



## From the Editor - what's left after the Sichuan earthquake?

5B Ng Shuk Yi, Karen

Undoubtedly, natural disasters are really powerful, causing a great deal of losses and serious destruction. No matter how strong the protective equipment is, there is a certain degree of demolition after every natural disaster. Unfortunately, the serious earthquake measured at 8.0 Richer scale in Sichuan was destructive. It brought loads of critical losses including not only money but also precious lives. The tremendous quake and the aftershocks in Sichuan were really frightening, demolishing most of the buildings and making tens of thousands of people homeless. The most important things that they have to do now are calm themselves down and rebuild their homes as soon as possible. All compatriots around the world have great compassion for the victims in the quake. Actually, we can see a silver lining in the Sichuan quake.



Buildings were seriously demolished after the earthquake. The army is rescuing the victims in the disaster.



Students in China are mourning the death of the people in Sichuan.

To begin with, the disaster has united the Chinese compatriots. After experiencing the Tangshan earthquake, people have realized that they should help victims in the quake so as to minimize the loss of money and to save lives. We can see many people volunteering to go to Sichuan in order to speed up the rescue and help the victims just after the quake. It shows that many people are ardent in giving their helping hands to the Sichuan compatriots. The quake masses all the power of the Chinese to rescue the Sichuan people and minimize the loss of properties and lives.

Apart from this, it arouses people's awareness of environmental protection. After the tremendous earthquake in Sichuan, people value environmental protection more and more as some scientists claimed that the quake is partly caused by over-exploitation. Now, people know that they should stop exploiting earth resources in order to avoid natural disasters. They should consider more about the nature before they have any construction work done.



Education in rural areas is very important to help them learn survival skills.

Finally, in order to reduce the impact brought by natural disasters, people have become more keen to learn more about natural science. This raises their consciousness of facing natural disasters. The Central Government is providing more classes about natural science for the Chinese so as to educate them, especially the people from rural areas, teaching them what they should do when facing natural disasters. This enhances people's problem-solving abilities to deal with any sudden changes. Natural science has become one of the subjects in many rural schools after the earthquake so that more and more students can learn how to



deal with natural disasters. For instance, people have learnt that they should hide themselves under any available stable desk when encountering earthquakes.

In conclusion, the tremendous earthquake has brought some advantages to China. It has helped China to develop into a stronger country. After rebuilding Sichuan, the economic development of China will be faster. What's more, the earthquake has united the Chinese compatriots and aroused people's awareness of environmental protection. Education on natural science ought to be included in every state so as to enhance people's survival skills when facing natural disasters. Only by struggling for advancement will China be stronger and tougher.



Before the earthquake, Sichuan was a beautiful place with stunning views.



## Olympic spirit



4D Cheung Chui Yi, Tweety      2D Law Ching, Terri

The recent violent attempt of some Tibetans fighting for the independence of Tibet has brought the 'politics and Olympics' issue into light again.

In light of the incident, many countries requested China to deal with the Tibet issue properly and negotiate with Dalai Lama, or they would not participate in the Olympic Games 2008. However, the question is, should such matter have arisen?

Of course not.

First, the purpose of the Olympic Games is to promote the importance of love and peace, as well as to provide different nations with the golden opportunity to show their admirable sportsmanship. Apparently, adding elements of politics into the Olympic Games totally defeats the purpose of the Games. During the Games, athletes should strive for excellence without the interference of politics. However, the French President Nicolas Sarkozy has sent a letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao, urging Beijing to handle the Tibet incident beyond reproach; otherwise, France might boycott the Beijing Olympic Games opening ceremony. No doubt, the emotion of athletes would be affected adversely and this argument thoroughly ruins the ambience of love and peace of the Olympic Games.

Another reason is that holding Olympic Games will strengthen national communication only if it is free from politics. If politics plays a role in Olympic Games, the arguments among different countries must be brought into the Games. The athletes may regard their competitors as foes, harboring bad blood towards others. The harmony of the Olympic Games is possibly damaged. But this should definitely not happen. Friendship and the relationship among the people of different countries should come before competition. Making friends during the Games should be a profound memory, but not beating one's 'enemies' with ulterior motive - getting 'revenge' and 'face' for their nation.

All in all, if politics is brought into the Olympic Games, the atmosphere of love, peace and friendship will be spoiled enormously. Living in a world full of quarrels and wars, don't people desire to enjoy the bliss of peace and admire the sportsmanship of people?

One world, one dream. Let's enjoy a harmonious Olympics.





# OCTOPUS? OCTOPLUS? AUTOPURSE?

3B Ngo Keng Fai, William

**Remember the days when everybody was using coins for bus fares? Don't know what I am talking about, do you? Of course, we are the new generation! Who still likes using coins? We have the quicker, easier-to-use, lighter electronic money. No more coins-counting, no more coins-bringing... we enjoy that a lot. However, is electronic money really a solution?**



In early 1990s, we were still using coins and paper currency. Some time later, electronic money system OCTOPUS was introduced in Hong Kong. Its popularity rose quickly because of its many advantages over the heavy coins. It is lighter, smaller; it does not require any counting or changing. Besides, the Octopus cards provide convenient services: automatic recharge, transaction records, bonus money... and lots more. The magnetic pull of this means of paying is hard to resist.

As expected, the Octopus system has been well accepted by people. It is now one of the best electronic money systems in the world and many other countries are imitating us. It is widely used in different aspects of society. Examples include fares and restaurants. However, the Octopus cards are also bringing us bad effects. People abuse its use.



For a start, people use octopus cards as pocket money. Parents give the cards to the children mainly as daily fares. Chances are that some children may misuse the card and buy things for their own use. They use up the money at an unbelievable speed and beg for more from their parents. This behavior is repeated and becomes a habit. A bad habit, indeed.

Hong Kong children are resources-rich compared to many other countries in the world. Parents are rather busy so they do not have time to teach the children to save their money or make good use of it. The kids take the money for granted and usually, they do not know anything about comprehensive financial management. This is the case for coins and paper currency. The fact is, the situation is even more serious when using electronic money. Why? Simple: People can see the money left in their pockets and limit the expenses if needed, but electronic money is easy to use and easy to *use up*. In other words, spending is bottomless. You cannot check the remaining amount of the card anytime you want. Therefore, you happen to spend more and more until it is pumped dry. If this habit continues until they grow up, they may have difficulties in managing money. This is obviously very deadly.

'E-money is bringing us so many disadvantages, so why don't we stop using it?' you may say. In my opinion, dumping the use of this new and convenient way of paying is insensible. The world is progressing every day. E-money is an inevitable trend. Taking extreme measures like giving up its use is not the best way. I would suggest an improvement to the electronic money system: maybe using phones as payment media instead of cards, so the remaining amount could be easily checked. Of course, this is still imagination at this moment. The most important thing is that parents of this new generation should get more updated and learn more about the new electronic money system, especially because it requires careful control and management, in order to have full control of children's expenses. To achieve this, the government ought to do more education and promotion to both parents and children, and correct the twisted values of modern people.



In conclusion, e-money is one of the new technologies that we human beings will be widely using in the future. Despite the benefits, new problems are formed and waiting to be solved. Only if we manage to solve the new issues like difficulty in management and people's wrong values will e-money become successful technology.



Thanks for reading this section again. This is the second time T-Zone has been published. In this issue, we are going to introduce some useful software. ENJOY!

## Mozilla Firefox (Browser) \*\*\*\*\*



Most of us have at least one computer at home. All of us can surf the net, right? What are the browsers you use at home? Most of us may say 'Internet Explorer (IE)', of course. However, is IE the only good browser? Among all the browsers, do you only know IE? Let us share another good browser with you, Mozilla Firefox.



Mozilla Firefox — a new and excellent alternative. Firefox is known as being fast and user-friendly. Yet, the most attractive function Firefox includes is its ability to be personalized. It has masses of extensions to download, so that you can make it highly personalized. From image saving tools to new themes and download managers, it will surely satisfy you. Known as fast, it works 4 times faster than IE. The integrated Google search engine removes the inconvenience of information searching. Besides, Firefox is a highly secure browser, better than IE. Your private information may easily be kept out of harm.

Mozilla Firefox has been released for a long time, so it is a tried and trusted browser. A new version of Mozilla Firefox, Firefox Portable, has been released recently. This version can be used in USB flash drives. With this new version, you can use this browser anywhere easily.

✓ **Download link:** <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

## iTunes (Music Playing Software) \*\*\*\*\*

Most of us always use Windows Media Player to listen to music. Feel bored? Let's see another music software – iTunes.

iTunes — a complete-with-nothing-missing music player. Let's download and have a look: iTunes, actually, is a music player AND a music manager. It provides an effective way to standardize the information of your tons of music. Within a minute, your unmanaged medias will become neat and clean. Besides, you will find the music player exquisite as it can change into a mini music player.



The new version offers even more surprises. Movie Rentals (rent and watch movies on your computer, or synchronize them to your iPod and iPhone), Ring tones (turn songs from the iTunes Store into custom ringtones for your iPhone)...

Can't resist this excellent music player software? Surf this website and download it. NOW!

✓ **Download link:** <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>

**SEE YOU NEXT TIME! WHO KNOWS WHAT THE NEXT TOPIC WILL BE?**





# Hot?! Water all around you!

3B Lam Wing Yan, Daisy

Li Wai Shan

3C Woo Yee Shan, Shirley

1B Chan Tak Kai, Billy

*The summer holidays are coming. Travel? Stay at home? Have you planned how to spend your time? Take a look at the following...*



DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

## WAKEBOARD!!!

**W**akeboarding is a surface water sport. People ride a wakeboard over the surface of the water behind a boat. It is a combination of water skiing, snow boarding and surfing.

The rider is linked to the rear of a boat and rides typically at the speed of 18-24 miles per hour depending on water conditions, the rider's weight, board size, and most importantly, the rider's personal preference.

It is really exciting. Why don't you try it? It's so much fun!

Enjoy it !!!

## Guess who?



Guess Who?

He was born on July 13, 1950 in Hong Kong. With family roots Xiangtan or Hunan, he is the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), a former Justice Minister, the former Mayor of Taipei, and the former Chairman of the Kuomintang (KMT) from 2005 to 2007.

3A Chow Chi Ying, Emma Ng Yee To, Yumiko

Guess Who?



He has been the Chief Executive of Hong Kong since 2005. He is dubbed Bow-Tie due to his fondness of wearing a bow tie.



Guess Who?

He is the junior United States Senator from Illinois and a candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 2008 U.S. presidential election.

Guess Who?



He won the 110m hurdles gold medal Olympics at Athens 2004. His gold medal was China's first in men's track and field event. He is the first Chinese athlete to achieve the "triple crown" of athletics (World Record Holder, World Champion and Olympic Champion) concurrently.

Guess Who?



She is an actress from Taiwan. Many people think that she is lovely and cute. She also has a baby face and a sweet smile.



# UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects)

5B Ho Ka Ho, Leo

All over the world, there are lots of mysterious and miraculous phenomena which human beings cannot give full and rational explanations. Among all mysteries, many people find UFOs the most incredible and some of them even spend time studying UFOs! 'Do aliens really exist?' 'Are UFOs the weapon to attack planet Earth?' Thousands of questions arise in people's mind when it comes to UFO.

## What are UFOs?

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UFOs are the flying objects that cannot be identified by observers. We don't know their origin, its structures, and its characteristics. We merely realize they can fly. Because of their mysterious manifestation, countless people regard UFOs as the spaceships of aliens. Although a number of people regard UFOs as simply a kind of natural phenomenon, there is no doubt that some cases and reports of UFO sightings cannot be explained even by scientists.



## Reports of UFO sightings

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When it was in Han Dynasty, a flying object was reported to be seen in the sky and all the stars followed its movement towards West. In Sung Dynasty, there was another record: 'a star as big as a half-moon flew towards North and disappeared quickly.'

Indeed, the reports of UFOs do not only appear in China, but also in many other countries. According to the Ministry of Nation Defense of the USA, between 1974 and 1989, there were 12,618 reports of UFOs. Among them, approximately 600 reports have not been given rational explanations—they were mysterious! Between 1989 and 1999, many UFOs were spotted in Belgium. Once, at least 1,000 people witnessed UFO at the same time. So far, only Belgium and a few countries are willing to officially acknowledge the existence of UFOs.

## UFOs and Aliens

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Based on the observation that UFOs can shine, move really swiftly and change the direction arbitrarily, many people as well as experts point out that UFOs are the spaceships of aliens who travelled from their planet to the earth. Nevertheless, why aliens have not been seen and what they are doing above us are still unknown.



## UFOs in Hong Kong

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Between 1989 and 1997, the Hong Kong Observatory received 151 reports of UFOs. Generally speaking, UFOs existed most frequently in July, as for the region where most UFOs visited is Yuen Long. In most cases, the size of UFOs was a kind smaller than the moon and the duration of existence was broadly within 5 seconds.

## The truth is out there...

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Actually, all the details of UFOs are mysteries. We know well-nigh nothing about it. Currently, lots of scientists and some governments over the world are studying UFOs. Although it is very hard to fully understand UFOs due to the high technology required, with the expeditious advancement of science and technology, the secrets of UFOs will be unlocked in the foreseeable future. You, the younger and more enterprising generation – can you help unlock the secret of UFOs? Or are you just willing to be ignorant about all mysterious things?

To know or not to know, that's the question.



# A Music Ranger for All the Lost Souls

5B Tong Chi Chiu, Vincent

Life is a marvelous journey. You don't know where it takes you or whom it lets you meet. All these make you suspect whether you choose the life, or the life chooses you. James Blunt, a popular singer in England, used to believe he had no power to change the familial tradition of being a soldier. On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1974, the



world created James Blunt. In 2004, James Blunt cashed in on his talent to create his own music nation and touched everyone's soul around the world. Many people always wonder why he is constantly neglected by the world despite how ingenious he is. However, the story of James Blunt tells you that everything is possible if you grab it tight.

James Blunt was born in a village called Tidworth. His father disliked music as he thought "all music is dispensable noise." In such a birdcage, James couldn't believe he had the power to alter things. He first got in touch with music when he was five. He used to learn violin, then piano. However, He felt bored then and laughed at himself, "I hate playing the piano and the violin. I remember I used to think it was the worst thing in the world." When he was 14 years old studying at Harrow, he started



playing the guitar, listening to Nirvana's album "Nevermind" and writing his first song.

Because of James' laziness at university, his father forced him to be a soldier. Originally, he was a soldier who protected the queen of England. Later on in spring, 1999,

James Blunt was sent to Kosovo. During the service in Kosovo, James saw a mass of dead bodies wherever he went. "I hate the brutal nature of human beings. Our civilizations can be depraved into a beast,"



James Blunt commented. Out of his anger on wars, James Blunt wrote a song "No Bravery" while he was lying in the tank, his boots in his sleeping bag. This was the turning point where he gave up being a soldier in 2002.

Determined to make changes in his life, James chose to be a singer. In 2004, he released his single album "Back to Bedlam", drawing support from his song "You're Beautiful" and therefore catapulting himself into fame. Asked of the meaning of the song, he said, "Everyone has to go alone in his or her life. I'm a lonely person, but I'm pleased with it." Moreover, he said the source of his creative work is his life experience. True, James' songs are heartbrokenly retrospective and utterly serious – but there are glimpses of hope and care, which really resonate with his past and this is obvious in his second album "All the Lost Souls". James Blunt wants to tell everyone how he feels about his ordinary life and hopes that his songs will touch every single soul in the world.

Afterall, James Blunt is destined to capitalize on his talent to touch everybody's soul, bestowing meaning, bringing positive messages, though most of his songs are predominantly melancholic. James Blunt encourages people to believe that they have chances to change their destiny and create a wonderful world. In "Shine On" of his second album, he wrote:

*"So shine on. Just shine on!  
With your smile just as bright as the sun.  
'Cause they're all just slaves to the gods they made,  
But you and I just shone.  
Just shone."*

*To James, the world is brilliant, and the future is bright. What do you say?*



# WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

2D Lai Mei Sze, Macy Leung Yan Chi, Nathalie, 4B Koo Ka Yan, Una

## BIOGRAPHY

William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was a famous English poet, playwright and actor. He is always called "England's national poet" or "the Bard of Avon". He wrote two long poems ("Venus and Adonis" and "The Rape of Lucerne") for his first works. They are of erotic themes. For his early plays (since 1590), they were mainly comedies and histories. His works are all the reflection of the society. He once said, "The play must give the nature as if according to a mirror: For moral integrity looks own appearance, for look absurdly own posture, look at own image and the mark for the time and the society."



## PLAYS SHARING

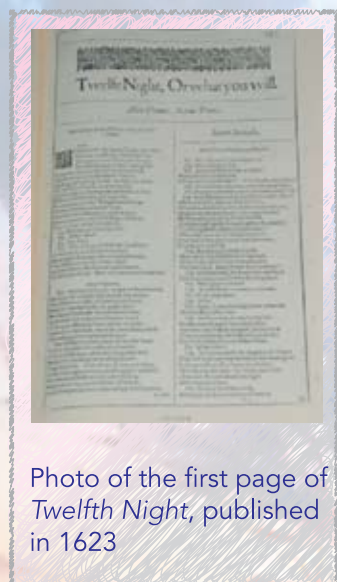


Photo of the first page of *Twelfth Night*, published in 1623

"As You Like It" (皆大歡喜), "Twelfth Night or What You Will" (第十二夜), "The Merchant of Venice" (威尼斯商人) and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (仲夏夜之夢). Are some of them familiar to you? Have you read them? The titles above are the four most famous comedies of Shakespeare. The basic themes of these plays are love, marriage and friendship. They are rich in expressions. They show the ideal humanistic life of Shakespeare.

Hamlet (哈姆雷特), Othello (奧賽羅), King Lear (李爾王), Macbeth (馬克白)... Have you ever heard about them? I think you have because they are the four most famous tragedy plays produced by Shakespeare. In Othello, Desdemona, a girl who was born in a noble family, ignored the objection of her father and society and married a Moor, Othello. The reason for their tragedy was not only Othello's jealousy, but also the powerful devil power shown by Cassio. The sober before Othello's death contain the victory of human rational thought.

## SHARING OF POEM

The sonnets contain 154 poems. There are two parts in the sonnets. The first part (the first 126 poems), in which Shakespeare eulogized Fair Lord's beauty and their friendship, is dedicated to a young noble, Fair Lord. The second part (the rest of the poems), which was dedicated to a Dark Lady, describes love. The following is one of the poems, Poem 116:

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove:  
O, no! it is an ever-fix'd mark,  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wand'ring bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom:  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

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