



Campus Community News

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February 2008

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Campus Community News would like to wish all our readers a healthy, happy and productive year of the rat. May all your aspirations, dreams and hopes come true.

New Year picture by kind permission of the artist, Professor QL Wan of Hong Kong Baptist University. Also available in the published catalogue of his 2006 exhibition at Hong Kong University, entitled "A Brush with Irony", published by Hong Kong University Press.

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Campus Community News Flea Market A Big Success

For the past twenty years and more, the campus community has been turning out and joining in CCN's annual fundraising event and this year was no exception. Despite the cold and miserable weather, an enjoyable time was had by all, as the mundane activities of buying and selling took place in a congenial atmosphere of friendship and community. CCN is pleased to announce that, thanks to you, we are funded for another year. Furthermore, with all the second hand goods in new hands and quite a few energy-saving light bulbs sold, our community has played some small part in improving the environment.

We would particularly like to thank the volunteers of the Chinese University Women's Organization (and their families and friends) and the CCN committee who gave their time and energy unstintingly. We would also like to thank those who baked cakes and donated goods to the white Elephant stall. Without willing hands to help set up, run and clean up afterwards, the Flea Market would not have happened. Likewise, we are also very grateful to the university's Student Affairs Office and Estates Management Office for their help in supplying and transporting tables for the event. Finally, we would like to thank the Security and Transport unit for putting up direction signs to the event. As far as we know, no one got lost!

Once again, the Campus Flea Market has been a fun event and a demonstration of community spirit at its best. .

The editor,
Campus Community News



Slow drive on Campus Circuit Road – by Joan Tsui

Campus Circuit Road, the relatively quiet route where many staff living on campus and Ma On Shan drive daily to work, will be busy for a few years to come.

Sources from the Campus Development Office reveal that the University Laboratory Complex, along with many other buildings for other purposes, will be constructed in the area between the University Sports Stadium and the residential blocks. For details check the Power Point file in the e-version of Campus Community News at www.gilliankew.org/newsletter.shtml.

After Chinese New year, trucks from the CEDD (the Government's Civil Engineering and Development Department) will be using that section of Campus Circuit Road to build the proposed construction platform for the development.

Under the scheme, University Laboratory Complex will be completed in 2012. It is hoped that CUHK will have ownership of the premises.

A Liaison Group has been set up to facilitate communication between all parties concerned. Representatives from the University staff and campus residents are also included. Interested parties please contact Jacky Yung (jackyung@cuhk.edu.hk) of the University Steering Committee on Environmental Issues.

On a different front: starting from 10th February 2008, the opening hours of the Eastern Gate will be extended to Sundays and Public Holidays. This is good news for staff members in Ma On Shan and Sai Kung, as they will no longer have to drive all the way to Shatin Racecourse for meals on campus on Sundays.



Letter to the Editor



University Swimming Pool – We Welcome All Staff and Their Families

We were sorry to learn that from the letter to Editor in the October 2007 issue, the unhappy experiences of a family using the pool when there was a swimming lesson taken at the shallow end.

This winter we are going to refurbish the pool and deck area. With the endorsement of Administration Affairs Committee of the University, we are going to convert the pool with two shallow ends. This is basically a heavy civil work exercise as we have to remove and to demolish the 10-metre high diving platform first which is for eliminating risk of people diving into shallow water. The demolition works will be taken hopefully after Christmas and completed by end February, 2008. We are now studying the pool structure and we shall submit a proposal to the Buildings Department (Government) to construct a slab at the current deep end (4.6-metre depth). As there are major structural changes, this pool conversion may not be approved on time for work arrangement in March 2008.

However, we shall still continue with other improvement works such as:

1. Replacement of pool side surface materials by non-slip tiles/blocks.
2. Overflow water scum channels for improved sanitation and swimming effects.

For safety considerations, we will not install temporary support to raise the pool floor as suggested. Any temporary platform can only be 1.8 metre high but this is a 3-metre height installation with the heavy weight of 4.6-metre water loading. We plan to construct a reliable reinforced concrete slab to produce a shallow end properly. Even though we cannot be certain whether government approval can be obtained early next year, we believe the two shallow ends design will be our best solutions to user friendliness as well as safety concerns for beginners.

We understand this pool has to be operated with four lifeguards and it may not be easy to hire 8 lifeguards for two shifts and extending the operating hours. However, the request to have longer operating hours will be referred to the future operation for their considerations.

Benny Tam (Director, EMO)

Events and Notices



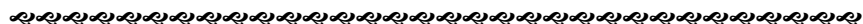
February Coffee Morning and Lunar New Year Luncheon

Date: February 1, 2008 (Friday)

Times: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM Coffee Morning
10:45 AM – 11:00 AM Guest speaker
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM Q & A
12:00 Noon – Lunar New Year Luncheon

Place: Residence 14, Recreation Room, CUHK Campus

March Coffee Morning: March 7, 2008 (Friday) from 10 30am, in the Basement Recreation Room, Residence 14, CUHK. All are welcome!



Important Announcement



Last month we received a very long and detailed letter to the editor, which we cannot publish as it is unsigned. CCN is always delighted to receive mail and will happily print letters from our readers. However, readers **MUST** include contact details, for verification purposes. Please include your name, telephone number and contact address on all correspondence. If you require anonymity, it will be provided.

The editor,
Campus Community News

Arts Calendar - Charlotte Weiss



It will soon be time for the annual Hong Kong Arts Festival 2008 and this calendar is consecrated largely to its events. This year's begins on 14 February and runs until 16

March in an action-packed month of events. Tickets can often be purchased at the last minute (check with URBTIX first!) for certain shows and some lower-profile performances are good value especially if you haven't paid attention to my warnings of booking well in advance for the "big" events. Here are listings of a few events that still have seats available as we go to press but bear in mind I'm a bit disappointed this year since there aren't many world music/jazz events on offer. Therefore my picks of the best are limited due to sold-out performances as well as a not-so-enthusiastic arts editor this year!

You can refer to the Arts Festival's informative website for updates at: www.hk.artsfestival.org and phone URBTIX at 2734-9009 for ticket availability (useful posters indicating availability of tickets are found at URBTIX outlets in Shatin Town Hall, City Hall, and at the TST Cultural Centre).

• *Onegin, Stuttgart Ballet*, 19-21 February at Cultural Centre Grand Theatre

-this should be a stunning rendition of Pushkin's classic with music by Tchaikovsky (one of the big events with tickets still available)

• *Pius Cheung, marimba recital*, 24 February at City Hall Theatre

-this is an extra performance added upon demand and features a fantastic marimba player in a very interesting programme

• *London Philharmonic Choir and Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra*, 23-24 February at Cultural Centre Concert Hall

-in two different programmes of large-scale choir/orchestra classics

• *Yuan Chenye, vocal recital*, 6 March at City Hall Concert Hall

-the first and only Chinese to ever win first prize in the International Tchaikovsky Competition

• *Verdi's Opera, Rigoletto – Teatro Regio de Parma*, 8-11 March at Cultural Centre Grand Theatre

-there are only a few expensive tickets left for this but it should be a spectacular production of a "genuinely Italian opera" with an all-Italian cast

• *The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble –Hommage à Béla Bartok*, 15-16 March at Cultural Centre Grand Theatre

-an extra matinee has been added on 16 March for this very popular dance company already seen by eight million fans world-wide



Arts Calendar (cont...)

•**Eddie Palmieri**, 16-17 March at Cultural Centre Concert Hall -a Grammy winner in the Latin Jazz category, “the sun of Latin music” will keep the audience dancing with his astonishing technique and top-notch septet

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: (co-sponsored by the Jockey Club and the Arts Festival):

•**Zingaro**, 9 February - 23 March at Hung Hom Ferry Pier Lawn -if you like circus theatre with horses (36 of them imported from France no less!), theatrical characters and a wild festive spirit, this big production will thrill you. Co-sponsored by the Hong Kong Jockey Club and Hong Kong Arts Festival, Zingaro will run for more than one month. This event even has its own website: www.zingaro.hk and the promotion video will certainly make you want to attend!

ON CAMPUS (CUHK):

•21 February (8:00pm at Lee Hysan Concert Hall)

Recital: Artem Konstantinov, cello & Mary Wu, piano

Additional events (non-Arts Festival)

(tickets available for the following LCSD events at Urbtix outlets or by advance reservation at 2734-9009 unless otherwise noted)

AT SHATIN TOWN HALL:



•1 February
Inner Mongolian Songs by the Mongol Nationality Youth Choir

•22 & 23 (2 performances) February

Sleeping Beauty by Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education (in Cantonese)

AT OTHER VENUES: (limited listing)

•1-2 February

Rodrigo's Guitar Concerto, with Yang Xuefei, Guitar, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra at Cultural Centre Concert Hall

•9-10 February

The Voice of Mulan, Lea Salonga, with Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra at Cultural Centre Concert Hall (Note: the superstar of musicals including *Miss Saigon* and *Mulan*)

•12-13 February

Valentine's Concert, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra at City Hall Concert Hall (looks like a romance-filled evening in a concert that includes “The Butterfly Lovers” in an erhu concerto)

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A Rat's Tale

If you are a Rat, or if that new friend turns out to be one, don't panic – it's not all bad, honest. Although rats have been given a bad rap in Western culture (He's a Rat!), in the Chinese horoscope the rat is a respected intuitive creature, courageous and enterprising. Rats are survivors; they are tough, intelligent and adaptable. Rats are lively, curious and imaginative. You and your rat friends are also likely to be cheerful, easy-going, charismatic, quick witted and popular. On the other hand, no-one is perfect. Some rats can be aloof, calculating and a little selfish, especially when it comes to money. Rats are generally motivated by money and status but are said to be honourable people who value stability.

Now you know more about rats, why not consider the Real McCoy as a pet? Here are a few real Rat Facts that might get you interested –

- An average rat lives for 2-3 years.
- Rats can grow up to 11 inches long without the tail (add another 7-9 inches).
- Like the stars, they come out at night.
- Rats are intelligent, social and curious so do best if kept with another rat (or group of rats).
- Rats are easily tamed and scrupulously clean – they spend hours a day grooming.
- Male Rats are larger and lazier than females, who are more active and playful.



So, although most of us are quite rightly terrified of those nasty, big grey ones we find near the rubbish bins, remember – just as there are good and bad people, there are good rats and bad rats – and at one time or another, they have been worshipped by the ancient Egyptians, the Mayans and currently at a Temple in Deshnok, India, where thousands of rats scurry happily across the feet of unconcerned worshippers.

And if all this isn't enough to make you reassess your opinion of the humble rat, here are a few famous ones to consider:

World Leaders	Writers and composers	Entertainers and Artistes
Benjamin Disraeli Al Gore Ted Heath John F. Kennedy Jr George Washington Prince Charles	Charlotte Brontë T.S. Eliot Thomas Hardy Wolfgang Mozart Tchaikovsky William Shakespeare	Marlon Brando Mikhail Barishnikov Clark Gable Nastassja Kinski Zubin Mehta Sidney Poitier

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New Exhibition at the CU Art Museum

The Studio and the Altar: Daoist Art in China

(Jointly organized by the Hong Kong Taoist Association, the Centre for the Studies of Daoist Culture and the Art Museum of The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Date: 23 February to 11 May 2008

Venue: Gallery I, Art Museum, CUHK

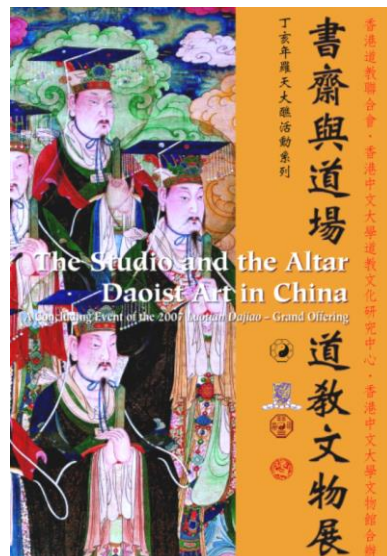
Opening Ceremony: Friday 22 February, at 4:30pm, hosted by Prof. Kenneth Young, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of CUHK

Daoism, dating back to the Han Dynasty, has a rich history and many devotees. It includes the ancient yin-yang and wu-xing theories, ritualistic belief, immortal worship, and ancient divination. Featured in this exhibition are about a hundred pieces of art objects, dating from the Han to the Qing dynasties and generously loaned from public and private collections in the mainland and Hong Kong. This comprehensive exhibition includes Daoist artworks in a wide range of media, ranging from portraits of immortals, bronzes, porcelain, wood-carvings, to calligraphy, rubbings, Daoist sutras and religious texts. Works also showcase the folk belief in Daoism implanted in the daily life of the common people, with daily life pieces, including funeral and ceremonial objects attesting to the spiritual concern and the ritual of Daoism.

The Hong Kong Taoist Association has been actively promoting Daoist culture. This exhibition, jointly organized by the Hong Kong Taoist Association, the Centre for the Studies of Daoist Culture and the Art Museum of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, is a concluding event to celebrate the Luotian Dajiao, the grand offering started last year. Through this exhibition, we hope to demonstrate the interaction between Daoism, the Chinese indigenous religion and Chinese culture all through the ages, with an aim that viewers could further apprehend Daoism and Chinese culture through Daoist art.

Museum Hours: 10am to 5pm daily, closed on public holidays

Enquiries: 2609 7416; Website: www.cuhk.edu.hk/ics/amm



Your Head and Your Heart – Valentine's Day Couples



Anthony and Cleopatra

Cleopatra VII, the last Pharaoh of Egypt, erstwhile mistress of Julius Caesar whilst wedded to her younger brother met and fell in love with Roman General, Marc Anthony, after Caesar's death. The relationship caused uproar in Rome (marrying your brother was OK but marrying a Roman general was a no-no). After their marriage they set out to conquer Rome but their love and their political ambitions were doomed – Anthony's forces were routed and, on hearing (erroneously, as it happened) of his wife's death, Marc Anthony fell on his sword. With her true love gone and her ambitions for Egypt in tatters, Cleopatra famously committed suicide by allowing a poisonous asp to bite her. Thus ended the rule of the Pharos in Egypt, as the proud and ancient kingdom became a province of the Roman Empire.

Arjumand Banu and Shah Jahan

In 1612, the marriage of teenagers, Arjumand Banu and Shah Jahan, ruler of the Mughal Empire (present day India) took place. Although the marriage was arranged, it became a love match and the newly named Mumtaz Mahal gave birth to 14 children. At the relatively young age of 32, Mumtaz died and her grieving husband (and Ruler of the Mughal Empire) resolved to create a fitting monument. 20,000 workers, 1,000 elephants and nearly 20 years of labour saw the completion of one of the Seven Wonders of the World – the Taj Mahal. Built of white marble, the Taj sits on a sandstone platform and boasts a 137-foot high dome. Lavishly decorated inside and out with semi-precious stones and marble the monument also includes a garden with four water channels representing the four rivers of Islamic paradise. On his death, Shah Jahan was buried beside his beloved wife in the Taj Mahal.

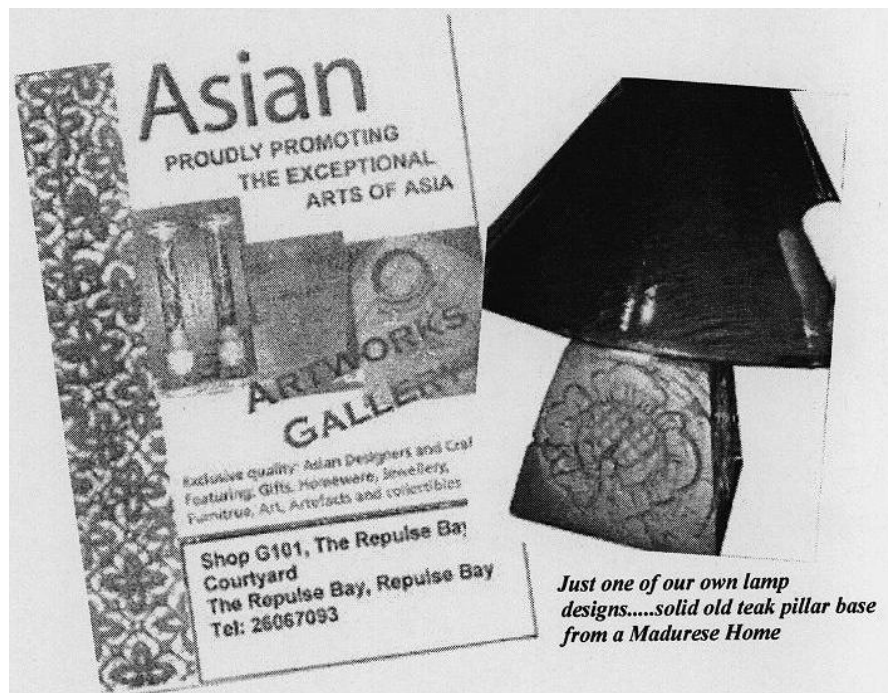
Queen Elizabeth II and Phillip Mountbatten

They first met in 1942 at a family wedding when she was just another princess and he a handsome Greek aristocrat. It was love at first sight for her and soon, letters were winging their way between the two households. One abdication and one World War later, they were engaged to be married (secretly at first, as Elizabeth was only 20 and the war only just over). They married in 1947. He gave up his Greek nationality and naval life to stand by (and often behind) the woman who would in time become Britain's longest serving monarch. Whilst their children have had their problems, the Royal Marriage has endured and stands as an example of a deep, true love. Not given to emotional gestures, the depth of the Queen's feelings were made clear when she spoke at their Golden Wedding Anniversary luncheon, saying, "he has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years".

Hoping you all have someone to love and someone to love you on this Valentine's Day.



Classified Advertisements



Want to Advertise? Mail ads to Mrs. Storey or email them to the Editor (details above). It's just \$50 per commercial ad and personal ads are absolutely free. Please send all submissions by Feb 18th for the March, 2008 issue.

Call for articles and letters – let us know what you think, what's on, what interests you. Send submissions, with contact details (for verification purposes only) by mail to Mrs. Storey, Residence 14 Flat 12A, CUHK or by email to The Editor, Gillian Kew at gilliankew@yahoo.com and don't forget that CCN is also available at <http://www.gilliankew.org/newsletter.shtml>

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Please send any submissions, as indicated on the previous page, no later than February 18th for placement in the March edition.

And Finally....

Happy New Year of the Rat

