



MARCH / APRIL



RAYA POST



# WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THE ISSUE ?

Mindy Huang 黃瑋涵

CX102138

**Y**esterday, I read the sorrowful news on the Internet. It said that there was a 4-year-old girl who was randomly killed on a bustling street while her mother was right in front of her. The criminal killed the little girl in execution style by beheading her.

**T**his news undoubtedly created a fuss, making Taiwanese feel angry but also making us think about why murderers commit crimes. "If there is a man who kills other people randomly, should we make laws against people who lose their heads? Alternatively, the solution to prevent the tragedy from happening again could come from the basics, education and family." After the accident, the heartbroken mother accepted the journalists' interview. She hopes the public will not focus on whether the criminal will be condemned to death or not, but instead think about how to improve our environment and education.



Photo by time.com

**I** completely agree with the mother's words. In fact, my first thought after reading the news is "God, please let the criminal get the same punishment as what he did to the little girl." I am not the only one who thinks this way, Taiwanese society is not considering whether the death sentence should be forbidden or kept. However, the great mother appeals to the public to see the root of the problem instead of paying attention to the criminal's fate. Therefore, the important issue is to seek the cause instead of determining the sentence. These past few years, murder cases in Taiwan are happening more frequently than before. Is there anything wrong with our society or education? If so, the public should take the responsibility to improve our environment, and fill our surroundings with love.

**I**n my opinion, the key to spreading love throughout the world is to care. Nowadays, people only care about themselves and if things are not related to them, they choose to ignore important issues. Are these issues really not their business? If we keep ignoring tragedy, the tragedy will burn like fire and spread widely and quickly. To prevent the world from becoming dark and merciless, please start to care about people around us and spread our love and positive thoughts. Let the world be warm not burnt.

# MIND CONTROL

CDI103036

Jo Yang 楊晨筠

**H**ave you ever felt that everything is out of control and your heart is like a wild horse? Yes, that is exactly how I feel every morning when I wake up in a bad mood.

**A**bout seven or eight years ago, I went to see a doctor because I had serious headache for a very long time. The doctor asked me to do a series of nerve examinations. The process was killing me. The nurses first put something like wires on my head and electrified them. The result of examination showed that there was something wrong with my brainwave. The doctor started to worry there might be a brain tumor in my head, so he made me do the nuclear magnetic resonance. However, the scan was clear. After weeks of torture, I was told that I have "Anxiety Disorder" for some unknown reasons.

**I**f I want to be cured, I have to defeat the demons of my mind. I was totally terrified. I didn't even know why I have anxiety disorder or the reasons that caused it. The only thing I wanted to do at that time was to tear apart my medical certificate and threw all the pain killers away. Of course I didn't do it because I was still in shock. The doctor told me I should learn to "control my emotions" and seek some good ways to relax myself, those two important things were good for my mental status. Therefore, I stepped on the journey of "mind control".



Photo by neethonenu.wordpress.com



Photo by <http://psychology.about.com/>

First, I started to learn to hold back all my feelings. I didn't let other people sense my emotions anymore. If I had sunk into despair, I smiled so everybody thought I was totally fine. I literally became a stone that wouldn't show any of my inside feelings. Eventually, my heart couldn't feel anything at all. Second, I started to ignore the people around me and didn't care about everything in this world. I wasn't that interested in this world like I used to be. I became a doll without a soul. At the end, I was nearly broken down. I was like driftwood floating upon the endless sea waiting to be swallowed.

A few months after, I went to see the doctor because I gradually became very sensitive to lots of things. Rain and fallen leaves would make me cry easily. I tended to over-explain other people's behaviors and had lots of negative thoughts. People's few words would drag me into a circle of deep thoughts about committing suicide.

When I was living in great suffering and going to do something stupid, my English teacher came and saved my hopeless soul. She gave me comfort and accompanied me all along when I was trying to figure out what led to my anxiety disorder. With her help, I slowly accepted the truth that everyone has their own weakness and sometimes they do need other people to help them get through their hard time. The unknown fear, sorrow and anxiety from the bottom of my heart is one of my weaknesses. I just have to learn to get used to them and try to find the true peace in my mind, and then I can achieve the final goal of "mind control."

One day, I finally found out that it was because of my family situation that led to my mental illness. Of course there were some other reasons that caused it, but the main reason definitely came from my family. However, I didn't spend too much time crying about it because I've already learned to let go. I tried to not pay too much attention to what people say about me and learned to be who I really am. I'm stronger than the old me and now feel proud of myself.

Like the lead singer of Guns N' Roses said "Life sucks, but in a beautiful way." I've had a really hard time and tried my best to overcome it. Now, my condition is getting better day by day. I started to set my future goals and hope one day I can make it through. I'm still seeking the "real peace" in my mind and true meanings of my life. I'm looking forward to that one day when I can fulfill my self-worth and learn to control my mind.



# WE NEED REAL BOOKSTORE !

CX102122

CX102134

Flora Chang  
張雅涵

Sandy Yu  
余冠慧

When was the last time you visited a real bookstore? If you have not been to a bookstore, you better go there as soon as possible because they will disappear in the near future. According to the United Daily News, there are several real bookshops in Pingtung closing because nobody goes there; therefore, the owners have a difficult financial problem. Yi-Zhen Fu, Associate Professor of NTC, says, "Though the Internet is highly developed. There is requirement for real bookstores in the city." Therefore, their existence is necessary.

There are three reasons that we need real bookstores. First, people can buy books and enjoy reading immediately. You do not have to wait for your books which are bought from online bookshops to arrive at your home. You can just read the books at the store and buy them right at that moment. Moreover, you can have a relaxing afternoon in the real bookstores while reading or even drinking a cup of coffee.

Second, people can see and touch the actual items (whole books), while you can only see pictures online. In addition, you can be very sure that you like or are interested in the books when you buy them. Moreover, if the book is damaged, you can tell the staff directly and solve the problem. Alternatively, you have to send your damaged book to the company and make several phone call or emails if you buy books on the Internet.





Photo by The Real Chicago



Photo by wiseinkblog.com

Finally, I understand why people usually buy books online. Books sold on the Internet are much cheaper than in the real bookstores. It is also very convenient because you do not have to go outside and you have more book choices on the Internet. However, you can choose the book you prefer, as it is newer and clearer in the store. You can check the books precisely. For example, you can realize the style, content, and form of the book. The most important thing is that you can enjoy the atmosphere of real bookshops.

To sum up, you can touch the physical books in person and read them as you please. Emily Powell is convinced that people still like physical books and enjoy reading. We need real bookstores in our daily lives and should go to these stores or they will become a thing of the past.



# COMPANIES SHOULD HIRE MORE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

CI101143

Shelly Chen 陳怡秀

**I** magine going to the checkout counter at the grocery store, and then you find the clerk walk wobbly and cannot walk well. How will you react? Will you question how that person got such a job? There was a Canadian teenager with Autism who recently got his dream job, becoming a barista. His boss worked intensively with him, helping him to get used to making eye contact with customers. Due to his jerky movement from Autism, together they came up with an idea to dance while making drinks. Gradually, he was able to focus on the routines and did his best at work. However, according to a report published by A.J Drexel Autism Institute in the US, it showed that two-thirds of young people with Autism have neither a job nor educational plans during the first two years after high school. People with Autism, as well as other disabilities, have had a hard time getting job. It is time for people to take this issue seriously, in Taiwan as well.



Photo by careertipster.com

**P** eople often think this issue is handled very well. While the Taiwan government will offer some public employment opportunities for people with disabilities, it is still not right to just leave the problems to these authority figures. Furthermore, people with disabilities deserve more job choices than what they could offer. Some people with disabilities cannot move fast; some might have difficulties understanding instructions; some might have little interest in interacting with people or some might get nervous easily. Therefore, they are likely to perform not so perfectly, but it does not mean they cannot do their job. With some support and understanding, they will succeed in their position. An ultimate goal for several companies is to make as much money as possible. People who care about making profit might think people with disabilities will cause so many problems, which will affect the financial growth of the company.

**N** evertheless, excluding those people who just need a little bit of extra help is not what society should do. People with disabilities are a part of the society as well. If people are willing to offer their hand and show kindness, those with disabilities can become contributing members of the society.

**P** eople with disabilities should be given more job choices and be included. If they all get a chance to show their talents, the world we live in will definitely become better. We need more people making efforts, just like what the boss of the teenager with Autism did, make it happen.

**For more information about the story of the teenager with Autism and his boss, go to:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaRqqVDAaQo>



# SMOKING BAN ISSUE

Elsa Lee 李盈萱

CX102140

**D**o you smoke? Will you be upset if smoking bans become more common? As a non-smoker, I strongly agree with the rules. Smoking bans will not only protect those who want to avoid second hand smoke but also improve the air quality.

**R**ecently, there is more and more research that shows that even we though we don't smoke; the second-hand smoke is still harmful to our health. Others claim that the third-hand smoke would also affect children's brain and emotions. If people can smoke anywhere, non-smokers will suffer from it. We might likely get sick or worse, lung cancer. What if children and pregnant women are influenced by the second or third hand smoke? They are weaker than adults and rules should be set to defend their rights.



Photo by howafrica.com

**T**hus, we can tell that the air quality is becoming worse than before. There surely are natural causes, but smoke also makes us breathe unhealthy air. In order to refresh our air, smoking bans are necessary to provide people a better life. When smokers can only smoke in some particular places, we might be able to have higher air quality around us. Moreover, when smoking bans become more common, some smokers might think smoking causes lots of trouble. They might try to quit this bad habit.

**W**e hope our kids can grow up in a friendly environment. As smoking bans get stricter, non-smokers can roam anywhere without concerns. We will be able to breathe freely and the air will be nicer, clearer, and more suitable for humans. Therefore, why not support the smoking bans to give us a much better life?

# JUDGE IT OR NOT

CX102108

Vincent Wang 王柏為

A journalist, a job that makes people think of freedom when writing about social issues has become a monster. Several years ago, there was a lawsuit about the balance between free journalism and privacy rights. This made people begin to consider if we need powerful articles to appeal something we do not know. In this essay, I want to mention my viewpoint about low-level journalism.

First of all, I will consider “the feeling” issue. Journalists around the world like to ask a question, “What is your feeling?” It always makes the news become an embarrassing thing. For example, every time I watch news about an accident, the reporters always like to ask the victims about their feelings. It is very bad timing to ask that question. It would make victims feel worse to face the misery. I think that the reporters lack compassion while they are interviewing.


Secondly, there is the aspect of gossip. In Taiwanese news, gossip about somebody who does not really matter can be reported for more than a week. For example, the singer Selina broke up with her boyfriend and this case was reported for a whole week. What did the reporters do to accomplish this? They interviewed everyone in the entertainment industry, and then cut the video into segments to play on the news every day. I think that the reporters seem to ignore something more important, such as politics or good deeds.



Photo by [www.cleversonteixeira.adv.b](http://www.cleversonteixeira.adv.b)



Photo by [www.itnewsafrika.com/](http://www.itnewsafrika.com/)

An abstract graphic on the left side of the page consists of several horizontal and vertical bars. There are three thick black horizontal bars and two thick blue vertical bars. The bars are arranged in a way that they overlap, creating a grid-like structure. The blue bars are positioned at approximately one-third and two-thirds of the page width, while the black bars are at various heights and widths, some spanning the full width of the page.

Finally, I want to mention the “gap” issue. In Taiwanese Internet news, the titles and contexts have a gap. The reporters use this method to attract readers. The titles, which are composed of confusing words, are only a part of the truth. For example, I saw a news title about a blue movie joke called, “Japanese entertainment TV shows have so much fun; the girl sucks a stick thing in her throat.” In addition, it always adds a pixelization picture with the article. However, the true context is that the girl is asked to eat as much as she can in a limited time, and the bread is the shape of a stick. It is a nasty way to catch the eyes of the audience. I think that this misleading behavior does not fit the principle of journalism ethics.

Someone may say that the reporters make the news become interesting. I can understand their thoughts, but it is really not a good way to make newsworthiness. The journalists use their power to write confusing news, and claim that they have the right to know public figure’s privacy and spread it around. This behavior would make society become blurred from something that really matters, such as the government’s decision, global issues and good deeds. That’s what really matters. We do not need gossip and scandal all the time.



# ANIMALS SHOULDN'T BE USED FOR RESEARCH

CX102124 Alley Huang 黃家馨

Nowadays people's awareness for the protection of animals is growing. There are many laws made for protecting animals now. Yet, do you know that there are still some animal experiments progressing? Animal testing was started by the Greeks in the 2nd and 4th centuries, and they were regarded as an experimental method of testing surgical procedures before applying them to human patients at that time. However, the issue of animal testing now has become popular and controversial. As for my opinion, I do not agree with the behavior of animal research. My two reasons to support my perspective are the value of life and the effectiveness of experiments.

Animal testing is cruel and doesn't respect the value of life. In this world, humans and animals are living together; specifically, animals had lived on the earth for more centuries than people. Everyone including humans and animals should have a right to survive because we all are members on this earth. However, why can people easily decide animal's fates and take them away lightly. To debate it, some people will claim that people are not equal with animals; despite the fact that we are not equal, we still cannot end animals' lives. Imagine if we are in an operation, we must feel scared and restless; similarly, animals do feel the same, and not to mention, they will die without knowing the truth. It's ironic that when people recover from diseases but animals have to face their death.



Although it is necessary for people to do experiments and develop treatment for humans, animals are still innocent. People use animals to test rather than use themselves. Some scientists struggle when they use cubs instead of mature animals; nevertheless, why we don't use infants. Most importantly, when we find new medicine from animals is only helping us not applied to animals. In addition, animals' bodies and genetic structures are not completely identical to humans. Some research results have proven that some chemical reflections happening in animals are effective, while they do not work on people simultaneously. Some medicine may present normality on animals, yet produce an allergy or side effects on humans. Therefore, the effectiveness of animal experiments is doubtful because people are still doing research on animals not themselves.

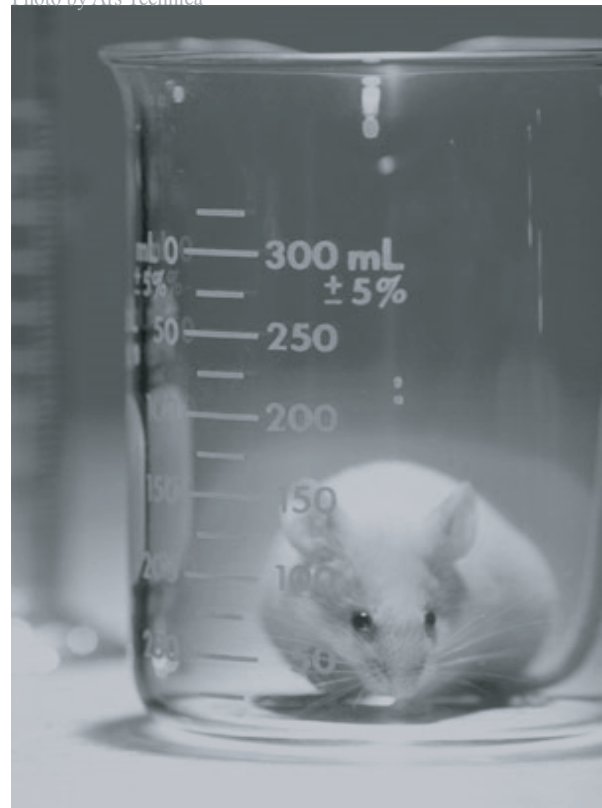


Photo by association of medical research charities

I strongly refuse the behavior of animal tests because it is not only disrespectful to the value of life, but also caused too much sacrifice on animals. Hence, animal research is not the solution for testing new treatments for human. I think that people can develop another way to study new treatments without hurting any life.

I believe that the behavior of animal experiments will be reduced in the future because people's awareness for the protection of animals is growing. In the future our technology will keep improving and I have faith that people can find a new method to replace animal research. Sacrificing animals is not humane, and humans are the creatures full of mercy; therefore, I have confidence to find a way to save animals from being killed.

Photo by Ars Technica



# SHOULD THE DEATH PENALTY EXIST OR BE ABOLISHED?

CX102136

Janet Wu 吳佳蓉

Capital punishment is a controversial issue in my country, and it has led to a huge problem such as the safety of society and a rising crime rate. Hence, I will focus on whether capital punishment should exist or not, and on what it brings to our society.



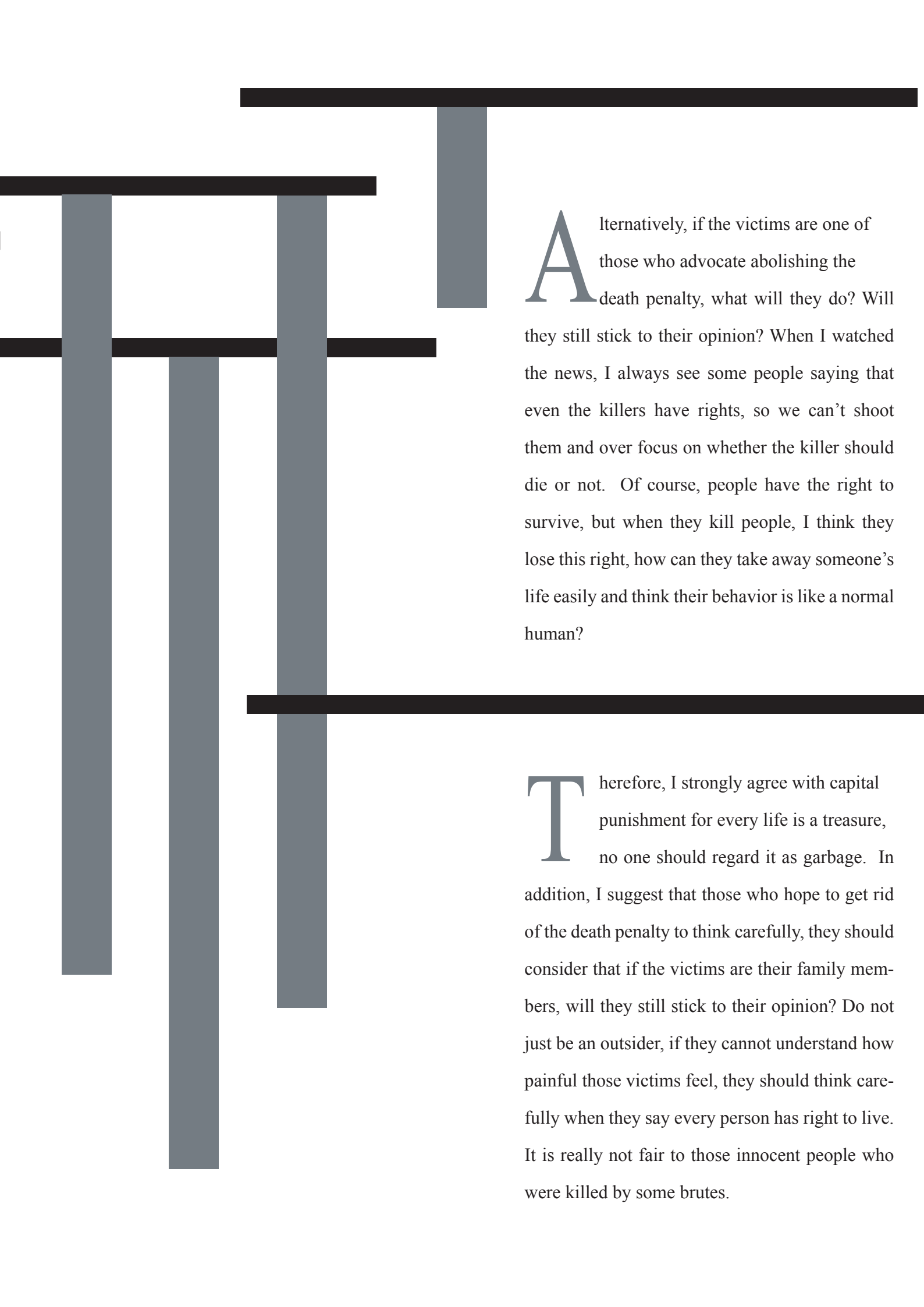
Photo by [www.youtube.com/user/twigstv](http://www.youtube.com/user/twigstv)

Some people think that capital punishment should be abolished because they advocate that people have the right to survive, no matter who they are, even though they are murderers. Those people consider that the death penalty is a brute means to people and sending those bad guys to jail is a better way to solve this problem. However, how about those victims and their families? They are innocent, so why can murderers just go to prison instead of being executed.



Photo by [www.youtube.com/user/twigstv](http://www.youtube.com/user/twigstv)





Alternatively, if the victims are one of those who advocate abolishing the death penalty, what will they do? Will they still stick to their opinion? When I watched the news, I always see some people saying that even the killers have rights, so we can't shoot them and over focus on whether the killer should die or not. Of course, people have the right to survive, but when they kill people, I think they lose this right, how can they take away someone's life easily and think their behavior is like a normal human?

Therefore, I strongly agree with capital punishment for every life is a treasure, no one should regard it as garbage. In addition, I suggest that those who hope to get rid of the death penalty to think carefully, they should consider that if the victims are their family members, will they still stick to their opinion? Do not just be an outsider, if they cannot understand how painful those victims feel, they should think carefully when they say every person has right to live. It is really not fair to those innocent people who were killed by some brutes.

# THE PERMANENT HARM

CX102128

Lulu Chou 周育如

A “Nuclear –free Homeland” is one of the Taiwanese policies. Nuclear power is controversial nowadays. It is an alternative power which is used by many countries; however, it has lots of risks that will cause us long, even permanent harm. Therefore, I think we should not rely on nuclear power.

There are some disadvantages that nuclear power has. First, nuclear power can be a deadly weapon that will cause war. In World War II, the United States dropped two bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in Japan. This weapon killed almost twenty thousand people at that time. Furthermore, the remaining radiation made people get cancer and give birth to disabled or deformed babies. The environment also became too harsh for people to live in. It took a lot of time to get this area back to normal. This shows that nuclear power has risks and can cause damage.



Photo by historyextra.com

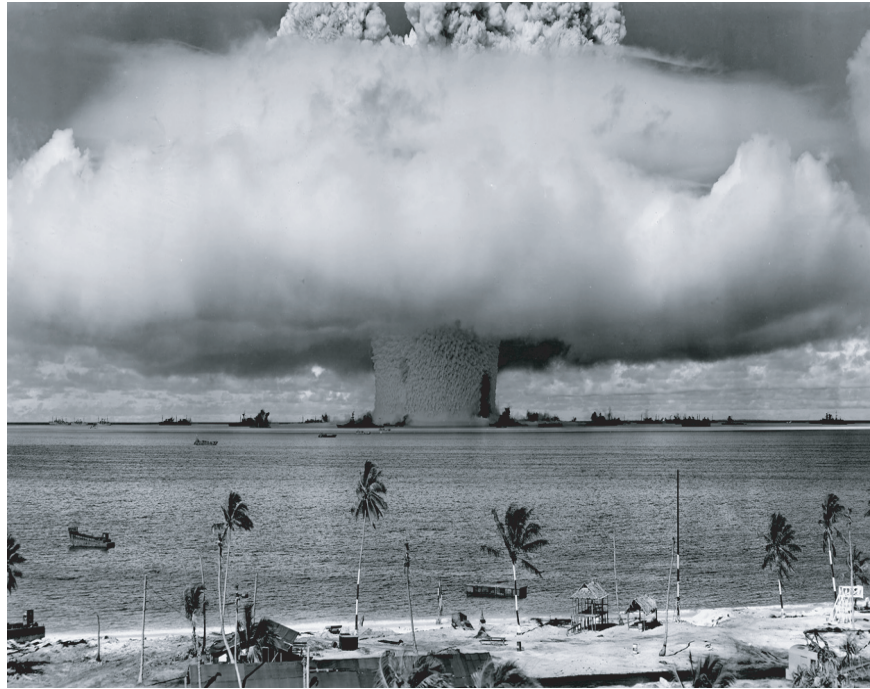


Photo by limitlesslife.wordpress.com

Second, there is still not an effective way to dispose of nuclear waste. Generally speaking, most countries dispose of waste in two ways: temporary store up and permanent bury. However, this waste will not disappear. It will stay there with high radiation levels that endanger the people, animals and the environment near the area. It is very scary when you find yourself exposed to the radiation and you are not aware of that. Maybe you will not understand why you will die.

Some people say that nuclear power still has advantages. They say that nuclear power will not cause air pollution and it will not make global warming worse. However, the radioactive contamination is more dangerous than other kinds of pollution. Although nuclear power is a good alternative power source that is inexhaustible, it still has particular risks, and we may not be aware of the danger. If we want to have a wonderful future without long-term harm, we should figure out the way to dispose of nuclear waste or find another alternative power source to improve our quality of life.

# EUTHANASIA FOR HUMANS SHOULD BE LEGALIZED IN TAIWAN

CX102126

Alby Weng 翁文賢

People cannot choose the way they die. For some people who are very sick, lying in bed with life supporting equipment is the way they live in the last stage of their lives. This is cruel for a conscious human, having no ability to live on their own.

I would never want to live like that, lying in bed and relying on others' help. For me, it is better to die earlier than live in an abnormal and unnatural way. I think euthanasia for humans should be legalized in Taiwan. Patients should have rights to die tenderly and painlessly. If euthanasia for humans is legalized, patients who cannot recover can benefit from it. They will have the opportunity to decide on a more humanized way of dying. This can also save on medical resources as well so doctors can cure the patients who are really in need of medical resources instead of curing someone who cannot be cured.



Photo by [neophilosophical.blogspot.tw/](http://neophilosophical.blogspot.tw/)

For instance, if euthanasia for humans is legalized, doctors could have the right to decide which patients can receive the correct medical resources without fearing to break the law by rejecting some dying patients while using those medical resources.

Euthanasia for humans also helps people appreciate the value of live. When people realize they can end their lives through euthanasia, they will appreciate the time they live at every moment. Therefore, euthanasia will make people start to think what lives are for.

Euthanasia for humans should be legalized in Taiwan. People should have the right to die in the way they wish when they are prepared for it. We should have the freedom to live our own lives including the way we say goodbye to the world.

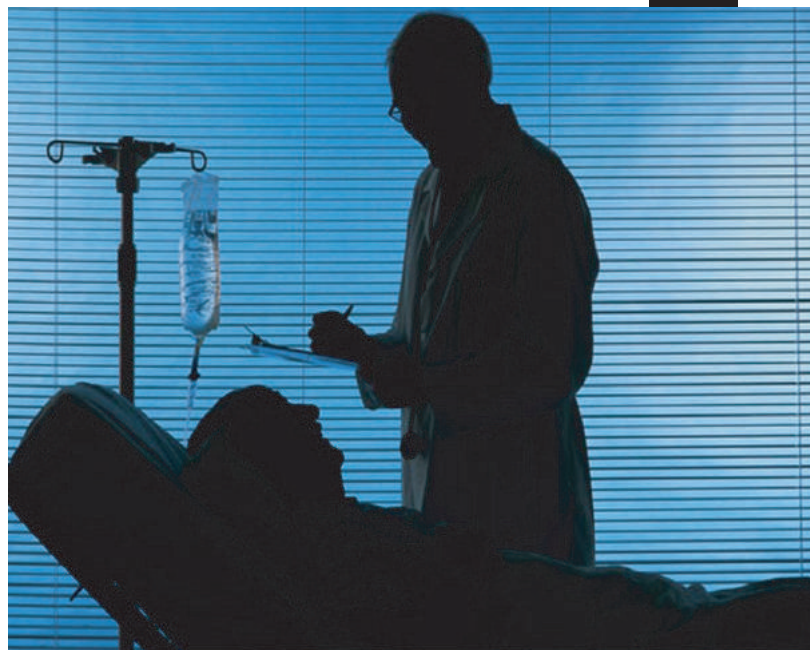


Photo by [www.churchmilitant.com/](http://www.churchmilitant.com/)



# THE TRUTH ABOUT CHILD MARRIAGE

CX102118

Angel Wu 吳晏綾

**C**an you imagine that there are many underage girls who have already married and given birth to their babies around the world? The ICRW statistics show that this situation has happened in some developing countries, especially Africa. I think that child marriage is a tragedy to those innocent girls. Therefore, I will focus on how poverty and lack of education causes child marriage, and what dangers may occur in child marriages.

**M**oney is not always power, but sometimes we cannot do things without money. That is why poverty is one of the reasons that keeps the child marriage trade so widespread. The younger girls earn a higher bride price, which means that their parents may sell them before they grow up to gain a bunch of money and solve financial problems or make a fortune. In addition, engagement is also a way out to get a betroth price early before they reach the legal age to marry, and they can avoid the lawsuit from forcing minor aged girls to get married. Some parents say that they have no choice but to market the daughters to improve their poor lives; however, I cannot agree with these thoughts because women's productive forces are usually undervalued. If the countries are willing to give women a hand to hold economic empowerment, then the poverty rates will be reduced and the situation of underage bride trades must be stopped.



Photo by tvbrasa.wordpress.com



Photo by viajaequi.abril.com



Photo by bdnews24.com

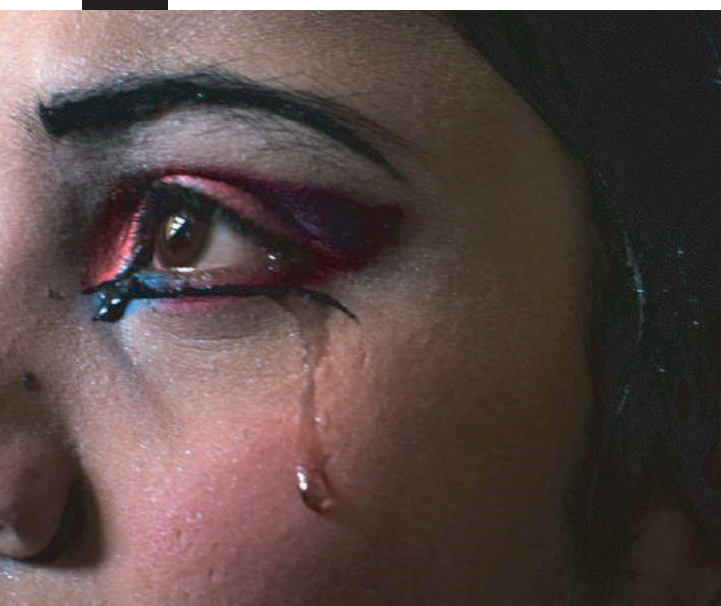


Photo by pulitzercenter.org

Some people think that education will impede women's duties to focus on raising children and taking care of families because their attention is on studying instead of being a wife and a mother. Consequently, the stress from society has compelled young girls to drop out of school and marry. Then, those uneducated young mothers will be obliged to the same routine to demand their adolescent girls to give up the rights to school and enter into marriage. Due to a lack of education, they hardly have opportunities to earn more income and are vulnerable to lose the financial support if their spouses pass away, abandon or divorce them. This vicious circle keeps repeating itself and those uneducated women also have played the same role of victims over generations. As a result, lacking an education will influence the child marriage to be more prevalent.

Mortality rates and domestic violence are two major risks in child marriage. Generally speaking, girls' physical conditions are not fully developed and will not mature until puberty. Therefore, the law seriously forbids anyone to have sex with underage girls, and allow for single girls to get pregnant. Nevertheless, there are still many parents who neglect the law and force underage girls to marry. This situation brings out some unlucky people who cannot survive labor and the babies will not have any chance to see the world. Even though some people are fortunate to escape death, it does not mean that they will not be confronted with domestic violence. Owing to lower status and powerlessness in the family, they often become their husbands' punching bags; moreover, they do not have appropriate ways to search for help and have to live under the threatening circumstances. Therefore, decreasing child marriage is an inevitable action to protect more young lives from tragedy.

To sum up, child marriage is composed of many factors like poverty, lack of education and some of the previously mentioned dangers. None of them will disappear, but once we care about this issue, then I believe that this problem will be solved.

# THE LAST WORD

CDI103024

Vicky Shih 史玫萱

” **B**e positive and outgoing” said grandpa. I never thought this would be the last words he gave me. It was a casual morning; my mom and I were sitting in the living room, talking happily about daily life. Suddenly, a phone call broke this peaceful atmosphere. Grandpa had a car accident.

My mom had me stay at home to contact my sister and father. She rushed to the hospital. At that moment, I tried to calm myself by praying that grandpa would be alright. However, my prayers became nothing when my mom called us after 40 minutes. Grandpa died. He was sent back to his house when we arrived. The police told us grandpa was far gone by the time the ambulance arrived. It was hard to accept that the one you just saw yesterday was now lying there lifelessly with several wounds.

**T**he traditional funeral ceremony usually takes about 7 days. It might have been the toughest 7 days ever in my life. Seeing grandma, my mom and all my family members get trapped in the whirl of grief, I couldn't do anything but remain silent. I felt hurt when my grandma called my grandpa's nickname for the last time with a heart-breaking voice and tears. After the funeral, those old memories with grandpa kept flashing through my mind.

Before that day, I went back to my grandparents' house. Grandpa was having his lunch on the couch. He asked me softly if I wanted some noodles. We hadn't seen each other for almost 3 months. However, sitting together in the living room enjoying the wonderful moment of talking to him was good enough. Grandpa encouraged me to be more outgoing rather than being shy and quiet as before. I smiled, grandpa smiled back at me. Yet, this was the last conversation with my grandpa. I believe that he is in a better place now with no more pain and suffering. I'm glad that at least I saw grandpa's sweet smile that day. I'll always remember his strong back with warm hands which held my sister's and mine, and the astonishing sunset behind us at the beach in childhood.

**L**ife and death are unpredictable. Sometimes people may leave you halfway through your life journey. All we can do is to cherish every moment with those we love at every stage. When the time comes, saying goodbye with blessings for those we love will be in your heart forever.



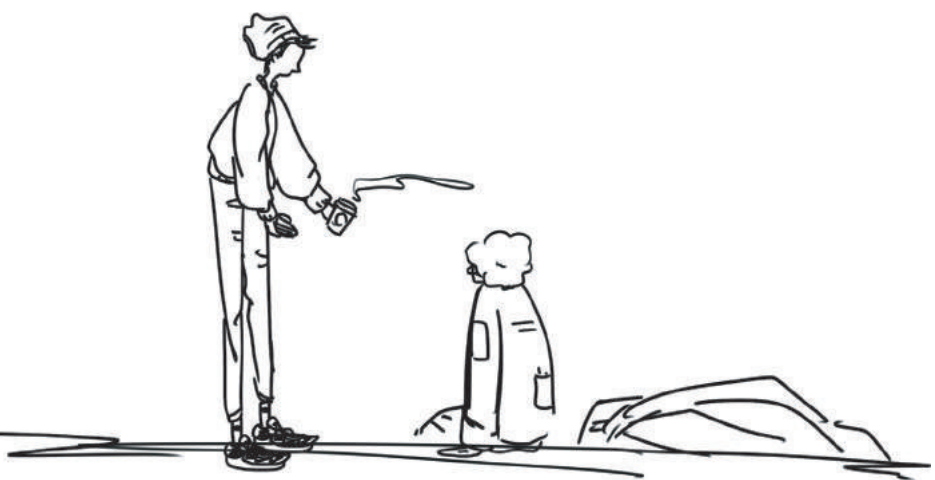
# WARM GIVING

CDI103001

Robert Lee

李承恩

**T**hat day was freezing cold but my heart was so warm as if it had melted in a cup of hot chocolate. This was what happened: the temperature dropped below 10 degrees Celsius. The wind was so cold that when it hit our faces, we could feel the pain just like an ice-cube was put on our body for a long period of time. Standing at the square in front of the train station, nothing could stop me from trembling even though I wore two long sleeved shirts, a heavy jacket, and a pair of jeans. I tried to jump a bit and blow hot air in my palms but it just wouldn't work. Just as I decided to find an indoor coffee shop to save myself from this hazardous weather, something caught my eye. There, sitting on the dusty corner, was a lady probably in her early 60s. Her clothes were all ragged with holes all over her shirt and pants. She wore no gloves and no shoes to protect her from the harsh weather. I assumed that she had been there for quite a while because stacks of paper boxes were stacked like a mountain next to her. She held a board with some scribbles on it. I couldn't read the words because they were too messy but I guess they had something to do with giving aid or providing food to the poor. Without hesitating, I decided to give this elderly lady a hand. A cup of hot chocolate milk and a sandwich would be nice, and these were what I bought for her. Though she didn't look at me when I handed her the supper, I could feel the happiness in her, and inside me, I felt as happy as a clam.



# WHAT DO I EXPECT TO DO AFTER COLLEGE LIFE

CDI103044

Hannah Lin 林主恩

Being a college student is a gate of freedom. We studied hard in our senior high school to get good grades and then enter an ideal university. After becoming free from the exhausting period of taking exams, we found that college is a wonderful place to make friends from all around Taiwan along with international friends. In addition, we can join the fantastic clubs, and play all day without the control of school or parents. To sum up, college to me is a place just like a bird without a cage. At least I thought it WAS until I stepped into the school for the first time.

Regardless of so many wonderful expectations I had before entering college, the real challenge was still ahead. Though we have much more freedom, making use of our time plays a crucial role. Here is an example of how I did not make good use of time. When there is homework or tests, I always put them off to the day before the deadline. This is a very bad habit because I forgot all the points that teacher taught after the classes and tests instead of absorbing the knowledge. In college, friendship is another important key. Due to the arrangement of the class, we have less time to get together with each other. I think it is really hard to have a true friend who can share the things in daily college life.



Photo by huffingtonpost.com

You can say that after entering college, my life started to degenerate day by day. This is just another form of wasting time. What can I do after graduating? This is the question I have been thinking about these days. Should I keep on studying for a master's degree or should I find a job? These frustrating problems attack me like mini soldiers intruding my brain. Nevertheless, after all this thinking, being a teacher is one of the prior choices for me. I like little children and I enjoy playing with them. Hearing their laughter is like the prettiest melody to me. I love standing in front of the black board teaching what I know to my students. I will fill a kind of satisfaction when I see my students' improvement.

However, being a teacher is not as cool as I thought in my childhood. I need to prepare the class before teaching the students. So I need to take some time to practice my teaching from the school work. I also need to take the teaching classes in order to get the qualification to be an intern teacher at elementary schools. Education is an opportunity for people in poverty to change their lives. I think it is a great job to help people with my own knowledge. We always say that others can take away all your stuff but not the knowledge. So, I made up my mind to be a teacher in the future in order to help others gain more knowledge.

# BE WISER AND GO SHOPPING IN A TANGIBLE STORE

CX102104

Oscar Huang 黃祈二

**Y**ou sit in front of the computer, making a few clicks, and then the merchandise you ordered arrives at your house the following day. Shopping online has gradually become a trend during the past few years. Thanks to the development of the network market, people are able to buy whatever they want from the Internet. It is so simple and timesaving; what's more, you do not even need to leave your home. However, I prefer shopping in a real store.

**S**hopping in a real store enables me to measure the actual quality before buying things. It is important for me to know that the goods I want to buy are flawless. A real store usually displays many other similar products for the customers to choose. If I find out there is any problem with the stuff I am going to purchase, I can always exchange them easily.

**N**ot only does shopping in a real store allow me to make sure the goods are top quality but it also provides a safer environment. I can take the item in one hand, and pay for it in the other one. I feel more at ease when I can pay for a tangible product instead of viewing the pictures of it through the Internet.



Photo by theendlessvista.com/

**C**ompared with the idea of shopping online, I would rather shop in a real store. On one hand, I do not have to worry whether the color or size of the product is exactly the same as it is shown online. It is easy and effective to tell if the item suits me at one glance. Then, on the other hand, I do not have to worry that the product will not be sent after I pay for it on the Internet.

**T**he expansion of the network market makes shopping online a new trend. Orders are made easily with a few clicks on the mouse though the Internet. It is so convenient and simple that people do not need to go outside. Still, shopping in a real store appears to be a better choice for me.



# THE MOST ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY TO ME

CDI103027

Jasmine Chen 陳錦華

**H**ave you ever been attracted to a country? How does it appeal to you when you travel around in that country? Each country has its own unique background, and they all have their special lifestyles; however, there is a country which I am eager to know more about and try to learn their language, that is, Korea.

**T**raveling to Korea is my dream for three main reasons. The first reason is the culture because if I want to know more about a country, I first need to understand their culture. I often watch Korean dramas to learn their culture, such as manners, special diet, and traditional clothing. I think that the manners are the most interesting because they have many complicated but admirable manners in their daily life, making me eager to learn more. For example, when younger people are walking and encounter elders, in order to show respect they will bow, greet, stand aside, and give them priority. Their manners are respectful and I'd like to learn from them. If I could travel to Korea, I could experience their cultural manners turn them into my habit.



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The second reason is Korean food because I like to try different food from other countries. I have seen many kinds of Korean food books in the bookstore and the library. The most famous is the spicy rice cake, and I really want to try it. Even though there are many Korean restaurants in Taiwan, the flavor isn't the same as that of the original Korean food; therefore, I want to travel to Korea and enjoy the native food. Though I am told that Korean food is spicy, I still want to try because I am a person who really likes to eat spicy food.

The most important reason of all is that there are many singers who I want to meet. Since I was in the senior high, I have been following K-pop music for four years. I always pay close attention to the news about my favorite idols and search for their schedules and concerts. Every time I see them on TV, I will scream and become crazy. I even hope that I can go to their concerts and give them support. I have dreamed to see them face to face for four years and I want to show them how much I love them. Meeting my favorite singers is my biggest motive to travel to Korea.

These are the main reasons why Korea is appealing to me. If you are also attracted to Korea, we could have a plan and travel to there together.

# SOCIAL LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ACADEMICS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

CX102130

Emma Tsai 蔡依軒

Society, consists of complex human relationships, and is worth exploring patiently to find the key; however, the key will only be found when individuals bond with one another rather than endlessly absorbing oneself in textbooks. With regard to university students who are constantly facing demanding coursework and gearing up for the fickle society, they ought to implement themselves with a variety of social activities in order to harmoniously blend in the society and enjoy a more bountiful life. As Danny Kaye, an actor, singer, and comedian, states that “Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can.” Thus, university students can release stress, expose themselves to diversity, and build intact networks by riveting more attention on social life than an academic career that leads to a more successful life.



Photo by [www.unigo.com](http://www.unigo.com)

To begin with, stress takes an enormous toll on university student's physical health and academic success, respectively, since a university is a place of ongoing evaluation and change. For instance, a single minded pursuit of an intellectual may impede work effectiveness and bring about poor academic performances; meanwhile, active interpersonal developments allow university students to reach out to others, which would build self-confidence that ease the level of stress throughout their university lives. Consequently, it is of paramount importance that de-stressing actions, such as joining sports teams or enrolling in yoga classes be taken. Such collaborative activities, involving socializing that can release stress play an indispensable and irreplaceable role in having a plentiful university experience.



Photo by [modellovepersonal.tumblr.com/](http://modellovepersonal.tumblr.com/)





Next, there is no doubt that a university is a place where students engage in advanced studies and focus on academic research projects; however, it also serves as a platform, providing people with diverse backgrounds to connect with each other. Having an active social life enables university students to expose themselves to an assortment of extracurricular activities, which in one way or another forms well-rounded personalities and self-confidence. These are beneficial for students to cope with forthcoming challenges. As Katherine W. Phillips states, “Being around people who are different from us makes us more creative, more diligent and hard-working.”

Lastly, friends in university soon become accessible support when entering the workforce; therefore, keeping many social relationships can be conducive for students to create a stable networking system. Admittedly, an academic qualification does play a pivotal role in pursuing professional occupations; it is merely an entrance ticket not a guarantee of successful careers. In reality, an employer would hire a person with structured social connection not an intellectual caveman.

In conclusion, according to the abovementioned, socializing can release stress, expose students to diversity, and build intact networking, which are the keys to a promising future; therefore, social life is more vital than academics for university students.

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# THINGS I LEARN FROM DOING VOLUNTEER WORK

CDI103022

Vera Fu 傅雅儒

Recently, doing volunteer work has been a pretty popular campaign for people around the world, especially for youngsters. The advantages of being a volunteer could not only help other people, but also increase individual experiences. When it comes to doing volunteer work, I have three special experiences to share. To start with, I once collected receipts and donations on the streets. It was a tough mission because I had to stand all day long. Even though it was a tiring job for me to fulfill, when I saw those boxes of contributions filled with donations, all of the hard work felt extremely worthwhile.

Secondly, my high school classmates and I used to accompany elders, chat with them, or assist them in doing some chores. It sounds very common, but these activities are what the elders want others to do for them the most, especially for those who live alone. What's more, my grandfather just passed away two years ago; therefore, having the opportunity to spend time with those in need was really precious for me. Last but not least, in the last year of high school, my friends and I decided to be volunteers in a hospital. During that period, I had to wear a smile on my face, and keep saying, "Thank you" all the time. It was an exhausting job and at first I thought I could not accomplish it. However, to my surprise, almost 90 percent of the people there said, "Thank you" with a bigger smile to me in return. Were it not for these three special experiences, I could not realize that, "The more you give, the more you will receive." Helping other people is equal to helping ourselves. It is not as difficult as we thought initially. As long as we are willing to give others a hand, we will realize that the joy given by others is more than we could imagine.



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EDITOR GOLDEN, DAVID 金大衛 老師

HEEREN, KIMBERLY DAWN 金貝利 老師

楊晨筠 JO YANG ADMINISTRATION

DESIGNER FELIX SHEN 沈冠羽

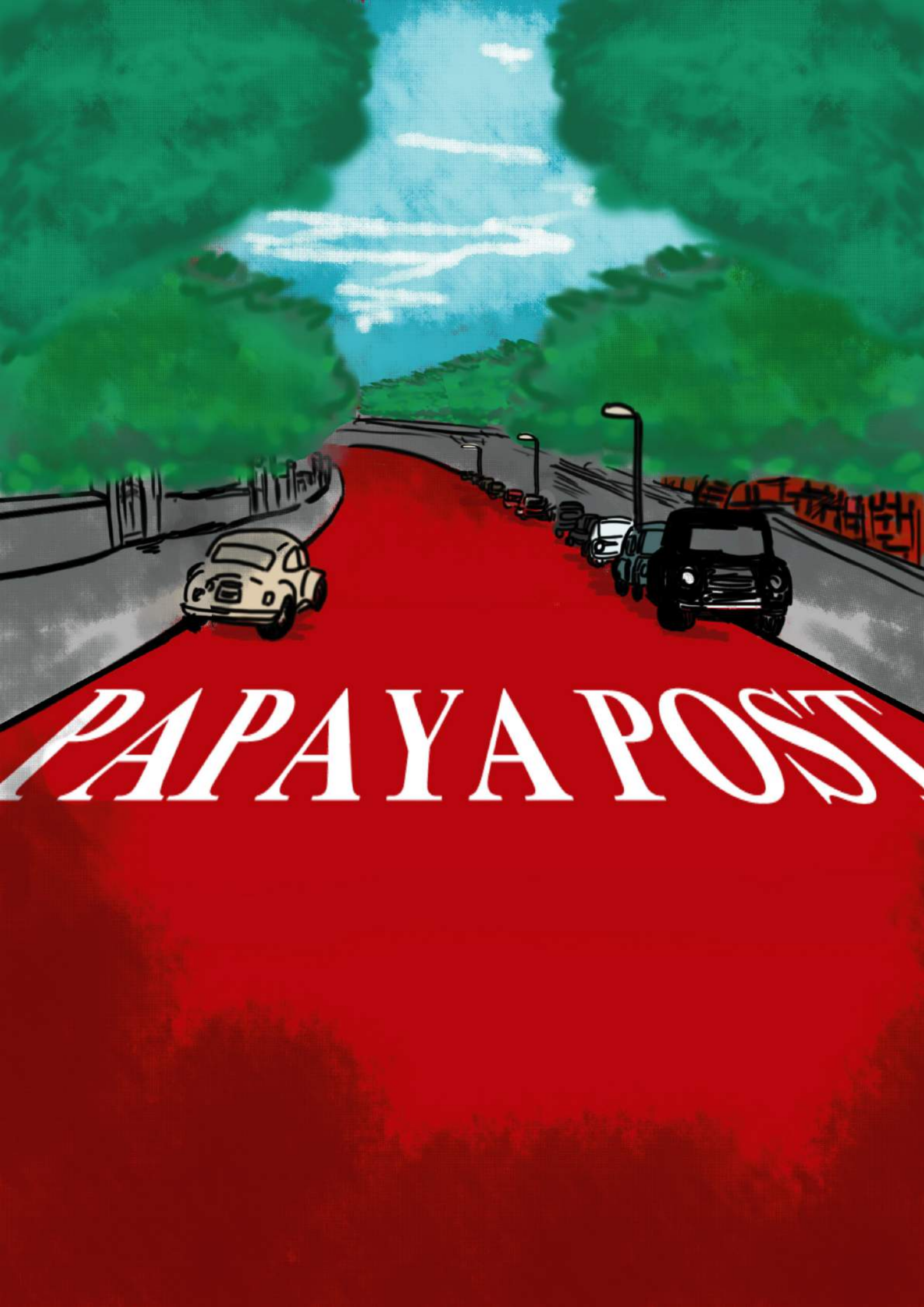
## WRITER

MINDY HUANG	黃瑋涵
JO YANG	楊晨筠
FLORA CHANG	張雅涵
SANDY YU	余冠慧
SHELLY CHEN	陳怡秀
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