

## WEEKLY MEDIA REVIEW (No.10/93)

### 1. Review of media coverage:

"Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Report of the Director of Audit on the Planning and Financial Control by the Govt. on Building of the HKUST"

Before the report was tabled at LegCo on 10/3/93, four Chinese newspapers, which had already received information on the content of the report, reported on it on 9/3.

Three of them, including Oriental Daily, Wah Kiu Yat Po and Hong Kong Economic Journal, quoted the report while focusing on "the split in opinion among PAC members" concerning responsibility for the so-called construction "cost overrun".

Ming Pao, in an investigative report, noted that both Dr Nicky Chan, Chairman of the Assessment Panel, and VC/P had become the targets of criticism in the report. It quoted the report as saying that three of the six PAC members, including Emily Lau, C H Leong and Martin Lee, were surprised by the strong and persistent attacks launched by VC/P against the winning design. However, Ming Pao also carried a response from a source close to HKUST who said that while the selection process had been carried out in a democratic way, and VC/P had the right to declare his choice in an open manner.

Both electronic and print media carried stories on the PAC report following its release. While the electronic media only briefly reported the issue, the PAC report was extensively quoted by the newspapers on 11/3. Emphasis was placed on two aspects of the story:

- a) the split in opinion among PAC members
- b) criticism of the Govt's financial control of the project

The newspapers also quoted the statements of Emily Lau, C H Leong and Martin Lee in the report concerning the selection of the runner-up design as the blueprint for the campus.

Some of the papers quoted an unnamed HKUST source who commented on the selection process and on VC/P's involvement in the process.

The Standard interviewed Prof. Peter Dobson, Director of Planning and Coordination, who was quoted as saying that there was no evidence to suggest that VC/P had "forced" the other Planning Committee members to select the runner-up design.

The Govt's "self-defence" press release issued after the release of the report in response to criticism of the Govt.'s handling of the HKUST project was also picked up by the press.

(Note: Our statement concerning the selection of architectural plans for HKUST is available to the media upon request.)

### 2. Molecular Beam Epitaxy project

The media responded favourably to our publicity for Physics Dept.'s MBE project. Dr Sou Iam Keong of the dept. was interviewed in a feature on the project on RTHK's Chinese radio programme, HK Today (25/2). Five newspapers (2/3) also carried feature stories

on the project, including a half-page feature with colour pictures in HK Commercial Daily.

3. "Pool of knowledge being ignored"  
In her interview with the education page of the Standard (26/2), Director of the Library, Min-min Chang, was quoted as saying that with improving links between the seven local tertiary institutions as well as new initiatives to set up international networks, the potential of this vast pool of easily accessible knowledge was being ignored outside the education field.
4. UST will enroll the first batch of students to the Dept. of Chem. Eng.  
In response to our publicity on student enrollment, Ming Pao (27/2) carried a feature with an interview with Dr C K Chan of the Dept. releasing the information. Dr Chan also talked about the significance of chemical engineering to industrial development.
5. UST will provide counselling service to graduates  
As publicity for our first batch of post-graduates this year, an extensive full-page feature was arranged with Ming Pao (27/2) on this topic. Mr Ho Mun-yin, Student Counsellor, was interviewed.
6. The story behind UST's Sundial  
Ming Pao (28/2) carried a short feature on the topic with colour pictures of the Sundial and our campus.
7. Dr Francis Lui talks on "Retirement protection for HK: what are the options?"  
SCMP (28/2) reported that Dr Lui would give a talk on the topic at the HK Centre for Economic Research. The talk was widely covered by the press(2/3), including SCMP, the Standard, HK Economic Journal, Sing Tao Daily and Wah Kiu Yat Po.
8. UST is a popular spot to photographers  
In an interview with a local photographer, Mr Lee Ka-sing, Photo & Camera Review (2/93) carried a colour picture of UST which was taken by Mr Lee.
9. Sun Microsystems wins UST contract  
Both Modern Computing (2/93) and Micro Special Monthly (2/93) carried a feature reporting that the co. had won a contract to supply UST with workstations and servers. Dr Scott Deerwester of COMP was interviewed to talk about the project.
10. UST has the best optical fibre network system among local tertiary institutions  
In a feature on the application of FDDI (fibre distributed data interchange) in HK, HK Electronics (2/93) mentioned this fact.

Note:

This review is based on newspaper clippings on UST received within the week. Enquiries and suggestions can be made to Office of Public Affairs (ext. 6305 or ext. 6306). A set of the clippings is available in the Reference Section of the Library (where items may be photocopied if desired). This review is for information only. All information recorded here is as reported in the original articles. Names and terms are translated from the Chinese as best we are able when official translations are not immediately available.