EVERY university in town wants to be a class act.

Source: The Straits Times

house events and activities.

formation, including on recent fee increases, the

universities open houses will

ing) and a Latin music band.

will take part in the clinic walked away with attractive prizes in three-pointer shoot-

said Ms Cheng Lee Ching, corporate commu-

nizations director of Uni-

SIM. "Such activities allow prospective students to get a taste of the lively diversity here."

Fun and entertainment aside, the focus of the open house is also on academic studies.

All four universities have roped in lecturers and students in field ques-

ations from prospective students.

Among the students Gao’s spoke to was Stephanie Chen, 19, who has been to SMU’s open house and will head next week for the event at NUS.

“T0 be an outing with friends and you get to find out more about your education too,” said the Victoria Junior College student, who wants to study medi-

ical.

But Meridian Junior College student Earth Poon, 19, is giving open houses a miss. “The information we have from, say, their websites, is adequate. Per-

haps some people go for the freebies.”

Meanwhile, the Singapore Insti-

tute of Management University (UniSIM), which held its open house earlier this month, expects to attract about 10,000 visitors, roughly the same as last year.

The Singapore Management University (SMU), the Singapore Insti-

tute of Management University (UniSIM) – held its open house on Friday and yesterday. One highlight was a basketball clinic run by the Singapore Sin-

gers, a semi-professional Australian League team with two locals in its ranks.

Several visitors who took part in the clinic walked away with attractive prizes in three-pointer shoot-

out.

Biological Sciences and the Nanyang Auditorium fea-

tures headliners and drag women. Radio DJs like Daniel Ng and Dennis Chew will lour the cam-

put to report on the activities.

students to get a taste of the lively diversity here.’

fun and serious side of campus life

famous for its beef sandwiches and Belgian choco-

lates waffles. Some student chefs will also

34, will be selling desserts and drinks. “We satisfy those who are hungry to know more about university and those who are hungry after walking around,” he said with a laugh.

There will also be performances by bands whose members come from the various hostels, as well as a special exhibition on the upcoming University Town, which will house athletes for the 2010 Youth Olympics.

NUS expects some 20,000 visitors to its open house this year, an increase of 2,000 from last year. Second-year engineering student Tan Xian Looi, 23, an NUS Student Union member, coordinates the event as its director, together with 16 other students.

“It will be exciting, with 200 interest groups show-

ing their stuff and promoting our rich school cul-

ture,” he said.

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is hold-

ing its open house this weekend.

Among other highlights, the event at the School of

No change in number of places

A TOTAL of 13,053 students received their A-level results this year, and 11,418, or 87.5 per cent of the cohort, secured at least three passes in Higher 2 subjects, and passed Gen-

eral Paper or Knowledge and Inquiry.

There is no basic university entry require-

ment as entry criteria are course-specific.

Despite a fee increase of up to 25 per cent this year, all universities told Gene that no one will be denied an education because they can’t afford it.

The universities indicated that they will be offering roughly the same number of places as last year.

Based on last year’s figures, 25,000 people applied for 6,500 places at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and 35,000 people competed for an estimated 6,000 places at Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

At the Singapore Management University (SMU), there were 13,000 applications for the 1,000 places last year. Figures were unavailable from SIM University (UniSIM).

Students may apply to more than one

local university.

Across-the-board university open houses are a relatively new concept here. NUS and NTU launched these only in 2001 and 2002 respectively. They had individual faculty open houses previously. SMU and UniSIM embraced the concept from their start-up, in 2002 and 2003 respectively.

All four universities declined to disclose their open house budgets. But over the years, the events have grown in scale and become more varied, especially in student-led activities.

Alex Lam