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Green, green grass of old

I REFER to the letters from Messrs Lee Kip Lee and Denis Distant.

Going back some decades when the population of Singapore was just 300,000, there were more trees than people on the island. Now, with residents more than 10 times that figure, it is the reverse. Given the apparent inverse ratio, we can expect 'greenery' in the future to mean that a majority of the buildings will be painted in that colour.

If my recollection is correct, today's Ngee Ann City was the site of a burial ground. As for the picturesque former Singapore Turf Club at Bukit Timah, with its manicured grounds, it has also been turned into just another shopping centre, with hordes going there to enjoy bargains rather than fresher air. In this scenario, the joy of small numbers of footballers playing there becomes insignificant.

At one time, somewhere between the Cathay Building/Kirk Terrace and the Istana stood the residence of a Chinese towkay atop a hill, which area seems to be the one now planned for future development.

It will not be long before all the grass is totally exterminated from the SJI playing field on Bras Basah Road, just as happened with Raffles Institution.

Perhaps the authorities should start with the removal of the anachronistic Finlayson Green from the street directory. There is nothing very 'green' there now, and who knows who Finlayson was, anyway?

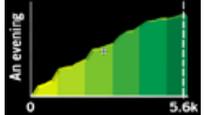
NARAYANA NARAYANA

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