

TYR

The Young Reporter

by HKBU journalism students since 1969

Hoi Chiu - sand art virtuoso

Inside historic transportation

Facelift for better jobs

So long, HKCEE.

INDEX



Face-lift A “medical tour” to Korea for job opportunities *Page 5*



Hoi Chiu A painter who draws with sand *Page 16*

Editor's Note

From the changing face of journalism, Hong Kong East Asian Games and top ten local news to labelling the post-80s and the special community issue, *TYR* has undergone a revolutionary year. And so has its crew.

As *TYR* reporters, we can enjoy almost absolute freedom to do whatever stories we want. We are always backed up by our editors to whom we can throw our ideas, drafts and pictures, and who can work miracles on whatsoever we produce.

With our editors' hard work and our advisors' warm support, *TYR* has evolved into a magazine containing a wide variety of news and feature stories. Freedom and independence are the most valuable assets of *TYR* and its reporters.

Keeping is harder than winning.

The new editorial board finally has to take up the editing job and has realised the pain and tough work of being editors. The task to sustain the reputation and authority of a publication is not easy. We dare not expect there will be certain breakthroughs of *TYR* but we will work very hard to keep it up.

While *TYR* is going through a personnel change, our education system is also experiencing transformations. The long-established HKCEE is being held for the last time and soon will become part of history.

This is the end of an era. As journalists write history, it is a precious chance for us to record it. I hope you enjoy reading our cover stories and others which are first attempts of fresh *TYR* editors and reporters.

Issue 8 is the last issue of *TYR* in the academic year 2009-10. I would like to thank all readers for your everlasting support and encouragement. When *TYR* comes back after the summer vacation, I hope you can see an attractive and fruitful *TYR*.

I would like to express our genuine gratitude to our graduating editors and wish them every success in the future.

A new era begins.

Alan Kwok Kim-fung
Chief Editor

News 3-7

Features 8-11

Cover Stories 12-15

Interviews 16-17

Opinion 18

Editorial 19

Gallery 20-21

Special 22-23

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POLITICS

Youths step up to make a different 'referendum'



Students demand the abolition of functional constituencies.

BY XAVIER NG

Hong Kong university students are ready to take on an active role in politics.

In mid-March, about 20 students from six local universities formed a group called "Tertiary 2012" to participate in the Legislative Council by-election on May 16 after five Legislators from the League of Social Democrats and the Civic Party gave up their seats in January.

"Young people need to get involved in political issues," said Mr Sam Wong Kai-hing, the spokesperson of "Tertiary 2012."

The resigned legislators hope that the movement can be seen as a "de facto referendum" to demand universal suffrage and abolition of functional constituencies.

According to Mr Wong, the current focus of the Legco by-election was too much on the argument among different political parties, overshadowing the real aim – fighting for universal suffrage.

"Tertiary 2012" aims at boosting the turnout and ensuring greater participation in the by-election.

"We joined the election because we don't want politics to be monopolised by some people in Hong Kong. We want to activate the referendum and bring the discussion back onto the right track," he said.

Five members of the youth group submitted their nominations in all five geographical constituencies: Ms Crystal Chow Ching contesting in New Territories East; Mr Steven Kwok Wing-kin in New Territories West; Mr Luke Lai King-fai in Kowloon East; Mr Wong Weng-chi in Kowloon West; and Mr Leung Wing-ho in Hong Kong Island.

Ms Bibiana Yip Cho-yan, the Secretary-General of the Hong Kong Federation of Stu-

dents (HKFS), said it was a good phenomenon that more and more young people, such as "Tertiary 2012" and the "Post-80s Anti-Express Railway Group," were developing higher political consciousness.

"Young people have no burden and aren't bound by the standpoints of political parties. Their independence is valuable," she said.

"What they ask for is clear, as it is shown in the name of the group. 'Tertiary 2012' means a group of university students fighting for 2012 universal suffrage," Ms Yip said.

"I do appreciate what they have done – stepping out to fight for democracy and justice," said Mr Charlie Mak Cham-him, a student from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

"Many Hong Kong people don't have a chance to get involved in making changes, although they are interested in politics," Mr Mak said. "This is not an easy job and they should have got a great initiative to push them through."

However, some are concerned about the

influence of their actions.

Ms Audrey Eu Yuet-mee, the leader of the Civic Party, stated that "Tertiary 2012" had similar platform with the Civic Party and the LSD. This might have confused the public.

"Normal citizens won't be able to get the message," said Mr Daneil Cheung Lok-kan, external vice-president of Hong Kong Baptist University Student Union.

"Since there are no pro-Beijing parties joining the by-election, the turnout in the election may not be meaningful enough. The effect is not obvious," he said.

"The whole thing is sidetracked. I still have doubts about that," he added.

In response to these concerns, Mr Wong from "Tertiary 2012" said they were not worried. "People are voting for the issue, not the person," he said.

According to "Tertiary 2012", whether the "referendum" succeeds or not will depend on the total number of votes to "Tertiary 2012", the Civic Party and the LSD. If all these ten candidates can get more votes than the others, the "referendum" is regarded as successful.

Another concern about "Tertiary 2012" is their election expenses.

"We have raised \$250,000 for deposits with some extra money for further expenses. But more money is needed as the election campaign goes on," Mr Wong said.

A group in Facebook named "\$50 per person, focus on the referendum, kick out functional constituencies, give me a humane Council" is set up to encourage people to donate \$50 to support "Tertiary 2012." It has over 2,000 members. A fan page named "Support Tertiary 2012" has also attracted more than 800 fans.

"Using the Internet as a platform to raise money is very effective and we will continue to do so," Mr Wong said.

EDITED BY MAGGIE TAM



Young crowds march from HKU to the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, demanding for universal suffrage on March 28.

ENVIRONMENT

More to be done for 'less rice' project

BY JACKIE YIN

The green campaign "Less Rice Save \$1 Day" was launched in March but only few people responded to it.

Later this year, another wave of campaigning aimed at tertiary institutes will continue in the city.

The campaign was started by a non-profit organisation "Greeners Action." Over 200 restaurants have joined the campaign and customers can save \$1 if they ask for less rice every Wednesday. But few are doing so.

According to Mr Victor Tang, the manager of BU Fiesta (Hong Kong Baptist University's hall restaurant) under Maxim's Caterers Ltd., so far only 30 to 40 people ask for less rice.

Other restaurants that joined the campaign have the same feedback.

"Only one to two customers ask for less rice at dinner," said Mrs Kwok, the manager of Tsui Wah Restaurant.

But Ms Phoebe Tsang, the secretary of Greeners Action, said the number of people asking for less rice should not be the only assessment of the campaign. Its goal was "to raise people's awareness of food waste problem in Hong Kong and to elevate their virtue of cherishing food."

Food waste has become a serious problem in Hong Kong. According to the Policy Address last year, about 3,000 tonnes of food waste are disposed of every day, taking up more than 1/3 of the city's total solid waste.

Yet only ten per cent of Hong Kong people asked for less rice, according to a sampling survey by Greeners Action last year.

"In the past two to three decades, Hong Kong has become a more prosperous society where people in this generation no longer suffer from hunger," Ms Tsang said.



About 3,000 tonnes of food waste are disposed of every day.



People receive \$1 rebate if they ask for a smaller portion of rice.

"People get used to wasting food and they don't think it's a problem," she added.

One of the reasons behind is the low awareness of food waste in the society.

Restaurants that serve food in combo or buffet style contribute a lot to food wastage as well, according to Ms Tsang.

Fierce competition is another factor.

"The customers will go to the next door [another restaurant] if you charge them more, like increasing the charge of a disposable lunchbox," Mr Tang from BU Fiesta said.

Many restaurants owners refused to join the campaign because they think it is troublesome to provide extra training for their front-line staff or change their current systems.

Some restaurants give large amounts of food even though people ask for a smaller portion of rice.

Ms Diana Mou, a HKBU student from the mainland, said that even if she asked for less rice, the amount was still more than she could take. "I fell into the habit of wasting unconsciously after I came to Hong Kong," she said.

The recycling centre in Siu Ho Wan will begin processing food waste in 2013, but it will only be able to deal with 200 tonnes of food waste at most from the industrial sector a day, which is only six per cent of the current total amount. The rest of the waste is disposed to landfills.

Sino Group, the co-organiser of the green campaign, has asked about 30 of its restaurants to participate.

"We switch off the lights when we leave and we use only soft copies. It doesn't have

to be big. Everyday is green," said Ms Connie Tang from Corporate Communications Department of Sino Group.

Ms Tsang shares a similar view. "Reduce is always a priority compared to the other two: reuse and recycle," she said.

Maxim's Caterer Ltd. has introduced a new way of ordering food at its chains.

Instead of having pre-cooked food in their kitchens, food is only cooked when it is ordered to ensure that the supplies do not exceed the demands.

To tackle the problem of food wastage, it may be more useful and efficient to carry out legislation and economic measures.

In the survey by Greeners Action, about 30 per cent of people support the idea of enacting a law to charge the public and companies for waste.

"It's the ultimate step to reduce food waste," Ms Tsang said.

Dr Chung Shan-shan, assistant professor in Biology at HKBU, said that restaurants would tend to balance their cost by raising prices after legislation. This might stimulate people to rethink the importance of resource preservation.

However, she pointed out that legislation would only be useful for commercial organisations but household waste was more difficult to track down.

"We don't have the network to measure waste of each household, which could help control the waste situation," Dr Chung said.

EDITED BY ELEVEN LIU

BUSINESS

Going under the knife raises employment chances



Dr Liu Celi

More Chinese are going to Korea for cosmetic surgeries because of Korea's law amendments and RMB appreciation.

BY VISQI HE

Plastic surgery has become increasingly popular as a means of enhancing people's competitiveness in the employment market.

According to statistics released by the Seoul Tourism Organisation, the number of Chinese who visited the country for cosmetic surgeries increased by 115 per cent in 2009, compared with figures in 2008.

Ms Chan, 23, is now working for a Beijing company. She decided to have cosmetic surgery done in Korea early this year after finishing her master's degree because of unemployment. Three weeks after her recovery, she was offered a job.

"I think all the money I paid and sufferings I bore were worth it," said Ms Chan.

Along with the craze for cosmetic surgeries, the number of agents has also increased by scores. The main business of these agents is to help clients to liaise with plastic surgeons in Korea and they make profits from charging clients fees for the contacting work.

According to Mr Bai Ning-kun, working for the Asian Mate Company, a Korean liaison firm, there are two main reasons for the upsurge of surgery tours from China to Korea.

Firstly, "medical tourists" are permitted by amendments to Korea's medical laws since

May 1, 2009. "Medical tours" are legalised for foreigners. A large number of companies has been set up then to provide surgery tour services.

As the exchange rate of RMB (Renminbi) has appreciated by more than 40 per cent since the beginning of 2008. It is comparatively cheaper for Chinese to have surgeries in Korea now than before even though the actual cost of having cosmetic surgeries in Korea is still higher than that in China.

Mr Bai also said that the cost in Korea is a double of that in China. For example, double eyelids cost more than 8,000 yuan, which is 4,000 yuan more expensive than those in China. Also an extra fee of 3,000 yuan is paid for translation and transportation to the agent.

"The agents act as the middlemen between the hospitals and the clients," Mr Bai said. "Agencies will contact the hospitals. Then clients will choose the surgeons."

"We will certainly provide better services, which include more qualified surgeons, more advanced equipments and well-known clinics," he said.

"We will arrange different tour packages for different groups," he added. "I think this will help us to attract more clients."

A staff member of Wangfu International Travel Agent surnamed Jiang said the agents could help clients handle related formalities. Although they organise tours, many of their clients preferred individual travel visa.

"Because the customers are not willing to let others know they are going to take the surgery. It is a matter of privacy," said Mr Bai.

According to Mr Bai, their target consumers in China are women aged between 20 and 30 who have done similar surgeries before.

"Around 70 per cent of our clients come to Korea for repair surgeries," he said.

According to Dr Liu Celi, member of Chinese Medical Association, 20 to 30 per cent of the patients are current university students or fresh graduates.

Ms Chan is not the only Chinese who have gone under the knife for beauty in Korea. Ms Chou, who refuses to tell her full name, is a student at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) who took the double eyelid surgery in mainland last year.

Ms Chou said the surgery brought her confidence in both studying and socialising. However, she has been facing some problems after having the surgery.

"I'm in minor troubles like identification problem when passing the customs. I have to renew my passport," said Ms Chou.

"Sometimes, I will be invited to the office for further checking. As a result, it takes much longer time for me to pass the customs."

Mr Bai suggests clients to ask for certificates from hospitals for identification to avoid such kind of troubles.

EDITED BY EDWARD MA



Placards advising minors from buying alcohol are often neither installed nor placed on prominent locations.

Shops sell alcohol to underage drinkers

BY WINNIE YIU

The city's law fails to provide comprehensive measures in preventing minors from purchasing alcoholic beverages.

Consumption of liquor is becoming more common on teenagers' leisure agenda, but few regulations exist regarding control on their access to the substance.

At the same time, premises such as bars and restaurants that are licensed to sell liquor are banned from allowing individuals under 18 years old to drink any alcoholic beverages inside of their premises.

Anyone who breaches this law, the 28th regulation of the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Regulation, is liable to a maximum jail term of six months, a \$50,000 fine and licence revocation.

Shut from the doors of bars, minors find their own way, and for a majority of them, a better way to use the bottle with their friends.

Ms Peony Tam, a form seven student who just turned 19 years old and has been buying alcohol since she was 15, said convenience stores were the popular spots for young people to get alcohol.

"Teenagers always buy their alcohol from convenience stores because drinks there are cheaper than in bars and clubs. My friends and I can afford to buy alcohol in these stores," Ms Tam said.

She explained that teenagers usually purchased alcohol from convenience stores during special occasions such as Christmas' Eve or Mid Autumn Festival.

"We usually buy alcohol from convenience stores and have it in the park or on the

beach. There are many teenagers doing so as well and this has become a common trend," said Ms Tam.

"I am not sure whether it is legal for the underage persons to buy alcohol from shops. I have never been stopped before. But I did come across a cashier who stopped a kid from buying beer," she said.

To prevent minors from buying alcohol, chain stores including Wellcome and 7-Eleven have put up notices informing customers that selling alcohol to people under 18 years old are forbidden. The notices also say the stores will ask customers to present their identity cards when they purchase liquor.

However, the notices are often quite small and are seldom posted near the cabinets holding the alcoholic beverages. Some stores just do not put up the notice.

According to the Police Licensing Office, all stores can sell alcohol legally to individuals of all ages, as long as they do not provide seats for minors to drink in their stores.

The department admitted that the practices of convenience stores and supermarkets were taken on a voluntary basis. It refused to say if they have given any instruction to stores for prevention of teenage alcohol purchase.

Mr John Tai, Parknshop's customer service manager, said the company's policy to judge customers' age by appearance did not always work.

"The staff will have to determine whether customers are underage only by their appearances. In some cases, our staff will ask for the customers' identity cards before selling them alcohol," Mr Tai said.

He thinks that it is hard to differentiate a 16-year-old from an 18-year-old just by their looks. He said if their staff had any doubt on the age of the customer, they would refuse to

sell liquor to that person.

But Ms Dora Choi, 18, said that she had never come across any obstructions when she bought alcoholic drinks.

"I think they will sell the alcohol to you if you are not outrageously young, like eight years old," Ms Choi said.

"Stores do not bother to check the identity cards of customers, as shopkeepers would like to keep themselves out of any troubles," she added.

She finds it easy to get alcohol from stores and thinks that this is an incentive for teenagers to try drinking at an early age.

Some scientists and federal studies in the US claim that alcohol exposure to the brain before the age of 21 may interrupt brain development and even cause persistent brain damage.

But opponents say frequent consumption of liquor at young age, a common practice for many Latin Europeans, poses no threat to brain development.

A social worker who focuses on youth at risk and refuses to give his name said underage drinking was common and there was no surprise to see drunk teenagers during festive occasions.

"For teenagers, drinking is not problematic. It is just as common as having a can of soft drink," he said.

He added that teenagers' high accessibility to alcohol undoubtedly contributed to its popularity among them.

"The government should implement a more comprehensive and stricter policy to prevent minors from getting alcohol so easily," he said.

EDITED BY ANDY AU YEUNG

EDUCATION

More mainland internships sought by young people

BY MIN KHIN AUNG

An increasing number of local university students has chosen the mainland as their internship destination. Experts say the emerging economic power of China is the main reason.

"As the mainland economy grows, more students have applied for internships there this year," said Ms Penny Lo, the career development officer of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU).

According to Ms Lo, the number of students doing mainland internships under the Metropolitan Attachment Programme (MAP), a HKBU programme which provides intern positions in Beijing, Shanghai and Pearl River Delta Region, has increased from 40 last year to 58 this year.

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) has also recorded an increase in applications for similar programmes.

Ms Cheryl Lee, the assistant director of the Career Centre of the HKUST, said over 150 applications have been received this year for the Beijing internship programme, in which financial and accounting internships are of higher demand.

"Mainland internships are attractive to students because they can get a taste of working there which helps them to prepare and build credentials and network for further career development in the mainland after graduation," said Ms Lee.

She said students were interested in doing mainland internships as they could travel around during working hours to experience more about Chinese history and culture.

"Although I am a Chinese, I don't think I know much about Chinese culture," said Ms Lam Ho-ki, a HKBU student who has been selected by the MAP and will work in the mainland for the coming summer.

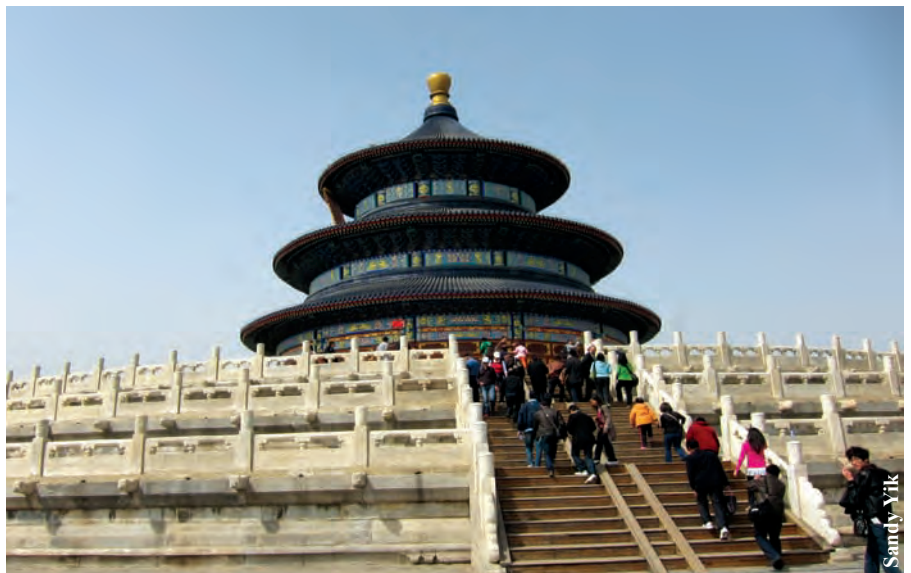
"I hope I can learn more about my mother country's culture through the internship and I can also improve my Putonghua proficiency," she said.

Mr Lau Cheuk-hin, another HKBU student said he is impressed by the growing economic power of the mainland.

"China is growing as a leading power in the world nowadays, especially after the



Fast-growing economy of China draws global attention.



Students learn about Chinese culture during the internships.

financial tsunami when most of the countries went bankrupt but China still remains stable. I think it would be very useful to learn how businesses operate there," he said.

He hoped that he could learn about how Chinese companies operate under government interference.

"If I am able to learn about the nature of companies in the mainland during my internship, I will have more opportunities to work with similar companies in Hong Kong in the future," he added.

Despite the growing interest of students in mainland internship programmes, salary is one of the main concerns to some students.

According to Ms Lee of HKUST, payment of salary in the mainland is different to that in Hong Kong.

"Mainland internships normally do not offer money as remuneration," she said.

"Some employers may provide free lunches and transportation allowances to interns, whereas employers in Hong Kong usually offer some allowances or salaries to interns on

a monthly basis," she added.

She said it was necessary for students to budget their own expenses including transportation, accommodation and travel expenses.

Ms Wong Han-lam, a HKUST student said salary was a hinderance to her consideration of applying mainland internships.

"It's a bit expensive for students to afford all the expenses with no salary for two to three months," she said.

Ms Penny Lo from HKBU said students might apply for scholarships in view of this concern.

"We have more scholarship allowances available for students to go for overseas internships," she said.

Both Ms Lee and Ms Lo foresaw that mainland internships would become a big trend.

"We expect more students would apply for mainland internships as China's economy continues to grow," concluded Ms Lo.

EDITED BY VIVIAN CHUI

FEATURES

Never too late to wear pointe shoes

BY HEIIN LAI

Behind the laced curtains and with a piece of soft music, ballet dancers are swirling elegantly with their synchronised postures.

Contrary to our common perception of ballet costumes, none of these dancers are in little pink gauze dresses or pink silk socks.

"The pink gauze dresses are too childish for us," said the three dancers, Ms Miyuki Aikawa, Mrs Noriko Stephen and Ms Amy Lee, who are in their 40s.

Dressed in deep-coloured ballet suits, they are adult ballet students at L'École de Jeune Ballet (EJB). Despite their ages, they are never embarrassed but always enjoy themselves in their world of dancing.

Adult ballet was introduced as early as in 1948 at Hong Kong's oldest ballet school - Carol Bateman School of Dancing. At that time, not many adult ballet classes or schools were opened.

Ballet schools began to thrive in the 1980s. Now, there are over 30 schools in Hong Kong providing adult ballet courses. Their curricula usually emphasise on body shaping.

More and more people from all walks of life like students, housewives and even tourists, are jumping into this bandwagon, according to Ms Eriko Ochiai, the former principal dancer of The Hong Kong Ballet.

Ms Ochiai left The Hong Kong Ballet in 2004 and later joined EJB to teach at adult ballet courses.

She said there were only one to two adult students at first. After putting an advertisement on a magazine, she was surprised by the number of enquiry calls received. With the help of students' dissemination, the school is now having about 18 adult ballet classes per week.

Other than EJB, the 40-year-old Jean M. Wong School of Ballet is also offering adult ballet courses.

The principal, Ms Jean M. Wong started her first adult ballet class in 1960. With over 100 adult ballet learners now, she is glad to witness the growth throughout the years.

"Students of different backgrounds gather here with the same aspiration," she said.

"In fact, many of them are ex-learners who want to pick ballet up again years after," Ms Wong said. "Pursuing better body shapes and keeping fit are also their goals."

Through lessons, students obtain straighter backs, better coordination and etiquette. In Ms Wong's view, the gist of adult ballet is not teaching difficult techniques but letting students enjoy the elegance of ballet and develop their passion.



Ms Amy Lee (left), Ms Miyuki Aikawa (middle) and Mrs Noriko Stephen (right) in a ballet class at L'École de Jeune Ballet.

Ms Aikawa, Mrs Stephen and Ms Lee all agree with Ms Wong.

"Dancing has nothing to do with age. It is for fun and enjoyment," they said.

Ms Aikawa picked up ballet in 2004 when she entered her 40s. She was dragged by her basketball teammates to the ballet school originally but six years later she is the only one who still dances.

She has benefited a lot from ballet. Physically, her flexibility has been improved and her muscle tension is relieved. Ballet has enhanced her sense of rhythm and music appreciation. Most importantly, she has made

"All ages are welcome in ballet. Dancing is beyond age, gender and race."

some good friends who share common interests with her, like Mrs Stephen and Ms Lee.

Also in her 40s, Ms Lee is another ballet devotee. She said she suffered from knee injuries frequently due to ballet. Yet, her passion overcomes the pain every time. She said they generally learned some simple and elegant moves like toe-pointing and leg-turning rather than complicated ones.

The students also have chances to perform onstage. Their latest performance, "Don Quixote," was held in Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre in 2009. Ms Ochiai, their tutor, felt very proud of them.

Ng Sheung Ha School of Ballet also provides performing opportunities for students. It holds internal dancing performances annually to give precious onstage experiences to all students including adult ballet dancers.

Having a younger generation of adult stu-

dents, Ng Sheung Ha School of Ballet has a different orientation. Although the main aim is for enjoyment, the school offer opportunities for capable students to sit for the Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) Examinations.

Compared with children's ballet, Ms Tang Bik-yee, a tutor from Ng Sheung Ha School of Ballet, said adult students were usually more hard-working and had better attitudes and endurance.

"Because they pay for their lessons, not their parents," Ms Tang said.

The ratio of children to adult learners varies among different schools. Ng Sheung Ha School of Ballet has a ratio of seven to three while Jean M. Wong School of Ballet has an enrollment of about 2,600 children and 60 adults.

Ms Tang also specified some constraints for adults which include their jobs and a less flexible schedule. She said some of them had given up due to their busy schedules.

Another common hindrance is to do with physical abilities.

"Generally speaking, adults are less flexible than children since their bone structures are harder," said Ms Tang.

Age might be a stumbling block for learning some ballet techniques, but it is never an obstacle for enjoying ballet and pursuing one's dancing dream.

"All ages are welcome in ballet. Dancing is beyond age, gender and race," said Ms Jean M. Wong.

"We even have male adult students and a 60-year-old student who comes three times a week," she added.

EDITED BY YOYO SUN

Dignified departures for pets

BY CECILIA CHAN

Ms Crystal Lee Yuk-ying keeps her late hamster's glazed ash urn at home.

"My family always regarded him (the hamster) as part of us," said Ms Lee who arranged cementation treatment provided by a pet cremation centre for her hamster in 2006. She also opted for the service for her stray cat in 2007.

"I am just doing my best for my pets, to let them die with dignity. It is a kind of respect, as well as a kind of human instinct," she said.

Pet cremation centres provide different kinds of services to treat animal corpses and help their owners to overcome their sadness. The target animals include not only cats and dogs, but also birds, tortoises, fish, ducks, snakes, monkeys and even cows and horses.

Since the first pet cremation centre, Goodbye Dear, was founded in Hong Kong in 1994, the number of clients looking for professional animal cremation services has increased steadily over the years.

"The number of customers has doubled actually, compared with 16 years ago," said Ms Yoyo Yau Yuk-sim, the founder of Goodbye Dear.

She said the increasing number of people using pet cremation services in Hong Kong meant more people were willing to treat their pets as human beings. Recently, there are around 300 to 600 pet owners coming for the service every month, according to her.

"Cremation service is a preferred way of treating animal remains also because it is environmentally friendly," said Mr Chan Kwok-kee, the founder of H.K. Pet's Hospice Care Service (aka Pets' Heaven).



Pet owners accompany their pets until the last moment to cremation.

He added that it was "hygienic and efficient" and could "avoid the problem of causing infectious diseases by burying them."

He is now considering expanding his business to China.

Normally, pet lovers call pet cremation centres for pickup service when their pets die. The bodies will be frozen for a short period of time, followed by either an individual or group cremation. Finally ashes will be put in urns.

However, Ms Yau said people were becoming more demanding because pet cremation services were getting popular and more keen competition existed in the sector.

"They would insist to treat their pets as human beings and examine the whole cremation process," Ms Yau said.

As a result, new elements are added. Apart from 24-hour pickup service, counselling services and online memorial boards, pet cremation centres also produce animals' urns, pet specimens and necklace pendants with pets' DNA inside.

Moreover, Ms Yau said a caring attitude is the most important element for the work.

"We must show compassion as our job is kind of sentimental," she said.

After pet owners get the ashes back, they can choose to place them at home, memorial hall or memorial garden.

Pet owners usually put photos, toys and packed or canned food around the urns in columbariums at a memorial hall and visit their pets regularly.

Mr Chan said that about one out of 20 pet lovers would wish to keep ash urns in columbariums after cremation. But keeping urns in columbariums may only be a temporary option as clients are required to pay an annual fee. As a result, they can consider handling the ashes by other means such as sea burial.

"Knowing how to let things go is an important lesson in one's life," said Ms Yau.

Ms Yau's centre held a Ching Ming Buddhist Pet Memorial Ceremony last month. The ceremony was first organised two years ago, aiming at fulfilling the spirit of completeness, and giving peace to both the dead and those who are alive.

Every time, there are around 80 to 100 participants despite a \$500 entrance fee. During the ceremony, pet lovers pray to Buddha and read sutra – words of Buddha – with the monk for their pets. And some people came because of religious beliefs.

Mr Leung Wai-hung, whose dog died seven months ago, was one of the participants of the ceremony.

"People should have hope. I am here because I hope my dog can reincarnate earlier by this ceremony," he said.

It might be hard for non-pet lovers to understand why animals are treated like human beings. But Ms Crystal Lee, who has a dog and two cats, certainly knows.

"People do different things for their pets. It is totally reasonable and understandable to us. After all, it is done all because of love," she said.



Owners install urns and all sorts of offerings in their pets' columbariums.

EDITED BY DAISY ZHONG

FEATURES

Living heritage serves the city with passion

TYR explores stories behind HK's oldest public transports - Peak Tram & Star Ferry

BY GOOSIE CHAN

Mr Chan Pong-cheung stands inside a Peak Tram with an inclined angle to the floor while the tram is climbing up the hill. He is not an ordinary passenger. He has been on board for nearly 30 years.

Peak Tram is one of the oldest public transports in the city. It has been serving Hong Kong since 1888.

As a dapper guy who wears tidy, uncreased uniform and a welcoming smile, Mr Chan is the inspector of Peak Tram who monitors the conditions of trams every day. Before that he was a tram driver.

"Peak Tram's railway inclines at an angle of four to 27 degrees so people can mimic Michael Jackson's famous anti-gravity lean when the tram climbs up," said Mr Chan.

Passengers are able to do that because the floor of the tram is in waved shape and therefore a person can stand firmly.

"I once saw a Japanese tour guide and his tourists stood in a line and did the pose together," he said.



Drivers now control the Peak Tram directly while orders on speed and braking were processed in a control room before it reaches the tram in the old days.

As an experienced staff of Peak Tram, Mr Chan witnessed its changes over the years.

"In the past, there was a ticket inspector on the tram. He got a key punch to punch holes on the tickets," said Mr Chan.

The earlier tram model required drivers to give signals about speed and braking to the control room. Then staff in the control room would give signals to the tram and pull it up. But nowadays drivers can do the job themselves. This allows them to make quicker response.

As the tram climbs up slowly, the landscape of the city is also changing.

"I witnessed the completion of the Bank of China Building. There was nothing there before," Mr Chan said.

For Mr Chan, Peak Tram is more like a tourist attraction rather than a public transport. Tourists like to chat with drivers and he feels a sense of pride from this.

"I feel like I am greeting tourists on behalf of Hong Kong," he said.

"I feel like I am greeting tourists on behalf of Hong Kong."

Interacting with tourists gives Mr Chan a lot of unforgettable experiences. He recalls a Taiwan tourist who visits Hong Kong from time to time. Every time he is in town, he will take a Peak Tram trip. After many years they have become friends.

Another time a passenger dropped one of his shoes during the ride. The shoe rolled down the tram as it climbed up the hill. Then everyone in the tram worked together to catch the shoe.

"I am happy when passengers have fun during the trip, especially when they are stunned by the first sight of the city's scenery and scream," said Mr Chan, with a big smile on his face.

And you can tell that is a smile that comes from his heart because of the same smiles on passengers' faces on board.



Mr Chan Po-cheung has been working for Peak Tram for 29 years.



Star Ferry captains order the chief engineer in the engine room by pulling the handle of the chadburn.

Coming down from The Peak and heading to the Star Ferry Pier, Mr Chan Chi-Wing, the general captain of Star Ferry, is in charge of all ships in the fleet.

Star Ferry was founded in 1880 and Captain Chan has been working on board for over two decades.

When it comes to a ship and her captain, many would think of the helm on the bridge. But Captain Chan, a tough-looking guy, does not think so.

In fact, the engine order telegraph (aka chadburn) on the bridge is the soul of the ship. The chadburn is a communication device for the captain on the bridge to order the chief engineer in the engine room to power the vessel at a desired speed. It looks like a clock. Different types of order are put on it such as “slow” and “standby.”

When the captain in the control room pulls the handle to a certain command, another chadburn in the engine room will ring and the chief engineer will respond by pulling the handle again.

“If you pull the handle to and fro, that means emergency and the crew will run to the control room immediately,” said Captain Chan.

“If you are experienced, you can feel the mood of the chief engineer through the response that is made in the telegraph.”

Now the facilities on the ships have been improved. The ship can move back and forth with another handle inside the control room. The crew can also communicate with each other through radio. The chadburn therefore is used less frequently by the crew.

But even with the improved technology, still, something is challenging for the skill of

a captain – docking.

A good docking should be accurate, fast and simple. The captain give orders to the chief engineer by the chadburn, telling him when to slow down. The fewer times one pulls the handle, the clearer the signal is.

Normally the engineer will respond to each order through telegraph. But if the captain does not make a smooth move and send lots of orders within a short time, the engineer will simply answer in one loud and heavy ring of the telegraph.

“That is when you could feel the engineer was angry,” Captain Chan said.

Also when waves are high, and if the docking is not fast enough, the ship can be pushed quickly by the waves to the other side of the pier before sailors can bond the cable to the ship.

Sailing is not that simple for Captain Chan. “If you want to do your job well, you need a lot of effort. It is a heavy responsibility,” Captain Chan said.

Captain Chan witnessed many historical moments of Hong Kong with his ship.

“I saw the firework performance at the harbour when Hong Kong was handed over to China in 1997. It was such an unforgettable experience,” he said.

Just like Peak Tram, Star Ferry is becoming more of a tourist attraction rather than a transportation tool for citizens.

“If you want to do your job well, you need a lot of effort. It is a heavy responsibility.”

“In the past, the ferry was always overloaded. We had to tie ropes to avoid people falling into the sea. You won’t see this scene now,” Captain Chan sighed.

Like Peak Tram inspector Mr Chan, Captain Chan also witnessed the city’s changes.

“When I first entered this job, the Victoria Harbour was so clear that we could see dolphins swimming around the ferry,” said Captain Chan.

With the harbour getting narrower and water getting more polluted, one can no longer catch a glimpse of that scene. But one thing is for sure. The two characters in this story will continue to serve the city with passion.

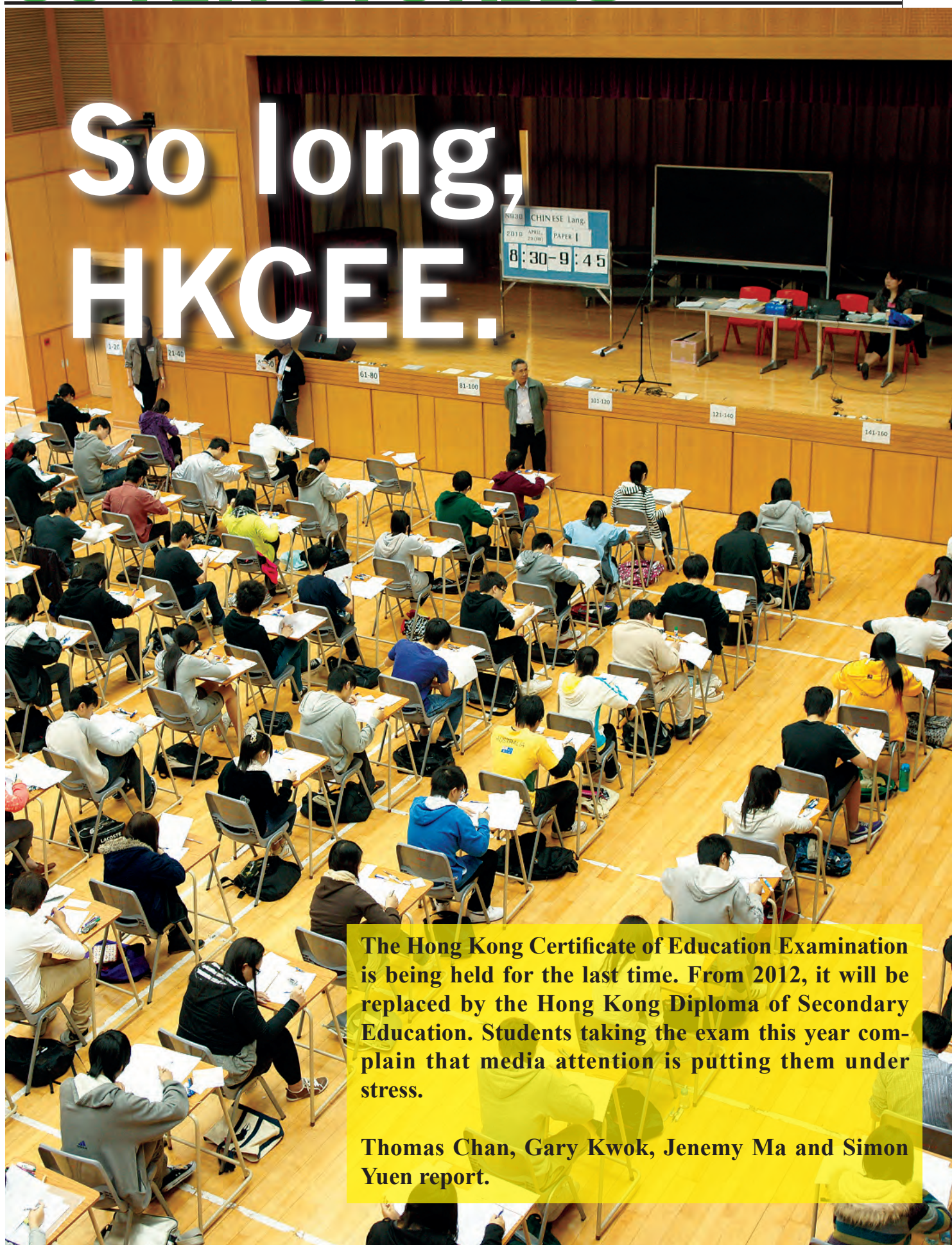
EDITED BY THOMAS YAU



A chadburn is a clock-like device with different orders about engine speeds.

COVER STORIES

So long, HKCEE.



The Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination is being held for the last time. From 2012, it will be replaced by the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education. Students taking the exam this year complain that media attention is putting them under stress.

Thomas Chan, Gary Kwok, Jenemy Ma and Simon Yuen report.



The end of an era after 7 decades

An exam, a hurdle, a culture and also a collective memory of the last generation

Teachers and parents with vivid memories of the annual form five exams do their best to help the teens prepare for the worst awaiting for them when their exams start in April.

They are encouraged to go all out in the last Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination, a gone-for-ever event.

Form five education is completed with the simplest certificate-based education level from the Education Bureau to get a good job or continue to form six and then university. But in the 1970s, only some students could do so since there were limited vacancies due to a lack of schools.

Mrs Josephine Mak Lee Siu-mei teaches History in Pui Ching Middle School. When her friends received their results in 1980, they were the unlucky ones.

"To continue, they enrolled in commerce schools to be secretaries by which they could make big and easy money at that time," she said, jokingly adding that secretaries could marry their bosses. "But I did not follow and married a professor instead," she said.

Completing form seven and passing the Hong Kong Advanced Level Examination (HKALE) is the key to enroll in an undergraduate degree course.

Associate degrees have only started since 2000. Although there were alternatives like diploma programmes or commerce schools, vacancies were so limited that form five students decided to start working upon graduation to earn money for their family.

Mrs Mak used to live in public housing with poor neighbours. "They forced their children to work upon finishing primary school or the HKCEE because they were poor," she said.

"I did not want to work because continuing education could improve my future living conditions," she said and with luck and her parent's approval, she was able to do so.

Financial difficulty was a major reason for many to start working during the early years. Mr Lam Yiu-ming took the exam in 1976 but did not continue despite obtaining grades that would have got him a place in his school.

"My private school had form six places but I had no money for the tuition fee,

so I had to earn a living and worked as a courier," Mr Lam said.

Forced work aside, there are still good memories for people like Ms Vivien Tam Wing-han, who took the exam in the 1990s and is now English department head of Pui Ching Middle School.

"You spend two years preparing for results that decide whether you will work or study. This made me mature," she said.

For Mrs Mak, she did not get any help from teachers regarding career information or further studying. "Teachers always said good HKCEE results meant continuing studies," she said, believing advice and suggestions would have been helpful then.

Today, information like form six places and time schedules are widely available online, enabling students to enroll in other schools of preference or last resort quickly.

Quick information or not, tensions before results day make students fear the worse.

Anxious form five graduates tend to make false and negative outcomes when nervous, like remembering nothing during the exam even though proper revision was done. Although Mrs Mak attained good grades, she had had nightmares about failing Chinese History which she was good at.

However, Mr Lam Yiu-ming wanted to work no matter what grades he got as it was a firm decision from the beginning.

"HKCEE is just a stage in life. But even so, my financial situation outweighed my choices," he said, adding that education would have been first if money was not a factor.

Throughout the years, many changes have taken place to the exam rules. They include the 2006 "switch off mobile-phone under the chair" policy after students being caught checking answers secretly at that year's English Language exam.

Today, by fine-tuning the medium of instruction arrangements allowing Chinese instruction in English courses, higher passing rates have occurred.

When the HKDSE starts in 2012, it will bring new challenges to youths today with the hope of more overseas opportunities, thanks to Britain's recognition of equal educational value in their schools to promote to overseas universities.

COVER STORIES

New marking system triggers concern

Students and educators hold different views towards the marking system in the new secondary school diploma.

The marking system will undergo transformations from 2012 from the norm-referenced system to standards-referenced reporting (SRR) in the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education.

The old norm-referenced system used letter grades with A being the highest, which will now correspond to the "5" under the SRR. Performance below the threshold cut score for Level 1 (the lowest grade) will be labelled as "Unclassified" (U).

Level 5 candidates with the best performance will be given 5** and 5* for the next top group. Similar changes of marking system have been introduced to HKCEE Chinese Language and English Language exams for testing purposes since 2007.

However, Ms Elaine Yau, a secondary school teacher, finds the two grading systems more or less the same.

"Both Level 5** and A represent the highest-level students, so in this sense they make no difference," she said. "To my understanding, the changes are made only because the Education Bureau does not want people to mix up the two examinations."

But the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) stresses there are no direct equivalence between the levels and grades in the new and the old reporting systems.

Ms Li from the Public Affairs and Communications Unit of the HKEAA said the new method was being adopted to provide more information on standards and on the performance of candidates.

Subject 科目	Grade 等級	Remarks 備註
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SYLLABUS B)	H(8)	N
GEOGRAPHY	H(8)	N
HISTORY	G(7)	N
ECONOMICS	H(8)	N
CHINESE LANGUAGE	G(7)	N
CHINESE LITERATURE	G(7)	N
CHINESE HISTORY	F(6)	N

Candidates graded Hs in HKCEE were said to be "carrying ladders" as Hs in a row look like a ladder on the report card.

According to her, this is to ensure Hong Kong is internationally competitive and in alignment with the best practices overseas.

She said the old norm-referenced grading system could not be compared directly to the new SRR system as different approaches and assessment methodologies were used.

Students on the other hand do not agree. A form four student who refused to give his name said the new grading system was used to further categorise students.

"The difference between 5* and 5** is minor. It is used only to distinguish the best students from the others," he said.

Another group who may be affected by the changes is the employer. They may get confused by the new grading system.

But Prof Anne Marie Francesco at Department of Management of Hong Kong Baptist University said if employers understood what each level represented, they might actually find it easier to distinguish the abilities of different candidates.

She said the standard of candidates would

become more consistent under the new grading system.

"The old norm-referenced system reflected a candidate's ability relative to other candidates of the same year only, as it is percentage-referenced," she said.

"But the SRR may bring more fairness to the examination system as candidates need to attain certain standard preset by the HKEAA in order to obtain certain levels."

But Prof Francesco added that the effect induced by the changes was still "hard to tell" and employers had to be aware of this possible variation.

"More information should be supplemented to employers from time to time to ensure they get updated," she said.

Ms Li of the HKEAA said a survey was conducted in 2008 for collecting employers' comments on the SRR. The result was that 63% of the respondents agreed that the level descriptors were helpful in selecting suitable employees.

Seminars on SRR for employer counselling bodies and the public have also been conducted every year to provide them with updated information on the new grading systems and the exams.

Ms Elaine Yau said HKEAA had started providing courses to teachers on SRR and also on HKDSE. She said there would be a rubric to each and every subject for markers to evaluate the abilities of candidates.

Apart from the exams, school-based assessments (SBA), which will account for a measurable component of the final grades of candidates, also worries teachers due to grading variations among schools.

"It has caused debates among teachers as different schools may have different strategies in marking the SBA," said Ms Yau.

HKEAA said SBA was to ensure fairness to students as it could clearly reflect their overall performance. They would take samples from the "traditional famous schools" as a norm to make moderations on the SBA before processing the final grades.

Changes made in the HKCEE over the years

1937	Results are marked as Pass or Fail only
1949	Implementation of 4 grades: Pass with Distinction, Pass with Credit, Pass, Fail
1962	English Language classified into 9 levels: Level 1-9 with 1 being the best
1966	Implementation of alphabetical grading system, from A-H
1968	Abandonment of "Distinction-Fail" (4 grades), replaced by A(1) to H(8)
1985	Abandonment of Levels G and H, replaced by UNCL (unclassified)
1991	Implementation of "One grade two levels" from A(01)-F(12)
2002	Abandonment of "one grade two levels," replaced by Levels A(a)-F(f)
2006	School-based assessments (SBA) replaced multiple choice questions for History and Chinese History
2007	New grading system of Chinese Language and English Language - from A-UNCL to Level 1-Level 5*
2010	Last HKCEE



Candidates learn to fight against their stress at a Hok Yau Club's workshop.

Fear for prospects as media depress 'last HKCEE students'

Burdened with parents' expectations and facing the change of education model, form five students are struggling with the last HKCEE under big pressure.

Hok Yau Club, which provides counselling and guidance services to students, conducted a survey among 5,000 candidates.

Nearly half of the students thought that "last HKCEE students" used by the media was a negative term to describe them and more than 80 per cent thought the term brought extra pressure to them.

"My feeling of tenseness intensifies whenever I hear of the exam. Especially when my parents mention it in front of me, my palms get sweaty," said Mr Chan Pui-hung, a form five student.

No matter they are those candidates who are aiming to pass the exams with flying colours or others who just want to squeak by, everyone is concerned about their future prospects.

"Students in the past did not show much interest when we organised talks to introduce programmes offered by IVE (Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education). But they were very attentive and eager to raise questions this year," said Ms Po Tsz-yan, the careers mistress of a local secondary school.

Not only the weaker students worry about their future, those candidates who have confidence in getting a seat in form six also have concerns.

"Some brighter students also took their initiative to know more about the alternative ways to further studies since public exams are believed to be capricious," Ms Kwok Man-fong, a social worker from Hok Yau Club, said.

"They think they have to save against a rainy day," she said.

According to the survey by Hok Yau Club, over 80 per cent of the interviewees are worried that their prospects would be narrower than the candidates in the past.

Ms Kwok said that the prospects of the candidates in this year were not as dismal and narrow as some people perceive.

"Other ways to further their study, for instance, taking the courses at IVE or enrolling in the Associate Degree Foundation Programme, are still available," she added.

Ms Kwok said that the number of parents, who called the counselling hotlines, had increased by 30 per cent, compared with the figure of the same period last year.

According to statistics provided by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, the number of candidates enrolled in the HKCEE this year increased by 10.1 per cent.

"When the students hear of the exam, they unintentionally think that they are under great pressure simply because there is no HKCEE in 2011. What's more, they are somehow guided to think that if they fail the exam, there are no ways out," Ms Po, the careers mistress said.

Reform aftermath is still unsolved

Hundreds of students are queuing up outside the already-packed canteens with no idea of how long they will have to wait before filling their rumbling stomachs.

Thousands of students are left frustrated after they are notified that their hall applications have been rejected.

It may seem exaggerating now but it may turn out to be an exact portrayal of reality two years later – after the upcoming education reform.

In 2012, candidates from the first HKDSE and the last HKALE will enter universities together. Although they are joining two separate curricula (on a three-year or four-year basis), they will have to share various facilities, student associations... inevitably.

Facing the coming pressure, some universities have already taken steps.

According to Student Housing Section of Hong Kong Baptist University, it has revised its Hall Admission Marking System.

"For returning students, those with higher Hall Contribution Scores would enjoy a larger chance of returning to their original halls," SHS replied.

However, students do not seem to know about strategies used to tackle the reform.

"I didn't know what exactly the school has done, and I don't think the school is transparent enough in this issue," Mr Andrew Chua Chun-ming, the president of the 43rd Communication Society of HKBU said.

Ms Kia Wan Mei-ling from the Institute of Textiles and Clothing of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University is also concerned.

"Academic results should not be regarded as a criterion for hall applications," she said.

Other issues may also emerge with the reform, such as more keen competition for being executive members of various academic societies, interest clubs, different types of school teams and student union.

But hurdles set by changes may also turn out with a positive effect.

"It will definitely be difficult for freshmen," Mr Steven Chan from Lingnan University said.

"But I believe it will stimulate the candidates [for student committees] to aim for the best. Quality can thus be enhanced. I'm highly expecting," he added.

Two years will be over in the blink of an eye, meaning that the education reform is just around the corner.

Despite some anticipated changes, it is certain that both universities and students will be facing challenges along the way.

INTERVIEWS

Wherever there is sand, there is 'Ocean Waves'

BY CARLOS CHENG

You may not know him but you can figure out he is an artist even at first sight.

Hoi Chiu, Hong Kong's only sand painting artist and multi-talented performer impresses people with his charming temperament.

In a sharp pink shirt and a black hat with the words "love" on it, Hoi Chiu talked about his "love stories" with art.

"I was born with drawing talent," said the 34-year-old artist.

"While others were still wondering how to draw a perfect circle, I started to make my picture stereoscopic using various colour depth," he said. "My elder brother discovered my talent and gave me many chances to know more about painting."

Hoi Chiu, whose name means "ocean waves" in Chinese, has fallen truly in love with painting when he was studying in primary school. He drew pictures on the back of big calendar paper every day.

"I kept drawing for hours and hours. I sweated a lot but it didn't bother me. Time flew when I was drawing. For the first time in my life, I realised that there's something special inside my body which could only be fully expressed through pictures," he said.

Despite his ardour for painting, Hoi Chiu chose to start his artistic career with stage performances, which enriched his personality and contributed a lot to his sand painting performances.



Sand painting is a crossover of painting, performance and music.

"To act, you have to communicate with the outside world, which is contrary to painting. So my acting career made me a better man," said Hoi Chiu.

He has explored a wide spectrum of artistic work and has worked as a puppeteer, actor, director, set and costume designer.

"I realised that there's something special inside my body which could only be fully expressed through pictures."

It is not until recent years when Hoi Chiu came back to pursue his childhood fantasy.

"At first, I hoped to work on cartoons but I found that sand painting could combine painting with performing art, which is really breath-taking," said Hoi Chiu. "So I started to learn it by myself."

"In sand painting, you do not expect something exactly the same as the object you're drawing. However, it is the feeling you bring to the audience that matters. During the whole performance, you and your audience are somehow connected," he said.

He added that music serves as the bridge between performer and audience. This makes sand painting different from the traditional one. The performer has to draw according to the implication the music carries. Members of the audience visualise what they listen to.

Hoi Chiu also pointed out that in sand painting, controlling the thickness of sand and the whole rhythm of the performance are two vital points.

"In traditional painting, you can use an hour to draw a bird but here in sand painting, within three lyrics," the painter said. "So before I start, I shall have a clear picture of what should be done."

"I enjoy performing in front of a large audience and painting. Sand painting combines these two forms of art, my two favourite forms of art."

"It is really out of the question to find someone so talented in painting, performing as well as music. Only with these talents can one be able to perform dazzling sand paintings," Ms Elsa Kwong, Hoi Chiu's assistant who encouraged him to perform sand painting in the first place said.

"Hoi Chiu is the only one who can do sand painting in Hong Kong now," she added.

In his recent collaboration with singer Eason Chan in a music video, Hoi Chiu managed to completely interpret the whole song in just one take.

Identifying herself as a fan of Eason Chan, Ms Jessica Wang fell in love with the music video at first sight.

"It is so special and I regard it as Eason's best MV ever. I have even become a huge fan of Hoi Chiu," the teenager said.

Hoi Chiu always has confidence in himself. "Never complain that your talents are wasted," the rising artist said.

"These excuses are only for those who don't work hard. As long as you make effort, your talents will be recognised one day."



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EDITED BY BONNIE FUNG

INTERVIEWS

The World of Shirleymoon: From Bush to Jimmy Choo

BY HELEN WU

George W. Bush would never have imagined himself holding two palms together dressed as Dalai Lama in a maroon-and-yellow robe across his shoulders, with the American flag appearing slightly out of place in the background.

Ms Tamara Wong (aka Shirleymoon) is the mastermind behind these creations, using contrasts in a simplistic way to demonstrate her creativity.

Having received a master's degree in Graphic Design at Middlesex University in London, Ms Wong is now a freelance designer specialising in vector art, using programmes such as Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop to create graphics.



George W. Bush or Dalai Lama?

Contrast is enlarged while trivial details are usually left out in her illustrations. "When I draw, I know when to stop," she said.

She mentioned her style was influenced by Airside, one of her favourite British design firm. "Tidy, clean and stylish illustrations always attract me."

Ms Wong was invited by the British Council in 2007 during her studies in London to illustrate portraits of 11 prominent figures who studied in the UK, including Nobel Peace Prize nominee Mohandas Gandhi and winner Desmond Tutu, the 42nd US President Bill Clinton as well as Chinese writer Jung Chang.

Schön!, a popular fashion magazine, once commented: "At just 25 years of age, her pre-



Ms Tamara Wong, aka Shirleymoon, is a freelance graphic illustrator.

vious clients include the prestigious Jimmy Choo Couture and the British Council. Her illustrations are a mix of innovation, courage and unique content which have earned her the recognition which her creativity deserves."

Creativity is what Ms Wong treasures. "I'm an illustrator. I want to be commercial, but at the same time I want to be artistic," she said.

"In London, people can spend a really long time for one project, a small project, because they care about creativity."

"I want to be commercial, but at the same time I want to be artistic."

Freelance work allows her creations to be expressed without restrictions and act as a platform for others to view her insights of the world in a unique way.

Her views are sometimes illustrated in a humorous and witty way. The portrait of Bush (left) is a classic example. She explains the reason behind this satirical work.

"Maybe you don't agree. I just think how Bush, an outsider, could make any comments on China's own business. Some people al-



A self-portrait of Shirleymoon.

ways say 'Free Tibet! Free Tibet!' Why? You don't know anything about it. I don't know anything about it, so I don't say anything about it."

She also illustrates herself, even by nude portraits.

"I always want to have an exhibition showing naked women in illustration. I don't like the way how men see women," she said. "When women are naked, their minds fill up with dirty thoughts... Women are beautiful."

One can tell she has no fear at the sight of her name card. "Actually I was naked, but for the name card, I just put a banner across my chest," Ms Wong said.

She once wrote on her blog: "I'm love's creation, love is what I live for and love is what inspires me."

Her relationship with friends and parents has also shaped her.

"I really love to show my emotions through my art work. I like to see people around me happy. I like to draw them. The best thing I can do is to make them happy," she said.



Four famous faces: who's who?

EDITED BY VERA CHEN



GREGG FIELDS

HKBU teaching was a baptism in a changing China

Some years of our lives blend into others, growing less distinctive and memorable as life moves forward.

But other years stand out, like the book with the brightest cover on a crowded shelf of dull gray volumes. These years, like a favourite novel, change your life. You never forget them. You really never stop learning from them. You revisit them in your mind, often.

My teaching stint at Hong Kong Baptist University is that second kind of year.

I actually arrived in China nearly two years ago. On assignment for the International Center for Journalists in Washington, I was to teach business journalism at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

During that year, I visited Hong Kong Baptist University twice: Once to participate in the Pulitzer Prize Winners Workshop, another time to speak at the Financial Media Institute.

When the chance to teach at HKBU arose, I agreed immediately. Tsinghua is a great school, and I loved my time there. But I also feel that HKBU's journalism school has an energy unmatched anywhere.

That intellectual fervour will be needed. China has entered a new dynasty - an economic one - and as a modernizing society it must wrestle with issues like freedom of the press, the right to privacy, and the power of the Internet to spread ideas and reshape our world.

With its unique heritage, Hong Kong is the natural forum for debating, and deciding, those kinds of subjects. It's a cliché to say Hong Kong is where East meets West. But it is also where an old China and a new China are searching for common ground. I felt like I was present when the past met the future.

I don't want to over-romanticise Hong Kong. Specifically, there are a few things I won't miss. Like the people who, for some reason, walk slower than snails crawl, particularly in subway stations as I'm running for a train. I will not miss being caught in monsoons that literally appeared out of nowhere, leaving me to arrive at class looking like an overdressed swimmer. And I will not miss

the constant climbing of hills and stairs that a teaching position at HKBU requires.

But these are minor annoyances. And some of my experiences were much happier. They include a driver of little green bus 69k, who phoned to tell me he had my missing wallet. (With his limited English and my bad Cantonese, we somehow arranged an 8 a.m. meeting.)

And there was the time I called my lost cellphone, and the cabbie who answered promptly drove it to my apartment. Trust me: That would not happen in Miami.

But mostly I will remember my HKBU students. They were smart, of course. But they were also curious - about America, the economy, the problems of poverty in Hong Kong and the mainland. I truly looked forward to going to class.

In America, people inevitably ask me how students differ in the two countries. I think they're disappointed when I say there isn't that much difference. In both places, they text while I'm lecturing, update Facebook while I'm asking questions and email when they should be researching. I really don't take it personally. The truth is, if you want to be a successful professor today, you have to earn your students' attention.

They certainly earned mine. I used to think the greatest reward of teaching was inspiring students to follow their dreams. Now, I realise an even greater reward is when students inspire their teachers to do the same.

To those I taught: Thank you. For all you taught me: Thanks so much more.

Gregg Fields is a member of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize Winning Team for Public Service. He began his professional career as an intern at *The Wall Street Journal* and later spent several years with his hometown newspaper, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. He was a reporter and columnist in the business section at the *Miami Herald* for more than 20 years.

Letters to the Editor

To be or not to be a young model

Latterly, the phenomenon of being young models is prevalent in Hong Kong. They earn a living with their pretty faces by attracting men and boys. However, many outsiders such as educators and parents feel a strong sense of antipathy towards them.

I am here to persuade the girls who aren't models yet to think twice before entering this industry and voice my support to those girls that are already in the field to build a positive image and persist in their profession.

For those with aspirations to become young models, I hope you will put your notions away. Though you can undeniably earn extra income from this job, there will be opportunity costs in exchange.

You will lose your own positive image since the impression of young models in Hong Kong is really bad. Many existing young models are teenagers and some of them have given up their studies to become full-time young models. They suffer great pressure since people in the society are critical to whatever mistakes they make.

For those have already been young models, I hope you can persist in this job and try to build a positive image. If the perception of young models improves, people will not stereotype young models in a negative way.

Since you have chosen the job, you have to suffer a lot more stress than others do. There will be plenty of malicious criticisms against you. For example, Chrissie Chow Sau-na had bad publicity after she attended a talk representing young models at a university.

She just responded what she thought directly and told the professor she could not understand the question upfront. After that she was labelled brainless.

I think the young models should improve their manners and attitudes, and broaden their knowledge and horizons as well.

I hope the image of young models will turn better. But if you do not have confidence and are not prepared to suffer any frustrations, you better avoid this job.

**MAPLE TRAN
TWGHs Lui Yun Choy
Memorial College**

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EDITORIAL

No more apologies, this is a matter of life and death

BY ALAN KWOK

Medical blunders in Hong Kong never end. Positioning itself as “Asia’s World City” with quality living and being cosmopolitan as its revised core values and attributes, Hong Kong possibly has the developed world’s most frightening health care system.

One can hardly forget the mishaps and errors of medical services resulting from carelessness and inexperience: a baby given a vaccine 10 times stronger than normal, infants swapped at birth, a baby’s corpse went missing, the bladder of a mother-to-be cut when giving birth, surgeons leaving instruments in patients’ bodies during operations...

Apologies have become part of the routine task list of health officials. “Deep concern,” “deep regret” and “deeply sorry” are believed to be the most repeated expressions of Secretary for Food and Health York Chow Yat-ngok and Hospital Authority (HA) chief executive Shane Solomon.

A government nurse in Hong Kong has to take care of 10 to 12 patients on average – a ratio double that of international standards.

Together with long working hours and ongoing medical accidents, a low morale and a high turnover rate of staff envelop our public hospitals.

The ceaseless occurrence of medical blunders can be traced back to 1999 when the HA announced the closure of all nursing schools.

Since then, universities offering nursing degrees have taken up the task of training nurses. Their courses have long been criticised for giving undue emphasis on theories without enough practical training. Not only graduating nurses are inexperienced, but supply of both frontline and management staff have also dropped drastically.

Until the government finally realised the recruitment of medical staff could barely catch up with the departures, the HA reopened some of its nursing schools in 2008. However, medical blunders seem unavoidable. There is apparently a pressing need for reform of the health care system as well as medical education in Hong Kong.

Last month, a baby boy was scalded when bathed at Princess Margaret Hospital’s intensive care unit. He suffered first- to second-degree scalds to 12 to 14 per cent of his skin, meaning that the heated water could be up to

70 degrees Celsius or above. The nurse probably did not follow the standard procedures of testing the water temperature before immersing the baby.

Legislator Joseph Lee Kok-long from the nursing sector described the case as unacceptable. “Manpower shortages or other reasons should not be an excuse in this case,” he said. “We don’t need more guidelines for nurses to bathe a baby. It is something very basic and it is almost an impossible mistake.”

In the 2009-10 Policy Address, our Chief Executive stressed that the six industries were crucial to us. Medical services were one of them. Donald Tsang has promised to continue stepping up the training of medical personnel. But in face of the serious manpower shortage, the HA could only resort to hiring nurses from the Philippines. What else have been done?

After spending \$1.4 million to add three flying ribbons to the Brand Hong Kong dragon logo, our government better come back down to earth.

Perhaps our Chief Executive should bear in mind that a promise is a promise, not only in the field of democracy, but also in whatever is important to people’s livelihood.

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GALLERY

Tom and Jerry on Cat Street

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Upper Lascar Row, which runs parallel to Hollywood Road in Sheung Wan, is the best place to visit for people hunting down antiques or other interesting collectables.

This narrow alley is also known as “Cat Street.” The nickname originated from Cantonese slang because pilferers are named “rats” and buyers of their thieveries are “cats.” It was said in the old days that this was the place to go to find one’s stolen or lost property.

Today, an array of goods from old clocks, Bruce Lee posters to antique furniture can be found at Cat Street.





Upper Lascar Row 摩羅上街 46-2



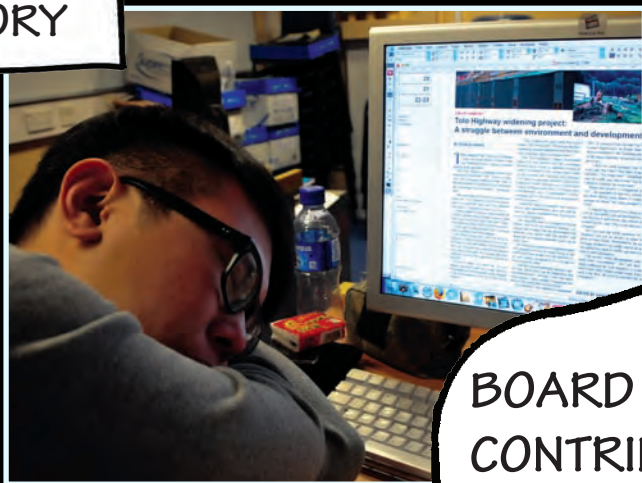
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