

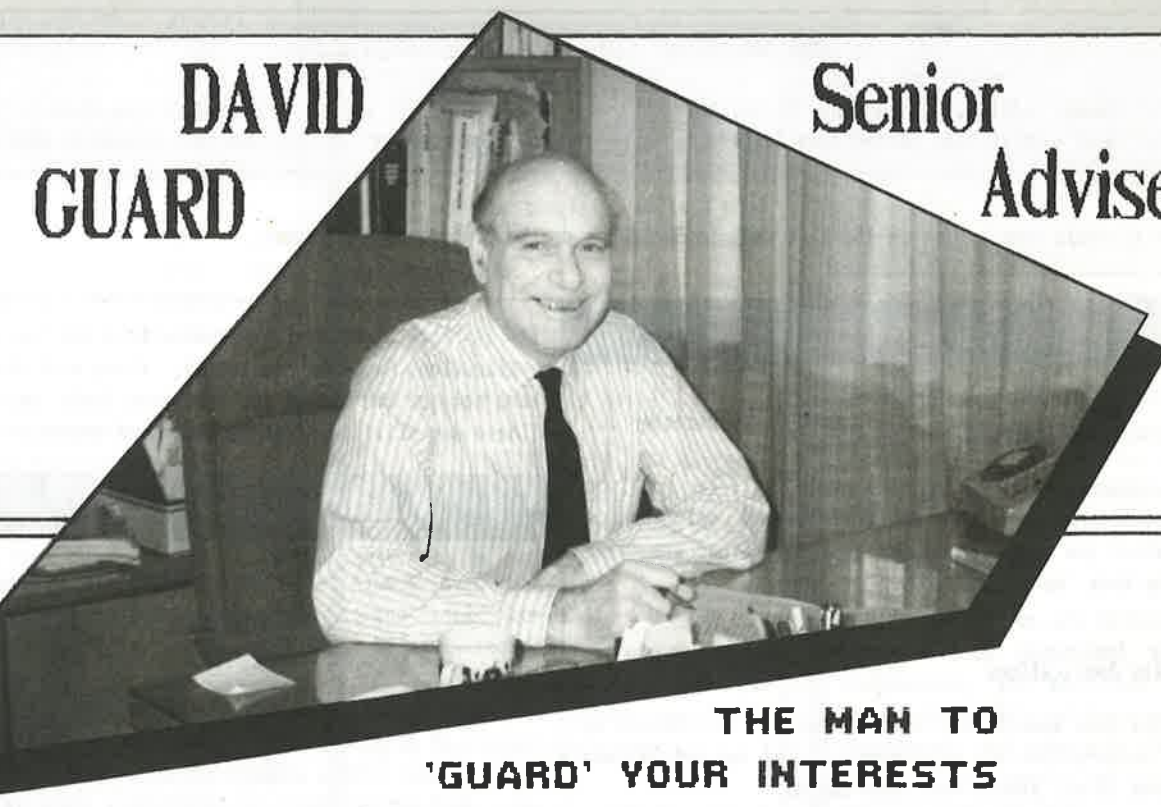
MABECS

MONITOR

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PP 54/8/89

**DAVID
GUARD**
**Senior
Adviser**

**THE MAN TO
'GUARD' YOUR INTERESTS**

When visitors to the MABECS's offices walk in, the person they usually want to see is Mr. David Guard, a Director of the Company and its Senior Educational Adviser. He has been in this country a long time and his awareness of the needs of Malaysian students is combined with a wide knowledge of the British educational system and the vast range of courses available to you.

Mr. Guard, formerly a physics teacher in UK, first came to Malaysia in 1974 as an advisor to the Malaysian Ministry of Education, later as Project Director for the Centre for British Teachers. He keeps up with the latest developments in the academic world and maintains close links with universities and polytechnics in Britain. He is also familiar with the world of industry, having worked as a line engineer and manager in Canada.

As an adviser, he believes in giving individual care and attention to the needs of each student. If he does not know the answer to your question, the first thing he will try and do is find out. He is well-equipped to advise students. Not only does he have children of his own, two of whom are graduates of British universities, he was for many years a Housemaster at a boarding school with a number of overseas students in his care. There he spent many hours helping young people come to terms with life in a new land.

He knows that going to study overseas is not just about choosing the right courses. His experience and insights enable him to prepare you in advance to deal with the kinds of difficulties you may meet in a new country and culture. From the detailed advice he can give when you make your initial enquiry, to his expertise in submitting last minute applications, there is no better man to 'guard' your interests.

LATE, LATER, LATEST

& UNIVERSITY PLACES

The Universities and Polytechnics always want to get the best and most suitable students for their courses. There are always many more applicants for places on degree courses than there are places available. It helps to remember, therefore, that the process of obtaining a place on a degree course is competitive.

The University and Polytechnic application procedures in Britain are centralised, and have been organised in such a way that selection is as fair and efficient as possible. By understanding how it works you will give yourself the best chance of obtaining a choice of places which fit your needs and skills.

There are four periods in the application process:

1. The 'normal' period, from October to December.
2. The 'late' application period from January to May.
3. The 'very late' period from June to August.
4. The 'last minute' period from late August to mid-September.

The new academic year begins in the last week in September or the first week in October.

THE SYSTEM

■ Normal Applications

... October to December ...

Applications made during this period will be received and considered by all the universities and polytechnics to which you apply. Some 90% of applications are made during this 'normal' period.

■ Late Applications

... January to May ...

Applications made during this period will be received by the universities and polytechnics, but may not be considered if all places have been taken.

■ Very Late Applications

... June to August ...

UCCA and PCAS do not send on any applications during this period. Therefore, your application through UCCA and PCAS will not be processed until the end of August.

■ Last Minute

During the second week of August the British A-Level results are received by UCCA and PCAS and the universities and polytechnics. The results will be sorted by computers so that the universities and polytechnics will know:

1. How many of their 'firmly accepted' applicants have got the grades they required, and so will be coming to them.
2. How many of their 'insurance accepted' applicants will be coming to them.

From this they will know how many places they have left at the 'last minute', if any.

It is only at this stage usually that the 'very late' applications will be considered, along with those who have not got the grades required from their university. (These may still be students with good grades.)

THE CHANCES

You have a much better chance of obtaining a place at your first choice institution if you apply during the 'normal' period rather than if you apply 'late'.

For popular subjects and at popular institutions your chances of getting a late or very late place are almost zero however good a student you are. But, you have a very much better chance of obtaining a place at all if you apply late rather than very late.

Finally, at the last minute most people who have suitable qualifications will get a place, but must be prepared to accept what is offered ... there is almost no choice at that stage.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

If you have received no offers during the 'normal' application period, there is a second try application permitted called the Continuing Application Process.

Similarly, if you are very late it is possible to approach universities and polytechnics direct who, if they think you are a suitable candidate and if they are sure to have room, may be prepared to offer you a place. Your application and their offer will still have to be confirmed through UCCA or PCAS during the late August period.

You are strongly advised to seek the assistance of an experienced counsellor if you would like to use either of these special procedures.

INTERVIEWS

& LAST MINUTE PLACES

WHY DO THEY COME?

1. To provide detailed and up-to-date information about the institution they represent and sometimes about degree courses in general in their subject area.
2. To interview you. This may support an application you have made (or are about to make) to the institution.
3. Occasionally to offer 'last minute' places, on the spot or very quickly, if you have suitable qualifications.
4. To offer any educational advice students and parents may need.
5. To try to help clear up problems you have about an application you have made to their institution.

LOOK AT THE PAGES OF ANY NEWSPAPERS AND YOU WILL SEE THAT VISITS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH INSTITUTIONS ARE A COMMON FEATURE OF THE MALAYSIAN EDUCATIONAL SCENE.

GETTING READY FOR INTERVIEW

A. Before you get there

To get maximum benefit, it is a good idea to prepare yourself as thoroughly as possible.

1. DECIDE ON what you want from meeting the representative. Prepare what you are going to say.
2. GET TOGETHER all the supporting documents, i.e. exam results, or letters, etc. Arrange them so that they can be easily seen and not get out of order or lost.

3. WRITE DOWN a list of questions you want to ask. (This helps you prepare yourself and may need changing as you think about them.)

4. If you are hoping to get a place:

- (a) decide as exactly as possible what you want and what professional qualification you hope to get, if approved;
- (b) take originals of exam results slip and photocopies of them to leave behind.

B. Before you leave

1. Take away any relevant information you can.
2. Make a note of the name of the person you were speaking to.

GIVE CHANCES BUT DO NOT TAKE THEM

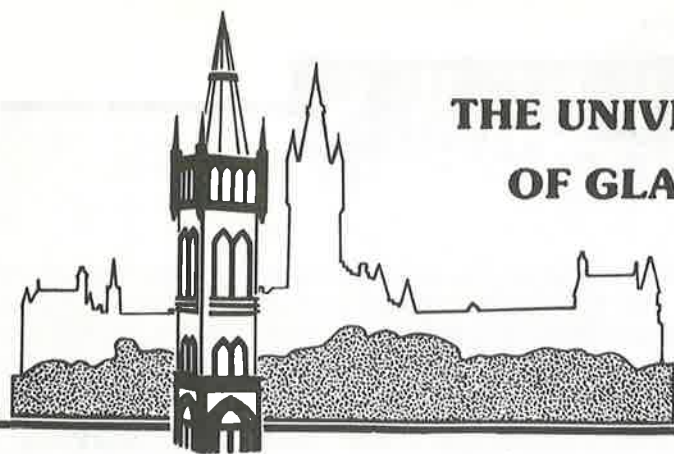
1. With all types of application to UK institutions, if you decide NOT to take up a place that you had accepted, do tell them. You may make it possible for someone else to go.

2. Some Warnings

If the person you are talking to represents a UK government supported institution, you may rest assured about the quality of the course and facilities. But make sure the course is what you want, and gives the qualification you need.

There are several good private sector institutions in the UK, but a small minority have greater marketing skills than educational value. The best way to avoid making a mistake is to remember a few basic truths:

- (a) There are no short cuts to a quality education. (It follows that some 'short cuts' are leading to qualification of a lower quality - or you have misunderstood.)
- (b) In the private sector, you get what you pay for. If it is cheaper there must be something you are not paying for. (What you are not getting may be something you don't need - but find out.)



THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

This ancient university, one of the largest in the country, is situated in Britain's second largest city. As a result of these factors, the university has many special features.

The university itself, now in its six hundredth year, lays claim to many of the intellectual giants of the past; Adam Smith, the founder of modern economic science, Lord Kelvin, the physicist, Lord Lister, the founder of antiseptic surgery, Soddy, who demonstrated the existence of radioactive isotopes, and in very recent times, Ian Donald, whose work led to the use of ultra-sound techniques in obstetrics. This long tradition of research continues to the present time, and opportunities there are wide.

As one would expect from one of Britain's ancient and most prestigious universities there are undergraduate courses in an immense range of subjects. Students are admitted to one of five faculties: Arts, Social Sciences, Science, Engineering, Law & Financial Studies or Medicine but a feature of their programmes is the flexibility in the choice of courses as knowledge at degree level develops. Amongst the most popular programmes are Accountancy, Architecture, Aeronautical, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Computer Sciences, Dentistry, Drama, Economics, Education including Speech Therapy, Financial Studies, Management Studies, Medicine and Paramedical courses. In essence if a subject is worth studying at degree level Glasgow probably has a course in it. Many subjects are available on a Joint Honours basis so you should

study their prospectus with care. Course counselling is another feature of the university, helping students to obtain the maximum benefit from the tremendous opportunities available.

Like all Scottish institutions, the degree courses are usually in two parts, a Part One in 3 years giving an Ordinary Degree, and a Part Two Honours course in the fourth year. In some subjects, particularly Accountancy, the normal course giving full professional recognition is the Part One Ordinary Degree.

Entry to Glasgow University undergraduate courses may seem rather daunting; A-Levels of high grades can give entry to 2nd year of some courses, but usually students are admitted to the first year of a four-year course. STPM, South Australian Matriculation, Ontario Grade 13 and US Credit Transfer programme applicants are offered places.

Students obtain an Ordinary Degree after three years but the good news is that for all those going on to honours, a **full fees scholarship** will be awarded for that fourth year.

The university has a range of Halls of Residence and Student Houses within walking distance of the university and gives priority to new overseas students. There are also self-contained flats reserved for students who wish to rent them on a 52-week basis. In general, prices in Glasgow are not high on a national basis, a university self-catering single room costing from £22 a week.

Did You Know ...

... that Glasgow University offers a full fee scholarship for the 4th year (honours) course?



Focus on GLASGOW

A well-known Scottish song begins, "I belong to Glasgow". That is exactly how many former students feel after living and studying in this fascinating city. Whether you choose to study at Glasgow College or at the University you will be in the heart of a city which has excellent links with the rest of Britain.

Mainline stations with regular inter-city services are only minutes away from both campuses via the fast efficient underground train system. A fast twenty minute coach ride along the motorway will take you to Glasgow Airport where regular shuttle services leave to connect with international flights leaving from Gatwick and Heathrow Airports.

It is just as easy to escape into the beautiful countryside that surrounds the city. Glasgow is the gateway to some of Scotland's most magnificent scenery. You can walk, swim, sail, climb, simply relax or even try to see the famous Loch Ness Monster!

Most people do not want to leave Glasgow for too long, though. Although the Scottish countryside is green and beautiful so are certain parts of the city. The city is one of the cleanest and greenest in Europe, with many beautiful parks and gardens.

Glasgow may be Britain's second city but you can be sure of a first-class welcome. Unlike many other towns there is no rivalry between students and the local inhabitants. Many of the excellent facilities in the two institutions are provided for the people of Glasgow as well

as students. The magnificent new sports complex at Kelvin Hall is a perfect example of this. Built at a cost of several million pounds, this purpose-built indoor athletics arena has facilities for almost all sports. If you prefer to watch rather than play, Glasgow has two of the most famous football teams in the world: Celtic or Rangers.

If playing or watching sport is not your cup of tea, don't worry. Whatever your taste in leisure activities Glasgow can satisfy your appetite. It is the home of the Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet and the Scottish National Orchestra. For those who prefer more modern entertainment Glasgow's cinemas show the latest films as soon as they are released.

The students of Glasgow come from all over Britain and the rest of the world including a large number from Malaysia. A good way to meet people is through the clubs and societies found in the university and the college. There are a vast number which cater for every kind

of cultural, religious and social activity.

Food is not a problem whether you cook for yourself or eat out. The ingredients for Asian food are widely available from the many grocery shops run by the city's thriving Asian community. For Muslims halal chicken and mutton can be bought from special shops although halal beef is more difficult to obtain. The variety of food is so great that you will never get bored just as the taste for this exciting city will remain with you long after you have graduated.



George Square and the City Chambers

DEGREE COURSES

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY Degree Courses include:

Accounting & Finance; Agriculture; Architecture; Computing; Dentistry; Economics; Management Studies; Medicine & Nursing; Psychology; Politics; Sociology; Aeronautical Engineering; Civil Engineering; Electrical & Electronic Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Production Design Engineering; Sciences

Degrees marked * are also available as joint honours degrees.

GLASGOW COLLEGE Degree Courses include:

Accountancy; Building; Business Studies; Commerce; Computer Information Systems; Nursing; Ophthalmic Optics; Quantity Surveying; Risk Management.

Professional Courses include:

CACA (Level II & III); CIMA; Diploma in Insurance (ACII qualifying); Diploma in Industrial Management (Institute of Marketing); specialised Nursing Diplomas in Community Psychiatric Nursing and in Professional Studies.



GLASGOW COLLEGE

Situated on a single site in the very centre of the city, Glasgow College is one of the largest higher education institutions in Scotland. It is a 'Central Institution', the Scottish term for what is called a Polytechnic in England and Wales.

Its courses are mainly vocational and professional. This is a major reason why its employment rate for graduates is above the national average.

The wide range of courses offered include some that are not available elsewhere. A significant aspect of the College is the availability of paramedical programmes including degree courses in Nursing and Optometry. However, the majority of the other courses prepare students for careers in business, with degrees in Accounting, Business Studies, Commerce and Maths for Business Analysis and the UK's first degree in Risk Management, the heart of the world of insurance.

The degree in Computer Information Systems (or 'Informatics' for those who like current jargon words!), combines business studies with computer technology and programming - a combination ideally suited for the Systems Analyst. This course includes a year's working experience thus enhancing employment prospects on graduation. There are also degree courses in Business & Engineering and Electronic Engineering as well as the highly regarded degrees in Building and Quantity Surveying.

Glasgow College offers a number of professional courses, particularly the fully taught programme for Certified Accountancy qualifications.

Glasgow is a city with a large student population and accommodation is readily available at prices well below the national average. But first year overseas students are guaranteed accommodation in the Halls of Residence of Strathclyde University.

Fees are slightly below the normal level of degree courses, but, more importantly, Glasgow College operates a **fixed fee policy**; a student pays the same fees for all the years of their course.

Entry qualifications include South Australian Matriculation, Ontario Grade 13, Chinese Senior Middle Three, American Transfer Credit programmes and of course A-Levels and STPM at about Grade C. Application, like that of all Scottish Centre Institutions, is direct to the college, application forms being available from MABECS.



Did You Know ...

... that the average temperature in Glasgow is not even one degree lower than London?



MEDICINE

THE COMPETITION

Entry to all British degree courses is competitive but for Malaysian students seeking places in U.K. medical schools the competition is fierce. This is entirely because the number of places at medical schools is limited; in some medical schools there are more than 20 applications for every place.

COMMITMENT

If you are considering medicine, please think very, very carefully. Are you sure you wish to make a career involving that sort of work, and with those sort of pressures? Do you really have the commitment to complete such a long, physically demanding, sometimes very boring course which demands hard work, determination and feats of rote learning?

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Having thought about your own attitudes you should next examine your skills, in the light of the intense competition for places:

if your SPM or O-level results are not mainly distinctions, you probably will not get an offer of a place;

if your STPM or A-level forecasts are not very good, you probably won't get an offer of a place;

if you are taking any qualifying exam other than STPM or A-level your forecast results must be outstanding, and you may have to do a preliminary year, six in all.

APPLICATIONS

You should apply in the usual way through UCCA, choosing 5 medical schools, but there are some special points to remember:

Apply early, that is, as soon as your school has some firm results on which to base their forecast; in October, if possible, but **do NOT miss the December 15th deadline.**

Only apply for medicine. Do not include other courses on your application form.

There are some universities which do not offer places to Malaysian applicants; get advice from experienced counsellors before completing your UCCA form. Take great care of all aspects of your application form.

Take only 3 subjects at A-level. Your offer will only ask for 3 subjects. One Grade A and 2 Grade B's is very, very much better than 4 Grade B's. One subject must be Chemistry in which you should do especially well.

FINALLY ...

If your application results in your getting **one** offer of a place, be jubilant; you have done better than average. If you get rejected by all 5 medical schools, **keep at it, you are normal!** Now concentrate on getting good A-levels and you may then get a place at the last minute.

COSTS & Length of Course

Our previous article on the costs of overseas education discussed the differences in level of degree in different countries.

We will use recognition by the JPA and the appropriate Malaysian Professional Association as the criterion of equivalence of degrees. Thus we will compare the total length it takes to complete a degree course recognised by the JPA.

The box below shows the most common situation:

An Honours degree course in Australia lasts 4 years.
An Honours degree course in Britain lasts 3 years.
A recognised degree course in Canada lasts 4 years.
A recognised degree course in America lasts 4 years.

For subjects such as Accountancy, Business Studies, Computing Studies, Economics and Law, where no previous knowledge is required, the generalisation above is correct. The following qualifications are generally accepted:

Any British A-Level Board such as AEB, Cambridge or London.
The Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM).
The South Australian Matriculation.
The Ontario Grade 13.
Most American Associate Degree Programmes.

When a considerable amount of previous knowledge is required in order to follow a degree course such as in Computer Engineering, Engineering, Food Science, Pharmacy, and other scientific subjects, the British situation can be different. Holders of South Australian Matriculation and Ontario Grade 13 may have difficulty in obtaining a place or may be required to complete a 4-year course.

Those who have followed an American Associate Degree Programme are assessed individually on the content of the course they have followed, but will usually obtain places on 3 years Honours programmes.

The differences in length of courses between Britain and other countries has a profound effect on the total cost of obtaining a recognised degree, because the annual fees and the annual cost of living has to be calculated for 3 years only in Britain, rather than for 4 years elsewhere.

SPECIAL CASES

Courses in Architecture and Medicine usually last 5 years in Britain, and 6 years in Australia. Dentistry lasts just over 4 years in Britain, 5 in Australia.

For various reasons these subjects cannot suitably be studied in the USA or Canada to obtain recognised qualifications in Malaysia.

If professional recognition is required accountancy and law cannot be studied in Canada or the United States.

EXEMPTIONS

It is possible to obtain exemptions from part of a degree course overseas by studying appropriate programmes in Malaysia. These can produce considerable reductions in the length of the overseas course, and hence a reduction in the cost of obtaining an Honours Degree.

Many Technical Institute Diplomas in Engineering give direct entry to 2 years Honours degree programmes in Britain.

Successful completion at one attempt of London intermediate level external LLB gives entry to some 2 years LLB courses.

There are several linked degree programmes which give entry to two years honours degree courses in Britain.

When obtaining places through such exemptions the choice of institution is always somewhat restricted. This is because such programmes require that the subject matter studied in Malaysia completely covers the content of the first year course overseas.

There are similar linked degree programmes for degree courses in Australia and the United States.

PUZZLE 2

ROYAL NAMES

Two of the sons of the Duke of Edinburgh have names which add up to his:

ANDREW
+ EDWARD

PHILIP

Each letter stands for a different digit from 0 to 9. Work out which letters have replaced which numbers.

A \$50 book token will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution received by Vanessa Lim, MABECS Sdn. Bhd., No. 9, Jalan Barat, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Please state which college you are studying in, your address and telephone no. when sending in your answers.

Answers to Puzzle 1

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals for	Goals Against
Aston	2	0	2	0	4	4
Aardvarks						
Birmingham	1	1	0	0	3	1
Butterflies						
Coventry	2	0	1	1	4	8
Casuals						
Warwick	3	1	1	1	5	3
Wonders						
Aston Aardvarks drew with Coventry Casuals						4-4
Birmingham Butterflies lost to Warwick Wonders						1-3
Coventry Casuals lost to Warwick Wonders						0-4
Warwick Wonders drew with Aston Aardvarks						0-0

Did You Know ...

... that most universities and polytechnics will offer places to good students who have followed South Australian Matric or Ontario Grade 13 or a US credit transfer course?

SCOTTISH QUIZ

1. How long does it take to obtain a Scottish degree giving full professional recognition for the accounting profession?
2. How many legs does a Haggis have?



What is the formal degree title for which the student is studying, and at which institution?

4. What celebrations are taking place in Glasgow in 1990?

5. What connection do these buildings have with students?



6. How much is the estimated cost of living per year in Glasgow?
7. How many engineering degrees are offered at Glasgow University?
8. How do you apply for places at Glasgow University and Glasgow College?

For answers to Questions 3-8, please refer to the Glasgow University and Glasgow College prospectuses.

Two prizes of \$50 each in the form of a book token will be awarded to the first two correct sets of quiz answers received by Vanessa Lim at the MABECS office.

Please state which college you are studying in, your address and telephone no. when sending in your answers.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UK STUDIES

MABECS Sdn. Bhd. provides a personal advisory and counselling service to Malaysians seeking UK degree courses at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Sponsored by British Universities and Polytechnics and Colleges of Higher Education. MABECS makes no charges to Malaysians for this service.

For information and service, contact us at the address below.

CONGRATULATIONS ...



... to Hiew Choon Kong of Kolej Damansara, P.J., for winning the prize for Puzzle 1.

NEXT ISSUE:

* UCCA & PCAS Forms

* Mr. Brian Kemp

* Accountancy

* Costs & Tuition Fees

* What is a Poly?

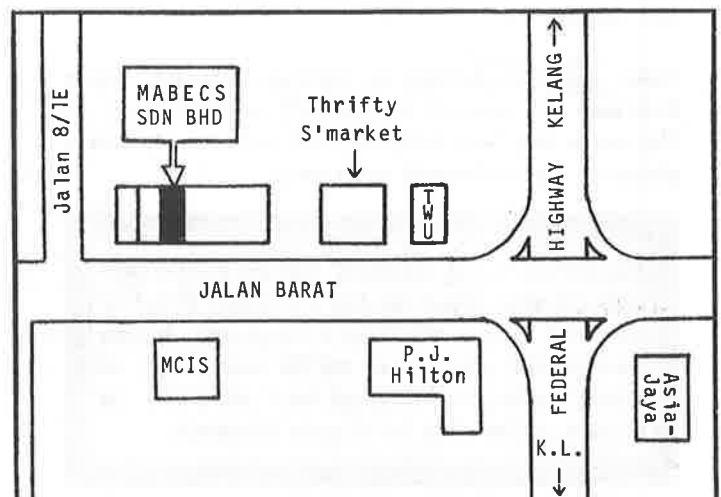
* Nottingham & Robin Hood

PLUS: More prize winners

PLUS: More quizzes and puzzles

AND MORE!!!

SO WATCH OUT FOR IT!



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