

When something isn't the Gospel truth

Let diverse views be aired ...

Letter from **ERIQUE TAN**

I REFER to the letter "Be sensitive to beliefs when Hollywood film airs" (April 10). Mr Heng Cho Choon means well with his concerns about religious sensitivities.

But I think banning *The Da Vinci Code* movie is the wrong move.

Going by Mr Heng's line of reasoning, any movie concerning any topic that is controversial in our society should not be aired at all.

For us to mature as a society, we should be open-minded and allow views that may be contrary to our own.

Moreover, this is a movie that most people watch for entertainment and not for insights into religion.

Anyone who finds the show offensive can choose not to watch it.

... truth will prevail over heresy

Letter from **NELSON QUAH**

I READ with amusement the report about the Gospel of Judas (April 8-9).

"The Gospel of Judas" is of the same genre as the Gospel of Thomas and the Gospel of Mary Magdalene from which

Dan Brown drew inspiration for his thriller novel, *The Da Vinci Code*.

The novel cast aspersions on the teachings of the Bible and the Catholic Church.

These Gnostic texts – the work of heretics – have been refuted by the early Fathers of the Church as containing grave doctrinal errors.

The teachings of the Bible and the Catholic Church have withstood the test of time against previous heresies and will, no doubt, prevail over "The Gospel of Judas".

Unless another council similar to the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) gives its imprimatur, the Gospel of Judas will be relegated to the realm of a Gnostic text.

Be sensitive to beliefs when Hollywood film airs

Letter from **HENG CHO CHOON**

THE novel *The Da Vinci Code* was first published in March 2003 and overnight, Dan Brown's fortunes changed dramatically. Now, whenever he shows up at a book signing or on the *Good Morning America* show, he would be greeted in the same fashion as most celebrities would, with hordes of screaming fans.

Dan Brown may have his personal reasons for writing such a controversial book, but his success has led to millions of copies being sold.

APRIL 10

Divesting to grow

Sale of PSB units = more jobs, capabilities for S'pore

Letter from **LIM PHAY-LING**
Director, Corporate Communications
Spring Singapore

I REFER to the letter by Ms Eunice Tan "Was key asset sold off?" (April 7). Spring Singapore appreciates this opportunity to clarify the points raised.

The "Yellow Pages" rule is for the Government to divest non-core functions and services which can be competitively provided by the private sector.

This is the case for testing, management systems certification and consulting services, which are provided in Singapore today by several local and foreign players – in addition to PSB Corp and PSB Cert.

These include ALS Technichem (S) Pte Ltd, Singapore Test Services Pte Ltd and Setsco Services Pte Ltd for testing; and BSI Management Systems (Asean) Pte Ltd, Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Limited and SGS International Certification Services Singapore Pte Ltd for management systems certification.

There is, therefore, little reason for the Government to continue owning and operating PSB Corp and PSB Cert when there is already a competitive market in Singapore.

This is not the case with the National Metrology Infrastructure which remains a Government function in Spring as it provides the national primary measurements standards for Singapore and links measurements made in our industries to international standards. However, lower-level or secondary-level metrology services are already competitively provided by the private sector.

The divestment of PSB Corp and PSB Cert was conducted through an open and competitive sale process where many local and foreign players had bid.

The final sale price reflects the valuation ascribed by German conglomerate TUV SUD, who has indicated that the businesses are a good strategic fit with their global expansion plans.

The divestment took into account the buyer's plans to grow the business in Singapore and internationally, their commitment to Singapore and the continuity of the business.

TUV SUD has announced its intentions to make Singapore its regional headquarters and regional competency centre.

In addition, the conglomerate will invest a further \$70m to train staff, start know-how transfer programmes and enhance management skills and technologies over the next six years.

For Singapore, this means new capabilities and resources, knowledge transfer and more jobs. It will strengthen the testing and certification industry to support new areas, thus deepening Singapore's manufacturing capabilities. Leveraging on TUV SUD's established international network of capabilities and technical competencies will enable PSB Corp and PSB Cert to grow their capabilities and business even faster, and beyond the region.

Ultimately, both the companies and Singapore will stand to benefit. We now live in a global economy. Singapore needs to keep itself competitive and attractive as a place for investment and business if we are to attract, retain and grow enterprises and industries here, irrespective of whether they are locally or foreign-owned.

There's little reason to continue owning PSB Corp and PSB Cert when there is a competitive market here.

SHORT TAKES

SAMUEL LEE:

MOSQUITOES BREED IN FRIDGE TRAYS

I REFER to the report, "NEA ups anti-mozzie efforts" (April 7). The "10-minute Mosquito Wipe-Out" routine misses mosquito larvae found in condensation trays under or behind refrigerators. Almost every home has a fridge, but few people clear the condensation trays every month, if ever. When I shifted home last year, I was so shocked to find mosquitoes breeding behind my fridge. Interestingly, few people know about this danger.

PETER CHONG:

FLAT-RATE FEE FOR SENTOSA UNFEASIBLE

I REFER to the letter from Mr Michael Chua Kheng Hwee suggesting a flat-rate admission fee for Sentosa (April 10). I disagree. Sentosa is not just a theme park. I go to Sentosa to stroll amongst the greenery and take a dip in the sea. Rarely do I visit any of the other attractions unless I have foreign guests. I would not pay the suggested price of \$50 just for that dip and walk.

COLIN ONG TAU SHIEN:

CHINESE TEACHERS' PORTAL FOR BUSINESSMEN TOO?

I AM ecstatic about the launch of the new innovative Chinese teachers' portal (portal.sgchinese.innovative-teachers.com), which aims to be the resource and forum for all Chinese teachers here.

I would like to take this initiative a step further by encouraging the various business organisations such as Singapore Business Federation, Association of Small and Medium Enterprises and Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry to incorporate the teaching concepts from this portal to fast-track Singaporean entrepreneurs who want to set up a business presence in China and require better Mandarin communication and cultural skills.

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