



PROPAGANDA
PROPAGANDA
PROPAGANDA
PROPAGANDA
PROPAGANDA
PROPAGANDA
PROPAGANDA
PROPAGANDA

sponsored by

星島日報 SING TAO DAILY



隨心所至 網上天地任縱橫！



CABLE & WIRELESS
HKT
香港電訊

香港電訊「網上行加拿大」突破地域時空！

- 無限量上網
- 附送電子郵箱兩個
- 個人網頁空間 10 MB
- 英、國、粵語支援熱線
- 特別提供「本地通」上網服務，無論您身在多倫多、溫哥華或卡加里均可用當地電話線上網，而不需另外繳付長途電話費用。
- V.90 56K 接駁

香港電訊	每月月費	一年計劃*
直撥長途電話用戶	\$15.95	\$13.30
非直撥長途電話用戶	\$19.95	\$16.60

* 登記「一年計劃」，需預繳全年費用。

網上行加拿大 ● netvigatorCanada

請即登記：
(604) 668-9823 或
1-888-668-9898
www.cwhkt.com

The Paradox of Propaganda?

By Desmond Loo, English Editor

What is propaganda?

Imagine walking inside the Student Union Building at lunchtime during the Clubs Days. You should notice numerous posters of different clubs, with a variety of colors and slogans, on every notice board. It seems to me that they are competing for space to remind students of the supposedly exciting icebreakers, events and benefits the clubs will offer to their members. Then there are these crews of students, differentiated by the designs of their T-shirts, standing in your way in all the doorways and urging you to join their clubs. What's the overall effect? Students sign up and pay their cash. Some lucky ones get to play the widely known game, *Dance Dance Revolution*.

Think about the ads and their catchy pictures and words when you flip over the pages of any newspaper or magazine. Have you noticed that the ads of large, well-known companies always occupy the front pages or some space which most easily catch the readers' attention? Why do these ads cost more than the others? I can't see any difference in the quality of the papers on which they are printed. How about those delicately crafted, story-based TV commercials at prime time? Not to mention the Michael Jordan, heroically portrayed ads at the breaks of an NBA game. Why are these giant companies willing to invest millions of dollars in these commercials? And I would assume web surfers to be tired of closing tens of browser windows (ads again) before they can browse a popular website. There is simply one reason for this – a propagandized effect for creating a "talk of the town".

However, every issue can be viewed from a positive or negative perspective. Don't forget the heart-rending pictures of the victims of the earthquakes in Taiwan and in Turkey, which caught your attention on the TV or the newspaper. Without these sources of media, could we visualize the fearful conditions in the earthquake scenes or feel the difficult times that the families of the victims are going through? By the same token, if we were not told about the dilapidated boats that carried the Chinese refugees to British Columbia, would we sympathize with them to the same degree and deem that heavier punishments of smugglers are necessary? On the other hand, if it were not because of propaganda, we would not be aware of the seriousness of the Y2K problem.

For some people, the growing dominance of propaganda in society is no different from manipulating the consciousness of humans and brainwashing our minds with the perception of business companies, the government and our materialistic society. However, as already mentioned, propaganda could also be a benefactor because it arouses our concern over certain societal issues that we might not be otherwise aware of. Thus, rather than blaming propaganda to be a destructive force in our world, our main focus should be on our own interpretation of the information that comes past us in everyday life. With our own perception and standpoint in mind, we should be conscious of evaluating a piece of information by looking at it from different perspectives. This is what we call independent thinking which would help us make a wise decision that is beneficial to both society and ourselves.

Watch out.

宣傳泛濫？

張焯欣 中文編輯

一對俊男美女在電視螢幕出現，兩人帶著憂鬱但纏綿的眼神相互注視。過了不久，這對璧人互相擁吻。男主角以他低沉帶磁性的聲線說了廣告中唯一的對白：「她是我的！」廣告末某香水品牌的商標佔據了整個畫面。可是，這對俊男美女的感情故事跟香水有什麼關係呢？美國一統計顯示，廣告內如以動物、嬰兒、或兩性關係為主題均比以卡通人物或歷史人物的成效為高。可是，廣告的主角跟產品質素又有什麼關係呢？

某快餐連鎖店推出買套餐換毛公仔計劃，居然成了新聞頭條。因為很多人不上學、不上班去排隊，為的是幾隻只值數十元的毛公仔，更有人為此大打出手。毛公仔肚內的又不是寶物，難道毛公仔的名氣就已經使人吃得飽、穿得暖？

回看第二次世界大戰，戰場上血流成河，死傷甚多。很多死者本是年青力壯，可以至少活過半百。奇怪的是，出征時他們都沒有恐懼，只有一個想法：「必勝！支持我國最高統治者的命令。我們是最優等的民族！」甚至連他們的家人也不擔心，揮動旗幟，就像已凱旋歸來一樣。這是從哪裡來的勇氣？

各種神奇力量卻原來只是源於宣傳，一個在科學角度中毫無能量的概念。

宣傳-含有宣揚廣播使大眾明瞭的意思。這個本來平凡的詞匯在歷代的傳媒影響下，已變得不再平凡。它的英文字 (Propaganda) 更意味著煽動情緒、誇大事實、甚至欺騙公眾來達到宣傳者的目的。你又可有留意，各類的宣傳活動是怎樣無孔不入地滲入我們生活的每一個細節，無形間控制了我們每一個細胞呢？

人類自稱為「萬物之靈」，擁有高度的智慧。可是，大部份人都被宣傳-這個抽象的概念支配了一生。歸根究底，還都因為這群「萬物之靈」並沒有獨立分析的能力，人云亦云。直到現在，人們自以為生活在一個自由、民主的空間，可是倒頭來只是被政治家和大商家控制了一生還懵然不知。這跟以前獨裁專制時代有何分別？只顯得獨裁者的技巧高明了罷！這樣是可悲，還是可笑？

九月二十一日的寶島

酣睡之端，惡夢之始。

二千島民，頓化亡魂。

地斷了，房子塌了；血乾了，淚亦乾了。

唯汗水不注地流...

靜聽瓦礫下一絲柔弱而頑強的氣息。

* * * *

台灣大地震，釀成的死傷、心靈之創，彼岸的你很難感受的。

但是，我們可用捐款形式，向災民表示關懷及支持。

善款可交往：

匯豐銀行：戶號 020-237782-080

CTC Bank of Canada：戶號 8706

Sept, 21: A nightmare

An Earthquake hit

Taiwan's nerves ---

Houses crashed

families were split between Heaven & Earth

Roads ripped

the Core of many hearts was shocked and saddened

Silence followed by light

To express your condolences and support to the earthquake victims, you can send your donations to:

Hong Kong Bank: account # 020 - 237782 - 080

CTC Bank of Canada: account # 8706



propaganda

[宣傳]

society | 事事關心

- 6 跟 john cruickshank 推推手
- 7 the question of news

campus | 大學之道

- 8 is our educational system propagandized?
- 9 宣傳教育

entertainment | 遊戲人間

- 12 beyond the silver screen
- 13 宣傳拉鋸戰

maple | 楓彩

- 14 citizen of the world exhibit celebrates the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the universal declaration of human rights
- 14 國際人權公約五十週年慶祝展覽

free style | 自由專線

- 15 keeping watch

writer's corner | 豆腐格子

- 16 the art of poetry
- 16 豆腐格子對聯

17 columns | 專欄

[perspectives]

Editor-in-Chief

Dora Tsang

Editors (Chinese)

Joyce Cheung | Vickie Yue

Editors (English)

Richard Chu | Desmond Loo

Rebbecca (Chinese)

Lincoln Cheung | Fiona Scott | Paul Yang

Van Wai

Rebecca (English)

Andrew Fung | Cindy Ho

Carol Pao

Translation

Sharon Chan | David Shaw | Alan Ogg McPhee

Design | Layout | Kim Yee | Yvonne

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation

Translation



Propaganda is any widespread promotion of ideas which tend to influence the public's opinions. It is everywhere around us – from newspapers, magazines, radio, TV to the Internet. It also affects all levels in society – from the public's awareness of certain issues to the laws of which the governments implement in their countries. Since there is not any chance that we can avoid propaganda, the process of evaluating the information we receive will be a critical issue. Thus, we will now let you investigate propaganda from three different perspectives – the news business, education and the movie industry. Afterwards, the decision is up to you.

在童話世界中，國王以及他的人民都認為國王的新衣是一件最華麗的衣裳，雖則他們誰都沒見過。他們相信，只不過是因為大家都在互相信服對方，彼此宣傳著一些未經思考的傳聞。

現實世界中的人也不遑多讓，張開口便吞下凶湧而來的資訊意念。現實中的小孩是否有足夠的力量去抗衡「國王新衣」這一類美麗的誤會及宣傳呢？



跟 John Cruickshank 推推手

在獨裁政府的控制下，報紙往往淪為政府的喉舌；而在注重新聞自由的加拿大，上述的情況當然不存在。然而，報紙的內容及報導新聞的手法卻難免受記者和編輯主觀的影響，而引?讀者對某事件產生了偏見。那麼報業對此有何對策呢？就這個問題，今期我們訪問了太陽報（The Vancouver Sun）的總編輯 John Cruickshank 先生。（按：礙於篇幅，只能僅摘錄訪問的重要部份。）

訪問者簡介：

John Cruickshank，擔任溫哥華主要報紙，《太陽報》的總編輯已四年。於1977年以記者身份投入報界，先後於多所馳名加拿大的報社工作，於加入太陽報之前在環球郵報工作長達十五年。

訪問

問：《太陽報》涵蓋的內容極為寬廣，請問各版面當中的報導是如何分配的？

答：每一版面都有其屬的部門，而各部門則依其特性來分配工作，例如地區新聞。除了地區性的新聞稿（News Release）之外，記者更可以旁聽各部門的會議。記者之間也有互相分享消息的組織，再以國際新聞為例，《太陽報》也有向外國的新聞單位購買新聞的使用權。

問：頭版的新聞是否有固定的選擇標準？

答：頭版新聞因為其時間性，處理的方式和其他版面不大相同。為了提供讀者最新的消息，頭版常在截稿的前一刻由各名記者與編輯合力完成的，其長度更會受到其他頭條的影響。頭條新聞並沒有成文的選擇標準，然而卻須具備兩項特質：反映事件的主題及吸引最多的讀者。（“Reflect the major theme” and “get as many people to read it”）

問：就您個人的觀點而言，《太陽報》對其讀者有甚麼的責任？

答：報紙應該是一個讓讀者交流及討論的論壇。（“A place that should function as a forum to discuss”）報紙對讀者的責任應包括鼓勵大眾對社會事物加以討論及探索社會事物的真象。

問：社論欄（editorial）中的文章及漫畫是如何選定的？

答：加拿大的報業傳統把社論歸算為整個報社的立場，並由報社對社論的內容負上法律的責任，漫畫亦然。這跟法式的報業傳統不同：作者需為其社論署名，而社論並不代表報社的立場。

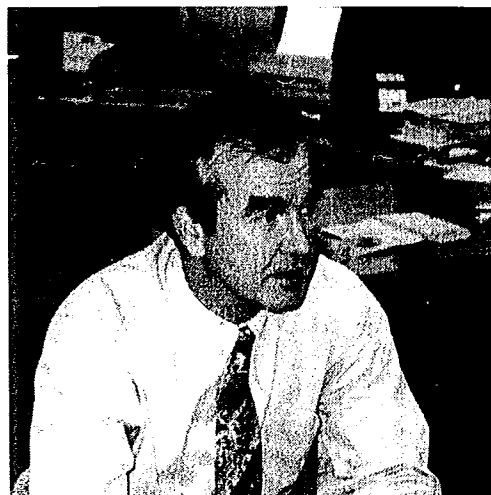
社論的選擇主要是看事件對讀者的重要性以及是否能引起讀者閱讀的興趣。報紙時常因為報導不夠中肯而受學術界的批評。其實，報紙應該是反應社會事件的公器。但在商業世界中，報紙仍是眾多商品之一，有時為了銷量，則可能會偏重於報導某一類的新聞。為了彌補報導可能偏向的缺失，《太陽報》另外設有專欄及論壇（forum）供專欄作家及讀者發表對事件的看法。

問：對於報導涵蓋至作者不熟悉的領域如最新科技或其他族裔的文化時，是否有查證的措施？

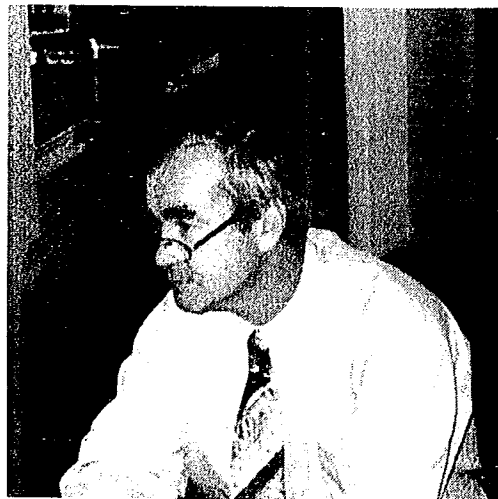
答：新聞報導是為了帶領讀者邁向未知的領域（“go out to area so ignorance”）探險，所以必有風險。《太陽報》所載的並不是「過去式」的歷史，而是「現在進行式的」新聞。另外，頭條新聞因在截稿前的最後一刻才定稿，難免於查實方面有所疏漏。然而，報社不能為錯誤所困，更應為了錯誤而更加努力。當然，報社是需要為錯誤負責的。

後記：

「聽君一席話，勝讀十年書。」筆者對於 John Cruickshank 這位報業界的前輩十分欽佩，尤其是其出神入化的太極段數。然而，《太陽報》到底有沒有直接或間接地引導讀者對某事件的看法，或者有沒有嘗試去避免引導讀者？還是由讀者自行去判斷，因筆者並不想作一次 Propaganda 的示範。



《太陽報》所載的並不是「過去式」的歷史，而是「現在進行式的」新聞。



在商業世界中，報紙仍是眾多商品中之一，有時為了銷量，則可能會偏重於報導某一類的新聞。

The Question of News

Thinking back to the days of World War I and II, propaganda was broadly used by the military to advertise war. Young recruits for the army thought it a proud and wonderful thing to fight a war for their country, for the world and the benefit of its welfare. Soon enough, the same spirited men who enlisted in the army found themselves desiring to go home instead of struggling on the battleground. In their minds, the once thought truth about war had become the past; the reality of the battle had begun no matter what they desired.

Truth is easy to define, but it is hard to report. News today cannot be thought of as the whole truth. News is merely a report of what is known to us at a particular time of the incident being discussed. There is much criticism aimed at various groups of media for false reporting, or misinterpreting pieces of news.

As citizens of our country, we are obliged to know the truth; but are we always informed of the truth? In Vancouver, the two most prominent newspapers are *The Province* and *The Vancouver Sun*. Do they often misinterpret news? Is what printed made to look as if it is fact? Are any news reports one-sided so that the public can be brainwashed? Mr. John Cruickshank of *The Vancouver Sun* delivered the answers to these questions.

John Cruickshank

One can imagine that the Editor-in-chief for a local city newspaper must have a fancy background. Determination towards the field of journalism is a must. In fact, Mr. John Cruickshank told the same story, minus all the fireworks that most people think of.

After graduating with a General Arts degree from Kingston, Ontario, John Cruickshank had no idea what his occupation would be. He described himself as being similar to most graduates nowadays. There were no specific directions to head to and it was an undefined path as to where he would go next. Not surprisingly, shortly after his university career, John Cruickshank went into the field of journalism. It was this choice that brought him to be the Managing director for *The Globe and Mail* for fifteen years, and the Editor-in-chief for *The Vancouver Sun* for four years. Amongst these well deserved positions, John Cruickshank has also been a reporter since 1977 and during his years of endless effort in earning his present title, he has also worked for a local newspaper in Kingston and for *The Gazette* in Montreal. John Cruickshank described the newspaper business as a fascinating experience. He also viewed it as an ongoing chance for continuous education in how to pursue public goals, and to provide a need for society and the cultural public.

The Vancouver Sun

Ranging from a group of 165-170 people working each day, *The Vancouver Sun* thrives to deliver the most accurate news of the day to its readers. How? For articles written on the current actions of political parties, educational boards, art galleries, real estate and so on, the reporters either have inside sources, or are members of these fields so that they can comment on the issues.

This, however, does not guarantee that confidential information is being presented to the public. What this really means is that they provide the information that is most beneficial to the public. There is also a wired network system to provide *The Vancouver Sun* with enough global information to be printed. Besides these sources, there are some people within the community to keep the newspaper informed of various news items. The questions lie in what news is printed, and what is not. John Cruickshank admitted that this has been one of the tougher tasks in the newspaper business. "It is a business." However bad this might sound, it is the truth. The goal of a newspaper is to deliver news, and at the same time, to attract readers. If no readers are attracted, then printing news will be impossible. In spite of this, *The Vancouver Sun's* team put a lot of effort to provide the 'necessary' news for its readers. John Cruickshank and his team of editors meet twice a day to discuss what news should be used and what should be discarded. The sole purpose of these meetings is to fulfill a responsibility to provide what is needed for the public to know.

"It is the state of our knowledge at the time."

Handling the Truth

Headlines are the most important aspect of a daily newspaper. They are what mainly attract people to buy it. We may think that this is the page that takes the most time to produce. In fact, the headlines, and the more important pages and articles in *The Vancouver Sun* are done last. This enhances the quality and accuracy of current news. The headlines are always made in a rush and in addition, there is a lot of information to handle in very little time. There is no time for debate while the paper is being put together. John Cruickshank described that a debate on the importance of headline news is virtually impossible because of the information to be handled and the time they have to handle it. In

the last steps of the production process, one would think that the headline titles would be all written by reporters and ready to be printed after they are edited. This is also untrue. The reporters do not write the headlines; instead, people other than the reporters fulfill this responsibility. Sure enough, most headlines attract enough readers so that *The Vancouver Sun* is still in business; but John Cruickshank views the paper in a perspective not often realized by other people. The newspaper is a forum to discuss events and issues in the community. Their job is to seek the truth and its significance.

Seeking the truth is not an easy task; thus, John Cruickshank could not rule out the possibilities of misreporting an event or news. It is not in *The Vancouver Sun's* best interest to spread false news but it is their job to report the truth. Described by John Cruickshank, in the case of the more important news, there is no time for debate, "It is the state of our knowledge at that time." Meaning that what they printed on the newspaper is what they knew as the truth at that particular time. If a different truth prevails at a later time, then that truth will be pursued and so forth. But what is the truth? The truth is not always completely known. The truth is also news.

Sometimes, sources originate from experts. But these experts might have their own views, and these might turn out to be too subjective but are still trusted at that time. This is another example of a flaw in the news business. John Cruickshank said that *The Vancouver Sun* is taking its risks in facing charges and criticism on this issue but this is what they have to accept. Referring to the editorial pages of the newspaper, a balance of views is attempted but not always present. The editorials are the voice of the newspaper. There is another page called the Open Forum where the public can write in opposition to the editorials. Sometimes there will be enough balance, but at other times it may not be present at all. John Cruickshank explained that *The Vancouver Sun* is obligated to sell what is crucial to the public; but at the same time, it needs to enjoy the freedom that it has, like any other product in the city. "The Vancouver Sun is a product of a private company."

When asked about *The Vancouver Sun's* ability to report unfamiliar topics related to technology or culture based items, John Cruickshank made an important statement. They cannot be crippled by mistakes. It is the risk that they have to take and once again, what they present is what is known at that particular time. There are always sources to help clarify and correct the mistakes but *The Vancouver Sun*, like any other newspaper, is just as vulnerable to untrue and misreported information. John Cruickshank said that they have to learn to improve from mistakes so that they will not be crippled again. Striving to do their best is in their best welfare.

News derived from Emotions?

On June 4th this year, a substantial Chinese population across the world once again expressed their anger about the massacre at Tiananmen Square in China in 1989. There is no doubt that some Chinese reporters might be affected and their reports of the incident would also be biased as a result. John Cruickshank's opinion on such an issue is that it is neither fair nor appropriate to have emotions get in the way when delivering news to the public. There are always dark paths in seeking the truth and in reporting them, but the more emotional a path is, the harder it will become. Likewise, it is also unfair for the public to criticize reporters as being 'passers-by' toward incidents because even though they may get emotionally involved, their job is to present unbiased and true reports.

Propaganda?

Rumors of *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province* working together lead to a serious concern that the news in these papers might be chosen for the benefit of the company rather than for the public. John Cruickshank admitted that both newspapers share the same equipment and wire systems. However, since the two papers are in competition, they do not share the same reporters or inside sources.

The Hollinger buying of shares from Southam Press in 1996 did not lead to any unemployment nor has it affected *The Vancouver Sun's* system of operations. Inversely, the number of reporters has expanded and \$175 million has been invested into new equipment for *The Vancouver Sun* ever since. The owners of the company believe in a more influential local newspaper which reflects the views and experiences of its readers.



Is Our Educational System Propagandized?

What does education have to do with propaganda? Before we look into its importance and the relationship between them, we should first define propaganda. As cited in Webster's dictionary, propaganda is "any widespread promotion of particular ideas, doctrines, or teachings". For example, advertisements that people see during a government election campaign are used to persuade them to vote for a specific candidate. This form of advertisement is propaganda. Given the definition and the example, we can find traces of how education may be related to propaganda, or perhaps on the extreme side, education is propaganda. One idea to support such a hypothesis is by asking where we learn or obtain our knowledge, or from whom we learn it. The information and knowledge that we often perceive as ideas and teachings, which are promoted by another person or group of people, are unlikely to be without any bias or subjectivity. Thus, education may very well fit into the definition of propaganda discussed early on. The next step for us, students, who are "supposedly" always acquiring, learning and informing ourselves of knowledge and events is to question and discuss whether this controversial issue of a "good education" is something we want to pursue or not.

"One socializes through education, one learns values through education and education is the way that a culture transmits values to those being educated."

Professor Susan Butt, who obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, has been trained as a social psychologist, personality theorist and clinical psychologist. She is going into her 33rd year of teaching at UBC for the Department of Psychology. She sees education as one of the many means of "socialization" between people. "One socializes through education, one learns values through education and education is the way that a culture transmits values to those being educated." Education by nature, as she commented, can be classified into two forms of propaganda. "Any process of education can be used good or ill, so on one hand you will have what I call the life sustaining system and on the other, a life defeating system."

Professor Butt explained that a life defeating system, on the ill side, limits, suppresses or directs the way that one should think. For instance, a form of "bad" or "negative" propaganda will be a form of education that is used for political purposes, with the government's extensive control over the content and materials being taught to students. However, education that is on the good side, despite the objectivity of information presented, will become a life sustaining system when used to stimulate critical thinking and competence in students. Hence, we have a "good" form of propaganda. "We can't help transmit values in an entirely unbiased form, but if we are using education to encourage perspective thinking and the acquisition of knowledge, then that is life sustaining." She explained in further detail. "There is a famous quotation: 'knowledge that shall make you free is the knowledge that we aim for.'"

When asked whether the education system at UBC advocates a life sustaining system or not, Susan replied that students are nurtured with a "free mind" and the system is still struggling from the ancient, indoctrinated way of teaching. She gave the following comments. "I think yes, or at least most people I know will agree that we are trying to encourage critical thinking in the students, but there are some questions that exist in all systems and institutions around the world. If a medical student is trained to do nothing but to administer chemicals to the population, they very well may become the toxic of a life defeating system. If people get into military or chemical research that adds to pollution, then they same

will become part of that same defeating system. In environmentalism, however, a person can [become] life sustaining. But it depends on how they apply the knowledge they learn, that is, whether the knowledge is used to make money or exploit other people; or knowledge is used to try to correct a world that has so many problems."

One of the elements that make education a form of propaganda is the way that the knowledge is being passed on, in other words, the teaching method. How a teacher or professor presents his or her content could have a great influence on what the students absorb; are they being objective and unbiased when they teach? Susan put forward her argument that, "if I pass information to a student and I'm not indoctrinating them with it, then I am just saying here are the studies and then it is the individual student who has to make a decision whether to take the information [positively or negatively]. Some people will make wrong decisions. But if I am encouraging competence in the students and inviting them to think and to apply the knowledge for the betterment of themselves and of others, then I would say I am on the life sustaining side."

From the interview with Professor Susan Butt, we have a view from a teacher presenting the conflicts and problems that she encountered or saw in this issue of propaganda. But what about the students' reactions to whether or not education is propaganda?

Are students attaining a "good" education and understanding the material that they learn in school? According to a survey of 300 UBC students, one can see that critical thinking is not promoted; university seems to influence a student's train of thoughts in areas of uncertainty. Has anyone thought about whether the things we learn are right or wrong? As a third year student quoted, "history schools have always taught children what they learned was right without encouraging them to express their opinions; for example, people used to think that the world was flat." Another student responded, "schools are only teaching one perspective, not all points of view."

One of the most common and interesting responses that students gave regarding education and propaganda is that they "never thought about it."

Isn't education supposed to be a way to fulfill a human's mind or thinking and a way in which society communicates? Is education necessary for society to function effectively? Without education, we cannot sustain our life and hence our society will collapse. In other words, how could we retain our freedom of thoughts when what we learn contain subjective points of view from other people? "What is often taught is actually subjective, such as that homosexuality is normal. Schools have then become places to propagandize that homosexuality is right," a fourth year student argued. One of the most common and interesting responses that students gave regarding education and propaganda is that they "never thought about it." What does this tell us about the promotion of critical thinking in our educational system?

In giving some opinions from a professor and students, it is not in our interest to draw a conclusion; rather, we hope to raise some concerns that need to be thought about and discussed. Since biases and subjectivity are unavoidable in human beings, these elements can be reduced through the promotion of perceptive thinking. We hope that our education system, with gradual improvements, will succeed one day.

宣傳教育

今期《瞻》的主題——「宣傳」，著實令我們一眾編委人員傷了不少腦筋。在這「校園」一欄，我們最終決定訪問一位心理學教授對教育與宣傳的看法，同時我們也訪問了三十二位卑大學生作了一個問卷調查，以了解他們的意見。

我們訪問的對象，Dr. Susan Butt，在卑詩大學已任教了三十二年之久。她在芝加哥大學取得博士學位，專修社會心理學、個性理論和臨床心理學。她現在於卑詩大學任職社會心理學教授。

學習 -- 擊敗還是持續？

我們一開首直截了當的就問了 Dr. Butt 對教育跟宣傳之間的關係。她首先對教育作了以下的評價：「在社會心理學內，我們用『聯誼』這個詞語來伸延教育的意義。一個人是從教育交流中學習不同的價值觀念。」她又進一步說教育分為兩種：一種是「生命持續系統」，另一種是「生命擊敗系統」。如果教育是用作政治宣傳、抑壓學生的思考、或是令到學生只能循單方面的方向去思考，那就是「生命擊敗系統」的教育。相反，若教育是用來鼓勵學生多作判斷性的思考、提高學生的能力、和推動學生積極吸取各方面的知識，那麼這就是「生命持續系統」的教育。總括來說，Dr. Butt 認為教育可以作為宣傳之用，只是在乎怎樣去運用。

「如果兩面理論中我對某一面有偏見的話，我會直接的告訴學生，然後任由他們作決定。」

那 Dr. Butt 又怎樣在講義中推動學生去思考呢？她認為講義中的客觀性非常重要。「如果兩面理論中我對某一面有偏見的話，我會直接的告訴學生，然後任由他們作決定。」

她繼而舉了一個例子來說明她怎樣知道自己教學時沒有只灌輸單方面的思想給學生。她說在健康心理學有很多研究和發展的工作。譬如說要擁有健康的生活，我們就得要遵循一些規則。而她就將從那些研究得出來的事實客觀地告訴學生，例如要多運動，要飲食健康等等，然後讓學生們利用這些資料自己去判斷對錯。

教授眼中的好教授

跟著我們又問 Dr. Butt 作為一個好教授該具備什麼特質。她說要經驗豐富，並對過去和現在的文學有獨到的見解，要有良好的判斷力，最後就是要誠心為學生著想，把學生的發展放在自己的教學目標上。她又補充了一句：「我相信學生還可以從『難纏』的教授身上學到東西。」因為我們生活上的道路不可能永遠都平坦，我們每個人都會經歷失敗，所以要學習面對困難。

中國教育制度方面.....

對於中國的教育制度，Dr. Butt 並不太了解，因此沒有給予太多意見。就她所知的中國教育，非常著重服從性和技術的訓練。這與中國龐大的人口有著密切的關係，因為人口過盛，沒法容忍大量不同的個性。她最後說一個教育制度不能夠一下子作出改善，而是要慢慢來的。這些教學上的問題應該由全世界一起來解決。大家要分享意見和專技，同時大家一定要有堅定的意志和毅力，這樣才能夠改變有問題的教育制度。



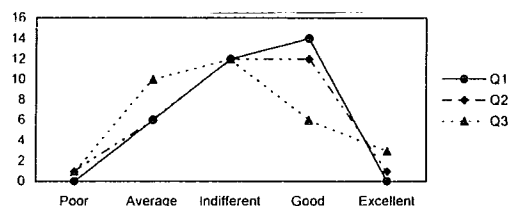
學生話.....

除了訪問 Dr. Butt 以外，我們亦和三十二位同學作了一個簡短的問卷調查。結果顯示大部分學生都認為教授們在課堂上的演講能令他們易於應付考試。此外，大部分學生也認為我們的教育制度在鼓吹判斷性思考方面達到一般或良好程度。最後，一般學生都認為我們的教育制度沒有抑壓或規範了學生們的思想。

有些學生對教育與宣傳都有獨特的見解，例如有一位同學就認為很多教授會在演講中都有加入了個人的偏見，並且以自己的觀點來作為『正確』的選擇。此外，我們還有問那些學生認為一個好教授應具備什麼條件。他們大都說一個教授要有耐心，明白學生的需要，鼓勵判斷性的思考，和對自己所教的課目感興趣等等。看來這些都跟 Dr. Butt 的意見十分相近呢。

圖一：

Students Response on the Three Questions



問題一：你覺得教授們的教學方法能令你易於應付考試嗎？

問題二：你覺得我們的教育制度有鼓勵判斷性的思考嗎？

問題三：你覺得我們的教育制度有壓抑學生的思想自由嗎？



video games • pinball

air hockey

• pool

photo stickers •



ADRENALINE RUSH

8

Hours of Operation:

Monday : 8am -12am

Tuesday: 8am -12am

Wednesday: 8am to 1am

Thursday: 8am to 1am

Friday: 8am to 2 am

Saturday: 10am to 2am

Sunday: 12pm to 12am

Located in the Student Union Building



芝穎

SWISS EUROPEAN SKIN CARE CENTER

(七天營業 7 Days a Week)

COMPLETE EUROPEAN FACIAL:

磨沙 Exfoliant

針清 Extraction

離子噴霧 High-Frequency Vaporizer

面,頸,肩,膊按摩 Invigorating Face, Neck, Shoulder Massage (26 mins)

水份面膜 Hydration Mask

指壓按背 Accupressure Back Massage (8 mins)

NOW ONLY \$34.95

REG. \$95.00

7 Days a Week

(discount with valid UBC ID)

溫哥華總店 Vancouver: 3344 Cambie St., Van. (Between 17th & 18th)

[Tel] 872-2808 [Fax] 872-2804

本那比分店 Burnaby : 101-6411 Nelson Ave., Burnaby

(Besides The Bay) [Tel] 433-8480

SELF SERVE COPIES

3.5 ¢ ea.

- autosort • autofeed • autostaple
- resize 50%-200% • 8.5 x 11 ea. side
- 20lb Xerox brand paper

Sale ends Sept 30/99

At Copies Plus we offer you

- Quality copies
- efficient and friendly staff
- competitive prices
- outstanding service

YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL !!

2nd floor (above UBC Pizza)

in the University Village

2174 Western Parkway

Tel: 224.6225

Copies Plus

COPY + IMAGING CENTRE

添恩食品

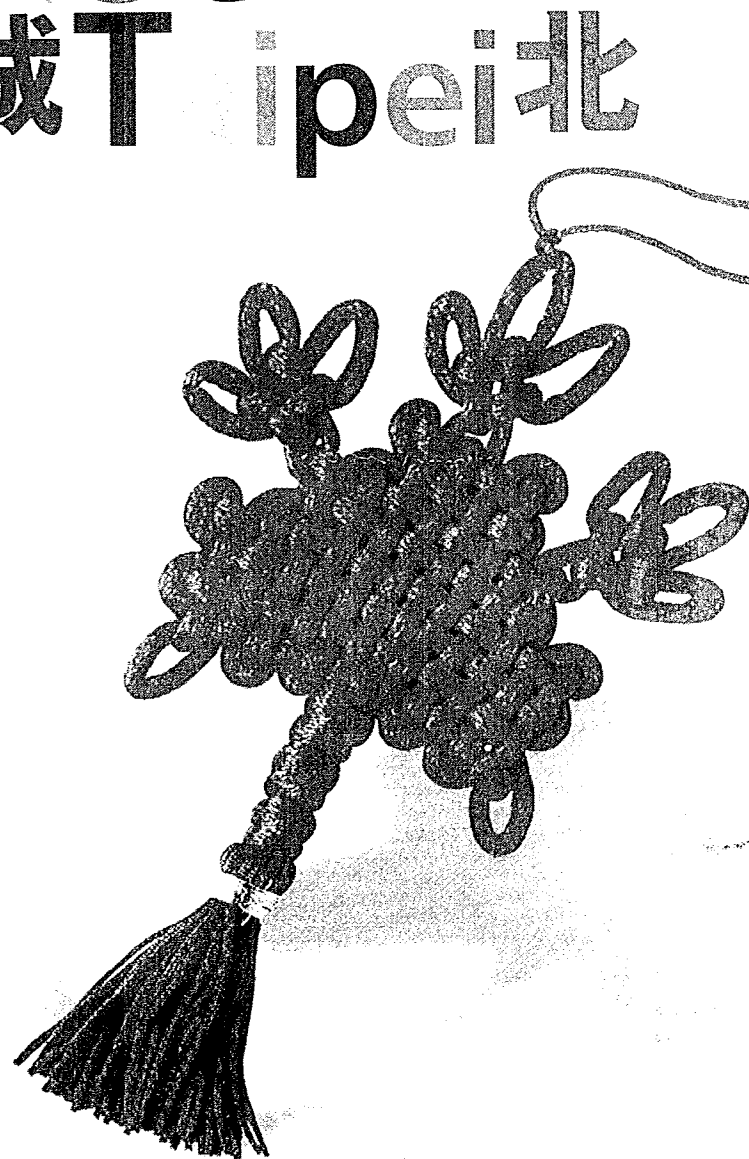
天然味真，食得開心

添恩各款魚丸及肉丸，
採用新鮮材料製造：
天然味美，
特別爽口彈牙，
鮮味可口。
添恩食品，
各大超級市場有售。

143 11860 Hammersmith Way,
Richmond, B.C., Canada V7A 5G1
Tel: (604) 272-2598

Hong Kong
Seoul
Taipei

大
阪
香
港
漢
城
台
北



Air Canada bringing
Asia and Vancouver
together.

楓葉航空爲您聯繫
亞洲與溫哥華。



AIR CANADA

楓葉航空

Beyond the Silver Screen

Freedom of speech is something most of us take for granted. Even if we are approaching the new millennium, some nations still condemn the opinions of individuals. Luckily, we live in a society where we can freely express our beliefs and opinions. Furthermore, some people's opinions are the basis of their occupation. Andy Lung is a film critic who is fairly well known in Vancouver's Chinese community. He has a movie program that can be seen Thursday nights on the Fairchild network. Or, he can be heard on 96.1fm on Sunday afternoons. A group of reporters from Perspectives was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to interview him and to discuss his views regarding film as a medium to spread propaganda.

Before expressing his opinions on film propaganda, Lung gave a brief description of his occupation. As well respected as he is within the Chinese entertainment community, Lung does not consider himself as a true film critic. He explained that film critics must undergo a certain degree of school and training. Lung graduated from UBC, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Chinese. He later took part time studies at the Vancouver Film School; however, even then, Lung did not imagine himself becoming a man known for his appreciation for movies. His responsibility is to share his opinions, and to introduce new films to his audience. It is then up to us to make our own judgements regarding the films.

So when did this UBC grad open his eyes to the complex world of motion pictures? After cartoon, Beauty was surprised at cartoon could love story. also met a friend with the movie introduced him to genres aside love story like that Beast. To gain a of film, Lung then participated in festivals.



came to the world of films had was able to from different Furthermore, opportunity to between the Canadian picture is more of entertainment; to learning. The sharing of



experienced during film festivals could be used as a medium to understand and learn about other cultures. Moreover, films are now considered as reality condensed in 2 hours. Lung found it fascinating how in only 2 hours, one can gain a whole new understanding of life and its complexities simply from observing the actors' emotions, the setting, and atmosphere that a film creates.

However, is this atmosphere always a positive one? Are moviemakers deliberately trying to infiltrate their beliefs to us by perpetually suggesting them through their films? Lung shared some of his thoughts about propaganda and how it is linked to film. He suggested that writers, directors, and actors all want to perceive a certain idea in their films. Every film is its own type of propaganda because it wants to convey its original theme or idea. After all, a director is successful only if he is able to deliver the overall message of the film to his audience. Lung explained that a successful movie is not one that entirely converts our beliefs. Rather, a successful film should be one that is able to deliver its message and invoke the audiences to make their own judgements. As Lung said, "it depends on what 'perspective' we are looking from." We are given the choice to accept or reject the film's overall message or idea. Lung defined propaganda as the spread of a single doctrine or belief. Propaganda depends on its level and how far it can reach its audience.

Lung explained that the degree of success a film has depends on how the audience is influenced by its overall message. He drew an example using lions as the main character for a movie. One movie shows the ferocity of the lion. It entails how the lion hunts its prey, how it physically wounds then savagely devours its prey. After watching this film, we realise that not all lions are like Simba in the Lion King. On the other hand, if we were to watch a documentary film discussing the potential that lions have of being extinct, we would come to realise that the destruction of lions is unfair and we should prevent it. One film makes us fear and dislike this savage beast; yet, the other makes us pity an animal that is on the verge of extinction. Lung pointed out that a successful director should influence us to think for ourselves. The above two films portray their own messages; thus, being a form of their own propaganda. It is up to us to decide what to believe in. Propaganda in film becomes dangerous when a certain doctrine is being systematically pushed down our throat against our will.

Lung also acknowledged the shift that propaganda has taken over the past

50 years. Using Chairman Mao as an example, he explained that the propaganda today is just not as blatant and obvious as the propaganda before. During the Cultural Revolution, and the Era of Chairman Mao, the people of China were constantly being subjected to blaring slogans, beliefs, and doctrines of the People's Republic of China. All forms of media, be it song lyrics, films, radio, and pamphlets, all declared that the people of China should give a conscious effort to support their own country. As Lung explained, modern day propaganda is just not as obvious. It is either because we are smarter and more perceptive to it; or, it is because the government has become smarter and trickier.

Today, instead of having one distinct set of beliefs being forced upon us, we are given choices. We live in an informative age, where knowledge is everywhere. Propaganda is the constant telling and re-telling of different standpoints of different stories. We are now being bombarded left and right with different beliefs and ideas. We have the choice to select then believe in them. However, this only makes society more chaotic. Lung emphasised that this chaos might have negative repercussions. He recalled some of his friends being recluses now because they wanted to escape from the information age and to return to a more simplistic lifestyle. Lung explained that this chaotic age that we are experiencing would not necessarily create a more sceptical era of people; rather, we are given more choices to live a certain lifestyle, and to believe in what we want to. Ultimately, we should not let information control us; instead, we are what information to discard.

So is doctrine being Hollywood films discard? Many of heavy influence of patriotism and lot of Hollywood all, the thought of detonating the should give us belief. Should we aware of this question the true filmmakers? Lung there is such a influence in blockbusters. is located in Most big motion in the States; so, it movies with a rich doctrines and we are living in a global balance of



United States. It's true that we are no longer living in an era of hawks versus doves; nonetheless, we are living in an interdependent era where countries must rely on one another. With this reliance, an ultimate power emerges. In the turn of the century, Great Britain was at its height of global dominance. Since the victory at Normandy, the United States has emerged as the new global power. Thus, as Lung stated, we cannot leave American influence. We just have to be aware of it, and to not let American beliefs found in films change our own set of ideas.

Nonetheless, Lung also pointed out that not all films try to convey an All-American message. Some films even question authority and some others subtly question the use of media to spread propaganda. Lung used the recent film, Enemy of the State, as an example. This movie, as well as some motion pictures today, suggests that there could in fact be conspiracy theories in real life. Thus we are given another outlook regarding state authority. Lung also used Wag the Dog as an example of a film which questions the use of media. Together, his examples support his idea that propaganda is not as obvious as before. Red no longer connotes to the evils of communism; rather, we are now given choices on what we want to believe in.

One of the other messages that modern motion pictures are trying to convey is the undeniable message of girl power. Cartoons like Mulan and Pocahontas suggest that girls can believe in their own ideas and opinions. Girls were no longer stereotyped to believe that they should only play with Barbies. Rather, they are now portrayed to be more independent and self-confident in their decisions. The message of girl power found in film is not a result of filmmakers advocating ideas of feminism. Instead, it is a reaction to the modern change of times.

Film as a medium to spread modern day propaganda is an idea that some people may still believe in. When asked if viewers watch movies for the actors or for the messages, Lung responded that they go for entertainment. Let us not forget that we go to movies for the mere reason of enjoyment. Lung suggested that the best way to enjoy a movie is to randomly pick on without any prior knowledge of the film. When we enter the theatres with an open mind, we leave with a greater understanding and appreciation of the movie. So what's the bottom line? Go indulge yourself with a bucket of popcorn and enjoy a 2-hour escape from reality.

宣傳拉鋸戰

九月十八日的下午，直播室的門外，我拿著我的錄音機和我的相機靜候著龍本的出現，為的是要知道他對「電影與 propaganda」有甚麼看法。

龍本認為：「宣傳（Propaganda）是把個人的獨立思想廣泛地宣揚。」而每一個導演在執導時總會有他自己要表達的信念，所以在這層面上，電影絕對帶有宣傳的味道。」

龍本強調電影的確有改變人們思想的力量，但它影響的程度深淺則視乎你是從哪個角度去看。例如，中國領導人使用歌曲，電影和舞台劇等多種媒介去宣傳當代中國領導人毛澤東主席，使人民崇拜他，那是一種很明顯的“propaganda”。但在這世紀，這個界線變得很模糊。每齣電影都應該包含一個要表達的信念，很難細分他們是否想影響人的思想。」



被荷里活電影洗腦？

雖然很多人都覺得荷里活電影有意無意地宣揚某種的信念，如《天煞地球反擊戰》的大美國主義，又或是《花木蘭》所包含的女權主義，可是龍本卻另有一套見解。「我個人認為這些電影不一定是去故意宣傳信念，因為荷里活製片商是不會刻意為了宣傳一個獨立的信息而投資電影。雖然《花木蘭》對培養女權主義確實有鼓勵的作用。但是《西藏七年》和《紅色角落》等關於西藏的電影，我卻認為荷里活只是針對觀眾對中國和西藏關係的好奇心而拍。絕對是商業的因素多於宣傳意念的考慮。」

「美國電影一定存有大美國主義。因為無可否認，美國是資本主義國家中最強大的，所以其電影中滲有大美國主義亦無可口非。但是，我認為這種現象還未達到嚴重的階段，因它們尚未觸及政治層面。另外，荷里活的製片商也有拍一些敘述白宮醜聞的電影，難道它們應被稱為「反政府」，「反美國」嗎？」

龍本覺得現時的觀眾已很難分辨傳媒宣傳的真偽。他說：「事實上，現今社會已越來越複雜，我們所知的是真是假已難以認知。當兩個相對的訊息一起灌輸給你時，站在拉鋸戰中的你又如何能夠辨別其虛實呢？再者，每一位導演都希望把他自己的信念和意識透過電影宣揚開去，所以嚴格來說全都是“Propaganda”。我個人則選擇不去分真假，因我覺得我們已無法分辨真與偽。」

尚未言倦

幸好，龍本也有他在當中取得平衡的方法：「我會盡量不被身邊的事物例如電影或新聞所影響，凡事平心而論。雖然我也有被動搖和擾亂的時候，但我一定會嘗試在當中站穩，因為我相信自己的真感覺。有些朋友到了某個年齡會毅然抽離這個充滿資訊及宣傳的社會並躲進桃花園內，但我尚未言倦。」

訪問有感：

不論是无心的或是刻意的，每分每秒都會有不同的訊息散播，而每人每日都不斷地吸收。在訪問龍本時，其實大家在玩一場 propaganda 的拉鋸戰：我們強迫他相信這個世界真的有宣傳這回事，而他亦要說服我們宣傳的存在與否乎只在我們的角度，實在無必要過慮。或許生活在紅塵俗世中，應該樂得胡塗，繼續抱緊爆谷在 propaganda 的世界中浮沉。



每一位導演都希望把他自己的信念和意識透過電影宣揚開去，所以嚴格來說全都是“Propaganda”

'Citizen of the World' Exhibit Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Did you know that the first draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was written by a Canadian? Born in Hampton, New Brunswick, John Peters Humphrey, a professor of Law at McGill University from 1937-1946, and 1966-1971, was asked by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1946 to prepare a draft of the Declaration.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948, Simon Fraser University (SFU), SGI-Canada (Soka Gakkai International), and the UN Association of Canada (Vancouver Region), will present the exhibition, "Citizen of the World: John Humphrey and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," which opens to the public on October 18, 1999, at Library Square in the Main Branch of the Vancouver Public Library (at Georgia and Hamilton). Perspectives is a Supporter of the event.

The exhibition celebrates the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration with a profile of John Humphrey, and showcases a collection of original, handwritten, and typed, Declaration first drafts dating back to 1947, as well as personal papers, photographs and other documents.

"The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was hailed by Eleanor Roosevelt as the 'Magna Carta of Mankind' and described by Amnesty International as one of the greatest documents that has ever existed," explains Shirley Farlinger, President of the Toronto Region of the UN Association of Canada. "As author of the first draft, there is no question that John Humphrey is a Canadian hero. His ideas and writings changed the world."

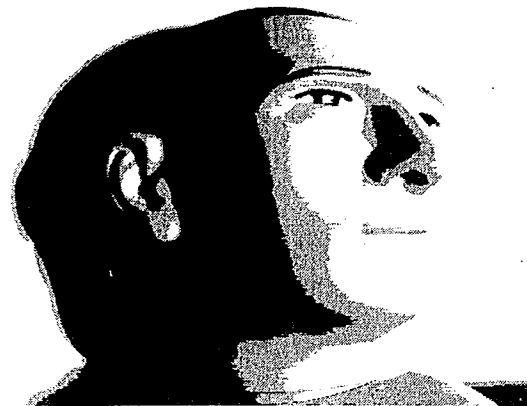
Professor Humphrey wrote the first draft of the Declaration in 1947, a year after he became Director of the Division of Human Rights at the United Nations. A year later, on December 10, 1948, after much debate, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly. Professor Humphrey was Director of the Division of Human Rights at the UN for twenty years, advancing the cause of human rights around the world. In 1963, he suggested the UN create a High Commissioner for Human Rights, a position that became a reality thirty years later in 1993.

During his later years, Professor Humphrey traveled the world in support of human rights. He was a founding member of the National Section of Amnesty International Canada, and was its first president in 1973. He was also one of the founders of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, a member of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada, a member of the Board of Directors of the International League of the Rights of Man, President of the World Conference on Religion and Peace/Canada, and an Honourary Member of the War Amputees of Canada.

John Peters Humphrey was born in 1905, and faced many personal tragedies early on in his life. At age 6 he lost his left arm, and before turning 11, he had lost both his parents. He died in 1995.

The exhibition is produced by McGill University Archives and is curated by Johanne Pelletier (Director, McGill University Archives) in collaboration with Gerry Grace (National Arts Centre, Ottawa), John Hobbins (literary executor of the Humphrey papers), and Dr. Margaret Kunstler Humphrey. The McGill University Archives is the repository for the Humphrey papers (www.archives.mcgill.ca).

The exhibit runs at the downtown branch of the Vancouver Public Library until October 30, 1999, and continues throughout November in the SFU Main Library at the Burnaby Mountain campus. For more information, contact the "Citizen of the World" Project Committee by calling 519-6443.



國際人權公約 五十週年慶祝展覽

你知道國際人權公約的首稿是由一位加拿大人寫的嗎？他便是 John Peters Humphrey。在紐賓士域省漢寶頓市 (Hampton) 出生的他，曾在一九三七年至一九四六年以及一九六六年至一九七一年擔任麥基爾大學 (McGill University) 任職法律系教授。在一九四六年，他並獲得 Eleanor Roosevelt 的邀請去撰寫公約的草稿。

Eleanor Roosevelt 曾稱國際人權公約為「人類的大憲章」 ("Magna Carta of Mankind")，Amnesty International 亦把它形容為世上最偉大的文件。Farlinger 謂：「毫無疑問，John Humphrey 是一位加拿大英雄。他的寫作改變了世界。」

Humphrey 教授成為聯合國人權分部理事的一年後，即一九四七年，完成了公約的初稿。一年後，經過多番討論，國際人權公約終在一九四八年十二月十日被聯合國參議會 (General Assembly) 一致接納。Humphrey 教授擔任聯合國理事整整二十年，在任內把人權問題在世界上的地位提高。他又在1963年提議聯合國增設人權高等委員 (High Commissioner) 一職，而這個職位終在一九九三年正式設立。

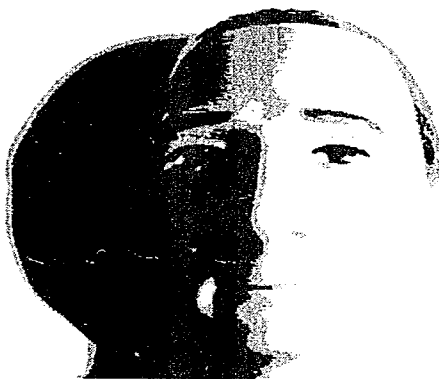
其後，Humphrey 教授周遊列國去支持人權事務。他曾是 Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada 和 International League of the Rights of Man 董事會的會員、Amnesty International Canada 國家部的始創成員 (founding member) 及一九七三年的主席、World Conference on Religion and Peace/Canada 的主席，以及 War Amputees of Canada 的榮譽會員。

John Peters Humphrey 於一九零五年出生，一九九五年逝世。童年時他經歷了很多人生的悲劇，他在六歲時失去了左臂；十一歲前並痛失雙親。

為了紀念 John Peters Humphrey 以及成立已有五十年歷史的國際人權公約。為此，西門菲沙大學，SGI-Canada 和聯合國加拿大總會 (溫哥華分區) 攜手舉辦一個名為 "Citizen of the World: John Humphrey and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" 的展覽。這個五十週年慶祝展覽將會介紹 John Humphrey 的生平。介時大家可以欣賞到一九四七年時人權公約的手稿及打印版。另外，一些個人筆跡，相片和其他文件也會在十月十八日於溫哥華中央圖書館展出舉行。而《瞻》亦會是這次活動的單位之一。

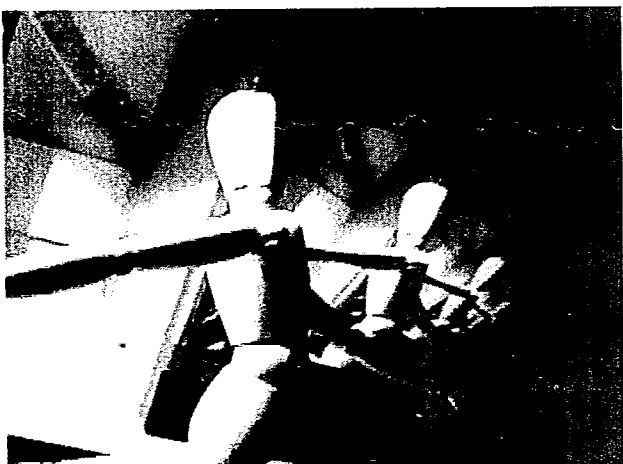
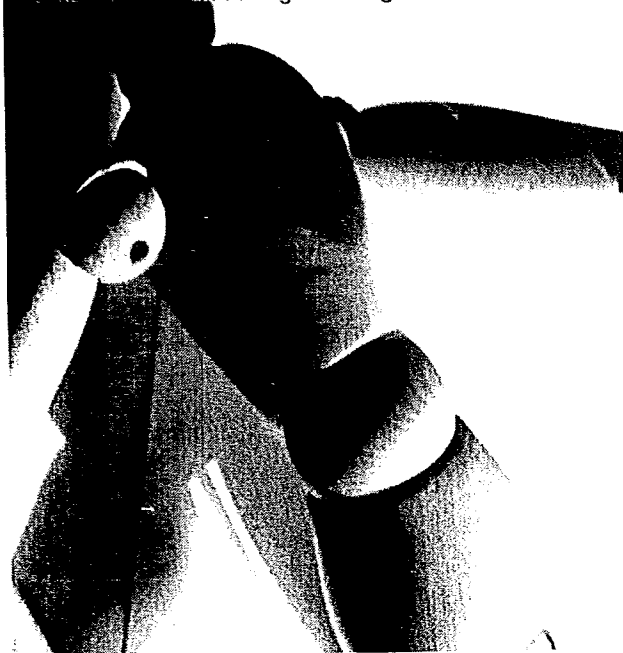
這個展覽會是由麥基爾大學檔案處 (McGill University Archives) 製作，並由 Johanne Pelletier (麥基爾大學檔案處董事)，Gerry Grace (渥太華國家藝術中心) John Hobbins (Humphrey 稿件的版權受託人) 和 Margaret Kunstler Humphrey 博士合作管理。麥基爾大學檔案處並負責貯存 Humphrey 的稿件。

展覽會在十月十八日至十月三十日假溫哥華中央圖書館舉行。十一月份在西門菲沙大學本拿比校區的圖書館展出。如有任何疑問，可以致電 519-6443 "Citizen of the World" 計劃委員查詢。



Keeping Watch

Author: K. Ellen Wu
First Runner-up, 1999 Flight of Imagination Writing Contest



I.
Upon the shingled roof I perch, barefoot and wary,
Winning at the rays of a yawning sun
That washes the lawn blood-red.

Half-spent shadows of the insects flutter on a breeze
Dim and blur against the wall of the house,
The wisps of grass trapped in the cracks on the pavement droop
Dejectedly.

It is strangely silent tonight, the weight of all the unsaid words of the
Millennium-to-come filling the air with soft wings,
Words that alight on my shoulder, brush the back of my neck, and flit away before
I can catch them.
It is strangely silent tonight, with the silence of all the unanswered questions of
The dying Millennium oppressing me on all sides with frigid fingers of glass,
Questions that constrict my throat with their doubt and stop my ears with deafening
Whispers.

II.
It is almost completely dark now, and the outlines of the treetops
Melt out of sight as I shiver imperceptibly,
Lost in the maze of words that refuse to be carried adrift by the night wind,
Words that become louder with every second that trudges by,
Death, anguish, warfare, calamity, disease, isolation,
Hallmarks of this era, welcoming the next with a grim and cynical leer.
Scandal, riot, murder, exploitation, fear, injustice,
Each word etched in the aging wrinkles of the sky,
A testament of the advances humanity made in hate.

I am immune to them, even as they whiz straight at me, double-edged swords
Dipped in poison.
Look at them losing momentum as the minutes stretch to hours
Look at them falling limp like withered weeds
Piled up on the ground.
They fade, dying embers that can no longer instill wrath or antipathy
And with one puff I send them dancing.

III.
They concoct stronger poisons, tinker with sharper words and faster bullets
And launch another army, this time more ruthless than the first.
Swarming in circles around me, flailing me with no mercy.
Pain, grief, turmoil, uncertainty, despair.
Caustic tears spring from my eyes, blinding me as I attempt to keep my head
Above the fray.

Gripped by terror I start to choke,
While the darkness thickens around me.
I flail my arms about wildly, as the night
Allies itself against me.

I clench my teeth, summon the last of my strength,
Murmur an enduring prayer
For the Morning Star
To user in the dawn.

課程

(十一月開課)

- ◆ 普通話培訓測試及
測試員培訓課程
- ◆ 國語、粵語
- ◆ 國畫、書法
- ◆ 古箏、琵琶
- ◆ 繩結、太極
- ◆ 寫與讀中文



中華文化中心



講座

- * 中華文化普及講座
- * 中國歷史人物講座
- * GIC vs Mutual Fund

查詢電話: 687-0729

Discussion Group for Gay Asians VeryAsian / VariAsian – for East and SouthEast Asian men

Call 688-WEST extension 2272 for more
info.

Discussion Group for Queer Asian Youth

Asian Gab – for gay and lesbian Asian
youth under 25
Call 669-5567 extension 2 for more info.

The Art of Poetry

'Write me something about poetry,' the Editor said to me last week. Because the newspaper is launching a Creative Writing Competition. Because she knows I am an English student, who loves poetry and keeps trying to write it. And because, like me, she is surprised that people still think poetry is something strange and exclusive and difficult, something they make you study at school. NO! Poetry is for EVERYONE, and ANYONE can do it.

So, you may ask, what is poetry? And I can only answer, what it is for me. For me, it is playing and exploring and confessing and communicating – a space where I can work out my thoughts and find new ways of saying what is important to me.

Poems are messages to yourself and to the world. Poems can be love letters and/or political statements, they are a chance to express what you think and feel and want and experience. Poetry is a way to 'make things strange,' to make what is very familiar – a tree, an emotion – seem new, to make you think about it differently. Remember, too, that words have a lot of power – that writers, including poets, have been and are still being imprisoned, even killed, simply for the words they write. So every time you write, you are exercising your voice, your right to be heard, and that is a very great freedom, and a very great joy.

Now, to inspire you for the Creative Writing Competition, and to give you an idea of how 'free' poetry can be, here are two of my favorite poems:

December by Ron Padgett

I will sleep
in my little cup

For me these two short lines, combined with a very simple title, evoke the whole of wintertime, and the way we all want to spend the winter resting and warm and safe.

Also slightly wintry, here is a lovely piece by William Carlos Williams, called This is just to say:

I have eaten
the plums
that were in
the icebox

and which
you were probably
saving
for breakfast

Forgive me
they were delicious
so sweet
and so cold

See, you can write poetry about something as basic as stealing fruit from the refrigerator... Can you taste those ice-cold plums? I always wonder what the 'you' in the poem will say, when he/she realizes the plums are gone. But the poem is like a snapshot of a relationship as well – it suggests a home, and the intimacy between two people.

You may have noticed that neither of these poems rhymes; that their shape is quite different, and quite

free. Of course poetry can rhyme, and there are many amazing shapes to play with – but it is up to you whether to use them or not. The main thing is, to get across what you are seeing, whether in front of you or inside yourself, so that others can see it too. Just 'tell it like it is.'

If you feel at all inspired by what you have just read, why not try one or both of these two writing exercises:

1. Choose an object, any object – a hairbrush, a feather, a sandwich, whatever. Sit down with a pen and paper and put the object in front of you. Look at it. Smell it. Touch it. Ask yourself, what is its shape, size, where did it come from, does it look like anything else? Try describing it in as much detail as possible, without naming it. Then read your description to someone else and see if they can guess what it is.
2. Choose an emotion – fear, anger, sadness, desire, whatever you like. Let yourself really feel it. What does it taste like? What does it look like? How does your body react when you are feeling this emotion? What kind of situation evokes this emotion for you? Describe it in detail, again, without naming the emotion.

Good luck!

豆腐格子對聯

對聯，又稱楹聯，是由上下聯相互對仗而成的一種文學體裁。對聯於清朝中葉為讀書人所重視，你或許已經聽過因為一副好的對聯而博得功名，取得美人歸等清代故事罷。由於對聯中講求的韻律跟律詩非常相像，所以在今次徵文比賽中亦被劃進詩體一列。寫對聯除了講求各項規律外，還要意境雙存，難度可不比寫文章低呢！

故名思義，對聯講求相對性，若下聯之命意字句跟上聯重複，就犯了「合掌」的大忌了。對聯的種類繁多，不能在此盡列。但一般可分為：

- (一) 形名對：以同類的名詞作對偶，如「東西」，對「南北」。
- (二) 運典對：用古人典故以作對偶，如「秦松」，對「漢柏」。
- (三) 嵌字對：整個對聯的上下聯，將聯的題材名、事、地等，嵌入聯中。
- (四) 異類對：跟形名對恰恰相反，如「北地」，對「西山」。
- (五) 實名對：以人、地、物的真實名稱作對偶，如「馬頰河」，對「牛頭山」。

對聯另一法則，就是它的聲調法則。可能你已經聯想起「平仄」。何謂平仄呢？中國字有「平、上、去、入」四聲，宋朝釋神珙在反紐圖譜中，詳細解說：「平聲哀而安，上聲厲而舉，去聲清而遠，入聲直而促。」現在人們都用「一、／、∨、\」這四個符號來表達這四個聲調。粵語中雖有九聲，亦離不了「平、上、去、入」這個基本法則。「平、上、入」三聲在粵語中再分別細分為陰聲及陽聲，而陰聲高則陽聲較低。另外，去聲則分為「上、中、下」三聲，與以上提及的六聲組成粵語中的九聲。所謂平仄，就是將「平、上、去、入」四聲加以分類，平聲（廣東話包括陰平及陽平）屬平，其他三聲為仄。對聯講求平仄相對，使讀時朗朗上口。雖然，以平仄完全相對為佳，但單數不對亦可，唯雙數字平仄必須相對。

好了，說了那麼多，有點悶吧！其實以上只是筆者對對聯的皮毛知識，還要多練習才可以寫出好對聯呢！在二月十四日截止之前多練習吧！以下列舉一些有趣的對聯，以供參考。

因荷而得藕；有杏不需梅。（諧音：因何而得偶？有幸不需媒）

男女平權，公說公有理，婆說婆有理；

陰陽合曆，你過你的年，我過我的年。

方格子外的天空

星期六，因為上班的關係，筱芽晚上十一點多才回到家。一下車，一陣涼風迎面吹來，她不由自主的拉起加在外面的薄衫。秋天來了。

在夜裡，站在這被喻為人間天堂的溫哥華，筱芽仰著頭悉悉數數幾個熟悉的星座，伴著嘶嘶的風聲，這個城市在這綿綿的星網下沉沉的睡著了。

一股寒意隨著呼吸清醒了她，好久沒有如此的一個人，靜靜的沉浸在這樣的夜裡了。因為生活的繁忙，再加上學校課業的壓力，對於週遭的事物不自覺地練成了視而無的習慣。慢慢的，忙碌成為了脫離感性的理由，筱芽也逐漸變成了為忙碌而活的發條娃娃了。所謂正常的生活就是隨著每日行程，一個格子一個格子的過，格子過完了就打勾。勾打完了就睡覺，隔天起來又過著另一排格子的生活。日子久了，心裡的思緒也劃起格子來了。但不知她的生活也在格子之中摸索著謎樣的出路，卻還沾沾自喜的認為自己生活過得頗為充實。

抱雪

上期截稿時的隆冽風冷雨，教我錯過了一個炎夏該有的感慨。誰不知待得報紙出版，秋分將至天上卻晴空萬里，烈日當空，簡直混帳。

(雨時怨天，晴時也怨天，同樣混帳。)

天氣，甚或其他自然現象原來除了自然以外還別有用處：一為人怨，一為弄人。還有一個用處，就是給予九流專欄作家和陌路人一個半個話題。

要形容人盲目挑戰不可能，自然現象也派用場。計有追風逐日，更有探雲摘星，不過筆者最喜歡的，莫過於「抱雪」。記得年前某音樂劇出現過這樣一首歌。當時以故事內容出發去理解，沒有參詳歌名的深意；一次《噬》一位前輩道：「雪，不能抱！」(致姚學

事實上，筱芽已經逐漸失去在生命中最重要那份敏感了。大自然精靈們不捨得，便用涼風打醒了。她一愣，原來，秋天還是悄悄地來了，縱使人事紛爭不斷，縱使期中考陸續的到來，縱使人群中筱芽迷失了一點點自信又得到了一點點自信，秋天她還是悄悄地來了。大地用他源源不絕的生命力轉動著自然與宇宙，舞著他的旋律，或澎湃、或浪漫、或熱鬧、或蕭索。人們啊，你要參與也罷，不參與也罷，你要憂愁也好要快樂也好，不過如蒼天一星光芒時現時落。

筱芽駐足在秋天的晚風中，似若有所思，她的嘴角不禁揚起，露出了像小星星般皎潔可愛的微笑，她低頭看看浸在晚露中的鞋子，抬頭再看看無垠的夜空，她腳步輕輕躍了起來，踢踢踢，踢踢踢，她像跳躍出了迷宮般的方格子，迎臨秋天的到來。

長：拾您牙慧，請別見怪），才一言驚醒夢中人。事隔兩年，時移世易，談起「抱雪」卻仍惆悵依然。

某程度上，水中撈月與抱雪的意境相若，不同的是，鏡中花水中月畢竟是幻象，勉強興波作浪，朗月仍掛梢頭，清輝仍灑遍野，幻影破滅，該普世歡騰才對；祇有嚴嚴皓雪，明明觸摸得到，明明垂手可得，卻越抱緊越失去。

如此不惜一切去抓緊手中一把雪，很天真，也很勇敢。白雪溶後，主人翁縱然牙關顫震，一股寒氣直入心肝脾肺腎，但臉上、襟上、手上、地上殘留著白雪變成的一點一滴，見證著當初的努力挽救和挽留，卻又永遠感人肺腑。

或者可以樂觀一點去想，雪也不一定越抱越失去；倘若，閣下是個雪人的話。

逃亡

時下中文流行曲，大多都以愛情為主題。有些人十分反對，覺得那是不健康的現象。其實感情與音樂本是不可分割的，只是情歌泛濫得太厲害，讓人覺得厭倦甚至悶透。偶爾碰到少數非情歌的佳作，就似在香港呼吸到清新空氣，十分難得。

試想像以下情形：你是一位學業數載的獨居單身漢，有事業也有物業。一個晚上，你的舊同學來電說要到你家中避雨，但窗外並沒傳來任何雨聲。你還記得她畢業時多開心動人美麗，眼前的她卻是淚眼半連半張全無半點樂暢。你還察覺她的殘帶有瘀傷，知道事情非比尋常。

給她倒了一杯開水，她已不住向你控訴他的不是。那當年公認「中了頭獎」的他，已成了她的丈夫。聽她現在卻說要遠走高飛，因為受不了絕不需要的傷。還說婚姻不像談

戀愛，婚約只不過是一張紙。在這個時候，粗暴的他出現在你家門外，究竟你應該要報警，藏起她，還是送客回去呢？

報警似乎有點不近人情，鬧上警局未必對她有好處，或許她其實想他改過而不是入獄。收留她又未免令人覺得你想乘人之危(如你早有此意就另當別論)，而你亦不想家裡的房變成第一收容港。送客不但沒有解決問題，並把它弄得更糟。你不忍心她再受折磨，基於人道立場你總不可將她遣返原居地。

幸好，那不過是一首歌的歌詞。

歡樂城市

在這混濁不堪的世界，還有一片樂土，我稱它為「歡樂城市」。

那的人很快活，無憂無慮，天災戰火早已在這片樂土消失。歡樂城市的人們即使有憂慮，亦只會是關於錢。

小朋友和青年人都十分幸福。何以見得？他們通宵排隊，為的是進入漫畫展覽瘋狂購物，而不是等待慈善團體派發糧食。在漫畫展覽，能一擲千金地買漫畫和紀念品，然後有些人還會說：「啊！真可惜，我有很多東西還是買不到。」

歡樂城市的大學非常好玩，尤其是迎新營。迎新營中的遊戲都是舊生們絞盡腦汁想出來的，創意非常。例如：要女同學跪下來吃一些放在男同學下體上的生果。看到這遊戲就

知道樂土上的大學生是多麼的有智慧！有了這班有智慧的未來棟樑，歡樂城市的確前途光明。

歡樂城市的報紙大都很幽默，很懂得拿新聞開玩笑，最精采的要算是它們的性教育版，圖文並茂，文字有感染力。能把報紙辦得那麼有娛樂性，難得！除了報紙，娛樂的選擇還多得哩！有翻版唱片，翻版電影光碟，翻版電腦遊戲軟件，甚至日本性教育光碟等，到處有售，價錢便宜。

歡樂城市名符其實。如不是親眼所見，我也不能相信世間竟有如此樂土。但，奇怪，在樂土遊玩時，偶爾也會遇上不快樂的人……

守護天使

「但願人長久」相信是每個人的願望。可是，要找個能與己共渡一輩子的朋友、伴侶很難。一輩子是很長的事，當中可以發生的事情太多了。一段感情拖長了，總難免有枝節。天長地久的感情難求，難在「情」字的千變萬化。無論情誼再深厚，緣分盡了，就成陌路。問誰能為我們永遠守候呢？自古聚散總是不能相分的。誰也不是我們的守護天使。

我不是悲觀。我也相信人間有情。但是，我更明白緣起緣滅，從不容半分強求。有謂合則來不合則去，誰也不對誰負責。當然，我這樣說不代表我喜歡這一種方式，我只是逼不得已，不得不向現實低頭。我想，有時候，身旁有個可以讓我死纏難打的人也是很好的。

推銷．小調．氣味

開學不到一星期，又到了每個學期整個校園最熱鬧的數天——學會日(Clubs Day)。西大學行的學會日較卑大為早，跟以往一樣，各學會的宣傳招攬會員花式層出不窮，最特別仍以法輪功信眾集體發功令中外友好嘆為觀止。另外同樣令我感到新奇的就是西大學會日竟有卑大學生前來加入「推銷」一族，原來是分會會員前來幫忙。大學果然是未來社會的縮影，連學生會亦有如企業公司般有分會屬會，不知何時有機會上市呢。

話說回來，兩所學府的大學生有機會在不同方面互相交流，切磋切磋，有如兩國人民能有所往來，互補不足，多少對兩方面都有裨益，至少不用擔心有人牽起「兩大學論」或本省只有一所大學等論調。

從小學音樂課已學會分辨音階有大小之分，小調所以予人一種平和甚至深沉的味道乃與「Minor 3rd」----- 樂理中的一個音程有關，無獨有偶，「Minor 3rd」亦是一個有助與自閉病人溝通的音調。

九月看畢一齣由各大專學生參與製作的舞台劇，劇中從不同角度探索人的內心世界，發現與自閉病人溝通或許不容易，但原來與自己心靈溝通亦同樣困難。

如此的一個題材，所以能令人引起共鳴，並非自閉病人與一眾超現實角色的對話充滿玄機，而是劇中真正反應著現實世界中每個人內心深處所存在的一些根本矛盾和無奈。一群熱愛舞台劇的大專生能在題材中散發出一股不尋常的氣味，儘管它是芬香或是詭異，均予人迥然不同的感覺。

獨步

世上曾經有一隻豹，為了追尋一股超越的靈氣，拼命向雪山之巔狂奔。最後筋疲力竭，凍死在天日之間。世人曾經仰望這個冰封的謎，試圖傾聽那聲絕望的哀號，試圖明白一隻生於草原的豹，為何竟要孤注一擲，將畢生的安逸平凡押在茫茫風雪之外，為自己找一條分明的死路。可是雪豹的心，世人永遠不能明白。

當逐臣屈原太息：「路漫漫其修遠兮，吾將上下而求索」之際，他仍然心有所眷，捨不得他的宗國舊都。世俗的打擊、求索的孤寂，曾一度使他領略到雪豹的心，但「陟皇之赫曦兮，忽臨睨乎舊鄉」，他回首前路——總是捨不得。屈原最終也沒有成為一隻雪豹。

千里冰封、萬里雪飄，豈肯為凡夫俗子而設？山下鶯歌燕舞，方是人間的溫暖。一片村語野徑，曾消磨了幾許凌雲壯志？但是所謂壯志，映在世人眼裡，不過是天問的虛妄。浮士德（Faust）的痛苦與罪孽，想起不無悲嘆。

有人說：「能夠結伴同行，又何必毅然獨步？」獨步天下的人，大概早已不屬於天下了。他們活於追尋、活於理想，稍有偏差，可能即會掉進虛榮的深淵。他們慣於凌霄獨步，彷彿前生便是雪豹，他們眼中，世人太可悲了。

蒼山如海，橫陽如血。在那茫茫風雪之外，他們可曾驕然回首？十字架，基督必須戰勝最後誘惑；一念之差，便是雪豹無分矣！

世人對雪豹好奇，卻大都不喜雪豹。雪豹的鋒芒只會令人目眩，霜風的洗禮只會令人卻步。慣於凌霄獨步的人，亦鮮能謙沖自牧；欲與天公比高的人，總會為老子所笑。

人生獨步，何不在一斛清泉之畔，閒聽上游瀑布鏗鏘之美，細味草原群豹平凡之樂。

同是寂寞人

寂寞的人很可怕，也很可憐。

他們不等於會怕黑、怕悶、怕鬼。寂寞的感覺往往是浮沉不定的，一如人的影子，白天就算看不見，夜燈下總會無所遁形，休想脫身。

他們有些像深山野人一容貌奇特、舉止荒誕、缺乏語言能力和公關手腕。面對三分鐘即食的社交場合（俗稱「吹水」），顯得有心無力。

有一類較像飢民，渴望與人交往，整天期待一個朋友的電話，一句真心的問候。但自從ICQ要全面取締人的正常接觸後，他們已經餓得太久，快要五臟衰竭而死。

為了驅散寂寞，現代人施用各種方法來麻醉自己，包括瘋狂地觀看日劇（通常是翻版），迷上中外的「鬼片」（通常較像「笑片」），在跳舞機前日夜修身苦練，永不言倦。

當然，有些更絕望可悲的人要寫關於寂寞的文章來排遣寂寞...（我指魯迅）

Deep in the Soul

A raw wind is snapping at the streets of W____, and then suddenly it is starting to rain. The city is instantaneously awash in soft, wet colours when the people take out their umbrellas of black, blue and yellow. As I am stranded beneath an awning, waiting for the rain to end, I peer through the sheets of rain to search for hints of the W____ I knew as a boy—a town that was famous for her salted trout. W____ has changed since I left her ten years ago. Today I see only contorted traffic creeping down Lok Yang, an avenue of dull stone buildings and ruinously expensive boutiques. The smell from the cars and the air-conditioners is nauseous; there is no trace of the savory smell of wonton soup! The squawking of the peddlers who sold everything from slippers to salted trout are now replaced by the rumbling of the cars and the silence of the high-rises. As I study this congested labyrinth that has replaced the lovely town that I knew as a boy, an alley reveals itself in front of me. Could this be a short cut?

The alley is wide enough to accommodate only three people at one time and its surface is paved by cobblestones instead of the 'Lok Yang Tar'. As I continue to walk, I hear some 'tick-tock' sounds like Hollanders dancing with their wooden shoes coming from above my head. I look up and discover that it is only the sound that the rain makes as it beats upon the awnings. By now, my pace has slowed down because I feel suffocated and stifled. The air is saturated with moisture; I breathe it; I absorb it; it soaks my clothes and it dampens my spirits. The air also emits the stale smell of slime and mould. I continue to tread on the road but suddenly I feel some stinging things pricking my leg. I jump back a bit afraid that it is some kind of creature. I look closely and find out it is nothing but weed. Occasionally, some weeds with blades that are smeared with mildew will creep up from the cracks of the cobblestones. In the midway, the cobblestone is replaced by the 'Lok Yang Tar', and the weeds are nowhere to be found.

You don't turn back and you move on. You now discover that it is one of the nights that do not come often in a lifetime. The darkness seems full of meaning; the hush is full of sound. As you continue to walk, you will notice that the alley is sandwiched between medium sized apartments of stone-trimmed red brick.

The rooftops of the apartments seem to turn their backs on looming high-rise constructions. The first floors have no windows but many wooden doors that lead to some mysterious and perhaps magical places. Rusty pipes are like external skeletons that drape over the apartments. And if you traced the pipes, you would find that they all merge together eventually. Everything arises from a common soul. As you trace the pathways of the pipes, you will spot the people of the second floor having supper in a restaurant, a hint of the old W____. The alley is now filled with sounds of chopsticks and the chattering of the people, although they get out of tone sometimes. You pause for a moment and imagine yourself as a conductor leading this savoury orchestra. The smell of black bean trout waits along the alley. And if your nose is very sensitive, you can even smell the wonton soup. The light of the restaurant beats down on the road and makes the puddles shimmer in the dark. When you see your face and the people in the restaurant reflected in the puddles together, you will sense a kinship with the alley and its people. As the cooking smells cease, you will notice a change in the environment. The alley gets narrower to the point that allows only two people to walk by at the same time. Nevertheless, the narrow alley makes you feel as though someone is hugging you in this cold night, giving you all their love and warmth. You sense the extra closeness with your damp shirt sticking to your skin, as if you were assimilated into the alley. Although the awnings have disappeared unnoticeably, when you look up to the sky, you still cannot see the sky. The alley lies shrouded in a haze of its own, hiding her culture and romance from the outside world.

Now I am at the bend of the road. Around the bend is a chef pushing a cart that is loaded with wooden barrels in the direction towards me.

"Stay put against that wall and I will move against this one," he says abruptly.

I follow his instructions and both of us get through the bottleneck of the alley. I walk for two minutes and then I see a door in front of me with a sign: "Deliveries Only."

Going to Work

Here's my daily routine: I wake up at 6:15am. I brush my teeth, and dress up in order to make myself look smarter than what I really am. Then, I eat a quick breakfast and leave home by 7:20am to catch the bus on time. About 45 minutes later, I get to my destination: my workplace.

Everything seems routine up to this point. However, things that follow are different from day to day. While it can be pretty exciting once in awhile, sometimes it can simply drive you crazy and make you exhausted and feel ready to retire at 30.

While I would rather keep my work details confidential (although those of you who knew me know where I work and what I do), I can tell you that I work in a customer-service environment. The industry that I am in is extremely competitive, so we have to pay close attention to our competitors' strategies, such as new products, pricing, and services.

Those who have worked in sales, or a marketing environment, would agree that being in a customer-oriented industry is a stressful job. Since customers play such a key role in determining your overall performance, you always have to be pleasant and wear a smile on your face, whether you like it or not. As my boss always says, employees represent the image of the whole company when they are servicing customers. It's the employees, not the managers, who can turn customers to be loyal clients or company's nightmare. I agree with this point, since customers deal only with the employees, who are at the bottom level of the organizational hierarchy. Company policies may make customers unhappy and feel unfair, but it's the attitude of the employees that determine how they enjoy doing business with us. Since pride and self-respect are so dear to every one of us, people generally like to deal with those who can make them feel

they are important and respected. A simple example: would you prefer talking to someone who is pleasant and caring than someone who is grumpy and makes you feel that you are wasting his/her precious time?

Sadly, as competition between corporations increase, and customers become the key to winning the battle, the customers themselves also become more sophisticated and knowledgeable in that they know they are important. This leads to a situation where customers begin to demand unreasonable and excessive requests. They know that they are precious to the companies, so they declare they are the kings and queens and they believe that they are simply, "always right." On the other hand, cost reduction and downsizing are common in today's organization, thus expanding the ratio of employees to customers. What this leads to is a stressful workforce: on one hand, the employees have to make sure that each client's need is being well taken care of, and that their visits to the bank are pleasant experiences. On the other hand, they have to maintain their efficiency and effectiveness in growing responsibilities in a resource-limited environment. The stress among workers is particularly evident in a large organization, where the corporate hierarchy is more complicated and the workers have little say to change company's policies.

The staff in my company is not the only group that is feeling over-worked and stress. This is a common phenomenon in today's global market where supply greatly exceeds demand. And I do believe that this is an urgent issue for most organizations; there's an end to the tunnel, even though nobody's know when, or how many of us, will we see the light.

The Mystery of Women...UNCOVERED!!

I got a bone to pick with you girls. How come every girl I go out with either wants to marry me or wants nothing to do with me? In this day and age it's very difficult to be a young adult male seeking love. I've gone through much heartbreak, so I know how it is. But even encountering these great selfbacks I am not discouraged, because I know there is someone out there for me, just like there is someone out there for everyone.

I have discovered something about girls, which I will share with all my brothers. Girls are never the same. You cannot stereotype them at all into one large category and label it "chicks". They don't want the same stuff and they don't all have the same expectations. That is what's so frustrating dealing with women in the 90s (soon to be Y2K women!). You have to be smart and sensitive to their needs without being a complete wuss. You have to be nice and sweet but not all the time or else it gets annoying. You must sometimes pay for them, but then again she might be a feminist and reject the idea of an unbalanced financial relationship. Be careful out there guys.

You know the phrase, "nice guys finish last?" Well that phrase should read, "nice guys finish last unless they meet nice girls." This tends to ring true in my experience. The reason nice guys finish last is because they meet girls who want to be treated kindly but are quick to take advantage of the guys thoughtfulness. All of a sudden she wants a "bad boy". They want someone who can sweep them off their feet, enrage their parents and just be an all around tough guy. Meanwhile though, she wants to keep you on hold while she has this little fling with another guy because she knows it can't last. And wouldn't you

know it, being the nice guy that you are; you accept her back after she's done this to you. Why? Because you love her. HEY, wake up! She obviously doesn't love you, otherwise she wouldn't have done this to you. Maybe the phrase should be changed to "stupid guys who follow their hearts without using their heads finish last"?

Now once meeting a "nice girl", nice guys are relatively safe. Why? Because nice girls don't cheat on you. They know a good thing when they see one. If you treat her right and provide her with what she needs and give her what she wants, then both of you should be happy. But for how long? My guess would be probably until the mention of the word "marriage".

Many of my fellow men cringe at that word, but not me. If I know in my heart that I love someone, I will marry her. If I don't, I won't. It's as simple as that. You females think we're worried about commitment? I know plenty of guys who would sign the dotted line for a lease on a new car (of their choice) without even thinking twice and spend half their adult life paying for it. Commitment isn't the problem. It's probably either because he doesn't really love you or his fear of your lack of devotion.

Well my space is up. I have much more to say but no room to say it. So to all those looking for love, don't give up. And for all those in love, I wish you luck. But final, for all those who don't want love, please reconsider. You know what they say, "It's better to have love and lost, than to have never loved at all" and besides there are a lot of us single people out here!

"Triangles in their various forms appeal to you, like obtuse, right, isosceles etc."

We've known about triangles since we were little children. As we grow older, we start to learn about more different forms of triangles, such as love triangles, situation triangles, emotional triangles, and so forth. Triangles are not necessarily bad, as long as you know how to balance them in your life, and, more importantly, how to keep them apart.

First of all, let's talk about obtuse triangles. Technically, they can be described as having one angle exceeding 90°, but not exceeding 180°. It symbolizes a body position that all of us have to learn to do during our day to day routine. When I was young, my back used to be a perfect 180°, or sometimes over 180° in order to comprehend what was happening above the level of my height. As I grew older, I practised assuming the perfect 180° standing position as I face my counterparts. Metaphorically speaking, it represents confidence, and enthusiasm, and excellence. However, as I continued to grow, the 180° position began to get me into unnecessary trouble. As soon as I started my first real paid job, I was puzzled to see how the most capable people are usually the ones who appear very close to 180°, but not exactly. The effect was phenomenal. The obtuse position made them appear polite, composed, almost bowing, but not exactly. I then learnt to assume the obtuse angle, not because I am exceptionally tall, but because it worked the best. It still does.

Secondly, the right angle. Once in a while, one has to be able to assume that exaggerated right angle bowing position; if not physically, at least emotionally. If there is one thing that I learnt that would get me through most sorts of trouble, it would be the wisdom to know how to apologize. Being able to admit your weakness is the only way you will be able to forgive yourself. Of course, at times, you will have to stand up for yourself, but always remember, try not to break the obtuse rule.

Isosceles is probably the most useful triangle in one's lifetime. We live in a world where we are not alone. We interact, talk, and work with people all the time. What is more important than acquiring the ability to balance your actions with the world's? An isosceles triangle is one that has two sides being equal, but leaning onto one another, and balanced by a firm connection which makes it possible to stand. What more needs to be said?

Therefore, let triangles appeal to you. Be honest and "right". Stand and face the world with an "obtuse" manner. Most importantly, live life "isoscelesly".

Don't tolerate customer disservice

Large and small companies alike can provide inadequate customer service that upsets consumers. Damage ranges from spoiling vacations to ruining social gatherings.

I recently stayed at a Florida property of an international hotel chain. When I booked the hotel through the chain's central toll-free reservation centre, I was told the hotel's complimentary shuttles leave for Disney World every half an hour. Arriving in the late morning, I expected to be in Disney that same day. To be sure, I spent my first day in Disney. However, rather than shuttling my way there, I had to take a cab. The last shuttle leaving the hotel was long gone. Anyway, it only runs once an hour. This necessitated critical timing on my return. Fortunately, I made it onto the crowded bus and did not have to take a cab back to the hotel.

But my day was far from over. When all I wanted to do was sleep after a long day of walking, I was confronted by a new challenge—how to get rid of a frog in the room. My first action was to call room service. An hour after I called them, no one had come. When the frog reappeared the next night, I fought them on the phone before they agreed to send someone up. This experience told me not to take customer service for granted. To get it one must demand it.

Another hotel-related incident happened locally. I invited two guests to dinner at the renowned restaurant of a respected hotel. Our expectations were high. I anticipated nothing

less than perfect food and flawless service. What I got was average food and surprisingly disappointing service. On spotting a live insect on a plate of fruits, we directed a server to the sight. Instead of getting sympathy and apology, we got this unemotional sentiment: "Oh. The fruit. Yes. Sometimes the fruit can have bugs." I admit I didn't dress up really fancy, nor do I look the business type. So? I did not deserve that kind of disrespect. To exercise my rights as a paying customer, I left my server a negligible tip and am in the process of filing a detailed complaint.

The assault of despicable customer service wouldn't be complete without a disheartening situation in an entertainment establishment after dinner. It is common for many stores to give their customers redeemable stamps for each visit. However, due to a poorly-worded "coupon" stamp they put on my receipt once, I did not ask for stamps as I normally would. When they refused to redeem the "coupon" next time, I questioned their logic. An assistant manager shot back it is none of my business. When I demanded for the stamps they never gave me, they wouldn't budge. They promised to call me after reviewing their tapes of counter activity, but at column submission four days later, I have yet to hear from them. If they hoped I would forget, they can forget about getting my business again.

Your Momma is a Woman

That's right, in case you haven't noticed. Just about as blatantly obvious a statement as "There's an extreme shortage of parking facilities at UBC." If you were one of those who had the pleasure of trying to locate a spot in B-Lot in the first two weeks of school, I wouldn't have to explain to you any of this. One day I arrived at B-5 at 10:00, couldn't find a spot after circling like a freaking vulture for more than half an hour, and ended up parking at the very end of B-7, still with a thirty-plus-cars-lineup right behind me. I wonder where those unfortunate students ended up parking... 10th and Alma? It really makes me appreciate the wisdom of the people who park along SW Marine two miles from school and then bike to class: it makes more sense that it sounds.

The problem is not new. It's a perennial pest you can expect to see every year, just like the little green worms that hang down from the trees of Main Mall. It's just that UBC decides to ignore it, as clearly demonstrated by the 1 in 4 chance of winning the parkade-permit-draw every year. But that's fine, since there's always gonna be a B-Lot. Right?

We can deal with it, you say, as we could for the past two/four/ten years. Bad as it is now, you say, it's still tolerable. Really think so? Now here's the scary part: UBC has an Official Community Plan, which

proposes scrapping B-1, B-4, B-5, B-7 and the parking lot adjacent to SRC, and turn them into housing. Now, more student housing is good. But if they so drastically reduce the number of parking lots, they better drastically increase transit service to campus. Unfortunately for us insignificant students, the plan doesn't mention any cooperative efforts with BC Transit. So the next time you see Martha walking around campus with her "Think about it" slogan, make sure you ask her to think about how to relieve the existing parking problems, or at least not to worsen it. Say, if four of the B-Lots are to be scrapped, why not take one or two and build multi-story parkades on top of them?

But of course, we are only insignificant students whose opinions no one really cares, or they would have heeded the opinion of the AMS in drawing that community plan. But since they didn't, and the AMS has only one or two votes out of twenty-four in the senate, I guess we're destined to be screwed by the bureaucracy. Unless miracle happens and they revise their original plan, we will kiss our ol' B-Lots goodbye sometime in the future. We can only hope it will happen after we have graduated (or have been expelled).

So why hasn't UBC noticed? I dunno. Maybe it's a hermaphrodite.

歷史新低！

直撥

首500名申請加入WORLDxCHANGE之新客戶，



即可獲贈
價值\$100
之世界通用
“保利優惠卡”

用\$1
送\$10

中國	每分鐘低至	48¢*
香港	每分鐘低至	9¢*
台灣	每分鐘低至	20¢*
美加	每分鐘低至	9¢*

** 新舊客戶請從速致電查詢詳情及填表登記



**由99年8月18日起至11月30日申請之新客戶，
首3個月每月長途電話消費超過1元，即當月
回贈價值10元之長途電話卡。

該優惠由 Goodwill Communications Inc. 提供。

請致電諮詢熱線索取申請表格及資料：

(604) 432-1888 Fax: (604) 432-9159

Suite 200, 5050 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. Canada V5H 4H2
Suite 708, 1155 West Pender St. Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6E 2P4
Suite 100, 2145 West Broadway Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6K 4L3



WORLDxCHANGE
COMMUNICATIONS



世界通電訊公司
GOODWILL COMMUNICATIONS INC.

Goodwill Communications and Authorized Agent for WorldxChange Communications