

Flame of the Forest Slain by Michelle Vosper

On August 3, 2006, the University witnessed the destruction of one of the most beautiful trees on campus, the "Flame of the Forest" (*Delonix Regia*) which for nearly twenty years had provided shelter for the red mobile post-office van in the parking lot between the Security office and the Benjamin Franklin building.

The tree was felled by Typhoon Prapiroon during a Number 3 signal. The tree was felled at its base by the strong winds and it crashed across the parking lot. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but the incident serves as a reminder of how dangerous typhoons can be for pedestrians.

According to the HK government website, the "Flame of the Forest", despite its sturdy appearance, cannot withstand winds and is a frequent victim of typhoons. The species originated in Madagascar and is now common in the tropics of Asia, where it grows quickly. It has feathery, fern-like leaves, fruit resembling long flat bean pods and bright red flowers, which earned it its title. The Chinese name (Feng Huang Mu) translates as "Phoenix Wood."

This gorgeous tree will be missed by many. In early summer it produced a scarlet canopy over the corner of the lot. The petals fell quickly in May and for several days a "red carpet" covered the pavement for all to enjoy. Its bark, which is used to make blood pressure medicine, has strange circular markings, and our tree had a very vivid and friendly face with two eyes and a mouth. I greeted it for many years when our children were small.

The university workers cleaned up the wreck so quickly that I missed the mess and discovered a tragic ragged stump on August 5th. Mr. Law from the Security office showed me photos of the astonishing accident. The smaller trees behind the "Flame of the Forest" all survived the winds while the friendly giant lost the battle.

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Death of a Giant

Photographs, courtesy of Mr. Edmund Law in the Security Unit



The Independent Learning Centre

by Valerie Pickard, Senior Instructor in the ILC

Have you found the ILC yet? If you are new to the campus, you may be interested to know that there is a treasure trove of goodies awaiting you in United College's Wu Chung Multimedia Library. On the ground floor there are the thousands of DVDs and CDs available for either borrowing or use in the library. On the second floor you'll find the Independent Learning Centre (ILC). Here, you will find everything you need for learning English, Cantonese or Putonghua. You can use the computer software, work your way through course books (with answers at the back), watch videos, and listen to audio tapes.

If you prefer to learn with other people, the ILC also runs workshops and discussion groups. If you are not sure which activity to choose, or how to find and use the most effective language learning materials, there are friendly counsellors to advise you. You are sure to find something to suit your needs in the ILC. Finally, if you prefer to do everything via your own computer, you should definitely check out the ILC's homepage at <http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk>

You can work on your languages via the website – there are recommended links to other websites, there are downloadable advice sheets, and even e-learning programmes. You'll also be able to see photographs of the ILC facilities – but it's much better to experience the real thing in person. Do come and make use of the facilities which are available for all staff and students of CUHK.



Hong Kong Heritage Museum Highlight



What did you do for fun in your younger days? What do you do now, after work? What about your children? Leisure pursuits may seem frivolous and time-wasting but they tell us a lot about our culture and history. As we develop different technologies our forms of entertainment our ideas of fun change, from the simple spinning tops and skipping ropes (still popular today) of the 1950s to the computer games and DVDs of today. Whereas, fifty years ago, cinema was King and street entertainment flourished, we now have LCD TV and the Shopping Mall. Who in the over-40's age group can forget

Benny Hill and the Black and White Minstrels (neither of whom would be acceptable in our more politically correct 21st century)?

Jointly organized with the Department of History at the Hong Kong Baptist University, the Heritage Museum's exhibition "Hong Kong's Popular Entertainment" focuses on changes in Hong Kong's major leisure activities – indoor and out, passive and active - and describes their relationship to political, economic, social and technological change.

So, take a trip to the Heritage museum and a walk down memory lane - and take the children; they will really love laughing at the things we considered "cool" and may be surprised at how quickly some of these "museum" pieces, such as the original Nintendo "family computer" have dated. It seems barely a minute since my own son sat, cross-legged on the floor, thumbs a-jumpin' as he played this amazing, new TV game which, you've guessed it, is one of the exhibits in the museum.

The exhibition is on until February 26th, next year.

Museum opening hours:

Mon, Wed to Sat: 10 am - 6 pm
Sundays and Public Holidays: 10 am - 7pm
Closed on Tuesdays (except public holidays)

Children's Activities – Time to Join in the Fun The Flying Kukris Rugby Football Club- A True New Territories Tradition

When we think about Hong Kong and the New Territories, rugby is not the first thing that comes to our mind. Nevertheless, the oldest rugby club in the New Territories, the Flying Kukris Rugby Football Club, is not far from the University, nestled in the village of Ma Tso Lung near Sheung Shui. The Flying Kukris Rugby Club is a family-run bi-lingual (Chinese and English) Minis and Youth rugby club. Players come from all around the New Territories. The Club has 180 children playing on 7 minis teams and 5 youth teams for boys and girls, based on age. Players range from 4 years old to 18 years old. Coaches are volunteer parents.

Rugby is a great game for children; it is tap rugby until children are 8, and then tackling is introduced. Children get plenty of exercise, lots of fresh air, and learn teamwork and fair play.

The Flying Kukris Rugby Football Club, or FKRFC, was started by the British Royal Air Force. The "kukri" refers to the national knife of Nepalese who learn to use knife from a very young age. The kukri became known to the British when the Ghurkas, soldiers from the Ghorka region of Nepal, joined the military forces. The Ghurkas were based with the British at Sek Kong. The "Flying" part of the Club's name comes from the presence of the helicopters of the 28th RAF Squadron that comprised part of the British military presence based in Sek Kong, hence the name "Flying Kukris".

Training is every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and more information can be found at www.flyingkukris.com. For inquiries, contact flyingkukrishk@yahoo.com. Visitors are warmly welcomed any time.



Chinese University Children's Soccer Club

The new season of the Chinese University Children's Soccer Club will begin this October. Do your kids love to run around and kick a ball? Do they need something to get them out of bed and away from the computer/TV/Play station on a Saturday morning? The CU children's soccer club, run by parents and assisted by professional coaches, has been getting children out there for over ten years. It is inexpensive (fees are only levied to cover the cost of coaching), fun and gives kids a sense of discipline and achievement.

To learn more, please call Scarlet on 6278 9362 or e-mail scarlet529@gmail.com

Bookworms (Children's) Library

Do your children need a break from all that running around? Are you stuck in the flat on a rainy day? Would you swear their eyes are square and their thumbs an inch longer from all those digital games? Then, try a more traditional form of entertainment. Take your kids to the Bookworms library, where they can choose from a wide selection of books for all ages (and you might pick up a good read, yourself). With a book, you are limited only by your imagination – the characters come alive in your head, the emotions you feel come from your heart. All you have to do is read the words and paint the picture in your imagination.

Bookworms Library opens again on Saturday September 2nd.

Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. – 12 noon (Closed public holidays)

Location: Residence 14, Basement Level, CUHK (Stairway at the back of the building, near the playground)

For information call: Joan Tsui at 2651691



September Arts Calendar

As another university year begins, Hong Kong's cultural scene seems to just get better and better. In a basic introduction, I've listed contact numbers and web sites for the major venues below. It's easy to buy tickets and even book in advance and takes only a small effort to step out of the daily routine and take in some really fabulous shows here in Hong Kong, especially when they're at Shatin Town Hall or Tsim Sha Tsui's Cultural Centre, a direct trip via the KCR to TST East (Exit J through Sogo and up the stairs to the Cultural Centre complex).

The Chinese University's Music Department also offers many free concerts, beginning in October; I'll provide dates and venues for these too.

Let's support the arts in Hong Kong in 2006-2007!

(Note: *LCS*D refers to the *Leisure and Cultural Services Department*, the government sponsor of most arts events in Hong Kong)



PHONE NUMBERS:

APA BOX OFFICE INQUIRY: 2584-8514

HK TICKETING: 311-288-288 (this number is for APA (Academy for the Performing Arts) events which are located near the Convention Centre in Wan Chai). HK Ticketing has outlets around town including all Tom Lee Music stores

URBTIX RESERVATIONS: 2734-9009 (URBTIX outlets are in Shatin Town Hall, City Hall, and the Cultural Centre in TST as well as in other town halls)



USEFUL WEB SITES:

Hong Kong Arts Centre (Wan Chai): www.hkac.org.hk

Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts (Wan Chai):

www.hkapa.edu

Hong Kong Cultural Centre (Tsim Sha Tsui): www.hkculturalcentre.gov.hk

Hong Kong International Film Festival (ongoing throughout the year): www.hkiff.org.hk

Here's a brief glance of some of the upcoming events for September:
(tickets available for following events at URBTIX outlets or by advance reservation at 2734-9009 - tickets must be picked up within 3 days of booking)

Charlotte Weiss

In Shatin Town Hall:

• 29 September -
*Flamenco Directo by
Nuevo Ballet Español
at Sha Tin Town Hall
Auditorium.*



At Other Venues:

•1 September

Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, Hong Kong Sinfonietta Orchestra at City Hall Concert Hall

•8 September

Shostakovich Cello Concerto, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, at City Hall Concert Hall

•10 September

Jazz Up: Stacey Kent and Quartet, at City Hall Concert Hall

•16 & 18 September

Madama Butterfly in concert, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra at Cultural Centre Concert Hall (**Note:** This is the HK Phil's opening concert with He Hui, renowned soprano, in the role of Cio-Cio-San)



•18 September

Hong Kong Oratorio Society, at City Hall Concert Hall

September Arts Calendar continued

•20-24 September

Le Nozze di Figaro, produced by Opera Hong Kong, at Cultural Centre Grand Theatre (**Note:** Another big production with both local and international presence in the *Mozart Year*)

•22-23 September

Mesmerizing Mexico, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, at Cultural Centre Concert Hall (**Note:** Hong Kong's Chinese Orchestra, one of the best in the world, is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The opener is part of their ongoing Drum Festival Series with the Ear Massage Percussion Quartet and Lung Heung-wing and Mark Lung, local father and son drumming legends in an interesting programme)

•24-25 September

Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (in 2 different programmes), at Cultural Centre Concert Hall (**Note:** One of the greatest orchestras in the world, LCSD is presenting the Vienna Philharmonic as part of its *Mozart Year* grande finale. Warning: Tickets are very expensive so book as early as you can)

•27-28 September

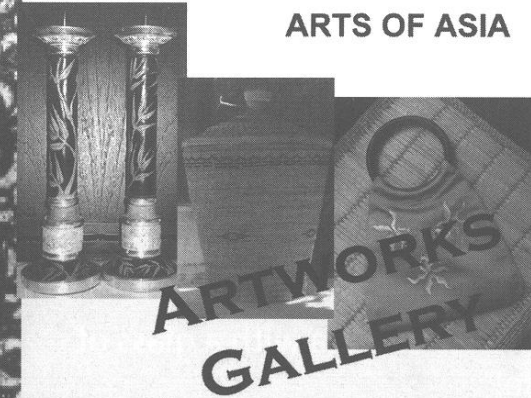
Hayashi's Back, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, at Cultural Centre Concert Hall (**Note:** This once again features Eitetsu Hayashi on the giant taikoo drum along with orchestra and organ in a work written especially for him)



Classified Ad

Asian

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