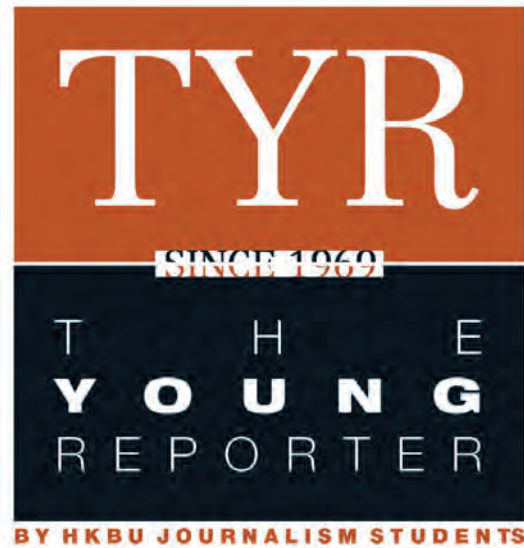
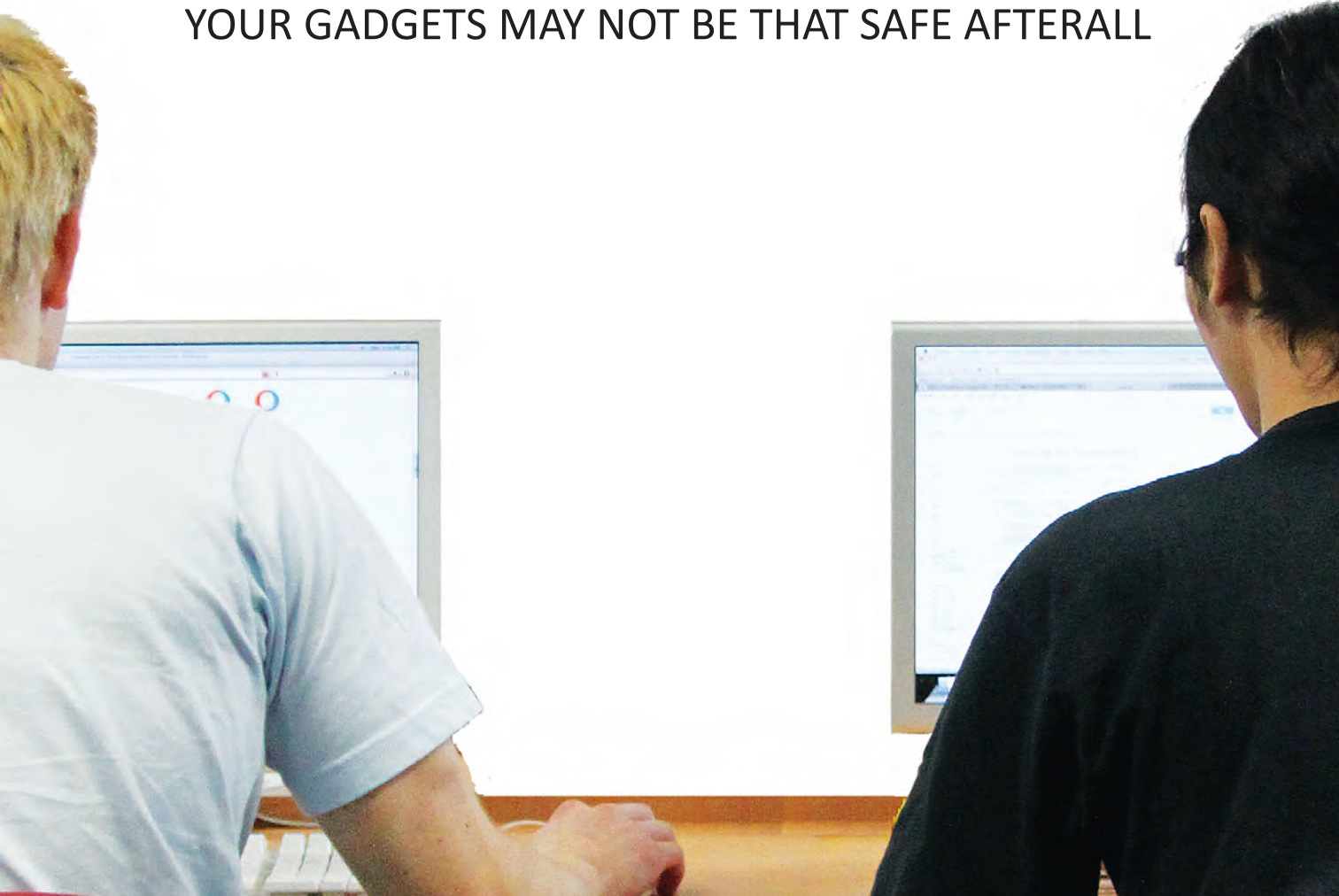


VOL. 44 / ISSUE 1 / OCTOBER 2011



CYBER SECURITY

YOUR GADGETS MAY NOT BE THAT SAFE AFTERALL



Editor's note

Smart phones and internet connections have become parts of everyday life. With them being so handy and convenient, it is easy for us to overlook the security issues that come with using these gadgets, including information leakage, loss of personal data and unintentional breaches of the law. The Young Reporter has taken a close look into the issue of cyber security.

As the new academic year begins, The Young Reporter has adopted a new design. Better use of pictures, more white space and a simpler layout – all aimed at enhancing readability – are the essence. Feel free to let us know your views by sending an email to tyr201112@gmail.com. We will consider them in refining the design.

Gary Kwok Ka-lok
Chief Editor



PRE-DAWN TRADERS PROUD TO BE MAKING ENDS MEET
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The Morning Market marks a special kind of Hong Kong culture- and holds on collective memories of the older generations.

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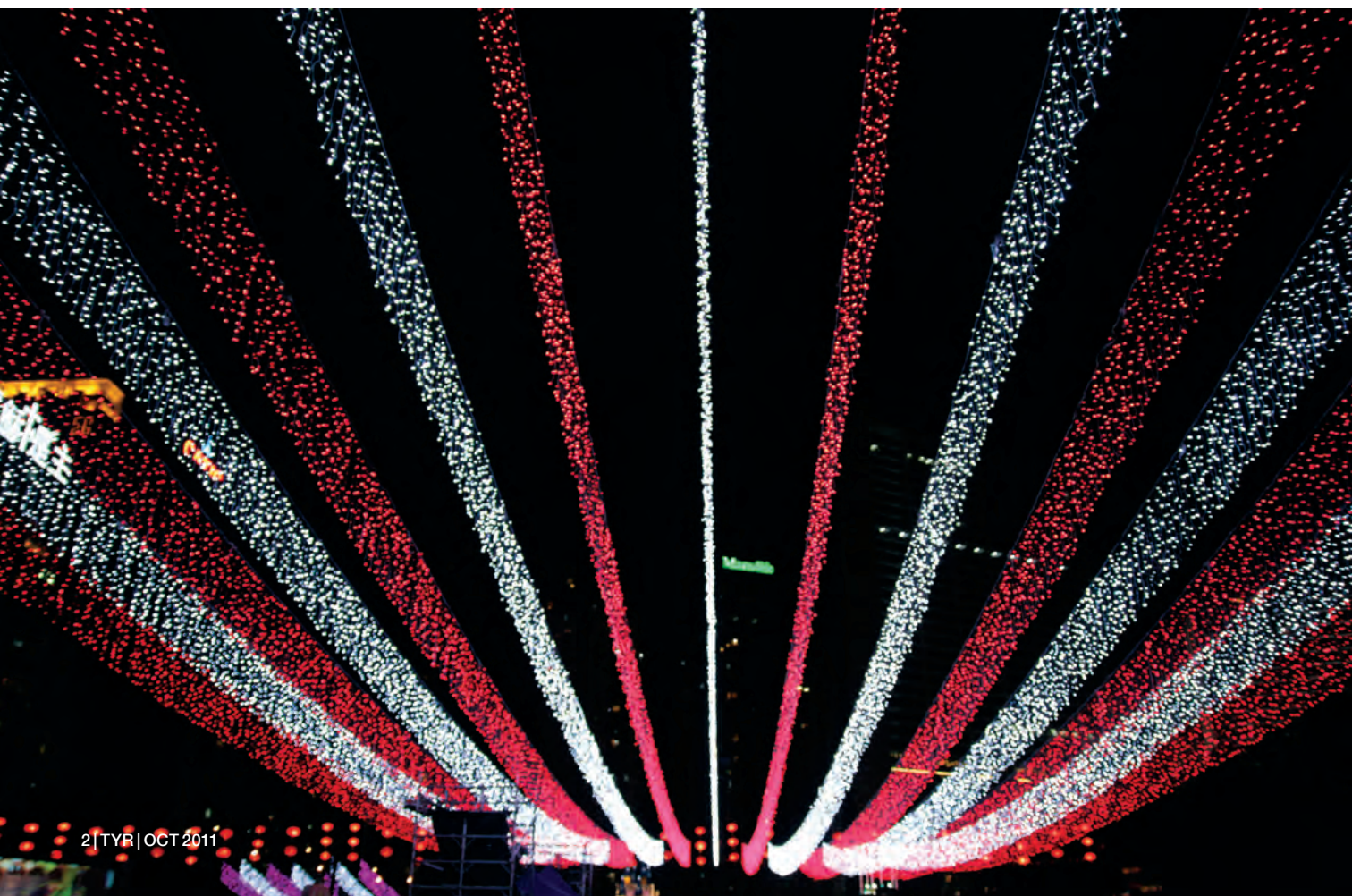
With technology becoming the essential element of daily lives, what ought to be bore in mind when using them?

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VARIOUS CARNIVALS ARE HELD DURING FESTIVALS IN HONG KONG- AND THE MID-AUTUMN ONE IS PARTICULARLY POPULAR AMONGST HONG KONGERS.





BAPTIST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS HAVE TENNIS LESSONS AS PART OF THEIR MANDATORY PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE.

TIME FOR MANDATORY SPORT LESSONS AT UNIVERSITIES?

Universities are paying more attention to physical education in the new four-year curriculum approaches.

Sports experts call for compulsory physical education in universities, as the duration of most degree programmes are set to lengthen from three to four years from next year.

Dr Lobo Louie Hung-tak, associate professor of Baptist University's department of physical education and vice-president of Hong Kong Association of Sports Medicine and Sports Science, said that compulsory physical education courses are necessary to nurture physically fit citizens for the future development of our society.

According to findings of a survey on leisure-time exercise conducted by the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health in April 2010, about 50 per cent of the respondents aged from 18 to 64 exercised less than once a week during the past 30 days.

Dr Louie expressed his worries about the declining health of young adults. He said universities, which were funded by taxpayers, should shoulder the social responsibility of helping students to cultivate healthy habits.

"Physical education courses can equip students with knowledge about playing life-long sports and staying fit through doing sports," said Dr. Chan Tak-yau, a senior instructor of the Chinese University's physical education unit.

He said universities could do better in

promoting sports because the student population was large and would soon grow even larger when the curriculum became four-year long.

Currently, Chinese University and Baptist University are the only two among the city's nine universities that have physical education as mandatory courses in their undergraduate degree programmes.

But compulsory physical education courses do not seem to interest some university students.

At Shue Yan University, physical education courses are available as electives, but students would rather prefer conventional or practical elective courses, said sociology student Ms Senthly Wong.

"When there are other choices [elective courses], it seems that no one bothers to pick them physical education courses," she said.

However, Dr Louie said physical education courses helped relieve stress and encouraged team work that could not be effectively achieved by other courses in the curriculum.

Many Hong Kong students are well aware of the importance of being physically active, but getting them to exercise is easier said than done, according to Dr Cindy Sit, a member of the Curriculum Development Council's Committee on Physical Education and assistant professor of the Institute of

Human Performance at the University of Hong Kong.

"Most of them don't exercise. Their persistence or motivation is low," she said, agreeing that including physical education courses in the university curriculum would be conducive to achieving a more balanced whole-life education.

Some universities that currently do not have physical education in their curriculum are planning to introduce measures in their new curriculums to improve students' physical health.

Dr Patrick Chan, Section Leader of the Physical Education Unit of the Student Affairs Office of Polytechnic University, said the university would offer students various active lifestyle activities, such as the Student-Athletes Development Programme.

Moreover, the university is going to introduce a non-credit bearing programme called "Healthy Lifestyle" as part of its general education programme in the four-year curriculum, he said. The university saw that as an essential part of a holistic approach to maintaining one's physical, emotional and social well-being through exercise, Dr Chan said. ■

STORY/ADA YEUNG
EDITED BY/XAVIER NG

PAID TO BE A NUISANCE: SECRETS OF MYSTERY SHOPPERS

Retirees, housewives and students are hired to pose as demanding buyers to test the limits of customer service



A mystery shopper fills in an evaluation form for his client.

There was a time when customer service research was about doing a so-called MOS – meeting passers-by on the street and asking them to fill an evaluation form with a clipboard and a pencil.

Recently, however, the market has seen the rise of anonymous mystery shoppers, who are de facto private detectives with a mission to test the limits of the services provided by their clients' front-line staff.

Signs of these detectives are not so much a fake moustache with dark glasses. Instead they try to be as normal as they can be. They are good actors who pose as genuine customers, who can offer firm answers when asked how many children they have even if they do not have one. Sometimes, they must speak fluent Mandarin as they make their purchase in the luxury shops as if they were wealthy big spenders from the mainland.

Ms Catherine Chan has been a part-time mystery shopper for more than six years. "Mystery shoppers need to play to the score when anything unexpected happens," she said.

"We have to concentrate on what we are doing when we are 'enjoying' the service," she

said. "Sometimes, we need to jot notes or use a recorder during conversations and try our best not to be found out."

Sometimes, mystery shoppers had to conduct a "set" conversation with the staff of their clients for requests like returning goods, she said, so that the employees' performance could be evaluated and measures taken to improve their services.

These undercover operations have become so common in the customer service industry that a large number of agent companies have emerged to provide all kinds of evaluation services.

The basic business model of these companies is to hire mystery shoppers to conduct visits to particular shops to assess the quality of their services. The companies then collect the data, write up systematic reports and send them to clients.

In these reports, clients find out flaws in their own services. Meanwhile, they could also monitor their competitors' services for reference by buying reports about them.

Mystery shoppers are paid \$50 to \$400 per visit, depending on the type of shops they visit and the amount of work they are asked to

carry out.

Mr Ma Kin-pong is the managing director of MSHK, a mystery shopping company. Established in 2004, the company now has more than 40 clients in different industries, including retail stores, after-sales services, supermarkets and cinemas.

According to Mr Ma, different industries have their own specified requests. Depending on these requests, the company hires different types of mystery shoppers. "We have a huge choice of mystery shoppers in the book. They come in all ages, sizes and occupations – they can be retired elderly men or university students," he said.

Ms Bonnie Wong, a senior marketing executive of another service assessment company, said her company hired as many as 100 part-time employees a month.

"Sometimes, we even hire pregnant women as mystery shoppers as some companies sell children products, such as teaching materials," she said.

"Also, we won't let the same person cover the same area all the time or he would soon get recognized," said Ms Wong. She added that a mystery shopper could only do a certain number of jobs a day.

To ensure the quality of their assessments, the companies have also developed ways to prevent cheating. They usually require mystery shoppers to hand in receipts and recordings after conducting visits as proof for the visits. They also ask their clients to provide CCTV recordings.

Mr Ma expects that the market for mystery shoppers will have a bright future. "Mystery shoppers are popular overseas. Hong Kong, as an international city, will witness an increase in demand for mystery shoppers as people are more serious about the quality of customer services," he said. ■

STORY / ROY CHAN
EDITED BY / VISQI HE

Who's the next **TARGET?**

Private detectives are on a roll probing extra-marital affairs

Former bar hostess Ms Ki Chun-yim was recently jailed for blackmailing an unnamed tycoon. She hired detectives to track him down, while the fightback by another agency created a buzz in the city.

Anti-tracking is a tactic commonly used among detectives. Others include eavesdropping and positioning.

Ms Vicky Chan Wai-kit, 37, general manager of the Asia World Investigation Bureau (AWIB), said while investigating extra-marital affairs accounted for 80 per cent of her company's business, it also conducted a lot of commercial investigations, such as helping clients to track down dishonest business partners and employees.

Other cases include locating people and tracing children. "Some parents want to monitor their kids, like whether they take drugs or engage in compensated dating," she said.

A woman who would only be identified as Ms Wong told of her experience hiring a private detective to follow her unfaithful husband. At the end of the investigation, the detective gave her videos, photographs, and a report about him.

"He'd never come back, but at least I got a

piece of evidence. I didn't lose everything," she said.

To help increase women's chances of winning lawsuits against their unfaithful husbands, some agencies have developed various ways of dealing with extra-marital affairs. One is employing a disguised "mistress" to test a husband's loyalty; another is hiring "the fourth party" to lure the mistress away.

Mr Leung Chun-kit, detective director of Honours Harbour Investigations Bureau (HHIB), said there was fierce competition in

For fear of losing the new clients, detective agencies have to adjust their charges according to the clients' financial situation.

"Some charge only \$2,000 to \$3,000 a day, or even less," Chan said. "We charge \$30,000 for a three-day investigation for general cases."

Another challenge comes from advancement in technology. Today, cell phones have many functions, including recording, photo-taking and positioning.

But while they seem to make it easier to

“Private detectives may employ a "mistress" to test a husband's loyalty or hire "the fourth party" to lure the mistress away.”

the industry, as anyone could start a private investigation agency. No licenses were required, and online advertisements did not cost much, he said.

The increasing number of cross-border marriages – from 2,600 in 1997 to 16,000 last year – has brought about a challenge to the industry. Ms Chan said that clients used to be well off members of the middle class or above, but they now included grassroots people and new immigrants.

start a detective agency, more sophisticated equipment is needed for professional investigations. Mr David Cheung Tai-wai, of David Cheung Professional Detective, has spent \$30 million on devices like pin-cameras in watches and recorders disguised as lorry caps or cigar boxes.

Even with the advanced technology, becoming a detective is not easy. "To become a detective, there are no shortcuts but to start by working in the field. You can't learn it by doing other things," Leung said.

He added that retired policemen, equipped with relevant skills and legal knowledge, were more likely to succeed.

According to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, privacy law covers only textual personal data – names, identity card numbers and phone numbers, so private detectives could get away with obtaining a lot of personal information about anyone.

But they might fall foul with the law if they try to do that by wiretapping, which is subject to strict controls. ■



BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY AS THE CIGAR BOX COULD BE A DETECTIVE'S RECORDER.

STORY / JOYCE CHEUNG

EDITED BY / JUDITH KI



MISCELLEOUS ARTICLES AT \$1 EACH.



SECOND-HAND SHOES AT \$10 EACH PAIR.



A CUSTOMER CHECKING THE GOODS HE WANTS TO BUY WITH A HAND-TORCH.



PRE-DAWN TRADERS PROUD

Every dollar of sales in the morning markets means a lot to its

When the bustling city turns tranquil before dawn, Tung Chau Street Park in Sham Shui Po is getting busy.

It is as early as 4.00am, but groups of elderly vendors in their 60s and 70s arrive with cartloads of assorted goods to start their businesses.

"I wake up at three o'clock every day. I'm used to it," says Ms Lau Chun, 78, one of the vendors.

Taking positions on both sides of the pavement, the vendors unroll their mats on the ground and spread out their treasures, which range from electrical appliances, ornaments to underwear, food and even medicine.

All are second-hand items and most are priced at only \$1 or \$2 each.

Low prices of the goods on sale and early operating hours are the attractions of this morning market, which opens between 4 am

and 7 am every morning.

Most of the stalls are run by elderly people selling used, unsold or expired goods. Similar markets can also be found in Mong Kok, Sheung Shui, Tin Shui Wai and Tai Po Market.

Every night, Ms Lau gets unsold bread from bakeries and sells them at the market the next morning. A pack of five buns sells for only \$1.

After running her business for a year, Ms Lau says she could earn about \$500 a month.

But she is proud that she does not have to depend on social security, and is satisfied with her current situation.

"I can earn several hundred bucks out of zero cost. What else could I ask for?" says Ms Lau.

Life is also hard for Cheung Kin-keung, 61, another vendor who refuses to apply for social security.

He is also glad that he can make ends meet



THE MORNING MARKET IN TUNG CHAU STREET PARK, SHAM SHUI PO, OPERATES BETWEEN 4 AM AND 7 AM.



FIVE UNSOLD BUNS IN ONE PACK AT \$1 EACH.



DIFFERENT STYLES OF UNDERWEARS AT \$10 EACH

D TO BE MAKING ENDS MEET

elderly vendors

by selling ornaments in the morning market.

"We should not be greedy when we could make a living by ourselves," he says.

Most vendors in the morning market are elderly people but they are self-reliant, says Ms Lau Pui-yuk, a Sham Shui Po district councillor.

"They support themselves by collecting goods and selling them in the morning market. Some of them don't even get any government allowance," adds Ms Lau.

While agreeing that the morning market is a way out for these low-income vendors, Ms Lau is concerned about its legal situation.

By law, no one is allowed to hawk in the street except with a license issued by the relevant authorities.

Strictly speaking, the morning market is illegal, and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has the right to arrest the vendors.

Although hawking at the morning markets is illegal, not many vendors have been arrested as the department's hawk control teams start patrolling the areas at about 7 am every day, which is the closing time of the markets.

Mariana Chan Wai-yung, Chief Officer of Hong Kong Council of Social Service, said the government should introduce measures to legalize the morning markets.

But although she supports legalizing the markets, she admits that the government faces difficulties doing that.

"For example, hygiene may be a problem. The second-hand goods there might not be up to a fair hygienic standard," said Ms Chan.

Hawkers at the morning markets have different views about legalizing their existence.

"As long as legalization means there's room for the poor to make a living, I totally

welcome it," Mr Cheung says.

But he hopes that officials would not impose strict controls that would create difficulties for them after legalization.

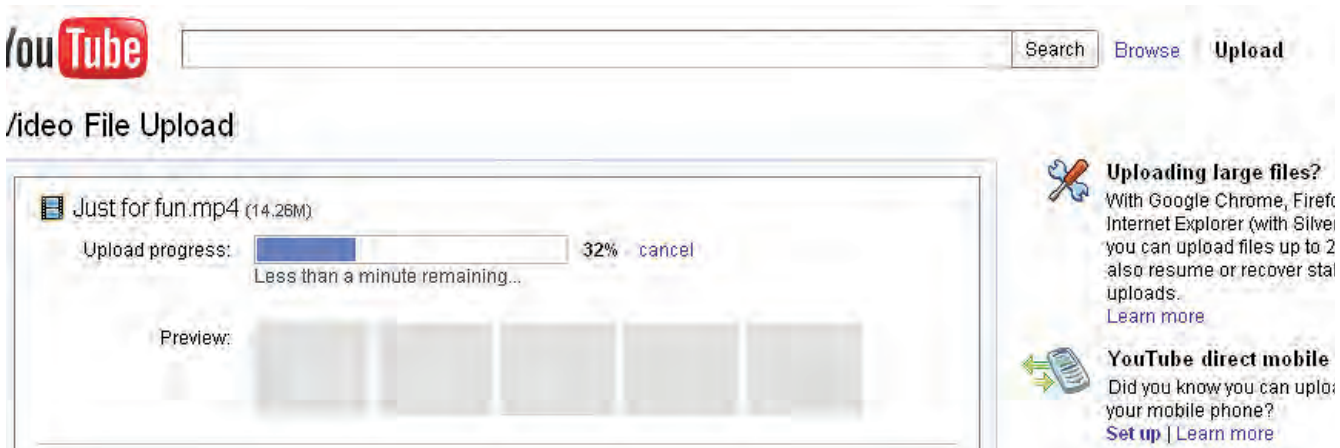
In contrast, Ms Lau does not want the government to do anything.

"I am contented with the current situation. I don't want any changes," she says.

Facing this mire, district councillor Ms Lau urges the government to take prompt action to tackle the problem.

"The future of the morning markets depends on the government's decision, to legalize them or not," she says. ■

STORY/BETH LIU
EDITED BY/HEIN LAI



FREE VIDEO-SHARING PLATFORMS ENABLE EVERYONE TO SHARE THEIR LIFE AND IDEAS TO THE WORLD MORE EASILY.

FORGET ABOUT BLOGS, THIS IS THE AGE OF "VLOGS"

Video blogs are so popular that they are getting commercial sponsorship

Bloggers have moved from using text to video in communicating with their audience, and some are doing so well that they are making money doing that.

Video blogs, also known as "vlogs", are blogs that feature video clips instead of texts. After the Bus Uncle video in 2006, which records a heated quarrel between a youngster and a middle-aged man on a bus, Youtube has become the most widely used video-sharing platform in Hong Kong.

Ms Erica Yuen Mi-ming, 31, has her own beauty channel on YouTube since 2008.

"Videos are relatively more interactive as they have both images and sound," she said. "Messages can be delivered more directly as people are fed up with text."

The popularity of a "vlog" is indicated by the responses it gets in terms of numbers of "like", views and subscribers. In order to attract viewers, a vlogger, who is its producer, speaker and director at the same time, aims at producing vlogs that are entertaining and appealing.

A 27-year-old Youtube channel user, Mingjai, has shot to fame by creating random humorous video clips, which are inspired by the bits and pieces of his daily life. He becomes well-known after his first video entitled "Everyday narcissism" got more than a million views.

"People love hilarious and creative videos

that strike a chord with them," Mingjai said.

Mr Carlos Douh, a 26-year-old Canadian who has been in Hong Kong for more than two years, is also famous for creating funny videos about Cantonese words and culture. He believes he can create videos that people like by using his Cantonese language skills and humour.

Creativity and fame bring business opportunities. With his high exposure on YouTube, Mingjai now gets commercial sponsorships from garment companies and hair styling salons. All he needs to do is showing relevant elements about them in the videos.

Ms Yuen's online shop has also experienced a prominent rise in both customer flow and profits since her self-made videos were available on the Internet.

As a full-time university student, Mr Dough earns extra money by joining the YouTube Partner Programme. In order to get revenue from Youtube, users have to upload original videos regularly with at least thousands of views each.

"It takes at least four hours to produce a video," he said. "Let's face it. When you put a lot of time and effort into it, you'd like to get something back, right?"

As "vlogs" become popular, more companies have started to invite vloggers to

comment on their products for promotion.

But the development has also spawned a problem, with so called network "hatchet men" produce "vlogs" for money.

In March this year, for example, a well-known apparels company posted a thread on JJIS, a website that provides online employment service for university students, to hire bloggers to make favorable comments about it on different websites.

With the commercialisation of "vlogs", the credibility of vloggers has become an issue as people wonder if they were paid or influenced by sponsors in making their comments.

But Mingjai remains optimistic about the trend. He said netizens disliked watching videos with commercial elements because they preferred the truth to advertisements.

"That's why I will not change my style of vlogging because of commercial sponsorship," he said. "I will only credit them in the description box below my videos for people's reference." ■

STORY BY / MELODY CHAN
EDITED BY / SADIE LO

THE DETOX CHALLENGE TO CLEANSE CHINA'S WATERS

Fashion giants have pledged to achieve the goal of "zero toxic discharge" set by Greenpeace

More and more fashion giants are joining the Detox Campaign launched by Greenpeace to reduce or prevent the discharge of toxic chemicals into China's waters during the manufacturing process.

According to Greenpeace, links have been identified between a number of major clothing brands – like Nike, Adidas and H&M – and textile factories in the mainland that are discharging hazardous chemicals into the rivers. The toxic chemicals include nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEs) and perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs).

The risk of people taking in these kinds of chemicals remains unknown, but experts warn that the consequences can be very serious. "Based on experiments on animals, NPEs affect their sexual organs which may cause damage to their next generation. The chemicals also cause very obvious damage to the ecosystem," said Professor Chan Wing-hong of Baptist University's Department of Chemistry.

Miss Ada Kong Cheuk-san, Greenpeace's

campaign officer, also warns about the possible effects. "They are just like heavy metals which accumulate in people's body and destroy the body's systems slowly so that one may not be aware of the harm they cause," she said.

In view of the damage to the environment as well as to human beings, Greenpeace has come up with very strict requirements for fashion brands.

"We are asking the brands to stop using toxic chemicals instead of not discharging them, because this is the only way to guarantee zero toxic discharge," said Ms Kong.

Puma, one of the leading sportswear companies in the world, is the first to publicly pledge they will eliminate all hazardous

chemicals from all products and across the whole supply chain by 2020.

Ms Kerstin Neuber, Deputy Head of Corporate Communications of

Puma AG, said Puma was supportive of the Detox campaign. "Puma has already got in touch with its suppliers in order to kick off [the plan]," she said.

Other big names in the fashion industry are also joining the programme. Adidas

Group said it would develop a roadmap that led to zero toxic

discharge, and strongly believed that there would be no winners unless the whole industry acted together.

Meanwhile, Chinese sportswear company Li Ning has started to negotiate with Greenpeace after activists gate-crashed the company's board meeting and hung a huge Detox banner outside its headquarters at Times Square in Causeway Bay.

Greenpeace said it was quite surprised that the brands were willing to start the detox process so soon, and were more cooperative than they had expected. The green group said the Detox Campaign was moving on the right track as the brands and the public were more aware of the consequences of water pollution.

Ms Kong said Greenpeace would continue to monitor the situation. "We are not asking the public to boycott any brands. We just hope to make use of social force to push the brands to do better in protecting the environment," she said. ■



STORY BY / KRIS LUI
EDITED BY / JASMIN YIU

WHAT WILL I DO WITH THE \$6,000 HANDOUT?

Every adult permanent resident will get \$6,000 from the government under its revised budget. TYR talks to a cross section of the community to find out how they will use the sum.

"I think I will use it to buy some new furniture to redecorate my house. We have stayed in our flat for nearly ten years and things are getting old."

Julie Marie Magsalubong, 39,
Housewife

"The money will be spent on books and other necessary items. I believe the \$6,000 handout by the government is an incentive for citizens to spend more to boost the economy, so I will do just that."

Sumi Chu, 20, Student



"I will place 20% on investments and use the remainder to cover my daily expenses."

Lam Hing-Tung, 22, Bank Officer



"Shopping of course! I will try to use all the money in one day when I receive it!"

Jacquelyn Acuna, 38, Housewife

"I will save a portion of the \$6,000 and donate the rest to charity."

Tony Chan Ting-lung, 19,
Undergraduate



"I don't think every Hong Kong resident should be receiving this money. It should be only for the low income people. Anyway I think when I receive it I will donate it to a charity."

S. Parameswaran, 46, Trader

"I will give \$2,000 to my parents and spend the rest of the money on food, movies and other forms of entertainment."

Ronnie Cheng, 19, Undergraduate



"My husband and I are planning a trip to the Philippines in November so I think we will save our money for that."

Shanti Arul, 38, Corporate executive



"I will use some of it on shoes and clothes and give a portion of the money to my parents."

Kwan Ho Kit Jeffery, 19, Student

DATA IN YOUR GADGETS NEED PROTECTION CYBER THREATS

Experts warn companies of data losses if personal electronic devices used for work are not properly protected

People are using personal electronic devices – laptops and smartphones – more often for work, but their awareness of potential security problems remains low.

A poll conducted by the International Data Corporation, a global provider of marketing and information technology services, has found that 95 per cent of the respondents, or about 2,700 people, use their own electronic devices for work. But 60 per cent are unaware of the related dangers, such as data loss or misplacement.

Ms Yu Fung-ping, a furniture company's procurement manager, is one of those who use personal laptops for work.

She said that convenience was the major reason why she used her own notebook computer to store the company's data and her clients' information. "With only a few clicks, the data I need are right here," she added. "It definitely saves time."

Although Ms Yu uses her laptop to

process confidential information every day, she did not see the need of protecting it when asked if any anti-virus software had been installed.

"Is it necessary to have one [anti-virus software]? My MacBook never gets infected with [computer] viruses, not even once," she said.

A spokesman for the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer said that if users were not cautious enough, the consumer devices, such as laptops and smartphones, could easily be infected with malware, causing the leakage of data.

Stressing the speed and quality of work, companies usually do not take cyber security seriously. Ms Yu, the procurement manager, said: "Supervisors care only about how fast and how well you work, but not the devices you use."

Mr Sam Lee, regional director of Greater China at F-Secure Limited, a security software company, said that only



ten per cent of the businesses had their computers installed with security software.

Budget is another constraint facing businesses, especially for small- and medium-sized enterprises, when it comes to tightening control over their cyber assets.

Mr Lee said that some bosses were concerned about corporate data, but their desire for better computer system management was very often hampered by limited resources.

With the growing popularity of personal electronic devices, such as iPads and smartphones, Dr Chiu Ping-kuen of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Shatin) said the responsibility for safeguarding workplace cyber security should be shouldered by both business owners and their staff.

The head of Electronic and Information Engineering Department said setting a

ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE AND PASSWORDS ARE BASIC MEANS OF PROTECTING YOUR GADGETS.



"good" password was the first step for staff to protect their cyber assets, and installing licensed anti-virus software should be the next.

Dr Chiu added that businesses should also impose internal regulations on using personal technology devices in the office, and provide employees with standardised anti-virus software.

According to the Hong Kong Productivity Council's Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Centre, there are 181 hacking cases in the first half of this year, up 15 per cent from the same period last year. ■

MIND THE WIFI BREACH

High penetration of Wi-Fi enables smartphones and portable gadgets to gain access to the Internet easily. However, it also increases the risk of gadgets being hacked. Unsecured wireless information packets can be easily captured and decoded to show passwords or contents over applications like Facebook. An application called "Firesheep", which is freely available on the web, allows an average computer user to hack other users under the same hotspot without wireless protection.

According to the Hong Kong Police, the number of reported technology crimes is rapidly increasing in recent years and some are about wireless hacking.

A spokesman for the Police Public Relations Branch cited a case in 2007 as an example of a common case of Wi-Fi hacking.

It involved overseas victims whose credit card data were compromised via unknown means, she said.

One of the victims was a Hong Kong resident who failed to protect his own Wi-Fi network with a password, thereby allowing the culprit unauthorized access, she added.

The culprit then used the stolen credit card information to make online purchases, said the spokesman.

"It doesn't take a genius to perform wireless hacking," said Mr. Samson Kong, 23, an active online forum user.

With e-banking and online shopping becoming more and more popular, owners of public venues see the provision of Wi-Fi

hotspot service as basic.

Dr. Joe Yau, a lecturer at the Department of Computer Science of Baptist University, likened the provision of wireless connection without password protection to a housekeeper keeping the door unlocked, which is dangerous.

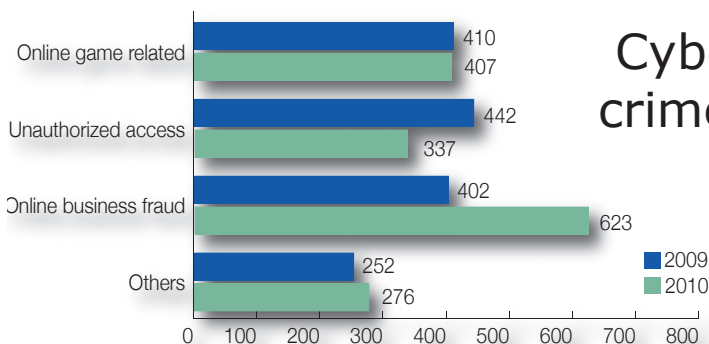
He said adopting basic defensive measures were absolutely necessary when connecting to a wireless network. "These include a firewall to fend off hacker intrusion and anti-virus software with automatic virus definition update."

It was a matter of security or convenience when connecting to the wireless network, he said.

"We must understand the related security risks and know how to protect ourselves from harm while enjoying the benefits of the latest information and communications technology."

The police spokesman said the number of reported technology crimes involving online business fraud, including banking and shopping transactions, had increased nearly 55 per cent from 2009 to 2010.

The Police's Technology Crime Division regularly arranges publicity initiatives to promote cyber security and crime prevention messages to the general public, including a series of technology crime stories published through Police Magazine, and press briefings following arrest operations, he said. ■



SOURCE: POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

Awareness is key to avoid having your smartphones hacked

Despite frequent news reports about smartphones being hacked, information technology experts and academics are optimistic about data protection if users know why and how their gadgets could be hacked and adopt suitable means of protecting them.

The increasing trend of virus attacks on mobile phones was propelled by many factors including motivations of hackers and the public's lack of awareness, said Mr Sam Lee, regional director of F-Secure Corporation's Greater China, a digital security services provider from Finland.

One reason why hackers targetted the vast number of smartphone users was money, Mr Lee added.

"In the black market, each email address is priced at US\$0.1 (about HK\$0.8) and a valid phone number US\$0.05 (about HK\$0.4)," he said, refusing to give more details about which online companies are operating such deals.



Be careful about what you do with your smartphone.

Mr Tony Lee Mang-lung, a software engineer of MotherApp, a Hong Kong-based IT firm that specialises in creating mobile applications for different platforms, said smartphones were more appealing targets than computers because it was difficult to get a full set of personal information from a

“In the black market, each email address is priced at US\$0.1 (about HK\$0.8) and a valid phone number US\$0.05 (about HK\$0.4).”

Mr Sam Lee, F-Secure Corporation

computer since the information was fragmentally saved in many locations such as Microsoft Outlook, Internet Explorer, and subfolders in the hard-disk.

"Smartphones, however, have all the information saved at a particular location, including contact lists and passwords, which facilitate the hackers," he said.

F-Secure's Mr Lee stressed that smartphone users should enhance security by both using anti-virus software and privacy protection, which enabled users to remotely lock, locate and delete data inside the phones if it was lost.

Dr Peter Chiu Ping-kuen, Head of Department of Electronic and Information, Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Sha Tin), said even though it was essential for users to install anti-intrusion apps for their smartphones to raise the security

level, many people still did not install them because of the installation cost.

But Dr Chiu suggested that users could use a few free-of-charge ways to raise mobile security and reduce their losses from attacks. People could name the files that contained their personal data with unusual names to distract the hacked, he said, adding that people should also use strong passwords that included various numbers and letters.

It was vital that students be educated about mobile security in their fundamental computer courses at school to enhance their awareness of cyber security, he said.

Professor Joseph Ng Kee-yin from Hong Kong Baptist University's Department of Computer Science said students were taught basic measures such as avoiding doing online shopping and other confidential activities. He added that lecturers in their school were always advised to offer students examples that nurture their awareness of harmful applications.

Yanky Law Yin-ki, 21, a Digital Graphic Communication student from HKBU, said that she had not installed any applications to protect her phone since she started using an iPhone a year ago because there were easier ways of protecting security.

"I always avoid logging on to banks when I'm using public Wi-Fi. Also, I never lend my phone to others unless necessary. I learnt these simple and useful techniques at school," Ms Law said. ■

JAILBREAK DILEMMA

Jailbreaking or rooting your smartphones is fun, but it also exposes your personal data to hackers

The word "jailbreak" doesn't simply mean "breaking out of prison" nowadays.

As iPhones and iPads rise to become the most popular devices for personal communication, "jailbreak" has been given another meaning worldwide: breaking free from the restrictions and protections imposed by its manufacturer Apple.

Smartphones using Google's operating system Android can also be broken free from restrictions and this process is called "rooting", which brings about threats similar to jailbreaking.

Security experts have warned that jailbreaking or rooting one's smartphone is like opening a Pandora's Box.

"People jailbreak their smartphones for temptations such as free apps, but they may also get serious consequences by installing those unauthorized software," said Mr Jia Weijia, Professor at the Department of Computer Science, City University of Hong Kong.

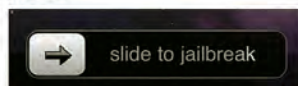
By design, iPhone users can only download applications via the official Apple store by paying a fee, as if prisoners are allowed to receive food from the warders only. However, iPhone users can break out of Apple's "jail", and then enjoy free download of applications and even customized system modifications by following simple online guidelines developed by hackers.

Kwok Hang-kit, a Sales Executive at

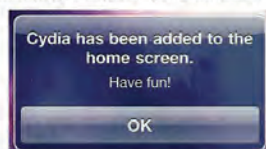
Step 1: Make your iPhone is backed up in iTunes, in case something goes wrong.

Step 2: From your iPhone, go to jailbreakme.com.

Step 3: Slide to jailbreak.



Step 4: Sit back, relax. JailbreakMe will be downloaded to your iPhone and will work its magic. When done, a pop up will tell you that Cydia has been installed.



Step 5: Reboot your iPhone. You don't have to, but it's always a good thing to do.

Jailbreak instruction are widely available online.

One2Free, had his iPhone "jailbroken" six months ago and has been very satisfied since.

"I've heard that there may be security problems after jailbreaking, and I was quite worried about that for a while," said Mr. Kwok. "But I've been using a jailbroken iPhone for about six months, and it seems fine. Maybe the problem is not very serious in Hong Kong."

Like Mr. Kwok, many users are not aware that with all the benefits brought by

before it released the apps on Apple Store, but unofficial apps don't go through any screening process, so some of them may contain viruses that may harm your cell-phone," he said.

Mr Chan said that after jailbreaking, the root account of iPhone which controlled the operating system was exposed so that anyone could enter your smartphone through the Internet and do whatever they want.

Apple has a mechanism of separating each app's information, thus prohibiting one from reaching another, he said. "Jailbreak breaks this mechanism, allowing malicious apps to steal information from another."

Prof. Jia said that those unofficial applications may contain Trojan Horse viruses, which could "steal your information, control your phones or even tap phone calls."

"These viruses can leak your information secretly while you are using the Internet or even doing nothing," said Prof. Jia. "Having extra Internet flow or running out of battery faster than usual are both signs of being infected. Still, it's hard for most people to notice," he said.

Hong Kong already has many smartphone users. According to a study by Google and Ipsos Research, 35 per cent of mobile phone users in Hong Kong use smartphones.

"At present, many people use their smartphones for leisure only," said Prof. Jia. "But as more and more people start using iPhones, and online paying and e-banking through smartphones gain popularity, smartphone viruses may cause much more damage," he said. ■

Source: Wikimedia Commons

jailbreaking, their iPhones are also exposed to more threats.

Steven Chan Yiu-cho, Information Security Manager of Office of Information Technology at Hong Kong Baptist University, said it was risky to jailbreak. "Those free apps people download after jailbreak are dangerous because they are not officially approved," said Mr Chan.

"Apple conducted very strict examinations

STORY / DENNIS LEE, FECHON WONG, MAN YU, PEYTON GUAN
EDITED BY / CARLOS CHENG, PEARLIE YIU, SAI AUNG THEIN, THOMAS CHAN

BE YOUR DREAM CHARACTER

Cosplay artists live their dreams by portraying their favourite anime roles

It was eerily silent for a Sunday evening. Everyone was looking down and none dared utter a sound. A dark hooded being was amongst them. "His" features could not be observed as they were covered by a gruesome mask, but everyone knew who "he" was and what "he" symbolizes. No one could have missed the large scythe "he" was holding. "He" was the Grim Reaper, the angel of death.

This is not an extract from a horror novel. Rather, this happened in a Halloween event in Hong Kong. Obviously, "he" was not the Grim Reaper. "He" is in fact Miss Ivy Hui, hardcore fan of cosplay, a culture that has been growing exponentially for the past few years.

Ivy, 23, has been a cosplay artist for seven years. "It all started after I was introduced to Japanese manga and anime by my classmates. Full Metal Alchemist

was the manga that started it all. I just couldn't stop reading the manga and had to watch the anime and listen to its soundtrack every day. I was hooked. My love for it grew to the point that I wasn't satisfied reading it or watching it from a third person perspective. I wanted to be part of the story and be the characters themselves. I wanted to live the dream."

Cosplay stands for costume playing, and is a type of role-playing culture in which participants portray characters from popular Eastern and Western fiction like Cloud (Final Fantasy 7) and Wolverine (X-Men).

Hong Kong is now home to as many as 20 cosplay events such as Rainbow Gala, Comic World HK and Asian Game Show, attracting thousands of followers from all over the world. In addition, there are many private events that are smaller in scale held by local universities including University of Hong Kong, Baptist University and the Polytechnic University.

The cosplay industry may seem to be booming in Hong Kong. But the truth is that not all is well for local cosplay artists.

Ivy said she received unfriendly remarks about her, especially from the older people.

"An old lady told her grandchild not to imitate weird people like me upon seeing me in my cosplay costumes," recalled Ivy. "It can be disheartening."

IVY HUI COSPLAYING AS KANAME
MADOKA IN THE ANIME PUELLA
MAGI MADOKA MAGICA



MANY PEOPLE FIND COSPLAY COSTUMES TOO SEXUAL AND ARE PRESSURING THE GOVERNMENT TO REGULATE THEM, THUS HAMPERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY.

On the other hand, most costumes are tailored made by workshops in the mainland and cost about a thousand dollars depending on the materials used. Moreover, the costumes are constantly customized by the cosplay artists who fit them with accessories to create a wholesome look that they are expecting. "The accessories and customization are way more expensive," Ivy said.

A complete costume can cost up to a few thousand dollars, and is multiplied by several times depending on the number of costumes cosplay artists own. Players with a humble income find it almost impossible to get new costumes.

The high sexual suggestiveness of some costumes, primarily those worn by pseudo-models in gaming conventions, is also causing huge controversies over whether cosplay should be regulated.

Ms Woo Suk-Ying, 66, is a typical housewife who thinks that strict regulations should be placed upon the cosplay culture so as to prevent teenagers from being overly exposed to such explicit sexual content. "Those skimpy outfits the models wear in gaming conventions are an eyesore," she said.

“I wanted to be part of the story and be the characters themselves. I wanted to live the dream.”

IVY HUI, COSPLAY ARTIST

In contrast, Miss Iris Wong, 21, believes that the public is being misguided. "The cosplay culture is being misrepresented. Those sexy outfits are usually worn by the pseudo-models and are not actual representations of what cosplay artists wear. It will be unfair to all the other

cosplay artists if the regulations were placed due to the fault of others," she said.

Others hold mixed feelings about regulating cosplay. Ms Wu Sai-Ying, a 57-year-old housewife, is not sure about the need for regulation. "Most of the cosplay artists are old enough to make their own decisions," she said.

Despite the many challenges, Ivy remains optimistic about the future of cosplay. "The road ahead certainly looks bumpy but we are ready for it. Cosplay is definitely here to stay," she said. ■

STORY/REVHUI
EDITED BY/GARY KWOK



THE FORGOTTEN COMMUNITY

Language and cultural differences are the biggest barriers against integration for the Nepalese community in Jordan.

Donning her working outfit, Maya Limbu was busy serving her customers who came for a haircut or threading treatment in her salon.

Like many Nepalese residents in Hong Kong, Maya was born here while her father was a Gurkha soldier who served in the British Army in colonial times. Maya grew up and received her education in Nepal, but returned to Hong Kong in the late 1990s.

According to the 2006 population by-census, there are more than 16,000 Nepalese in Hong Kong. Most of them are the descendants of the Gurkha soldiers who came to the territory in the 1970s as part of the British Army.

Maya has been operating her salon business in Jordan since 2003, and she gets on well with customers.

"There are people of different nationalities coming to me for service every day – Pakistanis, Koreans, Japanese, Indians and even local people," said Maya with a warm smile.

"Most of the people living here know Maya. She is good with many locals even though she doesn't speak Cantonese," added Sanjay Limbu, Maya's assistant.

Not every Nepali is as lucky as Maya. Raised and educated in Nepal, language and cultural differences remain the biggest barriers for them to get a job here and communicate with the locals.

Having served the ethnic minorities in Jordan for more than ten years, Mr James Lung Wai-man, chairman of Hong Kong Community Development Network, fully understands the plight of Nepalese.

"Most of them [Nepalese] work as security guards or construction workers. It is difficult for them to get other jobs because

they barely speak Cantonese," said Lung.

While most of the Gurkhas have returned to their home country, some middle-aged Nepalese have chosen to build their "Little Nepal" at the junction of Nanking Street and Temple Street in Jordan, running businesses such as grocery stores, restaurants and salons.

"When I first arrived here, I didn't speak even a bit of Cantonese. It was very difficult to find a job even though I am a college graduate. I had no choice but end up doing low-paid work. It is only in the recent years that I learn more working as a beautician," said Sabu Limbu, who works in a spa in Central.



MAYA'S SALON HAS OPERATED FOR TEN YEARS.

The 38-year-old beautician has another identity. On the day of interview, she was at a small office discussing a plan to request the government to build a cultural centre for ethnic minorities in the West Kowloon Cultural District. At the meeting were other volunteers of Southern Democratic Alliance (SDA), which recently held a campaign rally

for Limbu Saran Kumar, the only Nepali who runs for the Jordan West seat in the upcoming district council election in November.

"We need a platform to share our culture with others in the society, so they would get to understand more about us and we can be more bonded to the local community," said Sabu.

Beth Suna, who has lived and worked in Jordan for more than three decades, said the Nepalese group was just happy about their self-sufficient life in Jordan even though it was hard to establish relationships with locals.

"In the past, there were few locals speaking English. Sometimes they were scared when we asked them for help. Now it's good that more Chinese speak English. We have better communication than before, but still we [Nepalese and local people] seldom mix except in the workplace," said Beth.

Asked if she would consider Hong Kong her home, Beth said it depended on whether her parents were with her. She now lives with his father who works as a gold craftsman.

As if it there were a tacit agreement between the locals and the Nepalis, the boundary of "Little Nepal" in Jordan remains invisible. It is just that locals are less likely to set foot in the area. ■

STORY BY / CLARIE LEE
EDITED BY / GINA NG

PASSIONATE MUSIC FROM THE HEART

The Ponte Singers seek to bridge boundaries with their music

Not many people are lucky enough to love their job like the Ponte Singers do. Singing joyfully on stage and enjoying themselves when making music, they turn their passion into scores and lyrics, producing enchanting music that grabs the heart of audiences.

Made up of four music fanatics, the Ponte Singers have dedicated themselves to giving music a new mission - sharing. And that is why the group has called itself after the Italian word Ponte, which means "bridge".

"Music is about sharing," said Stephen Lam Lik-hin, the founder and conductor of the group. Through the group's performances, the members wish to bridge all boundaries, and share their thoughts and love about Chinese culture with audiences. "Even if you are singing in Latin, the audiences can still receive the message based on the presentation of the song," he explained.

Lam and his other three members, Karis Ho Fok-ka, Amanda Cheung Siu-wai and Mandy Chan Hei-man, formed the group in June 2010 and made their debut performance in a government held event. Since then, Ponte Singers have organized their own concerts featuring different music genres including Chinese songs and hymns.

The members are all exposed to music at a very young age, but they went on to pursue their studies in different areas and became detached from music. As time went by, they realized music was their true passion. "Music was no longer a habit to me," Mandy said. "As I grow older and start to reflect on my life, I become more 'infatuated' with music," said Karis.

Their love for music has strengthened after the four joined together to form the group. "Your passion will rise to another level, especially when performing, and it will never stop," Lam said.

Turning dreams into reality always comes with difficulties. Like many other music groups, Ponte Singers find it hard to find performing venues. Governmental venues are almost full every day, forcing them to look for private venues charging much higher rents.

Despite the lack of performing venues, the group is still optimistic about its future and pledges to continue to bridge its love in music with the public by launching more concerts.

It was their passion in music that brought them together, bounded them and gave them strength to persist under unfavourable conditions. The Ponte Singers are ready to overcome forthcoming hurdles and keep moving forward together. ■

STORY/ALVINA HUNG
EDITED BY/WINNIE YIU





EMPRESS DOWAGER'S FREE SPEECH FE

Ng Chi-sum says he would rather quit than being told what to say

STORY / ALAN WONG
EDITED BY / SIMON YUEN

MR NG CHI-SUM HOLDS A POSTER OBJECTING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AS DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING.



EARS

Veteran journalist Ng Chi-sum arrived at his cubicle at Radio Television Hong Kong in a blue shirt with sleeves rolled up and a backpack on one shoulder. On his desk was a caricature of the fictional "Grass Mud Horse" created by mainland internet users to mock censorship by the authorities.

Mr Ng is most well known for airing his critical views about the mainland and Hong Kong governments through the sarcastic remarks of Empress Dowager, whom he purports to impersonate in the popular RTHK television programme Headliner. On his daily radio phone-in programme, he also lashes out against the powers that be.

"If someone has worked in this field for 20 years without offending anybody, then he might have failed," he said.

Mr Ng's first foray into journalism began when he was a biology student at the Chinese University, where he volunteered as a reporter for the Student Union's newspaper. Having been a reporter for TVB and a host of RTHK radio shows, Mr Ng is now also a columnist for Ming Pao and Apple Daily.

Despite the many journalistic roles he has performed, there is one thing about Mr Ng that has not changed—he takes aim at the government very often. He said he had offended a lot of people over the years from governors to real estate developers.

But he did not think that he had stirred up anger against the rich.

“ If someone has worked in this field for 20 years without offending anybody, then he might have failed. ”

"Very often I analyse an issue and suggest what might be the cause of the

problem; but some people just don't understand it and mistake it for stirring anger," he said.

Although constantly criticizing the government and developers, Mr Ng does not think he is really daring in airing his views. "People who risk their lives saying something are the ones that truly dare to speak out," he said. "I can say many things and nothing would really harm me. It is not like in some other places where your life may be threatened if you say something considered wrong [by those with power]."

But he has one thing that he fears most. "It is the loss of freedom to express my opinions. I would rather quit my job if someday my boss or the board comes to me and asks me to say this and that," he said.

Although working for RTHK, Mr Ng is not happy with the government department that has tried to defend its editorial independence as a public broadcaster. The government recently appointed Roy Tang Yun-kwong, an administrative officer with no broadcasting experience, as Director of Broadcasting, and Mr Ng thinks that is unacceptable.

He is also pessimistic about the future of the media in Hong Kong. "Police are blocking reporters' cameras, searching and arresting them. This has never happened before," he said.

"The atmosphere in the journalism profession has changed a lot in the past 20 years. People have become more likely to self-censor what they produce, and some do it without even knowing it," he added.

Although freedom of expression is shrinking and journalists are poorly paid, Mr Ng still encourages young people to become journalists. Journalism was a rewarding profession and journalists could help prevent the society from going down.

Mr Ng had been seriously criticized by some for being a mouthpiece of the pro-democracy camp on his radio and television shows on RTHK and using public resources to advance his personal agenda. But he is firm about what he is doing. "After all, I would rather say I am always serious about what I do," he said. ■



MORE THAN MEET THE EYES

“An art museum could be
more than just a storeroom
for works of art.”



THIS IS THE WORK OF A KINDERGARTENER, WHOSE SOPHISTICATED USE OF COLOUR SHOCKS MANY VISITORS.



THE MUSEUM IS HOUSED INSIDE THE HISTORIC LIN HALL.

Nothing is better than spending an afternoon at the Ohio University's Kennedy Museum of Art. Its collections showcase artists' persistence in their pursuit for perfection and exploration beyond the limits of their imagination. It is also a good example of how art education meets charity and local blends with global.

Sitting on a hill overlooking Athens, a city in the mid-western state of Ohio in the United States, the museum is housed inside a historic four-storey building called Lin Hall. Greeting the visitors are elegant pillars, winding stairs and white ceilings. Indeed, white is the theme colour of its interior decoration.

While the immaculate appearance produces a classical ambience, the current exhibits are decidedly non-classical – bunches of children's drawings. The museum has collaborated with the Patton College of Education and Human Services to hold an auction exhibition of 50 works by students from kindergarten to grade 12 in the Crooksville Exempted Village Schools.

A kindergartener's watercolour portrait of a cat's head shocks visitors with its sophisticated use of colour, with an even blend of blue, red and yellow weaving a pattern of perfect harmony. The child painter's innocence is reflected in the portrait, while the gloomy eyes of the cat hides his curiosity about the mystery of the

future.

Other works include one that depicts a tornado as a morning glory, a woman's portrait that has three versions painted in distinct colours, and pieces of abstractionism rendered in the forms of handcraft, stipple, crayon and blow drawing and watercolour and oil painting.

The latent message of the exhibition is obvious – we can help our children paint their own future. Give them the opportunity to put their dreams into reality through their own hands, and their masterpieces show they are fully capable of expressing their colourful and creative imaginations.

In addition to showcasing quality works of art, the museum also serves as a platform to promote art education. Every cent earned in the auction exhibition will go to Crooksville for help cover the costs of art programmes.

Another current exhibition is called "A Local To Global Perspective On Critical Issues Affecting Our Planets And Its People". It is a collection of photographs taken by Ohio University students and professors about critical issues in so-called conflict zones in different parts of the world.

The issues range from the territorial conflicts between Israel and Palestine, Burmese refugees in Thailand, confrontations in the Korean Peninsula to sustainable agriculture in Guatemala. Together, they imbue visitors with a sense of

humanity that prompts them to think deeper about the underlying issues and reflect on their own life.

An art museum could be more than just a storeroom for works of art. It could be a repository of values that pushes one to reflect and question the meaning of life. It could do more than meet the eyes. ■

STORY/SOPHIA FU
EDITED BY/GOOSIE CHAN



WHITE WINDING STAIRS AND CEILINGS.



THE LANTERN FIESTA

Every year Hong Kong government hosts different kinds of celebrations during festivals, a lot of them for free. Lanterns, despite festive delicacies like mooncakes and star fruits, are the most important tradition inherited from the past for the Mid-Autumn Festival. Walk on to the street during the next occasion and enjoy the atmosphere and share the joy.



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The hustle and bustle of Yue Man Square that used to define the busy spot in Kwun Tong is gone as residents move out to make way for redevelopment.





Yue Man Square is the hub of Kwun Tong, from where most bus and mini-bus routes to and from the district originate. But as the knocker's hammers are due to flatten the area in the largest urban redevelopment project in Hong Kong's history, it has lost its former lustre and is now marked by dusty corridors, deserted homes and vacant shops.

PHOTO / **COCO ZHENG**
 EDITED BY / **HELEN WU**



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