

November 16 - 30, 2008

PP 14252/10/2009(022651)

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## NEWS



Their Land  
No More

3



A Fellow Of The  
Perak Academy

6



Yasmin Ahmad

9



Fund raising  
by PWW

12

# LET'S MANAGE OUR CONDOMINIUM

*A special report*



*Bureaucratic inefficiency is preventing residents  
of Prima Ipoh Condominium from managing  
their own affairs*

read more on page 2

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## THEY BLAME THE AUTHORITIES FOR THE DELAY

**Prima Ipoh Condominium** located along Jalan Raja DiHilir (Tambun Road) was the first high-rise condominium ever to be built in Ipoh. Apartments facing south, overlooking Tambun Road and the Perak Turf Club, are referred to as the "Turf View" while units facing north are referred to as the "City View". Prima Ipoh Condominium was built by Ipkuda Sdn Bhd. The project was completed in 1995.

Locality wise, it is most ideal as it is close to hotels, Parkson Grand, and the Green Town Business Centre with its host of eclectic dining outlets. It is located in a fashionable part of the city.

When Dr Shoba moved into her apartment in 1995 she was proud to be among the first to reside in the first condominium built in Ipoh.

However, things are different now. She felt cheated and feels disenfranchised. The administration and maintenance of the condominium are poor and, as a resident feels that more could be done. The responsibility of managing the condominium, she argues, should be given to the residents rather than remain in the hands of the developer. There are sufficient laws to enable them to do so but bureaucratic inefficiency is preventing the residents from doing so.

Prima Condo consists of two blocks, Ascot and Derby. There are a total of 175 units in all. Each owner pays a monthly sum of RM200 to the developer and the money goes to maintaining the apartments.

Since 1999 some of the senior residents had begun to question the developer about the state of the buildings and the maintenance of its facilities. The quality has deteriorated to an extent that it no longer

worthy of the amount that they have been paying.

Other than maintenance their grouches extend to the method of administration. The developer charges the unit owners commission for renting out their units. Appeals to the developer fell on deaf ears. Subsequently, a number of the senior residents sold their units and left in a huff.

Dr Shoba took me around the buildings one evening to personally view what the problems were about.

The squash court flooring is broken and is no longer usable, the sauna is not functioning and the windows of the gym have

parking her car at her parking lot. She sustained knife wounds and was relieved of her Rolex watch and some cash. Shoba was among the first to come to the lady's aid. Lai took the developer to court over the incident. In 2006, the court ruled in the plaintiff's favor and awarded her RM20,000. Lai subsequently sold her unit and left.

The residents' hopes of finally managing their premises materialised when on May 29, 2006. Dr Shoba was issued with her strata title. By end 2006, twenty five percent of the registered owners had their titles transferred to them.

Under the Strata Titles Act 1985 item 41 (1) once



*Squash court floor damaged*

been boarded up. "It has been like this for the last three years" she said. The water in the swimming looked suspiciously blue.

On one of the top-most floors I was shown the laundry area of a unit where pigeons have nested. From the accumulation of feathers, dust and droppings it is apparent that the birds have been around for a while.

Security too is lacking. In 2004 one of the residents, Ms Lai Wai Fun, was attacked at night while

25 per cent of the owners have had their titles the Original Proprietor viz. Ipkuda "shall convene the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Management Corporation". The purpose of the first AGM is to enable the transfer of the management of the property to the residents.

When Ipkuda failed to call for the first AGM the residents approached the Commissioner of Buildings (COB). The COB then was the Datuk Bandar, Dato'



*The gymnasium, all boarded up*

Mohamad Rafiai.

It was only on April 4, 2008, more than a year after the twenty five per cent quota was fulfilled, when the COB wrote to the residents' appointed chairperson directing her (the chairperson was a lady) to convene the first AGM within one month. (Refer to Ipoh Echo online for the mayor's letter).

The meeting's aim is to establish a management committee so that an appointment letter could be issued.

The first AGM was held on April 10 at the condo community hall. Eleven council members were elected by a show of hands. Representatives from Ipkuda Sdn Bhd were, inexplicably, absent. The minutes was signed and a copy presented to the COB, Dato' Mohamad Rafiai.

When Dato Rafiai retired on June 5, 2008 he informed Shoba that he had left word with his successor, Roshidi Hashim, to handover the management certificate to the appointed management committee.

Shoba followed up with Roshidi. He reassured her that the certificate would be issued after he had taken his oath of office on July 29, 2008. Roshidi then set August 27, 2008 for the presentation of the certificate.

On the said date Roshidi, along with

Suhaimi Manap (Director of Evaluation and Property), showed up at the meeting and had it cancelled instead. Reasons for the cancellation were not given.

Members of the elected committee were riled. Instead of receiving their long awaited certificate they were given the run around. Disappointed, they then sought a appointment with the Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohamad Nizar Jamaluddin. The meeting with the MB, on September 26, was inconclusive. They then turned to Ipoh Echo for help.

Ipoh Echo asked the Datuk Bandar for his views and was promptly referred to Encik Suhaimi Manap for clarification. "The meeting with the management committee on August 27 was cancelled because of doubts arising with the manner the first AGM was conducted," said Suhaimi.

Mayor Roshidi appointed serving Councillor Rajasegaran, a former Chairman of the Industrial Court, to convene Prima Ipoh Condominium's "First AGM" and to ensure a "legitimate handover" between the developer and the management committee.

Rajasegaran had a preliminary meeting with the developer's lawyers on October 13, 2008. "I found a lacuna in the Perak State Rules which did not cater

for general meetings to be held at the mayor's initiative," he said. The rules require the developer to do so.

Rajasegaran had devised impromptu procedures and notices which would not conflict with the parent Act.


Notices for the new AGM and election nomination forms had been served by City Council. "Candidates to be elected to the management committee must be registered owners and do not owe any arrears of maintenance fees," said the councillor.

Existing regulations are adequate to resolve the issues in hand. Condominiums that were built after Prima Condo have obtained their management corporation certificate without much hassle.

City Council's rejection of the April 2008 AGM is baffling. The reason given was too flimsy. And now it wants a fresh general meeting. The welfare of the residents is of primary importance. They can't be left in a limbo. The dubious way the matter is being handled is disturbing, to say the least.

There could be some hidden hands behind this transgression. We can only speculate.

**JAMES GOUGH**

 More pics at [ipohecho.com](http://ipohecho.com) on line

### IPOH MALI



### by: yu azman b. hamid





# THEIR LAND NO MORE

*High-handed actions by local authorities should stop. Mayor denies complicity by MBI.*

**T**aking arbitrary action seems the norm these days. We often hear and read reports of enforcement agencies coming down hard on those who deliberately flout rules and regulations. In Selangor temples were demolished for being at the wrong place and at the wrong time. Such actions by local authorities have caused much pain and hardship to the people concerned prompting some to seek legal redress.

Over in Ipoh such high-handed actions by the authorities take a different form. Chopping down of trees without rhyme or reason is a favourite. Renaming roads is another. These actions are normally being bull-dozed through by the power-that-be. Consultation, they reason, is simply too cumbersome and time consuming. Therefore, the best way out is to exert one's authority at the behest of the poor rakyat, of course.

On Thursday, October 30, a piece of state land about the size of ten football fields in Bercham, was systematically cleared to make way for a housing project. The 15-acre land

has sustained some 20 families around the area for many decades. They carved out their own plots and have grown fruits, vegetables and tubers for sale. Market gardening is the only form of subsistence these people know.



*My livelihood is taken away*

And they have been farming the land since the Emergency years. Denying access to their plots is akin to pulling the rug from underneath their feet. While the authorities exercise the

right to the land, it is only proper that the aggrieved parties be forewarned.

No such warning was forthcoming. The councillor and the assemblyman responsible for that area were neither consulted nor informed. M. Kulasegeran,

MP for Ipoh Barat, took it upon himself to resolve the matter. According to Kula the land was apportioned by the previous state government to Jabatan Agama Islam Perak (JAIP). The

religious department had engaged a local developer to build houses on that piece of real estate. Neither JAIP nor the developer took steps to remind the farmers.

The developer, acknowledging its societal responsibility, has initiated steps to compensate the families. JAIP, on the other

present when bulldozers were hard at work. However, at the council's full-board meeting on Friday, October 31, the mayor had categorically denied any involvement. He plead ignorance instead.

Who, from among his officers, authorised the clearing is yet unknown.

*Office slip road (Ipoh Echo Issue 61).*

*According to Encik Mior Abdullah Zaidi of MBI, the felling and trimming of trees within the city limits is being handled by a special unit known as Yunit Pantas. It has assumed responsibility from the Garden and Landcape Department since end*



*Remains of a shed built by the farming community*

hand, prefers to remain non-committal.


There seems to be some form of complicity by MBI. The council's enforcement officers were

Kula promises to clear the air as the mystery deepens.

*I wish to allude to my previous report regarding tree-cutting along the Canning Garden Post*

*2007. Ipoh Echo takes cognizance of this fact.*

**FATHOL ZAMAN**

 *More pics at ipohecho on line*

## EDITORIAL

**PEMADAM** or *Persatuan Mencegah Dadah Malaysia* was formed on March 22, 1976. Contrary to popular belief the association is not a government agency but a non-governmental organisation, *per se*. The patron is the Prime Minister himself. He picks his own people to be the association's chairman. The current chairman, Dato' Mohd Johari Baharom, is the fifth.

The association is well represented and has branches all over the country. Almost all federal agencies, less the armed forces, are involved either directly or indirectly.

Is PEMADAM effective? This is the burning question on everyone's lips. As law-abiding citizens we are concerned, as drug abuses are on the rise. Traditional drugs like opium, heroin and morphine have made way

## IS PEMADAM EFFECTIVE?

for designer drugs such as syabu, ecstasy and yaba. In spite of the country's harsh laws, drug trafficking is spiralling out of control. This is because of its profitability. A kilogram of cocaine costs RM200,000, syabu RM220,000 while codeine is priced at RM87.50 a liter.

PEMADAM's vision is to make Malaysia drug-free by 2015. Conventional wisdom says otherwise. At the association's 33rd Annual General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur recently, Secretary General Dato' Kamalia Ibrahim, announced a plan to expand membership to one million by end 2009. She touched on the Pareto Principle or the 80-20 rule. That is 80 per cent of the effects come from 20 per cent of the cases. Twenty per cent of the country's population of 25 million is 5 million. Twenty per cent of

5 million is one million. Membership in the NGO is currently about 120,000. Can it recruit a million within 13 months? I doubt.

Judging from the mood of the assembly the vision of making the country drug-free by 2015 is difficult. Members are mostly senior citizens who are clueless about drugs. Most are there for sentimental reasons. The assembly is too costly. There are over two thousands delegates. They are accommodated in hotels within the city. If it costs RM250 per delegate the bill will be over RM500,000. Add to it transport and travelling claims, the eventual bill will breach the RM1 million mark. The money would have been better spent on upgrading the 29 drug rehabilitation centres in the country.



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## THINKING ALOUD

By G. Sivapragasam

DOES IT MATTER WHAT COLOUR THE CAT IS  
SO LONG IT CATCHES MICE

*Change has finally come. The world looks forward to a new beginning  
with Barak Obama at the helm.*

On Tuesday, November 4, 2008 Barak Obama was declared president-elect of the United States. He would be inaugurated the 44th President of the United States on the 20th of January 2009. He is 47 years old. Though his mother is Caucasian, he is seen as a member of a community that makes up only 12% of the population - the African-American. More remarkable is that Obama is a first generation American, he being the son of a Kenyan.

His victory was not one that was easily secured. His opponent is a war hero, very experienced and though Republican, he is seen as liberal and progressive and has exhibited a measure of independence going against President Bush on several unpopular policy issues.

The election of Obama is by no means a declaration that racial prejudice and discrimination in America is a thing of the past. It would be foolish to think it does not exist. However, it is a confirmation that the majority of Americans, 88% of whom are not from his community, see him as the best person to lead them and take care of their interest. In every society there will always exist extremist elements, bigots and those ruled by prejudice than by justice but they do not define the character of society - it is the majority that do.

On this historic occasion it may be appropriate to visit the history of the

United States and the evolution of its society.

Though Columbus is credited with having discovered America in 1493 serious European migration into the US only began in the 1600s. People of African origin appear to have arrived in US soil almost at the same time as the Europeans. The American war of independence of 1776 established the United States as an independent nation and in that revolt the African community appears to have participated. However after the war, slavery continued until the American Civil War.

Whilst slavery was outlawed in 1865 there were no citizenship or equal rights to the African Americans. It was only in 1868 that they were granted citizenship and those born in the U. S. were extended equal protection under the laws of the Constitution including the right to vote. During 1865-1877 many black leaders were elected to local and state offices.

However, the situation changed in 1877. With the withdrawal of Northern troops from the South, Southern white Democrats regained power in state legislatures across the South. Voting rights of blacks were increasingly suppressed, racial segregation imposed, and violence against African Americans mushroomed. While it was most intense in the South, to a lesser degree, it affected the entire nation.

The Supreme Court's decision that made it constitutional for racial dis-



crimination by private individuals or businesses finally ended attempts to eliminate both governmental and private discrimination by legislation. The system of overt, state-sanctioned racial discrimination and oppression that emerged out of the South and spread nation-wide remained virtually intact until the early 1950s.

The American Civil Rights Movement began in 1955. It aimed at abolishing racial discrimination against African Americans and restoring suffrage in the Southern states.

In 1964 the Civil Rights Act came into existence. By 1966, the emergence of the Black Power Movement, which lasted roughly from 1966 to 1975, extended the aims of the Civil Rights Movement

was the defining event.

It took a hundred years for the African Americans, from the time they were freed from slavery, to being given their civil rights and half that time since then to have one of them elected to the highest office in the land. The journey has been long and painful but tenacity, determination and true grit has brought about a change in the conscience of the American people. This ability to change and move forward is what makes the United States such a powerful nation.

The US and Malaysia share a common feature, a plural society with sizeable minorities. In time we too would mature and the people of this nation will put its fate in the hands of those they believe to be the best to lead them regardless of racial origin, religion or culture.

Social evolution is a work in progress and the next level for the US to reach could not have been better defined than by the former Secretary of State, Colin Powell who, in endorsing him, responded to Obama's detractors who had accused him of being a Muslim by asking "whilst Obama is Christian whether it should matter if he was in fact a Muslim?"

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## Musings



See Foon

I was walking back to my car in Lengkok Canning when I saw a sign outside a shop that intrigued me. "Phytobiophysics" it read. "I wonder what it is" I know that phyto had to do with plants, bio the body and physics complex stuff like energy, mass, particles, waves etc. I walked into the shop to find out.

Sitting in an inner office was Yeap Heong Moi, a sprightly 60-something ex-nurse who said, "Sit down and I'll test you". I was expecting her to bring out machines and gadgets but instead, she asked me to raise one arm parallel to the floor and on command, to resist her firm but gentle attempt to push my arm down. Using the same pressure, she went through a series of different potions and test strips to determine what toxins were in my system, what my allergies were and what ailed my body.

I was amazed at how

accurate the tests were. I had recently had a very expensive blood analysis for allergies and Doc Yeap, as she is fondly known, had identified every single one of them through this method known as kinesiology or muscle testing. "Wow, I could have saved myself an awful lot of money had I met you earlier," I told her.

She then proceeded to find the remedies for my ailments and allergies, using kinesiology. First testing weak to ascertain the problem (meaning my arm would go down very easily at the lightest of pressure) followed by testing strong when she gave me the harmonisers to hold in my hand.

It was undeniable. I had no control over whether my arm would stay up or not. I used the same amount of effort in resisting and yet when a weakness was identified, my arm would flop down. I went home with about 10 different harmonizers and told to come back when they were finished. I returned about a month later and most of my allergies and ailments tested strong, meaning they had disap-

peared.

Sceptics who are devoted to allopathic medicine will shake their heads in disbelief and call it quackery. But if acupuncture is now widely accepted and homeopathy is the healing system of choice for many then Phytobiophysics has a rightful place in the repertoire of healing therapies and is slowly gaining acceptance.

The primary remedial aspect of Phytobiophysics is by the use of the vibrational energy of plants, which is not a new scientific approach. In fact, it is timelessly old. Plants have an extremely important role in our lives. Not only do we live and survive by eating plants but also we use them to restore our bodies to health. It should come as no surprise that the energetic aspect of plants plays a vital role in ensuring healing on a profound and subtle level.

The Phytobiophysics formulas use the living energy of plants and flowers to restore balance and harmony to the body. It does not stimulate. Instead, it restores the body's innate harmony - from abnormal

to normal - by balancing the body's electrical systems.

This living energy is captured as a memory in water, with each formula combining thousands of plant essences vibrating together to produce a specific frequency which is then amplified (as opposed to homeopathy which dilutes). This enables the energy to penetrate deeper into the cells of our bodies.

The secret to the efficacy of these flower and plant formulas is in capturing the LIVING essence of the plant. This essence is then encapsulated in tiny sugar pills and kept on the tongue to release their healing magic.

Each Flower Formula has been specifically created to match the resonance of a healthy cellular system in the body. The formulas act as neurotransmitters and when ingested they instantly regulate the electro-magnetic frequency of the system being targeted. This encourages the body's own innate ability to heal on a very deep level.

The formulas work in a similar way to switching



Doc Yeap doing the arm test on a patient

on a light switch. The practitioner looks for the electrical fault, and then corrects it. Phytobiophysics is energy therapy in its purest form. It is non-addictive, non-harmful and non-invasive.

We tend to be generally oblivious to the pollution in our environment whether it be externally or self-imposed. This was brought home to me when I went to Doc Yeap for testing recently and I tested weak for radiation, a result of the hours I spend in front of the computer. I was not surprised by this but when I tested weak for nickel and chromium I was. That was when she asked me to take off my watch and my ear-

rings and lo and behold, I tested strong again. Muscle testing can identify toxins in the body like mercury, aluminum, alcohol, cadmium, caffeine, chlorine, chromium, formaldehyde, phthalates, lead, and the flower formulas can act as antidotes to help people with side effects of chemotherapy and radiation.

Such is the simplicity and speed of the entire diagnostic process and the formulas so efficacious. I wonder why Ipohites are not beating a path to Doc Yeap's door?

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## ADVERTORIAL

**C**hiropractic is the third largest and fastest growing health care profession in the world. Nevertheless it is still very new in Malaysia. The past ten years have seen a tremendous amount of research done on chiropractic and its effectiveness.

**What is chiropractic?** Chiropractic is the treatment of disease by adjusting the spine and other body structures to relieve pressure on muscles,

joints and nerves. Such therapy not only helps relieving back pain but also alleviates arm, hand and leg pains caused by the dysfunction of the neck and lower back.

**Who is a chiropractor?** Chiropractors are doctors who traditionally deal with the spine and its relationship to the nervous system. They deal with a variety of physical ailments, but are best known for the treatment of back, neck and the knees. As

chiropractors deal with the spine, it is critical for a person seeking chiropractic care to see a trained and qualified doctor.

**What happens during a chiropractic examination?** A chiropractor will conduct a medical history and do a thorough physical, neurological and orthopedic examinations. A chiropractor spends time assessing posture, examining the spine, testing reflexes, joints motion and muscle strength. Having

determined the level of spinal involvement, he then manipulates the dysfunctional joints. He will then advise the patient on the proper care of the spine to reduce a recurrence.

**What is the difference between chiropractic and traditional treatments?** Chiropractic is based on western science as opposed to traditional treatments like those administered by a sinseh. Scientific technology like x-rays and magnetic reso-

nance imaging (MRI) are used to analyse the body and to study the bones and joints of the spine. Chiropractors can order diagnostic images and interpret results. Traditional treatments are based on skills passed on from father to son.

Should you decide on seeking chiropractic assistance make it a point to find everything about your health and the medications you are taking. This will enable the chiropractor

to make an accurate diagnosis and decide the best therapy

**Chiropractors' treat?** Chiropractor treatments are not limited to back and neck pains only. They extend to leg, knee, ankle and foot pain, slipped disc, scoliosis, chronic pain, frozen shoulder, pain in the hands, migraine, pre-menstrual syndrome, muscle aches, postural defects, pain after injury, sports injuries and joint inflammation.

## THE RIGHT TOUCH



# A FELLOW OF THE PERAK ACADEMY

*Renowned biologist and zoologist recognised for his contributions to society*

The 5th Earl of Cranbrook, Rt Hon Gathorne-Hardy 75, renowned biologist, zoologist and former member of the House of Lords, was honoured at a dinner hosted by Perak Academy. The dinner held at the Indulgence Restaurant Ipoh on Thursday, October 30, 2008 was graced by two serving state executive councillors, Dato' Nyeh Koo Ham and Nga Khor Meng.

Lord Cranbrook had made tremendous inroads in the fields of biology and zoology. And all these were achieved while serving in Malaysia, especially in Sarawak. When he first arrived here in 1957, at the tender age of 24, it was as technical assistant to the Curator of the Sarawak Museum. The political climate then did not affect him in anyway as he immediately immersed himself in archaeological excavation works in the Niah Caves near Miri. He

did some extensive studies on swiftlets found in the caves. In 1961 he joined the Zoology Department of University Malaya and was instrumental in establishing the Ulu Gombak Field Studies Centre.

Among his other achievements were as deputy leader of the Royal Geographic Society expedition to Mulu National Park in 1977-1978 and as advisor to the World Wildlife Federation (Malaysia). Between 1988-1989 he led the International Tropical Timber Organisation mission on sustainable forestry management in Sarawak. In 1990 he was appointed to the Nature Conservancy Council of Great Britain and has been its chairman since 1991. He served in the House of Lords between 1978 to 1999.

Earlier in the day, Lord Cranbrook spoke on "The Contribution of Archaeology to Wildlife Conservation Policies in Malaysia" to an audience of 40 at the Academy's of-



*Dato Seri Lee presenting parchment to Lord Cranbrook*

fice in Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah. One interesting theory he advanced was the presence of elephants on the island of Borneo. Tigers are not found on the island but are present in Sumatra and the peninsula. Likewise you don't find

orangutans in the peninsula but are found in Sumatra and Borneo.

## PLEISTOCENE EPOCH

South East Asia was one land mass during the

Pleistocene epoch some 20,000 years BP (before present). It was the last Ice Age and the climate was a lot cooler than it is today. Animals moved freely and that explains why they are found in Sumatra, the Malay peninsula and Borneo.

The absence of tigers and, to a lesser extent, elephants in Borneo, according to Gathorne-Hardy, could be attributed to man. The presence of pigmy elephants in east Borneo, he theorised, is man-made too. The Sultanate of Sulu shipped these animals within the kingdom as a form of tribute to local chieftains.

Lord Cranbrook spoke on the farming of swiftlets' nests which is big business in Indonesia, Thailand and, notwithstanding, Malaysia. Traders in bird nests have resorted to music to lure these birds to their purpose-built brick houses.

In recognising Lord Cranbrook's lifetime achievements and contribu-

tions, he was made a Fellow of the Perak Academy. The award was bestowed on the scholar by Dato' Seri Lee Oi Hian, Vice Chairman Perak Academy.

When reading the earl's citation, Chan Kok Keong, praised the Pakatan Rakyat-led state government for being "enlightened and supportive of scientific research". Perak Academy said Kok Keong was not "averse to naming a butterfly after the state councilors" like what famous researcher, Alfred Wallace, did to Rajah Brooke of Sarawak.

The recipient was visibly touched by the accolades and thanked Dato Seri Lee Oi Hian and Perak Academy for the honour.

**Next talk by Singapore's High Commissioner, Mr T. Jasudesan, is entitled, "Malaysia-Singapore: Building Bridges".**  
**Date/Time: Thursday, November 20, at 12.30 pm.**  
**Venue: Syuen Hotel, Ipoh.**  
**For reservations call Mrs Lee at 05-5478949.**

FATHOL ZAMAN



*Mustering the residents to clean up their area*

## A GOTONG ROYONG WITH A DIFFERENCE

*An overwhelming response to Principal Lo's appeal for help. They came from near and far to clean a problematic drain . . .*

On Sunday, October 12, the Principal of Mariaville Nursery and Kindergarten, Madam Lo Chen Fan, held a charity event at her kindergarten to raise funds. The invited guest for that day was supposed to be the Menteri Besar, Mohamad Nizar Jamaluddin. As Nizar was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. His place was taken by state representative for Canning, Wong Kah Woh.

During her welcoming speech the principal alluded to the heavily silted drain behind the nursery. Whenever it rained she said the water from the drain would rise and flow into the building. If it happened during the weekend

her staff would have to come early on a Monday morning to clean the classrooms. The nursery had been besieged with this problem for eighteen years already.

Three days later Lo was pleasantly surprised when Wong, the Datuk Bandar, Roshidi Hashim and Councillor Liu turned up at her nursery. The three were there to assess the situation and initiate measures to overcome the problem. The overflowing drain had also affected the Marian Convent field behind the nursery.

Wong suggested that a *gotong royong* was the only solution to this long standing problem. He asked Madam Lo for a date and she picked Sunday,

November 9. On the appointed date Lo was even more surprised. The attendance that Sunday morning consisted of the "Who's who" of Ipoh. Other than the nursery's immediate neighbours residents from Councillor Liu's area were also present. Some of the distinguished "helpers" were M. Kulasegeran, Roshidi and councillors from Manjoi and Ulu Kinta.

### MORE RESIDENTS THAN WORKERS

"This is the first time I am seeing more residents than MBI workers at a *gotong royong*," said a delighted Roshidi, aware of residents' apathy to calls for assistance.

According to the mayor the Sunday goodwill outing was a short-term solution. He said deepening and realigning the drain would be the answer.

### PROMPT RESPONSE

Principal Lo was pleased with the concerns shown by the leaders. "This new government has responded to my complaint very promptly," she said.. She thanked Councillor Liu profusely for making it happened. The presence of so many VIPs did not affect her composure. "I am overwhelmed by their empathy," she remarked candidly.

JAG

More pics at ipohecho on line



*Principal Lo, YB Wong and Councillor Liu*



## PARENTING

WERN SZE GILL

## RANTING ON ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FACED BY A 30-SOMETHING WORKING MOM IN IPOH

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, A PAIN OR A BOON?

School's out! Time for the kids to enjoy their freedom, and the parents' turn to suffer! Ok so I'm being dramatic here but honestly, as a full-time working parent, I especially DREAD school holidays. How do you keep two hyperactive preschoolers happily occupied for 5 weeks? Ideas, anybody?

With the extra demands placed on parents during the holiday season, it is quite likely that most of us will feel more stressed than usual. Hence it's always good to have some ideas and information on



busy at home, as well as to feature school holiday programmes that are available here in Ipoh (check out our 'School Holiday Programme Advertising Special' below).

### FUN ACTIVITIES IN YOUR OWN GARDEN

"Who cares about activities when there's always the electronic babysitter?" Well sure there's the TV, but we all know too well that active physical activities are the better option as these help improve coordination skills and confidence in kids. Such activities need not be complicated. Simple fun such as cycling, watering the plants, 'washing' the car, drawing on the pavement, and having a picnic outdoors can be exciting activities for young kids. Sand play is a great option, as it keeps the kids occupied for long periods of time.

baking day, face painting, art and craft, making up your own play with costumes & props, creating a playhouse from carton boxes and painting it, and organising playdates with the neighbours' kids.

For older kids, you could help them organise a jumble sale for friends and family members (a unique way of getting them to clean out the household clutter!) and allow them to keep the proceeds from the sale as an incentive.

If you are a working parent and have to rely on grandparents or a maid to mind your children, you may want to consider getting a friend's teenage daughter (who would be too happy to earn some pocket money) to organise some home-based activities for your kids.

As for me, I've got it all planned out. A neighbour's teenage daughter will be organising some fun activities for my kids at home twice a week, and the rest of the time will consist of playdates, some mornings at grandparents', and a week's much-deserved vacation for the whole family.

Til next time, happy parenting!

**If you have any feedback or ideas on parenting, please write to parenting.ipohecho@gmail.com**

### INDOOR FUN

With indoor activities, ideas include having a



hand especially when kids utter those dreaded words "I'm bored".

So I thought, why not kick-start this column by compiling some useful tips and ideas on how to keep the young ones happy and

## HEALTH

## Shaolin Qigong

*Come and join the crowd at the Polo Ground.*



**If you are at the Polo Ground between seven to eight in the morning, you'll see a group of people doing an exercise that doesn't look strenuous. In fact, it looks very sedate. And, if you watch long enough, you can even hear them shouting. It seemed strange to me at first. How then did I end up with them?**

After years of working in front of the pc, my wife and I decided it was time to look after our health (before it was too late). So we took a stroll at the Polo Ground one morning. We thought of Tai Chi or something similar. There were many groups exercising but we couldn't quite decide which one. As we paused by the Qigong people, someone from the group motioned us to join them. Why not, I reasoned? If we didn't like it, we could always leave.

Qigong looks simple but is, in fact, deceptively, intricate and difficult to master. Qigong doesn't raise your heart beat like aerobic exercises do, and yet you sweat profusely.

After the first week my knees started to swell, then my neck. My asthma came back. Strangely, it lasted for only two days and I was back to normal again.

Practitioners told me what Qigong does to the body. It invokes one's internal energy to heal oneself. You can't direct the energy at the beginning; the energy has an "intelligence" of its own and will work on those parts it deems fit. Because of my "pre-arthritis" condition, Qigong caused the swellings and then began its healing process.

I've been doing Qigong for more than six months now. My health has improved tremendous-

ly, the swellings are almost gone. My story, however, is not as dramatic as others. There is one guy who claims that Qigong has reduced his dependence



on dialysis treatment. A lady with osteoporosis and a bone implant can now move her limbs without much effort. These are some of the more startling stories.

The Qigong group at the Polo Ground is started

by Sifu K.F. Ho, a sprightly 81-year old man. Ho started Qigong at the age of 58 when his health was marred by high blood pressure, heart problems and rheumatism. He travelled far and wide and learned many forms of Qigong - some helpful and some not. Finally, he found the Shaolin form of Qigong, which he now teaches, as the most suitable.

Ho's brand of Shaolin Qigong exercises are a little strenuous but effective if done correctly. For maximum benefit, Qigong should be practised when one is young, as it requires some strength and discipline. It takes about three months before you experience the benefits, as I have found out.

**RAYMOND SIEW**

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## YOUNG PERAK

Students from participating schools are invited to write about or photograph things/events outside their respective institutions of learning. E-mail articles to:  
**ipohecho.pk@gmail.com**

### PRESCHOOLERS TREAT PARENTS TO A NIGHT OF MAGIC



The **KinderJoy Graduation Concert**, held on Saturday, October 25, was indeed "A Magical Night".

The event took place at the Ipoh Town Hall. A hundred and thirteen preschool children received their certificates from YB Senator Heng Seai Kie – the guest of honor for the night.

In her welcoming speech, the Principal Ms. Looi said that since children are naturally curious, early childhood education is vital. "KinderJoy aims to provide lots of learning opportunities with hands on experience" she explained, further stating that this would satisfy the children's needs and "bring out the full potential in them".

Following the presentation of the certificates, Senator Heng then launched the graduation



concert. The six year olds, from six different classes, were dressed in colourful costumes which were sponsored by their parents. Among the items performed by the children: a percussion assemble, "Colours of the Wind", Mickey Parade, Wild Wild West, Garden of Butterflies, and an Arabian dance.

The night ended with a short closing speech by three of the graduates. Later, the graduates sang "Auld Lang Syne" and, joined by their teachers, they sang the school song.

**FAB**



*Hola hoop display*

## THE BUDDING WRITERS FROM IPOH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

*Eighteen pieces of work are chosen for publication*

*"Reading maketh a full man; speaking a ready man; and writing an exact man".*

Holding firm to this belief, pupils at the Ipoh International School are constantly challenged to display their creativity in writing. The potent combination of teachers' persistence and pupils' determination bore results.

During classes, the pupils were guided to write poems on themes of their choice and in poetic styles that inspired them. Subjects vary from home, family, environment to politics. The teachers submitted some of the pupils' work to Young Writers, a publishing house in the United Kingdom last year.

The school literally jumped with excitement when 17 poems were selected from among the thousands received around the globe for publication in Young Writers "Talking



*The young writers from Ipoh International School. Standing far right is teacher Angie Ng.*

'Bout My Generation" poetry book series.

Adviser Mrs Angie Ng-Cheah said that due to the enthusiasm shown by pupils in seeing their work in print, the school decided to involve them in another writing project.

"We submitted the pupils' work for another Young Writers' short story writing competition – the Mini S.A.G.A.S". It was a difficult task writing an effective story in 50 words or less complete with an

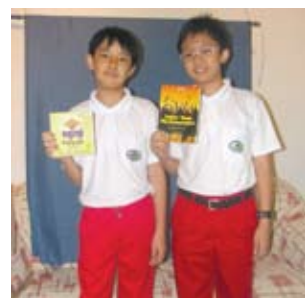
exposition, a climax and a resolution," she said.

They beat the odds. The young writers made the teachers proud when 18 pieces of their literary efforts were chosen for publication in one of the regional books representing the best of children's work – the Mini S.A.G.A.S. Global Tales. It was published on May 31, 2008.

In August 2008, the pupils' entries were sent for the 17th Young Writers po-

etry series – The Big Green Poetry Machine, which was scheduled for publication on October 31, 2008. This book showcases the best of children's creativity from the UK and overseas. Students were encouraged to use poetry as a medium of expression, advocating to everyone how to make the world a better place.

"We hope that this involvement would bring about a passion and enthusiasm for writing, both in and outside the classroom," said Mrs Angie Ang.



*Bryan Cheah(left) and Edward Kwan with the two books published*

## SMJK YUK CHOY ON A FUND DRIVE

SMJK Yuk Choy organised a charity night to commemorate its Centennial celebration recently and to raise funds to build a five-storey block.

The school, which started in 1908 at Menglembu, needs RM10 million for its expansion programme. Ever since it opened its doors the school has been expanding. 1914 ~ A primary school branch was set up at Tai Pak Kong Chinese Temple Ipoh. 1922 ~ The school was registered with the Education Office. 1924 ~ Introduction of secondary classes. 1948 ~ Secondary classes transferred to Kuala Kangsar Road. 1963 ~ The school was divided in two: SMJK Yuk Choy and Yuk Choy Suwa High School. 1985 ~ Yuk Choy Suwa High School moved



*Fashioh show*

to Jelapang. 1997 ~ A computer lab with 20 computers and internet facilities costing RM50K was erected. 2003 ~ Two basketball courts and ten rooms for co-curriculum activities were added. RM30K was spent for upgrading of the male toilets. The position of Senior Assistant Co-Curriculum was created

with the appointment of Mr Teh Lit Sin.

Yuk Choy's current principal, Capt Chan Weng Kwai, said the school is working hard to realise its vision to not only accommodate a library, an auditorium and laboratories in the new block but to have more spacious classrooms and a new canteen. The



*Principal Capt Chan Weng Kwai*

school had so far organised a charity jogathon and a few community programmes involving the school's board of directors and the parent-teacher association.

The charity night was a huge success. Some of the activities conducted were a wushu performance, fashion show, skits, songs and dances.

Those who are keen on contributing please call **05-5061726** during office hours.

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## PHASES &amp; FACES

## YASMIN AHMAD LOVES IPOH

*This prolific film producer has much to offer for film buffs in Malaysia. The Censor Board, however, thinks otherwise. This doesn't deter her from producing more films to satisfy her legion of fans in and outside the country. Ipoh Echo spoke to her recently . . .*

**Y**asmin Ahmad, writer and director of multiple award winning movies was in Ipoh recently to produce a two-minute advertisement for Petronas for the recent Deepavali festival.

Shooting for the ad was being done at the hangars belonging to the Aeronautic Aircraft Training Academy located at the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport.

Yasmin Ahmad has been producing advertisements for over 25 years. Sometime around 2001 she honed her writing and directing skills toward making movies. The result was *Rabun* (Failing Eyesight) her first movie and one which was screened at international film festivals in Singapore, Italy, France, Greece, Taiwan and Japan. Unfortunately, in Malaysia it was only good for a TV slot.

What caused her to switch her genre? "Well, dad fell ill that year due to his diabetes. I made the movie *Rabun* to tell him that I loved him."

A year later when her mum fell ill she made the movie *Sepet* (Slitty eyes) a love story of a young Malay girl and a Chinese boy (with slit eyes) This movie won the Best Asian Film Award at the 18th Tokyo International Film Festival and the Grand Prix du Jury in Paris. In Singapore, it played for six week, uncensored. Unfortunately, in Malaysia it was almost banned and when it was played it was heavily censored.

*Sepet* was filmed entirely in Ipoh and subsequently too its sequel, *Gubra*. "I like Ipoh. The set locations are quiet. There are no live sounds. The people smile a lot and it feels so civilised. It is

also near to home that is KL"

## MULTI RACIAL THEMES

All her movies after *Sepet* namely, *Gubra*, *Mukhsin* and her upcoming movie have a multi racial tone. "Why?" I asked. "Maybe it's because I am mixed myself. I have a bit of Japanese ancestry. Even my marriage is mixed"

Currently she is working on her next movie entitled *Talentine* which is due to be released early next year. "Its about a pair of teenagers competing in a talentime. It has a slant towards racial equality. "Yes, *Talentine* was produced entirely in Ipoh. I told you I love Ipoh"

Does she enjoy the

Ipoh food? "I do take Ipoh *Nga Choy Kai*. As long as it doesn't have any pig tailings in it I'm fine with it. And Ipoh Old Town food especially the toast and kaya with knobs of butter included. It's almost like a French toast with maple syrup!"

As our conversation got friendlier the unreserved side of Yasmin Ahmad began to show itself which allowed me a glimpse of what made her so creative. She stated that being poor has its good points. "It allows one leaved freedom to have an unassuming attitude which helps one to be more creative"

Indeed, as this article was going to the press, two of her efforts have picked up awards.

On October 6, *Wasurenagusu / Forget-Me-Not* a Malaysia-Japan co-production film project won the \$20,000 Pusan Award. The award was presented during the

13th Pusan International Film Festival. Yasmin wrote the synopsis for the project. The film will be produced by Japan's Wa Entertainment. One of its producers, Kousuke Ono is the nephew of Yoko Ono.

On October 26 her film *Muallaf* was given a "Special Mention Best Asian-Middle Eastern

Film" award at the 18th Tokyo International Film Festival. *Muallaf* will be played at Singapore and Japan but will "most probably miss being shown in Malaysia due to its religious tone"

How does she feel about all these recent accolades "I am so blessed"

JAG



## KINTA RIVERFRONT HOTEL AND TOURISM PROJECT



*The premiere tourism spot in Ipoh City*

**S**everal old families of Ipoh came together recently for the official launching of the Kinta Riverfront Hotel and Suites Tourism Related Project.

The event was organized by the developer of the project, Morubina Group of Companies.

The project is located at the junction of Jalan Lim Bo Sing and Jalan Kompleks Islam on the banks of the Kinta River.

The most glitzy name on the guest list that evening was Dato' Michelle Yeoh, Ipohite and international artiste. She was accompanied by her

parents Dato' Yeoh Kian Teik and Datin Janet Yeoh. Another distinguished guest was senior state exco member Dato' Ngeh Koo Ham.

Morubina Group Managing Director Mr Ting Sing Chew in welcoming the guests highlighted the important role that the Kinta River played in the early development of Ipoh at the turn of the twentieth century. "The Kinta River and Ipoh were synonymous with the richest tin producing district in the world. This was the reason for naming the project Kinta Riverfront Hotel."

Dato' Ngeh in his ad-

dress expressed his wish that the riverfront would become the premier tourist spot for Ipoh City." Ipoh and the State of Perak had multiple choice sites for tourists to visit from Gua Tempurung and Pangkor Island to Belum Resort"

Dato' Michelle Yeoh too echoed her love of her home town." My heart is always in Ipoh. I always like to bring home guests. Ipoh could do with another five star hotel"

The project besides the hotel covers 1.2 km of riverfront stretching from Gunong Cheroh until the Hugh Low Street bridge. Development will be in stages and will take three

years to complete.

Before the launch Mr Ting invited several of the second and third descendants of the early tin miners for a group photograph. Together with them was Dato' Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan Y.Bhg. Orang Kaya-Kaya Panglima Kinta Seri Amar Bangsa DiRaja, a descendant of the family of Dato Panglima Kinta.

Currently, Kinta Riverfront sports a row of unique cafes and a tin gallery depicting scenes of the tin industry during its heyday.

JAG

More pics at [ipohecho.com](http://ipohecho.com) on line



*Dato' Michelle Yeoh posing with the movers and shakers of Ipoh*

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## LETTER TO EDITOR

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS PUBLIC NOT PRIVATE. THEREFORE, THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE PROTECTED NOT SOLD.

Dear Sir,

The issue of public transportation has much to do with the economic and environmental sustainability of cities. It is not dissimilar to the arteries and veins that connect and nourish our bodies.

Cities are places of exchange, be it economic or social, the more we encourage this exchange, the better it is for the city. This mix of people coming together for these exchanges is what makes cities vibrant, cosmopolitan and attractive. Good public transportation allows citizens of cities to have many more of these exchanges conveniently and at very, very low costs.

The only model of

transportation that has worked in all the progressive cities of the world is an inter-modal model, a true and tried system.

This means that we have to connect planes to trains to buses to bicycle paths to pedestrian paths and all the other permutations that this mix allows. The more this matrix of transportation interconnects, the more convenient the movement of the citizens of the city.

Good city planning has always been about planning the public transportation routes in anticipation of serving the most number of people. It is not about serving the public alone but the economics, as well. So public transportation works at a certain

density of ridership.

So what do we make of the current situation in Ipoh?

The proposed bus terminal is located out of the city centre at Meru. It smacks of demographic disposition patterns so abhorred in progressive and cosmopolitan cities. Something I believe the current Pakatan Rakyat government is trying to avoid.

There are absolutely no trains or planes to connect the Meru terminal. It only connects private cars and taxis which, essentially, create bottlenecks during peak hours.

What is infinitely more wasteful, however, is the abandonment of existing infrastructure in the city

centre. The interconnection between the Ipoh railway station and the Medan Kidd bus station is a case in point. Their agencies allow for an efficient bus-train connectivity at the heart of the city, which will make the city vibrant once more.

Because a rail passenger from KL Sentral can be connected by bus to the city suburbs, he/she does not have to be picked up at the station but instead at a smaller bus interchange in the suburb. This reduces traffic movements and time spent on the road.

We should learn from the most successful public transportation system in the developing world, Curitiba, Brasil.

Enact laws that pro-

tect the public through the understanding of positional advantage. Every node/interchange of public transportation will have an impact on neighbouring properties - a higher valuation. These windfalls should be protected and used to improve the public infrastructure of the city.

The reason public transportation is so called is because it is public and not private. Which means that the city should be the majority owner of the system. It acts both as an integrator and a subsidiser. As the city grows the system can continue to be sustained profitably.

Kuala Lumpur transport system is a classic example of poor planning. The city's three Light

Rapid Transit systems criss-cross the city with lousy interconnections. There is no cooperation between the service providers.

LRT stops are provided based on the amount of money land owners are willing to cough up illegally. No money no stop. Unfortunately, the stops are built based on demographic (racial) rather than density patterns.

Public transportation is about accessibility. And the right to access for the citizenry of a city should be protected from private interest. The accessibility of people within a city ultimately means the accessibility of opportunities for its citizenry.

Ken Yeh, Sydney.

## SPORTS

# "THE BRAVE LADS OF SMK SUNGAI PARI"

*Their passion is to do better*



From right: Moses, Harvindran, Sarveen and Durairaja.

In the previous issue, we highlighted the gritty boys from an unknown SMK Sungai Pari who managed to muscle their way through courageously by trouncing many schools, including premier ones to face Anderson school, famed for their hockey prowess.

Despite having to concede by being first runners-up for three consecutive years in the Under-18 Perak Schools Kinta hockey match final, the brave lads from Sungai Pari were determined to create history. They are victorious in many ways - they made do without the luxury of sponsored jerseys, expensive hockey sticks and the convenience of being trans-

ported to and from weekly practice in air-conditioned coaches.

On Thursdays, they arrive at the AstroTurf training grounds faithfully, a 30-minute journey from Buntong, all in their own mode of transportation - cycle, on motorcycle and town buses. All for the love of the game and a strong belief that they will be lifting the champion trophy one day.

To find out the potential of these spunky and spirited young men, Ipoh Echo contacted a seasoned hockey player, Saiful Adzuan Ismail, the head coach of Sukan Teras at National Sports Development Programme from 2006 to mid 2008.

He had also coached the MSSM Perak U-18 team. He said the SMK Sungai Pari hockey team has a good future.

"The players are a dedicated and committed lot who should get more exposure by getting involved in more matches and competitions to gain the edge. Given time, they can shine and be a force to be reckoned with," he said.

Saiful, 48, has also been involved with the Perak Hockey Association and deals actively with the state's U-15 and U-21 and Sukma 2006 teams.

He currently coaches Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) at Seri Iskandar hockey team. He plays for the Perak Veteran Team.

## INTERVIEWING THE BOYS

Fourth former **M. Durairaja**, whose father is a contract worker in Farlim, comes for training by bus. He makes sure that he prepares early for practice to ensure that he is not late and miss out the crucial a-week-once training. He finds the coaching methods by TC Sharma, Anbalagan and Kulwant Singh another volunteer, effective and imbues in them skills and speed needed. Durairaja aspires to be a professional hockey player.

**B. Sarveen**, also Form Four. This hardy lad, besides hockey, also involves in football, basketball and a 100m and 200m sprinter. He had represented his school in numerous sports meets and bagged home medals and trophies. He looks forward to the day when the school team triumphed over Anderson.

**R. Harvindran**, Fourth Former, who aspires to be an aircraft engineer, said training is tedious and needs strength of mind to undergo the regimented training approaches. He has been involved in hockey since Standard Six. For a session of training, Harvindran spends nearly RM15 for bus transport and food. Like Sarveen, he also wants to see his school becomes the district and state champion.

**Moses Sean Kok Keong**, Form Four. He just joined the team and has great potential to blend in the team with the

rest. Hometown is Kuala Kangsar and his love for hockey develops when he saw the boys practising at the school field every evening.

Ipoh Echo salutes TC Sharma for his untiring

effort in grooming these young boys. He was U-16 coach who has produced national greats. The 66-year old coach was also the former coach of Anderson School

PETER KHIEW



The coaches who have hearts of gold (coaching the SMK Sungai Pari boys) without being paid. From left Mr. Kulwant Singh (a lecturer), Mr K. Anbalagan (retired lab assistant) and Mr T.C. Sharma (former hockey coach).

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## IPOH FACTS &amp; FANCIES

## FOUNDING OF IPOH CLUB

By HO TAK MING

*The Royal Ipoh Club is three years older than it is supposed to be. The committee blames the Japanese Imperial Army for destroying the club's records.*

**The Royal Ipoh Club is three years older than it is supposed to be. The committee blames the Japanese Imperial Army for destroying the club's records.**

The November 21st 1935 issue of the Times of Malaya carried an interview of Mr. James Richard Crawford, then the European with the longest domicile in Perak, having lived in the State for 50 years. In the interview Mr. Crawford recalled how the Ipoh Club was founded.

In 1885, JR Crawford joined the Perak State Railway. He arrived one month before the State's oldest railway was opened. It consisted of just one short line – from Port Weld

to Taiping. He served the Perak Railway for six months and then joined the engineering firm of Walter Tate and Co in Taiping. In 1891 he was sent to open a branch at "Paloh" as Ipoh was then also called.

Crawford made the journey from Taiping to Ipoh by ghari. He was accompanied by Mr. A. Oldfield, a chemist, who had been in charge of Maynard's Dispensary in Taiping but had tendered his resignation to look for greener pastures in the new mining centre. Oldfield started Ipoh's first chemist shop, Oldfield's Dispensary, and soon became a fixture of the town, with his everlasting white coat. He was known to

the locals as Tuan Lima Kupang, for he invariably charged fifty cents for any *ubat* that he made up for them.

There was only a handful of Europeans in Ipoh at the time, and five or six of them would meet at midday at Oldfield's Dispensary. Each had his own bottle of Scotch hidden behind the medicine bottles. Oldfield would sell them soda. Within a year the gathering had increased sufficiently to form a club. And at one of the meetings in 1892, Ipoh Club was conceptualised. JR Crawford was one of the founding members. The membership of the Club at the beginning was 19. The club's first home was

a wooden building with an attap roof built in 1893 at the junction of Club Road and Hugh Low Street.

In 1894 the Perak Government Gazette was already using the Ipoh Club as a focal point for defining the town limits:

*The junction of the new road from the Club with the Ipoh-Kuala Kangsar road; the bridge on the further side of the bend at the 56th mile on the Gopeng road; 300 yards beyond the junction of roads near Datoh Muda Wahab's house, Batu Gajah road; 200 yards beyond the railway crossing on the road to Changkat Pari, and lines 200 yards from, beyond, or parallel with, the public road or street which is fur-*

*thest from the town in any direction within the points named.*

The first billiard competition of the club was held in August 1894, and this was reported in the Perak Pioneer.

The founding of the Ipoh Club is a story worthy of inclusion in any romantic annals of the East. However, according to the official website of the Royal Ipoh Club, the founding of the club was fixed at 1895 by its Management Committee in 1972. The committee's premise was made based on the establishment of one of the oldest British companies, Osborne and Chappel International. The company was estab-

lished about this time. What queer logic and what a novel way of writing (or rewriting) history – by guesswork and inference.

However, the Committee did harbour some doubts as to the wisdom of their approach and put in a disclaimer. "It (the Royal Ipoh Club) may have been established much earlier than 1895, but records of its history were lost during the Japanese Occupation". What a flimsy excuse. There are records stored elsewhere if they only cared to search for them. As a result, the Royal Ipoh Club celebrated its Centenary three years late, in 1995. Like a vain woman, it always understates its true age!

## ONE POSTPONEMENT TOO MANY

*A simplistic look at how lower courts deal with petty criminals.*

**Whenever I pass by the Ipoh court buildings I either see a large crowd or none at all. Out of curiosity, I stepped into one of the magistrate courts, one morning. The gallery was full. Only standing room was available.**

Three men were in the dock. The charges against them were read. They were told what sec-

tions of the law they were being charged. The maximum penalty was also told to them. All three nodded their heads in agreement. They understood the charges.

The first guy was accused of stealing a motor cycle. The Police found many more stolen bikes at his house. The man pleaded guilty and bail was set

at RM4,000. Since he did not have the money he was sent back to the lockup. The case was postponed.

The second defendant was charged for possession of drugs. He pleaded guilty but was unable to pay the bail set. He too was sent back to the lockup. The case was also postponed.

The third person was arrested on suspicion of

housebreaking. He was riding his motorcycle when the Police napped him. The suspect denied the charge and requested for trial. He paid the bail of RM1,000. The case was postponed and he was told to hire a lawyer.

The lawyer of another accused failed to turn up. The case was postponed. The magistrate told the

man to make sure that his lawyer was present when his case was up for hearing.

## VICIOUS CYCLE

A few days later I was in the same court again. I noticed that almost all the cases were being postponed for one reason or another. I walked away

feeling dejected.

Since magistrate courts deal with petty criminal cases, I feel they ought to be settled quickly. But that doesn't happen. No wonder cases at these courts keep mounting. Those who cannot post bail have to be kept in custody. This is a vicious cycle.

A. JEYARAJ

### AMANDA SEDUCES THE CROWD AT RUM JUNGLE

*Cat calls and applause make her an early favourite.*

Rum Jungle located at Sunway Resort recently held their first Miss Seduction Contest to coincide with their weekly ladies night theme "Sensual Soul Seduction"

The contest, high lighted as "the first of its kind in Ipoh" saw ten contestants making it to the finals.

Unlike the usual contest Miss Seduction was slanted to do just that, seduce the audience.

The contestants donned evening dresses for the first round and nighties for the second round. The catwalk was a sashay of assets and the poses were purposely provocative in line with the theme for the night.

For the final round all the contestants wore original designed costumes made from condoms. The hidden message in the costume was "Safe Sex". Most would not have realised the type of material being used until the emcee announced it. A closer look confirmed so.

The title of Miss



Seduction went to eighteen year old Amanda Fong from Ipoh Garden. Judging from the volume of cat calls and applause she was an early favorite.

Amanda is a student. Upon hearing of this contest she informed her parent of her intention to participate. Her parents actually encouraged her to do so.

For her win Amanda took home RM1000 in cash and prizes worth RM2000 plus a two month contract to be the ambassadress of Rum Jungle.

The first runners up was Shaheeda Salim (18) from Bukit Mertajam and second runners up was Amy Nurtasya (19) from Bercham

**JAG**  
More pics at  
ipoh echo on line

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**Ong Kah Lye**  
(28-07-1973)



**Ooi Chit Lim**  
(27-11-1994)





## COMMUNITY NEWS

by FATHOL ZAMAN

## RAISING FUNDS FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

*MB pledges support for a non-governmental organisation dedicated to the care of abused women and children*

Perak Women for Women Society (PWW) held its second fund-raising dinner on Friday October 31 at Syuen Hotel Ipoh. The society's primary objective is to promote gender equality and understanding. One of its secondary objectives, which is being vigorously pursued by the members, is the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children.

The President, Dr Sharifah Halimah, dwelt at length the subject of abuses suffered by women and children in her welcoming speech. Menteri Besar, Dato' Seri Mohammad Nizar Jamaluddin, in response, expressed his support and the state in combating crime against the weaker sex. Perak under the Pakatan Rakyat Government would do its utmost to ensure that the abused be cared for he reiterated. "The hands that rocked the cradle rule the



Launching of PWW website by Nizar and Tunku Soraya witnessed by Dr Sharifah

world," said Nizar in recognising the roles women play in shaping mankind.

The dinner held at the hotel ballroom was well patronised. All 60 tables, ranging in price between

RM600 to RM1000, were booked. While the 600 guests dined they were entertained to a fashion show, music by a Chinese orchestra, cultural dances by Selendang Perak and a

solo stint by songbird wannabe, Wern Sze Gill.

Ipohites had responded positively to the call for charity. Glitches notwithstanding, the dinner was a huge success. Proceeds

from the function will help PWW to organise its many out-reach programmes planned ahead. And with financial and material assistance from the PR-led state government, the society

can now amble along with a degree of confidence.

PWW launched its very own website. And there to do the honour were Nizar and Patron-designate, YTM Tunku Soraya. Time management is crucial when organising events of this nature. Therefore, some minor observations are in order.

The fashion show was a tad too lengthy and the dresses displayed, out of sync with the night's theme. Diners, especially at the far end of the hall, got restless when the show became monotonous. As for entertainment, engaging a professional dance troupe would have been the perfect all-in-one solution. It is value for money - the essence of good marketing. Cutting cost is desirous but exercising prudence is an even greater attribute. The society should take cognizance of these flaws if it aspires for a repeat performance in 2009.

More pics at [ipohecho.com](http://ipohecho.com) on line

## IPOH DIARY (NOVEMBER 16 TO 30)

**Perak Academy Talk Series. Topic: Singapore-Malaysia: Building Bridges. Speaker: HE Mr T. Jasudesan, Singapore High Commissioner. Date/Time: Thursday, November 20, 2008 between 12.30 pm to 2 pm. Venue: Syuen Hotel Ipoh. For reservations call Mrs Lee at 05-5478949.**

**Coronation Gala Dinner hosted by Perak Turf Club. Date/Time: Friday, November 21 at 7.45 pm. Venue: Ballroom, Syuen Hotel, Ipoh. Admission by invitation only.**

**Children Art Competition organised by Popular Book Co (M) Sdn Bhd. Date/Time: Sunday, November 23, 2008. Venue: Kinta City Ipoh. Grouping: Two age groups - 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. Registration fees: RM5 Closing date: Wednesday, November 19. For details call Popular Book Co at 05-548 1381/ 548 1517.**

**Charity ballet to raise funds for Lions Club of Ipoh Evergreen and Y's Men Club Ipoh. Date/Time: Sunday, November 23 beginning at 7.30 pm. Venue: Banquet Hall, State Secretariat, Ipoh. For details call Dance Centre at 05-5459480.**

**Perak Society for Performing Arts will organise a 3-day workshop for students to learn the rudiments of performing arts. Date/Time: November 24 to 26 between 9.30 am to 4.30 pm for 10 to 18 years old and 2 pm to 4.30 pm for 7 to 9 years old. For details/registration call Sara at 05-5487814/012-5088818.**

**Toastmasters International District 51 will host a talk by Toastmaster K. Loghandran of Puchong, Selangor. Date/Time: Tuesday, November 25 beginning at 8 pm. Venue: Royal Ipoh Club, Ipoh. For details call Danial Ng 012-5086338 or T.K. Cheah 017-4873980.**

**Open interview for entry into Kolej Universiti Sains Kesihatan Masterskill. Date/ Time/Venue: Team A: Thursday, November 20, 9 am to 1 pm at Anson Hotel, Teluk Intan. Monday, November 24, 9 am to 1 pm at Hotel Lead View, Manjung and Saturday, November 29, 9 am to 1 pm at Syuen Hotel, Ipoh. Team B: Monday, November 17, 9 am to 1 pm Dewan Bandaran Kinta, Batu Gajah. Tuesday, November 18, 9 am to 1 pm at Dewan Bandaran Gopeng. Monday, November 24, 9 am to 1 pm at G Hotel, Penang and Saturday, November 29, 9 am to 1 pm at Dewan Orang Ramai FELDA Lasah, Sg Siput.**



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