

roll call



YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College



The school celebrated its 15th anniversary in style last month.

More than 4,500 people went to visit a fun fair on the school grounds on December 9.

We gave away tickets for a talent show to more than 640 children, as well as vouchers which they could use in more than 30 bazaars and food booths.

The talent show was the highlight of the day – with performances from students from all over the world.



The talent show was the highlight of the event

Dion Chen, the principal, said he hoped to see everyone in five years' time at the school's 20th anniversary celebrations.

Yu Chun Keung Memorial College



Speaking in a language other than your mother tongue is always hard, but that's what I did last month. On December 3 and December 9, the students of 5C went to Tsim Sha Tsui to ask foreigners questions in English for our project, The Phubbing Trend.

I was scared at first, because my English isn't great. But, after a while, our group asked a couple some questions. They didn't want to answer any, but they smiled at us, and were friendly. After that, it was easier. I was amazed at how much information people shared with us. I am happy to have been a part of this project. It's helped improve my English, and my confidence!

Ken Pak, 5C



We had to talk to people in English

Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club College



Five records fell at the school's athletic meet last term. The meet was held on November 21 and November 24 at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground. Both days were filled with energy and excitement – and eager athletes on the starting lines.

We cheered the athletes on as they took part in their events, shouting their names and giving them words of encouragement, which inspired them to do better.



Five records were set at the school's athletic meet

Who knows what will happen at this year's competition?
Johnny Choi Tsz-tsun, 4A

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Letters from the dorm



Breaking the Asian stereotype

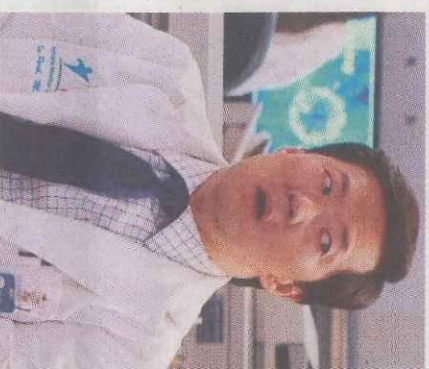


George Zhai, Groton School, Massachusetts, US

Two years ago, I sat in my dorm as the Academy Awards began, an event I've always looked forward to. I couldn't wait to see Chris Rock's turn as host – he would, for sure, address the #OscarsSoWhite outcry which came about because of the lack of minority representation in nominations that year. You can understand my confusion when, after a break for an advert, the show cut to three Asian boys, wearing suits and carrying briefcases.

Rock introduced the three on stage as the most hardworking representatives of accounting firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers. They were, he said, sent to count the votes. There was laughter, after which he said: "If anybody's upset about that joke, just tweet about it on your phone – that was also made by these kids."

I could hear other people in the dorm laughing. The three boys stood on stage, faces still like they didn't understand the joke. Funny, I thought to myself sarcastically. In a world that is as connected as ours is now, I had hoped that Asian people would no longer be subject to bad stereotypes in film. We're seeing some progress. More Asian actors than ever before have



Ken Jeong plays many roles that stereotype Asians. Photo: ABC

been cast in roles unlike the ones they might once have been seen in. Look at US TV series *Fresh Off The Boat*, as well as the soon-to-be-released Warner Brothers' film *Crazy Rich Asians*. Still, those roles are rare. We still see Asian stereotypes on-screen.

In the *Hangover* trilogy, Korean-American Ken Jeong plays Leslie Chow, a Chinese gangster with a heavy accent. He is seen as a joke by the white leads. On TV show *Silicon Valley*, Jian-Yang is a Chinese immigrant with a bowl cut and broken English. This is despite the high number of Asian-Americans that are working in the tech industry – no bowl cut necessary.

I don't blame Jeong, or any of the other actors, for portraying these characters. Without them, we might not have any Asians on-screen. We've seen a lot of whitewashing, too. Actresses, like Emma Stone and Scarlett Johansson, have taken roles first written for Asians.

The problems of whitewashing and stereotyping in movies have got me wondering – is it better for my culture to be represented in an inaccurate way, or is it more helpful if my culture is not represented at all? We're still seen as the "other". We are still told we are different.

Hollywood's actions say our stories and cultures are not as complex, entertaining, or important as the stories and cultures of others. Will that change?

Would you pay for (fake) love?



Modern China

There's a phone app called *Love and Producer* that's very popular with girls on the mainland. It's like a romantic game, in which you play the owner of a media company.

There are four guys you get to fall in love with – a company CEO, a superstar, a scientist, and a policeman. The player receives phone calls and WeChat messages from the guys. They are voiced by famous mainland actors. Women are attracted to how real they can make this relationship feel – but the more you play, the more you will be tempted to pay to pass certain levels or get extra storylines.

Lanxin, a third-year university student, has spent more than 300 yuan (HK\$360) on the game. She says her living costs are 1,200 yuan per month, but doesn't regret spending on *Love and Producer*.

"I don't have a boyfriend. I want to feel like I'm in a relationship, and this game gives me that feeling," she

said. "I've played these games before, but I've never spent so much. I've fallen in love with Li Zeyan (a character in the game), and I want to spend more time with him."

Phoebe, another girl, said: "I have spent less than 100 yuan, and don't want to spend any more." It's hard, though, she added. "I really like the storylines, and I want to know more." It's not just the romance, she said, that makes the game worthwhile. She also likes the feeling of communicating with someone and hanging out with them on WeChat.

Not all women think paying for these games is a good idea though. Xinyi, a student, said that she would never spend money on them, as she knows she would soon lose interest. Another girl, Annie, agrees. "I would prefer to spend my money on clothes and make-up, and on finding myself a boyfriend in real life."

Xu Zhuoran