

# EDITOR'S NOTE

## A FRESH START

*Varsity* is making a fresh start at the beginning of a new semester and with a new editorial board.

Rather than going for hot topics like the East Asian Games and the Schools' Drug Testing Scheme, we decided to highlight something that has been changing silently.

In July 2008, a consultation paper on Sex Offender Register was published. The register's mission is to protect children and the mentally handicapped from sex offences but, to our surprise, we found many opposing voices from different NGOs. They said the proposal ignores the rights of former offenders and they questioned the effectiveness of what will be a voluntary scheme. The interim report on the consultation will be published in the near future – will the flaws in the scheme be repaired?

The wounds created by sexual assault may never fully heal, time passes but the scars remain. Being depicted as sex perverts, sex offenders also face a lot of difficulties. Many feel ashamed about what they did, and find it difficult to face their family and friends. When we talk about protecting vulnerable groups, we should also remember the rights of sex offenders to turn over a new leaf. Please read our Periscope section to have a better understanding of the stories behind sex offences.

In Our Community section, we look at another frequently neglected group in our society – domestic helpers. There are over 200,000 foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong, who have left their homes to earn a better living for their families. But many of them find it difficult to maintain their own family ties.

Minorities in Hong Kong still face a lot of difficulties. In the People section we meet a community worker, James Lung, who tries to help them by bringing minority voices into the Legislative Council.

Happy reading!



Chelsea Yu  
Managing Editor

### Publisher

Dr Francis Lee

### Advisors

Yuen Chan

Louise Wong

### Editor-in-Chief

Grace Yiu

### Managing Editors

Chelsea Yu

William Chan

### Art Director

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### Section Editors

#### Periscope

Chelsea Yu

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Daniel Ip

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Dorothy Lo

#### Lifestyle

Angel Li

Chow Sin-ting

Grace Yiu

#### Business & Career

William Chan

#### Photo Features

Sarah Yu

#### Varsity's Choice

Sarah Yu

### Editorial office

School of Journalism and  
Communication, Chinese University  
of Hong Kong,  
Sha Tin, N.T., Hong Kong.

#### Telephone

2609 7680

#### Fax

2603 5007

#### Email

varsity@cuhk.edu.hk

### Printer

Regal Printing Limited

Flat A, 12/F,

Good Prospect Factory Building,

33-35 Wong Chuk Hang Road,

Aberdeen, Hong Kong

#### Website

<http://www.com.cuhk.edu.hk/varsity>