

Headline **Students sign up for savings discipline**
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Students sign up for savings discipline

By Halim Said
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KUALA LUMPUR: Undergraduates who are disciplined in their spending will be able to plan and save well for their future.

This habit of being frugal is what Universiti Malaya (UM) and Lembaga Tabung Haji (LTH) aimed to instil in varsity students through the Taha@U Carnival held recently.

The carnival, held at the open space at the Kompleks Perdana Siswa, was well received by the thousands who attended it.

Among the highlights was the TaHa@U membership registration at the LTH booth

where Muslim youths applied for its savings account.

There were 35 booths showcasing various products from food and drinks to textiles, as well as activity corners such as a karaoke session and public speaking.

The New Straits Times Press Group's *Berita Harian* was the official media for the carnival.

The newspaper distributed 1,000 copies of its tertiary education pull-out, *Varsiti*, at its booth.

The booth also conducted activities like henna hand-painting, caricature sketching and quizzes, along with sales of premium *Berita Harian* merchandise.

At the same time, a Chocolate Fair selling home-made chocolates, including those by students that were affordably priced, was held at the Kompleks Dewan Siswa's main building.

Visitor Zuraini Zainal Abidin, 39, who came with her children to the fair, said the carnival taught aspiring entrepreneurs how to start up small businesses that can be successful.

"I am a food trader and I know how important it is in this current economic situation to be thrifty and spend within our budget.

"This habit helps us to better manage our savings. I have opened savings accounts for my school-going children so

that they can learn to save money," she said.

Third-year UM student Faizura Mat Rifin, 23, who is studying Islamic banking, said it is never too late to start saving.

"It all comes down to discipline in keeping aside a portion of our income in the bank.

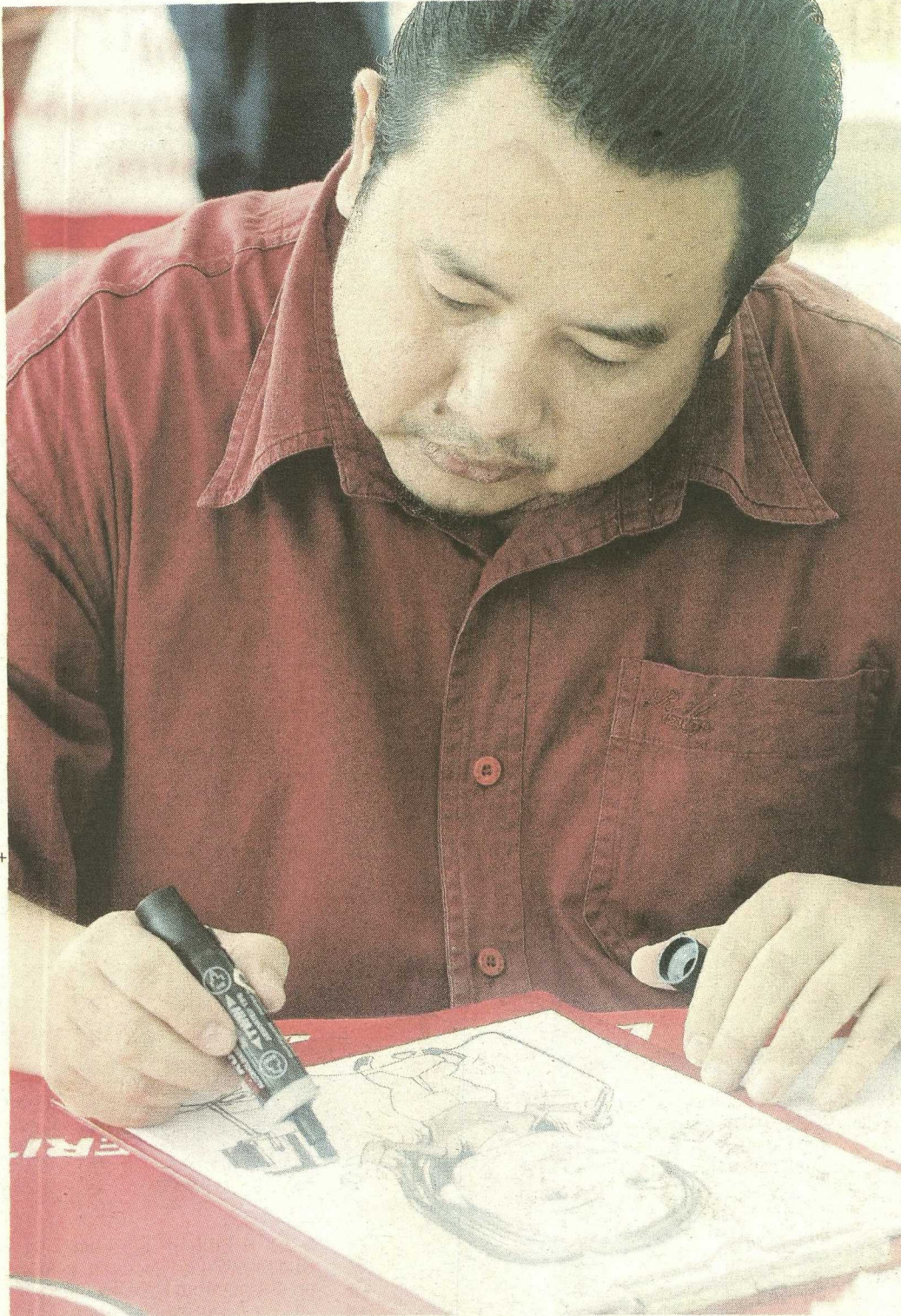
"This helps us in times of financial need," she said.

UM TaHa@U secretariat advisor Prof Madya Ahmad Solihin Baba said the carnival was also intended as a character-building exercise for students as they learn to discipline themselves when they form the habit of saving money and being thrifty.

"This will bode them well when they join the workforce," he said.

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A 'Berita Harian' graphic artist drawing caricatures.

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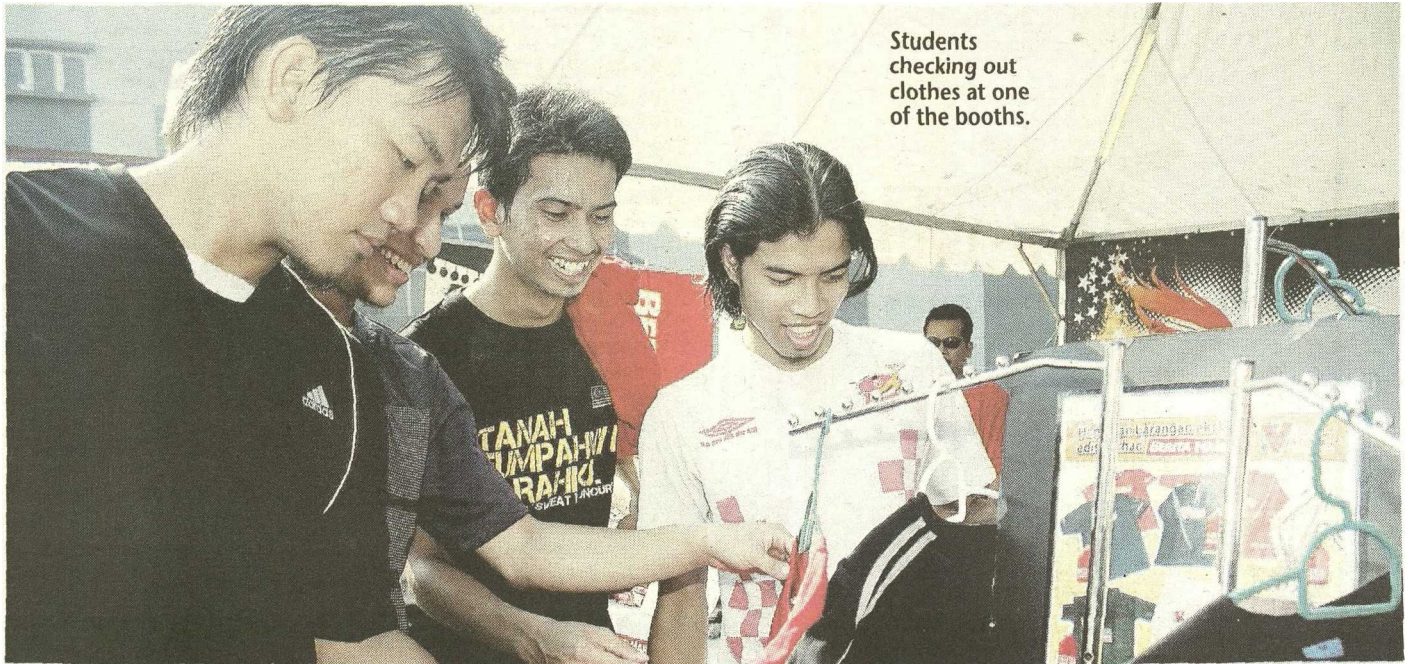
The Chocolate Fair drew visitors in droves. — Pictures by Mohd Khairul Helmy



Students taking part in the karaoke session.

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Students checking out clothes at one of the booths.



Ahmad Solihin Baba said the carnival also aimed at character-building

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Henna hand-painting.

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One of the students honing his public-speaking skills.