Racial harmony not good enough, go for integration

It is time to move from passive tolerance to active engagement

BY SOH WEE LING

The remarks by a young man at a students' forum — that the sight of a man holding hands with a woman of a different skin colour makes his skin crawl, and that interracial marriages would dilute racial purity — are overtly racist.

We have to challenge racial stereotypes and move from passive tolerance to active engagement of other races. It is only through a lifestyle of regular interaction that trust and understanding can be built.

We need to be passionate about celebrating diversity from a young age. And I can't think of a better way to do it than to date someone of a different race.

Perhaps the day will come when parents won't bat an eyelid when their children choose a partner from a different race. That's definitely the acid test of whether we have become a socially mature nation.

The writer is a final-year accountancy student at Singapore Management University.

TRIS PRUETTPHINTHUI, who is working in the US before studying law at NUS

TAKE CARE WHEN YOU POST A BLOG

“Take care when you express your opinion in the blog. It is not just your own life but also parents' trust which we should not undermine.

TEE YOCK SIAN, a second-year student at NTU

THEY SHOULD LEARN FROM MISTAKES

“The actions of the two youths came from misconceptions that they have not taken the effort to correct. We should condemn their actions and make sure they are held accountable for their actions.”

DESMOND CHAN, a second-year student at NTU