

CITY WEEKEND



Still a man's world
From trading floors to IT firms, more women needed

> SOCIETY C2



No budget for babies
Financial help will not boost low birth rate, argues John Tsang

> GOVERNMENT C3



Pedal to the medal
Cheung King-lok, 23, gets bronze for Hong Kong

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Protect press freedom, Assange lawyer says

Geoffrey Robertson calls for government to hunt down ex-Ming Pao editor's assailants

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The lawyer acting for embattled WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has called on the Hong Kong government to protect press freedom as "a most important sinew of a free society" and to throw every resource into tracking the attackers of former *Ming Pao* editor Kevin Lau Chun-to.

Geoffrey Robertson QC, was also critical of the Basic Law, saying it neither adequately protected journalists nor afforded them access to information necessary to keep the government in check.

Killing the messenger ... is something a free society simply cannot tolerate

Geoffrey Robertson

"Killing the messenger, or maiming the messenger in this case, is something that a free society simply cannot tolerate," Robertson said, condemning the attack on Lau. "The government must throw every resource into first of all finding and then prosecuting his assailants."

Robertson, also a United Nations war crimes judge, is in Hong Kong to deliver a lecture on state secrecy and to join a seminar on international criminal law.

He told the *Post* yesterday that Hong Kong had been a beacon of press freedom, but the government should do more to protect it. Real press freedom must include the liberty of media "to say things that are not sayable in China, particularly in relation to democracy", he said. He added Hong Kong "desperately lacks" a freedom of information law.

On the saga of US surveillance whistleblower Edward Snowden, Robertson said he did not believe the government's explanation that an administrative error enabled the fugitive to flee Hong Kong to Russia despite US efforts to have him extradited. "I think it was a very fast piece of diplomatic footwork", he said, which allowed "a very inconvenient visitor" to make his exit.

Robertson, born in Australia and based in Britain, is best known here for representing right-of-abode claimants in a 2001 Court of Final Appeal case.



Geoffrey Robertson QC

SOCIETY

A BOND THE YEARS CAN'T BREAK

Hugh Grew is all grown up but still can't forget the tender care a Chinese nanny showered on a lonely little boy. Now, he is desperate to find her

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Cantonese was the only language Hugh Grew, son of a colonial civil servant, could speak in his early childhood – thanks to a Chinese maid who was with him all the time.

That apparently was behind Lee Yuet-ying's unannounced exit from his life in the late 1950s, when he was about 10.

His parents told him she had left for another employer, but he never believed it, suspecting they had "got rid of her" to break the overly close bond between maid and child.

The name "Ah Yuet" has stuck in his mind ever since, and Grew wants to find her.

"I think of her as a mother as well," Grew, now 65, says.

"My mother was a good mum but she was doing the expat thing all the time. I didn't really see a lot of her. I was with Ah Yuet all the time. She just looked after me like a mother would.

"She's never left my mind. She's always here."

Nor have the snippets of memories of times the pair spent together.

Grew now lives in the Guangdong coastal city of Jiangmen (江門), after moving from place to place for much of his life, and comes to Hong Kong for work.

Born in Hong Kong to British parents in 1948, Grew first lived in Ventris Road in Happy Valley for two to three years, then briefly in Grampian Road in Kowloon City. The family eventually settled at 25 King's Park in Yau Ma Tei, one of several civil-service residential blocks at the time, around today's King's Park Hill Road.

Ah Yuet, he remembers, was with them all the time. Grew does



The treasured photo of Hugh and Ah Yuet taken in England.

Ah Yuet just looked after me like a mother would. She's never left my mind. She's always here

HUGH GREW

ONLINE

scmp.com/lostinanmy
Visit our website to watch the video interview with Hugh Grew on his search for Lee Yuet-ying



Hugh with his sisters and Ah Yuet in Switzerland.

not think she had a place to call her own. He was told that she came from a well-to-do family on the mainland, probably in Guangdong, as she taught him Cantonese. Her family lost their possessions during the revolution and ended up in Hong Kong. Ah Yuet sometimes dressed him up in the traditional Chinese *changpao*, did his hair in a pigtail and took him shopping. One of the longgarments, the equivalent of the female cheongsam, was light blue and padded, with animal patterns on it.

"When I was a little bit sick she would feed me *chuk*, congee in English," he says. "She looked after me really, really well."

It was hard to talk to his parents in his first few years as he couldn't speak English. They had to use his two sisters, who understood English and Cantonese, as translators.

But even after English entered the little boy's vocabulary, whenever he got angry at his parents he would resort to Cantonese. Once, he used some "pretty dirty words" – though his sisters never translated that part.

Grew says that, back then, expat civil servants served three

years, then returned home for a year before returning for another three-year stint.

His parents took Ah Yuet with them during one of these periods of home leave, around 1954. They travelled across Switzerland before catching a boat across the English Channel and returning to Cornwall, where their home was.

He had a photo taken with Ah Yuet during the trip. With hindsight it was fortunate the snap was taken – for when the family got back to Hong Kong around 1959 from another period of home leave she was gone.

Although he does not know Ah Yuet's real age, he guesses she was in her mid-20s in the photo.

"My parents saw we were getting very, very close, son-and-mother sort of thing," Grew says. "That's when they got rid of her."

The little boy tried to find out where Ah Yuet was. He was told she had another job and did not want to come back.

"But my feeling is they didn't want her back. They never contacted her," Grew says.

In 1967, his parents retired and moved the family to New Zealand to escape the riots that had spilled over from the mainland at the height of the Cultural Revolution. Grew lived there until 1997, when a friend invited him back to Hong Kong to help him out. In 2000, he took a job in Jiangmen offered by a Hong Kong company and has lived there ever since.

Many times, Grew thought about searching for Ah Yuet, but had no clue where to start. During the recent Lunar New Year, he spent a few days in the city and bought a copy of the *South China Morning Post*. An article about an 83-year-old man looking for a long-lost brother caught his eye and he contacted the paper.

"I thought at least I could try to find out where she is. The story hasn't ended yet. I'd like to end it one way or another."

TRANSPORT

MTR vows to improve quality after long delays

Railway operator admits weaknesses and hires experts to review its overhead cable system

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The MTR Corporation is reviewing its overhead cable system and has pledged to improve quality control after three faults caused long delays on its East Rail and Tseung Kwan O lines.

Chief executive Jay Walder admitted yesterday that the MTR's sourcing of materials and quality assurance were the railway operator's weakest points.

Walder was speaking to lawmakers after faulty insulators caused long delays on its East Rail Line twice in 10 days last month, and a faulty support wire held up trains for five hours on its Tseung Kwan O Line in December.

"The most important weakness, which became apparent in the review of the East Rail incident, is the sourcing of materials and the related quality assurance," Walder said. "We must do a better job of assuring the quality of critical parts."

But Walder insisted that the railway system's performance was not slipping. He said the 143 delays of more than 10 minutes experienced last year were the least since it merged with the Kowloon-Canton Railway in 2007.

The Legislative Council railway subcommittee also heard that the MTR would improve its monitoring of construction work, after the firm found that the loose wire that caused the five-hour

delay on the Tseung Kwan O Line in December was the result of a support bracket not having been fixed according to its design.

Transport minister Professor Anthony Cheung Bing-leung told the subcommittee that the railway company had hired independent experts to review its overhead cable system and that the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department would also look into the same issue. The experts were expected to complete their report by June.

Lawmaker Michael Tien Puk-sun, of the New People's Party, said it was unbelievable that the MTR had not discovered the problem on the Tseung Kwan O Line earlier. "You did not even check against the design when you inspected the work after it was completed," he said.

A document submitted by the

> CONTINUED ON C3

CITY DIGEST

Carson Yeung verdict adjourned to next week

Carson Yeung Ka-sing, major shareholder of English football club Birmingham City, will not hear the verdict on his HK\$721 million money laundering trial until Monday at the earliest after the hearing was adjourned yesterday before District Court judge Douglas Yau Tak-hong announced his findings. Yeung, who was released on bail, denies five counts of money laundering.

Drugs, fake gun and cash seized in raid

Four men and three women were arrested in a raid at a Kowloon City hotel which also netted HK\$95,000 in cash, an imitation pistol and illegal drugs worth an estimated HK\$267,000. Separately, a man aged 24 is due to face Tuen Mun Court today, charged with drug trafficking after customs officers allegedly found 2.25kg of ketamine in a van in Kwai Chung.

Porsche crash leads to drink-drive arrest

The driver of a Porsche was arrested for drink driving after a collision between his car and two taxis in Pedder Street, Central, at about 4am yesterday. One of the taxi drivers, 33, complained of neck pain and was treated at Queen Mary Hospital, Pok Fu Lam. The Porsche driver, 32, was unhurt. He was arrested after he failed a breathalyser test.

CY attends opening of NPC session in Beijing

Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying will make a four-day visit to Beijing next week to attend Wednesday's opening ceremony of the second session of the 12th National People's Congress. Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor Chan Ka-keung, and Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development Greg So Kam-leung will accompany him.

Create your own Bed

Any fabric on any bed
Any leather on any bed

Tribeca Townhouse

THE ROLLING STONE BED, pictured above, is part of our stylish collection of custom upholstered beds. Our beds, sofas and chairs may be upholstered in any of over 1,000 high quality fabrics specially selected from the finest mills in Europe, the USA and Asia. Or choose to upholster in our luxurious range of up-market leathers.

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