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Castle-like mansion in Southlake, Texas going to auction



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## FAA meets with U.S. airlines, pilot unions on Boeing 737 MAX

WASHINGTON/CHICAGO (Reuters) - The Federal Aviation Administration met for three hours on Friday with representatives from the three major U.S. airlines that own now grounded Boeing 737 MAX jets and their pilots' unions to discuss two fatal crashes and the path forward. More than 300 Boeing 737 MAXs have been grounded worldwide after a total of 346 people died in a Lion Air crash in Indonesia in October and in an Ethiopian Airlines crash outside Addis Ababa last month. American Airlines Group Inc, United Airlines and Southwest Airlines Co officials attended the meeting, where FAA Acting Administrator Dan Elwell said he wanted to know operators' and pilots' thoughts before the agency decides to return the 737 MAX to service. Elwell said the meeting participants' "operational perspective is critical input as the agency welcomes scrutiny on how it can do better." American said in a statement it was "confident in the direction the FAA is heading" and would continue to work collaboratively in this process.

Pilots from American and Southwest, the two largest U.S. MAX operators, said they welcomed the meeting but noted that many issues still needed to be discussed and debated before the MAX flies again.

"We have to unground the confidence in this airplane," Dennis Tajer, spokesman for the Allied Pilots Association which represents American's pilots, told reporters outside FAA headquarters. "We take off our watches and put the calendars in the drawer," he added, suggesting that rebuilding confidence in the aircraft could take some time.

American and United have removed the 737 MAX from their schedules through early June, while Southwest on Thursday extended the removal of its 34 MAX jets through Aug. 5, leading to around 160 daily flight cancellations during the revised summer schedule.



FILE PHOTO: An aerial photo shows Boeing 737 MAX airplanes parked on the tarmac at the Boeing Factory in Renton, Washington, U.S. March 21, 2019. REUTERS/Lindsey Wasson/File Photo

## Facebook spends \$22.6 million to keep Mark Zuckerberg safe

(Reuters) - Facebook Inc more than doubled the money it spent on Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg's security in 2018 to \$22.6 million, a regulatory filing showed on Friday. Zuckerberg has drawn a base salary of \$1 for the past three years, and his "other" compensation was listed at \$22.6 million, most of which was for his personal security. Nearly \$20 million went toward security for Zuckerberg and his family, up from about \$9 million the year prior. Zuckerberg also received \$2.6 million for personal use of private jets, which the company said was part of his overall security program. Facebook has in the past few years faced public outcry over its role in Russia's alleged influence on the 2016 U.S. presidential election and has come under fire following revelations that Cambridge Analytica obtained personal data from millions of Facebook profiles without consent. Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg took home \$23.7 million in 2018 compared to \$25.2 million last year.

Separately, Facebook said Netflix Chief Executive Officer Reed Hastings would vacate his seat on the social media company's board and not be nominated for re-election.



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## Fort Bend ISD Board of Trustee Elections

Fort Bend Independent School District, the seventh largest independent school district in Texas, will be voting for open Trustee Positions 3, 5 & 7 on May 4th, 2019. Early voting is April 22nd to 30th.

Citizen oversight of local government is the cornerstone of democracy in the United States. School board members are locally elected officials entrusted with governing a community's public schools and its budget. FBISD's Board of Trustees, comprised of seven local citizens, provides an important public service to the Fort Bend community and serves without compensation. The Board members work together as a governance team with the district's superintendent to represent the values, beliefs and priorities of all residents of the district, and are voted in by all residents of the district. The Board provides policies and oversight, as well as full control of budget spending and rezoning decisions. Trustees are elected to serve for three-year terms on a rotating basis.

Unlike past FBISD elections where incumbents were running unopposed, this year the ballot is unusually crowded with sixteen candidates in the race. Let's look at some of the candidates:

### Sam Popuri, a candidate for Position #3



To minimize much of recent residents' outrage, Sam believes the focus needs to be on Stability, Transparency and Equity. A stable FBISD fosters safe, predictable and inspiring environment for students and teachers, eliminates violence, reduces dropouts, and shape productive citizens of tomorrow. Data transparency is essential for FBISD's administration to make educated and accurate decisions. Equity is providing students with optimal conditions and facilities for nurturing intellectual curiosity, while being sensitive of their background and learning needs. Over the last decade, Sam has been passionately volunteering to coach kids in STEAM challenges, Destination Imagination (DI), sports, physical fitness routines, and multi-culture events. He holds both B.S. & M.S. in Computer Science. Sam is a trained Lean

Six Sigma Black Belt and is an expert in process improvement and revenue leak optimization in large organizations, which he aspires to bring his skillset to FBISD processes and fund management aiming to reduce waste and improve efficiency and effectiveness. Students are his most important customers if elected as a FBISD Board of Trustee.

### Monica Riley, a candidate for Position #7



Monica believes in a school district that values children's education and respects tax payers' dollars. Monica always insisted a hands-on approach as a parent activist in her seven children's education and daily well being. Over 20 years, she has served her community as an education activist and student advocate, which earned her the recognition as "Mountain Moving Monica". She has also served on various steering committees for FBISD. She targets to resolve unaddressed disparities and achievement gaps, lack of effective community engagement and poorly handled school rebalancing in FBISD. These longstanding issues must be addressed by evidence-based solutions and consistent evaluations, while valuing community input every step of the way!

### Jason Dobrolecki, a candidate for Position #5



Jason advocates programs to foster a safe and secure learning environment for students, physically and emotionally, in order to produce well-balanced contributors to society. No more band-aid solutions when it comes to growth plans for the district. He calls to formulate a long-term outlook and ensure all rezoning and feeder pattern adjustments are done toward that long term goal to minimize community impact. If elected, Jason targets to build an ongoing community feedback loop for district initiatives. His goal is to return humanity, compassion and trust back to the relationship between the board and the parents. Jason holds a B.S. in Business Administration and an MBA.

We encourage our readers to do more research on all the candidates. MOST IMPORTANTLY, come out and VOTE in this election to make sure we as a Chinese community have a strong voice in the local election outcome!

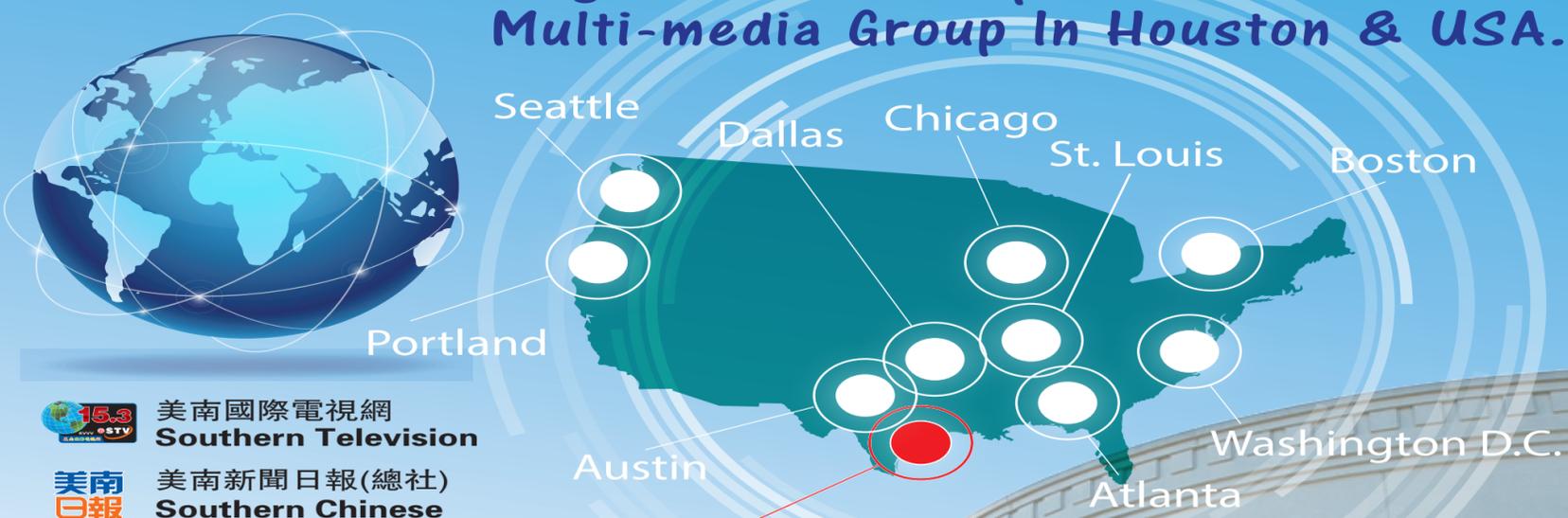
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April 22 - 30, 2019: Early Voting Location  
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May 4, 2019 7am to 7pm: Election Day Location  
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# Editor's Choice



FILE PHOTO: Virgin Galactic rocket plane, the WhiteKnightTwo carrier airplane, with SpaceShipTwo passenger craft takes off from Mojave Air and Space Port



FILE PHOTO: Seven members of the Mercury 13 gather outside Launch Pad 39B near the Space Shuttle Discovery at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral



Wally Funk, a Virgin Galactic ticketholder and one of the First Lady Astronaut Trainees or 'Mercury 13' women, is pictured holding a photo of herself at the International Women's Air and Space Museum in Cleveland



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, carrying the Arabsat 6A communications satellite, lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center



Spectators watch from Jetty Park as booster rocket engines approach landing pads after a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center



Police forensics officers work at the site where police fired shots after a vehicle rammed the parked car of Ukraine's ambassador, outside the Ukrainian embassy in London



ISU World Synchronized Skating Championships 2019 - Free Skating - Helsinki, Finland - April 13, 2019. Team Paradise from Russia reacts after winning. Lehtikuva/Roni Rekomaa via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS -



Migrants who were stranded on the German NGO Sea-Eye migrant rescue ship Alan Kurdi disembark from an Armed Forces of Malta patrol boat at its base in Marsamxett Harbour, Valletta

Looking for a pet? Dozens of neglected and abandoned animals being cared for at the Houston Humane Society need a home.

About 6.5 million animals end up in shelters across the U.S. each year, including 3.3 million dogs and 3.2 million cats, according to the ASPCA.

The Houston Humane Society offers adoption tips and its one-page application on its website. Fees are \$125 for dogs 25 pounds and less, \$125 for dogs six months and younger, \$95 for dogs seven months or 26 pounds or more and \$50 for cats.



The shelter is located at 14700 Almeda Road in Houston. Adoption hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The spay and neuter clinic is open Monday through Saturday by appointment only.

Related

Help Us Clear the Shelters 2018



KPRC TV2 once again joined NBC Universal's Clear the Shelters initiative and teamed up with Telemundo Hous-

Looking For A Pet? Here Are The Houston Humane Society Animals That Need Homes Now

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

HOUSTON HUMANE SOCIETY

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ton and animal shelters in the Houston area to host the third annual Clear the Shelters nationwide pet adoption drive on Saturday, Aug. 18.

that local animal shelters typically experience in the summer months because of spring litters.

Last year, more than 80,000 pets were adopted as a result of the Clear the Shelters nationwide campaign. Nearly 3,000 of those pet adoptions took place in the Houston area. Since 2015, Clear the Shelters has resulted in more than 150,000 pet adoptions nationwide.

Participating animal shelters in the Houston area offer no-cost or reduced fee adoptions or waived pet spaying and neutering fees.

Rescue groups will host adoptions at the Children's Museum of Houston as indicated in the listings below. Crime Stoppers of Houston, SNAP and Houston PetSet will be sharing information about animal care and animal cruelty prevention at the Children's Museum of

Houston event as well. Event hours at the Children's Museum of Houston on August 18 are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Participating shelters include (shelter hours may vary, please contact shelter for hours of operation):

HOUSTON:

\*\*\*A Chance to Bloom | Event at Chil-

dren's Museum of Houston

BARC Animal Shelter | 3300 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026 | (832) 395-9009

Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP) | 17555 Katy Fwy Houston, TX 77094 | (281) 497-0053

\*\*\*Diamond in the Fluff Rescue | Event at Children's Museum of Houston

\*\*\*DREAM | Event at Children's Museum of Houston

\*\*\*GOOD LIFE3 Bully Rescue | Event at Children's Museum of Houston

Harris County Animal Shelter | 612 Canino Rd, Houston, TX 77076 | (832) 927-1133

(Courtesy Click2Houston)

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# Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Other Top Officials, Propose Raising The Sales Tax To Provide Property Tax Relief

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dennis Bonen speak at a joint press conference held at the Governor's Mansion on Jan. 9, 2019. (Photo/TheTexas Tribune)

## OVERVIEW

The state's "Big Three" unveiled the proposal in a joint statement. The idea would need approval from two thirds of the House and Senate and a majority of Texas voters.

Aiming to resolve this legislative session's most pressing issue, top state officials have agreed on a plan to deliver tax relief to millions of Texas property owners by increasing the sales tax by 1 cent and using the additional revenue to buy down property tax rates.

In a news release on Wednesday, Gov. Greg Abbott, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, R-Lake Jackson, and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who leads the Senate, said they are backing legislation that would increase the sales tax. The state sales tax is 6.25 percent, but in many locales, the overall rate is 8.25 percent.

"If the one-cent increase in the sales tax passes, it will result in billions of dollars in revenue to help drive down property taxes in the short and long term," the news release said.

The trio did not specify which legislation would accomplish the plan. Rep. Dan Huberty, R-Houston, and the House's Public Education Committee chairman, has filed House Joint Resolution 3 that would in-

crease the sales tax to decrease the property tax rate that school districts levy. School property taxes make up the largest part of property tax bills. The legislation would require Texas voters to approve the measure for it to go into effect.



The proposal would raise the state's sales tax from 6.25% to 7.25%, generating billions of additional dollars annually for property tax relief, if voters approve a constitutional amendment. But the idea will be a hard sell to Democrats, since the sales tax is considered regressive, meaning lower-income Texans end up paying a larger percentage of their paychecks than higher-

come Texans.

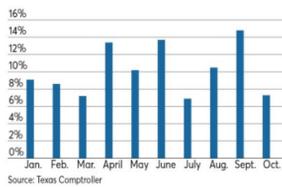
"Today we are introducing a sales tax proposal to buy down property tax rates for all Texas homeowners and businesses, once Senate Bill 2 or House Bill 2 is agreed to and passed by both Chambers. If the one-cent increase in the sales tax passes, it will result in billions of dollars in revenue to help drive down property taxes in the short and long term," said a joint statement from the three leaders.

Neither chamber has passed HB 2 or SB 2, which would require voter approval of property tax increases over 2.5%.

Huberty's measure was supposed to be considered in a House committee hearing on Tuesday but was abruptly pulled without explanation.

The House Ways and Means Committee was scheduled to take public testimony on the House's sales tax swap proposal this week but delayed hearing the bills. Rep. Dan Huberty, R-Houston, who authored House Joint Resolution 3 and House Bill 4621, is considering changing the legislation to use a fraction of the additional money generated by the sales tax for public schools — in order to get more Democrats on board.

Record tax run for Texas  
Year-over-year increase in 2018 sales tax collections



The bills are intended to provide another revenue source to help significantly cut down local school property taxes, which make up more than half of the local property taxes levied in Texas.

If the Legislature approves the resolution, the constitutional amendment would go to voters to approve in November, and if voters sign on the tax rate change would apply in January 2020.

Abbott, Patrick and Bonnen said they continue to support House Bill 2 and Senate Bill 2, which would require taxing units to obtain voter approval to collect more than 2.5 percent in property tax revenue from the

year before.

Some policy analysts aligned with Democrats do not support the idea of "swapping" sales taxes with property taxes. Ann Beeson with the Center for Public Policy Priorities said that increasing the sales tax affects low-income Texans more than their wealthier peers because they spend most of their income for providing for their families. She also said the sales tax is not a reliable source of revenue because it can fluctuate depending on consumer spending.

"Wealthier families can afford to set aside savings or spend money on non-taxable services like lawyers or accountants. As a result, lower-income Texas families pay 7.4 percent of their income directly or indirectly in state sales taxes, while wealthier income families pay only 1.6 percent," Beeson said in a statement.



Texas Capitol Building in Austin.

According to the Texas comptroller's office, sales tax revenue has declined five times over the last 20 years. The office also notes that sales tax is more volatile than property taxes — between 1997 and 2017, the annual change in property values ranged from -1.7% to 11.7%, while that of sales taxes varied more broadly, from -6.6% to 12.5%. Sales tax has made up on average 60.5 percent of all state tax collections.

"While property taxes are remarkably reliable as a funding source, the sales tax that supplies well over half of all state tax revenue is vulnerable to the effects of economic downturns," according to a January report by the comptroller's office.

Texas Democrats said property tax relief could be better accomplished by raising the homestead exemption from the current

\$25,000, invest more in public education, and close tax loopholes that allow wealthier individuals to pay less in taxes.

"Let's get this straight, Republicans want to raise taxes on families who are struggling to afford their groceries and clothes for their growing children. All in the name of tax cuts for the rich," said Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa in a news release.

Conservatives groups and lawmakers have questioned whether HB 2 and SB 2 and HB 3, which would overhaul the school finance system and drop almost all school property tax rates by at least 4 cents per \$100 valuation, would deliver enough relief. They celebrated Wednesday's announcement.



"This proposal, along with limiting spending at the state and local levels, will give Texans the relief they need. The penny increase in the sales tax rate is an effective trade-off to provide funding for critical priorities like public safety and education," Vance Ginn with the Texas Public Policy Foundation said in a news release.

Raising sales taxes for public education appears deeply unpopular among voters, with 74% of Texans in a recent University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll reporting that the state Legislature should not consider increasing sales taxes to boost public education money. In fact, increasing the sales tax was slightly more unpopular than creating a state income tax, which 71% gave a thumbs down in the poll. (Courtesy <https://www.statesman.com> and [texastribune.org](http://texastribune.org).)

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容祖兒(右)偕同師妹曾樂彤出席首屆《微博星耀盛典》活動。



# 祖兒理財 靠媽媽“守龍門”

獲頒年度影響力歌手獎項的祖兒，自嘲不覺有影響力，只希望能影響到別人開心就好，也因為她是藝人身份，會更注意言行舉止，為喜歡她的粉絲樹立一個好榜樣。問到祖兒有沒有粉絲向她請教感情問題，她笑道：“感情我就沒有影響力，我是反面教材，應該去問阿Sa(蔡卓妍)。如果教做人道理，小朋友是不喜歡聽道理，他們想聽時就會自己去觀察。”

## 軒仔被粉絲整蠱祖兒不同情

祖兒稱有鼓勵患病的粉絲去打倒病魔，也許下諾言如粉絲讀書成績考第一，就請他們看演唱會，說：“考第一不是話咁易，如果有好反應就再加場，雖然倦但會盡力做。”提到好友阿Sa當老闆做生意，祖兒自知不是做生意的材料，並說：“之前張敬軒想找我一齊搞錄音室，但我不敢，因為錢在媽咪手，都不

## Bosco預告跟卓義合唱?

早前拍劇受腳傷的黃宗澤(Bosco)11日晚終於不用拐杖行路，獲頒“人氣電視劇男主角”獎的他自嘲年紀大復原慢，雖然可行路但未習慣穿皮鞋，也盡量不就往傷處去行路，讓腳部感受回正常的壓力。提到好友吳卓義今年將重返樂壇，一直被網友推舉都要返樂壇的Bosco，笑稱要先

香港文匯報訊(記者 吳文釗)容祖兒、余詩曼、黃宗澤、胡定欣、馬德鐘等人11日晚出席首屆《微博星耀盛典》活動。阿余透露之前與TVB曾就拍《使徒行者3》有接觸過，但她因撞期有工作在身未能參與，稍後要到內蒙古拍新劇約5個月。而祖兒被問到好友蔡卓妍當老闆做生意，祖兒坦言不是做生意的材料，更表示錢在媽咪手，錢財上由媽媽“守龍門”。



余詩曼將赴內蒙古拍新劇，日前拍馬場面。

## 阿余撞期 無緣拍《使徒行者3》

余詩曼受《延禧攻略》帶挈下，微博粉絲人數已突破1,700萬，增幅將近有三分之一，她說：“突然多了500萬，真的沒想過，自己分享一直都想給大家有正面的影響，不會刻意上載多些相片，主要看心情和時間。”問到粉絲人數破2,000萬時會否派福利，或是像惠英紅分享三點式相片時，阿余說：“三點式要想一下，紅姐身材正。”至於阿余會否回巢TVB拍《使徒行者3》，她坦言雙方有接觸過，但她因撞期有工作在身未能參與，稍後要到內蒙古拍新劇，預計要逗留5個月，還是拍攝騎馬場面，她說：“雖然我識騎馬，但自己不是運動型，又擔心會弄傷腰部舊患，雖然會有替身做準備，但都盡量想自己做。”

看卓義的反應，說：“我睇佢頭，或者等合唱，我們月中就要開工拍劇，搞得來都要年尾。”笑指樂壇欠Bosco一個交代時，他說：“交代？膠袋就有，我好喜歡古天樂講過的說話，我好鍾意唱歌，但我唔識唱歌，現在是我的座右銘會好好袋住。”

另外，獲頒“亞洲之星”的韓國男團2PM成員Nichkhun和“Hot Star”獎的GOT7成員Mark也有來港領獎，Nichkhun表示今次赴港時間緊密，未有機會四出觀光。提到他有份演的泰片《把哥哥退貨可以嗎》成績不俗，Nichkhun感到很高興，希望之後在唱歌和演戲方面有更多新嘗試。已多次到港的Mark最愛地道美食，最記得粉絲對他的熱情，現在會把握時間多寫新歌，希望在短時間內有新作品推出。



問可會重返樂壇，Bosco(右)笑稱要先看吳卓義(左)的反應。



GFRIEND 8月襲港。

## 時隔一年 GFRIEND再赴港開騷

香港文匯報訊 韓國人氣女團GFRIEND將於8月3日假亞博館舉行<2019 GFRIEND ASIA TOUR [GO GO GFRIEND] in HONG KONG>，是她們相隔一年再度赴港開騷。票價最高為港幣1,588(VIP)，購買VIP門票的觀眾將可出席擊掌會或參觀採排，本月24日公開發售。

GFRIEND於去年1月6、7日在韓國首爾舉行了出道後首個演唱會，兩場共6,000張門票在開售後3分鐘內售罄。同年9月8、9日，她們在首爾再開安哥演唱會，也是兩場共8,000張門票在開售後2分鐘內火速售罄，足證她們的超強人氣。今年，GFRIEND將舉行亞洲巡演，於5月18、19日在首爾舉行揭開巡唱序幕，並將會到訪馬來西亞、新加坡等8個地方，香港也是今次巡演的其中一站！

## 讚挪威靚仔多 陸詩韻想重遊

香港文匯報訊(記者 莎莉)陸詩韻(Sharon)、黃建東、路芙、姚亦禮等人12日現身撐好友星雨(Anson Tong)《極光舞曲》(The Songs of Aurora)的發佈會。Sharon對於透過探索北極光來為自己作曲的Anson有讚有彈，指對方是一位才子，是值得欣賞的人，因他除了是北極光專家外，又識寫歌、作詩等，最重要是大家都做美容的。

其實，Sharon去過挪威兩次，都沒有去睇過北極光，對北極光是零認識，但自認識對方後了解深了，原來北極光是有多東西可以探討，例如天文

地理等，真是一種學問，故認為這位才子是天下難得搵到的好男人，可惜對方已被人Mark了。

問到那會否再去挪威旅行一次？Sharon表示好想去，但當地使費真的好貴，由機場搭的士去市區大概要港幣二千元，之後回港，搜集資料，原來挪威監獄是全世界最豪華的，因裡面有按摩等的設施，對坐監的人來說是一種享受，犯人還可以在裡面打工賺錢，收入都幾可觀的。她又指在挪威時，在街上看到好多行乞的人，靚仔都有。笑她不如在挪威認識個男人？Sharon表示可以考慮一下。



陸詩韻(左)讚星雨是才子。

## 居家Look間中超性感 苟姑娘堅稱唔心急造人

香港文匯報訊(記者 梁靜儀)國際名模Cindy Crawford(仙蒂歌羅馥)11日晚出席代言女裝腕錶慶祝活動，當晚出席的還有苟芸慧及陳滢等。

仙蒂歌羅馥表示曾多次赴港旅遊和工作，對上一次是四年前與子女一齊來，每次赴港都覺得不斷有轉變，有很多高樓大廈、購物商場等，但人及食物依然不變。擔任品牌代言已廿多年的仙蒂，表

示與品牌就如大家庭，最難得是子女亦是品牌的代言人。談到與家人相聚的時刻，她笑說：“我屋企人好忙碌，個女現於法國，困困就在紐約，我又唔啱去完葡萄牙，大家經常去唔同地方，子女已經長大，有時一定要定下優先次序，將屋企放首位，我會做個好榜樣，因為子女會留意住。”

剛從馬來西亞回港的苟芸慧(苟姑娘)，穿上紅色長裙出席，相比起在馬國出席活動時的性感打扮就較為保守。她說：“條裙係老公幫我揀嘅，但唔介意我性感，覺得係健康嘅性感(唔怕你畀人睇?)唔會，佢反而開心，代表有眼光。(平時係屋企都會着得好性感?)睇心情，都會，老公都會幫我揀衫，又會買手錶同飾物畀我，我哋有情侶錶，佢會喺隻錶度刻字，好浪漫。(會着情侶裝?)我都想着，但老公唔畀畀香港着，出埠就會着。(老公揀任何衫都會着?)佢鍾意偏向女人味、喱士款式，但都要視乎場合，(揀性



右起：苟芸慧、仙蒂歌羅馥和陳滢11日晚同場。

感睡衣添情趣?)佢都見慣我平時嘅樣，(咁會容易衝動造人?)佢都鍾意小朋友，但唔心急，佢好安全。”

陳滢透露因工作關係很少戴名錶，加上腕錶太貴不捨得買，但就會買來作禮物送給爸爸：“最貴買過一隻價值六位數嘅錶送畀爸爸，我爸爸佢好靚仔、好勤勞、好努力做嘢養我哋，買貴錶畀佢都應該。(媽咪有冇咁靚?)媽咪就送首飾，最錫嘅外婆就送物業。(幾時到你嚟香港買樓?)等我嚟食三粒星身份證先，現在仲未係香港永久居民，應該下年可以嚟到。”

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