

Bangkok Chapter *by Francis Wu*

Ladies & Gentlemen, members of the College teaching staff and dear fellow Wahyanites:

What I have to say here concerns nothing about the activities or planning of our local Bangkok chapter. On this subject I have little to report, since most of the local WYPSA members are retired septuagenarians of the 1930's vintage who prefer the peace and quiet of their home. But, as regards the "Spirit of Wah Yan", I have this to offer:

During my almost decade-long association with the Wah Yan College then in No.2, Robinson Road, Central District, in the 1930's, I had at no time ever heard of any mention of "The Wah Yan Spirit", although it was actually expounded through the years from time to time and on different occasions, either in print or by word of mouth, by such memorable personalities as the Rev Fr Gallagher, the Rev Fr R Harris and others.

Then, when it became known that "The Wah Yan Spirit" was to be made the main theme for discussion in the present Conference, I began to give it some serious thoughts. And suddenly a clear picture presented itself before me. I realized, all at once, as if by the wave of a magic wand, what this "spirit" all added up to, through my own personal experiences.

In short, as I see it now, the "Spirit" has made me what I am and have always been. Without my accidental brush with destiny, meaning my educational opportunity in the Jesuit-run school for the greater part of ten long years, my whole life story, as told in the Nostalgic Memoirs, published earlier in the year by the Vantage Press, Inc, of New York, would certainly have read differently. It was the late Rev Fr Cronin who, having read the original manuscript, commented that the writing was fascinating to read and urged that it be made to see print, which it finally was.

I have no doubt that everyone of you in this august gathering will readily agree with me that many other prominent Wahyanites the world over have also owed their individual successes and achievements to the same "Wah Yan Spirit" - which means, in the words of our beloved Father Gallagher, to mention only a few of them, love of the school, being truthful and trustworthy, to practise Christian charity with self-sacrifices, hard and steady work and never saying "die" in the face of seemingly unsurmountable difficulties.

Last, but not least, let me say this to you all: with this "Wah Yan Spirit" now so clearly in evidence, the bond that binds us Wahyanites together on a global scale will become ever stronger with each passing day and last till the end of time.

Good-bye and good luck until we meet again!

Calgary Chapter *in absentia*

Reverend Fathers, Mr Chairman, fellow alumni:

The Wah Yan spirit is something we all possess and will always cherish. It has been so very much a part of us, and we a part of it. To find words befitting to explain what it is would be unnecessary to us alumni and may even be futile to outsiders, for they may never comprehend it. Once when I tried explaining it to my wife, who has her roots in Hong Kong St Paul French Convent, she related everything I said of our Wah Yan spirit to her St Paul's experience. I also tried explaining to my two Canadian born children, both in their teens at that time; but words came out too mushy and the message all muddled up. I was like what Louis Armstrong said in reply when he was asked to explain New Orleans Jazz: "If you need to ask, you'll never get to know." But I must admit that I don't feel uncomfortable talking about the Wah Yan spirit amongst fellow Wahyanites, as long as you don't ask me to explain it philosophically. As a matter of fact, I do believe that it serves a useful purpose to talk about it, in the hope that we may promote it to a higher level of awareness and rouse ourselves into more meaningful activities.

Some 34 years ago, I left my sheltered life with my family, my friends and Wah Yan for Toronto in Canada to pursue a higher level of education. I brought along among my possessions all my class pictures taken in glorious black and white, one a year from Primary 6 through to Upper 6. Up to this day I still have these pictures well-preserved in my album to show off to my friends whenever opportunity arises. I was not fully mindful of the fact that I also carried with me the Wah Yan spirit, my family spirit as well as the spirit of our Chinese heritage. Very little was known of the Chinese culture, much less of the Wah Yan spirit in that part of the world in those days. All foreign students invariably found themselves exemplifying their individual cultures, wherever they went and in whatever they did in public; achievements from any individual would bring glory and praise to the whole group, while misconducts would cause deeply-scarred embarrassment. Years of academic training and religious upbringing in Wah Yan, teachings from my family and the hard-learned lessons from dealing with friends had prepared me well, I must say. In the first year, I managed to achieve a respectable academic score, make a few friends which later blossomed into long-lasting relationships, have a sanguine outlook in life and enjoy myself thoroughly. Mention of "Jesuit trained" raised many eye-brows and produced such a positive response not entirely unexpected in some Irish Catholic circles, so much so that at the end of the first academic year I was able to, through the assistance of some newly made friends, secure a summer job. This was my first employment ever and it paid real money - money which I needed badly to finance my education. I felt confident then that I had gained a foothold in this society, which valued honesty, fair play and common courtesy in daily life above knowledge and even academic excellence in many instances. Those were the happiest years of my life. My fellow alumni, I would not have bored you with the recount of any part of my life history if I did not think that it had any bearing on the conference theme. To talk about the Wah Yan spirit through my own personal experience is the only way I know how. I do hope that my sentiments are not too far off tune with most of yours.

Now if I may, I would like to talk about our Calgary chapter of the Wah Yan Past Students' Association. Ours is a fledgling chapter, as our former secretary Bemie Lam once so aptly put it.

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Instigated by Tony Wong, it was founded a little over a year ago. We have 35 members in all, of which about 10 are in their retirement age. Most of the functions we have had so far were social in nature, for we consider it top priority for our members to get to know each other better, in order to build on this Wah Yan spirit, the common point of reference which drew us together in the first place. From there we may start to look into other activities.

Outside our Calgary chapter, a few of us have been or were at one time or other in the past actively involved with the Calgary Chinese Catholic Mission. The epitome of the work in the Mission is to provide daily Mass said in Cantonese for the benefit of the Chinese elderly who have not had adequate chances to learn the English language and also of those newly-arrived immigrants who may be proficient in the language but are still not used to attending English Mass. They can practise their faith in a more comfortable and familiar atmosphere. It would take sometime for them to adjust to cultural differences. We have been fortunate to have procured the service of Father Mak since late 70s. It is too early to predict if our Calgary chapter would agree to get involved as a group.

I must not forget to thank you for this opportunity to share with you some of my thoughts on this topic. I regret very much that due to other commitments I will not be attending the conference and therefore will miss this golden opportunity to meet with you face to face. We wish you all well and every success in this conference. However, I would like to extend to you on behalf of our Calgary chapter, a sincere invitation for you to drop by to visit with us in Calgary. Ours is more like a way station than a popular destination city like Toronto or Vancouver, off the beaten track for most Hong Kong tourists, but we are at the foothills of the mighty majestic Rockies. A mere one and half hours' drive will take us to the spectacular breath-taking scenic splendors in the mountains. We shall be pleased to see you, when you happen to come this way.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year in 1993. Thank you very much for your attention.

Edmonton Chapter *in absentia*

Dear Follow Wahyanites and Distinguished Guests,

We regret that the Edmonton Chapter has no representative at this Conference, but hope the following will present our views.

There was a day, for all of us here, when we walked through the portals of our school to begin our studies in Wah Yan. Little did we know, that sojourn of our lives would bring us together in this fashion today.

In the intervening years, we have dispersed, many of us now overseas ensconced in our own niches, pursuing our own dreams or simply embroiled in daily struggles. Yet in the back of our minds rested the indelible mark of Wah Yan- a sense of belonging, a fond memory of our formative years nurtured under the fold of the Alma Mater. Often, in the hustle-bustle that is everyday, the harmonious, idyllic environment of Wah Yan which fostered our development, gave us a sense of purpose, came back to mind. Many a time, when Wah Yan was mentioned, pride stirred and swelled from within. And as we grew older, more individualistic there was this urge to share in fellowship, to belong again and to make something out of this unique experience that we went through. It was in this light that the call went out in 1987, in Edmonton, for Wah Yan boys to rally together.

The response was heart-warming, unexpected. From all walks of life, with ages spanning forty years, diversified in religion, politics, ideals, some twenty of us came forward. On that day, it became clear to many of us that since our one and only common denominator is Wah Yan, its Esprit de Corps transcends all things. From then on, we have held regular meetings, social gatherings and dinners, in the belief that "those who play together, stay together". These new acquaintances, to reinforce the bond that brought us together and to treasure the kindred spirit that was given to few but yearned by so many.

Our numbers have steadily increased since, but we wanted to do more. We wanted our Alma Mater to know that across the miles a group of "Old Boys" will not forget, nor are they forgotten. We pledged assistance in any form, at any time, as long as it is within our capacity, to any Wahyanite who requires and requests it, we wish our younger brothers to learn how strong the fellowship is and what it means to be a part of it. Even from faraway, the flame turns on. The spirit of caring, kindness and consideration for the well-being of lesser ones is a tradition that endures. To that end, we started a scholarship fund in 1989, for Form 3 boys in both Colleges, now known as the "Edmonton Award". Our aim is to promote unity and preserve the continuity that we have come to treasure.

Last year, while hosting the Student Ambassadors from both Colleges, we stopped briefly in Calgary. That meeting was partly instrumental in Calgary establishing their own Chapter. On the homefront, this is the second year we held combined functions with LaSalle, with soccer competition culminating in a banquet. On these occasions, the support from our members was enthusiastic.

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In the years ahead, our Chapter will continue to provide non-profit, non-political support to Wahyanites and will endeavour to promote friendship, and cultural, educational, social, charitable activities among members. Furthermore, we will integrate these activities with our Alma Mater, and affiliated associations.

In the end, while we cannot singularly define the "Spirit of Wah Yan", our account here encompasses its ideals, shared by so many of us who have answered the rallying call. And so if this is the spirit of Wah Yan, then surely it is a good sign; if that be a sign, then let attached to it the motto "IN HOC SIGNO VINCES".

With that, we wish this conference a success. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Melbourne Chapter *by Alex Chan*

The major problem with this Chapter, as was envisaged from the start, was and still is the extremely limited number of past students residing or sojourning in this "Most Livable City of the World". Of the handful who could be contacted, some eventually left while those who stayed were busy in their own ways. This has meant heavy workload for a few and serious shortage of fund for promotion and relevant activities. Owing to such real difficulties, the preparatory committee ceased to operate since the end of 1991.

However, unscheduled small group private gatherings have been kept going. It is hoped that adequate number of past students could come forward in the future, to participate in and work for the formation of a viable Melbourne Chapter.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ontario (KLN) Chapter *by Sonny Sie*

Overview

Since the last Wah Yan Past Students' Associations International Conference, the Ontario chapter had made enormous efforts to promote and enhance the spirit of Wah Yan internally and externally. We had participated in numerous joint schools events, organized events with Wah Yan (Kowloon) Ontario Alumni Association, as well as community charity work.

As an overseas chapter, the focus of our activities remain on family. The majority of our programming is family oriented, for example, annual picnic, ski trips, bowling tournaments, etc. Nonetheless, the remaining portion of the activities are aimed at students. Soccer/basketball matches are organized for younger and older Wah Yan alumni to be better acquainted.

When "The Spirit of Wah Yan" was brought up in discussion during the Executive Committee meetings or planned activities, most members indicated that they would like to make some contributions back to the school. A few options were explored, like the Wah Yan Post-Secondary Education Fund and the Nursing Care Fund for the Jesuits. The information we had received from Hong Kong had led us to conclude that both Funds are at an adequate level for its purpose and there might be better avenues to make contributions to the school.

One of the bigger change to our chapter's by-laws since the last International Conference was to include "to promote international networking among Wah Yan alumni" as our objective. Also, we had added a student representative to the Executive Committee. A student sub-committee was set up in late 1990 reflecting the structure of Hong Kong and the changes in our current membership. The student on the Executive Committee should be nominated from the student sub-committee.

In general, our chapter aims to provide fun filled events for members of all ages and to keep the Wah Yan spirit alive in Ontario.

Membership Report

Over the last few years, the majority of our new members are highschool and university students. This change forced us to set up a student sub-committee under the Association. Mr. Larry Pun (1988) was the main force behind this idea. Being the Membership Director of the Association and a student, he saw the need to set up such a group to organize events that would be of interest to the students population. Finally at the Annual General Meeting of 1991, the Association had approved to amend its by-laws to include a Student Representative position on the Executive Committee. Even though there are no formal recognition of the student sub-committee, the Association fully support its events financially and by participation.

A membership fee was collected annually at the AGM for those who attend or by mail-ins. The purpose of this fee is to cover the printing and mailing costs of newsletters. There had never been a standard format for our newsletters before, and last June, the Executive Committee decided that

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a Wah Yan College emblem should appear at the top corner of the front page of the newsletter so that it can be easily identified. Also, it was decided that newsletters should be published quarterly on a regular basis, but sometimes it is extremely difficult to gather enough materials to publish a newsletter. It was approved by the Association that newsletters would only be circulated to those paid members. Also, the newsletters are open to all alumni if they wish to purchase advertising space.

At the 1990 AGM, the Association had approved an increase in membership fee to \$10. This increase was favoured by the members, realizing the increased cost of the newsletter. Some members were concerned that this would put an unnecessary constraint on students, but the students present at the meeting did not foresee the increase would be a financial burden. Subsequent to the AGM, the Executive Committee approved a 5 year membership for \$50. This arrangement would benefit those alumni who have settled down in the Toronto area so that they are guaranteed communications from the Association in the next five years and not have to worry about the hassle of writing out a small amount cheque to us every year. At the current moment, our membership list contains over 200 names ranging from 1932 graduates to 1992 graduates.

Charities/Donations Report

In late 1990, the Association had participated in the United Way walkathon. In the spring of 1991, the Association donated \$300 to the Gordon Woo Fund, along with \$200 donated by the members present at the monthly Executive Committee meeting. Later on the same year, from the discussion of "The Spirit of Wah Yan" the alumni felt that they should make some kind of contribution to either the school or to the Jesuits. At the 1991 AGM, the alumni collected \$1,061 (HK\$8,000) to buy Christmas gifts for the Jesuit Fathers living in Wah Yan. This money was given to the Hong Kong Past Students' Association and they were instructed to spend the money at their discretion, since they have a better sense of what the Fathers might need. Since that time, the alumni wished to do more for the school or the Jesuits, and there were a series of discussion on a fundraising program. The Executive Committee discussed the possibilities of running a raffle, but the committee concluded that this is too risky a venture to take on at the present moment, and the raffle ticket sales might not even cover the cost of the prizes. The Association discussed the options of donating into the Post-Secondary Education Fund or the Nursing Care Fund, but Hong Kong told us that both Funds are at an adequate level and we should pursue some other ideas. We then explored the option of setting up a scholarship for Wah Yan graduates who will be studying in Ontario. The general feedback on fundraising for a scholarship fund would involve tremendous administrative work as well as capital investment. Therefore, the Executive Committee decided that any money raised would go into a general fund to purchase things that the Jesuits might need by the Hong Kong Association.

Recently, our Association have been approached by the Yee Hong Community Wellness Foundation to donate money for a nursing home for the elderly. And the committee decided that this is a worthwhile project, and we donated \$500 on behalf of the Association.

Social Activities

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The social activities we organized remained the main focus of our Association and the majority of our time spent. The annual picnic had been a tradition in our chapter. In 1990, the picnic was held in conjunction with Wah Yan (Kowloon) Ontario Alumni Association and this year's picnic was well attended by over 70 of our alumni and their families. Other than the picnic, we also have ski trips, bowling tournaments and attend baseball games. For the bowling tournament, we usually have trophies for the winner in the men division, the ladies division as well as the youth division.

In order to bring the younger and older alumni together, the Association also organize soccer and basketball matches. This year, the David Lo Cup (David 1932) donated a trophy for the annual soccer tournament) went to the seniors with a score of 11-4 against the students. A karaoke dinner organized by the students sub-committee (their first event) last year was a proven success. And they are currently planning more events that are of interest to them. It is extremely difficult to organize events for the students because the group includes highschool and university students, and they tend to have different busy periods. As well, the majority of them return to Hong Kong during Christmas and summer. Therefore, they only have about six to seven months of the year to work with.

During the past year, we also held dinner receptions. for Fr Deignan, Fr Coghlan, and Mr Luke Wong. These dinners attracted some alumni whom we are not aware that they had moved to Toronto.

External Activities

Starting three/four years ago, the Valentine's Ball organized by twelve Catholic Schools' Alumni Association was by far the most extravagant event of the year. Each school has one or two delegates on the organizing committee, and last year, the Ball was co-chaired by Hong Kong and Kowloon Wah Yan. This event was widely supported by the Chinese community and it has always been a fun time.

This September, Toronto held a Hong Kong Festival to promote Chinese culture and the entrepreneurial spirit of Hong Kong. During this festival, a bazaar/fun day was held at the Mel Lastman Square (North York City Centre) and the organizing committee was chaired by Mr Peter Yeung. There were over fifteen schools who participated in the bazaar, Hong Kong Wah Yan had set up two booths to promote Wah Yan College and many alumni and their families came to help man the booths. The weather was a little windy, but everyone there had a great time and it turned out to be a successful event.

Because of the Joint Ball, Executive Committee members were often invited to functions organized by the other schools. The Executive Committee decided that someone should represent Hong Kong Wah Yan at other Alumni Associations' functions in order to show our support.

Financial Report

At the 1990 AGM, the Treasurer reported that the bank account has a balance of \$2,542.20 as of October 31. A year later, the Treasurer reported that our bank account balance was increased to

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\$5,478.21 with \$400 in inventory. The latest report from our Treasurer at the 1992 AGM was \$7,621.04. The biggest revenue generating event by far each year was the Joint Ball. Revenues from the Joint Ball are generated through ticket and advertising sales, it brought in about \$2,000 per year. For all other activities, the Association plans on a break-even mentality.

Due to our belief to support other Alumni Associations, the Executive Committee approved to subsidize executive members in attending other Alumni Associations' functions representing Wah Yan College. The amount was set up at \$30 per function with a total of no more than \$200 for the whole year. Predicting that there might be more organizations will approach us and request for donation, the Executive Committee decided to develop a donation budget, this will hopefully improve community relations as well.

San Francisco Chapter *by Kelly Chang*

The theme of this conference is "The Spirit of Wah Yan" and is fully endorsed by the Past Students Association as well as the schools. It will be a major world class event of this nature that certainly will attract high profile speakers and participants to explore and discuss the basic elements of "The Wah Yan Spirit".

The outcome of the Conference will not only give a clearer understanding of the theme but also give a firmer direction to its potential worldwide.

Singapore Chapter *by Kenneth Chong*

On behalf of all Wahyanites in Singapore, I wish to congratulate the Organizing Committee in their efforts in organizing the 3rd International Conference. Wahyanites have gone a long way and indeed all over the world. There is always a bit of us in common when Wahyanites meet despite their differences in age, character, background and temperament - That is the Wah Yan Spirit. It is hard to define, I can only describe it as oneness, respect for our teachers and authority, willingness to help each other, law abiding and typical Wah Yan humility but most of all that we are Christians abiding to the teachings of Christ and the bible. Inevitably, Wahyanites learn from our beloved Jesuit teachers to walk in integrity, to do what is right, to speak the truth in his heart, do not slander with his tongue, works no evil against others, who esteems those who revere the Lord, who though swearing to his own detriment does not change and who will not take a bribe or work against the innocent.

On behalf of all Wahyanites in Singapore, we wish all Wahyanites success like a tree planted by the streams of water that yields its fruit in its seasons, whose leaf does not wither and everything he does shall prosper.

Sydney Chapter by *Luke Lam*

It is indeed a great pleasure to be able to talk to you all on behalf of the Wah Yan Past Students' Association (Australia). I am sure that everyone of those who are present here today will agree that we are now witnessing the true exposition of the Spirit of Wah Yan, the theme of this International Conference.

Indeed, it is very apt and meaningful to choose "the Spirit of Wah Yan" as the theme of this International Conference. The word "spirit" is often described as the driving force of behaviour. Here today we have Wahyanites coming from different parts of the globe returning to their Alma Mater to meet one another, to cherish their good old days and to see their beloved teachers and Jesuit Fathers. Separated as we have been, this spirit, this driving force, has brought us together again.

School days are our most unforgettable days in our lives. For some people, these days seem to have left them once they leave school. For those of us who have left Hong Kong, departure has resulted in a sort of deprivation of the frequent visits back to Wah Yan College, Hong Kong or Kowloon. However, through the formation of Wah Yan Alumni in different major cities overseas and at international conferences like this one today, we are once again able to meet one another. Wah Yan College Hong Kong or Kowloon has been our family; we still can be part of this family when we finish our schooling even if we are overseas. It is through this driving spirit that we have managed to break down geographical barriers and gather here today.

However, the Wah Yan Spirit is not just a driving force of unifying all present and past Wah Yan students. It is unique and has been manifested in several remarkable ways. First, there has been a very long sense of belonging, or, as the editor of the Wahyanites in the May 1992 issue has put it, "fraternity unity". While frequent visits back to Wah Yan Colleges by past students can be dated back to day one, international visits by members to various overseas Wah Yan Past Students' Associations have become very common in recent years with traveling becoming more convenient and the world getting smaller. Now a Wah Yan student or past student will no longer be feeling far away from home when he is in Sydney, Singapore, Bangkok, Vancouver, San Francisco or other major cities in the world. He can be part of the Wah Yan family again when he makes a telephone call contact with the Wah Yan alumni overseas. In this respect, our association in Sydney has really been excited to have many Wah Yan past students and friends to visit us. Among them were Mr. Patrick Wu, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of this International Conference, Fr Deignan and Dr Raymond Wong, the President of Hong Kong Wah Yan Past Students' Association. Their support and advice have been most invaluable.

Secondly, more and more Wah Yan alumni branches have been set up overseas in recent years. Some of them have only been established quite recently and hence, in a sense, they are still young but membership has been growing steadily. Others were established long ago and have been gaining a lot of support as more and more past students have settled overseas. Our Wah Yan Past Students' Association in Australia, formed in the 70's through the able and dedicated founders such as Mr. Robert Chung, is now expanding very quickly. I am also glad to report that this year the Wah Yan Past Students' Association (Australia) has been formally incorporated in

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accordance to the Australian law as the "Wah Yan Past Students' Association (Australia) Inc". This is indeed a milestone by which our association has gained a strong footing in Australia. It is also known that quite a number of past students have settled in other Australian cities such as Melbourne and we hope that closer links will be established and maintained by past students in different cities in Australia.

Thirdly, the Wah Yan spirit has been characterized by members' strong social consciousness. Despite the fact that many of our members having to be engaged busily in their business or profession, we have been able to maintain the same spirit of social consciousness, showing deep concern to the helpless and the needy in society and rendering them help whenever we can. When we were still in Wah Yan as students, apart from striving for academic excellence, moral integrity and laurels in sports and athletics, we also participated in various charity work and carried out relief tasks. It is gratifying to see that now we are still able to, as members of the Wah Yan Past Students' Association, contribute a lot towards charitable activities. To this end, our association in Sydney has participated keenly in many worthy projects. We have paid visits to nursing homes and homes of the elderly. We organized charity dinners to raise funds to help the needy. We took part in the recent "Dragon Charity Walk 1992" to help raising funds for the Chinese welfare communities in Sydney. I am sure that the Wah Yan Past Students' Association in Hong Kong and other branches in other overseas cities have done a lot of charitable work of similar nature. This commitment to social service is indeed an important sign of the Wah Yan Spirit.

Having said all these, one would tend to ask with this spirit what our vision should be in the future. Different parts of the world have gone through great changes in the 1990's and many more changes, both social and political, will take place as the 21st century is drawing near. How should the Wah Yan spirit be expressed in a rapid changing world? How should we translate this spirit into action? How should we maintain the same high spirit in our commitment to worthy social causes and services? The answers to these questions may lie in the two keywords - "strengthening" and "spreading". We need to find ways of further strengthening the ties, not only between the present and the past Wah Yan students but those amongst the alumni established in different countries. We need to support our Alma Mater and all the Jesuit Fathers in their mission of educating youngsters in Hong Kong. Thanks to the remarkable technological advancement and progress in recent years, we can now communicate with one another with ease and speed in different parts of the world. One very good example is the set up of an "e-mail" system through which members can all communicate with one another with computer terminals from different cities. A group of past students in North America and some in Hong Kong, United Kingdom and in Australia are now linked up in this electronic network. Other than personal messages, there is a regular newsletter circulated among the members through this system. In this way, the ties amongst members from different parts of the world are strengthened. There is a Chinese saying that compares learning to something like rowing a boat against the water current; it says that learning is just like rowing a boat upstream against the current. If it does not progress further, it will go backwards. This saying could well be applied to maintaining one's spirit. The Wah Yan spirit need to be further expanded and spread not only among its members but to the outside world at large. Spreading the Wah Yan spirit is indeed an external role that we have to play to improve the environment and community in which we live. For example, joint functions can be held with other charitable organizations or past students' associations of other schools to carry

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out social service work. In Sydney, close links have been established by our association with the past students' associations of four schools from Hong Kong, viz LaSalle College, Maryknoll Convent School, Marymount Secondary School and St Stephen Girls' College. A Hong Kong Joint School Alumni Association (HKJSAA) has been established. This year two joint charitable functions have been organized - a charity dinner and a community visit. It is hoped that through these joint projects, not only can we learn a lot from others but that the Wah Yan spirit can be spread to others as well.

To conclude, let us remember that the Wah Yan spirit is not a cliché; it is a driving force in action. In this 3rd International Conference, let us join together to find ways of strengthening this force and spread this force. I am sure that everyone at the end of this conference will have gained a lot of inspirations and ideas of making the Wah Yan spirit grow further and will be able to meet the challenges that lie ahead in the years to come.

United Kingdom Chapter by Stephen Loong

Since founded in 1989 in Hong Kong, the Association has been taking up the role of linking the old boys of Wah Yan within the United Kingdom. As membership has increased to 50, the 1st Annual General Meeting was held in February 1991. On that day, indoor 5-A-side football was arranged in the morning followed by the AGM dinner in the evening. It was decided that the AGM will be held thereafter every year around Chinese New Year.

Apart from the AGM, newsletters are produced for all members regularly which include news in the UK as well as from HK. A directory is updated at the beginning of each academic year in order to inform members of any changes in the contact addresses of other members. This is a vital job since our membership turnover and changes of personal details are frequent and vigorous due to their student status. The Association also provides individual help to members, who, for example, require assistance before university interviews, or need accommodation during term breaks or half-term breaks.

In April 1992, we hosted the most important event, the Student Ambassador Scheme 1992. The two ambassadors, Patrick Li Sin Hung and Stephen Wong Kai Ho of Wah Yan College Hong Kong and Kowloon respectively were warmly welcomed to the UK for a trip of 7 days. They visited 5 major and famous cities in England and stayed with the Wahyanites during the nights in each city. Although they were not provided with comfortable bedding (in fact with their own sleeping bags only), they enjoyed very much to share with us the experiences in Wah Yan. Perhaps, this may be what the Wah Yan Spirit means, a family spirit without any boundary.

The Association has few restrictive characteristics which distinguish us from other chapters. Firstly, members are widely distributed around the country and it is very difficult to arrange a function to fit every member. A member may have to travel a long way for half a day to get avenue. Secondly, almost all of the members (and particularly all committee members) are currently studying either in high schools or universities and they are always packed with loads of assignments. Finally, membership turnover is frequent since members may only stay for few years to finish their studies. These all create difficulties for the management of the Association.

However, despite our constraints, we have tried our best to achieve our objectives. As time goes on, we are confident to improve our work by accumulating more experience. As our school badge writes, "IN HOC SIGNO VNCEMUS", we will follow the Wah Yan Spirit to conquer every difficulty so as to acknowledge our mother school for her distinct, fruitful and valuable education.

U.S. Eastern Chapter by *Michael Ma*

The first meeting of the Wah Yan College Alumni (US Eastern) Association was held in late January 1991, upon receipt of suggestion from Mr Philip Ching, Chairman of International Networking Committee of WYPSA/HK & KIn, and it was attended by 10 past students.

Despite the fact that we are opening up membership to past students of both Wah Yan Hong Kong and Kowloon, it has not been an easy job to recruit members as New York has not been a favourite city for immigrants from Hong Kong because of strict US Immigration Laws. However, with the help from all existing members, our membership is now over 30, including graduates as early as in the 1940's to the ones in 1991.

We have been holding dinner meetings once every quarter and the attendance grew with the increase of the membership.

Our last meeting was in the form of a picnic which included family members for the first time, and it has set a precedence to include family members for some of the future functions.

We are lucky to have Mr Geoffrey Leung as our Hon Secretary because he has been able to supply us with a lot of fond and interest memories of Wah Yan with his experience being a student of Wah Yan as well as a staff as the lab assistant, after he graduated from the school.

Our goal in the future will be to increase our membership, to strengthen our relationship with other chapters through the networking committee, and to continue the Wah Yan Spirit among our members and our community.

We are excited to learn about the visit of Fr Deignan in January and we have already planned a dinner gathering of Wahyanites in his honour on January 8, 1993. We are sure that his visit will help us to draw and uncover more past students in the east coast area.

We are also proud to host the upcoming student ambassadors to New York and we hope they will have a memorable trip.

Being a new chapter in the International Network, we need all the help we can get from the mother association and other fellow chapters, and if there is anything that we can be of help to you, please let us know, and it will be our pleasure to do our best to assist.

Vancouver Chapter by Roy Kan

Rev Father & fellow alumni:

In 1981, with less than forty alumni got together for dinner and formed the Vancouver chapter, little knowing what is future would be. Today with the general membership approval the Vancouver WYPSA is formally known as WAH YAN COLLEGE ALUMNI (VANCOUVER) ASSOCIATION with over one hundred and fifty members.

It's hard to believe how time flies, here we are back in our mother schools attending the 3rd International Conference. Remember the Tree Planting Ceremony during the last Conference held in Vancouver, the trees are flourishing, thanks to you all. The trees not only symbolize our roots as Wahyanite Overseas are firmly planted in this community, that the Wah Yan Spirit has grown in strength more so than ever. Just take a look at our recent Eleventh Annual Dinner Dance Ball, more than four hundred persons participated, including a large number of alumni from other schools.

Apart from our monthly committee dinner meetings, we organized several social functions annually such as summer hiking picnic, karaoke night in winter and through out the year we held welcome parties for teachers and alumni from Hong Kong, e.g. Mr. Philip Ching, Mr. Peter Ho, Mr. K.C. Tsui, Mr. S.P. Tam (WYC-HK), Mr. S.H. Chau (WYC-HK) & Mr. Tien Chor Wu (WYC-Kln).

Under the guidance of William Yeung, a Youth Committee chaired by Wayne Fong with nine members has been formed with their own planned activities through out the year.

I am extremely proud to be able to work with a group of energetic, charming, intelligent and service minded Board of Directors and members. With over eleven year of participation in serving WYCAA, our members are looking forward to promote to the Conference objective. May the Wah Yan Spirit grow in strength, our brotherhood and goodwill in unity.

Hong Kong by Raymond Wong

CHAN SIR, my most favourite Chinese teacher in Wah Yan back in the good old days of the Fifties, once told me "Man is being recognized not by who he is, but by what he does". He taught us, through the old Chinese script "Bei Hu Tong 白虎通" the real meaning of LEARNING.

TO LEARN IS TO BE AWARED	學，覺也
TO EXTRACT THE GOOD OF THE PAST	延用先王之道
TO MATURE ONE'S CHARACTER	導人情性
TO REALIZE AND TO BE FLEXIBLE	使自覺悟
ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF OUR TIME	而去非，取是，積威
THESE ARE THE VIRTUES OF A GENTLEMAN	君子之德也

IT MAY NOT be the best of translation, but the meaning is there.

YES, THOSE WERE the good old days! The good old days when the air breathes fresher, the sky clearer and bluer, the grass was greener and the future seemed brighter.

TWENTY ODD YEARS later, the late Father Derek Reid said in one of his addresses: "Morality is not simply a matter of theory; it also requires practice We want moral education to be effective. In our schools we hope to. help our students to become MATURE, RESPONSIBLE AND DEDICATED adults."

How similar they are, although perhaps there was a lapse of time of two thousand years!

AWARENESS, MATURITY, RESPONSIBILITY, FLEXIBILITY to suit the needs of our time, are the Spirit of Old Chinese Education, Wah Yan Education, and the Jesuits' Education.

IT IS TEN MORE years now. Let us examine the present. We have former Wah Yan boys occupying key positions in the Government. We have brothers who are head of private enterprises, "dai-hongs" and "dai-tongs". Our secondary school examinations results are tops of Hong Kong. Ever since the three wise men, quoted, Raymond, Mason and Philip met at Mandarin in 1986, Wah Yan turned international. The international network linked by electronic mailing helps information exchange between the fourteen chapters we are having all over the world. I was in Sydney earlier this year, I witnessed what our brothers there had done. They are highly regarded by their local community and I was very impressed. I was in Bangkok, after a medical volunteer program in Thailand and Cambodia, and I was warmly received by one of the oldest overseas brothers, Mr. Francis Wu. We sat down and at once we were able to find a common dialogue - our lives and times in Wah Yan. I am sure, elsewhere, things happen just the same. We Wah Yan are highly respected at wherever we are. We Wah Yan feel the warmth and hospitality wherever we go, we Wah Yan can find a similar dialogue, sooner than we know, once sitting together.

AT THE JESUITS Convention in Spain last year, several points of action for the Jesuit school alumni were issued. I would like to point out two of these. First, past students and present

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students to work together and second, present students to engage more in community service. In addition to awareness, maturity, responsibility and flexibility, we NOW have more, the Spirit of Wah Yan have added substance - COOPERATION between the seniors and juniors, and SERVICE.

SERVICE IS care for others. It is cultivation of mind. It is action to the very best. Service is real happiness in helping others!

THERE IS, HOWEVER, no cooperation and no service without effort. Effort needs "drive". That is how you and I, all the fourteen chapters come in!

NOT TOO LONG AGO, we were able to witness and be a part of the greatest sports event in the world, the Olympics. The competitions, the matches, the colours, the sounds of cheers and the sights of international understanding and friendship were all relayed to us by modern technology of communication. Just imagine, 20,000 miles above our planet earth, a small satellite by the name of AsiaStar keeps orbiting round and round, its locus transacting the universe, its antennae transmitting signals. AsiaStar brings people of the world closer to one another. AsiaStar is like us ... the fact that we are here for the good, is bringing the world closer. The fact that we shall depart to four corners of the world, where we came from to bring the message of Wah Yan. While I am on modern communication technologist, the father of universal broadcasting was Sir Edward Appleton. He won a Nobel prize in 1949 for being the first one to do that. Shortly afterwards, Time Magazine cabled him at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland where he was Chancellor, asking for an interview to be covered in the magazine. To their surprise and for obvious reasons, Sir Edward cabled back: "No, you may NOT interview me! However I shall interview myself and you can send somebody to take notes".

The magazine did just that. The first question Sir Edward asked himself was: "What was the secret of your success?" His own answer was: "ENTHUSIASM! I rate Enthusiasm even above professional skill".

My friend, if you do not take it from me, you should at least take it from a great man like Sir Edward. Enthusiasm is the most important element in success. Enthusiasm tells the difference between two, who are equal in all other respects.

I remember I read a book on the life of General Douglas McArthur. Wherever he went and wherever he set up his chief-of-staff post, he always hanged behind him a scroll, not for himself but for those with him to read, on which were written perhaps the best description of Enthusiasm:

You are as young as your face, as old as your doubt;
As young as your self-confidence, as old as your fear;
As young as your hope, as old as your despair;
Years may wrinkle the skin - BUT to give up ENTHUSIASM,
WRINKLES THE SOUL

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SO, MY FRIENDS, here it is, my interpretation of the Spirit of Wah Yan E-N-T-H-U-S-I-A-M, and the working hand-in-hand of the young and the old, and if we can do just that, VIVA WAH YAN!

Kowloon by Norman So

客套的說話我也不再多講了。今天大家聚集在這裏，其中一個共同的話題是“華仁精神”。

“華仁精神”是什麼？我看人言人殊，每一個華仁舊生都會有他自己對“華仁精神”的理解與詮釋，這次的會議就為大家提供了一個各抒己見的機會，在百花齊放的情況下，希望能夠為“華仁精神”這個耳熟能詳但又似乎是很難捉摸的概念作一個——即使是最初步的——界定。

我相信：有為數不少的校友大抵會以他們在求學時期從神父老師所得到的關懷與愛護，在待人接物方面所培養起來的互諒互讓、互助互愛、團結合作的精神，在處事方面所建立起來的一絲不苟、鍥而不捨的工作態度去為“華仁精神”作註腳。不過，大家不妨想想：如果這真就是“華仁精神”的話，那麼它跟“信義精神”、“培正精神”、“皇仁精神”等又有什麼分別？這些著名學府的畢業生，我想或多或少都會從他們的母校領受到相類的哺育，在立身行事上面表現出大致不差的品德情操。所以，如果“華仁精神”沒有它的獨特的面貌的話，空談“華仁精神”是毫無意義的。

要瞭解“華仁精神”，首先要認識天主教耶穌會教士來華傳教的精神，因為兩所華仁書院，都是由耶穌會教士管理的，而華仁書院以至“華仁精神”也就很自然而然地貫注著耶穌會教士的傳教精神了。耶穌基督的捨身十架，是徹底的施與；耶穌會神父的獻身教育和宗教，也是赤裸裸的和無條件的付出。在華仁書院受過教育的每一個學生，對於一羣神父的奉獻精神當然不會感到陌生；而在基督的感召下，每一個在學的華仁學生以至畢業的華仁舊生都會或多或少對他們所屬的社區或社羣作出貢獻——一種“只問耕耘，不問收穫”的奉獻。這是“華仁精神”的最基本處。

明朝末年，中國的對外門戶逐漸開啓，大量西方傳教士東來傳教，利瑪竇神父也在這時來到中國，開始了耶穌會教士來華傳教的歷史。在傳教工作上，耶穌會教士無疑是比其他修會的教士成功和優勝的。耶穌會教士與眾不同的是：他們是透過認識中國中國文化並且絕對尊重這文化傳統去開展他們傳教的工作。在別的教士禁止中國信徒敬拜祖先的時候，利瑪竇神父等耶穌會教士卻容許中國信徒這樣做，因為他們明白祭祖是中國人對先祖表示敬意的一種形式，而不是偶像崇拜，更絕不是異端，跟欽崇一天主在萬有之上的原則是完全可以並行不悖的。時至今天，耶穌會教士這種尊重中國文化的傳統仍然保存下來，唸過九龍華仁預科理科班的同學大概還會記得，他們在中六那年每星期會有兩節的中文課，以遞補他們因選讀理科以致可能失去接觸先祖那些珍貴的文化遺產的機會，這種措施在香港教育史上是前無古人的，而中國文化傳統在華仁書院受重視的程度於此亦可見一斑了。

在中國的文化傳統裏，人的價值素來是最受重視的，而人也就理所當然地是宇宙萬物中最尊貴的生物。春秋時，齊國大饑，黔敖施食於路，一個瀕臨死亡邊緣的餓人，寧死也不肯食黔敖的“嗟來之食”，為的就是要保存人性中那一點點其他動物難與比肩的尊榮。佛家所說的“天上地下四方六合唯我獨尊”，是頗能跟這種自覺互相發明的；而在天主教的傳統裏，這種色彩顯然是較為淡薄的。然而，在中國文化的影響下，獨樹一幟的耶穌會教士也漸漸建立起一種絕對尊重人性的傳統。華仁歲月，是每一個“華仁仔”生命中一段完美樂章：我們日夕耳濡目染的是神父老師們的敦品善行，聽到的盡是鼓勵讚美之詞，敦敦訓誨之語；我們不曾因頑皮胡鬧而遭苛責，更不會因成績欠佳而受到輕視，因為每一位神父都有著這樣的共識——人，天主根據祂的肖像而創造的人，應該是絕對受到尊重的，人性，是不容踐踏的。於是，在這眾識見高超，胸襟廣闊的教士的潛移默化下，尊重人性，尊重生命以至尊重宇宙萬有的意識也在每一個華仁學生的心靈中成長，而這種意識，也就成為“華仁精神”中的重要成份了。

耶穌基督拯救世人，除了用祂的寶血洗滌世人的靈魂之外，更是在行為上樹立典範楷模，引領世人去作公義的事和走公義的路。華仁的神父，這些現世的基督，在教育每一個“華仁仔”的時候，也是在個人的行為操守的工夫上現身說法，他他們本身就是活生生的教材，他們行為品格上的一絲不苟已經是最好的學習對象。“身教重於言教”，在中國人來說，是古有明訓，然而我們竟然在這些舶來的修士身上看到中國文化的縮影，就實在不得不令人嘖嘖稱奇了。風氣所趨，每一個華仁學生除了在德性的培育上有著長足的進步之外，在行事上更養成了“不尚空談，實事求是”這種務實的態度。“華仁大薯頭”的稱號的確是有點不雅，但當我們想到番薯這種根菜雖然沒有美麗的外表，卻可以使人填飽肚子，對人有益的時候，我們不是可以將這句話看成是對我們的一種恭維和激勵嗎？的而且確，務實和不事文飾都是今天許許多多華仁舊生成功的重要原素。這是“華仁精神”的又一精要處。

華仁精神，是中國文化和基督精神互影響下的特殊產物，沒有基督捨身奉獻的精神，開不出“華仁精神”的花，欠缺了中國傳統文化中的人文精神，也結不成“華仁精神”的果。以上所說的，只是個人對“華仁精神”一些很片面的理解，所以不揣淺陋，班門弄斧，目的是藉此拋磚引玉，錯漏之處，還請多多包涵。