

SINGAPORE

NTU students start own news site

The Enquirer to report on 'in-depth issues that matter to undergrads'

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TYPE “student, hong lim” in your Google search field, and it is likely that The Enquirer will come out first among 105,000 search results.

The Enquirer – a news website launched on Oct 3 by three third-year students at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) – is independently operated, and aims to report on “in-depth issues that matter to the student population”.

In contrast, the Nanyang Chronicle is a student-run campus paper published by the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (WKWSCI).

It seems that the NTU student population is becoming more vocal, as can be seen from the Oct 5 protests on news censorship and now, their own alternative channel to voice views.

However, Mr Chong Zi Liang, chief editor of The Enquirer, said: “It’s not really student activism. We launched The Enquirer purely for journalism’s sake. At the end of the day, we wanted to have a sense of how it felt to run something that’s ours.”



DIVERSITY: NTU students now have two main websites for their news diet. (SCREENGRABS: INTERNET)

They had attended the protest “strictly as reporters”, and said they were not involved in its planning or execution.

Mr Chong’s team of three 23-year-olds (including himself) forked out \$60 to purchase the website domain and its e-mail addresses.

Its deputy editor is fellow journalism major Zakaria Zainal and its third member, titled “editor-at-large”, is the current chief editor at Nanyang Chronicle, Mr Lin Junjie.

Mr Chong said that Mr Lin’s leaving Nanyang Chronicle at the end of October was not due

to fresh commitments at The Enquirer, but was part of a process that sees the entire Nanyang Chronicle editorial team step down yearly to make way for new blood.

They had informed their WKWSCI lecturers when they launched The Enquirer.

Acting division head of journalism and publishing Cherian George, 42, said: “I look at it as a journalism initiative instead of activism. It is very gratifying that these students care enough to start up a journalistic entrepreneurship.”

Mr Andrew Duffy, 43, teacher-supervisor of the Nanyang

Chronicle and journalism lecturer at WKWSCI, told *my paper* that he felt it was a good thing that the boys were contributing to “diversity in media”, and that he doesn’t see The Enquirer “as competition to the Nanyang Chronicle at all”.

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HELPDESK 我的字典

Protest: 抗议 kàng yì

News website:

新闻网络

xīn wén wǎng luò