



## WHO ARE YOU CALLING KAYU?

Reported by: Sdri. Elaine Koh

Notice how there aren't any dramas on engineers? I remember when *Law and Order* hit our TV screens. I was gripped by lawyer fever – the only thing I fervently wanted to do when I grew up was to point my finger at the accused and say "He is guilty, Your Honour." Now with *CSI* on TV, I wish I was down at some crime scene, looking for blood splats.

But it really does begets the question – why aren't there any dramas glamourising engineers? Are we really that 'kayu' that even the imagination of Hollywood producers can't dress us up? How many times have you heard the joke about the engineer refusing to kiss the frog because he thought it was more cool to have a talking frog than a beautiful princess?

It's a mighty blow to the ego – a bitter pill to swallow when the world perceives you either as a Pua Chu Kang or a Mr. Bean wannabe. And again I admit, we are not helping ourselves too much. My sister once held up a book I brought back from the library – a book totally devoted to ball bearings on bridges and asked me disbelievingly: "A whole book? A whole book?"

And while it's all very good to be oh-so technically competent, have we forgotten that the functions of intellect are insufficient without courage, love, friendship, compassion and empathy? Have we become so wrapped up in ensuring that safety factors are met that we forget the environment around us, to let our human sides be touched and to have a little fun and laughter along the way?

I would like you to meet the new committee of Graduate and Student Section. Just 4 months old, "change" was very much the word used during the retreat we had. Changing the way the community



The newly elected G&S Committees for the 2004/2005 session



The "non-kayu" G&S Committees, namely Sdr. Suresh Yegambaram, Sdri. Kee Wai Fun and Sdr. Yau Chau Fong in action during one of the seventies dinner recently

looks at engineers. Changing the way we do things. It's about shedding the 'kayu' image we have. As form follows structure, revamping the organisational structure is the first step in this direction. The G&S will be divided into the following:

- Professional Development
- Social and Community
- Student Affairs
- External Affairs
- Publicity
- GS Dot Com



You talking to me? Yup, that's our Chairman Suresh

It reflects the underlying theme of this session's committee – to serve the needy in our community by leveraging our technical skills and to have some fun along the way.

And because no man is an island, we need all the help we can get. We need volunteers... like-minded engineers like you who believe in what we are doing. Admittedly, the recent G&S Volunteer's Recruitment Drive on 24 July 2004 (Saturday) at IEM was disappointing. Was it the lack of publicity on the drive? Or did our young engineers feel that there was nothing that G&S IEM could offer them? Someone suggested that the word "volunteers" was a tad intimidating – implying commitment. But really, have we become a community of hardened engineers wrapped up in our own bubble, pursuing only rewards of material riches, forgetting that we are made to be instruments of peace and love? So take some time out, come look us up on our brand new website, e-mail us, join us.

May the force be with you. Yeah, I wanted to be Princess Leia once. ■

For more info on our hip and happening young engineers, visit <http://www.iem.org.my/textual/g&s/> or mail us at [iemgs@yahoo.com](mailto:iemgs@yahoo.com)