

P4 View: Kungfu star fails to master Weibo **P14** Contribute a generous harvest of rice to society
P16 The man behind the mask **P17** Public education is key to rooting out workplace sexual harassment
P18 The fight to save street art **P20** Profile : Interview with Mr Erik Mak Ka-wai

THE YOUNG REP•RTER
magazine
October 2013

Christianity and Occupy Central

COVER *The civil disobedience movement's key leaders are Christians who regard God's principles as higher than secular law*

In This Issue

FRONT

4 View

Kungfu stars fails to master weibo

6 Feature

In God we occupy, say religious leaders



NEWS

12 Working mothers' struggle: Lack of support in the workplace hampers breastfeeding



Working mothers who want to breastfeed their babies stranded by practical concerns

14 Contribute a generous harvest of rice to society

Man growing rice for needy seniors in community

15 The man behind the mask

TYR's peek into the popular Teddy Head on YouTube

16 Public education is key to rooting out workplace sexual harassment

Low public awareness and lack of company indecency policies render cases of sexual harassment in the workplace unreported

18 The fight to save street art

Buskers call for a legal ground for their art to thrive

SPECIAL PIECE



20 Profile

TYR reporter has a special interview with Mr Erik Mak Ka-wai

22 China Daily Award Ceremony

Baptist students receive Journalistic Acclaim at Campus News Award

In the July issue, we examined how inconsistency in regulatory standards set and fire alarm systems installed by different local universities have enabled some college students to smoke on campuses.



Letter from the Editor

THE YOUNG REPORTER magazine

The October issue of The Young Reporter features an exciting array of stories for our discerning readers.

With a growing schism between political parties over the Occupy Central Movement proposed as a last resort to push for genuine universal suffrage, we have decided to go beyond the surface to examine how religion has emerged as a driving force behind the civil rights campaign.

We are giving you exclusive insight into the political and religious strife behind the movement by bringing together views from a host of noted academics and religious figures.

Also in this issue, we get up close and personal with Mr. Erik Mak Ka-wai, the host and

co-producer of RTHK's much-debated weekly talk show Face to Face. He talks to us about the controversy surrounding his show and how he views the current political situation in the city.

Last but not least, we are bringing you coverage of this year's China Daily Campus Newspaper Award ceremony, in which two journalism students from Hong Kong Baptist University received high accolades for their news features and designs.

Finally, we welcome any feedback letters or emails from you on our stories and design layouts. Starting from the November issue, we will publish your letters and email messages in our magazine.

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Kungfu star fails to master Weibo

WHENEVER I meet someone at university, he or she will soon fade out of my mind unless we have become friends on Facebook. Although Facebook's popularity among our seven million population is likely to continue, I have seen more and more Hong Kong people start to use Sina Weibo, a micro-blogging website that entertains more than half a billion mainland Chinese netizens, although it has been one of the targets of Beijing's vigorous censorship.

Among Weibo's active users, executives are liaising with their business partners while journalists, especially those doing China reporting, can just stay in their air-conditioned offices and turn to the Chinese equivalent of Twitter for endless good stories. Mind you that local politicians like Mr Leung Chun-ying and Mr Henry Tang Ying-yen also used Weibo to campaign for the Chief Executive race in 2012, although one year later the loser scrubbed all his previous posts and the elected even deleted his account.

Also among Weibo's fervent enthusiasts is a group of heavyweight: celebrities. Just name a few, Mr Leon Lai Ming, Mr Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Mr Eason Chan Yik-shun and Ms Faye Wong. They have all been tweeting, each amassing hundreds of thousands of followers, or even millions. My highly subjective and unscientific observation is that celebrities in Hong Kong have basically adopted this "success formula" – posting on Weibo an offbeat photo plus an obscure caption – together with their counterparts in mainland China or Taiwan.

If you do not strictly follow this pattern, you will either remain unknown or become too famous. Mr Jackie Chan Kong-sang, the renowned Kungfu actor starring over 150 films, has failed to win wars of words with many Weibo users angered by his controversial posts, even though none of his opponents dares to physically challenge the martial artist in real combat setting.

The film star, who has been keeping updating several times per week for his nearly 20 million followers, said in a post on August 3, "Photographed by myself. Who says there is no blue sky in Beijing? What a blue sky and green field," with three photos depicting the scenery he described and an overjoyed emoticon. Although what Mr Chan's said was evidenced by his photos, he still sparked off a row for praising the clear air of China's capital, which is enveloped by air pollution most of the time. Some netizens replied "Jackie Chan you made me sick" and "I have never seen anyone so eager to lick up Beijing's backside", and others' words are just too vulgar to be shown in a respectable publication.

Yet another post by him caused even greater tension between his supporters and detractors, documented in the more than 40,000 comments it received. He protested on August 4 against the Weibo management team, which did not allow him to use "Jackie Chan" as his title instead of "famous Hong-

kongese actor." "So what do you think my title should be," wrote Mr Chan. "Body double, stuntman, actor, action choreographer, screenwriter, film director, singer, producer, entrepreneur, philanthropist, international star, or even world film-singing-action superstar?" While his fans were amazed by their idol's resume, opponents had shown their disgust towards the actor's boasting, with some even mocking him as "the most famous Hongkongese Communist Party member".

Although it was very well-tempered of Mr Chan not to scold his detractors, he should be aware that all the "dirty water" poured onto him in the cyber space has signaled the failure of his communication strategy and public relations. Of course we shall respect his freedom of speech and his widely known pro-China stance, which is legitimate in itself. He would have encountered no problem if he had spoken these on state television, given his political correctness, fluent Mandarin and popularity as a guarantee of rating. But as to Weibo, a totally different platform whose users are at least skeptical, if not outright resistant, to Chinese authorities, he should use different ways to say the same thing or even say different things for a better public image. He should have learned from the party mouthpiece the People's Daily, which speaks differently in its print edition and Weibo posts. He should have known that the millions of young Chinese adults on Weibo, without much money nor guanxi (connections), helplessly drifting in metropolises like a leaf in a raging torrent and suffering from great living and working pressure, are not the major audience of China Central Television's prime time news bulletin.

Besides the art of speaking, he ought to have greater sensitivity when touching upon political issues. His colleague Ms Carina Lau Ka-ling was slammed for posting a photo of her in Tiananmen Square, whereas other outspoken personalities critical of China like Mr Anthony Wong Chau-sang and Taiwanese singer Ms Annie Yi Neng-jing were faulted by nationalists and even suffered economic losses for speaking their minds. If you search "Jackie Chan's quotes" on Weibo, the hundreds of results you will end up with showing words almost blindly favouring the Chinese government have long been targets of ridicule among Internet users. Even though no one has confirmed these quotes are from Mr Chan and China's propaganda officials apparently do not need to worry about his ideology, these have already shown the necessity for him to use the social media more intelligently.

Other issues like the mixed usage of simplified and traditional Chinese characters on Mr Chan's Weibo account, or even in a single Weibo post, are too minor to concern him. Coincidentally, outcry stirred up by Mr Wong's lament for mainland's use of simplified characters was reportedly to be the direct cause of his departure from Weibo.

Mr Chan could not be reached for comment via Weibo.



Photo courtesy of Weibo

Write to us.

***We will publish your letters in the
magazine and on our website.***

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The Young Reporter

run by HKBU journalism students since 1969

IN GOD WE OCCUPY, SAY RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Local Christian activists are leading the Occupy Central campaign, triggering a debate over whether their religious convictions will have skewed the civil disobedience movement deemed as Hong Kong's last ditch attempt to win universal suffrage.

那裡有謙誠 那裡就有智慧

Ubi Humilitas

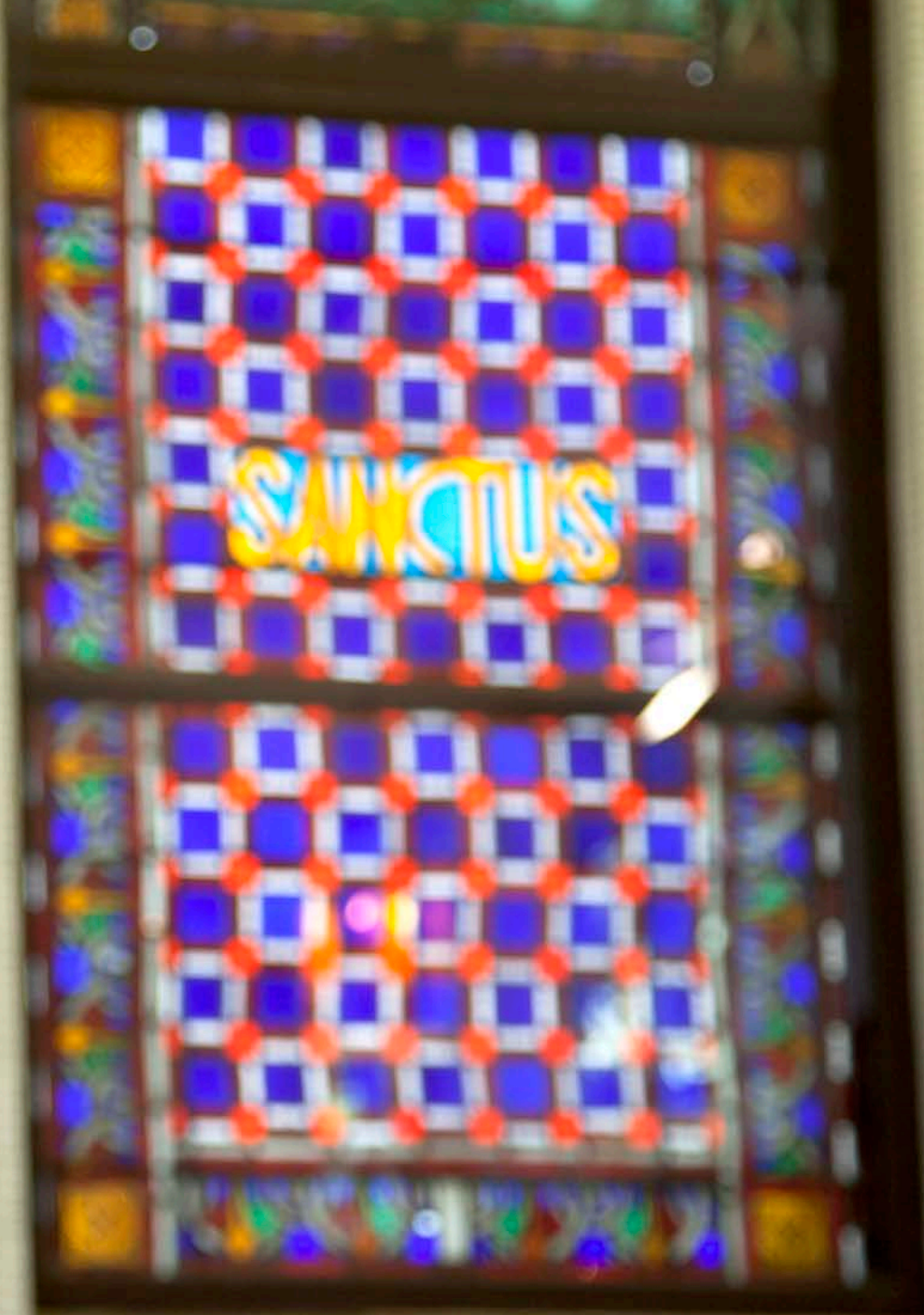
Ibi Sapiencia



方濟會士 聖文德
(1218-1274)

天主教 聖文德堂





“What I can do is to pray for the city when I offer a mass,” said Father Stephen Chan of the St. Bonaventure Church, who felt that the clergy should not force its believers to take part in the Occupy Central movement.

NEWS IN THE PAST

16 January 2013

The Hong Kong Economic Journal publishes an article by Mr. Benny Tai Yiu-ting, associate professor of law at the University of Hong Kong, calling the Occupy Central Movement a last resort in the city's campaign for genuine universal suffrage.

24 March 2013

Qiao Xiaoyang, chairman of the Law Committee under the National People's Congress Standing Committee, proclaims that all chief executive candidates must be loyal to Hong Kong and the country, and bear no intention to confront the central government.

27 March 2013

Joined by co-organisers Reverend Chu Yiu-ming and CUHK Sociology Professor Chan Kin-man, Mr. Benny Tai Yiu-ting announces at a press conference that his group will go ahead with the protest next year if the government fails to produce a proposal that meets international standards.

**OCCUPY CENTRAL, A MOVEMENT**

aimed at mobilising tens of thousands of people to block the streets of the city's central business district in July 2014 to press for democracy, has sparked off not just a fierce debate over civil disobedience.

It has also prompted an examination of the role religion plays in local politics, as the campaign's three masterminds – legal scholar Dr Benny Tai Yiu-ting, Reverend Chu Yiu-ming and sociologist Dr Chan Kin-man – are all Christians.

“It is quite surprising that a legal expert and moderate Christian stands by illegal acts and calls on people to occupy Central,” said theologian and veteran social activist Dr Chan Sze-chi, referring to Dr Tai who teaches at the University of Hong Kong.

He noted that the two other organisers, Rev Chu from Chai Wan Baptist Church and Dr Chan Kin-man from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, regarded their roles in the movement respectively as a political activist and a discerning scholar rather than cordial believers.

To them, if what the government does is unjust, then “law in the secular world can be disobeyed, for God's principles are higher,” said Dr Chan Sze-chi.

He attributed the Christian activists' fervent support for the movement nine months away to the religion's theology, which he said predisposed its followers to revolt against authorities.

Dr Kwok Wai-luen, assistant professor of theology at Hong Kong Baptist University, agreed.

“Christians are always ready for idealistic pursuit, for instance, for justice and democracy,” explained Dr Kwok, citing the African-American Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s led by clergyman Dr Martin Luther King.

“There are such genes in their history,” he said.

Although the leaders of Occupy Central have said they are ready to accept any liability arising from the civil disobedience campaign, echoing the slogan “Fill the Jails” chanted five decades ago in the United States, critics are concerned that these Christians might have gone too far.

Associate professor of philosophy at Hong Kong Baptist University Dr Ellen Zhang Ying, who has no religious affiliation, said Christians could be involved in social movements only under “severe” circumstances according to their doctrine. But whether a failure to reap universal suffrage is catastrophic enough to qualify as a “severe” scenario, in her views, remains debatable.

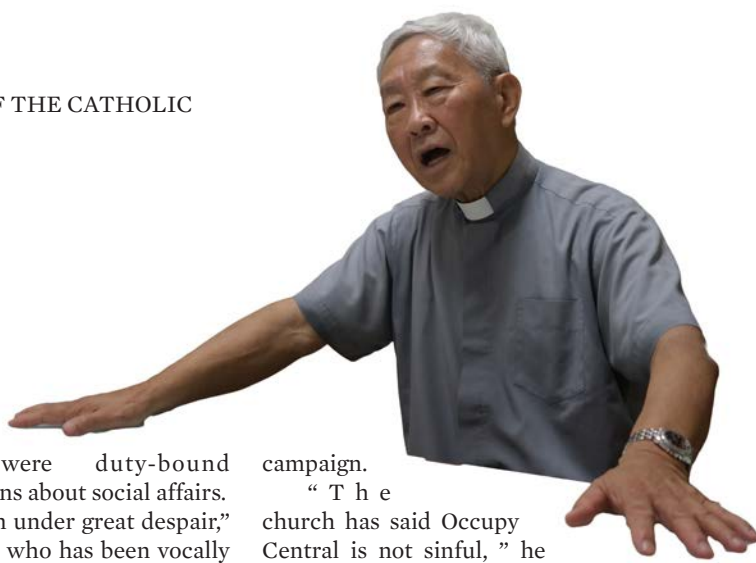
A Occupy Central forum was held in Hong Kong Baptist University in April, 2013.



Photo courtesy of Hong Kong Baptist University

“We would rather go to jail if there is no universal suffrage.”

CARDINAL JOSEPH ZEN ZE-KIUN, FORMER CHIEF OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HONG KONG



She said in order to dispel people's fear of entanglement between religion and politics, devotional activists should highlight conscience and morality when framing the campaign rather than use explicit religious expressions.

One of the statements on Occupy Central released by the city's Catholic diocese, titled "An Urgent Call for Earnest Dialogue and Responsible Action on July 25", calls for "any sensible measure" to facilitate talks on universal suffrage but acknowledges the legitimacy of taking the issue to the streets in Central if dialogue does not work.

Dr Zhang noted that by issuing the statements, the diocese had made a political gesture given its relationship with the Chinese authority, which has turned sour since Beijing fell out with Vatican in 1957 and banned the religion on the mainland.

Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kium, former chief of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong, said clergymen should not be directly involved in politics such as running for elections or adopting party

affiliations but were duty-bound to voice out opinions about social affairs.

"It is an action under great despair," said Cardinal Zen, who has been vocally supporting Occupy Central and even vowed to join the demonstration in person. "We would rather go to jail if there is no universal suffrage."

"What the government needs to prepare is not tear gas. They just need to prepare more prisons for us to fill in," he said.

Cardinal Zen regards the movement as an illegal act with "justifiable goals" and upholds its principle of peace. He did however suggest that a certain level of violence was acceptable if protesters were left with no alternative.

"Each one should follow his or her conscience," he said. "We have chosen an illegal method right for the sake of facing the punishment, and we will show our determination to win universal suffrage."

Father Stephen Chan of the St. Bonaventure Church said the church's role in Occupy Central was to guide its followers on how to evaluate the political

campaign.

"The church has said Occupy Central is not sinful," he said. "As from the very beginning, non-violence is a principle of the movement."

The Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong, where Father Chan serves as a consultant, held a seminar on August 26 calling on participants to "stand up for the future of Hong Kong in compliance with the conscience and the gospel of God".

"What religion strives for is a fair, peaceful society without discrimination," Father Chan said.

He insisted, however, that the clergy should allow believers the freedom to contribute to the society in their own ways instead of forcing them to take part in the Occupy Central movement.

"What I can do is to pray for the city when I offer a mass," he said.

By **Steven Wang**
Edited by **Song Cheng**

SOCIETY

Working mother' struggle: Lack of support in the workplace hampers breastfeeding

As government tries to promote breastfeeding by banning advertising for formula milk, practical problems faced by working mothers trying to breastfeed their babies go unresolved

HAVING to steal time in between work to lactate in a storage room at her workplace, Ms Idy Tam, who gave birth to a baby girl two and a half years ago, was left with no choice but to drop breastfeeding a month after her maternity leave ended.

"I couldn't pump milk regularly as I might have lunch meetings or other stuff to do," said Ms Tam, an accountant at a big company whose name she declined to disclose.

"There wasn't a nursery room for me to pump milk, so I had to do it in the storage room."

Ms Tam's plea to her company for a better place to lactate ended up in limbo – she was told that there was not enough space and the storage room was her only choice.

"My company doesn't provide any support in terms of policy and facilities, which makes it really inconvenient for us," she said.

Most Hong Kong mothers fail to exclusively breastfeed their babies until the sixth month following labour, the duration recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for better infant development.

According to the Department of Health, the city's exclusive breastfeeding rate for infants between four to six months old is currently 19%, which has edged up from 14.8% in 2011.

The rate is among the lowest compared to other developed economies. Six-month exclusive breastfeeding rate in the US was 47.2% in 2009 while that

of South Korea was 49.3%, findings from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention of the US and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) show.

The government sought to tap into a ban on formula advertising to boost breastfeeding in 2011, targeting advertisements for formula aimed at children aged six months to three. The proposal was slammed by the city's formula industry, which had voluntarily halted advertising for infant formula, meaning formula products designed for babies under 6 months old.

Ms Sharon Tsui, policy researcher at the committee of the Hong Kong Breastfeeding Mothers' Association, argues that the crux of the city's low breastfeeding rate lies in practical problems working mothers face in the workplace but not what is on billboards and calls the proposed ban "fruitless effort" in promoting breastfeeding.

"Actually nobody knows about the ban as ... infant formula products for babies at six to 12 months old are still being advertised."

Ms Tsui said briefer-than-necessary maternity leave and lack of lactation breaks on working days were two major factors crippling breastfeeding, apart from the near absence of lactation facilities for mothers at workplaces.

Her words were echoed by the findings of a survey on mothers conducted by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University last year, which found that half of its 508 participants with newborn infants



Photo by Hong Kong Breastfeeding Mothers' Association

Breastfeeding establishes a close relationship between babies and mothers and it benefits both of them in many ways.

identified work as the principal barrier to breastfeeding and only 0.4% deemed exposure to baby formula advertisements as relevant.

More than half of the respondents considered prolonged maternity leave as helpful in boosting the breastfeeding rate, the survey showed.

Ms Tsui said many new mothers in

Working mothers breastfeeding their babies form support group to share experience and pull each other through difficulties.



Photograph courtesy of Hong Kong Breastfeeding Mothers' Association

Hong Kong found the current 10-week maternity leave too short, of which two to four weeks were prenatal.

"The first month after labour is very important for mothers' bodies to form a routine of breast milk production," she said. "Sometimes, everything is still in chaos ... but maternity leave ends and mothers have to go back to work. This really makes them frustrated."

Breastfeeding rate in Hong Kong was found to plummet between the second and third months after labour, roughly when maternity leave ends, according to a study published in the British academic journal Biomed Central (BMC) Pregnancy and Childbirth.

The lack of lactation break had further deterred mothers from breastfeeding as they had to lactate every three to four hours in order to keep producing milk, explained Ms Tsui.

"For working moms, they have to use breast pumps. It takes at least half an hour each time. The bosses may think

"There wasn't a nursery room for me to pump milk, so I had to do it in the storage room."

MS TAM, AN ACCOUNTANT AT A BIG COMPANY

they are sleazing."

The International Labour Organisation recommends a 14-week paid maternity leave and one to two paid breastfeeding breaks each working day.

Ms Tsui said to her knowledge few enterprises in Hong Kong had breastfeeding supporting policy such as paid lactation breaks for new mothers who had resumed work. Relevant statistics are unavailable.

The WHO prohibits "advertising or other form of promotion to the general public" for infant formula in

its International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes published in 1981. Few governments currently observe the code through legislation.

Infant formula advertising was once banned in the Philippines in 2006 and has been illegal in the UK since 1995.

While many Hong Kong mothers stranded by feasibility concerns are forced to sacrifice breastfeeding to work, some persist.

Ms Sharon Lau Yuk-ping, an office lady working in Sheung Wan, still breastfeeds her now 13-month-old girl.

This is despite the fact that she has to make time to do it in the bathroom while at work.

"Luckily the toilet at the company is quite clean," she said.

"I intend to give up at no time," said Ms Lau. "My baby enjoys being held in my arms and she loves breast milk. This is the strongest motivation for me to keep on breastfeeding."

By Shirley Chan
Edited by Vanessa Piao

PEOPLE

Rice for the needy

Mr Leung Yat-sun is committed to an extraordinary mission of growing rice and distributing his harvest to poor senior citizens

TO most people, tons of rice is no different from stacks of money. But for Mr Leung Yat-shun, growing rice is all about sharing and bringing joy to everyone.

The 62-year-old has been a flower grower in Yuen Long for 37 years. This April, when his land lay fallow, Mr Leung decided to realise a long cherished dream: growing rice and giving it to local seniors in need.

This kind and meaningful act has been buried deep in his heart for the last 50 years because of an unforgettable experience and his parents' teachings.

Having immigrated to Hong Kong with his family in 1962, Mr Leung came from a humble background with his family sometimes struggling to put food on the table. One day when his family was starving, an old man living next door gave them half his cooked rice.

"I felt so touched and grateful that I decided to pay something back to the community when I grow up," he said.

Mr Leung has gone through many ups and downs in his lifetime. Besides living in poverty during childhood, he lost a lot of money in his flower growing business several years ago, making him heavily in debt and nearly bankrupt.

"Farming depends a lot on the weather, which was so bad in early 2000 that I suffered great losses. I almost collapsed. Fortunately, my creditors gave me a long grace period so that I could survive," he said.

Mr. Leung's experience of receiving help when he was desperate has strengthened his determination to contribute to society. Thanks to the good weather in the past two to three years, he has made a lump sum that enabled him to fulfill his dream.

Since the weather in May is usually not suitable for growing rice, many people were not optimistic about Mr Leung's plan. But with the stable weather and his careful control of the acidity and salinity of the soil, it turned out to be a huge success.

Now buckets of grain are stored on Mr Leung's farm,

waiting to be processed and distributed. Looking back, he said the biggest challenge was nature, referring to the weather and the creatures that could harm the crops.

"You can see birds eating up the crops. They could reduce harvest, but luckily they were under control," he said.

Mr Leung is thankful for the support he has received from his family, staff, volunteers and Caritas Hong Kong.

"Without them, I could not have fulfilled my dream," he added.

Giving rice to the elderly is not the only thing Mr Leung wants to do. His ultimate goal is to spread a couple of messages.

"Through growing rice and giving them to the elderly,

"I want to educate our younger generations that food doesn't come easily and so we must cherish it."

MR LEUNG YAT-SHUN, A FARMER WHO GROWS RICE IN YUEN LONG, HONG KONG

I want to educate our younger generations that food doesn't come easily and so we must cherish it. Young people should show more care and respect for seniors because they have contributed a great deal to our society," he said.

Mr Leung still has one more dream he would like to realize - finding the seeds of "Yuen Long Si Miu", the species of rice said to have disappeared for 50 years.

Up until the 1950s, many farmers had been growing rice in Yuen Long and Hong Kong people used to be very

proud of the grain grown in the area. However, the renowned species had disappeared as rice farming faded.

"I would love to grow this rice for Hong Kong people again," he said.

The sexagenarian farmer also calls for more government support in providing better farming equipment and technology.

"In recent years, more and more farmers have quit farming because it's hard for them to survive. A lot of farms have been abandoned and some are being used as rubbish dumps. What a waste!" he added.

With generous support from many people, he plans to do the same meaningful act of growing rice and distributing his produce every year for as long as he can.

By **Stephen Leung**
Edited by **Jessica Lee**



PEOPLE

The man behind the mask

Who is the Teddy Head in FH Production's videos and why is he hiding his identity?

As popular as his videos may be, the man behind the local YouTube channel, FH Production HK, remains a mystery to viewers. Unlike many who have found fame, Mr Darren Cheng prefers staying in the shadows as he enjoys the glory of his success.

Since 2012, FH Production has created 16 funny videos about the typical lives of ordinary teenagers. Co-founded by Mr Cheng and Mr Kenrick Ho who play the characters of Teddy Head and Stitch respectively, the channel has become very popular among the post-90's generation.

Mr Cheng's dream is a simple one. He hopes to make his audience happy and convey the message that everyone can be passionate about their ambitions.

"The more people laugh at my jokes, the more satisfied I feel. It seems like this is a dream for others, but actually it's for me. I feel cool when people laugh whenever I say something senseless," said Mr Cheng.

To cater to the preferences of his viewers, Mr Cheng and Mr Ho choose topics that are brainstormed through a social forum.

FH Production has amassed more than 120,000 subscribers since last year, with the most popular video, "Boys Have a Say 2," hitting 660,000 views. The video portrays a humorous parody of an ordinary teenage boy grumbling about his irritating girlfriend.

Yet despite the popularity of his videos, the 21-year-old refuses to be seen without his iconic Teddy Head.

"I'm worried people will think I want to make a name for myself. This isn't the reason I shoot these videos, so I wear the Teddy Head to make sure people don't think this way," he said.

Another worry he has is the fear of embarrassing

"I feel cool when people laugh whenever I say something senseless."



MR DARREN CHENG, THE MAN BEHIND THE LOCAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL, FH PRODUCTION HK

himself if he fails to meet his viewers' expectations. Even now he still feels uneasy when his friends watch his videos in front of him.

Having studied science at the City University of Hong Kong, his passion for the subject can be seen through his videos when Teddy Head explains something simple with a torrent of complicated scientific theories.

Calling himself a typical post-90's teenager, Mr Cheng said he loved chit-chatting with his friends and enjoyed torturing himself by doing things last minute.

Wearing glasses, a T-shirt and shorts all in the colour black, it's difficult to single him out as anyone other than a common teenager.

"People who know me very well will notice right away that the Teddy Head is actually me because this is how I speak and talk with my friends in real life," he said.

His best friend, Miss To Siu-kiu, describes Darren as hilarious. Having known him for four years, she said that the Teddy Head represented the humorous side of Mr Cheng.

Mr Ho, who plays Stitch, has known Mr Cheng for more than ten years.

"He is not the kind of person you can hit it off with immediately, but when you have known him for a long time, you'll find there's no difference between him and the Teddy Head," said Mr Ho.

Although Mr Cheng and the Teddy Head have a similar sense of humour which he adopted from local veteran comedy actor Mr Stephen Chow Sing-chi, there is much more to him than meets the eye.

"It is not a good thing to let more people know who I am, but it is for the Teddy Head. I have my own life, and Teddy Head has its own life as well," said Mr. Cheng, implying that he will always remain "faceless" and therefore an enigma.

Mr Cheng edits all the videos before they are uploaded onto YouTube.



By **Natalie Leung**
Edited by **Natasha Chan**



Photo courtesy of Equal Opportunities Commission

POLITICS

Public education is key to rooting out workplace sexual harassment

A lot of cases have gone unreported because of inadequate public awareness, say experts

A campaign by the Equal Opportunities Commission to encourage people to speak up against sexual harassment.

WORKING as a customer service officer at a small travel agency, Ms. Chan, then 21 years old, was repeatedly groped and requested by one of her senior colleagues to wear mini-skirts to work and to reveal her legs.

Feeling disturbed, Chan chose to remain silent out of fear of reprisal from her senior, not least because there was no sexual harassment policy in her company.

She eventually quit her job.

Academics and industry experts have pointed to a lack of public awareness of sexual harassment in the workplace, coupled with an absence of an indecency policy in many local small and medium-sized companies.

“There is a strong need to raise employers’ awareness of workplace sexual harassment and the importance to set relevant policies,” said Dr. Leung Lai-ching, associate professor in the Department of Applied Social Studies at City University of Hong Kong and a member of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC).

Sex Discrimination Ordinance, an anti-discrimination law passed in 1995, prohibits any forms of sexual harassment in the workplace and states clearly what constitutes it, though it doesn’t make it mandatory for all local companies to have an internal sexual harassment policy in place.

A recent survey conducted by the EOC has shown that many local companies have overlooked the importance of setting policy statements on sexual harassment in the workplace, as they have never felt the urgency or need to do so.

“Some people don’t report their cases simply out of ignorance,” said Dr. Anita Lee Chi-kwan, an associate professor specialised in gender and sexuality research at Tung Wah College.

The findings went hand-in-hand with a reported 54 per cent increase in the number of workplace sexual harassment-related complaints received by the EOC since 2011.

Additionally, the South China Morning Post reported in early September that more than one-third of the complaints lodged with the EOC under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance in 2012 were related to workplace sexual harassment.

The commission’s findings came on the heels of a court case heard in the District Court in 2011, in which a female assistant officer at the Department of Food and Environment Hygiene accused her fellow male officer of having repeatedly made sexual taunts and attempts to touch her.

The defendant was later found guilty under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance.

Some experts, however, are concerned that many victims of workplace sexual harassment in Hong Kong have yet to come forward and thus the magnitude of the issue remains unclear.

“The number of complaints received by the EOC may not fully reflect reality as there are people who are afraid of speaking up,” said Dr. Ip King-tak, assistant professor in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Hong Kong Baptist University.

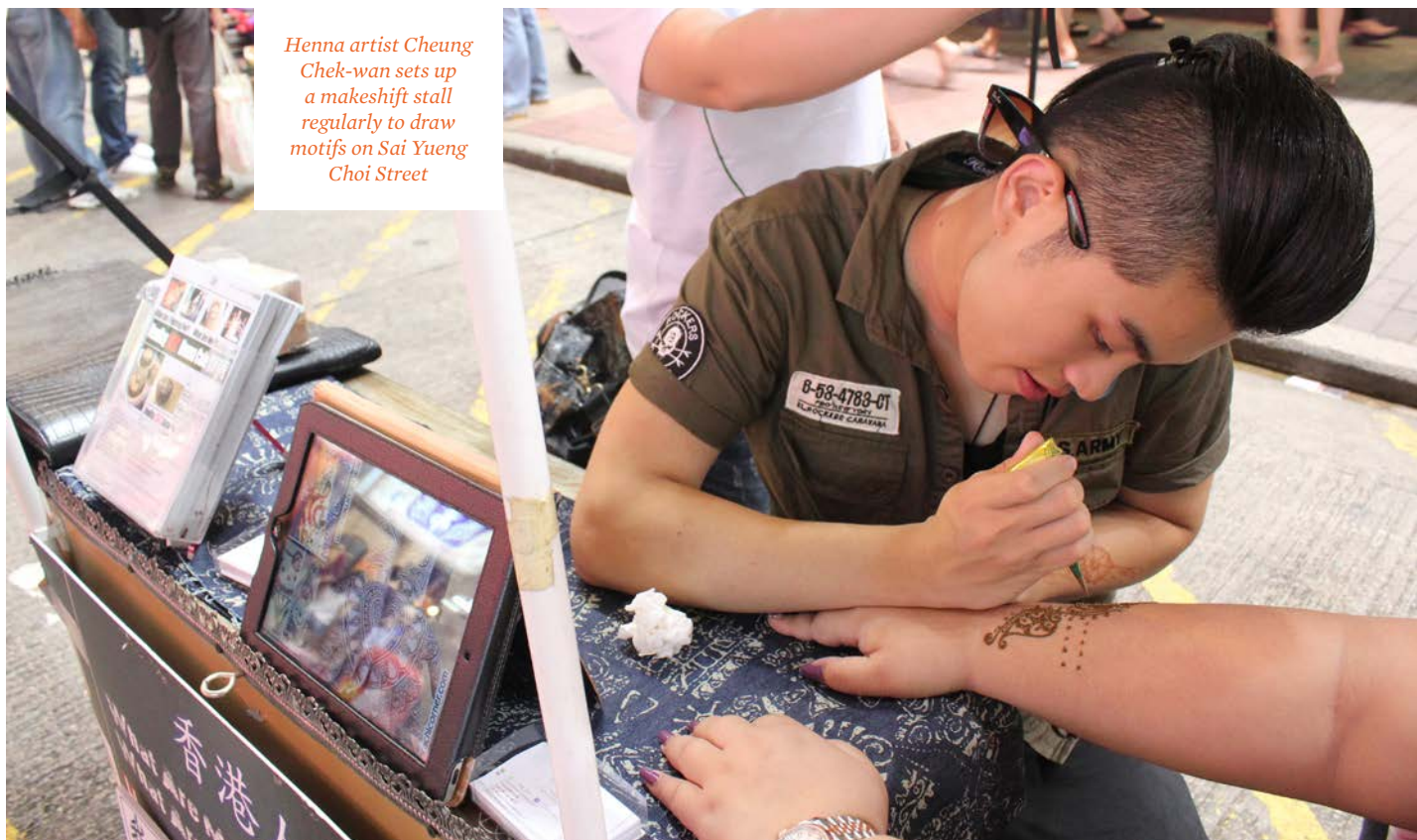
Although the EOC has been providing training and consultancy services to business enterprises and government departments since 2001, industry experts such as Ms. Virginia Choi, former chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management, have pointed out that most small and medium-sized companies cannot afford to have their staff away in training due to insufficient human resources.

That said, it is often too late when the company finds out that one of its employees has been sexually harassed, and the trauma inflicted upon the victim can sometimes be irrevocable.

“To prevent sexual harassment in the workplace, the government needs to strengthen public education and have the determination to implement relevant policies,” said Dr. Lee.



Henna artist Cheung Chek-wan sets up a makeshift stall regularly to draw motifs on Sai Yueng Choi Street



SOCIETY

The fight to save street art

Street performers campaign for the right to chase their dreams legally

IN the pedestrian precinct on Sai Yueng Choi Street South, henna artist Mr Andrew Cheung Chek-wan, 21, sets up a makeshift stall regularly to draw motifs on the bodies of those who appreciate his art with a special Indian herb extract.

But in his two years of plying his trade in the streets, Mr Cheung has received plenty of warning tickets from the Hawker Control Team and was even charged once.

Mr Cheung's experience is not unique. While Hong Kong is known as an international city, which treasures the freedom of expression, street performers still face hurdles in finding a public venue to ply their trade.

"The law authorises the Hawker Control Team to define what is hawking but the crew cannot differentiate be-

tween street art and hawking," he said.

At the moment, what's more eye-catching than Mr Cheung's motifs drawn on the arms of his customers, is a large banner with the Chinese words saying "I am an artist, not a hawker".

Over the years, many buskers in Mongkok, Tsim Sha Tsui and Causeway Bay have been charged for breaching various ordinances, including hawking, disturbing public order and loitering.

To protect their rights, street artists have been lobbying for the introduction of a licensing system, with the support of Legislative Councillor Dr Chan Ka-lok.

"Licensing is the only way to promote busking and eliminate people's misunderstanding about us," said Mr Cheung, who participated in the event.

On August 25, the Street Arts and

Cultural Performance Showcase organised by Dr Chan brought together seven street art performance groups, representing buskers from various districts.

It was the first time that street performers had spoken publicly about their obstacles.

Dr Chan compares local buskers to seedlings looking for sunlight and nutrients for growth, referring to the significant lack of space for street performers in a concrete jungle like Hong Kong.

"Different law enforcement departments use their own methods to eliminate street performers because there is a lack of understanding and protection for street art," he said.

"If there is a licensing system, the identities of buskers would be ascertained so that they could perform legally."

“What are we fighting for, what am I fighting for? I am fighting for art.”

MR ANDREW CHEUNG, A HENNA ARTIST IN SAI YEUNG CHOI STREET SOUTH, MONGKOK



That said, the potential threat that the street art licensing system may pose on freedom of expression is a concern to some buskers.

“I did not support having a licensing system at first as I wondered what standards would be used to define street art,” Mr Cheung said.

“There should not be a threshold for art, but the dilemma is that we need a way to protect buskers in Hong Kong,” he said.

As the licensing proposal is still being discussed, the qualifications required for street performers are still uncertain. Yet Dr Chan stressed that there should not be entry barriers for street artists, nor attempts to promote only the so-called high-end art.

“I hope it will be an initial step to promote the street art culture,” he said.

Photographer Mr Hing Liu, from busker group Instant Cross, shares Dr Chan’s view.

“I believe a licensing system would encourage more people to engage in street art as they would not have to worry about being sued,” Mr Hing said.

Asked if there were any alternatives to licensing, Dr Chan said a “win-win policy” would be to have private organisations such as the MTR Corporation, Ocean Park and Disneyland open up their spaces for street art.

Opportunities to perform in these areas would provide ambitious artists with the platforms to display their works to the public, he added.

By **Tiffany Ng**
Edited by **Kathellen Wong**

Erik Mak Ka-wai

MOUTHPIECE OF THE PEOPLE

Mr Mak , 30, is the host and co-producer of RTHK's weekly talk show Face to Face, better known as "Friday Home Court" in Chinese. Renowned for his pointed questions and tough-talking style when confronting government officials, he has dismissed speculation that the programme, which has been on the city's free TV channels since late 2012 by order of RTHK's government-appointed chief Mr Roy Tang Yun-kwong, a political tool.

Interview



"If 'Friday Home Court' is a mouthpiece, I will only consider it as the people's mouthpiece," said Mr Mak in the talk show's debut.

But fame is never followed by admiration only — the populist host has been slammed by some for depriving his high-level guests of a fair platform for debate by interrupting aggressively and asking biased questions.

Q: Face to Face has seen both positive and negative feedback. How do you feel about it?

"It doesn't matter to me. I don't take it seriously. I will reflect on myself after receiving negative feedback but if it's nonsense, I will just ignore it. I also tell myself that I should never be complacent about positive response. I'll just keep on doing what I'd like to pursue."

Q: Have you felt any political pressure?

"I actually haven't felt any so far. Unlike private media organisations, luckily, RTHK doesn't put many restrictions on us. We can produce programmes in our own style."

Q: What do you see as the biggest problems in Hong Kong's local media?

"More and more local media are now practising self-censorship, which will affect Hong Kong's freedom of speech. This is probably an unhealthy trend ... Journalists being underpaid is another big issue in the industry. It is pathetic that not only do common people, but also senior executives, who themselves probably used to be reporters just a few years ago, believe that reporters are only worth such a pittance. The market has been distorted."

Q: What is your comment on the city's current political situation?

"There are too many problems in Hong Kong right now. Every pillar is collapsing. Even if we are determined and persistent, we can hardly have them recovered ... I think the time is ripe for Hong Kong citizens to take part in the Chief Executive election by universal suffrage."

Q: Do you think there has been increased political participation among locals in recent years?

"Is it true that Hong Kong people have really taken part in current affairs? No doubt our people constantly complain about the government and its policies. But have they translated that into actions to fight against the policies? I don't think so. I don't think they are persistent enough. Take the battle for free TV licences as an example. People criticized the TV station's monopoly, but they just keep watching programmes it produces ... They can simply stop watching that TV channel to vent their dissatisfaction."

Q: As a law student at university, why did you decide to pursue a master's degree in Journalism?

"I was planning my career path when I was in my final year. I wanted to do something that has more positive influence on society. So I thought Journalism was a better choice."

By **Rainbow Li**
Edited by **Mak Lawrence**

China Daily Award Ceremony

Baptist Students Receive Journalistic Acclaim at Campus News Award

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TYR



HKBU final-year international journalism student Brian Yap Ka-hei wins two awards in the categories of "Best in News Writing" and "Best in News Reporting" for his feature on the plight of the city's "N-nothings" published in The Young Reporter's December issue last year.



HKBU International Journalism graduate Alan Wong Sui-lun scores a hat-trick by scooping up three awards, including a merit of "Best in News Page Design" for the LegCo Losers Special published in The Young Reporter's November issue last year.

JOURNALISM students at Hong Kong Baptist University scooped up an impressive five awards at the China Daily Hong Kong 2013 Campus Newspaper Award prize ceremony on September 28.

Local academics and corporate executives gathered at HKBU's Lam Woo International Conference Centre for the annual event, in which winners from 12 universities in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and China competed for awards in 16 categories.

Mr Zhou Li, publisher and editor-in-chief of China Daily Asia Pacific was joined by Mr Michael Wong Wai-lun, director of Information Services, and Legislative Councillor Ms Regina Ip Lau Suk-ye to officiate at the award ceremony.

"We hope that more people know about this event and we look forward to more support in promoting journalism education," said Zhou.

Mr Brian Yap Ka-hei, a final-year international journalism student at Baptist, was named one of the award winners by a panel of 21 judges alongside Mr Alan Wong Sui-lun, a recent journalism graduate from the same university.

Mr. Yap snapped up two awards for his feature story on the plight of the N-nothings group in Hong Kong published in The Young Reporter, an English-language

magazine run by journalism students at Baptist.

He described the newspaper award contest as "an esteemed recognition" for the works of aspiring journalists as well as a platform for prospective employers to meet their future staff."

On the other hand, Mr Wong secured three prizes for his design of the Legco Losers Special as well as the March and December issues of The Young Reporter.

"I am glad the efforts I put into the design of the publication, which I started from zero in the previous summer and completed just in time for the publication of our first issue, gained recognition from the competition's judging panel," said Wong.

Together, they picked up five awards in four categories spanning from news reporting, news writing, news page design and overall design.

But the Chinese University of Hong Kong was the only participating university to have scooped up 11 awards, making them the biggest winner of the competition in two consecutive years.

The campus newspaper competition was first launched by China Daily Asia Pacific last year, with 16 award categories open to Chinese and English story entries from 12 universities across China and Taiwan.

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