

M1's new plan gives more choices

TELCO M1 launched a new programme, Take3, last week-end that will allow mobile-phone users to pick the type of cellphones they want for free.

But there is a catch: the phone models they can select are subject to which Take3 billing plan they choose.

For example, those on the top-tier plan can pick a LG KF900 Prada II phone, along with all the other phones offered under cheaper plans.

The top-tier plan costs about \$200 a month.

An M1 spokesman said the programme will free its customers from the "upfront expenses typically incurred by mobile users" when they buy new phones.

Under the Take3 programme, a customer signs up for a billing plan that best suits his needs.

He takes a handset of his choice from the list of phones he is eligible for, and gets to exchange it for a new handset from as early as nine months after he had signed the plan.

btw

ON VALUING TIME WITH PARENTS

The wake-up call of Benjamin Button



JOY FANG

WATCHING the Oscar-nominated film *The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button* was a wake-up call for me, and made me realise how fleeting mortality is.

Only a week ago, I thought the film, based on an F. Scott Fitzgerald short story and starring Brad Pitt as the title character who ages backwards, was a drag - all two hours and 50 minutes of it.

But last Saturday, while spending a lazy afternoon with a friend browsing film clips on YouTube, I had a change of heart.

The audio for the Benjamin Button clip was not in sync, leading to my friend obsessively playing the opening scene over and over again.

I was about to clobber him with my laptop when I started thinking about the scene - a fragile Daisy (Cate Blanchett) on her deathbed tells her daughter (Julia Ormond) about her life story with Benjamin.

It suddenly opened a floodgate of mixed emotions. Like Benjamin and Daisy, who have only a sliver of time to enjoy each other's company, I realised that we, too, share that time only once with our parents.

For many young people, life is flush with possibilities. Many yearn for freedom. Some even thumb their noses at what is perceived as parental control.

I know I have. Having graduated last July, I proceeded to put my time and energy into my budding career. I find juggling family, work and friends a real challenge. And, sadly, family time often takes a backseat.

It did not hit me till I replayed the deathbed scene in my mind that right now, *this* is my pocket of time.

Many of our parents are actually meeting us halfway. They are still energetic and able to

hold intelligent conversations with us. We can engage them and articulate our dreams and thoughts to each other.

After this time, we will pass each other by and carry on our separate journeys.

I recall the plight of the poor Israeli child who lost his parents after they were gunned down by militants in Mumbai last November.

I will never forget the sight of the two-year-old orphan crying at his parents' memorial service. He will never get to share precious time with his parents again.

I am thankful and fortunate enough to have parents I can talk to, and who are there for me every night.

I know they miss me. For weeks, my dad has been hinting that he wants to spend more time with me, quipping that he needs to "make an appointment to speak to my daughter".

For me, that is reason enough to make the effort to go home for dinner more often.

So, do invest in spending time with your parents any chance you've got. Because the

pain could be unbearable when they are no longer around.

By the time some of you read this, the Oscar results would have been announced.

It wouldn't matter whether Benjamin Button won the award for best picture or not.

For making me understand the meaning of transience and, hence, the value of time, it has already secured the golden statuette in my heart.

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Watch the 81st Academy Awards live on Channel 5 today at 9am, with a repeat telecast at 11pm. You can catch it on Star Movies (StarHub Ch 58) on Wednesday at 8pm.

HELPDESK 我的字典

Wake-up call:
警讯 jǐng xùn

Fleeting:
短暂的 duǎn zàn de

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- ✓ NO ILLNESS
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- ✓ NON-SMOKER OR QUITTED SMOKING FOR AT LEAST ONE MONTH
- ✓ NO HISTORY OF ALCOHOLISM OR DRUG ABUSE

Allowance will be given for transport and time spent in the study

To register or check your eligibility, kindly contact Clinical Research Coordinator at:



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Caught after 5-min chase

A MAN, believed to be a foreign worker, was caught at the end of a five-minute chase after employees at a supermarket in Ang Mo Kio Avenue 10 accused him of shoplifting yesterday.

A Stomper who took the picture said: "He was chased from block to block and was arrested later."

(PHOTO: STOMP)