

= The Bus Uncle =

The Bus Uncle is a Cantonese YouTube viral video clip of a quarrel between two men aboard a bus in Hong Kong on 27 April 2006 . While the older man , who came to be nicknamed the Bus Uncle , scolded the man seated behind him , a nearby passenger used a camera phone to record the entire incident . The resulting six @-@ minute video was uploaded to the Hong Kong Golden Forum , YouTube , and Google Videos . The clip became YouTube 's most viewed video in May 2006 , attracting viewers with its rhetorical outbursts and copious use of profanity by the older man , receiving 1 @.@ 7 million hits in the first 3 weeks of that month .

The video became a cultural sensation in Hong Kong , inspiring vigorous debate and discussion on lifestyle , etiquette , civic awareness and media ethics within the city , eventually attracting the attention of the media around the world .

= = Incident = =

The video depicts the incident that took place on the upper deck of a double decker Kowloon Motor Bus , Route no . 68X en route to Yuen Long , Hong Kong at approximately 11 : 00 pm on 27 April 2006 . It began when a young bespectacled male passenger tapped the shoulder of a middle @-@ aged man in front of him who was chatting on his mobile phone , asking the man to lower his voice . The older man later claimed that when he was tapped on the shoulder , he was under stress from an argument with his girlfriend and was calling the Samaritans . However , the younger man said that he was in fact merely chatting with friends . The older man turned around and started a monologue , ranting about being unnecessarily provoked under stress . The younger man , who seldom talked back , expressed a desire to end the discussion . However , the middle @-@ aged man insisted that the matter was not settled and requested an apology from him . The younger man apologised , reluctantly shook hands , but also warned the older man regarding the use of mother insults . This last warning resulted in more profanities from the older man . The video ends with the older man receiving a phone call .

= = Video = =

The video was shot by a 21 @-@ year @-@ old accountant and part @-@ time psychology student identified as Jon Fong Wing Hang (Chinese : ???) . In a radio station phone @-@ in on 25 May 2006 , Fong said he recorded the incident on a mobile phone in case the abusive man became violent . He claimed there was a second video yet to be posted online in which the younger man fought back by making fun of " Bus Uncle " with a friend on the phone . However , Fong " told reporters that he often takes videos as a hobby , and had just planned to share this one with friends . " The video clip has English subtitles which , while erroneous in parts , never stray far from the general tenor of the Cantonese version .

The " Bus Uncle " title for the video was coined by members of an Internet forum in reference to the older man in the video . In Hong Kong , it is common to refer to an older man as " Uncle " (??) , hence the English translation " The Bus Uncle " . Lam 's name appears as part of the title of the original video . Contrary to reports in Western media , the word " Uncle " (??) was not used .

On 28 May 2006 , this incident was mentioned on the main evening news on TVB , as well as Cable TV news . News of the video clip has penetrated Western media and has been widely syndicated , and reported in prominent international journals in late May 2006 , such as Channel NewsAsia , CNN , and The Wall Street Journal .

= = Characters = =

As the video became well @-@ known , reporters located the " Bus Uncle " near the end of the 68X bus route . He was found to be Roger Chan Yuet Tung (Chinese : ??? ; Jyutping : can4 jyut3 dung1) , a 51 @-@ year @-@ old restaurant worker who lives in Yuen Long . On 23 May 2006 , 23 @-@

year @-@ old property agent Elvis Ho Yui Hei (Chinese : 何偉儀 ; Jyutping : ho4 jeoi6 hei1) , previously misidentified as " Alvin " or " Elvin ") called a talk show on Commercial Radio Hong Kong claiming to be the young man involved in the argument .

Chan lives by himself , with rare contact with his family , though he has a girlfriend in Mong Kok . He has been unemployed for more than ten years , living off welfare payments . After his identity was revealed , Chan was criticised for reportedly demanding remuneration for interviews .

Ho often takes long bus rides home , frequently asking passengers to lower their voices so he can nap . Despite being threatened , Ho said he forgave " Bus Uncle " and sympathised with whatever stress the older man was suffering . He said his patience throughout the ordeal was inspired by t 'ai chi ch 'uan .

= = Aftermath = =

Sing Tao Daily reported that Chan visited Ho 's office on 31 May 2006 in Mong Kok to apologise for the dispute and to initiate a business proposal for the duo to hold a " Bus Uncle Rave Party " . Chan was quickly rejected and expelled by Ho , who expressed outrage towards the journalists who arranged the meeting and threatened legal action against the press .

Ming Pao opined that the use of profanity by the " Bus Uncle " and threatening behaviour theoretically contravened the general code of conduct of bus passengers , and that he had violated two public order laws ? Section 46 (1) (a) , (n) (ii) and 57 (1) of the Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) Regulations , and Section 17B (2) of the Public Order Ordinance ? which potentially carried financial penalties and imprisonment .

Next Magazine journalists interviewed Chan at his home in Yuen Long , and his interview became the magazine 's cover story on 1 June 2006 . On 7 June 2006 , Chan , who had been hired as a Public Relations officer in the Steak Expert restaurant chain , was physically assaulted while on duty in front of witnesses by three unidentified masked men who then fled the scene . He sustained severe injuries to his eyes and face and was admitted to the emergency department for treatment . The restaurant owner , Mr. Lee , then faced pressure from his wife and daughter to fire Chan due to magazine allegations of Chan 's exploits in a Shenzhen karaoke hostess bar . Chan resigned after the owner 's wife attempted to overdose on drugs , ostensibly in an effort to force the issue .

= = Social impact = =

= = = Effects on popular culture = = =

Some of Chan 's phrases are now frequently used , mimicked , and parodied in Hong Kong , particularly by teenagers . ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? (You have pressure , I have pressure) , ? ? ? ? ? ? (It 's not settled !) have become catchphrases on Internet forums , posters , and radio programmes . Various music videos have been created using the catchphrases , including pop , karaoke , rap , dance and disco remixes . There have also been parodies of an apology , " re @-@ enactments " of the incident with video game characters , composite pictures , movie posters , and versions involving Darth Vader and Adagio for Strings . Merchandise such as cartoon T @-@ shirts and mobile phone ringtones have also been produced and sold on the Internet .

In June 2006 , TVB television made a parody of the Bus Uncle video in promoting its coverage of the 2006 FIFA World Cup , featuring its sports commentator Lam Sheung Yee (???) , whose voice resembles Chan 's , on a bus playing the role of the Bus Uncle . In the advertisement , a passenger sitting behind Lam Sheung Yee (played by Lam Man Chung) questions whether Lam Sheung Yee feels pressured for his responsibilities in the upcoming World Cup , which would be his last TV appearance before retirement . Turning around , Lam replies that there is no pressure and emphasises the issue (i.e. the viewers ' demand for World Cup coverage) has been resolved . The passenger then offers to shake hands with Lam Sheung Yee , calling for a truce .

In addition , sitcoms of ATV and TVB imitated the video in argument scenes . In episode 67 of the

TVB sitcom Welcome to the House (肥田) , the young bespectacled main character tried to stop a man from talking too loudly on the mobile phone in the cinema . As a result , he was harshly rebuked by the man . Once his family knew about the incident from a video uploaded on the Internet , they taught the character to be more assertive and not to allow himself to be bullied . In the end , he was able to stand up to the same man when they met again in the cinema and remove him from the premises .

== Stress in Hong Kong ==

Although many found the video humorous and entertaining , others warned that it hinted at a more alarming and sinister prognosis of life in stress @-@ filled Hong Kong , particularly inside buses , nicknamed " flying cars of death " and other overcrowded areas . Lee Sing , director of the Hong Kong Mood Disorders Centre at the Chinese University of Hong Kong , warned that Hong Kong 's high @-@ stress working environments are spawning a city @-@ full of " Bus Uncles " . Lee estimated that one of every 50 Hongkongers suffers from intermittent explosive disorder , turning one into a " ticking time bomb " of rage and violence .

Journalism professor and Internet expert Anthony Fung Ying @-@ him also attributed the popularity of the low @-@ resolution video of a " trivial event " to the emotional climate of the city . While other viral videos are favoured by specific demographics , this one spread widely due to its universal expression of " the true feelings of ordinary people . "

On the other hand , Ho Kwok Leung , an applied social science lecturer at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University , held that attention surrounding the video reflected the boring lives of Hong Kong people . With few interesting topics to discuss , they savour the pleasure of spreading information to a vast audience and the creation of Internet memes . Furthermore , the banning of the use of some video catchphrases in certain schools made the incident more appealing . This lifestyle , according to Leung , is fertile ground for the cultivation of a " video clip culture " .

== Civic awareness concerns ==

Ah Nong (阿農 , J : aa3 nung4 , P : ? Nóng) , a popular literary figure and artist in Hong Kong , believed that the incident highlighted the apathy of the common Hong Kong people . He emphasised that during the heated exchange between Chan and Ho , not a single bystander came to Ho 's aid . He recalled an incident a few years back where he confronted a man smoking on the lower deck of a bus and was scolded for the rest of the journey . He said it was useless to complain to the bus driver who would not bother to waste his time , let alone the other passengers . Ah Nong argued that in such a society , a person can be accused of wrongdoing despite good intentions .

There was support for Ho 's desire for a lower volume as well as sympathy for the stress felt by the " Bus Uncle . " Others maintained that Chan 's actions were atypical of etiquette in Hong Kong . Apple Tse Ho Yi , minister of the Hong Kong Christian Service , carried out a survey of 506 students over the age of 12 following the incident . Of the respondents who claim they regularly encountered people speaking loudly on the phone on buses , only 47 % said they would intervene by talking to the phone user or alerting the driver . Reasons for inaction include fear , apathy and inability to solve the problem . On civic awareness , the majority of the respondents did not consider chatting loudly on the phone to be wrong . Tse concluded that the current generation of Hong Kong young people have poor civic awareness , and it is natural that disputes often occur due to inconsideration . Speaking about the incident on Commercial Radio , Journalist Chip Tsao described Chan 's behaviour as " noise raping " and said that the incident was a manifestation of underlying social tension as well as the mindset of a " common Hongkonger " . He criticised Ho as being a stereotype of present @-@ day Hong Kong youth ? speechless and too weak .

Chan 's placement as runner @-@ up " Person of the Year " announced by Radio Television Hong Kong was seen by Michael DeGolyer of the Hong Kong Standard that it might have struck a chord with the general population . Ng Fung Sheung , a social science lecturer of the City University of Hong Kong , explained that Hong Kong people tend to chat loudly in public places . She attributed

this phenomenon to the television screens found in many vehicles and trains , which broadcast programmes at high volumes . She suggested that the government should provide better civic education for the public to make them more considerate of others . When it comes to schools which banned the usage of catch phrases like " I 'm stressed ! " Ng stated that teachers must be able to distinguish whether the students really face pressure or are simply following the trend , and provide guidance if necessary .

= = = Criticism of media ethics = = =

Some denied that any social insight could be gleaned from the video clip , arguing that the frenzy was artificially created by sensationalist newspapers in order to boost circulation and profits . Clement So York @-@ kee , Director of the School of Journalism at the Chinese University of Hong Kong , warned that methods to uncover the incident between Chan and Ho " did not seem to ... [involve the] traditional practice of news reporting . " For example , several media outlets offered rewards on unmasking Bus Uncle 's identity . In late May 2006 , a group of journalists and photographers initiated and followed Chan 's second meeting with Ho . After Ho 's refusal , they brought Bus Uncle to a dinner and karaoke session . Although the session was widely reported , many believed it was artificially created news and unworthy of front @-@ page attention .

Ta Kung Pao stated that the Bus Uncle incident tested the professionalism of the Hong Kong mass media , its editorial noting that Chan sought remuneration for interviews and made many extraordinary claims about himself which were published without verification . The editorial concluded by advising journalists not to fabricate news , but instead to emphasise the verifiability of stories and consider carefully whether an incident is newsworthy .

Others held that the frenzy was not the product of a media conspiracy , but rather a reflection of the public 's curiosity and Hong Kong 's competitive consumer @-@ driven media market . The situation also allowed camera phone marketers to highlight the potential comedic value and draw attention away from privacy concerns .

In the aftermath , other such videos appeared including a woman at Hong Kong 's airport who was driven into a hysterical panic after missing her flight . That video was viewed 750 @,@ 000 times in five days .