



The Standard

China's Business Newspaper

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 branch executives


Wednesday, November 16, 2005

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In dead men's shoes Everybody everywhere is pretty much used to seeing stolen goods sold in secondhand markets. It's hardly rare, for instance, that secondhand mobile handsets might either be stolen or picked up from where some forgetful person left it. But for some shoes and clothes on sale from street vendors in Guangzhou, the previous owner probably didn't forget. He or she may have been dead. Given the Chinese tradition of dressing the deceased in new clothes and shoes for cremation growing, rising incomes in China mean the bereaved tend more and more to buy name-brand items. The new name-brand items don't seem to be going up the crematoria chimneys with the deceased. They are turning up on the street, apparently sold by workers seeking a little extra cash in Guangzhou's death industry.

Degree of audacity We know you're probably getting tired of Chris Patten items, but you have to admire the cheek of a Lamma "journalist and quasi civil servant" named Jay Scott Kanes, who took copies of his own books, High Degree Of Atrocity and Dog-Gone Cat Case, to one of Patten's book signings in Central, where he sought to present the former governor with his very own books. Then he sent us a press release: "Watching Mr Patten's promotional activities proved very instructive," Kanes wrote. Kanes' own book, he added, "is equally realistic and even more stridently pro-democracy" than Patten's. Dog-Gone Cat Case, he says "provides a special treat to pet- owners and animal lovers. Based on high jinks in and near Yung Shue Wan village on Lamma Island." There is no word in the press release if Patten promised to read them.

Bean there, done that Congratulations to Dr Eden Woon, the long-serving chief executive officer of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, who is giving up after having been there for nearly nine years. Woon is leaving the chamber to become vice president for Greater China for Starbucks Coffee in Shanghai. His operational area will expand from just the SAR to covering the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan. His responsibilities will change as well. We wouldn't say the chamber is dull, but just go to its Web site and pick out four or five roundtable speeches. Woon thus leaves a job where he was helping to lull everybody to sleep to one where presumably he'll have to work to wake everybody up.

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