

REFLEX

ISSUE #002 - 2013 | MAY - OCTOBER

An Insight to
**LEGAL
PRACTICE**
**THE ART
OF CHARITY**
A landmark
ruling
**Syrian
Conflict**
**LAWASIA
CHAMPIONS**



**CHANGE THE WAY
YOU VIEW THE
WORLD WITH LAW**



EDITOR'S NOTE

We were driving in the blown out bright light of an afternoon, filtered through the dashboard on Sunday when my husband reached over to squeeze my hand. He spoke six words just for me; to be kept close to my heart. There I was being lulled to dreaminess by the humming of tires on the highway. The sun was warm on my knees. We were heading back to KL after a long but memorable weekend in Penang.

James and I, we are a couple of crazy newlyweds, having exchanged the ultimate vows only three days prior to this trip back to KL. Unfortunately, a few days after this, we would be living apart from each other as James continues to pursue his career abroad. I remembered looking lovingly at my husband –the idea of our separation slowly scratching at the back of my skull- and in awe and wonder at the couples around us.

Happily Married. New-Found Lovers. Divorced Partners.

The women. I thought about how wise I would be. How similar, how different. How seasoned. How much more I would have to get all of my stuff together.

How would we be as a couple? Can we beat the odds? Can we struggle with the distance between us?

The truth, I am beginning to believe, is that things will not always turn out according to our visions. Life is straight up tough and how each situation turns out depends strongly on these three things;

- 1)The Path you take
- 2)Who You Take it With
- 3)What you Make of it.

It then becomes an important thing to "change the way we view the world". This edition of the newsletter touches widely on the "paths" –dark or lighted, "decisions" –with or without consequences, "charity" –the giving and the taking of it, "conversations" – good phrases or bad phrases, and "food" – enjoying and embracing flavours.

Life itself isn't supposed to be easy. It's the hardest and best fight one can ever choose to be in. After all, it's your life.

Hang in there

Whatever...



felicia ann
Editor - in - Chief



Michelle Chong
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Graphic Designer

CONGRATULATIONS

RELEX WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME THE FOLLOWING FACULTY MEMBERS TO THE ATC FAMILY!

**Ms. Prem Kaur
Lecturer (Law)**

Prem Kaur teaches Law of Contract, Company Law, Commercial Law and Jurisprudence. She has more than 10 years of experience in journalism and 5 years of teaching experience. Having travelled extensively, she now enjoys a quiet life reading, gardening and doing social work for the community.



**Mr. Ganes Kandiah
Lecturer (Law)**

Ganes Kandiah teaches Law of Trusts, Evidence, Contract and Criminal Law for the LL.B department at ATC. He is an art enthusiast and a numismatist. He believes that law and justice are not always the same and that law school will teach you this.



**Mr. Sachpreetraj Singh Sohanpal
Lecturer (Law)**

Mr Sachpreetraj teaches the Law of Contract, Law of Tort, Common Law Reasoning & Institutions and European Union Law. He is a very sociable person and welcomes conversations at any time.



**Mr. Brandon Cheah
Lecturer (Law)**

Brandon Cheah teaches Public Law, Criminal Law, Law of Tort and Criminology. He was a former Secretary and Professional Development Director of the Rotaract Club of ATC. He loves running –long distance running- and is also a die-hard supporter of the Arsenal Football Club.



**Mr. N. Rajesvaran
Lecturer (Law)**

Mr Raj has left the green and verdant fields of Alor Setar to teach in ATC. He teaches Public Law, Law of Tort, Law of Contract and Criminology. With more than 10 years of teaching experience under his belt, Raj is also an avid martial artist with several black belts as well!

ATC WINS THE MALAYSIAN LAW SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE 14th TIME

Advance Tertiary College (ATC)'s Ms. Vivian Oh, has secured the 2013 Malaysian Law Scholarship by emerging as the best student in the Intermediate (Year 1) examination on the University of London International Programmes Bachelor of Laws (LLB). This is the 14th time an ATC student has won this prestigious scholarship.

This scholarship has been established by the University of London and Kings College London and is awarded annually to an LLB student who is a citizen of Malaysia. The successful applicant may study on campus at King's in London to complete their LLB degree

The scholarship is offered to the candidate who achieves the highest marks when taking the examinations for the first time.

When asked, Ms. Vivian Oh expressed her great joy and gratefulness for the scholarship. "I never expected that I would be the best student in Malaysia. I would like

to thank my parents and all the lecturers at ATC for helping me achieve this dream of mine. I would not have been able to do it without ATC."

Dr. Danny Choong, Principal and Deputy CEO of ATC, was delighted with the achievement.

"Vivian always showed a rare depth of understanding and a maturity in her writing far beyond her years. We assessed this through the regular assignments and practice essays that she handed in to us. She is truly deserving of this scholarship. She brings great pride to all of us at ATC and we wish her well in King's."

Vivian will not be entirely alone in London as the 2012 Malaysian Law Scholarship winner was also from ATC. Ms. Navini Rajikumara will surely be a welcome guide to Vivian during the initial days she is in London.

ATC's students have won this scholarship an overwhelming number of times as compared to any other institution in Malaysia offering the University of London International Programmes Bachelor of Laws. This is a testament to the expertise within the ATC faculty in preparing students for excellence in the exams.

The University of London recognises the excellence produced by the team at ATC. Prof. Dr. Wayne Morrison, Immediate Past Director of the University of London External Undergraduate Laws Programme states that "ATC has groomed students on the University of London programme to achieve First Class Honours and Second Class Upper Honours degrees and is the single largest institution in the world to produce such results on the University of London Law degree programme". ATC was also one of only 5 institutions worldwide recognised for excellence in conjunction

with the University of London's 150th year anniversary celebrations. ATC is now one of the 9 affiliate centres of University of London worldwide for the Laws programme.

ATC welcomes you to start your quest towards academic excellence in law. Call ATC at their toll free line 1-800-88-9292 or visit www.atc2u.com for more information and email enquiries@atc2u.com should you have any enquiries. Don't forget to like the ATC Facebook page for periodic updates and news on the college.



A Landmark Ruling A.KUGAN'S LEGACY

A suspected car theft, that's what was reported;
A useless and petty thief; not to be trusted.
The scum of society; the dreg of humanity;
Let the hand of the law deal with this atrocity.

A.Kugan would never once have suspected;
How life would be from him cruelly abducted.
Arrested and locked up in a USJ Taipan station;
He witnessed first hand the law and its violation.

The public will never discover completely;
The details of outrageous human brutality.
A seven day detention, bruised and broken;
A 22 year old boy's life, unlawfully taken.

The police argued that they acted for a reason;
They protected the Rakyat in every season.
Free of corruption and dubious liason;
Never ever accuse them of any treason.

Kugan's family sued the government;
and police officers for false imprisonment;
His mother Indra claimed negligence;
Abuse of power and public misfeasance.

Custodial death, assault and battery;
Commonplace in police territory?
Surely not; the law is a protector !
Can the police turn into tormentor?

Justice was sought for Kugan's death;
The public waited with bated breath.
At last the case came before the court;
This time the police could not retort.

Justice V.T Singham delivered the historic judgment;
"The government is liable!" was his pronouncement;
The police officers had abused their power;
The rule of law must now above them tower.

A landmark ruling, that's what was said;
RM 851,700 in damages must be paid;
By the government to Kugan's family;
Is there a price for a family's tragedy?

A cautionary tale for the police at large,
Against the IGP what now the charge?
The government will plan, for sure it will appeal;
But for now the judgment stays, there is no repeal.

The future remains as murky as the haze,
We can only look, observe and gaze.
At least a start, this landmark ruling;
A.Kugan's legacy, of justice calling.

By: Ms. Meera Badmanaban
Senior Lecturer (Law)

***The writer invites the reader to ponder upon the words of Justice V.T Singham, who resigned a few days after delivering his 128 page landmark judgment in the Kuala Lumpur High Court on 26.6.2013:**

"Custodial death should not become the rule of the day. It is a heinous crime perpetrated by the custodians of law. If custodians of the law themselves indulged in committing such crimes, then no part of the society is safe and secure".

Justice Singham went on to say that there is an urgent need to seriously consider implementing the Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission (IPCMC) to look into police discipline due to the sharp rise in custodial violence in recent times. At the time of writing the government and police have indicated that they will file an appeal against the judgment to the higher courts. The writer fervently hopes that the High Court judgment will be upheld.



Sinful Craves

Venue: Pumpkin Garden Steamboat Kitchen.

By: Amelia Jong (Part 2, Law Student)

Situated at Taman Maluri, Cheras, it is a very popular eatery and is often packed with people. Unlike other steamboat house, the specialty of this restaurant is that it provides pumpkin soup-base steamboat aside from the regular Tom Yam and Herbal soup-base. For a reasonable price of RM16.80 per person, one can explore a variety of items as part of the steamboat.

Apart from the famous steamboat, one can also choose to try their fried noodles;

(Rm 30/plate, that feeds 3-4 people) and also their "pau" with sweet and sour sauce (Rm 24 per plate)

It is a non-halal restaurant. Customers can choose to eat inside the restaurant which is air-conditioned or alternatively outside the restaurant. The service is good and swift. And the workers are friendly and approachable. There are also plenty of parking spaces and the restaurant is clean and feels like home. One can say it is the perfect place for those planning to have a birthday gathering or a farewell.

*The Part 2(LL.B) and CLP students of ATC had a get-together with Mr Joseph for dinner. The review was thus far quite good. Everyone enjoyed themselves.

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AN INSIGHT TO LEGAL PRACTICE

ALSA ATC recently organised a talk by practising lawyers on the 22nd February 2013 at ATC's very own hall (AB), located on the first floor of the prestigious college. Aptly titled "Sharing the Experience", the event was visited by a large crowd of students that eagerly gathered at 9 in the morning to listen to what it is like to be a practising lawyer in this time and age, and how the various lawyers present got to where they are.

Lawyers were invited by ALSA ATC to participate in the talk as speakers to share their vast knowledge and experience as practising lawyers. Our guests included Mr Lee Kong Han (our very own ATC lecturer and also owner of his own firm), Mr Richard Wee of Richard Wee & Yip, Mr Mohd Izral Khairy of Izral Partnership, and Syahredzan bin Johan of Ramrais & Partners. After the talk, ALSA ATC sat down to interview the lawyers to know what law firms are looking for in interns today, and also for their general advice in this competitive field.

Richard Wee, a former student of ATC, was the first to share his experience with the crowd of over 30 present that day. Being an active member of the Malaysian Bar, Richard advised the students that by being a lawyer, we are actually creating and shaping the common law. His perception of law is that through law, lawyers act as problem solvers, which makes it a unique profession because it deals with problems laymen in society do not know how to solve.

He stressed that internship is very important as the LL.B degree, being an exam-orientated one, would suggest a lack of experience amongst students. Realistically speaking, it would make a student become an 'incomplete lawyer' even after completing their studies.

Therefore, Richard's suggested that, as a starting point, a student could write to lawyers and their firms as listed on the Malaysian Bar. He warned that students may experience a culture shock as there will be different types of leadership in different firms, thus communication would be the key to overcome this. Students with the intent to intern could start with friendlier firms first. Such firms, he mentioned, included that of his own. Richard also gave a list of people who are interested in helping blossoming lawyers:

- *In KL: Mr Fahri Azzat, Mr K. Shanmuga, Mr Amer Hamzah, Vince Chong*
- *In Malacca: Mr Edmund Wong Fook Meng, Mr Desmin Ho, Mr Damien Yeo*
- *In Ipoh: Mr Kenny Lai*
- *In Kelantan: Ms Azizah*

Next, Mr Lee Kong Han sat down with us to further share his views and opinions. Mr Lee is no stranger to the students of ATC, and as a lecturer, he cleared the air by saying that a student's choice of subjects would not affect their future life choices. Mr Lee graduated with first class honours and is now a practising lawyer, a legal advisor, and a lecturer.

As for attachments and internships, Mr Lee has noted that while it is good, it is not as important as academic studies. He stressed that the transition period from Intermediate to Part 1 is an important one, as students should use this time to prepare for studies. As we all know, Part 1 is said to be a difficult year for all law students. The most optimal period for attachments, he advised, would be after the CLP examinations, when students are waiting for their results.

Mr Lee also advised (as well as shared this during the talk), that financial wisdom is far more important than achievements in studies. It is with this wisdom that students would only then have freedom to pursue their goals in life. No money, no talk, eh? We asked Mr Lee, how does one get first class results? He said, hard work, (which meant a student has to go the extra mile), and by working smart (which requires a student to master the exam techniques).

Mr Izral, who shared his experience next, spoke to the students about the reality of attachment in law firms. A student would feel stressed out, as an intern, having to suffer from bullying whilst there. This certainly struck a chord of fear in every student, as being bullied was a norm. However, Izral did reassure that such would only occur if a student exuded negative vibes.

Thus, Izral listed the qualities that a student should possess while interning. A student should be hardworking, curious and inquisitive, fair and just, thick-skinned at times, and willing to adapt by learning.



When questioned whether a work-life balance does exist for a lawyer, Izral hesitated for a while. He then calmly replied that such a balance truly exists, although it would take time and also requires initiative from the individual themselves. When it comes to being in the legal profession, Izral gave the analogy of it being a "marathon" rather than a "100 meter dash". Slow and steady wins the race!

Izral also advised that students should look through the legal directory of firms, to apply to, should they be interested in interning. His own firm takes in 4 students for the months of June-September with an allowance of rm15 for food and transport. He expects an employee to understand what employers want, and to have sophistication, brains, research skills, as well as guts.

Are you up for the challenge? A question that swims through the swamp of every student's mind.

The last speaker of the day surprised students with his unique way of starting off his part of the talk. Mr Syahredzan gave a slideshow about Human Rights and Activism and shared his experience on the topic of Human Rights and Malaysia's constitution. It was certainly an eye-opener for students, considering such topics are not taught in the UOL syllabus. He showed photos from the Justice Walk and explained future avenues.

ALSA ATC sat down to interview Syahredzan, who is an active tweeter on his own twitter, @syahredzan, for his opinions and views. Syahredzan also stated that a student's perception of practice is very much different than what it is in reality. He shared the realities of practice, stating that students are often clouded by illusions. Time to put Suits on hold. When asked about what he looks for in a student who wants to intern, Syahredzan said that he wants people with the ability to think and do the work they are asked of. He wants interns to put their mind, effort and thought when doing the job. Having the ability to learn, adapt and take initiative is also a plus point. These qualities would be handy when gaining experience and getting the feel of the working environment within a law firm.

He said that the secret to success is having the passion for the job. Clearing the myth of 'ambulance chaser', Syahredzan stated that what prevents it is by having a conscience to avoid all bad temptations. This is certainly good advice to follow.

General feedback from the students as well as the speakers was that this talk was a well organised one and appears to be a good step forward and a precursor to many more beneficial events to come. ALSA ATC will definitely work harder in order to bring more events such as these to life! Thank you for the support and feedback thus far. Please do anticipate more from us.



By: Ong Hui Mei (Inter Sept, Law student)
Academic Activities Coordinator, ALSA ATC

"A Night of Misfits"

ATC's Rotaract Club 6th Installation & Charity Dinner

It is common perception that law students are dull creatures with an obsession towards the subject of law and it alone; they lurk aimlessly with no time or interest for fun activities, clubs and societies. Law students are livelier than you think! Just a few weeks ago, the **6th Installation and Charity Dinner of Rotaract Club of Advance Tertiary College (ATC)** was held which incorporated the theme '**A Night of Misfits**'. The installation was held on the **28th September 2013**, at **Mulberry Restaurant and Bar**, Jalan Ampang.

Rotaract is an international youth movement for young adults aged 18 to 30 which provides an opportunity to young adults to enhance their knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development; address the physical and social needs of their communities; and promote better relations among people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service. ATC's own chapter of the Rotaract Club was formed through the initiatives of several like-minded students in the college who were committed to serving the community and also developing themselves professionally, while expanding their network of friends. The club received its charter on 20th October 2007 from the Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois and was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ampang.

It is a popular practice that each Rotaract Club will have an Installation every year to usher in the new Board of Directors and also to appreciate the contributions of the 'out-going' Board of Directors of the previous term. This year, the Rotaract club of ATC commemorated our 6th Installation by celebrating with children from the Praise Emmanuel Children's Home (PECH). All net profit gained from the Installation was donated to this home situated in Petaling Jaya and also in Ipoh. Our main aim in doing so was to assist and support this home with their plans of providing shelter for underprivileged children, to extend their social services to other families in need, to own a bigger home with added facilities, to provide counselling for parents of these children and most importantly, to ensure that these children have the happy childhood they deserve. The Rotaract Club of ATC decided to be a part of PECH's journey and together work towards fulfilling this vision.

Rotaract Club of ATC is glad to have had the children from the PECH at their event. As Rotaractors, whose simple goal is to serve the community, we try to fulfil that goal every

chance we can, starting with these children. As our theme suggests, individually, you may be a misfit, you may be a social outcast, but Rotaract looks beyond that. When you're a part of the Rotaract family, and you're united by a common purpose to serve the community. Together, the puzzle pieces fit together. Where once there was a single colour, there is now a vibrant array of colors and patterns. Despite all our differences, together we achieve bigger and better things. This was the idea behind the theme, '**A Night of Misfits**'.

On that 'Night of Misfits', guests let loose their creativity and dressed up in their most 'misfit-y' outfits. In the warm, cosy atmosphere of the Mulberry restaurant, a delectable buffet dinner was served accompanied by lovely performances by talented ATC students. This was followed with an acknowledgement by the Immediate Past President Loishvah Zephaniah Emmanuel to the 'out-going' Board of Directors and the Installation of the President Chong Hui Ting and her Board of Directors for the Rotary Year 2013/2014. In an atmosphere full of laughter, the highlight of the event, were the guests cheering as the winners of the Mr and Miss Misfits of the night were crowned.

We were honoured by the presence of the Guests of Honour, Past President Sunny Low and Immediate Past President Mike Yee from Rotary Club of Ampang, Deputy Principal and Chief Operating Officer of ATC, Mr. Reuben de Rozario, District Rotaract Representative, Kwong Chiew Ee, children from PECH, ATC's lecturers and staff, Rotaractors across the District and members of Rotaract of ATC.

Being the Organising Chairperson of the event, I would like to seize this opportunity to thank all those involved who made it a success and an unforgettable memory. Much appreciation to the previous term's Board of Directors for your efforts. The memories we share are irreplaceable. This is not the end, but the beginning of an entirely new journey. Now, empowered with a mixture of new and experienced Rotaractors, we will work as an awesome and big family to kick-start this new term! Stay tuned for many more interesting events!

By: Low Li Qun
Organising Chairperson of 6th Installation & Charity Dinner
Vice President of Rotaract Club of ATC
RY 2013/2014





COMMONLY MISUSED PHRASES

Being an educator – especially in the crazy land of Literature and English – I often find myself messing up common phrases. Indeed, the monsters of Errors never fail to hunt me down and invade my cognitive motors. Sometimes, when I'm unsure, I do a quick Google search to make sure that what I'm saying or writing is actually what I'm trying to say. This inspired me to come up with a list of common phrases that people frequently get wrong. Some of them aren't completely our fault because the incorrect way of saying them has actually become the "norm".

Here's my list of common phrases that you might be saying incorrectly. Don't be embarrassed if you notice you use the incorrect phrase. Trust me, **we are all guilty of it;**

01 One in the same vs. One and the same

When you really sit and think about it, "one in the same" doesn't mean anything at all. The correct phrase "one and the same" means that two things are the same.

04 For all intensive purposes vs. For all intents and purposes

You may feel very strongly and intensely about your purpose, but that doesn't make the phrase correct. Another common incorrect use of the phrase is switching the words "for" and "with". The correct phrase means that you are covering all possibilities and circumstances.

02 I could care less vs. I couldn't care less

Saying that you could care less about a topic implies that you do care about it at least a little. What you usually mean is that you don't care about the topic at all, hence "I couldn't care less".

05 He did good vs. He did well

The phrases good and well get interchanged so much that some people think they are actually interchangeable words. They're not. If you're ever confused about which to use, here's a tip: Use "well" as an adverb (words used to describe verbs) and "good" as an adjective (words used to describe nouns). For example:

- The dog runs well
- He is a good dog

03 On accident vs. By accident

Sometimes I feel very sorry for people attempting to learn English. With phrases like this, it must be awful. You can do something on purpose, but not on accident. Prepositions are a killer. The correct choice is "by accident".

06 Each one worse than the next vs. Each one worse than the last

Unless you can foresee the future, "each one worse than the next" doesn't make sense. The problem with this phrase is that it isn't logical. For example, you can't compare two bicycles until you've tested them both. So logically, you would compare the current bicycle to the last bike you tested.

07 Irregardless vs. Regardless

Regardless means without regard. Throwing on "IR" to the beginning makes the word a double negative. I think we can all agree that "without without regard" doesn't make sense.

08 Scotch free and Scott free vs. Scot free

I've seen so many explanations of the origins of the phrase "Scot free" that I really don't know where it came from. But what I do know is that Scotch free and Scott free are incorrect.

09 I made a complete 360 degree change in my life vs. I made a complete 180 degree change in my life

People say they've made a complete 360 degree change in their life to imply that they've completely changed from the way they used to be. However, going 360 degrees means that you've returned to the exact same place you started. Which would mean you didn't change at all. A 180 degree change would mean that you are the complete opposite which is what most people are trying to say.

10 Hone in vs. Home in

The word hone means to sharpen or improve somehow. For example, you can hone your speaking skills. To home in on something means to get closer to it. "We're homing in on a cure for cancer".

11 Extract revenge vs. Exact revenge

When you extract something, you're taking it out of something else. When you exact onto something, you're dishing it out. Therefore, extracting revenge on someone would mean you're taking out that person's revenge. Extracting revenge onto them means that you're taking your revenge out on them.

12 You've got another thing coming vs. You've got another think coming

This is one of those phrases where the incorrect usage actually does make sense and has become its own phrase. But it's still technically wrong. In fact, most people don't even know the correct phrase unless they look it up (I sure didn't). The correct version really only makes sense if you use the entire sentence "if that's what you think, you've got another think coming."

By: Ms. Felicia Ann
Lecturer (English Literature)

The Syrian Conflict and the Politics of the Middle East

The Middle East, home of Mesopotamia, the nation recognized as the cradle of civilization and the birthplace of the Hammurabi code, recognized as one of the first state sanctioned legislation in the world. Yet today, the Middle East is as fragmented as it could be, with nations pitted against each other along sectarian lines. The Middle East, although largely made up of people adhering to the Islamic faith, consists of believers of different sects within the religion itself. The two most prominent sects are the Sunni Muslims and the Shia Muslims, not forgetting, a long list of offshoots from these two major sects. Their understanding on the religion is different from each other and over the years, there have been tensions among these two sects. The Sunni's view the Shia's as heretics and not that of mainstream Islam. The major Shia nations in the Middle East are Iran, who are of Persian descent and do not view themselves as Arabs and Syria, where the President is of the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi'isme. It is here that the conflicts of modern Middle East is played out today.

Syria gained its independence from France in April 1946 as a parliamentary republic but this was not to last. In 1948, Syria was involved in the first Arab – Israeli war, aligning itself with other Arab nations that opposed the formation of the Jewish – Israeli state. That war ended in a massive defeat for the Arabs, but it was a catastrophe in Syria as the President at that time threw all of Syria's vast economic and military resources into an attempt to win that war. He was soon overthrown in 1949 in a coup by Colonel Husni Al-

Zaim, recognized as the first coup d'état in the Arab world since the end of World War 2. A series of coup's followed and only then the parliamentary system was restored in 1954. Conflict soon crept into the Arab world again with the Suez crisis breaking out in Egypt. Feeling threatened, Syria signed a military pact with the Soviet Union in order to guarantee its existence and political power in the region. This single action of aligning itself with the Soviet Union brought into play a chain of events that reverberate until this very day. The Soviet Union provided the Damascus regime with state-of-the-art military weaponry and Syria started a massive arms build-up to counter the growing threat of the Jewish Israeli state. Israel, on the other hand, started their own weapons build up as all the Arab states around them were hostile to their creation. In 1958, in order to promote Arab nationalism, Syrian President Shukri Al-Quwatli and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt announced the union of Syria and Egypt, henceforth to be known as the United Arab Republic. This was not to last as Syria opted to quit the Union in 1961 due to pressure from the Baathist and the Soviet Union, which had military intelligence at that time to show that Egypt was receiving aid from the West. On the 8th of March 1963, another coup took place. The takeover was engineered by members of the Armed Forces and the Baath Party, led by Michel Aflaq and Salah al-Din al- Bitar. The new cabinet was dominated by Ba'ath members. In 1967, another war broke out between the Arabs and the Israelis. The 1967 war was won by Israel, defeating both Egypt and Syria. Due to disagreement between the

civilian government and the Armed Forces, a bloodless coup took place in November 1970 that installed military strongman and commander of the Syrian Air Force, Hafez al-Assad into power. The ascension of Hafez al-Assad was shaky and he needed to boost his image domestically. In 1973, another war broke out between the Arabs and the Israelis, known as the Yom Kippur war. It was here that his political career took off. The Israelis couldn't withstand an assault by both the Syrians and Egyptians. They lost ground, which they later reclaimed. More importantly, the Israelis sought to enter Lebanon and occupy it, of which Hafez al-Assad's Syrian army stopped. Because of this single event, his cult status took off and he emerged a hero in the eyes of the Arabs, although it wasn't the Syrian Arab army per se that stopped the Israelis, but a local rag-tag militia that was armed by the Syrians. This rag-tag group of men are known today as the Hezbollah, a highly trained and well-funded militia that controls a large part of Southern Lebanon. It is no surprise that the ideology of this group centres upon the destruction of Israel and the propagation of Shia Islam. This Shia militant group is, in turn, supported by the Shia nation of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic. Robert Fisk, an international journalist, once termed that Iran, Syria and the Lebanese Hezbollah as the 'Shia crescent of the Middle East'. The Americans view all three entities with suspect, even listing the Shia Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation, though it stops short of making its head, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, a wanted man.

Syria was not a nation that was always divided upon sectarian lines. President Hafez al-Assad was known to be a liberal. In 1973, he altered the constitution to ensure that women got equal rights and also added a clause that would enable a non-Muslim to be a President, although that was later removed due to pressure from the Baath Party and the Muslim Brotherhood, an organization that he went on to ban. He propagated a Western standard of living, although the state controls every single aspect of it. Islamic law was not their main code of law. President Hafez himself was an Alawite, an offshoot of Shi'ism which forms about 15 percent of modern Syria today. In 1982, the Muslim Brotherhood, which was made up of largely Sunni Muslims, instigated an uprising in Hama, a city in central Syria of which President Hafez massacred around 10,000 to 25,000 of its population. This was one of the worst atrocities against the population that he committed in his tenure as the President. In 2000, he died of a heart attack and his son, Bashar al-Assad became President of Syria. Fast forward 11 years, in 2011, another uprising took place, this time in Deraa, southern Syria. President Bashar followed his father's footsteps and heavy-handedly crushed the uprising, killing many youths in the process. This angered many Syrian youths, who are largely unemployed and are tired of outright state control on all matters. An uprising began, with soldiers defecting to join the ranks of youth that have taken up arms. They formed the Free Syrian Army (FSA), a largely secular fighting force that wants to overthrow the regime in Damascus.

The rebellion began with a largely secular flavour. However, the sectarian politics of the Middle East soon caught up.

Enter the Al-Nusra Front, a band of Arab fighters, veterans of the war against the Americans in Iraq and against the Allied Forces in Afghanistan. These men are well armed and well-funded by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. These are nations that seek to undermine the Shia influence in the Middle East. These fighters seek to implement strict Islamic Sharia law. More importantly, these fighters covertly seek to push the influence of Saudi Arabia and the UAE into this region and push out the influence of Iran and Hezbollah. Robert Fisk puts it this way, 'to break the Shia crescent and ensure that the crescent does not rise again'. NATO are wary of implementing a 'Libya-style no fly zone' as the Secretary-General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen once said that 'Syria is no Libya, if Syria catches fire, the whole region will catch fire'. His words are noted by the war-hawks in Washington. Syria today is as fragmented as it could be. The death toll has surpassed 120,000 and rising. A nation caught between sectarian strife and oppression. Several sites in Syria are designated as World Heritage Site by the United Nations, such as the Aleppo Grand Mosque and the Medina of Aleppo. It's a pity that some of these sites are severely damaged by the fighting. The only thing that the world can do now is to watch and hope that some solution can be reached before the nation is destroyed beyond repair by foreign politics.

By: Mr. Inderjeet Singh
Deputy Head of (Law)

Mr. Inderjeet Singh is also a lecturer at ATC and has intriguing insight on current issues



The ART OF CHARITY

By: Amy Cheah (Penang Campus)

If a man donated RM10, 000 to a charitable organization and the other only RM3; who do you think gave more? Measuring in terms of value, it would surely be the person who gave RM10, 000.

To give RM3 may not be much in terms of its financial worth as, it would not be sufficient even for a plate of Char Koay Teow. We can hardly buy anything with that little!

But if the person has only RM3 in his pocket and gave it all away to the poor, he has done much more than a rich man who gave RM10, 000 for he has given his all, for he held nothing back. The supreme form of charity holds nothing back. It gives all.

The rich man however gave only out of his plenty. His giving was not self-giving. His giving did not involve sacrifice. He is like a man who gives away only what he does not really need. What heroism is in that?

For us Christians, the quantity is only secondary to the quality of giving. It is not so much the consequence of giving that matters but the intention of giving. Why we give is very important. And some may give donations just to feed their pride-this would surely be wrong.

Instead of looking merely at the external act of giving, we Christians believe that God looks into our hearts. His eyes pierce through all our thoughts and intentions. Donations and charitable activities are only meaningful to God if we are sincere.

Hence, the question behind every act of Christian charity should be this: do we give from our abundance, or do we give even from the little that we have? The latter is the most important. Charity must always be accompanied by sacrifice.

But how could we live up to such high standards? It seems not to be humanly possible. But as Christians we believe that such a sacrifice, the ability to give up even the little that we have, flows from the love of God.

We are able to be charitable and give (even if it involves giving up our own comfort) because God has been charitable to us first. It is faith in God who is Love which drives us to charity.

It is this Love that transforms our selfishness and prompts us to give cheerfully and willingly to others. Love means deeds and not sweet words. And these deeds are not empty because it flows from the heart.

Charity is not just humanitarian aid. It cuts both ways. It should not only help the poor and needy, it should also help the person who gives to widen his heart; to be a better person.

With true charity, we live for others. We would stop thinking of ourselves and be sensitive to the needs of others. It would allow us to lead meaningful lives. We would be able to remedy the disease of egoism that infects the whole human race. Only then would we be able to eradicate a far greater poverty: the poverty of loving hearts.



ATC Presents Class of Horror *A Movie Event* by Picture In Motion People (P.I.M.P)

Formerly known as The Film Club of ATC, the Picture In Motion People (P.I.M.P), ATC is the most recent addition to its growing number of clubs, recently organized its first major event on the 29th of October 2013. The event called Class of Horror was open to all students and staffs of ATC. As the name of the event suggests, it was held in conjunction with the Halloween celebration.

The club decided it would be a great time to have an event to celebrate our affinity with all things that go bump in the night. Whether we love to admit it or not most of us secretly love horror movies and what better way to celebrate Halloween than to have a horror movie screening. P.I.M.P also used this event as a chance to promote the club to the students of ATC.

Everyone was eager to participate. The club's members got together with their teacher advisor Ms. Felicia to ensure the success of the event. About a week before the event, members took turns to man booths at the lobby to sell tickets as well as promote club membership. Tickets were sold at RM2 each and people were also given the chance to vote for a movie upon purchase of a ticket. Members of P.I.M.P also took the chance to decorate the lobby with an attempted spooky theme – ribbons, bats and spiders etc.

On the day of the event, members who were involved with organizing the movie screening arrived at 4.30 pm and helped decorate classroom AB on the 1st floor. Cobwebs were put up and tombstones were set around the class giving a creepy vibe to the whole floor. Several members were in charge of a booth in front of the class to sell tickets to anyone who wanted to purchase tickets at the last minute.

At precisely 6.30 pm students started arriving at the venue. Some were surprisingly punctual, mostly just fashionably late. Many of them were dressed to impress or in this case dressed to scare as they were encouraged to wear costumes. It was interesting to see how creative the students were as many improvised with various daily objects as costumes to an astounding effect.

At 7.00 pm guests had been seated and a large crowd had turned for the event. Class of Horror kicked off with the Halloween feast. Various foods with names like 'Chopped Student Fingers' and 'Minced Lecturer's Dip' were served much to the amusement of all who attended. After eating the guest were treated to a game of 'Finger Hunt' in the lobby. The concept was simple. Fake fingers were hidden in the vicinity of the lobby and the person who finds the most fingers wins. To much surprise, the guests were actually content with the simplicity of the game and they seem to be having a lot of fun when searching for the fake fingers.

The movie screening began at 7.30 pm. The lights were turned off and the chosen movie was revealed. It was 'The Exorcist' (1973). Those who attended were entertained by the horror classic which until today remains a heavyweight champion in the horror genre. The movie ended at 9.30 pm.

Before the guests left, the winners of the costume contest were announced. There were two categories, Most Creative Costume and Scariest Costume. Class of Horror officially ended at 9.40 pm. It was a fun event to all who attended. More to come from these fantastic students.





Halloween

As October winds to an end, we find ourselves drawing towards and on my part at least, eagerly awaiting the most chilling of all celebrations, Halloween. Like all festivals, Halloween has different significances for different groups of people. For the kids, its all about the candy and the costumes. For the social butterflies, its all about the all-night parties and babes/hunks in costumes. Perhaps the more adventurous types would embrace this night of All Hallows Eve as their chance at a brush with the supernatural. But for a movie buff like myself, Halloween is the perfect chance to enjoy the more macabre and spine tingling fare that cinema has to offer. However, finding most stereotypical horror fare to be predictable and dull, I've compiled a spooky and yet somewhat atypical list of movies with artistic value or some cinematic merit which would still be a brilliant watch on Halloween night.

Let Me in/ Let The Right One In



These movies hold a special place in my heart for 3 reasons. Firstly, it is an adaptation of one of the finest horror books to be written in a long time, Let The Right One In by the brilliant Swedish writer, John Ajvide Lindqvist. Secondly, it has the rare distinction of having a remake that is as good if not better than the original. Thirdly, it is the anti-Twilight of vampire movies, returning to the arch type of the horrific, tortured monster, rather than the shining emo James Dean arch-type that we have become wont to loathe.

Let Me In tells the story of a young, oft-bullied boy who strikes a deep friendship with the little girl who lives next door a girl who happens to be an ancient vampire. From this disturbingly Twilight-like premise, the movie goes on to explore such themes as loneliness, bullying, gender identification, and love. The kills are gruesome and bloody as you would expect from a true vampire flick, and are made all the more horrific by the extent that we grow to empathize with the vampire in this tale. The acting in both movies are also brilliant, featuring strong performances by the young cast. The cinematography is also brilliant and sets the chilling mood quite nicely. Raising moral quandaries such as the justification of killing for one's survival, Let Me In is truly a thinking man's horror movie and a definite must watch.



Cabin In The Woods



Now I'm not really sure if this qualifies as a horror movie per se, but seeing as how it is thus labeled on IMDB, I'm going to go ahead and put it down as my second choice for a Halloween must watch. Modern Renaissance man Joss Whedon and director Drew Goddard, use the somewhat stereotypical and eponymous Cabin in The Woods setting to deliver a sometimes creepy but always amusing and witty deconstruction of the entire genre itself, exposing the stupidity and lack of rationality that always seem to be the core components of even the most beloved of our favorite horror movies. I would love to go on about various plot elements, but to do so would spoil the various twist and turns of the movie itself, and thus diminish its entertainment value. Suffice to say, the acting is decent, featuring a per-avengers Chris Hemsworth and a couple of Whedon regulars, and the dialogue is as witty and memorable as one would expect from Whedon and his usual collaborators. Horror movie buffs will also have a ball of a time trying to find the various nods and references to other classic horror movies.

Projections

TOP 6 MOVIES FOR HALLOWEEN

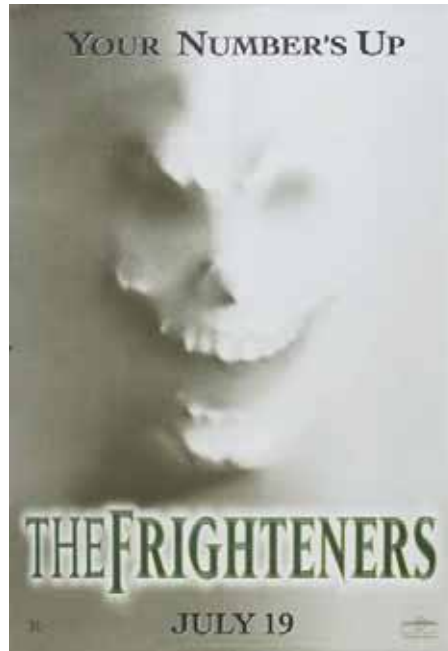
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Black Swan



Now I don't scare easy, but this movie definitely sent chills down my spine. This movie chronicles the tale of a young ballerina, played to Oscar winning perfection by Natalie Portman, who manages to land the lead part in a production of Swan Lake, playing both the pure White Swan and the evil Black Swan. Under the tutelage of the ballet's director, she attempts to tap into the darker part of her psyche to pull off the dark and primal Black Swan. Then things get progressively creepier as hallucinations and reality begin to blur into a near indecipherable mess as the heroine descends further and further into insanity. The scares are supremely freaky and often unexpected and Darren Aronofsky really succeeds in making Ballet seem like the most painful and excruciating of all dance forms, with the cracks and snaps of the dancer's joints setting ones teeth on edge. But really folks, the main selling points of this movie are Nathalie Portman's superlative performance as the tortured ingenue and the beautifully choreographed and intricately symbolic dance sequences and costumes. This film raises truly horrifying implications about the darkness that lurks in all of us, the price of perfection and the negative influence of bad parenting.

The Frighteners



I'm not sure if most of you have seen this flick before, but it is certainly worth a watch if you haven't. An early Peter Jackson effort, this movie revolves around a professional ghost buster, played by the ever-charismatic Micheal Fox who is running a sort of racket with the help of his 3 ghostly buddies who help him scare up business. However, when a ghostly entity going by the moniker of "The Grim Reaper" begins killing people and leaving them with numbers etched in their scalps, Frank who can foresee the numbers ahead of time and thus the murders, becomes a chief suspect. This movie is a rather eccentric mish mash of comedy and serious thrills through the (at times) brutal murders. Peter Jackson, even in the infancy of his career delivers with what was then ground breaking special effects. All-in-all, its a really fun spooky and alternative watch for Halloween's.

The Nightmare Before Christmas



bit scary but if it doesn't embody the spirit of Halloween, then I don't know what does. This beautiful stop-motion tale tells the story of Jack Skellington, one of the residents of Halloween Town, who becomes sick of how Christmas is always given more importance than Halloween by the people at large. Thus, he takes it upon himself to sabotage Christmas and give Halloween the importance he feels it rightly deserves. Henry Selick, who also directed the brilliant but underrated Coraline, serves a fun, musical and aesthetically mind blowing work of art here. This movie is perfect for the whole family to watch, though the only ones who would get a scare would be the little ones. And yet, this movie really captures the whole commercial trick or treat, costumed aspect of Halloween, being fun, cheesy and slightly spooky in its execution. Alternatively, The Corpse Bride, directed by the producer of this flick, Tim Burton is also a good watch as it is aesthetically very similar to this movie.

By: Vishal Gopinathan (Part 1, Law Student)
President of Picture In Motion People(P.I.M.P)

YOU GOT SERVED!



On the 5th of October, 2013 ATC organised its annual Badminton Tournament! The event began with participants slowly warming up whilst keeping a wary eye on their opponents in an attempt to gauge how well they would fare today. The matches started off with a bang as participants seemed eager to prove their worth. The day progressed slowly as more matches were won and lost. Slowly but surely, our winners seemed to leave an indelible mark in their quests to become champions.

The final matches were aggressively fought out. Koh Lip Kuan, one of the eventual winners seemed intent on attaining victory and fought tooth and nail in what was to be a superb finale. The excitement seen here was reflected throughout the various finals and it was this that made this tournament truly a day to remember.

It was a fun filled day where ATC's badminton fans and Lee Chong Wei's successors took part in a truly enjoyable tournament filled with joy and camaraderie.





The winners for the Men's Singles Category:

1. Koh Lip Kuan
2. Louis Tey
3. Andrew Soo

The winners for the Women's Singles Category:

1. Yong Sook Mun
2. Soong Ru Yi
3. Germain Lee

The winners for the Men's Doubles Category:

1. Louis Tey & Lim Woi Kang
2. Koh Lip Kuan & Vigneshwaran
3. Kishan & Sathgunan

The winners for the Women's Doubles Category:

1. Yong Sook Mun & Lim Ming Yie
2. Soong Ru Yi & Germain Lee
3. Rhupasree & Amirah

The winners for the Mixed Doubles Category:

1. Yong Sook Mun & James Chee
2. Soong Ru Yi & Lim Shin Rong
3. Sathgunan & Rhupasree

**Congratulations
to all our winners!**

By: Mr. Sachpreetraj Singh Sohanpal
Lecturer (Law)

Announcing
the

24th

Grand
Convocation

15 January 2014

Kuala Lumpur
Convention Centre

