

OutInspire

March 2005

Cairnhill Toastmasters Club, Club No. 1759-80

Issue 21



The Latest News!!!



Award Winners February 2005

Best Prepared Speech
Speaker:

Herryanto Siatono
Cedric Tan CL

Best Evaluator:
Mike Ng

Best Table Topics:
John Monteiro
Mike Ng



DCP Progress

Goals	Achieved
2 CTMs	0 CTM
2 ADDITIONAL CTMs	0 CTM
1 ATM	0
1 ADDITIONAL ATM	0
1 CL, AL, or DTM	1CL
1 ADDITIONAL CLs, ALs, or DTM	1CL
4 NEW MEMBERS	4 members
4 ADDITIONAL NEW MEMBERS	4 members
4 OFFICERS TRAINED TWICE	Yes
SUBMITTED ON TIME (SEMI DUES & OFFICER LIST)	0.5

President's Message

Dear Members,

I have just attended a dear friend's wedding last weekend back in Kuala Lumpur. And for the first time, I was moved to tears when a couple exchanged their vows. No weddings have moved me as much as this one. Maybe it is due to the fact that the bride is a very good friend of mine. Or maybe it is because I know how much they have gone through.

Or maybe, it is the thought put into the vows. I think sometimes, many couples do not put much thought into the vows they say. But the groom... being a "banana" – he's English educated and cannot speak Mandarin actually said his vows in Mandarin – the mother tongue of the bride. And as he utters his vows slowly – it was so hilarious, but yet at the same time, it was so poignant, because he has placed so much thought into it.

Coming back to Toastmasters, I did not get to witness Herry's and Cedric's winning speeches, but after I read it, I am astounded by the quality of the speeches. It is evident that they have put a lot of thought into crafting their speeches. And sometimes, that's the missing ingredient in our speeches! Rather than just going through the moments, let us put more effort into researching the topic and crafting our speeches!

And when it comes to our daily lives, let us put more thought into making a difference in our loved ones daily lives – whether it's a surprise present, or just a gesture to put a smile on their face...

Have a blessed week ahead and see you on Wednesday, 23 Mar 2005!

Sincerely, Violet

Be Somebody

By Herryanto Siatono

John was 9 years old when a fire engulfed the house of Mr & Mrs. Wong who lived just across the street. Curious to find out more, he stepped out of the house, stood on the yard, and the fire was so hot, he could feel the heat scorching his face. Then he heard a soft voice across the street, Mrs. Wong was panicky and screaming, "*Someone, please save my daughter.*" On hearing this, he was shocked, realizing that Ling Ling, the only daughter of Mrs. Wong must be trapped inside the house. He recalled how much he adored and loved Ling Ling, about his age, they liked to walk to school, and play together. He feared that that tomorrow, he would not be able to see her again.

Shortly after, firemen arrived, broke into the house and carried Ling Ling out of the nearly collapsed house safely. That very moment, he knew when he grew up -- he wanted to be a *fireman*. However, twenty years later, he ended up being an accountant; working in a reputable audit firm, he had a good pay and a good boss, but yet, he was not *happy*.

It is funny, that in life, many times we wanted to do something; we ended up doing something else. There are many reasons that could be holding us back.

One of them could be '*education*', we could be looking sombrely at our certificates and say to ourselves, "*O-Level is the highest cert that I have, and I did quite badly in exams, there is just no hope for me.*" But look at *Rayson Tan*, a typical kid that grew up in the neighbourhood, when he was in elementary school, his teacher thought that he was retarded, but right now at the age 28, he is one of Singapore's top directors. He has won 35 international and local awards for short films and documentaries, and his latest movie you may have heard of, is *Fifteen*. *Rayson* is a proof to us that you can still do well in life, even if you did badly in school.

The other reason could be '*racial inferiority*', we may be looking at ourselves and say, "*I am Chinese, or Malay, or Indian, and I will never be as good as the American or the European*", but this is not what *Lu Xiang* has in mind. At the last Olympics in Athens, for 110 m hurdles, his legs were pumping so fast, they were as if the pacing pistons in a car

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Quote of the Month

**"The glory of great men
should always be
measured by the means
they have used to
acquire it."**

-- Francois de La
Rochefoucauld

engine, and he indeed flew with his legs. He clocked world-record tying time at 12.91 seconds. A Greek TV commentator was stammering when Lu Xiang dash through the finish line, "In the first place. It's... it's ... a Chinese man." Then realizing how rude he was, he said, "He is Mr. Liu. Congratulations to Mr. Liu from China." Mr. Liu showed us that no matter what race we are, we can be as good as anyone else.

And finally, it could be due to 'physical disability'; we could be saying to ourselves that may be I am just too short, or I am too weak, or I can't speak well, or I am partially deaf. But that is not what Sabriye Tenberken said to herself. You can't tell if she's blind, because when she talks to you, she looks you in the eyes, and when she describes things to you, she describes them by their colour. She 13 years old when she was blind, caused by retinal disease. From German, she has a Master's degree, after graduation, she applied for non-governmental job to do field work, but everyone closed door on her.

Yet she never gave up, with a Dutch partner, she set up a visually impaired school in Tibet. In Tibet, the blind children are treated quite badly. Blindness is believed to be the karma from previous life. Children were tied to bed to restrain them from hurting themselves; some couldn't even walk, because their parents did not teach them how. And Sabriye brought light to the life of these children, she taught them Chinese and English, practical skills such as how to make their bed, and how to operate computers. But the most important thing, she taught them how to stand up and say, "I am blind, not stupid." Sabriye was telling us that you do not need a sight to have a vision.

That is the beauty of human being, isn't it? Out of all adversities, we are still able to strive forward, so long that our will, our passion and our drive are still kept alive. Anatole France, a novelist and a Nobel prize winner in literature, once said, "The average person who does not know what to do with his life, wants another that lasts forever." So, find out what you want to do with your life. Be somebody -- if that somebody is not what you are right now. And let us all not want another life that last forever.

Action Management (condensed form)

By Cedric Tan CL

A few months ago, one consultant and her manager from a consultancy firm stood in front of my cubicle. Actually, my cubicle was just their transit; they were waiting to talk to my boss. I managed to grab a few minutes of their time. One of the questions I asked was whether they were happy with their jobs. The consultant told me that she might be better off working at MacDonalads'. The long working hours translated into low salary rate per hour.

The point is, we cannot buy time, and we cannot buy quality of time. The better we manage our actions, the higher quality of life we have. Here are some pointers which may help to focus actions.

80 / 20 rule	Act on the top 20% of the tasks that will produce 80% of the results.
60 / 40 rule	In our working days, spend 60% of our time sharpening our saws, and 40% producing the results.
All in 1 rule	Keep all our tasks written or stored in one place, be it a PDA, a computer, a diary or a piece of paper.
2 minute rule	Any tasks that are estimated to be 2 minutes are not worth to be jotted down. Do them right away. This moment. Now.
3 pointer rule	In basketball, shots taken beyond the 3-point line will easily earn the team 3 points, as opposed to the norm – 2 points that usually takes more efforts. Earn our points the smart way; (1) save energy (2) increase energy capacity (3) focus our energies.