




Longest Inline Skating Chain




Longest Scuba Dive In A Controlled Environment



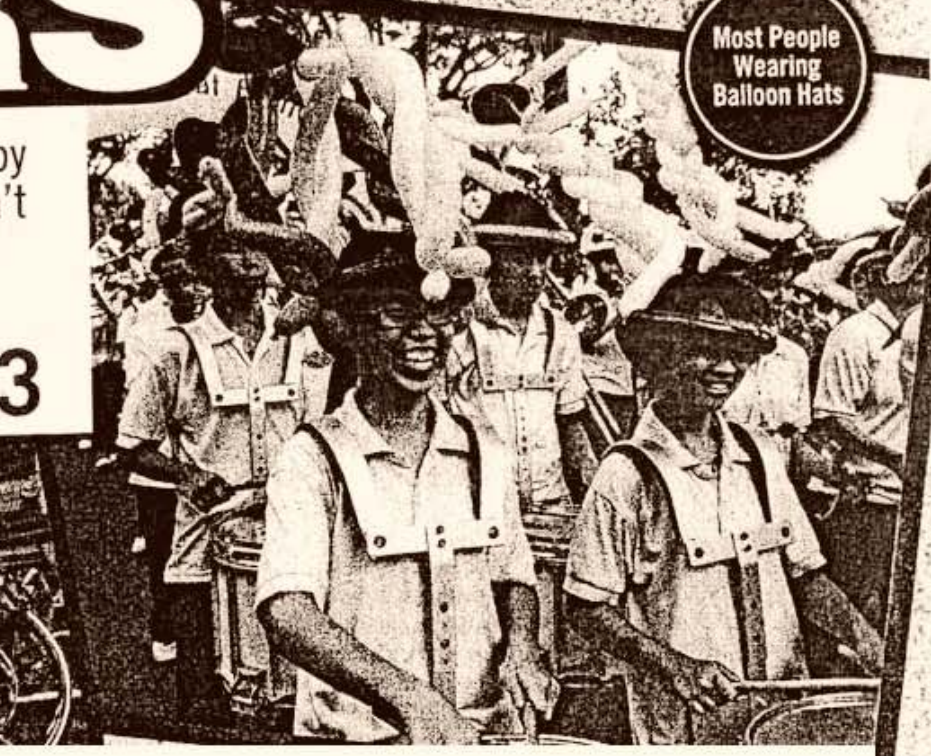
World's First Baby Massage-a-thon



RECORD BUSTERS



Largest Display Of Rice Dumplings



Most People Wearing Balloon Hats

Singaporeans hold an estimated 45 world records noted by Guinness, though it's mostly for weird achievements. Don't they have better things to do? What's the obsession with breaking odd-ball records? LIFESTYLE investigates.

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Longest Marathon In A Wheelchair



10 Guinness World Records held by Singaporeans



most people WEARING BALLOON HATS
A record 1,491 people wore balloon hats at an event organised by Sentosa at its Siloso Beach on June 4 last year.



largest display OF RICE DUMPLINGS
Jurong West residents set a new world record by making and displaying 14,038 dumplings on June 12 last year. They beat the previous record of 13,192 dumplings set in 2004 by Jurong Junior College students.



world's first BABY MASSAGE-A-THON
Johnson & Johnson and KK Women's and Children's Hospital organised the world's first baby massage-a-thon on May 8 last year. Four hundred and nine babies participated in this event.



longest scuba dive IN A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT
Adventurer Khoo Swee Chiew, 42, broke the world record for the longest scuba dive in a controlled environment on Dec 25 last year. He stayed submerged for 220 hours. The last record was held by a Briton who stayed underwater for 212 hours and 30 minutes in 1986.



longest marathon IN A WHEELCHAIR
Dr William Tan, 49, set a new world record as the first person to be in a marathon on wheels for 48 hours. He accomplished it from Oct 21 to 23 last year.



most number OF GOLF BALL STRIKES
An amateur golfer at multiple venues is 1,453. They were struck at 13 different golf courses during events organised to celebrate the National University of Singapore's 100th anniversary on Feb 19 this year.



largest LION DANCE DISPLAY
The Singapore National Wushu Federation set a new world record by organising a lion dance display comprising 328 lions. The performance took place at the Jurong East Sports Complex on Jan 23 last year.



most participants IN A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY
There were 3,238 participants - including President S R Nathan - in the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the official launch of Swissotel The Stamford and Raffles The Plaza on Jan 6, 2002. The ribbon was 4,203m long.



longest INLINE SKATING CHAIN
On Aug 6 this year, 280 Singaporeans formed the world's longest inline skating chain at the Samsung Inline Skating Festival. It is the first record of its kind.

SOURCES: GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2007 AND SINGAPORE BOOK OF RECORDS

FOR THE RECORD

From ribbon cutting to rice dumplings, some 45 world records are currently being held by Singaporeans in the Guinness World Records. LifeStyle takes a look at the nation's many wacky record-setting feats




How to be a record breaker
ANYONE can set a Guinness world record. There is a correct procedure to follow, though, before you dash off to eat 50 bowls of mee stam in one minute, or whatever feat it is that you have in mind.
First, get in touch with Guinness. You need to get the green light from the Guinness World Records. The Guinness World Records is a non-profit society run by about 20 local volunteers, promotes record-breaking events and offers advice to people attempting these records. It was previously known as Record Breakers Singapore and was run by Australian couple John and Helen Taylor.
Last December, the club took the step of publishing the 192-page Singapore Book Of Records, with a new and more comprehensive edition planned for early next year.
LifeStyle talked to club president Ong Eng Huat, 48, who runs a publishing company.

What are the trends in record-busting efforts in Singapore?
We don't have many individuals in Singapore who can devote much time and effort in perfecting their craft or in training for their pursuits. People like Dr William Tan, adventurer Khoo Swee Chiew and mountaineer David Lim are a rare breed.
But Singapore excels in mass participation events. I guess, as a society, we are very cooperative and are good at following instructions. We are also strong in organisational and management skills. It is easier to get thousands of people to do a similar action in Singapore than in most other countries.

Who are most inclined to record-breaking activities?
Students from junior colleges, polytechnics and universities. That's when people want to be different and stand out from the crowd. They also have the energy and passion to go without sleep to work towards their goal.

Why is breaking records so important?
Not everyone can be the best in academic studies or sports, but by breaking a record in an unusual feat, one proves to the best in that area.
Life is very transient. You want to do things that get "recorded". Even if your record doesn't




Singapore's record book
IT IS not just the famed Guinness book where Singaporean record-breakers stake their place in the sun. The Republic has its own catalogues of citizens' remarkable deeds.
The Singapore Book Of Records Club, a non-profit society run by about 20 local volunteers, promotes record-breaking events and offers advice to people attempting these records. It was previously known as Record Breakers Singapore and was run by Australian couple John and Helen Taylor.
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FOR THE RECORD
Lion and dragon dance instructor Peter Chai, 36, took part in both feats. "What I found most valuable was the team spirit we fostered. The records were a nice bonus."
But not all record-breakers are basking in the glory of their world-class stunts.
An undergraduate from the National University of Singapore despite creating his Guinness record by folding six paper cranes within five minutes.
And not all record-holders are fixated on defending their titles. Mr Loh, for one, adopted an almost indifferent attitude towards his Guinness record. Although 212 of his letters were published in that record-breaking year between August 2002 and 2003, he says he wrote only a couple of letters this year.
"I couldn't possibly make myself write things just to break that record. I'll just end up looking stupid," he says with a laugh.
Associate Professor Kirpal Singh, who teaches creative thinking at the Singapore Management University, says the tendency for Singaporeans to break records on a mass platform is something of a worry. "It does not truly reveal a sustainable capacity for genuine feats," he says.
It is easy enough to continue to think of newer ways of breaking and creating new records, like getting half a million Singaporeans to tie a turban, he quips. "But for the longer term, we must endeavour to break records which truly matter," he says.
But Mr Khoo feels it does not matter if world records come from individual or mass events. "People should be encouraged to pursue their passion. Everyone should take the courage to do something they feel is beyond them," he says.



WRITE ON: Lawyer Michael Loh, 42, had 212 of his letters published in one year, between 2002 and 2003.

Most number of letters published



WATER WORKS: Adventurer Khoo Swee Chiew, 42, stayed underwater for 220 hours.

Longest scuba dive in controlled environment



SHOOTOUT: Student Ang Chuang Yang, 16, sent a message in 41.52 seconds. His record is awaiting confirmation.

Fastest SMS message in English



SMS champ prefers to talk
HE MAY have the world's fastest fingers when it comes to sending an SMS message, but Raffles Institution student Ang Chuang Yang says he prefers talking to texting.
"I find SMS messaging to be very anti-social," says Chuang Yang, 16.
He used to send as many as 5,000 SMS messages a month to family members and friends, but has slashed this to about 1,000 by cutting down on lengthy SMS conversations.
The teenager set a new Guinness world record for writing a 160-character SMS message last Sunday at the SingTel SMS Shootout 2006. The competition, now into its third year, drew over 300 people, mainly between the ages of 15 and 19.
Chuang Yang's winning time of 41.52 seconds beat the record set by American Ben Cook in July.
And, no, his dextrous digits are not a result of hours spent operating game consoles. He hates computer games and prefers to play golf and pool instead.
When LifeStyle asks him to demonstrate his feat, he hesitates. He knows the message as set by Guinness - by heart: The razor-toothed piranhas of the genus Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality, they seldom attack a human.
He makes small talk as his fingers dance effortlessly across the keypad of his Nokia 6030. But he manages only 46 seconds, distracted by pass-