



Social Issues



Modern China



Debating



Pop Culture



HK today



Ying Ying now feeds only on bamboo shoots, a sign she may be pregnant. Photo: Sam Tsang

Panda babies on way?

Ocean Park's female panda is showing signs she is pregnant. But officials are not entirely sure yet

Hong Kong may have its first baby pandas, Ocean Park has said. Howard Chuk, senior curator of the park's Terrestrial Life Sciences, said Ying Ying looks like she may be pregnant.

Last year, Ying Ying also seemed to be pregnant after a change in her feeding habits. Chuk said this time the signs are more obvious. Ying Ying has stopped eating bamboo leaves and now feeds only on bamboo shoots.

The park started an artificial insemination programme for its pandas three years ago. But so far it has been unsuccessful. In July, when Ying Ying was in heat, the park inseminated her artificially.

A giant panda is pregnant for about 120 days. So if Ying Ying is expecting, she will give birth in November.

"Pandas show signs of pregnancy after their heat period even though they are not pregnant. We cannot be sure until we perform an ultrasound on Ying Ying in mid-October," Chuk said. He added that there was no way to determine whether Ying Ying was really pregnant until about two weeks before the cub was born. Baby pandas are tiny, weighing only around 120 grams at birth.

The park is keeping a close eye on how active Ying Ying is and what she eats to see if she may be carrying babies. Ocean Park would be able to keep the cubs.

Staff writer

'Glee' is back - without Cory

United States
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - The fifth season of *Glee* started in the United States last Thursday with a sad reminder that star Cory Monteith is no longer a part of the hit show. Monteith, who played Finn Hudson, died in July.

In the first episode, Rachel Berry, Finn's girlfriend - played by Lea Michele who was Monteith's real-life girlfriend - sings the bittersweet Beatles song *Yesterday*.

After a disappointing audition, Rachel goes for a walk, and starts singing the song. At one point, she looks at a photo of her school friends, including Finn.

"Oh, yesterday, love was such an easy game to play. Now I need a place to hide away. Oh, I believe in yesterday," she sings.

The first two episodes of the season will focus on songs by The Beatles. A tribute to Monteith will take place in episode three. The episode will be called *The Quarterback*, named after Finn's position on the high school American football team.



Canadian star Cory Monteith died in July

say it

artificial (adj) 人工	insemination (n) 授精	ultrasound (n) 超聲
real-life (adj) 現實生活的	motion (n) 動議	finer (n) 罰款

Baby fines bring billions

China
Associated Press

BEIJING - Nineteen local mainland governments collected a total of US\$2.7 billion in fines from parents who broke the country's one-child law last year.

Wu Youshui, a lawyer in Zhejiang (浙江省) province, found that out when he asked 31 governments how much money they had collected from such fines.

Wu says the fines may be a way for governments in poorer areas to raise funds. He wanted to see how much money was being earned from imposing the fines. He said many people wanted the one-child law changed and it was a good idea to find out how it worked. That way people would be able to make informed decisions about the law.

Three champs crowned

Wong Yat-hei

German Swiss International School, Island School and Raimondi College won their respective divisions in the Seventh Senior Debating Championship Grand Finals at Yew Ching International School.

In last week's finals, GSIS defeated Chinese International School to win the gold division by opposing the motion "Whistleblowers make the world safer".

Island School beat La Salle College for the silver division honours, opposing the motion "the war on drugs should be ended".

Raimondi took the honours from Shatin College when they opposed the motion "Hong Kong should ban all forms of gambling".

Best speakers were: German Swiss International School's Caitlin Fischer, Island School's Brian Wong and Raimondi's Isaac Chung.

Hong Kong Schools Debating and Public Speaking Community organised the event.

For more, see Thursday's debate page Extra reporting by junior reporter Joy Pannani



Debate organiser Michael Evershed, best speaker Caitlin Fischer (centre), of German Swiss International School, and Mehvesh Mumtaz Ahmed, the chairperson of the judging panel.

Photo: Edmond So



feature debating

Communicating

Anything but apathy

German Swiss International School debaters win title, arguing that whistle-blowers do not benefit society, writes **Wong Yat-Hei**



say it

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| whistle-blowers (n)
告密者 | authorities (n)
當局 | rebutted (v)
反駁 |
| adjudicator (n)
判決者 | intensely (adv)
極度 | gambling (v)
賭博的 |

Aspen Wang (above) speaks in defence of whistle-blowers; Angel Cheung (right) rebuts. Best speaker Caitlin Fischer (below, centre) with adjudicators Michael Evershed and Mehvesh Mumtaz Ahmed. Photos: Edmond So

German Swiss International School won the gold division of the Seventh Senior Debating Championship Grand Finals. They opposed the motion "Whistle-blowers make the world safer", defeating Chinese International School.

The competition, organised by Hong Kong Schools Debating and Public Speaking Community (HKSDC), was held at Yew Ching International School last Wednesday.

The winning team consisted of Caitlin Fischer, Year 13; Petra Ho, Year 12, and Angel Cheung, Year 11. The CIS debaters were Aspen Wang, Year 13, Travis Pilling, Year 12, and Allegra Bersani, Year 12.

Proposing the motion, CIS argued that whistle-blowers do make the world a safer place because they publicise the shady actions and behaviour of authorities, thus inspiring them to change for the better.

The GSIS team rebutted the argument, claiming the sensitive information released by whistle-blowers has led to tense

relationships between countries. After disclosing their information, whistle-blowers also put themselves at great risk, as the authorities whose actions they expose will try to hunt them down.

Mehvesh Mumtaz Ahmed, chief adjudicator of the World Schools Debating Championship and chairperson of the judging panel, said both teams stood up for what they believe from start to finish.

"The [issue in the] debate is black and white," Ahmed said. "The debate is in black and white. The proposition believes whistle-blowers serve a noble purpose, and the opposition thinks whistleblowers are evil. I wish there could be more grey areas."

Even the adjudicators debated intensely over which side was more convincing. The rest of the panel was made up of Peter Broe from the

NET section of the Education Bureau; Michael Evershed, a teacher at South Island School and founder of HKSDC; and native English teachers Stan Dyer and Tom Derbyshire.

maintain eye contact with the audience. The variations in her tone are great, and she spoke at the right pace," said Ahmed.

Silver and Bronze division debates also took place on the day. Island School beat La Salle College for the silver division title by opposing the motion "The war on drugs should be ended."

Raimondi College defeated Sha Tin College in the bronze division final by opposing the motion "Hong Kong should ban all forms of gambling."

Raimondi argued gambling causes no harm because it has no direct link to unemployment

and crime. They also said it was unfair to deprive people of their right to entertain themselves by gambling.

Additional reporting by junior reporter Joy Pannani

Are whistle-blowers making society a safer place, and how do they damage the safety of the world?

"The decision came down to two questions: are whistle-blowers making society a safer place because they monitor the government, and how do whistle-blowers damage the safety of the world?" Ahmed said. "In the end, the judging panel decided 3-2 that the opposition was more convincing."

GSIS student Caitlin was named best speaker. "She was able to



漢基國際學校
Chinese International School

