

Workshops get them **talking**

Youngsters attend crash course



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PETALING JAYA: Kiwan Richard said he had "butterflies in my stomach" when he stepped on stage to give a five-minute speech.

Despite sweaty palms and a lump in his throat, the 17-year-old spoke effortlessly and even jammed in a *Les Miserables* solo, when speaking on the topic, *Dreams*.

"The trainer gave me that topic a few minutes earlier, so I had to work fast to come up with what I had. I laid out all the points but after a while, I think I was just on autopilot up there," said the SMK Bandar Utama Damansara 3 student.

He was among 170 budding young orators who were given a crash course on public speaking at a training workshop at Menara Star here yesterday.

The training was conducted by



Natural speaker: Gan Han Yang, 20, presenting an impromptu speech during the workshop at Menara Star.

former Writers Academy for Malaysian Journalists lecturer Sheila Joseph.

A similar workshop was held at the Star Northern Hub in Bayan Lepas in preparation for the 11th season of the Star-ESU Malaysia Speaking Competition.

The preliminary rounds and semi-finals will be held at both venues on April 6.

Forty-eight students attended the Penang segment of the workshop, conducted by speaker Roopi M. Lakhiani.

The finalists will compete for the

coveted spot of representing Malaysia in the ESU International Public Speaking Competition 2013 in London from May 13-17.

The Malaysian segment is jointly organised by *The Star* and the English Speaking Union (ESU) Malaysia, with PKT Logistics Group Sdn Bhd as co-organiser.

Among the youngest participants here was 13-year-old Lim Yong Siang, from SMK Bandar Utama Damansara 4, who wanted to improve his English and not be nervous when speaking in public.

Meanwhile, 18-year-old Jesline

Tang Chia Ling, of the Penang Chinese Girls High School, said she had always been interested in public speaking.

"This workshop is a real eye-opener as it is different from other workshops I had attended before," she said.

She was inspired by Marina Tan Hsien Wei, 18, the previous winner of The Star-ESU Malaysia Public Speaking Competition, who also hails from Penang.

For enquiries on the competition and workshops, contact 03-7967 1388 ext 1240/1237/1244.

Cook: My mum has been missing for months?

KUALA LUMPUR: A woman was shocked to learn that her mother had gone missing during a chance encounter with an acquaintance.

Sim Meng Lam, who works as a restaurant cook, only realised that her mother Tee Ah Poh, 65, had been missing when she bumped into a man who shared a shophouse in Gombak with her mother.

The daughter lives elsewhere in Gombak.

"I asked him about my mother and he said he had not seen her for months.

"I tried to find her everywhere after that. I have even lodged a police report," she said during a press conference at Wangsa Maju MCA division chief Datuk Yew Teong Look's service centre yesterday.

At wit's end, Sim turned to Yew for help. He managed to track her mother down to an old folk's home in Kajang yesterday.

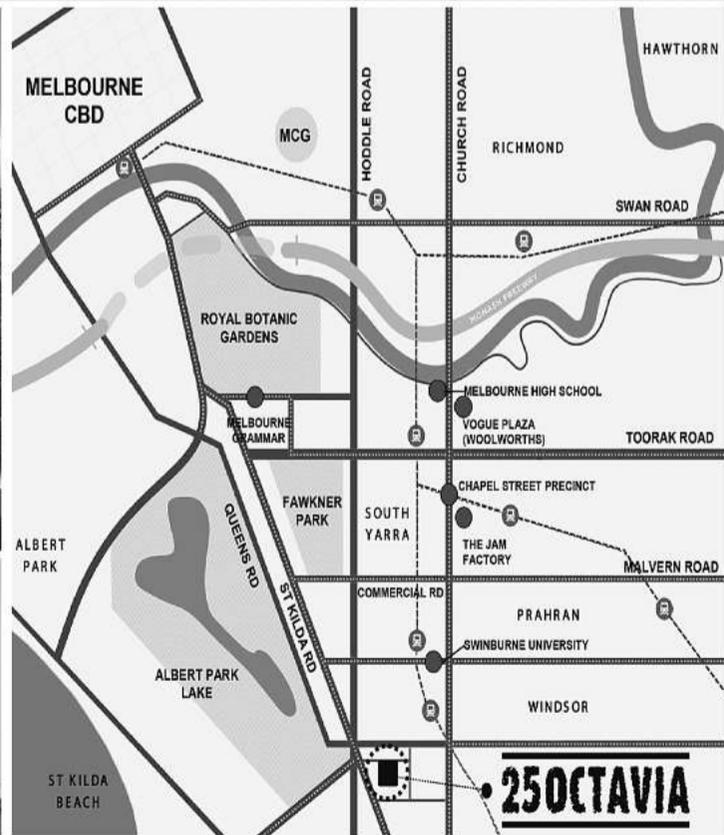
"We are still unsure how Tee ended up there as she is having memory lapses due to her age.

"The staff say she was taken in after she was discharged from a nearby hospital and had no one to pick her up," he said.

Sim, who has a brother, said she had not been able to check up on her mother because she was too busy.

"My mother will be living with me from now on," she added.

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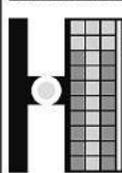


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 199 Jalan Bukit Bintang
 Straits 2 & 3, Level 2

MARKETING AGENT



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