

City Watch

Botanical research history

The Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society will hold a talk by Derek Sim Lee Cheong. He outlined 76 the Proceedings of Botany: An Overview of the History of Botanical Research in Malaya on Dec 12 at 7.30pm at Raffles Lecture Hall, Room 7, Jalan Simei, East Legation. For details, call 93-2274 8347.

Rare books auction

By Auctioneers 2018 will be holding an auction of valuable rare books at 8pm on Dec 12 at the Ansonia Mall, Singapore. There will be more than 200 books for the public to view and bid with prices starting from \$150 to \$2500. For details, call 65-7794 1177.

Holiday camp at FEAM

The Malaysian Nature Society is organising a FEAM Holiday Camp on Dec 21 and 22 for children aged 12 to 15 at the Forest Ecology Institute at Malaysia 207041. There are 100/50 seats. For details, call 604-4277 5725.

Course on computer virus

The Singapore Institute of Management will hold a Computer course on Virus, Prevention, and System Recovery at 10am on Dec 16, at Wisma WIM, Jalan Alang Mall Opp, Tanjong Pagar, Island. For details, call 65-7729 9929.

Charity concert

The Lions Club of Sentosa, in collaboration with Circle of Friends, will hold a Charity Concert, featuring Chinese instrumental, folk music at 7pm on Dec 12 at the Amphitheatre, Prince College, 4th floor, The Summit, Sulong Road, to raise funds for the 82 Lions Eye Banks and the Lions EL Rural Centre. Tickets are priced at \$2000 and \$1500. For details, call 65-712 7177 888 or Check at 924-2113 112.

Solo art exhibition

THE Six Art Gallery is holding an exhibition entitled "Crymlock", a solo art exhibition by Indonesian "DuaLion" artist Muhammad Ridwan Utomah from Dec 10 to 17. The gallery is located at 71, Jalan Sentulok, Bukit Timah, East Legation.

Popular Times

	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
KLUMPAN	5.46	5.87	6.29	7.04	8.18
SIAMBAHA	5.41	5.86	6.28	7.03	8.18
SIAMBAHA	5.44	5.87	6.29	7.04	8.18

Call and check your refrigerator

StarMetro Info Base

GENERAL INFO	2027-0000	SPV KUALA LUMPUR	2144-9523
Enforcement Directorate	6023-2015	KL Traffic Police	2072-0044
24-hour Emergency Unit (Police)	9284-2434	Chem	9284-2121
Health Department	9284-0124	PK SELANGOR	9324-2028
Licensing Department	2072-0225	PostNet	9283-2925
Mariners and Ferry		Angong	4252-2122
Taxi Department	2098-6988	Popling alarm	7996-2122
Waste Management Department	2027-4317	Shah Alam	5124-2122
Public Works Department	2027-8900	Klang	8375-2122
StreetView Division, Fire Dept.	2027-8940		
Landmark Department	2027-8880		
General Enquiry	2027-5800		

CALL THE COPS

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PostNet	9283-2925
Angong	4252-2122
Popling alarm	7996-2122
Shah Alam	5124-2122
Klang	8375-2122
PK NEGARA SEMBANG	96-794-9998

PORT KLANG	New	Week
AM	6.15	2.7
	11.52	5.4
PM	18.18	2.4

PORT SEACON	New	Week
AM	8.37	2.3
	7.44	1.0
PM	15.62	1.8
	19.27	1.1

TIDES

High	10:00
Low	16:00

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Healing powers of

By JAYAGANDI IYARAJI
Photos by AZIZAH ABDULLAH

PROBABLY the greatest clown is when he fails to make his audience laugh.

Worse still if the people he is trying to cheer up are those who gravely deserve some laughter in their lives, such as hospitalised children, under-cultured or learning-impaired, victims in psychiatric facilities, hospice patients or the bereaved.



They deserve the

services of a special breed of modern clowns called the caring clown.

"Caring clowns are different from party and corporate clowns as they are more interested in assisting people to forget their troubles than in generating applause or loud laughter."

"They also break into make-up and use funny props," said Dr Viji Rajan.

Sowmya, director of the largest and oldest clown-making centre in the world, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Clown Camp.

"Caring clowns dedicate all or at least a special portion of their clowning time to assist physiological, psychological, spiritual or social needs of their audience," he said.

The associate professor, who is also a fellow of the International Clown Association, said the camp was in Kuala Lumpur with a team of professional clown educators recently to conduct a Clown Camp for local voluntary workers.

The three sessions at the camp were Dr Lee Muthyiah and Bruce Johnson from the United States, Rose and Gigi from Japan and Sam Teo from Malaysia.

The two-day camp, hosted by Pictone Theat & Studios in Jalan Ampang, was focused on the Caring Clown Programme - aimed at providing volunteerism and training Malaysians to bring therapeutic healing of a different kind to people.

"The camp was meant to equip a new wave of community outreach programmes by tapping into the art of clowning among participants."

It provided anatomical, dramatic structure and exercises to assist participants at becoming integral theatre therapists and care providers.

Among the participants were Wang Kai, 42, and his 27-year-old son, Jimmy.

Wang, who has experience in voluntary relief work in Cambodia and Bangladesh, said he joined the camp as he wanted to learn ways to become more approachable to people of all ages and backgrounds.

"I hope to be able to use the techniques I learn here when I take part in future relief efforts."

"I've brought my son with me as

well, said that apart from working with sick children, the art, he formally 80 and society's underprivileged, caring clown sometimes found themselves working in prisons.

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Yang... wants to find more ways to connect with people from all walks of life.