

Top Story 專題

Choosing a Different Road
銀幕和課室的結合

Feature 特稿

Working Towards a Discrimination-Free Society
同性相吸

A Story with a Snip
剪出青雲路

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星島日報 SING TAO DAILY

Millennium and the Media

Leslie Shay
Editor, English Content

There is an enigmatic touch to year 2000 because it seems to be a year of major breakthroughs in the human history. Some countries set goals to gain certain percentages of growth in GDP by year 2000 while some people predict it as the end of the world. It was also once thought that men would start inhabiting on the moon by year 2000. Where are we today? Just don't get disappointed when you walk out on the street on the first day of next millennium and discover that besides the birth of a little bug named Millennium, most changes don't come overnight. However, what has caused human's obsession with the year 2000? Could it be our biological clock's fault? Humans have always been enthralled by multiples of ten and especially by the number '2000' lately. Will this trend cause harm to the media when they try to satisfy their readers' craving as the next millennium draws near?

As we approach the next millennium, readers should be prepared to see many pages of reviews of this century including many 'top ten lists' such as 'top ten influential people' etc. Furthermore, there will be many forecasts and analyses of the next millennium such as 'one hundred predictions for the next millennium.' Let us hope that the media do not leave out some laudable contributors of this century when they are compiling their 'top ten (or any multiples of ten) lists' due to the magic numbers in their minds. It is also very disappointing to see commentaries listing ten recommendations to solve some social problems with the last few points obviously as fillers that bear no significance. Of course, there are exceptions. Nonetheless, writers should never predetermine the conclusion and the format in some extent of a report before doing the actual research or reporting. In a sense,


writing a news report is like writing a piece of creative writing; both types of writings require guidance from freedom and instinct.

The obsession with multiples of ten has led many people into the biggest mistake of *this* millennium, and perhaps the media is held responsible for it. There are already many reports of celebrations at midnight on the last day of 1999 for the birth of the next millennium. However, many scholars have repeatedly emphasized that the next millennium does not start until year 2001 since our time-line started with year one, not year zero. (I can imagine all our readers counting their fingers right now.) Perhaps it is the media's fault of putting too much light on the year 2000 and the next millennium, and not correcting misleading reports.

Thus, the beginning of the next millennium is actually one year farther away than what most people have

in mind. Or is it? Another definition of the word, "millennium" according to the *Longman Dictionary* is "a future age in which all people will be happy and satisfied." Thus, millennium can imply a period that is even further away and more mysterious than its familiar meaning of "a period of one thousand years." The time frame is just contingent upon readers' interpretation of the word.

Now, I hope our readers perceive our sincere in promoting the writing contest with the theme, "The Next Millennium." Besides promoting writings in both Chinese and English, we want the contest to be like a balloon lifting our readers to a vantagepoint up above the brawl, so they can see the *future* that they want to create. We want our readers to see further, not merely year 2000, but the time beyond it... Welcome aboard to the *Flight of Imagination!*



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寫意天空

曾月蘭
中文版編輯

你站在橋上看風景，

看風景的人在樓上看你。

明月裝飾了你的窗子，

你裝飾了別人的夢。——卞之琳

片刻間，你翻閱瞻。依序，一瞥編輯的話，欲看更有意思的內容及專欄。正在動手翻往另頁，卻心癢癢，想看看編者弄甚麼玩意，留下。

文豪莎士比亞的話：「人生如舞台。」已成爲老掉牙的譬喻。身爲卑大的學生，父母的兒女，社會的公民，你有既定的角色去演繹。儒家君君、臣臣、父父、子子之說，更深化角色所限，將人裱在框框上。

教育原意培養獨立思考，引發創造力。奈何，現今教育下的莘莘學子，倒成了工廠裏的倒模製品。猶記差里卓別靈劇的一幕，差里在工廠不斷重複絞螺旋釘的工序，令他晝夜不得得絞動任何像螺旋釘的東西。可笑，亦可悲。

悲的是，人們太受角色的支配，太規範自己，沒有跳出框框及突破自己的勇氣。讀者就光是讀者嗎？編者就光是編者嗎？不，人們角色不是死，而是活。讀者與創作人是水乳交融的，不同讀者因

背景、經驗、性格不一，在一篇文章裏看出不同的世界，故有「閱讀即寫作」之說，作者亦非故步自封，他們手寫的，全都加插及幻化了讀者的心靈。

詩人卞之琳的主人公是看風景的，還是被看的，掏不清，說不斷。鏡中的鏡中人，層層疊疊，既實且客，像你在看，我在寫的關係，千絲萬縷。

不少人銳意衝破角色的範疇，成爲凡人中的不凡：達爾文的進化論、弗洛伊德的情意結、希特拉的納粹黨、馬奎斯的百年孤寂……

你可想過，在另一個千年幹一番功業，扔掉披在身上多年的戲服。成爲庫爾德族的立國者，木星投資顧問，美國首位黑人總統……

或許現實生活中，有膽量、勇氣的人，如保羅·高艾豪 (Paulo Coelho) 鍊金師 (The Alchemist) 一書中的牧童鮮有所聞。畢竟，人們都依戀養羊安逸的情景。不過，在寫作的空間中，卻不妨跳出框框，天馬行空一番，膽的寫意天空徵文比賽，就是這樣的境地。

讀者們，看風景多了，亦讓別人看看你罷，因你可用文字粉飾別人的世界。

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「電影是真是很好玩,因為可以欺騙人。我喜歡講大話,可以在電影裏發洩出來。」- Michael

「我有一個弟弟。他和我不同,他是正常的。」- Michael

「有人說我讀的學校像是一所精神病院,進去時每個人都是有問題的,出來的時候卻和正常人一樣。」- Frank

銀幕和課室的結合

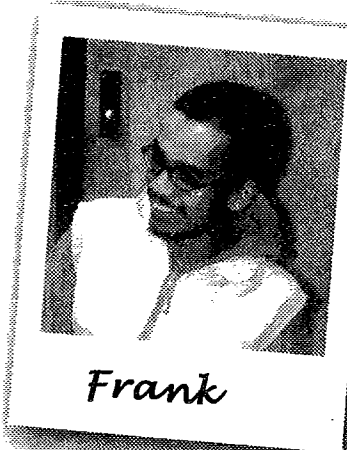
吳國璋

—「另類」學堂



Michael

「你看他們是另類,我看來他們是帶點潮流的一羣.....」



Frank

「其實我覺得我們大家沒有甚麼大分別,你上大學,我們也是讀書;都是那樣,吃飯、睡覺,沒有甚麼特別。」

膽的辦事處異常的在週末坐滿了人,其中包括兩個陌生的臉孔。架著眼鏡、短頭髮的 Frank, 身旁坐著另一位截然不同,帶點孩子氣的 Michael。驟眼看,分不出他們和我們這群大學生有甚麼分別。或許根本就沒有甚麼不同。人各有志,你的志願是做醫生、律師,他們卻希望與眾同樂。

Michael 是讀電影的。「凡是屬於電影工作的我都喜歡。台前幕後,只要有機會的話,位麼位置也可以,我都希望嘗試投身電影業。地點不是問題,哪裏有電影拍,我就到哪裏。現在拍電視比以往往前投資小,新人要入行真的不容易。」

對於 Frank 這個在 Emily Carr 美術及設計學院的學生,畢業較遙遠的事。「將來畢業後做甚麼?我沒有認真想過,我想我還有時間」就讀第三年的他,主修動畫。

選讀藝術創作,在較著重「成本效益」的華人家庭裏應該會有點壓力吧? Frank 想了一會,回答道:「可以說有,也可以說無。他們都能接受我讀動畫這個決定。可是,他們看見別人的兒女做醫生、律師,或多或少也希望我走這一條路。我以往也是一個用功的學生,希望能滿足父母(的期望),但久而久之,便發覺已不能再強逼自己,想跳出這個框框。知道我的決定後,他們也沒有反對,可能覺加拿大人較開通吧。」Michael 卻說:「他們是曾經十分反對,但那是反對我放棄完成中學回港畫漫畫。到我要讀電影的時候,他們已經麻木了。從小我就喜歡胡鬧,或許他們已察覺到改變不了。」父母不反對,少一種壓力,天馬行空時也少一種顧忌。

不甘平凡,喜歡創作的人,和一般大學生相比,一定有他不同之處。從他們口中,卻是這樣的「其實我覺得我們大家沒有甚麼大分別,你上大學,我們也是讀書;都是那樣,吃飯、睡覺,沒有甚麼特別。」Frank 在發表他的意見,在旁的 Michael 卻看來有點累,問到他的意見時,需要我們重覆一次問題,才道「分別不大,為甚麼?我不

是舉大學生,但我參與的活動全都是舉大學生發起的。他們亦把我當是大學生一樣,所以我覺得沒有甚麼不同。我和他們也談得來。」這一點,在充滿笑聲的訪問中我們不得不同意。

談得興起,他們發表了對所謂「不同」的見解。Frank 先說:「我們這樣做法可能較標奇立異,你們可能會覺得有點怪。就像有些藝術家在掙扎,究竟應否保留自己的特性。要這些特性,目的是希望藉此令社會接受你;但是當社會能接受的時候,那些已經不再是你所獨有的,已入了社會的主流。Michael 也有他的見解,「我覺得現在你們在講主流,講大多數人的思想。在那方面來看,我們是另類的。但我覺得剛好相反。那班所謂的大多數人其實是給我們影響的,其實我們才是主導。為甚麼你今天有這樣的打扮?潮流,大部份都是從傳媒得來的。傳媒是甚麼人做的?就是班少數的人。你看他們是另類,我看來他們是帶點潮流的一群.....」說笑之餘亦可以是嚴肅和有深度的。

說到將來,他們又有打算,又可以說是沒有甚麼打算。Michael 很自然的說「當然是拍戲啦。看哪裏請我就到哪裏。開始時沒有電影拍,可能拍電視、錄影帶。」我希望可以找到一个有資歷的電影人,跟著他一邊工作一邊學習;也有想過到加州大學(洛杉磯)讀電影。因為那裏靠近荷里活,連教師都可能是荷里活工作的。與業內人士有聯繫,找到工作的機會也較大,這也是我讀電影的部份原因。」Frank 則說「我沒有甚麼事業心的。藝術工作方面,如果有人找我的話我會做,但我不會太執著。我的底線是有飯吃,做其他行業我不會介意。」

一位似乎是屬於台前,另一位像是屬於幕後的,一位似是話題如靈感般源源不絕的娛樂圈中人,另一個則像漫不經心的悠閒藝術家。訪問不是單向和平鋪直述的,還有他們之間的對話和給我們的笑話,給了我們一個快樂的早上。

關於兩位被訪者.....

Michael Yuen, 香港出生,現就讀於溫哥華電影學校(Vancouver Film School)。Michael 自幼便對繪畫有濃厚的興趣,並沒有想過長大後會修讀電影。移居加國後對繪畫興趣不減,中學時曾經整個學年放學後只顧畫東西,功課自然放在一邊置諸不理。為了籌錢回港投身漫畫行業,他將自己的漫畫印製在同學間出售。雖然家人大力反對他放棄學業,最終 Michael 亦如願回港發展。在香港一間漫畫社工作一年,畫的最是一般以暴力為主的流行漫畫。當年色情漫畫在香港大行其市,Michael 更覺得發展空間有限。最後他向漫畫主編表示自己希望嘗試創作,整天在畫打打殺殺的場面很乏味。主編則建議他讀電影,認為電影有較大創作空間。Michael 於是回溫哥華完成中學課程,入讀溫哥華電影學院為期十個月的電影課程。

Frank Pang 也是在香港長大,「我小時候比較孤獨時常留在家中看電視。喜歡往牆上畫畫,家裏的牆壁無一幸免。」他曾在香港城市理工讀過一段短時間,始終不大喜歡。後來隨家人移民加拿大,現於 Emily Carr 美術及設計學院主修動畫。「為甚麼會讀藝術?高中時和學校 Counselor (輔導員)談及升學問題,他見我成績一般,唯獨美術方面較突出,便建議我入讀這間學校。」

關於兩間學校.....

溫哥華電影學校由八七年創校時的十二位學生到現在擁有一千八百名學生及六種課程不過是十一年的時間。學生在透過課程不單學到電影製作的基本知識,還能親身嘗試不同層面的工作。由編劇到拍攝及後期工作,學生也有機會參與實習。隨著科技發展溫哥華電影學校亦增加了課程種類,以配合學生需求。

Emily Carr 美術及設計學院是本省藝術教育的高等學府,由一九二五年開始,該院提供視像藝術、媒體藝術和設計的全日制課程。入學方面,收生不單取決於學生的成績,也顧及藝術方面的才能。學院的要旨是在教授學生有關藝術的知識及技能,以便他們能投身藝術工作,並鼓勵他們發揮創意,表現才華。

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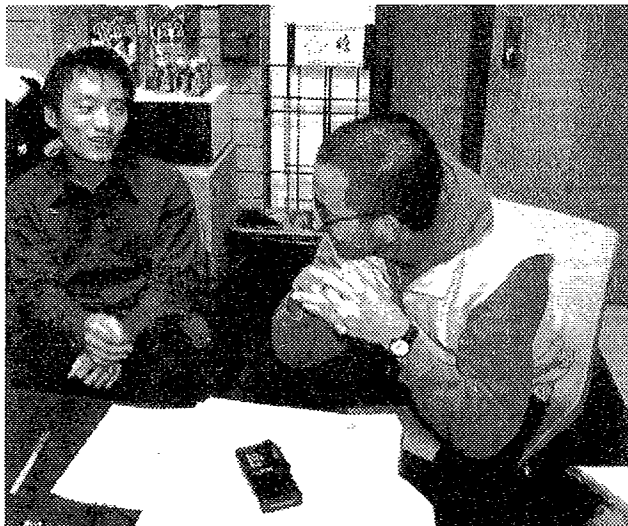
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Introduction of the VFS and the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design

The Vancouver Film School experienced a decade of remarkable growth since opening its doors to 12 film students in 1987. In 1998, 1800 students graduated from the six different programs that they offer. The VFS offers both full and part-time courses in film production, focusing on providing students with the basic skills of film making. At VFS, students experience all aspects of film production from writing their own scripts and pitching them to filming and editing the final cut. Students have an opportunity to work in a creative, hands-on setting with industry professionals. Some interesting programs that they offer involve 3D Animation & Digital Effects, Multimedia Fundamentals, and Acting for Film and Television. In general, the Vancouver Film School has been successful in recent years because of its commitment to change in this global economy of ever-changing technology.

Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design is British Columbia's Institute for advanced education in fine art, media and design. The Institute, originally started on October 1, 1925, offers full-time programs in visual art, media art, and design. Like other educational institutes, it also offers special programs such as internships, co-operative education and exchange studies for its students. The Institute is also quite active in the community by sponsoring exhibitions and public programs that raise the awareness of visual art and design. It has two impressive art galleries located in Vancouver, which display national and international artwork for students and the public. In general, Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design's primary goal is to teach talented and creative students the skills and knowledge to enter the workplace but also to participate in an environment driven by creativity.

The Study of Film Production

In order to unveil the mask of non-mainstream universities in many of our read-

Choosing a Different Road — A Look at Non-Mainstream Universities and Their Students

by Louisa Leung, Desmond Loo
and Sabrina Tse

ers' minds. Perspectives interviewed two students, Michael Yuen and Frank Pang, who are recently studying in the Vancouver Film School and the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design respectively. We had an interesting Sunday morning in our Perspectives office with Michael showing two of his short production videos.

Michael first told us about the dramatic incidents that led to his decision of studying filmmaking. Since his adolescence in Hong Kong, he had developed a special interest in drawing comics, and he did not have any thoughts of studying filmmaking at that time. Before he finished his high school in Canada, his interest brought him to a job in a comics company in Hong Kong. Unfortunately, there was economic depression at that time, and one of the editors in his company suggested to him the idea of making films. This finally led him to enroll in the film production program in the Vancouver Film School.

In Michael's opinion, studying in non-mainstream universities like VFS is no less difficult than in mainstream universities like UBC. Apart from the terminology the students have to learn in order to fit into the film industry, he thought that time constraint is another challenging problem to tackle with. As an example, he told us that for every class of which a student is late, 1% will be deducted from his final grade, and 3% will be deducted if the student misses the class. This kind of policy, according to Michael's instructors, is implemented to train the students to be more punctual and acute individuals who are serious about their studies. On the other hand, there is a diversity of work that needs to be accomplished as a student of the school. Besides learning the strategies of on-stage and off-stage film production, a student is trained to provide a lot of manual labor as well, since film production often involves the movement of stages and equipment. Michael joked that students of VFS have chances to build up their muscles and to learn to

be more careful because not only is the school concerned about their efficiency, but they also need to handle the expensive equipment with great care in a lot of circumstances.

In spite of the tremendous demands by his school, Michael thought that the program is worthwhile in terms of enhancing his portfolio and earning more pragmatic experiences for film production. He did not think that studying film production in mainstream universities has any comparative advantages over studying the subject in VFS. This is because, from his perspective, it is more significant to establish good relationships with film directors and producers instead, so that one will have a greater opportunity for a job when he graduates. Another reason that explains why Michael preferred VFS to mainstream universities is related to the close rapport he could establish with his colleagues. To his understanding, students in mainstream universities, such as UBC, are always competing for better grades. In VFS, however, the class size is limited to approximately 20 students, who often have different cultural backgrounds. In this way, students can help and take care of each other without any barriers. Michael told us that he enjoyed the happy moments with his colleagues during the production of films, particularly at times when amusing errors were made.

Having chosen film production as the basis of his future career, Michael earned a lot of satisfaction from the opportunity to play a wide variety of roles on the stage, which would be impossible in real life. For example, on the night before the interview, he participated in a short film in which he slept with a prostitute. Apart from this fulfillment from on-stage production, Michael also enjoyed working behind the stage because he could have the entire control of the film's production in this way. In his point of view, these two types of satisfaction balance the stress and challenges in his work. However, he admitted that one

should learn to accept negative comments from others if he pursues film production as a career. This is related to the fact that opinions made on films are always subjective.

Graduating in this coming December, Michael has not particularly decided on his future plans yet. However, he was willing to work in any places where films are in shortage, because his motto is to treasure every moment of his life to accomplish all the work within his ability. As he told us, an average person can merely produce twenty films in his lifetime. Thus, even though he had to sacrifice a lot of time of his private life for film production, from his perspective, it is still worthwhile to do so because of the satisfaction that one can gain from it.

The Study of Animation

Compared to Michael, Frank did not have as many ups and downs when he was young. However, apart from being a comic's lover just like Michael, he had affection for arts since his high school years. When he was a kid, he liked to draw on the walls at home to express his thoughts. Not being a superior student in subjects other than arts, his high school counselor asked him to consider applying to the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design. His family respected his decision all along because they understood that Frank had tried his best in studying other subjects, but had retained a special interest in arts. Although Frank had also considered pursuing his post-secondary education in Hong Kong, he preferred to work in Canada because it is a comparatively more multicultural society, and is more open-minded to new ideas and independent thinking which will not always be possible in Hong Kong. All these reasons finally brought him to the Emily Carr

Institute, in which he is recently a third year student in the four-year animation program.

Frank told us that the first year of his program was basically a general study of the creative processes of animation. In one of his classes about the five human senses, he remembered that every student had to blind their eyes, take a walk outside the classroom and to draw what they feel when they came back. It was not until the second year of the program when students can choose their particular area of interest from filmmaking, animation, fine arts, sculpture and design. Starting in the second year of his program, the fundamentals of movement in animation were taught and Frank learnt to draw portraits from skeleton to naked human bodies. As a requirement for graduation in animation, every student ought to produce a ten-minute animation film in the last year of the program.

From Frank's perspective, his lifestyle in the Emily Carr Institute was remarkably different from Michael's with respect to the workload involved. Because the size of animation productions in the Institute is relatively smaller than the ones in VFS, there is not much time constraint in his work other than the several weeks before the deadlines. Thus, he could enjoy a very relaxing schedule at most times, and could choose to accomplish his work depending on his personal mood and desires. To Frank, this kind of lifestyle is crucial for him being an artist because, in his opinion, individuality is a component that every artist should possess. However, he also admitted that this individuality conflicts with the views and needs of society in many circumstances, since what a person thinks will not be always approved by other people. Besides the freedom and flexibility of his work, Frank also enjoyed the satisfac-



tion that he could gain from animation productions. He could never forget the overwhelming fulfillment within himself when one of his animation films was once shown in a theatre, with a lot of reactions from the spectators afterwards.

Since there are still two years before he will graduate, Frank has not thought of his future intentions yet. From his point of view, the most important element in life is happiness. He believed in the nature-driven tendency in life, and he thought that an individual could find a satisfactory job easily as long as he is not too choosy. Thus, he did not deny the possibility of changing his career in the future if there was unemployment in his field. His motto in life is "If this is what you think now, then do it". To him, one should not put too much emphasis on the time he has, as well as what society thinks he ought to do. Instead, Frank thought that life is analogous to a game of chess which involves making individual choices.

From the above, Michael and Frank gave us a different view of life from their perspectives as students in non-mainstream universities. Both of them thought that some individuals in society misconceive the role of art; these people think that art is absurd and is dependent on societal changes. Michael and Frank thought that art should be the main element which influences the culture and fashion of the majority of society instead. In either case, non-mainstream universities should be placed on the same level of importance as mainstream universities, so that their exchanges of knowledge and culture can grant the most benefits to the next generation.





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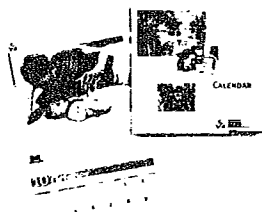
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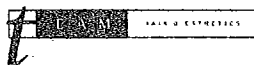
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同性相吸

譚可欣、尹世康

校園孤獨者的庇護所

Pride UBC 是卑大其中一個資源中心 (AMS Resource Group)，早在 1971 年成立。這小組為不同性取向的同學提供資料查詢服務及支持。它被稱為資源中心有別於一般學會；因有關成員會就社會某種情況，作資料搜集及研究，並鼓勵學生從而多加關注。此外，他們亦舉辦講座、演講、研討會等，讓學生發表意見。

不同性取向的學生均歡迎加入 Pride UBC。除上述的活動外，該會更在每年春季籌辦一項名為 Outweek 的節目，藉著展覽、電影及各種社會活動，令卑大學生留心區內事務。另外，Pride UBC 與溫市的同性戀組織亦有交流，以加強彼此溝通。

會長 Gordon Fitt 與 Melinda Marie Jette 表示，會員可在 Pride UBC 中認識到志同道合的朋友。畢竟，同性戀者在現今開放社會裏，仍常被視作另類；故此，他們更希望組織會員，凝聚成一股力量。

對於歧視問題，Fitt 與 Jette 坦言，卑大校內存在著不同程度的歧視事件。但他們都積極面對這問題，希望喚醒社會人士的關注，明白每個人亦應有選擇性取向的權利及自由。

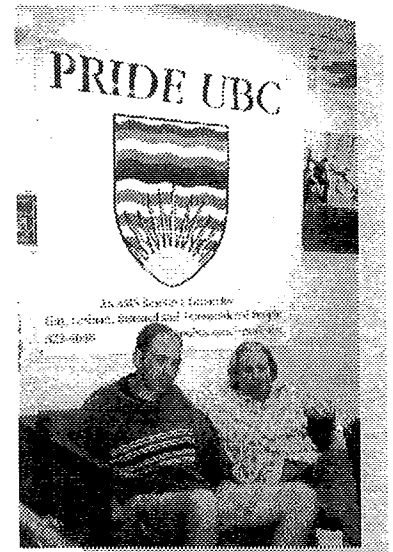
兩個同性戀人的自白

李嘉霖

若你曾想過探討同性戀者的內心世界，相信以下訪問將能為你找出答案。Maria 和 Gigi 是一對同性戀者，對她倆來說，同性戀是一件十分平常的事；就如每個人在人生的不同階段裡，都會有不同的選擇。她們的成長過程跟別人沒有不同，其同性戀傾向亦是與生俱來的，沒有選擇。在最初發現自己有同性戀傾向時，她們也有掙扎過，因為她們不能想像社會對這群『少數民族』的看法和施予的壓力。

壓力的來源，往往是家庭。無論社會風氣再開放，許多中國人對同性戀始終抱著保留態度。就以 Maria 為例，她的父母在知道她是同性戀者後，感到非常震驚，更為此發生過許多爭執。她也曾想過跟父母靜下來討論，不過，每一次總是以吵架收場。另一方面，Gigi 的雙親對其同性戀傾向雖然不贊成，但也不太敢強烈的反對。在她們眼中，大多數父母都不敢接觸同性戀問題；在問題發生時，往往只懂得逃避。相反，她們與朋友交往時卻沒有困難。她倆表示，大部份朋友對同性戀者只會感到好奇，而不會投以有色眼光。她們很堅信，一個人對同性戀的看法，全在於其性格、處境及教育水平；相反，國籍並非是最大關鍵。

究竟，她們相處會否遇到困難？Maria 和 Gigi 表示，普通戀人所遭遇到的問題，她們也有。因此，她們認為同性相戀跟異性相戀沒有不同，一切都來得很自然。最後，她們不約而同地說，Pride UBC 的成立，讓其認識到一些志同道合的朋友，及消除了孤獨感。在整個訪問中，她們都保持著坦然的態度，彷彿在傳達著一個信息：其實同性戀者跟普通人並沒有分別，每個人都有權去選擇自己喜歡的生活方式。因此，請別騷擾。



Gordon Fitt and Melinda Marie, the two co-chairs of Pride UBC

Working Towards a Discrimination-Free Society

by Arthur Fong, Desmond Loo



Pride UBC Office at SUB

About Pride UBC

Pride UBC, originally named Gays UBC during the 1970s, is an AMS-funded resource group for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered (GLBT) students on campus. Its aim is to foster the personal growth of these individuals and to help to eliminate all forms of discrimination on the university campus through seminars and group discussions.

According to Gordon Fitt and Melinda Marie, the two co-chairs of Pride UBC, many members of the GLBT are afraid to disclose their identities because society implicitly constructs a mandate for heterosexual relationships, which is known to be the "normal" way of life. When some members reveal their "openness" (a term which means admitting to be a member of GLBT) to their friends and families, they often feel rejection and left in a world of loneliness and stress.

Since Pride UBC is helping a discriminated group of people, there have been minor difficulties which include the vandalism of their resource centre mailbox and door. Fortunately, no direct opposition on campus has been brought to Pride UBC's attention. This is definitely contribution to the group's effort in eliminating discrimination on campus.

In the future, Gordon and Melinda hope that the Pride UBC can bring about a discrimination-free society where terms such as "open", "out" and GLBT do not exist, and where those that are presently being discriminated against will be seen as part of the normality of the society.

From a Chinese Perspective - A Real Case

The interview with Gordon and Melinda gives us an overview of homosexuality from a western standpoint. When this topic is discussed in the Chinese community, however, the general public often dismisses it as a symbol of abnormality and shame to the race. This is because according to Chinese customs and traditions, the idea of "continuity of generation" is very significant, which applies merely to heterosexual relationships. In order to find out more about this from a subjective standpoint, our reporters carried out another interview with two Chinese lesbians on campus.

Maria and Gigi are two UBC students who have found their affection for each other a year ago. Having grown up with a normal background just as everybody else, they think that their relationship, like any other heterosexual relationships, is a natural occurrence rather than a choice for them to make. Even though they are continually struggling to act as normal lovers, they feel that they are still being labeled by others as minorities in society.

According to Maria, she had some heated arguments with her parents when they first knew that she was a lesbian. Although she has tried her best to discuss the issue with them from that time onwards, she feels that her parents often avoid mentioning the topic. Fortunately, Maria still manages to maintain her relationship with her parents by treating each other with respect. In her opinion, everyone could have different acceptance levels for any ideas or actions; her parents' thoughts may retain their own logic even though she does not agree with them. In Gigi's case, her parents are more open-minded about the topic. Her family has regular family discussions, and Gigi's parents often remind her of the possible consequences of making this choice.

The acceptance and support from their friends play a critical factor in making their relationship possible. Although most of their friends are straight, they respect Maria and Gigi's relationship and treat them as everyone else. Nevertheless, Maria and Gigi never offer their friends any subjective views on the issue of homosexuality, as they see it as unnecessary as well as inappropriate to affect their freedom to choose. Instead, they are in the role of providing relevant sources of information when their friends are curious or uncertain about the subject.

On the walls of a ladies' washroom in the Buchanan block where we held our interview, there was once a series of jokes and comments made on the topic of lesbians. In front of us, however, were two determined individuals who decided to walk along their natural path even though the decision is against the favors of social norms and Chinese community. Aside from the appearance, Maria and Gigi are just like other normal lovers; they need to face the same problems between couples, and they have to improve their communication between them. In their opinion, it is crucial to educate the next generation about homosexuality. In addition, they think that Pride UBC is a helpful resource group since it gives them a valuable chance to know people with similar backgrounds and orientations. They know that they are not alone.

這是個十一時正的早上。我推開了「Team」的大門，坐在玄關內他把目光從登記冊轉到我身上。我說：「我是來採訪的。」一身素色的他把我安頓在舒適的剪髮椅。在我觀賞著四周別具心思的裝修和琳瑯滿目的明星照片時，帶來了一杯水的他又折回來，原來眼前的他正是我的訪問對象。

一、移民

Norman，「Team」的老闆，廿五歲。八年前隨父母由香港移民溫哥華。他坦言那時自己很迷惘，是個乳臭未乾的小子。抵加後Norman在高中渾噩了三年，畢業後在Kwantlen College選修圖像設計。Norman憶述：「那是我有生以來第一個為自己作的決定；從小爸媽都替我安排了一切。那時只知自己一直希望做有關創作的工作，也沒費時多考慮，便選了圖像設計。」

二、奮鬥篇

為自己的決定奮鬥了一年，Norman才發覺圖像設計其實不是他想像中的「創作」及「設計」：「整個課程都須操作電腦，我不懂，也不喜歡。」那年夏天，Norman在一家髮廊當暑期工。不到半年後，他便毅然投身髮型設計。原因何在？Norman一呆，搔了頭道：「我想，剪髮也是一種創作。」連番的轉折，Norman一直得到好友及父母的支持。「Team」於去年正式開業，說到這裏，他終於第一次露出笑容。「我們由零開始，到今天十四個月，營業額上升了三倍！」那他可贊成年青人加入剪髮行業？他語氣堅定的說：「贊成！最緊要喜歡，想做就儘管做，是賺到錢的。」

三、成功之道

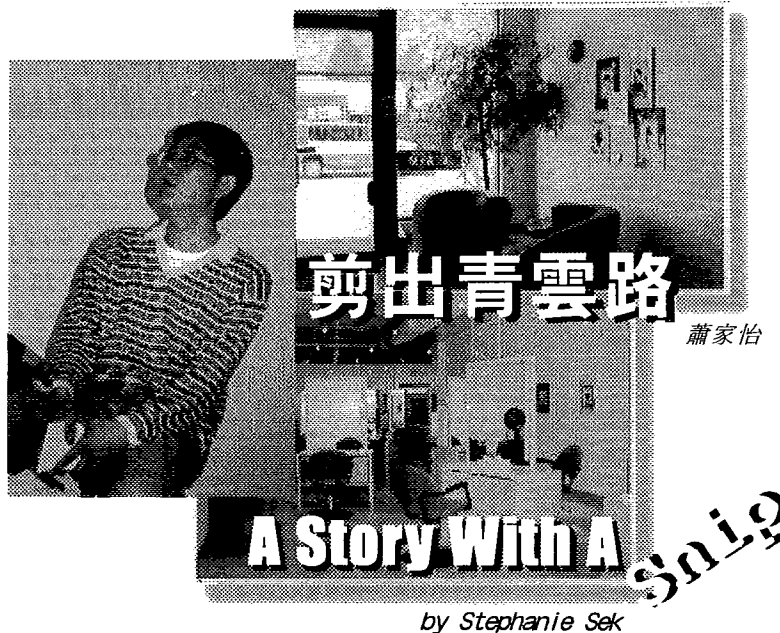
問及他的成功之道，Norman總說是運氣：「我好幸運，認識到一班支持我的好友。」髮廊取名為「Team」，因為他希望員工能同心協力、團結一致。Norman從不裝「老闆腔」，亦裝不來；他的伙伴須多次提點他不能過於「放縱」員工。在心中，Norman還是認為「teamwork」較為重要。

四、過去、現在、將來

「如果能回到八年前，你會否再選擇走這條路？」一分鐘的沉默。就在我快將被這片沉默淹沒的時候，Norman說：「我從不想過去或將來，我只活在此刻。每朝促使我起床上班的是壓力，有來自別人，也有來自自己的。我只知要好，做這盤生意，便得起床上班去，也沒多想其他了。」

訪問完畢，臨離開時Norman悄聲問：「其實我個人沒什麼特別，為何要訪問我？」

不誇、不怨、活出真我——是他的成功。不是運氣，是對朋友的真；不是平凡，是平凡中的不平凡。



It is not unlikely then that we would be more acquainted with people we see more frequently. But there is an irony with the statement above in that sometimes the reverse is true. Take our hairdressers for example. We see them once only in a while but we would often find ourselves engage in amazing conversations during those brief periods. Perspectives took a tour to a Vancouver hair salon to find out the fundamental mechanics that makes our hairstylists click.

Being fifteen minutes late for our interview, we breezed through the glass doors of a hair couture salon. There, we were greeted by the distinctive smells of fruity shampoo, leftover hairspray and sterile perm chemicals. What first caught our eyes were the multiple silver-framed photos of models and celebrities sporting the latest and most classic hairstyles that lined up neatly on the walls. One could guess, from the simple white and blue lighted sign outside, that the interior would reflect a minimalist personality. Furnished mostly with beech, blue was the next most predominant color. We were then greeted by the owner salon, Norman Lo, who seated us in comfy, ultramarine blue armchairs on wheels.

If you saw him on the street, you would never be able to guess that Norman is the co-owner of a successful beauty salon, which has profited 300% since it opened less than two years ago. You also wouldn't be able to tell that this young man (25 years old to be exact), has worked on major movie sets and behind the scenes in Vancouver and Hong Kong, putting the glamour into stars such as Karen Mok and Lo Ka Ying. In fact, he looked like any other young Chinese immigrant who has spent half of his life growing up in Hong Kong, and the other half struggling to fit in Canada. Wearing jeans, a sharp blue Alfred Dunhill collared shirt, and black-rimmed glasses, Norman unfolded his story to us.

Norman went to study graphic arts after graduating from high school. But that never did last long as he soon found out that graphic artists jobs always went to his Caucasian counterparts. To most people, this devastating aspect would undoubtedly prove to result in a bleak future. After all, Norman had wasted his precious time. Norman, however, took a different course. Determined to still find a job which incorporated his artistic talents, Norman took

courses on hair design at Vancouver Community College where he learned the fundamental theories on hair design.

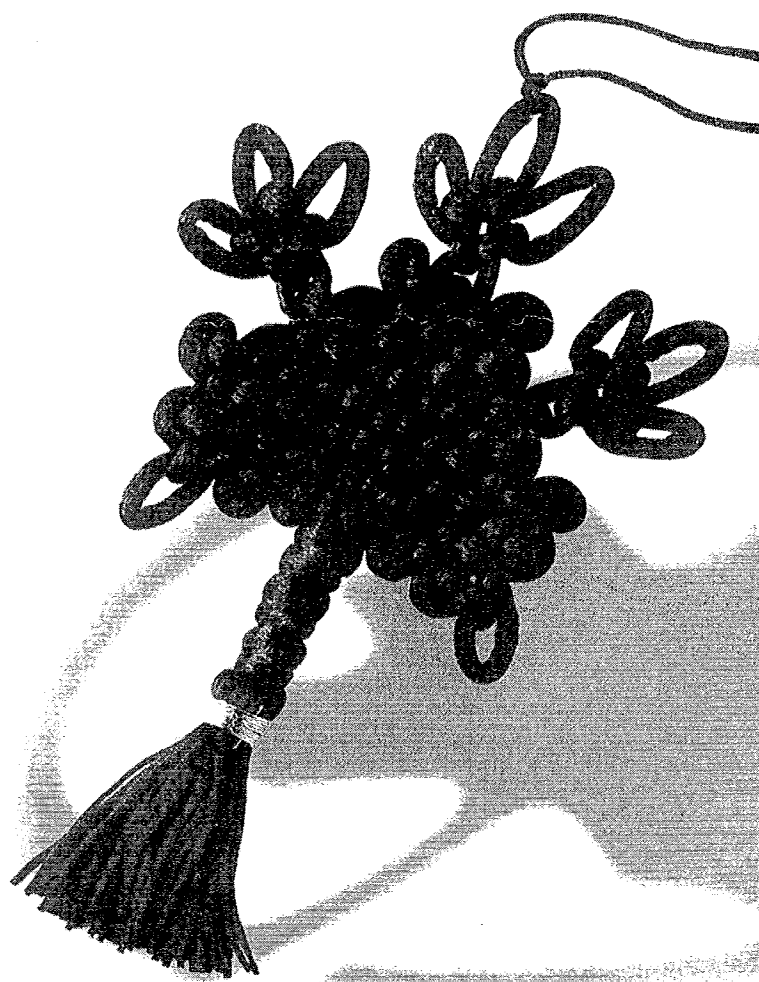
After formal training, Norman acquired experience and developed his own sense of style from various places. He took odd jobs at numerous salons, movie sets, backstage at concerts, and even in people's houses. Between work he liked to go out with his friends, go to movies, sing karaoke, sleep in, and play mahjong. It wasn't till about over a year ago that his present partner, Bernadette, approached him with the idea of institutionalizing his skills. When asked if he regretted leading such a carefree and laid-back lifestyle, he replied, "No, although I did regret about not spending enough time with my family." Now, Norman always urges people (the youth especially) to go home for dinner. He advises, "No matter how busy you are with school or play, [you should] always try to go home and be with the people that love you."

Extending the family topic to his relationship with his parents, Norman said that his parents, unlike most traditional parents who discourage their children to pursue such an "unstable" career. Norman said that he never felt the pressure to be ambitious, successful and hardworking. It is not to say that he is none of those things, but he really credits his parents for letting him flourish naturally, without an iron fist. Only this way could Norman allowed his sense of responsibility to kick in when it wanted to, and lived life day by day without any major plans for the future, which seemed typical for youngsters. From Norman's perspectives, therefore, going into the hair styling business was more like a call rather than a goal.

Norman believes that life is just a learning process. To this day, he still doesn't think he is the boss. "It really takes teamwork for a business to run, hence our name (of the salon)." Nevertheless, he still doesn't know if he wants to do this forever. He might go back to studying graphic design when the lease expires on the store. Right now, he just lives life one day at a time. So I asked him if he would recommend the youth to pursue a career in hair styling. "Sure, it makes good money," he replied with a grin.

With that message in mind, we left our tour with a knowledge of the mind of a young entrepreneur. It seems as the saying goes, "you can never expect the unexpected." Decisions that are made one day will not turn out to be what was planned. Perhaps Murphy and his Laws are again defying the paths of our lives. Just remember on your next visit to your local hairdresser that what you say in your causal conversations may not turn out to be what you predict.

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作文奪標有秘方

Tips for a Winning Composition

張無忌

Translated by Joseph Tsang

Many young people are afraid of composition, probably because they misunderstand what "compose" means. They think to "compose" means to write something out of nothing, or to fabricate something contrary to the truth. Composition is an unpleasant task that no one will appreciate.

In fact, composition is just a way to convert thoughts into words, and to use language to express thoughts. Writing courses are for the purpose of training the students' ability to express their thoughts. There is no need to be scared by this beneficial practice. Although composition can be very easy, it is rather difficult to write a piece of good literature. However, it should help if you follow a few guidelines:

1. Try to use short sentences instead of long ones. A short sentence is usually considered to contain less than twelve words. (Chinese words, in this case!)
2. Be concise and right-to-the-point.
3. Rewriting is essential to developing a first-class paper. After you finish the rough draft, you have to edit it for the first time to make the first draft. Edit it for the second time to produce the second draft, the third time for the third draft, the fourth time for the "fixed draft," and eventually the fifth time of editing should produce the "official draft." If you want to win the competition, you should at least have the official draft.

4. After you finish the official draft, suppose your composition has 1,000 words limit, try to condense it to 500 words without affecting the content. Then you will realize how many unnecessary words and how much redundant information there are. Because at this stage you already have the experience of editing your writing five times, you should know how to improve the writing further.

5. Before submission, put the sixth condensed draft aside for several days. Make use of this period to think over the composition and write down the things that you can refine. Three days later, you take a look at the writing again, and you can find even more mistakes. Correct and refine them, and this resulting piece of writing becomes the final copy.

Writing clearly and simply is not easy, but the benefits are worth the extra effort, considering that it is a writing competition. Olympic athletes spend years of training and practices for only one competition, so there is nothing special about spending ten days or half a month on a piece of winning writing.

Please keep in mind that the harder you work, the more satisfactory results you will get. Wish you good luck in the competition!

(PS: Writing for competition differs from other forms of composition. Judges will not tolerate a winning paper with flaws!)

很多年青的朋友都十分害怕作文，可能他們是誤解了那個「作」字，以為「作」文就是生安白造，無中生有，於是就挖空心思，違反情理去捏造虛構。結果呢，寫的辛苦，看的痛苦。

作文，其實只是把思想化為文字，亦等於利用語言表達思想。學校的課程，透過作文來鍛練學生的思考能力而已，有益無害，不必害怕。作文雖然很容易，若想作一篇好文，那就頗為困難，但如果你參照我的淺見，應該會有一定的助力。

一：盡量使用短句，不用長句、句子的字數，若不超過十二個字，可以算是短句。

二：長話短說，少講廢話，開門見山，一針到肉，切戒轉彎抹角，久久未入正題。

三：若要參賽，必須起草稿，修改後是為一稿，再改是為二稿，三改是為尾稿，四改是為定稿，五改是為「正稿」，若存奪獎之心，起碼要正稿。

四：寫好了正稿之後，假設字數是一千，請你將文章濃縮簡化，

以五百字重寫出來而又不損其內容，這時你就會發覺，你原來說了很多廢話，內容亦很貧乏。由於你已有了五次改稿的經驗，應該知道如何補救不足之處了。

五：六稿改好，萬勿投寄，應把它放在書房兩三天，利用這段「冷靜期」，仔細思索，雞蛋裏挑骨頭，用筆註下各種未善之處。三天之後，再拿出文章重看，你又會發現一些缺點。逐一補救改善之，這篇是為七稿，亦即是「完稿」，可以交稿了。

大家勿嫌麻煩，因為這是作文比賽。奧運選手窮畢生精力，去應付一次競賽，你只花十天半月寫一篇文章爭勝，算得了什麼？

一分耕耘，一分收穫，萬望緊記，祝你好運！

後語：我寫文章，為了稿费，你寫文章，志在奪魁。我的文章可以有沙石，你的文章不容有瑕疵。你要記著，評判金睛火眼，就是要找出你的瑕疵！

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clubs snap

Chinese Collegiate Society (CCS)

Event | War Games
Date | SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 1998
Time | 12:00 - 4:00pm
Venue | TSAWWASSEN PAINTBALL GAMES behind the Waterpark off Hwy. #17
Contact | Liz 645-0839 / Sign up at the CCS Office @ SUB 241D

Event | Big White Ski Trip: Ski for the weekend!
Date | Jan 8, 9, 10/1999
Contact | James 275-9569

Dragon Seed Connection (DSC)

Event | HIP HOP DANCE WORKSHOP
Date | Early November
Venue | TBA
Details | An introductory hiphop dance workshop taught by experienced performer.

For more info and details, please watch for our latest posters or contact DSC cultural director, Andy Lo, andylo@interchange.ubc.ca

Taiwan Association of UBC (TA)

Event | Badminton Tournament with UBC Badminton Club
Date | November 13
Time | 7:00-10:00pm
Contact | Lulu Suen at lulu@interchange.ubc.ca or call 264-0465
Details | Categories include Women's Doubles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles at the Beginner, Intermediate, and Advance level. Come and play some badminton!

Event | Dinner Gathering
Date | November 20
Time and Venue | TBA
Contact | Jerry Liu at jerryliu@interchange.ubc.ca

Event | Chinese Music Fair
Date | November 28
Venue | Michael J. Fox Theater
Contacts | Jeffrey Hwang at jehwang@interchange.ubc.ca
Peter Chen at 241-0468 or 612-2237
Details | Enjoy a quality concert featuring our UBC TA's choir, "TATA". Portion of proceeds will go to charity functions. Surprise celebrity may show up at the concert!

Event | Ski Trip
Date | December 28-30
Contacts | Steve Chen at hk@interchange.ubc.ca
Lulu Suen at lulu@interchange.ubc.ca

Chinese Arts Student Society (CASS)

Event | Chinese Calligraphy Workshop I
Date | Nov 13, 1998
Time | 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Venue | SUB Room 211
Details | Learn how to write ancient Chinese letters in this workshop
Contact | William Leung at hpleung@unixg.ubc.ca

Event | Music Link I
Date | Nov 18, 1998
Time | 11:30 - 1:30
Venue | SUB Room 212A
Details | Come to join our music party for free
Contact | Ricky Leung at hfleung@unixg.ubc.ca

Event | Doll Making Workshop
Date | Nov 20, 1998
Time | 5:30 - 7:30
Venue | SUB Room 205
Details | Make a special X'mas gift for someone you love
Contact | Shane Tang at shanest@cancomputer.bc.ca

YOURS

Event | Dance Lessons
Date | Starting Saturday October 30, 1998
Venue | Cambie & Broadway, Vancouver
Lessons | 5 lessons, 1.5 hour per lesson
Level | Beginners (intermediate and advanced will be available after December)
Fees | Members \$23, Non-members \$28
Maximum 30 people
Contact | Joanna Chong at jchong@direct.ca

Event | Dance
Date | Tuesday November 10, 1998
Time | 9pm to 2am
Venue | Big Bam Boo - 1236 West Broadway, Vancouver
Fees | Members \$5, Non-members \$7
Details | The dance will feature both Chinese and English pop songs.
Contact | Jenny info@yours.bc.ca 889-3303

To reserve your ticket, please email info@yours.bc.ca or visit our website at <http://www.yours.bc.ca>.

Event | Career Workshop — Job-Searching Skills

Date | Nov 13, 98
Contact | Felix Chewing info@yours.bc.ca

Event | Gym Night Drop In
Date | Nov 14, 98
Venue | SFU Gym
Contact | Eric Ng info@yours.bc.ca

Event | Basketball Tournament
Date | Nov 13th & 20th
Contact | Eric Ng

Chinese Christian Fellowship (CCF)

Event | Evangelical Meeting— Ms. Chewing Kai Yam
Details | Ms. Chewing is an international widely known speaker
Date | Nov 12th, 1998 (Thursday)
Time | 12:30-14:20
Venue | Angus 104

Event | University Student Survival Guide
Details | The Faith & Your Life through a lively discussion, you will gain tips on how to build your life on your faith.
Date | Nov 19th, 1998 (Thursday)
Time | 12:30-14:20
Venue | Scarfe 204 (Refreshment will be served)

Event | Make The First Step!
Details | Taking the leap of faith in Christ is the first step into eternal life. We are going to look into how to take this step through bible study.
Date | Nov 26th, 1998 (Thursday)
Time | 12:30-14:20
Venue | Scarfe 204 (Refreshment will be served)

Contact Person: Albert So at ubcccf@christianemail.com <<mailto:ubcccf@christianemail.com>>

The Chinese Catholic Society (CATSO)

Event | Dessert Night
Date | Dec. 23 rd, 1998
Time | 7:00pm
Venue | St. Mark's College

Event | Bible Sharing
Date | Alternating Tuesday and Thursday afternoons
Time | 12:30pm
Venue | Henry Angus Building

For updated information, please visit us at <http://welcome.to/ubccatso/>
All contacts to Karen Tang at 228-2016.

搵工頭痛?

留意每日的星島分類廣告及
星期五的求職廣場

Having spent over four months in Singapore this summer, I had a chance to broaden my insights on the word multiculturalism. I used to believe that Canada was the only place in the world that was multicultural but this notion of mine slowly began to disintegrate as I got older and wiser.

Actually, this notion of mine began to lose its entity last year in one of my Canadian Literature courses. The professor told us that in fact, the United States of America was also seen as a multicultural country, although they like to refer to themselves as a 'melting pot' in which all people are melted into one. Multiculturalism then, is supposed to encourage people of all cultures to promote the origin of their identities. Multiculturalism is many diverse cultures living together but each with their own, individual identities.

My notion was eradicated further on my trip to Singapore. In Singapore, I was like in a sort of 'reverse' position in that the majority of people were like me being ethnic Chinese. Maybe it doesn't seem that different for those of you who live in Richmond. I was also surprised by the number of Caucasians who lived there. These people were mostly expatriates of some large companies who uprooted their entire families to Singapore because of their work. Since Singapore is one of the most important cities in the economical world, it is easy to see why there are so many large companies that choose to set up a base there. No small feat for a country that absolutely has no natural resources of its own.

Currently, the two major languages spoken in Singapore are Mandarin and English. But there are also many people, especially those of the older generations, who speak Hokkien and Malay because these were the languages of instruction when they went through the school system under political pressures. In fact, the majority of people are trilingual. At first, I thought everyone would speak Mandarin and that I would have a tough time getting around, considering that I don't know how to speak the language. I thought that Singapore would be

like Hong Kong but boy, was I on the wrong track. Singapore has a language of its own, affectionately called Singlish. There are many words in their everyday vocabulary which incorporate all four languages from food names to street names.

The government tries to advocate the use of all languages in all public signs and places. The MRT trains have four languages spoken at the major stops. All public signs are printed in four languages. When watching television in Singapore, many of the channels with Mandarin shows have mandatory subtitles in English and often in Malay which I really liked because it gave me a chance to improve my language skills. It was like listening to those hokëy "mini-scenes" in French classes. Most of the channels in other languages also have subtitles for other people's enjoyment. There are channels in all of the four major languages used in Singapore: English, Mandarin, Malay, and Hokkien.

I'm not saying that Singapore is the perfect paragon of multiculturalism, but I believe it is closer to the ideal than we are. Granted, I did hear a couple of racially slanted jokes from my 14-year-old cousin. I also noticed that many of the lower-classed workers were Indians. In Canada we also have disproportionate numbers of certain races in blue-collar jobs. We also have racist comments passed around the schoolyard. So what is the conclusion?

We, as Canadians, consider ourselves fully bilingual but how many of us can really carry a conversation in French? As for basic cable, we carry over ten English channels to one French channel and one multicultural channel for the 'others.' Compared to Canada, I think that Singapore has managed to achieve a somewhat 'better' version of multiculturalism. They seem to be happily lingering somewhere between multiculturalism and melting pot. Maybe I only have a glazed overview because I am not a citizen of Singapore. But then again, maybe it's the way Singaporean government has beaten the population into having submissive and accepting attitudes towards everything, including multiculturalism.

楓彩

Colors of Maple

新加坡的多元文化

Multiculturalism in Singapore

by Emmy Pang
譯 Jonathan Lau

今年夏天在新加坡的四個多月裏，我有機會增加對多元文化的了解。我一向相信加拿大是唯一的多元文化國家，但隨著自己年紀和知識的成長，這個觀念開始漸漸改變。

事實上，去年在上「加拿大文學」課的時候，這個想法已經受到動搖。教授告訴我們雖然美國社會一向自覺為集各種文化於一身的「大融爐」，其實也是一個多元文化的國家。多元文化就是讓不同的文化以其獨有的方式存在，並讓其發揚光大。

新加坡之行，我的想法終於完全改變過來。那裏我覺得處於一個「倒轉」的位置，因為大部份的居民都是中國人。一些生活在列治文的同學可能並無此感吧。這裏白人的數目亦多得令我驚訝。這些大部份都是大企業的派駐人員。他們因工作的關係在那裏落地生根。作為一個重要的金融都會，不少跨國大公司都在新加坡設立分部。對於一個完全沒有天然資源的國家來說，一點也不簡單。

新加坡現時常用的語言為國語和英語。但不少人，尤其是年長的一輩，仍然操流利的客家和馬來語，因為它們都是過往政治高壓年代的教學語言。事實上，大部份新加坡人都懂得三種語言。起初，我以為那裏每個人都說國語為主，而我卻不懂普通話，在當地會難以溝通。我以為那裏像香港那樣，卻發現真正流通的是新加坡語。這種語言其中不少日常用詞都是從四種主要語言而來，很有地方特色。

這裏的政府嘗試在所有的公眾地方和告示上使用各種語言。市內鐵路的主要車站用四種語言進行廣播，而所有公眾告示也使用了四種語言。在新加坡，很多國語電視節目都有規定的英語或馬來語字幕，給我不少學習其他語言的機會。這也令我聯想起法文課時聆聽冰球旁述的情景。其他的電視台都有提供其他語言的字幕，讓更多觀眾享受其節目。有些頻道則使用所有在新加坡流行的語言：英語、國語、馬來語和客家話。

我並不是想說新加坡是一個完美的多元文化天堂，但我相信她的情況比我們的國家更優勝。無可否認，我從我十四歲的表弟聽過不少有種族成份的笑話，我也發現不少低下階層的都是印裔人士。在加拿大的藍領階級各種族的比例也不平均。我們的校園更經常出現種族歧視的語句。這代表了甚麼呢？

我們加拿大人自稱能說兩種官方語言，但我們之間真正能用法語溝通的又有幾個？以有線電視為例，我們擁有超過十個英語頻道對一個法語和一個其他語言頻道的比例。相比之下，我覺得新加坡在多元文化方面做得較完善。他們成功地在「大融爐」和「多元文化」之間取得平衡。也許我的看法太過片面，因為我不是新加坡公民。但也許，是新加坡政治的努力讓她的人民開放地接受身邊的一切，包括多元文化的理想。

美國以故總統甘迺迪在其就職演辭中說：「別問國家可為你作什麼，先自問可為國家作什麼。」香港人在指責特區政府不是，抱怨特首與官員失職，憤慨回歸後政治經濟的頹勢時，不妨撫心自問，你們又做了什麼？

筆者與不少港人，有幸長於小島的黃金時期，都被寵壞了：長年在溫室中成長的小花，遇上風雨時，便顯得七零八落，只管道今非昔比。

回歸一年多，房地產及股市掉了一半，經濟增長為負百分之五，裁員、減薪之聲不絕耳。對，儘管有國際炒家作梗，但去年恒指被推至萬六點，身為藍白領、主婦、甚至學生等投資者，不也在吶喊，投資股市，揚言推倒恒指至二、三萬點嗎？對，英政府每年賣地五十公頃之限，對樓市不預及地產商的措手不及，有不當，但令豪宅動輒過千萬計，蚊型住所亦數千元一尺，這不也是人們瘋狂炒賣樓花的結果嗎？

新政府的表現具爭議性，但早在回歸前，香港衰退的端倪已露。看看墨西哥及委內瑞拉的經濟，給聯匯率打得一蹶不振；英政府卻不在穩定的時候，將匯率的死結解開。北望島

國日本的泡沫經濟，弄至近十年經濟不斷下滑，東京市區的樓價下跌了八成，香港樓市情況不是無例可尋。機場、鐵路等基建，地產股市的吹捧，將回歸前幻化成昇平的佳作，對比出回歸後的敗筆。

轟！轟！炸破了泡沫經濟後，溫室小花失業，在樓股市中失措，對前途失望。悲憤化成失衡的舉動：抄賣波鞋、麥記的小路比；雨後春筍的葡式蛋撻店、比利時窩夫店，全都像曇花一現。

這全都是眼光短淺的後果。你可嘆道是亞洲經濟不景、政府無能、生不逢時。不過，小花倒要負點責任罷！只是目不轉睛地看著手指頭，不了解港府的政經情況，不清楚亞洲金融走勢，不察覺全球經濟連鎖關係；只是跟眾人一起盲目地抄賣，人云亦云，終會受創。

二十八隻小路比，透出六百萬人的心靈。山窮水盡疑無路，柳暗花明又一村。跟大眾尋「找快錢」的方法，不能帶你脫險。只有反省錯誤，不斷充實自己，看透時勢的人，才能在危中求生機。

小島已剛步過初秋，寒冬將至。



“Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.” Quoted from the late John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address, this statement should serve as a wake up call to those in Hong Kong. Since the handover, the economy of Hong Kong has been on a continuous downslide. As the government continues to be criticized for being incompetent, perhaps Hong Kong citizens should step out of their bitterness and reflect on their own actions: what have we been doing, besides complaining?

Many Hong Kong citizens who are struggling to survive the economic crises grew up during Hong Kong’s glamorous period under British rule. Spoiled and sheltered by a prosperous economy, these people were panic-stricken when their shelter was removed. Under chaos, they become oblivious to everything except wistful memories of a better past. Ever since Hong Kong said good-bye to its colonial government for over a century, its economic growth has been a disappointing and worrisome -5%. Real estate and stocks have plummeted 50%, workers live in daily fear of unemployment, and salaries can’t seem to stop shrinking. It’s true that international players in the stock market were a cause of disruption, yet the Hang Seng Index still rose to 16,000 last year, and investors hurried to throw in their money, hoping to push the index to even greater heights, possibly 20,000, even 30,000. Before the handover, the British government set out a requirement of 50 hectares of land to be sold annually in Hong Kong, disregarding the effect this might have on housing values. Regulations were ignored by businessmen who had potential plans for land development. Although this resulted in phenomenal prices for housing of all types, speculators should also be blamed. There were many local speculators who would purchase apartments prior to their constructions, and then resold them to other buyers at higher prices in order to pocket the differences.

The performance of the new Hong Kong government is no doubt disputable, but hints of economic recession did exist well before the handover. For instance, the economies of Mexico and Venezuela were tremendously shocked by the instability of the joint exchange. The

British government, however, failed to take this as a warning, and took no action to prepare or protect the Hong Kong economy while it was still strong. Another example that deserves to be analyzed is Japan: ten years ago, it was enjoying its economic wealth and strength but ten years later, the economy has become unbelievably fragile. Japan’s economy has deteriorated even more by the Asian economic crisis. Housing values in Tokyo dropped 80% so Hong Kong’s real estate dilemma is not the unique. The illusion of a continuously prospering Hong Kong under Chinese rule greatly contrasts the present gloom that resides indefinitely over Hong Kong.

As the economy continues on its flight downhill, unemployment and hollow investments add on to a pessimistic outlook for Hong Kong’s future. Bitterness soon becomes a driving force for desperate actions. People began purchasing everything from runners to McDonald’s collectable Snoopy sets in bulk, and then selling them for phenomenal prices when stocks were in shortage to the general public. Temporary popularity for Portuguese egg tarts and Belgian waffles led to shops that only lasted until their popularity died down.

All this is a result of failure to look further into the future. Complaints about practically everything fill the ears of many distraught Hong Kong citizens; everything from the poor state of the Asian economy and the government’s incompetence to satisfy the misfortunes who were born at the wrong time in the wrong place. They fail to understand the political and economic state of the Hong Kong government: they are ignorant towards the present state and the outlook of the Asian currency, and they fail to realize that the global economy functions as a whole. If all they are concerned about is making quick and easy money, they will never be able to fully recover from their previous financial injuries, and will only become more susceptible to further damage.

In dark times, even the smallest spark is capable of generating new hope. In order to survive, they must look ahead to the future, learn to realize their own faults, and try to build up their own strength. Besides, this is only the beginning...

ON PARENTING: A LITTLE INNOCENT WISH

by Purple Toe



Soul Searching

"Unintentional criticism from a parent often results in a consequence quite unexpected."

It was David's first visit to a Buddhist temple. The seven-year-old boy had been waiting for this day, for his mother was finally bringing him here to tell the God of Mercy his own wish. As David entered the gate, he couldn't help but looked up to the heavily decorated building in awe. His impatience from walking under the hot sun was quickly replaced by an overwhelming sense of curiosity and excitement. It was, after all, his first chance to wish for something he really wanted!

After walking past the courtyard, David and his mother finally arrived at the inner temple, where the God of Mercy statue and the incense burner were placed. The incense fragrance filled the air as many people were holding lighted joss sticks and murmuring prayers in front of the burner. David was completely fascinated; all people looked so eager to have God grant them what they had come to ask for!

As David glanced around, the sight of an old lady kneeling down on the ground started to capture his attention. With sluggish movements, the old lady bowed down again and again in front of the statue. Although her wrinkled face showed tiredness and years of hardship, David could almost feel her determination in getting God to help her...

Suddenly, David felt a push from his mother. He withdrew his stare from the lady and received several joss sticks that his mother was passing to him. Without any hesitation, David bowed down his head, made a quick wish and threw the sticks into the incense burner.

"What did you just wish for, David? Did you ask God to give you a lot of toys?" His mother questioned jokingly.

"I just prayed that God will help the old lady who was kneeling down and make her wishes come true." David answered proudly as he was certain that this was the right thing to do.

"How foolish of you to pray for a total stranger! You should really pray for something like getting better grades in school or better health for your family!" His mother's smile turned into a frown as she scolded.

David felt very hurt by his mother's words, but he was determined not to let his mother see the tears in his eyes. He hardened his heart and did not reply.

On the way walking back home, David saw a lot of beggars on the sidewalk. Many of them were crippled. Some were playing simple musical instruments, while others were simply lying on the ground, inadequately clothed. David was initially sympathetic towards them, but this feeling was quickly substituted by the thought, "Why should I feel sorry for these people? Their poverty and sickness have nothing to do with me! Even God didn't help them. Why should I care?"

Hiding his innermost feeling, David straightened his back and put on his most innocent smile, paying no more attention to the beggars. "Mom, can we eat ice-cream? I want to go to Dairy Queen!"



A Girl with Bound Feet by Kiwi

"Foot binding" was the long abandoned Chinese custom that involved wrapping a long strip of cloth tightly around young girls' feet to restrict growth when they were 4 or 5 years of age. Having a pair of small feet used to be regarded as a symbol of beauty and femininity. In addition, with their feet severely deformed, they could only walk with an air of delicacy and vulnerability, invoking sympathy and love in the opposite sex.

While the custom is widely known and publicly criticized, perhaps not too many know about its origin. Legend has it that Emperor Yang of the Sui Dynasty (581-618 AD), notorious for his dictatorship and extravagance, once conceived of an idea of traveling to southern China by the canals. He fantasized having colored ribbons fastened to both sides of his royal ship and ordering young girls to manually haul his ship forward by holding onto these ribbons. This picture soon materialized as royal messengers were sent out to search for beauties of age all over the country.

Yueniang, a village girl living with her father by the canals, was singled out for her charms. Furious and fearful, Yueniang pondered her fate. Suddenly, an idea flashed across her mind. She could feign obedience and seize any chance to kill the emperor! Her momentary delight was soon dimmed by thoughts of possible consequences to her aging father by her action.

Sensing her worries and hesitation, Yueniang's father whetted her a dagger and said, "Daughter, follow your heart. Kill the tyrant. You will be performing the country an honorable deed. Don't worry about me. I am just an old man near the end of his journey." With these words, he slashed his throat with the dagger and fell to the ground.

Yueniang collapsed on his body and wailed till her tears were dry. She buried her father and wrapped the dagger on the sole of her right foot with a strip of white linen. Then, dressed from head

to sole in pure white in mourning of her father, she joined the other girls already waiting by the canal banks. Emperor Yang, seated in his lavishly adorned throne on board, immediately spotted Yueniang in her snow white dress in contrast to the other ladies' flamboyant outfit.

She was summoned to mount the ship. As she approached the emperor, her frail and slender figure swayed gently in the breeze, her feet brushing against the deck like lotus petals dancing on rippled water. Emperor Yang, known for his insatiable taste for beautiful women, was stunned by her beauty and delicacy. Finally she knelt down in front of him with her face lowered.

"How elegantly you walked!" the emperor praised.

"Thank you for the compliment Your Majesty," Yueniang replied. "I believe I am born with a pair of dancers' feet."

"Then I must see them to prove your words," the emperor ordered.

She lowered her face even more. Emperor Yang took it to be a sign of a lady's bashfulness, so he waved his guards away. "Now, young lady, may I see them?" Yueniang, deftly untied the dagger from underneath her right foot, and suddenly attacked him with the agility of a leopard. Emperor Yang bent backward just in time to escape the attack while calling out loud for help. The emperor's loyal bodyguards rushed in, only to see Yueniang leap for rushing waters of the canal like a white shooting star. She was never seen again.

From then on, Emperor Yang would keep a distance from any girl with bound feet. Gradually, families started to wrap their daughters' feet with a strip of cloth to escape Emperor Yang's endless quest for attractive young women. The custom of foot binding gradually became one of aesthetic standards, and passed down for many more generations to come until it was banned in the early twentieth century.



Prospective
Horizons

by Star Trekker

The Secret to Your Success

I don't know about you, but when I was a kid, I had success floating all over in my head. I'd beat my brother while playing any sport; I'd get awards for my writing, and I'd get invited to all the cool parties. But, somewhere along the way, no matter what kind of success I'd have, I'd not think of myself as a success. I'd look long and hard for that which was wrong, than what was good. Was it ego? No, it was puberty.

Now, what the heck does this have to do with success? (Don't even think about going down there, although you're close). It has to do with a natural progressive understanding of oneself and the environment within which we are in. When our bodies change, do strange things for the first time, our entire sense of stability and confidence weakens. How well we're able to adapt to that change influences our future success.

I mean, just think about your comprehensive understanding of 'the birds and the bees.' If you're paranoid and uncertain, you'd tend to be very concerned that with all your efforts in the process of procreation, odds are that you'd get one child. Now, for the woman, I'm sure one child per pregnancy is good enough, but compared to say, rabbits, there seems to be a high level of biological waste with humans. With countless cells, only one makes it.

Now, if we take the perspective for the moment that everything we do is related to sex and if success is difficult with the birds and the bees—and that's natural—it's not a stretch to think that a lot of things in life, which are just as important, can be just as hard, if not harder.

But there's something that we, both male and female, have that can fight off these dark impulses of fear and uncertainty. It's something spoiled kids have in over-abundance, and something conspiracy theorists think we don't have. *It's the ability to choose.*

Why is that so important? Because, inherent in a good choice is a confidence that makes success is possibilities. And that thing is belief; faith; conviction. By making a choice, we're implicitly saying to ourselves that the choice we made is something we can feasibly do. Why is it that some people join sports teams, while most others don't? It's those who don't that don't have the conviction that they can be as good as the guys on the team. And it's that lack of conviction, of faith in oneself that is the killer to success, because that forces the person to not even try. And when that happens, success becomes a thing of one's past.

Now, this 'secret' may be 'the secret' but it doesn't come easy. Any really success-oriented choice, will have a level of self-confidence implicitly. And it's this level of confidence that will determine your

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"In nature, nothing is ever right"

by Carol Lee

What an inspirational statement! Try to remember the last time you took an exam. Just when you were smiling about how easy it was going to be, the final, one-sentence question caught you off guard. You composed yourself, thinking, maybe it was not that bad after all...when out of nowhere, you suddenly noticed a little bracket on the side which enclosed, nothing much, just some numbers and signs (50%). Or, better still, try to remember that one time when you went on your dream date. Everything was going fine except that one last kiss (when you realized you forgot your breath mints).

Some time ago, some friends and I got really philosophical and we started talking about the meaning of life. Last time, I mentioned HAPPINESS as one of the goals in life. To add to that, I think realizing the "wrongness" ("faults," if you insist) of life somehow brings us one step closer to happiness. We come to this life not to learn how to avoid making mistakes but to learn how to deal with them. The following gives a brief analysis.

Once something goes wrong, there are only so many ways we can deal with it. (#1) We can choose to deny the problem altogether. (#2) We can choose to acknowledge that the problem exists, but do nothing to change it. Or, (#3) we can acknowledge that it exists and then attempt to change it in a positive manner. This is an easy choice to make and I think a majority of you will go for the last one. However, please bear in mind that it is easier said than done. Furthermore, the level of difficulty often increases proportionately with time. In other words, the longer you left it unchanged, the more difficult it would be to change it. Maybe you want to ask yourself one more time...and be honest for once.

The process of personal growth involves advancing from #1 and #2 to #3. One important step is to realize the group that you belong to, and then act accordingly. Also, please bear in mind that there is absolutely nothing wrong with doing things wrongly. The worst thing that you could do is to be trapped in an endless trip of guilt. Just remember: in nature, nothing is ever right. Therefore, if everything is going right... something is wrong.



Intro to K-POP/Gayo

by Onion

Intro 2 Sound

Most fans of Chinese pop probably know few songs that were OP's from Korean hits. Canto-pop fans might remember Alan Tam's 1984 classic "Love in a Deep Autumn" (愛在深秋, which was also a tremendous hit in Korea some 15 years ago). Or if you're a fan of Mandarin pop, Tarcy Su's "Duck" (鴨子) originally came out in Korea a couple years ago. So I've decided to spend this issue to write about Korean pop for our non-Korean readers. And another thing for you JPOP fans...it's not KPOP, it's called Gayo.

The Korean music industry took a sharp turn early in the decade with the introduction of heavy doses of Western influences when the record companies discovered they could market rap, R&B, metal etc. Sequentially, Gayo has diversified into many different streams and styles. Presuming many of our readers have never listened to Gayo, I'll select some representative albums of different genres.

Seotaiji & Boys - 4th Album

In the group's four year lifespan, Seo Tai Ji has become the symbol of Korean pop. Not only was Seo the first artist to introduce rap into Korea, but he also brought funk, metal and alternative from the underground into the commercial mainstream. Seo was the pioneer of the industry, the man who set the definition of Korean pop of the 90's. So if you've never listened to Gayo, this is a good place to start. I chose this album because it's a good

sampler for everyone - combining funk, metal, rap, and ballad all into 10 tracks. If you're more into hip hop, get their first or second album instead; or if you prefer alternative sound, Seo Tai Ji's solo album might better suit your taste.

Kim Johan - Solo Album

Former member of R&B group Solid returns with his first solo. The whole CD is pretty much all R&B. You can also check out the old Solid CDs, especially their live album.

Kim Hyun Jung - Debut Album

The title song topped charts all over Korea this summer. The whole album is all dance and funk - especially heavy on Eurobeat and techno. It often sounds like a cross between club cuts from Brit pop and JPOP. If you prefer ballads or soft rock, there's still plenty of choices.

Bijou - Debut Album

If you prefer ballads or soft rock, there's still plenty of choices. A relatively new comer to the pop scene, this female duo has gained much attention with their trademark soft ballads. Their debut album contains mostly ballads, including the immensely popular hit "Love, Love." Also try out Ahn Jae Wook's 1st and 2nd album or Im Chang Jung's 4th.

Where to Buy?

You mean where in Vancouver? Beats me. I heard some Korean stores sell them here, but I think you'll get a much better selection ordering by internet.

Dirty Shoes by Suspended Soul

What kind of clothing is considered fashionable? Usually, you can't go wrong with expensive clothing. Often, stuff that bears a recognizable trademark—whether it be externally visible or hidden behind the neck for attire above the waist—is considered decent. In particular, sales of name-brand athletic shoes are exceptional. Many people nowadays would rather be caught dead than be seen in a pair of shoes that do not display an extensively marketed and widely accepted label.



Squeaky Shoes

Simple days were those when I wore a uniform to school. Sure. If I had my way then, I would have traded in my uniform for more colorful clothes in no time. In thinking back, however, a school uniform was not such a bad idea. At least I didn't have to waste any time guessing what would look good on me.

Besides, wearing a uniform was better than wearing nothing.

Or was it?

In the early days, clothing was not a necessity and human beings were no different from their colleagues in the animal kingdom. It wasn't until we discovered the notions of covering up "private" body parts with leaves and gradually more sophisticated articles of clothing that we started to get into trouble.

For some reason, observing one's personal appearance today has become a crucial exercise in deciphering one's character. Before setting out, I must make sure I dress in appropriate clothes and accessories from head to toe. I cannot risk being misunderstood as possessing

a personality that is not a fair representation of my true self. This means paying extra attention to my attire. Before seeing anyone other than family members or the best of friends, I must perfect my appearance at all cost.

At times, the cost is extraordinary.

Recently, I was in a rush to leave my house for an important appointment, only to realize my deep green suede shoes were dirty to the point of looking brown in many spots. Afraid of communicating a negative impression, I needed to find a quick solution. I looked around to see if I could wear some other shoes. As luck would have it, the only ones in sight provided a disastrous match to the clothes I was wearing. My only recourse was to take out my suede brush and clean my telling shoes at top speed. After I had removed the loose dirt, I completed my urgent chore by spraying the suede with a specially-formulated suede cleaning fluid.

Unfortunately, this cleaning routine turned out to have taken a bit too much time. As I had successfully avoided to show up wearing a pair of embarrassingly dirty shoes, I had also succeeded to embarrass myself by arriving late.

Unless I blame my tardiness on insufficient time management, I can only be dismayed society associates people's abilities and personalities to such unreasonably high expectations of appearance.

How I wish we can be appreciated for our inner beauties regardless of what external appearances we may convey.

If you have been following my column these last few months, you'd think I'm obsessed with guys. You're wrong. I'm obsessed with sex! And what does that have to do with my Boy-toy falling asleep? Well, it really doesn't, except for the fact that he likes to read the newspaper before we have a passionate night of wild, sweaty sex. uh, Scrabble. Yes, that's right. After we play uh, Scrabble, he'll go to sleep (typical man!). Of course, he never throws out the papers either. So I have to pick up old newspapers that are yellow & brittle and stuff 'em into the recycle box.



Brain

Why does newsprint turn ugly yellow anyway? Since I'm the brain (and babe), I'll tell ya: "Yellowing" is actually an oxidation reaction. It is particularly enhanced by exposure of the newsprint to light, heat, water, and air pollutants (eg. sulphur dioxide). Remember last issue when I talked about double bonds absorbing light in sunscreens? There are a

lot of double bonds in the components of paper, too. These double bonds absorb light, but unlike the cumulates in sunscreens, they react and bring about a whole slew of new compounds, many of which are coloured. Hence, the discolouration. If you want to experiment, just use a copy of Perspectives for the test! Leave a page exposed to the sun, soak another in a basin of water, and place a third page by the heater. Come back

grades of paper, where considerable effort has been made to remove lignin, the stability of the final paper is the consequence. This comes at a price, of course. No one wants to pay \$15 for a newspaper that lasts for years without turning yellow.

The yellowing of paper can be reversed. Methods of bleaching and washing have been developed to protect precious, but fading, manuscripts.

These techniques often involve the destruction or modification of the coloured compounds by changing the double bond linkages. Unfortunately, some damages do occur to the mechanical integrity

I Hate My Boyfriend's Yellow Newspapers!

by Sue D. Nim

in a few days compare these pages with a "control" copy. You'll definitely see discolouration in the "subjects."

You might wonder why newsprint seems to yellow faster than writing paper. Newsprint has a higher content of lignin than other types of paper. All paper contains a variety of compounds (cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin, pulp, dyes, glue, etc.), but lignin has the most double bonds and will react most vigorously. With higher

of the pages, and so these processes are very delicate and expensive. Specialized companies do perform these services, but I'd be pretty embarrassed asking them to recover my old Playgirls.

Does any of this apply to toilet paper? Will it turn yellow with exposure to the sun? You can experiment and let me know the result. Just know that toilet paper will turn brown after I use it. Hmmm.

續集

戲言



首先要感謝您。

看過兩期不覺得被騙嗎？

第一期搞了一個古怪的佈局，彷彿真的想說笑不是？第二期卻搖身一變，嚴肅而誇張造作。是看錯專欄嗎？報紙排版的錯誤？貨不對版！是一些九流專欄作者的胡亂拼湊吧？

所以要感謝您。感謝您有看第三期的耐性和勇氣。

上一篇寫得太個人，忽略了配角與觀眾，是談演技談得太興奮（所以悶了）。其實說謊最須要的不是完美的謊話、精湛的演技，而是一個將要被騙的人。（自欺是另一層次的了，現在還未到談的時候！）

大概只有發瘋（或者失戀）的人才會對門匙皮鞋沙發講大話。剩下來的正常人，也就逃不出要迎合觀眾的命運。就如電視台選節目，要顧慮到有的觀眾需要卡通，有的要驚艷懸疑「仁心」加「皇庭」，更有的只要「真情」。不同的是，您沒有調查公司或慣性收視。您僅能用一雙眼一對耳一顆心加上一個腦去知己知彼，去瞭解自己最「不」擅長的，去認清自己在周遭人心中的樣式，以至看出旁人的長短處和最「不」愛看的劇情。

似乎太抽象。就讓我洩氣一回，舉個例，教教男讀者們說個謊吧。（女讀者可別揍我...

假設昨天是閣下舊情人的生日。她嘛，跟您再見亦是好朋友。昨午電話中，她哭訴著說剛跟他分手了，卻又不想獨自渡生日，希望您伴她吃一頓飯。（很像電視劇情節！）您呢，一向是個重感情且會給女人眼淚溶掉的心軟傢伙。（這個較像日本漫畫的男主角）不能拒絕她，卻又怕女朋友發現。最後當然還是要戰戰兢兢的赴會，不能讓她嘗「檸檬宴」！要增加趣味性自然要加些巧合。剛吃完（科款的）飯踏進停車場，您竟與一顆人造衛星（當然是人型那種）碰個正著。她笑吟吟地與您擦身而過。不難估計，不出一小時，您將會被「吹捧」為天下第一負心薄倖之徒。

此刻瞭解最重要：您可能只須將事情和盤托出，如果您的她異乎常人地相信您的話。而萬一您決定隱瞞，應該怎麼說？說是衛星接收出現問題？您那天饑餓？那是您失散多年的學生兄弟？

筆者當然另有一套。不過問題是「篇幅不夠！再寫可要給編輯大人揍我一頓。（編者按：我並無暴力傾向。）我不是故弄玄虛啊！真的是篇幅不夠！（不是越說越糟糕嗎？）還是給您一點提示吧。

下期預告：真人表演



寸心集



有教無類

我在香港讀書的時候，身邊不時有同學被父母送到英國留學，有些更是未到十歲便自行上路。

當然，到英國寄宿的孩子多是來自富裕家庭。在殖民地時代，政府更資助公務員子女的學費和機票。故此，留英學生中也有一大部分是公務員子弟。

父母送孩子到寄宿學校不外乎這幾個原因：訓練孩子的獨立和自律能力；避開香港填鴨式教育，打穩英文根基，以及為進入英國大學鋪路。

對孩子來說，適應自然是最難過的一關，「玩新生」是寄宿學生的一大傳統，留學生和英國本土生皆不能倖免。曾經聽過有個留學生在冬天睡覺時被同房抬入盛滿了冰水的浴缸裏。我在英國旅行的

什麼？招聘廣告不是說「免費培訓」的嗎？我立時露出可憐兮兮的表情，向她解釋一個經過亞洲金融風暴蹂躪後的清貧大學畢業生，實在難以負擔二千元的學費。她皺了皺眉，隨即推介另一個收費僅五百元的講座。我苦笑搖頭，站起來告辭。

走到電梯大堂，忍不住向看更打聽打聽。他壓低聲音對我說：「那間公司上個月才開張，近日卻湧來大批學生求職呢！」我謝過他，轉身離開，依稀聽見他喃喃自語：「年輕人……提防受騙啊……」

步出大廈，白花的陽光叫我猛然醒覺：對了！那些致謝狀一律以「貴公司」製作的光碟實素一流之類句子作為開首，但不知何解，全都印漏了一個「公」字，使「貴公司」變成「貴司」。看來，這間公司在短短一個月內，要製作的可不止光碟那麼簡單呢！



津津樂道

沒有根基的屋 野望

香港這片草地越來越黃，綠茵下原來更是千瘡百孔，請看看下列數據：據聯合國及世銀報告顯示，一九九六年，香港的堅尼系數為零點五八，比菲律賓和馬來西亞還高香港的教育經費只佔本地生產總值百分之二點九，比印度的百分之四點三更低成人文盲率則達百分之八。註：堅尼系數乃用作計算一個地區貧富懸殊的情況。數字愈接近一，表示貧富不均的情況愈嚴重。）

香港在人均生產總值全球排行第四的背後，社會平等及教育的狀況竟比發展中國家更糟。在這樣的背景下，董特首在施政報告中提及，港府將動用五十億元設立「創新及技術基金」，資助科研發展，就正如聖經比喻中建屋在沒有根基的地上，水一沖隨即倒塌了。

就是要知道學術研究，不僅是一項長時間的投資，整體社會文化的配合、人材的培訓更是不可或缺。香港人為本年諾貝爾物理學獎得主之一崔琦曾在培正中學就讀而沾沾自喜之餘，並不知道他在擁有頂頂大名的費米實驗室、的芝加哥大學取得博士學位，及在愛因斯坦曾任教的普林斯德大學的環境下，才能發揮其學術天份。港人根本不明白，要有最初純以好奇心出發的基礎研究，才有日後實用科技的發展。香港所有的，大部份只是未待大學入學資格而修讀物理系的學生。

閑話香港人留學英國

June Wong

時候，在電視看見一個英國小男孩在如廁時被同學用繩索反鎖廁門。想向老師告狀？並非不可，只是後果更加不堪設想罷了。

雖則如此，有部份學成歸家的學生都很懷念寄宿生活，他們覺得這是成長期一個很寶貴的體驗。不過，踏入九十年代，移民潮令更多父母選擇澳洲、加拿大等國家為留學地點，再加上英國物價騰貴，留學英國的人顯然比以前減少了。

但香港家長對英式學校似乎仍然情有獨鍾，最近，大溫各校因為開設傳統學校問題爭論不休，支持開校的以香港移民居多，他們期望校方規定學生穿著校服，執行紀律和給予評級，這不難使人想起英國的教育模式吧！

求職奇遇記

李臻文

今天，我到一間光碟製作公司應徵兼職配音員。試音過後，我坐在會客室游目四顧，看見牆上掛滿客戶的致謝狀。看著看著，忽然感到有點不對勁，到底有什麼不對勁呢？就在此時，我被經理召見了。

「李先生，我們的導師聽過你的錄音帶，覺得你聲線不錯，是個可造之材……」這話真動聽，叫人有點飄飄然。「不過，」她接著說：「由於你稍欠經驗，我們打算安排你接受特別培訓。課程為期四堂，公司會支付首堂學費，餘下三堂你要自掏腰包，合共港幣二千元。」

什麼？招聘廣告不是說「免費培訓」的嗎？我立時露出可憐兮兮的表情，向她解釋一個經過亞洲金融風暴蹂躪後的清貧大學畢業生，實在難以負擔二千元的學費。她皺了皺眉，隨即推介另一個收費僅五百元的講座。我苦笑搖頭，站起來告辭。

走到電梯大堂，忍不住向看更打聽打聽。他壓低聲音對我說：「那間公司上個月才開張，近日卻湧來大批學生求職呢！」我謝過他，轉身離開，依稀聽見他喃喃自語：「年輕人……提防受騙啊……」



津津樂道

一些傷盡我心的說話

試問世上有何種武器，最具殺傷力，而最合乎成本效益，可不費吹灰之力，便能傷人於無形？

常聽人道，「相由心生」。其實，不單止人的長相會被思想所影響，言談亦然。錯講的說話，小則擾人心緒並惹人憎厭，大則令人自尊受創，且有誤人誤己之嫌。

此話言重？非也、非也。身處這個奉行表現自我，個人主義膨脹的年代，好像如能言善辯，辭鋒銳利，把聽者「窒」至無言以對的話，便是玲瓏剔透，靈巧過人。相信大家都會成為此等刻薄言辭之犧牲品吧！



情潔

所謂講者無心，聽者有意。若於友儕嬉笑當中被人失言開罪，也只怪口爽者一時得意忘形，偶然為者以平情有可原。罪不怨者可數善於運用語言為武器之道行高深者，此種人說話含意無幾兩可，表面用詞溫和隱晦，內裏的冷嘲熱諷卻只可以心領神會。常有一兩個此類人物環繞週遭嗎？那可是要慶祝了！你一定有其過人之處，惹人嫉妒。

人越成長，越學懂聽別人話裏的含意，亦越懂得有意無意間以話傷人。身為唯一懂以說話溝通的高智

胡思亂想

藍仁

交通燈正亮起紅燈，男人把車停在行人線前，游目四顧。忽然街角處鑽出一妙齡少女，蹣跚獨行。男人的目光旋即被少女吸引，目光隨著少女遊走。

不知道這少女正趕往何處？約了男朋友嗎？

只見那少女忽然停下腳步，在手袋中取出小鏡子，細心打扮。

她一定是要趕赴約會，否則為何要如此著意修飾？

少女嘴角一牽，好像很滿意自己這身打扮。

唔……那男的不知道是何模樣？高大英俊？抑或大方得體呢？

瞧她姿色不俗，那男的也該不錯吧？

男人忽發奇想，不知道和少女談戀愛的感覺不知道會如何呢？

不知道吻她的感覺又會如何呢？

跟這少女交往、結婚、生兒育女，然後感情轉淡，男人出去尋找新的刺激……或許二人會愛到轟轟烈烈，直至天荒地老……又或許二人會愛恨交纏，互相折磨到老……

正當男人想得高興之時，少女驀然回首，目光與男人接觸。

男人慌忙扮作若無其事，望向前方。

少女嫣然一笑，心道：「唉！男人總是這樣無膽！呀！得趕快啦！爸爸一定急死啦！」然後繼續輕快地趕赴約會。

男人目送少女走遠，心想：「這樣快要分手？我們還未拖過手呢！」

紅燈轉綠，男人繼續驅車上路。



不解溫柔

偏心

雨陽

人類的心臟都是偏向身體的一邊的，因此人都是偏心的嗎？

你可曾覺得，父母總是疼小弟弟比自己多一點點？

你可有發覺這糕店老媽給別人的蛋糕總是比自己的大一點點？

你可記得你喜歡的那位朋友甲總是喜歡朋友乙比自己多一點點？

類似的事，也許每日每一刻都在你身邊發生著，你可曾為這些事氣忿嗎？

我小時候最惱的便是偏心的老師。哼，為什麼總不讓我做班長？為什麼總不給我的作文高分數？為什麼總不在我成績單中評語一欄手下留情？

可是，人愈長大，我愈漸明白偏心乃人之常情。我真是有足夠的責任感當班長嗎？我的文章真是出色得值得高分嗎？以我的品行，我真能當好評無愧？假如我真是值得的話，那不是我的錯。假如不是我錯的話，我也只能做好本份，接受現實。事往往難如心所願，但我知道沒有耕耘，就永遠不可能有收穫。

今日身為助教的我，卻也終於明白老師當日為何「偏心」那些勤奮好學而有禮的同學。嗨，請放心，我的學生們，我會努力將「偏心」限於感受，而不會付諸行動。已所不欲，勿施於人。



感情用事



心燈

火柴兒

商學子

一本本亮新的書，一個個造型略改，卻又似曾相識的身影，再度活絡了安格斯大樓，我們的、商學子的、久違了四個月的「辦公大樓」。

心情是嶄新的，愉悅的；像是回到了校園裡的那個窩，看到熟悉的同窗好友、教室走廊、讓人躲睡的大衛連圖書館。腳步為接著緊接忙碌的學校生活，反而輕快起來。

這是一個充滿「商學子」的地方：有人穿著高跟、擺動身段，精神伶俐；有人扛著大布包、穿著大布鞋，舒服灑脫。在這些汲汲於財經、營銷、會計、世界匯率、國際趨勢的年青人，有亮晶晶的眸光，也有倦怠、呆滯的眼神；有夢、有理想，亦有煩惱、發呆的時候。商學子就是這麼一群人。

哈！這一群人。我挺愛他們呢！身為商學子，雖然我不討厭金錢，也還不至每晚鑽營生財之道。我來這兒，學這地球是怎麼轉的，就如每個卑詩學子一般；我來這兒，學人與人之間的切磋、激勵、關心、包容，是如何穿引這個大千世界。我的學習心情是有點頑皮、新鮮、好奇的。對我來說，學習就是這麼一回事。

商學子在安格斯樓裡辯論、打睡、趕報告、吃零食……十年後，這群商學子又在那兒呢？藍藍的天空在頭上；寬闊的未來縮影在心底，輕笑。

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