



NEWS 2010 政制改革方案

Debate on the Constitutional Reform



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form Package



TYR

The Young Reporter
-by HKBU journalism students since 1969-

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INTERVIEWS Local artist wins international acclaim for her hand-made dolls P18



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Journalists write the first draft of history. To review the year 2010, TYR conducted a survey among journalism students in Hong Kong to see what they believe were the ten biggest local news. Should journalism students have a different way of looking at news from other undergraduates?

As prospective agenda setters of news organisations, journalism students' perceptions may indicate how they would arrange the news rundown or pagination in the future and as a result influence the way the general public consume news. The top ten news in their eyes are somehow denotative. You can find them in our cover story, which serves as a record of the major happenings of the city.

At the beginning of a new year, I wish you every success. Apart from learning from history, we should always look ahead. As tension between Japan and China and between North Korea and South Korea escalates, shifts in diplomatic postures of Asian countries will increasingly affect us. Perhaps people should also pay more attention to international news.

Alan Kwok Kim-fung
Chief Editor

Kids are pushed way too hard

Parents in the city schedule a timetable of piano, drama and English courses as well as playgroups for their kids

BY HELEN WU



Shouldn't kids be carefree and playing around the park joyfully?

Three-year-old Edith from the US told her mother that she learned the first letter “O” of “Open” on the gift box from her kindergarten teacher Vera. Her mother then sued the kindergarten for deprivation of her kid’s imagination.

The reason was that before Edith was taught the letter “O”, she could say the sun, a soccer, an egg, or anything in round shape. But she lost such ability after learning the 26 letters.

This lawsuit in 1968 has been quoted by many print and online publications.

Teaching children at a young age is important when they develop the ability to learn. But the city’s parents are often criticised for pushing their kids way too hard.

“I felt so exhausted after tutoring the baby,” said Ms Wang, a Hong Kong Baptist University student who is a private Mandarin tutor of her professor’s baby. She teaches the baby to speak through babbling.

“She just plays herself and never pay attention to you. But her parent want my voice around to at least create a language environment for their baby,” she said.

Babies learning a second language are common in the city.

“Our playgroup caters for children aged from twelve months to two years

old. The curriculum is theme-based with an emphasis on developing self-management, emotional, social, language and intellectual skills,” says a staff member of Superkids, a kid tutoring centre offering courses and playgroups.

“Some of the advertisements (of playgroups) just don’t make sense and the programmes are there just to make money,” said Ms Kwan Man-ling, mother of her nine-year-old son.

Playgroups, a kind of pre-school care for kids under five, are getting popular in the city. Children play games in a specifically-designed environment to stimulate their socialisation skills.

“Qualities of these courses differs,” said Ms Luk Fung-ling whose two-year-old daughter used to join playgroups. But she found some were more or less the same as courses in kindergarten.

“It depends on the teacher. Some are just a waste of money,” Ms Luk said.

Yet there might be another reason for joining such playgroups – certificates. A range of interest courses by kids tutoring centres issue certificates to kids upon completion of the courses.

For example, children older than six months get a certificate from Vienna Music Examination Board by finishing the “Early Childhood Music Education Certificate Programme” in local kids tu-

toring training centres.

Should kids be pushed to pursue a certificate at such a young age?

“Basically children just have fun there. We, parents, are the ones under pressure. When others’ children learn something, you get worried about your own child,” Ms Luk said.

Ms Kwan shares the view because of primary school admissions.

“Primary schools with good reputation have their own marking systems in admitting students. If your children have completed interest courses such as playing the piano or drama, marks will possibly be added,” said Ms Kwan.

The expenses parents spend on private tutoring also vary. Tuition fees of art classes like dancing, drama, drawing and so forth, range from around \$100 to \$350 per hour.

Ms Grace Siu, a mother of two, spent about \$3,000 every month for her daughter at kindergarten grade one on learning piano, drawing and English.

“Some of the ads just don’t make sense and the programmes are there just to make money.”

— Kwan Man-ling,
mother of her nine-year old son

She said her spending is just mild when compared to those spending \$20,000 a month as reported widely by the media.

“The economy recovers and is stable now. Most parents today can provide their children with resources which were not available back in the old days,” Ms Luk said.

Mr Au Yeung Chiu-lung, father of a two-year-old child, is a primary school teacher. He believes it is good for children to try different things at an early age as they can develop potentials if they like the activities.

“Children may become future Michael Phelps if they learn swimming at a young age and love that afterwards. If they don’t like it, they will give up soon. There is no harm to them,” he said.

EDITED BY SARAH LAI

Art is available upstairs

Galleries on the upper floors are booming

BY JASMIN YIU

Large paintings, minimalist galleries and stark white open spaces may be found not just in museums and libraries; they have emerged on the upper floors of multi-storey buildings in downtown areas.

In Central's Soho district, upstairs galleries showcasing community art can be found along Wellington Street and Wyndham Street.

Many of them maintain a large room for art exhibitions. The rent for these upstairs galleries is more affordable than those on the street.

Oil painter Mr Lam Ming-kong, who had studied at the Academy of Fine Arts

"In contrast to street side galleries, we usually approach different artists and hold exhibitions."

- Vincent Lee Kwun-leung, art director of the Art of Nature International

in Paris, recently sold some of his works for about \$30,000 each through the Art of Nature International, an upstairs gallery in Tsuen Wan.

"Thirty-thousand dollar per painting is reasonable and cheap," said Mr Vincent Lee Kwun-leung, art director of the Art of Nature International. "If custom-

ers shop at other galleries, some paintings may even cost \$100,000 each."

Mr Lee also points out the difference between street side and upstairs galleries: "The sales of street side galleries are based on walk-in customers while we usually approach different artists and hold exhibitions."

Established three years ago, the Art of Nature International has already held 23 exhibitions in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and other countries such as Singapore.

The most impressive exhibition was "Art Penang 2009" in Malaysia, according to Ms Cissy Cheung Chu-yu, founder and president of the gallery.

"We were the only Chinese participant. And our theme of promotion was feminist art," said Ms Cheung.

Female painters are rarely found in the mainland. Ms Cheung sees this exhibition as a chance to showcase Chinese art from a feminist perspective.

The Art of Nature International has a group of contract artists, many of whom are outstanding artists from the mainland. They work to enhance the appreciation and creativity of art works at the gallery to maintain good prices in auctions and attract investment.

But exhibitions may not always be successful. Around \$10,000 is spent on



Mr Vincent Lee Kwun-leung works on one of his paintings.

promoting each exhibition. But sometimes an exhibition attracted only a few customers and collectors. Ms Cheung recalled that only one piece of art work was sold in the first half of 2010 at the gallery.

But she is optimistic about the future of upstairs galleries. "These galleries mainly rely on customers' network. Our network is gradually expanding. We invite different artists to showcase their works at our exhibitions," she said.

"We have also established a partnership with the Chinese University of Hong Kong. This enables us to solicit graduate artists."

Mr Chan Kwun-nam, a fine arts graduate of CUHK, now works at the Art of Nature International. He is doing a post-graduate degree in art and has to submit a piece of work to the gallery every month. He also works on promotion and marketing for the company.

"Such an opportunity to work freelance and showcase our works can definitely help students' career," said Mr Chan.

Ms Cheung, who hails from Fujian, said she would plan exhibitions to raise recognition of Fujianese art to counteract the dominating Shanghai and Beijing styles in Chinese art galleries.



The Art of Nature International has already held 23 exhibitions in Asia since 2007.

EDITED BY LAURA LUO

Innovations in traditional craft

One of HK's oldest industries goes modern with new designs

BY THOMAS CHAN



My Au Yeung Ping-chi introduces a paper Nintendo DSL and a paper digital camera.

Despite a loss of skillful craftsmen and keen competition from mainland manufacturers, local paper craft workshops have survived by mingling modern ideas with ancient practices.

Flipping through a catalogue, local paper craft master Mr Ha Chung-kin showed a photo of a 20-feet-tall paper mummy effigy that he made for a celebration of the last Halloween.

"What I try to do is applying my skills of traditional paper craft to create something trendy," said the 49-year-old craftsman. "Nowadays, it is almost impossible for us to earn a living by sticking to traditional designs."

He has been modernising the product line of his paper craft workshop - Tin Bo Lau in Sai Ying Pun - to meet customers' changing demands.

The master's 24-year-old son Mr Sam Ha Ho-man has introduced chic items such as paper iPads and digital cameras, which are very popular among both middle-aged and young customers.

Paper offerings are charms, and decorations made of paper play a central role in Chinese celebrations and religious ceremonies like funerals.

During the 1970s and 1980s, adept masters and a huge demand for paper offerings contributed to the most thriving era of the industry. Hundreds of craftsmen specialised in such offerings constructed with bamboo frames.

"At that time, most Hongkongers stuck to the traditional way of worshipping their ancestors," said Mr Ha Chung-kin. "They bought and burnt large paper offerings on the first and fifteenth days of every Lunar month."

According to Mr Ha, the daily turn-

over of a paper craft workshop could be up to several hundred dollars, a very good sum of money at that time.

Apart from paper offerings, paper craftsmen also made lion heads, for which the demand was huge from overseas Chinese lion dance associations.

Mr Ha said a handmade lion head was sold at around \$7,000 in the 1980s. A team of masters could make and export 10 to 15 lion heads a month.

But now with abundant supply by manufacturers in Guangdong province, many local and overseas lion dance teams have turned to the mainland for cheaper offers.

A set of lion dance costumes by mainland manufacturers costs around \$3,000, which is just one-third of the price charged by local masters, a local

lion dance master Mr Ha Chiu-kin said.

While local paper offering retailers import cheaper offerings from the mainland, stricter regulations by property management have also hindered the industry.

Before the 1990s, people could burn paper offerings freely in public areas around housing estates to commemorate their ancestors. But due to safety concern, many estates have banned such burning.

But Mr Au Yeung Ping-chi, in his early thirties, believes there is a market for trendy paper offerings. He creates modern paper crafts by exploiting his artistic talent.

After graduating from a design school in 1997, Mr Au Yeung took over his father's paper offering shop, Po Wah Paper Offerings, which was founded half a century ago.

In face of rising competition, he allows customisation of his products to satisfy different customers' needs instead of lowering prices.

He recalled he once spent ten days making a real-sized paper piano ordered by a mother who lost her young daughter. "To make sure it looked real, I went to a music store to study the structure of a piano and measure its size."

EDITED BY INES NARVAEZ



Mr Ha Chung-kin (left) pitches the bamboo frame of a Buddhist boat.

Humane solutions for strays

Homeless dogs are given training while awaiting adoption

BY JACK AUNG MIN KHIN



Volunteer Mr Sidney Mak Fai-shing and his daughter play with dogs at HKDR kennel.

About 10,000 stray dogs are euthanised every year due to lack of adoption. Such killings could be avoided if the strays were successfully re-homed.

“We want to find homes for our dogs. One way to help them get re-homed is to provide them with training,” said Ms Alice Lau Yan, adoption and training manager of Hong Kong Dog Rescue.

“If the strays are obedient, they are more likely to be adopted.”

HKDR is a non-profit organisation that saves dogs from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department government kennels. It aims to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home as many abandoned dogs as possible.

Under current policy, stray dogs caught by government dog catchers are held for four days awaiting adoption. They will be put down if they are not adopted.

Such practice is described as “inhuman” by animal welfare organisations including HKDR. They will now be notified for adoption when dogs are caught.

With three re-homing centres in Tai Po, Lamma Island and Ap Lei Chau, HKDR now looks after about 300 dogs in their kennels.

The homeless dogs are given training while awaiting adoption. Volunteers teach the dogs to obey commands, to walk properly in the street and not to bark too often so that the strays can get along with people.

Ms Lau said it was not easy for their dogs to be adopted. Only about 50 to 80 dogs in their centres could get an owner every year.

Many animal welfare organisations try to re-home the abandoned through their training programmes to save lives

from euthanasia. They encourage people to adopt a stray instead of buying a pet dog from pet shops.

Ms Rebecca Ngan Yee-ling, public relations and Communications manager of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animal, said most people wanted young pets of about one to two-month-old so the abandoned dogs which were often a bit older could hardly find a new home.

But Ms Ngan said their dogs were well-trained so they were easier to look after: “Puppies may bark all day and pee around as they don’t know any rules.”

Many people gave up their pets because pets were banned in many housing estates.

Mr Sidney Mak Fai-shing, 50, has been a HKDR volunteer for two years. He is not allowed to keep a dog at home so he would rather spend his weekends in HKDR kennels with his daughter.

“I would rather spend some time with the dogs here,” Mr Mak said.

A “Trap-Neuter-Return” programme for dogs is proposed by some animal welfare organisations to aim at no kills.

TNR suggests animal welfare groups to catch homeless dogs, neuter the dogs and send them back to their habitats. The programme controls stray dog population by sterilisation.

Legislator Mr Gary Chan Hak-kan has moved a motion to urge the government to cooperate with District Councils and animal rights organisations to carry out TNR.

But Ms Diana Wong On Yi, information officer of the AFCD, said not everyone welcomed the programme at all.

“The AFCD received over 20,000 complaints about stray cats and dogs in each of the past three years,” Ms Wong said. “Some people cannot tolerate the nuisances caused by stray animals.”

EDITED BY BONNIE FUNG

Statistics about stray dogs by the AFCD

YEAR	No of stray dogs euthanised	No of stray dogs re-homed via animal welfare organisations
2007	11,810	550
2008	10,350	720
2009	9,340	650

Labels fail to stop circular mails

Critics say the “No Circular Mail” stickers are ineffective

BY WINNIE YIU

Environmental groups say a Hongkong Post scheme aimed at reducing the circulation of unaddressed mails has failed to work.

According to Green Sense, only less than one per cent of postal delivery points in the city are using the “No Circular Mail” stickers.

The “No Circular Mail” Opt-out Sticker scheme, launched by Hongkong Post three months ago, aims to help people stop receiving unaddressed circular mails and to save paper.

If a “No Circular Mail” sticker is affixed to a mail box, postmen will not deliver any unaddressed mails to that box. But the scheme does not cover mails from the government and related organisations, legislative and district councillors, election candidates and charitable bodies eligible for tax exemptions.

Although Hongkong Post will lose a \$30-million profit on the circular mail business, it is estimated that more than 60,000 trees for producing these adver-



Source: Hongkong Post

tising mails will be saved every year.

However, Green Sense says Hongkong Post has over-estimated the effectiveness of the scheme.

“There is a huge gap between the preliminary expectation and the actual use of the stickers,” said Ms Suen, spokesperson of Green Sense.

A survey conducted by Hongkong Post before the implementation of the scheme found that at least one-third of the respondents would use the sticker.

On the basis of the survey findings, it was estimated that the scheme could cut the circulation of unaddressed mails, which number about 110 million a year, by six to seven per cent and the number of unaddressed circulars by 90 per cent.

But that is if people had used the stickers at the rates suggested by the survey.



Green Sense vice-president Mr Jan Lai Ming-chuen (right) suggests Hongkong Post should do better to promote the “No circular mail” stickers.

Recent figures by Hongkong Post show that only about 30,000 out of more than 3.6 million delivery points are using the labels. This means less than one per cent of the public have used the scheme since its launch.

“The estimation is 30 times that of actual use,” said Ms Suen.

Green Sense vice-president Mr Jan Lai Ming-chuen also said Hongkong Post should have done better to promote the scheme.

“No obvious signs or posters have been displayed. The general public does not know much about it,” said Mr Lai.

Although the stickers are available for free at all post offices, district councils and even some housing estates, they could only be obtained during office hours.

In Mei Foo Sun Tsuen, only five letter boxes out of the estate’s 200 postal delivery points are affixed with the “No circular mail” stickers.

“I have never heard of the scheme,” said Mr Mau, a Mei Foo resident.

“But anyway I won’t use the stickers because they would deprive me of the

opportunity to read advertisements, which may contain information about products and services I want to know,” he added.

But supporters and users of the scheme believe that the stickers are somehow useful.

“I came across the stickers in a post office. As I was always annoyed by the advertising mails, I decided to have a try and place the sticker on my mailbox. The amount of advertising mails I receive has reduced,” said Mr Paul So, a supporter of the scheme.



Postman will not deliver any unaddressed mails to letter boxes with the stickers.

EDITED BY VIVIAN CHUI

Chicest way to go green

Swishing parties allow participants to wear smart, save money and cut waste

BY CARLOS CHENG

With a glass of tasteful champagne in their hands and fancy music in the background, about 80 fashionably dressed women chatted merrily as they wandered through racks of beautiful clothes.

They were so excited about the wide array of costumes available that they kept rushing in and out of the fitting rooms to try out their favourite selections.

"The experience is amazing," said Ms Lau Sau-kei, a 36-year-old office lady who had picked three dresses and a handbag. "I don't have to pay for the stuff and can be chic and eco-friendly at the same time."

The clothes, shoes and bags available at this seemingly upper-class fashion party were all second-hand and brought in by the participants.

The ladies came to this fashion swap party not only for the clothes, but also for one of the hottest fashion idea - eco-fashion, which means being fashionable in an environmentally friendly way.

Each participant of this so-called swishing party is given a certain number of credits beforehand based on the value of one's donated clothing pieces. The participants then use their credits to trade for pieces they like; they can also buy more credits with cash.

Ms Christina Dean, founder of char-

ity Green2green, was the organiser of the swishing party: "We hold the party because it's a good way to get rid of the things in your wardrobe you don't want. But they might be almost new."

"Through the party, you trade them for something you like in return. So with each transaction, two clothing pieces are saved and unnecessary wastes can be avoided," she said.

Ms Dean said the concept of swishing party originated in Britain where people realised fashion pollutes the environment because clothes are abandoned for new ones every season.

People seldom regard clothes as a source of pollution. But in fact, the industry consumes 10 percent of the world's herbicide a year and contaminates rivers and fields nearby in the production of cotton, the raw material of clothes.

Dumping of clothes also means more pressure on landfills.

According to a survey conducted by Friends of the Earth (HK), each individual in the city buys 30 pieces of clothes every year on average. And 44 percent of the respondents dumped away brand-new clothes.

"I brought the party my clothes that are in very good condition but seldom worn," said participant Ms Jessica Wang. "Otherwise I don't know what to



Eco-fashion means being fashionable in an environmentally friendly way.

do with these clothes."

Although the public can recycle their clothes under government schemes or donate them to charities such as the Salvation Army, some clothes are just too good to be recycled.

"Ladies might find their newly-bought clothes not satisfactory enough when they get home. Swishing parties then become a perfect solution," said Ms Sarah Yim, another party organiser.

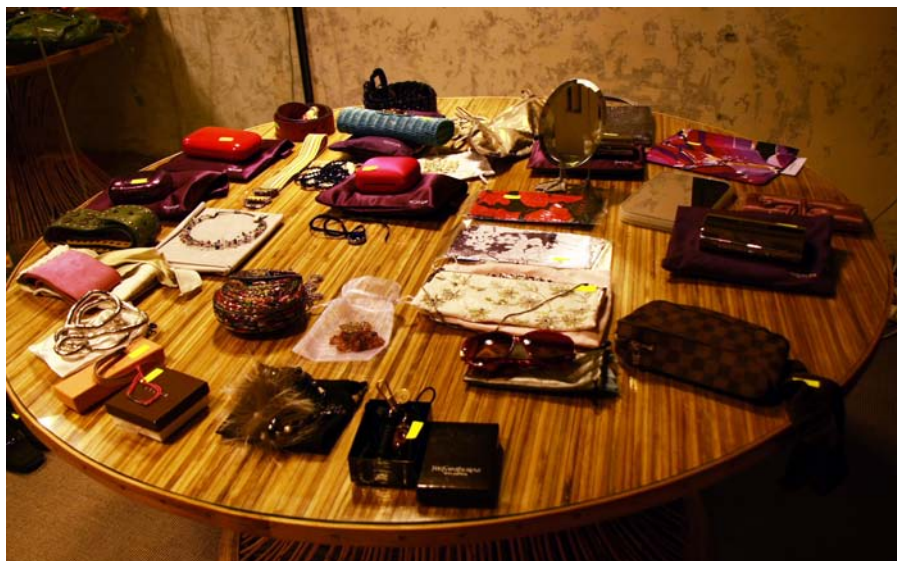
Celebrities such as singer Kelly Chen also donate their clothes for swishing. A total of 400 clothing pieces and another \$20,000 are donated. The money will be used to support eco-friendly textile programmes in the mainland.

Professional stylist Mrs Charlotte O'Connor is also invited to give advice to the participants and help them pick the pieces that fit them best.

Mrs O'Connor's fashion consultation includes a wardrobe review to reorganise their clothes and create new outfits from existing pieces so that no clothes would be dumped away.

Having worked in other cities such as Paris, London and Sydney, she thinks Hong Kong people care more about brand names rather than styles.

"Vintage pieces can also be chic as long as they are well-matched," she said. "People in Britain and Australia enjoy searching for nice but cheap second-hand garments which can last long and don't generate waste."



Participants bring the swishing party their personal stuff and trade for others.

EDITED BY JOHN XIAN

Accounting for carbon emission

An energy audit is a good start to lower carbon footprint at work

BY JOCELYN ZHAO



Carbon audits are still uncommon in Hong Kong's commercial sector.

A carbon audit will put you on the right track to lowering your carbon footprint at work and achieving savings for your companies.

It is about accounting for the quantifiable greenhouse gas emissions generated by offices within a certain period of time.

In 2008, the Environmental Protection Department introduced the carbon audit project aimed at reducing commercial energy consumption.

However, it has failed to catch on among local businesses, with only 198 companies promising to conduct a carbon audit by signing the EPD's *Green Reduction Charter*.

According to Hong Kong Energy End-use Data 2010 by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, total energy consumption of the territory reached 285,430 Terajoules in 2008. The figure was six per cent higher than that in 1998. The commercial sector constituted the largest portion, accounting for about 40 per cent of Hong Kong's overall energy consumption.

To reduce the commercial sector's carbon emission, conducting a carbon audit may be a good start. It is generally conducted by carbon auditors from carbon management consultancies who have technical background in environ-

ment-related fields and specialise in global standard calculation tools.

Carbon auditors can work out the total carbon emission of a company by obtaining data such as electricity and water consumption of offices, distances from staff's homes to work place and the transportations they take.

The auditors can also work out the composition of the total amount of carbon emitted by using certain formulas. By comparing figures over certain periods, the experts keep track of the firms' carbon performance.

The consultancies also offer package service that covers further reporting and carbon reduction strategy.

"Carbon auditing is about quantifying carbon emissions and assisting companies to carry out environmental protection measures in a systematic way," said Ms Lam Shan-shan, business and sustainability consultant of Carbon Care Asia, a carbon management advisory based in Hong Kong.

Thomson Reuters' Hong Kong office joined WWF's Low-carbon Office Operation Programme and has started practicing carbon auditing in early 2010.

"Before carbon auditing was introduced, we had no idea how far we had achieved in energy-saving as there was no figure for reference," said Mr Sunny

To Sun, consultant of Desktop Design Group North Asia of Thomson Reuters.

But the company encountered obstacles in conducting the audit, especially in data collection.

"The manager of our office building refused to provide data about electricity consumption, and they don't even have a well-established system for getting precise figures," said Mr To.

The unpredictable cost of carbon emission reduction is another latent difficulty for practising carbon audit.

"Merely the installation of energy-saving lighting system of our three-storey office could cost a lot," said Mr To.

According to Ms Lam from CCA, each carbon consultation service costs from \$20,000 to \$100,000 and varies with office size. For the companies employing a package of consultation and solution services, the cost could be even higher.

"Before carbon audit was introduced, we had no idea how far we had achieved in energy-saving."

- Sunny To Sun, consultant of Thomson Reuters' HK office

Compared with multinational companies, small-and-medium-sized enterprises are less willing to adopt carbon management policies.

"They tend to pay more attention to making profits rather than to protect the environment," said Ms Lam.

"The government's advertisements about carbon management never explain the details, such as its purposes and benefits," said Ms Karen Ho Mei-kuen, business engagement leader of WWF. "People may have come across the concept but have insufficient understanding of what it means."

The government aims to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions per capita from 6.2 tons to 3.6-4.5 tons by 2020. CCA's Ms Lam believes that public engagement is essential for changes. "Taking actions is more important than merely relying on government's policies," Ms Lam said.

EDITED BY EDWARD MA



A sip of rich Chinese culture

Tea is part of everyday life for the Chinese

BY SIMON YUEN

The master sits up straight and concentrates on pouring boiling water from a teapot to a porcelain cup half-full of Tei Guan Yin tea leaves. The aroma of the freshly brewed tea soon fills the air. She sniffs. Before serving the tea in two smaller porcelain cups, she pours it into a jug as part of the proper brewing process.

"This is an indispensable step as every cup of tea should be the same. The texture would be different if tea was directly poured into those small cups," says Ms Eliza Liu Tze-fong, president of the International Chinese Tea Club.

She is focused during the process as she does not want to waste a single drop of the tea: "Concentration is required for a tea practitioner. Otherwise, you will miscalculate the amount of tea leaves, temperature of boiling water and time to soak the tea leaves," she says.

"It will be a total waste if you make a blunder. The entire process of tea production, from picking the tea leaves and roasting them, takes so much effort."

Since remote antiquity, Chinese have

been drinking tea.

"In ancient times, there were only a few types of drinks. So tea was important for Chinese, and they refined the ways to taste tea and improved on making tea wares," says Ms Liu. "Shennong was the first person who discovered tea. By now tea is around 5,000 years old."

From tea wares and teahouses to tea in plastic bottles, tea has become part of our daily life. When friends come over, we welcome them with a cup of hot tea. Newlyweds present a cup of tea to their elders as a sign of respect. Mooncakes and Pu-erh tea go together in celebrating the mid-autumn festival. Many people cook with tea and make tea eggs and Longjing (a type of tea leaves) prawns.

Unlike wine, coffee and juice, tea uses much smaller containers. A small tea cup can contain only a mouthful of liquid. Even tea pots are small as well.

"Fresh-brewed tea is very hot and you will scald the throat if you drink too fast. So people only drink a little amount of tea at a time," Ms Liu says.

"A little cup of tea makes your mouth full of fragrance. But it will be too full of tea's odour if people drink too much."

Some perceive tea as an area of interest and small tea wares are essential for tea appreciation.

"Some tea wares are antiques. Rare tea pots can cost more than a million dollar each. Investing in tea is a profit-making business because many tea-lovers are willing to spend," says Mr Jacky Ip Ching-fung, an amateur tea lover.

With small tea wares, adept practitioners handle the amount of tea leaves, time of soaking and water temperature easily and cautiously in tea-brewing.

"By doing so, they realise the meaning of Kung Fu Tea," says Ms Percy Cheung Chi-man, shopkeeper of LockCha Tea Shop in Sheung Wan. In Chinese, Kung Fu means skills.

Tea can be beneficial to our health.

"Red tea helps digestion," says Mr Yuen Wing-chung, a Chinese medicine practitioner. "Tea is an ingredient of a Chinese medicine to cure headache."

But excess intake can be harmful. People may suffer from insomnia if they drink too much. "Drink an appropriate amount and never drink tea when your stomach is empty," says Ms Cheung.

EDITED BY MINERVA CHENG

Paint your skin with mehndi

Indian cosmetology gets popular among Hongkongers

BY JUDITH KI

Hong Kong is not only where East meets West. With many ethnic minorities residing in the city, Hong Kong people are influenced by a mix of cultures.

Exotic Indian culture is getting popular. At the recently held Book Fair 2010, for example, there were booths introducing mehndi-drawing, which fascinated many people.

"Mehndi symbolises shagun, which means good luck," says Ms Sara Mush, a 23-year-old well-known Indian mehndi artist in the city.

She has been drawing mehndi for seven years. She held numerous bazaars and just finished her first exhibition, "The Henna Warriors", last month.

Mehndi, also known as henna, is a form of art that originated in ancient India just for women. It is the application of natural herbs as a temporary form of skin decoration.

"It is safe. The fine powders of henna turn into a thick, dark green paste after mixing with water," says Ms Mush.

With a mylar sheet cone, Ms Mush skillfully squeezes out the paste in fine lines to create patterns of traditional Indian motifs.

"Paisley means harmony. Peacock the National bird means beginning and

love. And lotus means purity and freedom," the master says.

The herbal content in the mehndi gives a minty feeling to the skin. Colours range from pale red-orange to dark brown. An ideal period with body heat for 24 to 48 hours without water contact helps deepen the stain.

"But 'black henna' – with an additional artificial hair dye for a brighter and longer-lasting effect – should be avoided as it may lead to severe skin allergy," says Ms Mush.

There are two types of mehndi designs – the Arabic and traditional In-



Sara Mush

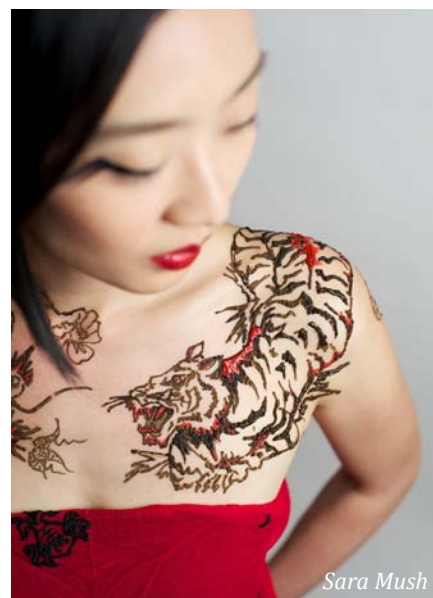
dian style.

"The Arabic style is more common nowadays in which bolder lines are drawn. For traditional Indian style, intricate and detailed patterns are used for weddings, worships and other special celebrations," says Ms Mush.

Ms Raina Bhansali, a 21-year-old Indian bride, says there are no rules on when to apply it on the body.

"The most common occasions are weddings, the seventh month of pregnancy and Karvachot – the fasting for husbands," she says.

Young Indian girls love putting mehndi on themselves for decoration purposes. However, when it comes to marriage, the bridal mehndi must be



Sara Mush

done by professional artists back in India and costs around \$350 on average.

"I plan to have the traditional Indian style for my wedding, with my hands up to my forearms and my legs densely covered with sophisticated mehndi designs that look as if I were wearing gloves and socks," says Ms Bhansali.

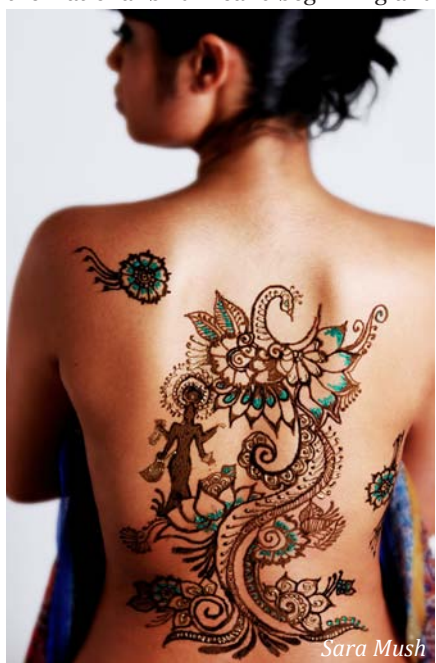
A specific design of bridal mehndi is having the newlyweds' faces drawn on the palm. Another is having the groom's name written in between the very intricate patterns. The groom will be asked to find it out. An ancient Indian myth says the darker the patterns, the more the husband and mother-in-law will love the bride.

Some locals are fascinated by mehndi patterns. Ms Bobo Li Man-ying, a 20-year-old university student, bought a \$5 instant mehndi cone from an Indian grocery store to decorate her skin.

"It is like a tattoo, fashionable but not painful, not permanent and not costly," says Ms Li while twisting her forearm to show the barcode that symbolises the intimate relationship with her boyfriend.

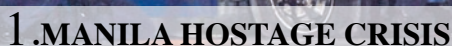
Another mehndi artist, Ms Manpreet Kaur, in her thirties, also shares a positive view. "It is not harmful to health and is easy to learn. Therefore it is a good way of cultural exchange between India and Hong Kong," says Ms Kaur.

EDITED BY EDITORIAL BOARD



Sara Mush

The first Chinese to be awarded the prize, Liu Xiaobo is serving an 11-year jail term on subversion charges for co-authoring a manifesto seeking greater human rights in the mainland. Hundreds of Hongkongers rallied to demand the release of Liu ahead of the award ceremony.



Eight Hong Kong tourists were killed in a bus hijack as Manila authorities bungled a rescue attempt on August 23. A disgruntled former cop was the gunman, who was shot dead by police snipers. Thousands marched to express their anger at Manila's handling of the tragedy, demanding justice and investigation for the victims.



The government won funding approval for the \$66.9 billion express rail link after a 25-hour debate. Thousands of young protesters angered by its approval laid siege to the Legco building and repeatedly clashed with police. Transport chief Eva Cheng Yu-wah and her officials were trapped inside for hours.

Over the last two months we have conducted a survey among tertiary institutions, including The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Chinese Baptist University, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong Baptist College of Higher Education, etc. We believe were the ten biggest local

A closed-ended questionnaire survey, which listed 50 news events in Hong Kong or involved Hong Kong, was completed by 100 journalism students participated in the course. The students were asked to rate on a ten-point scale. Shown on the right, the students who were male scored the highest average mark.



The Privacy Commissioner found that the personal data of some 1.97 million Octopus cardholders had been sold by MTR to its business partners for \$44 million without the cardholders' consent in the five years from 2006. Octopus chief executive officer Prudence Chan Bik-wah apologised and resigned, responding to public outrage.



After an 41-hour debate, legislators passed the minimum wage bill, with 45 votes for and only one against. From Labour Day 2011, workers will be guaranteed an hourly pay of at least \$28.

news of 2010



6. DIAOYU DISPUTE ESCALATES AS JAPAN DETAINED CHINESE TRAWLER CAPTAIN

Tension between Beijing and Tokyo rose since a collision between two Japanese Coast Guard patrol boats and a Chinese trawler in waters off the Diaoyu Islands. Japan detained the Chinese trawler captain for more than two weeks. Hundreds of Hong Kong activists protested outside the Japanese consulate.



7. BUILDING COLLAPSE ON MA TAU WAI ROAD

A 50-year-old five-storey tenement in To Kwa Wan collapsed in late January, killing four and injuring two others. Emergency inspections were carried out on at least 4,000 old buildings across Hong Kong within the following month.

hs, *The Young Reporter* conducting journalism students from five including the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Shue Yan University and Chu ion, to find out what they believed news in the year 2010.

nnaire was constructed for the events that happened in Hong people. A total of 272 journal- ne survey by grading each item this page are the 10 items that rks.

(Photo courtesy: 1-10 Ming Pao)



10. LIVE DEBATE BETWEEN DONALD TSANG AND AUDREY EU OVER POLITICAL REFORM

The first-ever televised debate between a Chief Executive and an opposition leader was held last year. Donald Tsang Yam-kuen and Civic Party's Audrey Eu Yuet-mee debated the pros and cons of the constitutional reform package. Surveys showed Eu put up a better performance than Tsang.



8. PASSAGE OF 2012 CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PACKAGE

With a significant 46-13 majority, legislators approved the government's 2012 constitutional reform package. Election Committee for Chief Executive will be expanded from 800 to 1,200 and Legco seats will be increased from 60 to 70.



9. TSANG LAUNCHES RENT-TO-BUY SCHEME

Under the rent-to-buy scheme, 5,000 flats will be made available for first-time home buyers. It helps them on their first lump sum payment. The scheme's first project of 1,000 units will be in Tsing Yi, but it will not be ready until 2014.

How are things going?

The collapsed tenement building on Ma Tau Wai Road stunned many Hongkongers. Four were killed and two were injured.

Development Bureau Secretary Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor had announced that the Ma Tau Wai Road and Chun Tin Street development project

would be one of the key works of the Urban Renewal Authority in the year.

Concern groups demanded resettlement for the 32 families who lost their homes while Mrs Lam had promised the fastest relief with the renewal project providing flats smaller than 500 sq ft.

"There are no further actions till

now," said spokesperson Mr Chan of a concern group formed by around 70 proprietors on Ma Tau Wai Road.

URA responded that they had proposed the project details to the Development Bureau for half a year, yet it had no progression.

"You have to ask why they (the bureau) didn't continue the project," said a staff on the hotline of URA.

In fact, many shopkeepers on Ma Tau Wai Road worry that the tragedy will happen again.

"Concrete had fallen down before. But there is not much we can do," said a shopkeeper on Chun Tin Street.

Mr Chan said they had received notices from the Buildings Department reminding them to finish maintenance of their buildings. But they could not get financial support from the department because they lease their shops or flats.

The department responded that because proprietors leasing shops or flats received rents from their tenant, so they had no financial assistance.

Mr Chan feels cheated on by the government: "We don't have hopes on them anymore. What we can do is wait, wait and wait."



Privacy is another big topic for Hongkongers in 2010. Octopus Holdings Limited was found to have sold its customers' personal information to telemarketing companies.

Information sold included names, phone numbers, identity information and even credit card numbers. The company thus made a \$44 million profit.

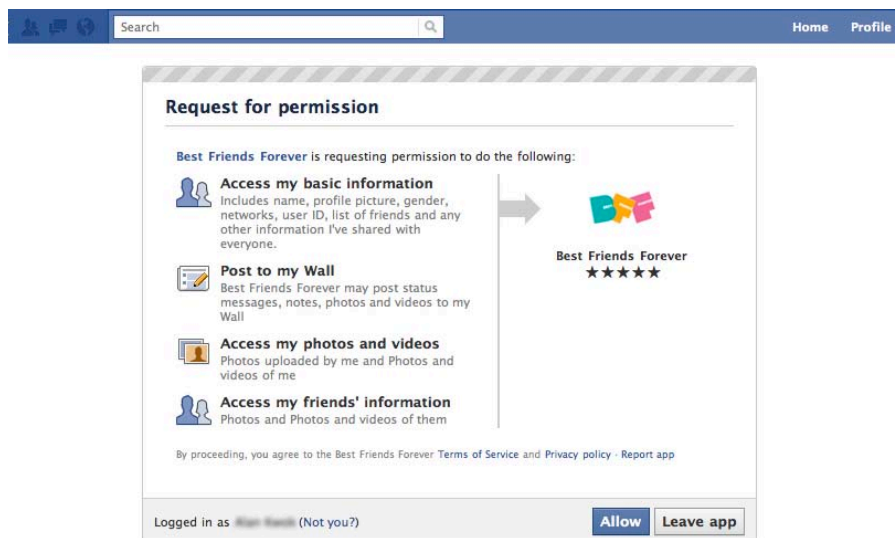
The authority seem incompetent to protect privacy of the public.

According to a report issued by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Personal Data in October 2010, an enforcement notice may not be served if continued or repeated contraventions of the Data Protection Principles (DPP) by OHL are unlikely.

The report stated that OHL promised to delete its members' non-essential personal data so no enforcement notice and legal actions will be taken.

Voices from the public have been urging the government to make violations to DPP an offence.

But our privacy may still be endangered as the DPP does not cover information exposed on social networking



websites.

The power of social network sites such as Facebook and Twitter in intruding our privacy is unpredictable.

Ms Shirley Ha Suk-ling, council member of the International Professional Association, said applications of the social networking sites may be written by other developers who embedded

codes of programmes in it to "steal" the e-mail addresses of users, which may be transferred to other contact providers for trading.

According to Ms Ha, users always have the responsibility to read the terms carefully. And the government should do more education to raise public awareness of privacy when using the Internet.

Hero of the year

His journey began eight years ago when he walked from Hong Kong to Beijing to raise funds for mainland leukemia patients. And this led him to engage in more charitable activities afterwards.

Mr Wong Fuk-wing, a 45-year-old volunteer, gave up his life to save three orphans and a teacher from being buried when a 7.1 earthquake broke out in Yushu of Qinghai province in April 2010. He was no doubt the hero of the year and awarded the Medal for Bravery (Gold) by the government.

Ms Gracie Wong Yuet-san said her younger brother was influenced by their father, who was a helpful and generous man, but had never wanted to be an hero: "My brother indeed died of an accident. Our family was surprised by the public recognition of his deeds."

Mr Wong's long journey began when he read a book written by a mainland leukemia patient and was deeply touched by its author - Mr Sui Ji-guo, whom he



Grace Wong Yuet-san

joined to raise awareness of the plight of leukemia patients.

Ms Wong said her brother quit his job as a shareholder of a logistic company for projects helping the patients. But he became more and more depressed over time as many of the volunteers he worked with were also leukemia patients, and they, including Mr Sui, died.

"He saw friends leaving him one by one and kids died because they could not afford expensive surgeries and were unable to find matching marrow donors. But he could do nothing about it," said

Ms Wong.

But Mr Wong's frustration did not cause him to give up. He later realized there were lots of people who needed help other than leukemia patients. He then joined a rebuilding project for the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and sacrificed his life in the 2010 Yushu earthquake.

Ms Wong said her brother set a good example by trying to help those who were most ignored: "His story inspired people and reminded others that you don't need to be rich in order to help others. Just do it."

What the survey findings mean

"Young people are somehow captured by the headlines of hot issues. And those items may not necessarily have long-term impact."

- Dr Vivian Zhan Jing, Assistant Professor, Department of Government and Public Administration, CUHK

"There is an absence of economic news which is probably due to young people's low interest in it."

- Dr Benson Wong Wai-kwok, Assistant Professor, Department of Government and International Studies, HKBU

"The Octopus scandal serves as a warning signal for the protection of personal data as different organisations ought to keep the data confidential."

- Dr Ludwig Chang Man-kit, Assistant Professor, Department of Finance and Decision Sciences, HKBU

"The rare unity of Hong Kong's media in their one-sided reports on the Philippine hostage incident showed the power of media."

- Ms Ester Man Cheung-lai, Department of Journalism and Communication, HKSYU

"Liu Xiaobo's winning of the Nobel Peace Prize raised concerns about the democracy and human rights situation of China again."

- Ms Belle Law Sau-ying, Department of Journalism, HKBU



"A minimum wage of \$28 per hour does not matter to us. I earned much more by giving tutorial classes."

- Mr Rab Tai Tsz-chun, Department of Journalism and Communication, HKSYU

**Further reading:
Do our future journalists have the right news judgement?**

by Mak Yin-ting on page 20

REPORTED BY GOOSIE CHAN, JACKIE YIN, SAI AUNG THEIN & PEARLIE YIU
EDITED BY ALAN KWOK & MINNIE LI



Gewara photo

Eman Lam (left) and her partner Ellen formed folktronica girl band *at17* in 2002.

Sing till she can sing no more

At17's Eman Lam cheers the city up with indies and ballads

BY GARY KWOK

Most pop singers aim at getting music awards, regarding them as recognitions of their achievements. But *at17's* Eman Lam Yee-man is an exception.

"It doesn't matter if we get no awards," says the 28-year-old folktronica singer, who formed the girl band *at17* with her 24-year-old partner Ellen Joyce Loo eight years ago.

"Music is not about prizes. We just want to do what we like and share music with our fans," Eman says.

They are comfortable with composing and singing indies and ballads, music genres that are a niche market in Hong Kong.

Eman says *at17* is skeptical of the pop music industry and she wants to inspire boys and girls who look up to Ellen and her as role models.

"Groups like us never last long. They either disappear or compromise by moving towards the mainstream. Why can't girls play spectacular guitar? Why can't a plus-size girl like me sing well?"

Those questions do not upset Eman. Eating from a lunchbox during the interview, she enjoys being herself in front of both her fans and the press.

She is not shaken by criticism either. "People keep saying that I should lose some weight because a slimmer Eman means a more popular singer. But I refuse to go on a diet for that. I want to be appreciated for my voice and music, not my appearance," she says.

"I am a singer, and I want people to pay attention to my singing."

Eman stays positive and cheerful thanks to her jubilant and optimistic attitude: "Negative emotions equals negative thoughts that do nothing."

In 2008, *at17* released the *Over the Rainbow* albums to cheer the city up with heart-soothing songs.

Their melodies and lyrics have moved the public. Among them is music student Ocean Kwok Ho-cheung.

"They represent an alternative force in the music industry. Although their songs may not be so popular, they are pure and simple," Mr Kwok says.

"They are unique and charming."

Eman's manager Ms Alice Tam Yee-man, agrees that Eman has a special charm: "She is one of the brightest artists I have ever worked with. Everyone feels happy when she is around."

"She is a singing bird. My colleagues love having her around as her radiance can spread all over the workplace. And she is always diligent when it comes to work," Ms Tam says. "We all love her."

So how does the "happy singing bird" perceive her career over the old days? "No regrets" is Eman's response.

"Ellen and I sacrificed our youth for something that money can't buy," she says. "I treasure the process of doing something, not the outcome. I am grateful for all the ups and downs I have gone through because they have made me a better person."

She and her music are inseparable.

"I will not give up singing until I can sing no more. Even if I retire, I will keep on singing," Eman says.

"I want to know how my singing will sound like when I am 90 years old," she laughs.

EDITED BY JOHN A. L. NICOLAS

From news anchor to hypnotherapist

Michel Fong helps when doctors are clueless

BY CECILIA CHAN

Michel Fong Yick-yuen is known to most as an ex-Now TV financial news anchor. But few are aware that since she quit anchoring, she has been helping others as a hypnotherapist certified by the American and Canadian Board of Hypnotherapy.

"I influence others with my speech, not anything else. Hypnotism takes place in conversations without being realised," says Ms Fong.

The 31-year-old extrovert loves challenges. After graduating from the School of Design at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2001, she worked at a bank. Meeting people from all walks of life, she realised the importance of mastering communication skills.

Later, Ms Fong became an anchor for Now TV. The experience did not make her happy, though: "To me, a news anchor is like a script-reading machine. It could not satisfy my ambition."

In 2006, she became a registered hypnotherapist and quit her anchoring job for further hypnotherapy studies in England.

Ms Fong says hypnotherapy is the use of hypnotism for therapeutic purposes, and has been proved to be an effective tool for tackling psychological problems, such as insomnia, abuses and phobias, that are incurable via traditional medi-

cal science.

To many people, however, hypnotism is very mysterious.

"Having a carriage clock swinging in front of you is not hypnotism. That happens just in movies," she says, explaining that hypnotism is in fact conducted by speech.

In 2008, Ms Fong completed a master's degree in psychology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and set up her own company, Mind Concepts.

Since then, Ms Fong has been organising courses, workshops and public talks about hypnotherapy, and helping people to enlighten and enrich their inner selves.

"I gain huge satisfaction when I can help people whom the doctors are unable to help. It is not just about money," says Ms Fong.

She recalls that in one case, she saved a woman who had suffered from binge eating disorder and had been warned of losing her life. Another successful case was her mother, who had suffered from insomnia.

The force driving her through her heavy workload is not only her passion, but also her pursuit of a colourful life in a short lifetime.

"She is always hectic," says Ms Grace Chan Chui-fhan, Ms Fong's ex-colleague



Michel Fong

Besides therapy, she delivers public talks.

at Now TV and now an employee of Mind Concepts.

"But she is an appealing person. Her happiness is contagious," added Ms Chan.

"Her students (at Mind Concepts) undergo great changes in personalities. They are much happier now, compared to a year ago when they had their first lessons."

According to Ms Fong, about 99 per cent of her patients are women, whose problems are caused by poor stress management.

In light of this, she wrote a book, which was published last summer, with a view to providing women with more insights into a better life.

Ms Cheung Ka-Wai, 33, a civil servant at the Transport Department, recommends the book to others after reading it. She had been consulting a psychiatrist for depression for four years. After reading the book, she said she had learnt to "let bygones be bygones".

"I would not say 'try my best' anymore. As the book says, these words are only said by those with low self-confidence. One will never succeed if one doesn't trust oneself in the first place," Ms Cheung says.

After years of searching, Ms Fong feels like she is doing her dream job: "I was chosen instead of choosing it."

She believes that life can be enjoyed without much planning, but one should always get prepared.

After all, opportunities come to those who are prepared, she says.



Michel Fong

News anchoring helped Ms Fong overcome her fear of public speaking.

EDITED BY LUCIE KAVANOVA

Doll artist is proud of her work

Amily Lau regards her exquisite hand-made dolls as her sons and daughters

BY GARY KWOK

Few Hongkongers enjoy their work like Ms Amily Lau Nga-see does: “Despite the hard work, I am always glad to see my own products.”

Amily started her career as a ball-jointed doll artist four years ago.

“I started with making miniature furniture and costumes that go with dolls. But later I found that the sizes and postures of those dolls were not up to my expectations. So I decided to make my own dolls,” says Ms Lau.

Making a doll from scratch involves lots of work and fine modifications.

“First of all, the gender and age of the doll have to be set, because the bone structures of dolls vary with different settings,” says Ms Lau.

“Then, I have to draft a detailed sketch, rub the clay in shape and join the clay by rubber band so that the joints can move smoothly.

“The next step is to put on colours



Amily Lau works step by step on a torso.



Amily Lau wins the second place in an international doll-maker contest in Japan.

and make-up. I then set the hairstyle, design the wig, and make the costumes and shoes.”

Finishing these steps takes time, with a one-metre-tall doll taking about seven or eight months to finish. “It is like a ten-month pregnancy. So I treasure my dolls very much and love them like my sons and daughters,” Ms Lau says lovingly.

Making a doll is not cheap either. Ms Lau says the raw materials for a one-metre-tall doll costs about \$10,000, not to mention the refining and post-production work.

Ms Lau’s efforts and devotion to her dolls is recognised. In October 2010, she won the second prize in an international doll-making contest hosted by Art Box in Japan. She is the first non-Japanese to have won a place in the competition.

“I am really honoured to be the runner-up in the contest. I first aimed to pass the first round, but it turned out that I went further,” she says joyfully. “It is a huge encouragement as I beat many professional Japanese doll artists.”

Art Box offers Ms Lau a personal exhibition in Japan this year, probably in February or March. She is now busy with the doll exhibits.

Local doll collector Ms Lam Shi-jie agrees that Ms Lau’s dolls are of high quality: “Amily pays attention to every single detail. I think her dolls are of the highest standards among local artists.”

She says Ms Lau’s dolls are so perfect that she wants to put them in her collection. And this echoes Ms Lau’s intent.

“I want my dolls to be popular as a ruddy peach. Everyone wants to bite and own it. That’s why I call my website Ruddy Peach,” says Ms Lau.

Her success is also credited to her supportive husband, Mr Nick So.

“I help her sketch some drafts because I am good at graphics. And I am happy to be part of her job,” Mr So says.

“Seeing her produce a fine doll from almost nothing is like a dream come true. I fully support her.”

And Ms Lau thanks her family for the freedom she enjoys to pursue her dream. Her next plan is to promote doll art in the city by exhibitions and workshops.

“The art of making ball-jointed dolls is still spawning in Hong Kong and there is a long way for development.”

She hopes doll art will become more popular in the city.

EDITED BY EDITORIAL BOARD

Day or night, let's have breakfast

More Hong Kong restaurants are serving breakfasts 24/7

BY HEIIN LAI

A palatable breakfast gives you immense energy and recharge your body for a busy day. Here is a piece of good news for those who tend to miss breakfast time because they get up late - breakfasts are available from morning to midnight at more and more restaurants in the city.

The Flying Pan

The pioneer of all-day breakfast in Hong Kong is The Flying Pan, which was launched in 2005. Its most popular breakfast set is The Full English, which includes eggs, English sausage links, bacon, baked beans, grilled mushroom, grilled tomatoes and toasts. The food is simple yet tasty and irresistible.

Seven breakfast combos are offered. If you are fond of eggs, you should try their 13 egg specialties. Different ingredients like shrimps, salmon and spinach are mixed with poached egg. Customer Janet Lee is a huge fan: "Egg Benedict is very rich and juicy."

The Flying Pan is popular for its wide range of selections from egg specialties to side dishes and sandwiches.



Choices for vegetarians, veggies who do not eat dairy products, Muslims who do not eat pork and Indians who do not eat beef are available, as well as kids' sets. "My restaurant is for everyone and everyone can come to eat," says the American owner Ms Tammy Greenspon, who has dining experiences in many countries.

With an open kitchen, sofas and darts, The Flying Pan is ideal for gatherings or chats. It provides a rest place for the drunk and is open around the clock. Rooms for rent are available.

Customers with a big appetite may try

the supersized 4X4X4 Monster Pan with four portions of eggs, bacons, sausages, sides and toasts. Other meals are not small either, as there are around seven kinds of food in a set.

It seems not a wise decision to eat here alone, as the meals are big and each set costs about \$80.

Green Waffle Diner



If you are hesitant about going for the tasty but high-calorie meals served by The Flying Pan, Green Waffle Diner, specialising in green and healthy food, may be a better option.

Breakfast here forgoes the conventional yummy but heavy eggs, hash browns and sausages, which are replaced by fresh fruits, granolas with yogurt and a small piece of waffle.

Their sets are refreshing and a lot lighter. The waffle is crispy outside but soft inside and is less sweet but more tasty than grid cakes, the city's famous street snack. You may add syrup if you have a sweet tooth.

"Many ladies love our food," says the Canadian-born Chinese owner Edmund who started his business in May 2010.

He spent over a year to prepare the



Interior of Green Waffle Diner

menu. And now more than ten all-day breakfast sets in exotic Canadian cuisine are available.

They range from blueberry pancakes with fries, egg benedicts, steak to egg hash skillet and fried chicken waffle. Most sets are served with waffles, the restaurant's specialty, that are not found in many local restaurants.

Though there are fewer choices than The Flying Pan, most of the sets are exclusive and not too big. Each set is priced at around \$70.

"I would go for a bigger one, the Sunshine breakfast where I can try out more food like waffle, home fries, bacons and eggs," says customer Mr Richard Wong Sun-yiu. He says the light breakfasts may be a bit too small for a man's appetite.

Apart from food, the atmosphere here is cozy, with dining area illuminated by warm yellow lights, though it is much smaller than The Flying Pan.

When you feel exhausted physically or mentally, help yourself at a cozy restaurant and order an all-day breakfast. The simple and exotic eggs, toasts, and waffles in comforts are a good way to get rid of stress.

	The Flying Pan	Green Waffle Diner
Location	Wanchai and Soho	Central
Cuisine	British	Canadian
No of breakfast sets on menus	7 and over 100 other dishes	11 and some other waffle dishes
Specialities	Toasts, eggs and side dishes	Waffle, healthy and light food

EDITED BY ELEVEN LIU

Do our future journalists have the right news judgement?

BY MAK YIN TING

Is there any difference in the way journalism students and secondary school students, as well as the general public, look at the news? Will the difference, if any, tell us anything about news value or news judgement? Or, perhaps, even the maturity of journalism students?

With these questions in mind, I find the results of the “Top Ten News” survey involving journalism students worth serious reflection. The sensational rather than the significant won top rankings among the undergrads. For them, the Manila hostage drama in which eight Hong Kong tourists were killed and seven others injured was more important than jailed dissident writer Liu Xiaobo getting the Nobel Peace Prize.

The hostage incident was certainly a long drawn-out event of high drama and tragedy. It was, without doubt, sensational. While it might have strained diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines and affected the tourist trade momentarily, it did not have the significance and the long-term implications of Liu’s award. Liu is the first Chinese national ever to have been be-

stowed the prestigious prize.

The Manila drama resulted from a policeman who went psycho and a constabulary which acted out its Keystone Kops routine before the eyes of the world, while the Nobel Peace Prize award will have long term impact on both freedom of expression and future of democracy in China.

Interestingly, in a similar survey involving more than 20,000 secondary school students, the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Liu Xiaobo is the top news.

Still, the journalism students’ view is in accord with a Yahoo survey among viewers on the year’s top news story.

Both the undergrads and the Yahoo viewers also agree on another three top stories: the collapse of the pre-war Ma Tau Wai building which took four lives and injured two others, the passage of the political reform bill in Legco and the diplomatic row between China and Japan over the Diaoyu Islands.

The journalism students and the Yahoo viewers evidently share a similar outlook. Not surprising, perhaps, when you consider that young people are the mainstay of net surfing.

The secret sale of personal data of Octopus cardholders by the MTR, which is majority-owned by the government, affecting almost a third of the Hong Kong population, was, of course, highly significant and thus makes it one of the year’s top stories.

The undergrads seemed more perceptive in their choice of another top story: the introduction of a statutory minimum wage of \$28 per hour. Whether this had anything to do with their impending entry into the job market is uncertain. But, given Hong Kong’s decades old fixation with Milton Friedman and the hands-off-the-market approach so beloved by Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, the adoption of a minimum wage was simply revolutionary.

However, the inclusion of the promulgation of “My Home Purchase Plan” by the Chief Executive in the policy address sounds a bit weird. The importance of the news may be justified if it was the reflection of a surging property market, which, clearly, was stirring up strong feelings in the community, especially among the low middle-income group.

International link missed

The most striking absence from the undergrads’ choice of the year’s top stories was the international scene. The closest they came to picking a story that didn’t quite involve Hong Kong was the Diaoyu Islands issue. But even there it is not exactly an “international” story for Hong Kong people.

We have always regarded Hong Kong as an “international information hub”. We are supposed to be the part of China that is most connected to the rest of the world. We may, perhaps, excuse the students for their lack of interest in the international scene. As future agenda setter of the community, however, their choices may denote the beginning of an inward looking society.

But the Donald Tsang-Audrey Eu Yuet-mee TV debate and the political reforms among the year’s top stories for our next generation of journalists at the same time? That’s enough to drive me to ask “what happened?”.



Ms Mak Yin-ting is the chairperson of Hong Kong Journalists Association.

Splashing cash on signing foreign players does not help local football

BY BRIAN LAW

South China Football Club managed to capture the sports headlines of several newspaper when they announced that Nicky Butt, former English Club Manchester United and Newcastle player, would come to Hong Kong for a trial match.

The league fixture he played on, South China vs TSW Pegasus on November 30, attracted more than 8,000 spectators.

In previous fixtures of South China, the one with the highest attendance recorded only 4,332 fans, while the average attendance before this match was just about 2,000.

South China later announced that they have signed a contract with Butt. Chairman Lo Kit-Sing said the salary of Butt would be the "highest ever in the football history of Hong Kong".

But there were doubts about how much the signing of one former European player could do to help the development of local football.

The attendance of South China league fixtures quickly dropped back to previous levels after the departure of Butt. It remained to be seen if attendance would climb back up when Butt returns.

But perhaps we can look at the US top football league, Major League Soccer, as an example.

Los Angeles Galaxy, a club in the MLS, made an audacious bid to land one of the most famous football players, David Beckham, back in 2007. Both the club and Beckham said they hoped his transfer to a US club could raise the quality of football in the country.

However, after three and a half years of Beckham's arrival, MLS had hardly changed. The reputation of the league as well as the attention it drew remained more or less the same.

LA Galaxy did saw an increase in average attendance since the arrival of Beckham. The average number of spectators in home matches increased from 20,813 in 2006 to 26,008 in 2008. But soon the number dropped back to 20,416 in 2009 and 21,436 in 2010.

Furthermore, the average attendance for the whole MLS barely changed. From 2007 to 2010, the number of average attendance of the whole league remained between 16,000 and 17,000.

The level of professional football in US is still far behind that of Europe. David Beckham always seeks to return to a European football club on loan, in order to retain his exposure to mainstream football fans and his commercial value.

Australia and countries in the Middle East tried the same tactic of signing retiring players from mainstream European leagues as a way of attracting fans and promoting the local football league. But the strategy was unsuccessful.

Ultimately Europe is always where quality players emerge. Football stars do not appear overnight. It requires investments in youth teams, scouting young players and a culture to play football.

Quality players could be from any part of the world. But most of them begin their career in Spain, England, Germany, Italy and France. This year's FIFA Ballon d'Or (World Player of the Year award) winner, Argentinian Lionel Messi, became a legend in FC Barcelona.

The level of football in Hong Kong is still low. Signing one or two well-known players could, in the short term, spark interests and talking points. But in the end, it is still the scouting and training of local players that count for the long-term development of local football.

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PHOTOS AND TEXT BY LITING YONG
EDITED BY CARRIE CHENG

Breaking, also known as b-boying or breakdance, is a style of dancing that developed as part of the hip hop culture in the early 1970s. It originated in New York City as a means for rival gangs to settle their disputes, but then rose to fame worldwide as complicated moves like spinning headstands evolved. Breaking requires a good sense of rhythm, as well as great strength and flexibility. To perfect their skills, dancers spend long hours on physical training and conditioning.

In Hong Kong, the breaking atmosphere is much less competitive. Most of the b-boys or b-girls gather at basketball courts or sidewalks at night. With music echoing through the area, they practise their dance steps and draw scores of spectators.



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