

## MY VIEWS IN



SECONDS

## WHY NS DEFERRED FOR SONG CONTEST?

I READ that a Singaporean currently in a Taiwan singing contest has been granted national service deferment so that he can continue to stay there for the contest.

In the past, we have read news reports that Mindef is very strict when it comes to deferment. Some young men who want to defer their enlistment for further studies are not given the green light. These are men who will one day serve the country, by becoming lawyers, doctors or economists.

But why was this singer able to get the permission for army deferment? It's just a singing competition, not to mention that it's not even held in Singapore.

**Ms Loo Siew Wah**

## PUT UP POSTERS OF MURDER SUSPECT

I REFER to the case of a man who killed a woman at Causeway Point shopping centre.

Since this man, whom I consider dangerous, is still on the run, we could put up posters of him, just like we put up posters of Mas Selamat Kastari.

**Mr Ace Kindred Cheong**

## SPEEDING UP THE BOARDING PROCESS

I AM a frequent commuter on bus service 169, which is always very crowded in the morning. But I'm very glad that the driver always tries his or her best to be on time.

I would like to urge the passengers to cooperate by moving to the rear of the bus, so as to cut short the time needed for others to board.

**Mr Lek Chun Liang**

## REVIEW NON-PEAK BUS TIMES TOO

BESIDES the need to review the frequency during morning peak periods, bus companies could also address the frequency of buses during non-peak hours.

For example, it has become quite normal for one to wait as long as 30 minutes for feeder service 232 to arrive during the non-peak period.

**Ms Lee Ing Chen**



MY SAY

Do you have anything to get off your chest? 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](mailto:myp@sph.com.sg)

## Find out from bosses what their maid problems are

OVER the past few years, the Manpower Ministry (MOM) has introduced measures to ensure that maids brought into Singapore do have some basic knowledge of the English language, and that they are trained in various ways to handle their job here.

I believe many maid agencies also train the maids to their best ability so that they will be a boon to their employers during the first two years in service.

I would like to suggest that, perhaps, the MOM could conduct surveys to find out from the employers the various problems they face in dealing with their maids.

For example, are the maids forgetful?

Are they careless about their chores?

Are there certain things that they keep doing over and over again, which upset their employers?

Are the maids lazy or are they simply not interested in their job?

With such a survey, MOM would be in a better position to address those issues.

It can also share the survey findings with maid agencies to find ways of improving things or make the maids' working experience a more pleasant one.

Otherwise, we will continue to read news reports about maids being abused by their unhappy employers.

Nobody should be abused. And no employers would like their maids to keep doing things incorrectly.

We need both parties to work hand in hand so that everyone benefits from the experience.

**Mr Ishwar Mahtani**

## HELPDESK 我的字典

## Basic knowledge:

基本知识

jī běn zhī shì

## Train: 训练 xùn liàn

## Boon: 裨益 bì yì

## Survey: 调查 diào chá

## Forgetful: 健忘

jiàn wàng

## What Cedar Primary taught this teacher

I WOULD like to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the staff of Cedar Primary School.

As a trainee teacher doing my second teaching practicum (TP), I knew I was in for a great deal of on-the-job training at the school.

However, little did I expect my second TP in 2008 to be especially tough. I was assigned to a Primary 3 class of above-average pupils.

In the first few weeks of my teaching, many things seemed to go awry. Though I spent a great deal of time planning my

daily lessons, I did not manage to get the expected results.

During that period, I felt very dejected and began to question my suitability as a school teacher.

Fortunately, I had the wholehearted support of the Cedar team during those difficult weeks. Their invaluable advice opened up my perspectives on teaching and made me realise what teaching is all about.

It is not about the teaching of subject knowledge. Neither is it about teaching children. It is about the passing on of the correct values and equipping our

pupils with a variety of problem-solving strategies that are relevant in today's society.

I would like to extend my most sincere thanks to the staff of Cedar Primary School – the principal, Mrs Sharon Siew, vice-principal, Madam Ariken Charmaine, all the teachers and non-teaching staff.

Their care and concern for one another touched my heart and I believe the camaraderie at Cedar will be one of the best, if not the best, I will experience in my teaching career.

**Mr Leonard Kua Guizhong**

## Rescue dogs the unsung heroes in disasters

WE HAVE read about how our Singapore Civil Defence Force's Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team recovered five bodies in two days in the quake-affected areas of China.

However, we should also not forget about the crucial role that rescue dogs play on ground zero.

These canines are more than just creatures with a keen sense of smell. They are trained to ignore all other odours except for that of human beings during rescue operations.

They work on unstable grounds, potentially dangerous debris, and around a great deal

of noise and distraction, in the aftermath of natural disasters such as earthquakes, or man-made ones such as the 9/11 terrorist attack in New York.

Due to the inherent danger in any disaster situation, the dog must be able to work independently while its handler stays at the edge of the debris pile. Once it finds life beneath the rubble, the dog would bark to attract the attention of its handler.

These canines are highly important in situations where human ability or technology are unable to reach the victims. Experts estimate that a single dog

team can be as effective as 20 to 30 trained human searchers in locating a missing person in a given period of time.

These dogs bring great relief to the victims and their loved ones.

We may marvel at the amount of aid offered to the cyclone and earthquake victims by the people and countries all over the world. But rescue dogs, whose roles are often overlooked, are just as crucial.

Perhaps, they are the real super heroes at the scenes.

**Ms T. Sumathi**

## Give up seat without being asked

I WOULD like to share my pleasant encounter on the public transport during a trip to Guangzhou, China.

My husband, who is almost 60 years old, is still fit and healthy. So we were pleasantly surprised when children and teenagers offered their seats to him – one of them was only about eight years old.

Now, my husband had never been offered a seat on the MRT train in Singapore.

But in China, those seated far away would even get someone to guard the seats so that they could approach us to offer them. On another occasion, a woman chided her boyfriend to offer his seat.

We were very touched by their behaviour, unlike in Singapore, where young, abled men and women jostle with the elderly and less abled for seats on the train.

In Japan, commuters would not occupy a seat reserved for the elderly or those who need it.

I believe it is a matter of upbringing and education on basic courtesy.

One should give up his or her seat readily to someone who needs it – without being asked.

**Ms Anna Khoo Eng Neo**

## All have equal rights to a seat

THE debate on giving up seats on the train or bus has been around for years.

People need to understand that every commuter is entitled to a seat.

After reading the letter "Unwell, but told to give up seat" (*my paper*, June 10), I must say that I empathise with the letter writer, who was woken up by a commuter asking him to give up his seat for a woman with a baby and her bag in the stroller.

I am not ashamed to say that if I were in his shoes, I would not hesitate to tell off the said commuter for rudely waking someone up, as she tried to impress other commuters with her good samaritan deed.

**Mr Terence Lim Eu Seng**