a young professional can rise up the ranks in a multinational corporation, a musician or a creative producer also has every shot at fame and fortune, as long as his heart is in his work, and he has dedication and **perseverance**.

Ultimately, those who succeed are those who strive on despite setbacks and challenges, regardless of their education or profession.

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

HELPDESK 我的字典

Underlying:
潜在的 qián zài de

Pedagogies:
教育学 jiào yù xué

Institutes: 学院 xué yuàn

Perseverance: 恒心 héng xīn

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Please include your full name, address and a telephone contact number. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and length.

No action on carpark fee disparity needed yet

I THANK Mr Paul Chan for his letter, "Disparity in fees causes illegal parking" (*my paper*, Aug 5).

The monthly Season Parking Ticket (SPT) charges are \$65 for HDB surface carparks and \$90 for multi-storey carparks (MSCP).

In areas where there is a

large disparity between demand for the two kinds of carparks, we would consider grouping them with a common SPT rate of \$75 per month.

This will allow motorists to park at both the surface carparks and MSCPs within the same carpark group, at the same cost.

There are two surface carparks mentioned by Mr Chan, Y31 and Y32. They are grouped together to serve Blocks 850 to 855, and 858 to 864, in Yishun Street 81. The SPTs for both carparks are not taken up fully.

Our recent survey after midnight also showed that there were still vacant spaces availa-

ble. Hence, it is not necessary to adjust the SPT charges for these carparks and the nearby MSCP at Block 848A at this juncture.

However, we will monitor the situation closely and review the need to do so in future.

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