

news 18.02.08

Video artists give it their best shot

Students come up with an inspiring take on our city's woes, **Elaine Yau** reports

Hong Kong's grey skies and choking air are the inspiration for one of the entries in a challenging student video competition.

"We hope that our video can make people sit up and notice the alarming state of our environment," said team leader Judy Chu, a Form Two student at Yew Chung International School.

The team members have produced an informative work shedding light on the worsening pollution problems in the city.

They are among about 1,000 students who have taken up their camcorders to make documentaries for the "Think Again" competition organised by the National Geographic Channel and Wiseman Education.

The competition has received an overwhelming response from

local schools, with more than 180 teams from 70 schools hoping to impress the judges.

With a booming video-making craze fuelled by ubiquitous camera phones, the competition provided a platform for students to put their creativity and photographic talents to the test.

"The aim of the competition is to encourage students to think outside the box," said Clement Chung, chief executive officer with Wiseman Education.

"The students have learned a lot from the whole production process, from researching and filming to editing and narrating."

The Yew Chung International School team has called its entry *Green or Grey*.

"We have taken images of bustling places like Central to let viewers see the air condition



of local commercial districts," Judy said.

"We have also gone to Shing Mun River and Victoria Harbour to collect water samples for pollution assessment."

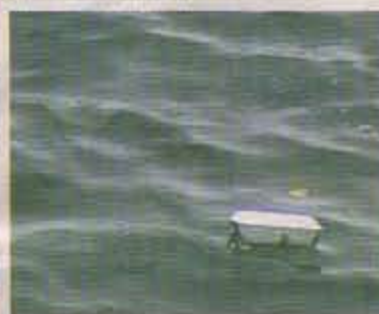
Making English

documentaries was a great challenge for the students. As well as overcoming the language barrier, they spared no effort in conducting research to gain a better picture of the issues they chose to explore on film.

With teenage suicides on the rise, another group of budding filmmakers from Shun Lee Catholic Secondary School hope their video will encourage young people to cherish life and what they have.

Think Again

The Meaning of Life



PHOTOS: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL



"Newspapers are full of suicide stories nowadays," team leader Lau Man-ching said.

"The gloom and pall enveloping society are dispiriting. We wanted to make a film that makes people

reconsider the meaning of life." Centred on a cancer-stricken teacher who struggles to cling to life, *The Meaning of Life* is an enlightening piece.

"The stark contrast between the teacher's arduous battle

against cancer and the pitiable suicide cases mentioned in the film was intended to make people think about the meaning of life," Man-ching said.

Winners of the 28 prizes will be announced next month.