



# Reflections

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With the start of a new year, CYL looks forward to the upcoming semester as it culminated the Fall 2002 program with the Open House held on January 18, 2003 at Pierce College. Students and their parents filled the Campus Center as the performances and showcases were presented onstage. Lunch was served beginning at 1 p.m. and the session began an hour later. After the pledge of allegiance, Master of Ceremony Alice Lin introduced the monitors: Angie and Tammy as timers and Peter Wei as ah-counter.

Although table topics during the regular leadership meetings consists of impromptu speeches, Table Topics Master Ben Lo took a more creative approach. All twelve table topics participants lined up as each member had to continue the story, which involved everything from a talking bird to hugging elephants. CYL Alumni Jerry Chen enhanced the table topics session by providing a visual element, acting out the scenes in a comical manner.

After the audience voted for its Best Table Topics using the ballots, Alice proceeded to present the next showcase: the Class that soda should be banned teams were not informed of was announced at the start of pared to argue either way. gaged in fiery debate, the soda at schools, which con- Li, and Albert Shih, proved



In the next showcase, the issues, including a trend of and what that holds for the

analyzed the presentations and offered suggestions to the speakers, Class A members performed a skit that they had spent numerous hours rehearsing. Written and directed by Class A Coordinator Richard Cheng, the skit emphasizes the importance of honesty and finding personal happiness. The skit was accompanied by music from a boombox and involved several scene changes.

Following the last showcase of the skit, former Toastmaster District 52 Governor Turhan Johnson announced the winners of the debate and evaluated the Open House. Expressing delight in seeing the abilities and potential in the youths, he encouraged students and parents to continue participating in Call for Youth Leadership. Program Director Mrs. Yang provided some closing remarks, thanked parent volunteers and offered suggestions to the audience such as refraining from moving around during a speech. The parent committee presented gifts to Mrs. Yang, Richard Cheng, and Class B Coordinator Mr. Yang in appreciation of their hard work. The Open House concluded on a high note as students received their semester completion certificates and

B debate on the proposition from schools. Since both which side to defend until it Open House, they were pre- While the opposing teams en- team favoring the banning of sisted of Anthony Chiang, Jay victorious. speakers addressed a variety of parents spoiling their children future. After evaluators ana-



seemed eager for the spring semester.

*Cindy Yim is a senior at Cleveland Magnet High School*

## I AM A CYL PROGRAM COORDINATOR AND A WANNA-BE ADVICE COLUMNIST...

I give advice. I give advice even though I am only 24 years of age myself. Sometimes I feel like I am a weird combination of Dr. Phil, Tony Robbins, Dear Abby, Ann Landers, and Yoda. But giving advice is what you do when you are working with youths. So having worked with youths ever since first being a camp counselor eight years ago, and I am now in my third year working at CYL as a program coordinator, I have come to learn the importance of giving helpful and timely advice. Although I am no wise guy myself and I never said "Foggitaboutdit!" here is my paltry offering on the subject, broken down into three main points:

**1. See the big picture.** Now, you all know about the Open Discussions that I conduct in Class A to help Asian students become keenly in tune with the major concerns people around the world have, a key quality for a successful leader to possess. A brief survey of the roughly fifty discussions we had in the past three years takes us from the right to life (cloning, capital punishment, and abortion) to our current economy to national defense and homeland security. I am always impressed by how well prepared some of these political candidates are during the election season, as they are being drilled with tough questions. That is when I realized that before we want to change things in our society, we must first start learning about what those "things" are at the macro-level.

**2. Make the small connections.** Likewise, we also need to be ready to deal with things at the micro-level, by which I mean developing a sensibility that allows us to relate to other people. There is this interesting anecdote about President George Bush Sr. of how one day during his presidency, he and his aides stopped by a supermarket; and since he never had to pick up his own grocery, he was completely amazed by the black, rubbery conveyor belt that was used to move the items along at the checkout counter. He told his aides that this was an excellent and innovative supermarket feature and that all supermarkets should have this. One of his aides quickly leaned in and said to him discreetly, "Sir, they already do." A successful leader needs to be able to relate to the other members of the community, so s/he will never lose touch with what problems others may face daily. For us Asian Americans, especially the new immigrants among us, it may mean reaching out

to people in other racial groups. Too often, we Asians like to only surround ourselves with other Asian people and we miss out on getting to know about other peoples, while others may see us as one-dimensional as well. The first time I visited my cousin while he was attending UC Berkeley, I was shocked to find that everyone within his three-story apartment complex was Asian. As Governor Gary Locke of Washington State garnered great national exposure by delivering the Democratic response to President Bush's State of the Union Address this year, people have been talking about the prospect of electing the first Asian American President to the White House. However, one problem pollsters still consistently find among likely voters when asked about electing an Asian President is that Asians are sometimes perceived as "not American enough." But Locke's ancestors came to America almost a century ago and the contributions of Asian Americans date all the way back to the building of transcontinental railroads in the nineteenth century, so obviously this is a major misperception. The root of this distorted view, I contend, stems from the aforementioned racial isolation that we so often form unintentionally out of habit and comfort level. Lest we forget, true assimilation starts from full integration and only when we are being acknowledged as part of this society will we be ready to lead our fellow countrymen.

**3. Break the stereotypes.** Why? Because successful leaders come in all forms. Do not get me wrong; I think it is wonderful that we Asians have earned an excellent reputation academically, especially in math and science. But I still wonder that among so many intellectual minds, why aren't there more Asian philosophers, writers, dramatic performers (Sorry, martial arts is not exactly dramatic.), etc. Did we leave all of them back in Asia? Because I remember there were plenty of those talents back when I used to live over there. After Chinese writer Gao Xingjian won the 2000 Nobel Prize in Literature and the success of Asian artists (e.g. cellist Yo-Yo Ma, writer Amy Tan, and designer Vera Wang) here in America, why do I still sense a fear among Asian parents about letting their children pursue more artistic and

creative careers? We need leaders in every profession out there. Actress Kelly

Hu (The Scorpion King) once said that the nice thing about being an Asian actress in Hollywood is that there is very little competition, but the bad thing is that there are very few interesting roles available. But how can that be, if there are so many of us in the medical and legal professions? True, some factors maybe political, but I would venture to say that if we encourage more Asians to become actors and give Ms. Hu a little more competition than just Lucy Liu, then maybe the quality of actors will improve and we will at least have done our part to earn a solid reputation in that arena as well. I know for a fact that many students at CYL always love to have the chance to act in front of an audience, because whenever we are brainstorming for our showcases for Open House, students all overwhelmingly want to be in a play. But as I am directing these plays, I also realize how little dramatic acting experience these students have. So I wonder why aren't we encouraging the pursuit of these endeavors more when we do have the desire and talent to work with? Are we putting these stereotypes on ourselves and hindering our own growth as true leaders? I think the answer is very clear.

Throughout this article I have repeatedly used the phrase "a successful leader." To me, anyone who gives a good first impression has a chance of being popular enough to get elected as a leader, as we see in junior high and high school all the time. But to be a successful leader takes much preparation and training, which is what CYL is all about. And as for myself, I am just doing the best that I can to help.



**Richard Y. Cheng** - Youth member 1992—1995. B.A. in Business Economics with an Emphasis in Accounting and Law and Society with an Emphasis in Criminal Justice. M.S. in Computer Science.

**Hobbies:** Basketball, tennis, chess, visit museums, social dances.

**Favorite Movies:** Apollo 13, Goodwill Hunting, Ocean's Eleven.



# And the Award Goes to...

Meeting Date	Table Topics	Speaker	Evaluator
Class A	Alice Lin	Albert Zhu	Brittany Lin
12-07-02			
12-14-02	<b>Secretary took it home!</b>		
01-04-03			
Class B	Jay Li	Anthony Chiang	Stacy Shen
12-07-02			
12-14-02	Jay Li	Miranda Lee	Jay Li Kevin Huang
01-04-03	Vivian Fu	Stacy Shen	Anthony Chiang

# Look Who's Progressing

C	Name	L	C	Name	L	C	Name	L
A	Szu-Ting C.	9	A	Cynthia Y.	10	B	Tammy Lo.	a1
A	Phillip C.	a2	A	Benjamin Y.	a4	B	Clifford M.	8
A	Chi Zu C.	aa3	A	Albert Z.	p1	B	Anthony M.	6
A	Albert C.	8	B	Angela C.	P1	B	Ayaka M.	p3
A	Tiffany H	4	B	Angie C.	a2	B	Sarai J.	p1
A	James K.	a5	B	Anthony C.	a1	B	Stacy S.	a1
A	Drew L.	3	B	Vivian F.	p4	B	Albert S.	7
A	Alice L.	8	B	Pearl H.	p6	B	Peter W.	p4
A	Brittany L.	4	B	Michelle H.	9	B	Sharon W.	p6
A	Benjamin L.	a3	B	Kevin H.	p2	B	Franklin Y.	8
A	Sherwin W.	3	B	Miranda L.	10	B	Kevin L.	p2
A	Derek W.	a1	B	Jay L.	5			
A	Margaret W.	p3	B	Candice L.	1			

C: Class, Name: First + Last Initial, L: speech level, p#: Pre Leadership manual, #: Leadership manual, a#: Advanced manual, aa#: Advanced manual 2

## Tips from Leadership Wiz

No leaders, no order, just total chaos. So the importance of leaders is imperative to the well-being of any organization. Call for Youth Leadership is no exception; so what are the different jobs and positions for CYL? Each month, we will feature a CYL officer and a meeting position and describe the duties for each one. There will also occasionally be great tips on the jobs for the members' convenience, so don't miss out!

### Master Evaluator

In the last issue, we presented the duty of the evaluator. Now we go one level higher: the master evaluator (dramatic music...okay, maybe not). The master evaluation does exactly what it sounds like—take charge over of all the evaluators. One week before the meeting, the ME calls all the evaluators to remind them of their duties and to interview them so that he/she can properly introduce each evaluator before he speaks. But that's not all: the ME also calls all the monitors—grammarian, AH counter, timer, invocation/pledge—to confirm their assignments. Since the master evaluator IS an almighty *master*, he/she should explain the purpose of evaluation and give a brief assessment of the overall meeting (“The class was a little loud today”, or “This the best meeting we’ve ever had!”) and any suggestions to improve. The ME must communicate with the Master of Ceremony and the EVP to notify them if any of the evaluators are going to be absent. So if you like being a leader, master evaluator is the job for you!

### Secretary

Imagine a world without records, without history. It would be chaos...we would not remember what we did yesterday, let alone 10 years ago! This is where the secretary comes in. Each meeting, the secretary will read the minutes from the previous meeting at the business meeting and then meticulously record the minutes (the minutes is the ideas discussed during the business meeting, so they may include proposals, suggestions from the students, or thoughts for upcoming events) for the present meeting, taking down everyone's position, and almost anything that takes place during the whole meeting (like who won what award). The secretary also keeps the agendas from each week and all the minutes. But being a secretary does not sound easy: after each meeting, the secretary must send the minutes, typed and organized, to Mrs. Yang for confirmation. Being a secretary requires patience and organization—basically, you have to be neat, but hey, you get practice in note-taking!

Tammy Lo is a senior at Van Nuys Magnet High School

# Community Service

To get to know the community, encourage volunteering and community involvement are part of our Goals and Objectives.

**M**any people in the city of Los Angeles do not know who or what is Tzu Chi. Tzu Chi is an international charitable foundation founded by Master Cheng Yen in Taiwan in 1966. Tzu Chi's many services range from charity, medical care, education, culture, bone marrow donor program, international relief, environmental protection, and community service. One of the many community services that they do is visit the convalescent homes. The local San Fernando Valley branch has four convalescent homes that they visit once every four months so that they visit each one three times in a year. The four convalescent homes are located in Woodland Hills, North Hollywood, and Granada Hills which Tzu Chi visits on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

A convalescent home is a place for elderly people who have lost the ability to take care of themselves or their children refuse to let them live in their home. The elderly folks are put into a room sometimes will more than one occupant. They sleep in hospital like beds and get attended to by nurses just like in a hospital. They have attendants push them from place to place and even their meals are specially made for them. However, this place is not a cheerful place because

the elderly people do not get to talk with other people much and they rarely have anything to smile about. They lie in their beds for most of the day until it is time for them to get up and eat their meals. These lonesome people do not have a friend in the world and so Tzu Chi goes there and acts as a friend to them. They sing songs, play games, and do lots of other things that put smiles on their faces.

## Convalescent Home

The very first time that I went, I was scared because I did not know what to do and who was who. I walked in and I saw all these elderly folks sitting in the dining room. At first, I was not inclined to go near any of them because I thought that they gave off a very putrid odor. When the Tzu Chi members started the music and games I went to the corner where they had the boom box. I told them that I wanted to work the music but they would not let me. They made me play games with the elders and I did but not with a lot of interest. When I saw my friends coming I left and went to go talk with them. The visit ended and I reflected on what I did. The following month I went again to a conva-

lescent home and I was a bit more relaxed than I was last time but I was still nervous. As the months went by I went to each and every convalescent home activity that I could and after a while I got into things. Now when I go to the convalescent homes I participate in the games and I actually have fun doing it. I talk with the elders and sometimes make them laugh a little.

In the end, the visits to the convalescent home have taught me many things. One is that we should respect the elder people because one day we all are going to be just like them. Another thing is that we should treat the elderly folks just like our own family because they have no one to talk to so when a group of people come along to cheer them up, they look forward to it and have fun. Also, while we are still living with our parents, we should cherish every moment because our parents are going to get old too. Children, especially teenagers should not fight with their parents, because when they have a family of their own, their children will treat them exact the same and maybe even harsher.

*James Kiang is a Sophomore at Reseda High School*

# Funny

## Angie See!!!



## Angie do!!!



Brought to you by: Jeffrey H. Yang, University of Michigan Medical School

# square