

DIARY: 2002

JANUARY

1 Tuesday

Air pollution levels very high; 152 in Causeway Bay. Hotel has a brunch and lucky dip in the lobby for guests; Leonie and I attend.

2 - 5 Wednesday - Saturday

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6 Sunday

Nadine leaves today. Went to the airport - with her suitcase. Got the hotel bus back before her flight actually left.

7 Monday

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8 Tuesday

Went for a swim; did 17 laps. Didn't seem as cold as last week. [In those time, the pool was open the whole year except for several weeks for maintenance.]

9 Wednesday

To lunch at the Sheraton Hotel with Hei Kan and the Chemistry book editor from Macmillan's. Didn't get back till 6:15 pm so didn't go to the gym. Sore throat developing. A Marines KC-30 tanker crashes into a mountain in Pakistan.

10 Thursday

Gavin back in the morning to collect his gear. Went to the 902 bus stop with him to say goodbye. Leonie here at 6:16 pm; went to the gym together. Gavin's flight took off at about 11:30 pm. Court of Final Appeal rules that most of the 5000 right-of-abode seekers must return to the mainland.

11 Friday

Feeling miserable with a cold, runny nose and sneezing. No exercise today.

12 Saturday

Still went for a run even though feeling a bit miserable. Turned out very good; only 3 minutes off the best time.

13 - 18 Sunday - Friday

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19 Saturday

Cooler. Run up to Ma On Shan and back. Quite good. Rested on return. In the evening, went to Maxim's restaurant in Kwai Fong for the 35th anniversary of Ming Yin College. Got back at about 12:30 am.

20 Sunday

Didn't get up till about noon! Cooler. In Wong Tai Sin, a father kills two of his three children then hangs himself.

21 Monday

Cool but fine. Had to buy soap powder - the first time since leaving CUHK!

22 - 27 Tuesday - Sunday

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28 Monday

Cold again. A HK business man sent to jail in China for two years for importing Bibles. In the NT, 3000 kg of fireworks confiscated.

29 Tuesday

Another Chinook down in Afghanistan; injuries but no deaths. Right-of-abode protest march on the third anniversary of the CFA ruling allowing them to stay. KCRC pays \$100 [?] million to Siemens to finish the contract on time! Today about 15^oC. Pool water about 15^oC. Went for a swim; actually did 1 km. Water cold on the face at first but especially on the back of the neck; therefore I did fewer backstroke lengths and more breaststroke.

30 Wednesday

Shootout in TST between the police and a gang who had kidnapped an elderly man in Yau Yat Chuen. Traffic chaos for hours. Some of the gang arrested later. Bush's "State of the Union" address.

31 Thursday

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FEBRUARY

1 Friday

Posted in tax.

2 Saturday

Very good run. Started off cool but the sun came out. Accidentally left behind (Nadine's) hat on the bus coming back from Tai Mei Tuk to Tai Po. Annoying! Bird flu breaks out again. Originated on a Yuen Long farm; 100 000 birds had to be culled. Jury finds right-of-abode attackers at the Immigration department guilty.

3 - 4 Sunday - Monday

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5 Tuesday

No swim; pool closed for a month. Bird flu detected on other Yuen Long farms. The generator on a police catamaran explodes injuring several.

6 - 8 Wednesday - Friday

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9 Saturday

Princess Margaret dies after a second stroke, aged 71. Winter Olympics open in Salt Lake City (Friday US time). Oil leak from a ship threatens Gisborne. Chickens on sale again, though there are still cases of dead birds being found. Outbreaks seem mainly in Kam Tin, Sheung Shui areas. Good run today in spite of feeling rather tired. The HK “Bible smuggler” allowed to return to HK on medical grounds (hepatitis B) to serve out his two-year sentence.

10 - 13 Sunday - Wednesday

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14 Thursday

Third day of Chinese New Year - “argument” day - and HK civil servants stage a protest march. Another bus accident in China involving HK tourists, the third in as many days; six killed (?today or total).

15 Friday

There were seven fatalities in the latest bus crash in China. Westerners expelled from China for protesting in Tiananmen square about the Falung Gung.

16 Saturday

Good run; faster than last year. A little cramp in the last 15 minutes or so but still a good time. Had to have a 'dai bin' just after the start of the run!

17 Sunday

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18 Monday

George Speight [instigator of a coup in Fiji coup in 2000] convicted to death for treason; this was then commuted to life imprisonment later in the day. Telephone call from Gavin about 5:45 pm. A \$9 million jewellery robbery at Pacific Place.

19 Tuesday

CH Tung gets 700+ of the 800 votes so will be re-elected unopposed as the next CE.

20 Wednesday

Consideration is being given to re-introducing the cross-harbour swim [didn't eventuate until 2011!].

21 Thursday

Car bomb explosion in Macau. Bush arrives in China. Unemployment in HK at 7% now. A warning that HK's [financial] reserves may be expended in about seven years.

22 Friday

Daniel Pearl (Stanford '85) murdered in Pakistan.

23 Saturday

More relaxes run - Tai Po to Shing Mun. About 2 ½ hours. Couldn't time the run; watch battery being replaced. Got the watch back on Sunday.

24 Sunday

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25 Monday

Call from Gavin at about 8:15 am.

26 Tuesday

Spike Milligan, the last of the three goons, dies, aged 83.

27 Wednesday

No gym today. Decided to take a week off because of exhaustion.

28 Thursday

CE re-elected unopposed for another term as the date for nominations passes. In NZ, Greenlane Hospital admits to taking hearts from babies without permission.

MARCH

1 - 4 Friday - Monday

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5 Tuesday

Second phone call from Gavin this week. Back to the gym after a week off.

6 Wednesday

Anthony Leung presents his first budget. Civil servants may be a 4.75% cut in salaries.

7 - 8 Thursday - Friday

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9 Saturday

Very good run in spite of a lousy sleep last night; about 15% faster than last year!

10 Sunday

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11 Monday

Fireworks explode on a long-distance passenger coach in Chins, destroying the bus and killing many.

12 Tuesday

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13 Wednesday

In HK, people may have to pay for out-patient / medicine services. Also in HK, about 70% of diseases are resistant to antibiotics. Collision between a container vessel and a dredge; most workers on the dredge drowned. Doctors take legal action to get their day off.

14 Thursday

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15 Friday

More bus crashes and ship collisions. A HK bus in China crashed and burst into flames yesterday, killing one. Four coaches in a pile-up on a HK highway today. A container ship hits a small Chinese boat off HK; five killed.

16 Saturday

Warm but a good run.

17 Sunday

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18 Monday

Call from Gavin in the morning. A body, probably from the dredge collision, found.

19 Tuesday

KGV school celebrating its centenary.

20 Wednesday

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21 Thursday

A US Chinese engineer sentenced to five years jail in China for “obtaining state secrets”.

22 Friday

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23 Saturday

Cooler and wet. Very good run, mainly without rain. Watched the HK Rugby 7s on TV in the afternoon. All the Rugby teams staying at the HK Hotel [next to the Ocean Terminal].

24 Sunday

Wet. All day spent watching the Rugby 7s. NZ knocked out in the quarter-finals by Fiji. Cup won by England who beat Fiji in the final.

25 Monday

PCCW sacks about 850 more of its workers.

26 Tuesday

China rejects a US request for a destroyer to visit HK. TVB sacks 48, the first sackings ever.

27 Wednesday

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28 Thursday

Dudley Moore dies, aged 66. A US Army sergeant jailed for 32 months for rape.

29 Friday

Goof Friday. Went to the foyer for an hour for a brunch put on by the hotel. Otherwise, working all day.

30 Saturday

The Queen Mother dies, aged 101.

31 Sunday

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APRIL

1 Monday

Time ran out at midnight for right-of-abode seelers. Many gathered at an Immigration office at Kai Tak for a candlelight vigil.

2 Tuesday

Leonie accepted for Harvard Medical School.

3 Wednesday

Chris Patten meets the Chinese president, not as HK governor [when he was PNG], but as European Commissioner.

4 Thursday

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5 Friday

Ching Ming holiday. Over 100 hill fires!

6 Saturday

Rain for about the first hour of the run. Then very humid [as the water evaporated]. The last ½ hour or so was a bit tough.

7 Sunday

Chickens in Yuen Long area to be vaccinated against bird flu.

8 Monday

The government trying to get more companies to move into the 'Cyberport' over and above the three who have accepted.

9 Tuesday

Watched most of the Queen Mother's funeral, cortège and a fly-past of a Lancaster and two spitfires on TV. Also met the bank manager in the morning.

10 Wednesday

A restaurant chain closes down; more workers out of a job and not receiving pay!

11 Thursday

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12 Friday

A triad initiation ceremony busted, the first since 1992. Cooler today; the air-conditioner off for most of the day. President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela forced to resign after violence by protesters.

13 - 14 Saturday - Sunday

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15 Monday

Lunch and discussion with Macmillan at the Sheraton. Harry Wu denied entry to HK. An Air China plane crashes on landing in bad weather at Pusan, Korea.

16 Tuesday

About 19°C. Went for the first swim of the season; did 1 km. To Hang Seng bank in the morning.

17 Wednesday

the CE unveils his new ministerial system to the Legislative council.

18 Thursday

Unemployment up to 7%. An anti-terrorist exercise held in HK.

19 Friday

Thor Heyerdahl dies (in Italy). A small plane slams into a skyscraper in Milan, Italy.

20 - 21 Saturday - Sunday

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22 Monday

The government announces that it is to build its HQ on the old HMS Tamar site costing \$61 billion [not completed until 2011]. In France, Le Pen beats the socialists to force a run off with Chirac for the presidency.

23 Tuesday

A 25-year old mentally handicapped right-of-abode man returned to China. A fatal stabbing at NUS, Singapore.

24 Wednesday

Nearly ½ million fake \$10 coins found last year and another 100 000 in the first three months of this year. HK now only the second best place to do business (NZ fourth).

25 Thursday

ANZAC day.

26 Friday

Shooting at a school in the eastern part of Germany by a former student who was expelled - 17 killed.

27 Saturday

General Lebedev killed in a helicopter crash in Siberia.

28 - 29 Sunday - Monday

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30 Tuesday

A TV report on HK residents being mugged while across the border. An oil tanker overturns on Hiram's highway causing traffic chaos.

MAY

1 Wednesday

May day holiday. In the evening, watched the final episode of “WWI in colour”.

2 - 4 Thursday - Saturday

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5 Sunday

Pork distributors up in arms as wholesalers make a special deal with two big supermarket chains [i.e. Park 'n Shop and Wellcome]. Police raid an illegal triad-run football betting syndicate.

6 - 12 Monday - Sunday

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13 Monday

New VC of HKU appointed - a former pupil of Homantin Government Secondary School. Farce at yesterday's F-1 Austrian GP; team orders allow Schumacher to win over his teammate.

14 Tuesday

Gavin's birthday.

15 Wednesday

Fixed penalty tickets to be introduced soon for littering and spitting.

16 Thursday

Yu Man-hong's mother receives another false alarm about her missing son. [Mother of the mentally handicapped boy who passed through immigration into China.]

17 Friday

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18 Saturday

To the YMCA loo in the evening with more food poisoning (?) and diarrhoea.

19 Sunday

Bun festival on Cheung Chau. East Timor becomes a nation.

20 Monday

Public holiday for Buddha's birthday.

21 Tuesday

Unemployment rate up to 7.1%. The CE steps into the ICAC-Police rift over the recent arrest of senior police officers.

22 Wednesday

Tension rises on the India-Pakistan border in Kashmir. Civil servants to get a pay cut though less than expected. Watched a Lydia Sun sitcom on TV. North Koreans dragged from the Japanese embassy in Beijing about two weeks ago leave China on their way to South Korea.

23 Thursday

Firecrackers found in the toilet of a UA flight from Chicago yesterday. Read in Newsweek that the last of the original ANZACs (an Australian) dies aged 102.

24 Friday

To the dentist and doctors in the morning. Lunch again with Mr Yip. (Read in a paper in the clinic of a Japan Airlines DC-10 that nearly hit Tai Mo Shan - in fog, I think - last Sunday.)

25 Saturday

A China Airlines 747 with 225 on board goes down on its way from Taipei to HK. Chicken (flu) control to be strengthened.

26 - 27 Sunday - Monday

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28 Tuesday

Mosquitoes becoming a problem in HK. Restaurant chain loses case requiring employees to work on holidays.

29 - 30 Wednesday - Thursday

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31 Friday

World Cup begins in Seoul. See on TV a rescue helicopter crashing on Mt Hood. In HK, internet betting made illegal from today.

JUNE

1- 3 Saturday - Monday

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4 Tuesday

Anniversary of June 4th massacre. Rally at Victoria Park; about 40 000 attending, similar to last year. China loses first game in World Cup finals against Costa Rica 2 - 0. Last day of the Queen's 50 years on the throne [???].

5 Wednesday

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6 Thursday

Eleven “Treasure” restaurants close; about 200 out of work.

7 - 11 Friday - Tuesday

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12 Wednesday

Nadine's birthday.

13 Thursday

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14 Friday

Home-made bomb found and exploded after viewing a soccer match at Shatin race-course. Phone lines slung across border by a betting syndicate cut.

15 - 16 Saturday - Sunday

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17 Monday

The 30th anniversary of the Watergate break-in. Unemployment rate up to 7.4% and rising. Gavin arrives late evening.

18 - 23 Tuesday - Sunday

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24 Monday

CH Tung announces his new ministerial 'cabinet' / executive council. [Arthur Li to be Education Secretary/Minister.]

25 Tuesday

KCR wins out over the MTR to build a new rail link from Shatin to Central. Last day for the old executive council.

26 - 29 Wednesday - Saturday

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30 Sunday

President Jiang arrives in HK for handover anniversary ceremonies tomorrow. About 90 Falung Gung practitioners denied entry at the airport over the last few days. At Yokohama, in the World Cup finals, Brazil beat Germany 2 - 0.

JULY

1 Monday

The 5th anniversary of the handover. Tung sworn in for a second five-year term. Gavin into town for the evening fireworks display - \$3.5 million worth! Gavin at pool with me.

2 Tuesday

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3 Wednesday

Only got 10 laps of the pool done because of a thunderstorm warning; didn't intend to do much more as I was tired.

4 Thursday

Gavin's last full day here. Editor here in the morning. Big drug bust at Camp Lejeune. Had a chat with Gavin last night before his friend came to stay overnight. Talked about or commented on: his day at Repulse Bay, the old and new Repulse Bay hotel, KK's trip over there looking for Gavin. Canadians in WWII, living on the Peak, working for the government, East River WWII resistance.

5 Friday

Gavin leaves on hotel bus for the airport. He rings me before boarding the plane. Miss him. To dinner at Sheung Shui in the evening.

6 Saturday

Severe diarrhoea in the evening [?after eating at the YMCA Mall restaurant].

7 Sunday

In the afternoon, about 30 000 civil servants stage a protest march against government legislating a pay cut.

8 Monday

In the latest survey, HK now the most expensive city in the world to live in.

9 Tuesday

Secondary school allocation announced today. Fire on a fishing barge 'dormitory' for mainland workers off Taiwan.

10 - 11 Wednesday - Thursday

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12 Friday

Anti-terrorist bill passed today.

13 Saturday

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[Sunday - Thursday 14/7 - 18/7: Singapore trip]

29 Monday

First exercise since July 12th. Swim 15 laps (900 m); felt quite good. Had to go later in the day as a thunderstorm warning was up at midday [in those days I would almost go for a swim at midday].

30 Tuesday

Call from Gavin in the morning, following his call last week. A further swim, again later in the afternoon. Anthony Leung confirms he married the young Chinese diving champion.

31 Wednesday

To the NZ consulate in the morning to hand in an application for a new passport. Swim in the afternoon, again later because of a midday thunderstorm.

AUGUST

1 Thursday

Editors from Macmillan here at 3 pm for three hours about the Chemistry book. Alfred Chu takes over from Jacky [as editor].

2 Friday

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3 Saturday

Work all day. To TST in the evening but got diarrhoea again though less serious. Number 1 signal up for the first time this year. Australia beats NZ 16 - 14 in a Rugby test in Sydney.

4 - 5 Sunday - Monday

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6 Tuesday

Anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb.

7 - 13 Wednesday - Tuesday

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14 Wednesday

Picked up my new passport; took the whole morning to travel there and back.

15 Thursday

Silent Falun Gung protestors found guilty of obstruction when protesting outside the Chinese Liaison Office two weeks ago. (The 'obstruction' law was introduced to control hawkers!)

16 Friday

Met Hei Kan, Regina, Alfred and salesmen in the morning. Signed contracts! Then had a dim sum lunch at a restaurant. Then diarrhoea again - lost all the lunch, I guess!

17 Saturday

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18 Sunday

Tseung Kwan O MRT line officially opened by the CE. Another T₁ up.

19 Monday

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20 Tuesday

Call from Gavin in the morning. Talked about his trip to Greenwich, Connecticut and his float which begins next Tuesday.

21 Wednesday

To the dentist in the morning for more work on fitting a crown to upper left hand molars. Then to Shatin for an unsuccessful attempt to get tickets to Spain. No swim because of this.

22 Thursday

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23 Friday

Severe floods in Hunan province seems to be peaking. An overflow lake for the Yangtze River is 35 m above normal!

24 - 26 Saturday - Monday

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27 Tuesday

To the dentist again to get the crown fitted. Arrived a little late, and sweating! Gavin leaves on float sometime today (EST).

28 - 31 Wednesday - Saturday

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SEPTEMBER

1 - 3 Sunday - Tuesday

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4 Wednesday

About 100 taken for a ride on the MTR to a depot!! A KCRC Train breaks down outside Shatin station. Quite a good swim though made me feel tired.

5 Thursday

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6 Friday

Air pollution very bad; 140+ in places. Afghan president survives an assassination attempt in Kandahar.

7 Saturday

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8 Sunday

Off on holiday to Honolulu and Tokyo.

[Holiday in Honolulu and Tokyo]

Left Hong Kong at about 3 pm on a Japan Airlines 747 for Osaka. Nothing special. Took about 3 ½ hours. Had to wait for nearly three hours for a JAL 747-300 flight to Honolulu. Managed a little sleep because of the empty seat next to me.

Arrived in Honolulu at about 11 am (still the 8th September). Had to fill in another customs form as the airline had given me the wrong one, so ended up being the last from the plane through immigration. A guy was waiting for the transfer to the hotel, then had to pay a 'service charge' (even though the package for two nights was supposed to include everything). Managed to check-in at the hotel almost immediately - into a smoking room! After a short rest, walked down to the beach, had a look - crowded - then set off to find an information office. Difficult; managed to find only a small street kiosk! but got some useful information. Then to look for the location of the 'real' visitor center - on the 5th floor of a nearby building! Back to the hotel, looking through a semi-supermarket on the way. Had some Hong Kong

noodles for dinner, made with water from the coffee machine in the room. Then went out for an evening walk and ended up at a beach near the Zoo, where a 9/11 concert (on screen) was just ending. Had a \$1 bowl of noodles.

9 Monday

Up early for a continental breakfast alongside the pool. Annoying pigeons at breakfast - pests in Hawaii. Then on a pre-paid tour to Pearl Harbor, from about 8 am till 10 am. After that, a bus tour around town - to the Punchbowl, where a Japanese-American killed in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion is buried. Then back to the city to King Kamehameha's statue and law courts museum. Through Chinatown and to a wholesale jewellery shop (part of the tour!!) before getting back to the hotel at about 12.30 pm. Had a rest for about an hour.

After that, to the Visitor Center to find out about accommodation (after the two night in the package hotel); apart from getting a booklet they were of little help. Selected some on the list then spent the rest of the afternoon looking for a place from the list. Down to Ala Moana Building then along the sea front to the other end of Waikiki and back to the hotel. Later, to a Chinese 'tai pai dong' for food at the 'International Center'. Also watched the second half of a Polynesian cultural show; saw New Zealand (dressed in red!) and Tahiti.

10 Tuesday

Had a good sleep. Slept in a little. Ate lots of toast at breakfast. Kept two buns for later. (A Japanese boy at the next table filled up drinking bottles with juice!) Around to the 'Waikiki Prince' hotel to inform them of staying there, then came back, checked out, and took stuff around to the new place.

Walked up to watch the 'Kodak' (who no longer sponsor it) Hula show in its 65th and probably last year. Audience participation. Photos taken with group members afterwards. Given a lei to wear. After the show, to town to a post office. Then to a bank; the automatic machine would not change all the £ notes, eventually spitting them out over the floor. Went to another branch and got them changed from an upstairs teller, connected by an air tube. To a supermarket ("Food Pantry") and back to hotel for a sandwich lunch. (Hotel room included a fridge and cooker.)

After a rest, along to a beach. Sunbathed for a while and then into the water. Disappointing as under the water was only lava rock! so couldn't swim. Then back to the hotel, the supermarket, then cooked dinner in the room.

11 Wednesday

Anniversary of the New World Trade Center attacks., but still a working day here. Woken up early by rubbish collection outside. But slept-in until nearly 1 pm. Then had some brunch and headed for Diamond Head; climbed to the top (761 feet). On returning, purchased a four-day

bus pass. Then along to the King's Village to watch the changing of the guard, flag lowering and drill display. Watched a little about 9/11 on TV.

12 Thursday

Up a little earlier and again another good self-made breakfast. Caught a bus at about 8.30 am to Ala Moana and then Bus 52 to the Dole plantation. Arrived ½ hour late for a tour. Caught the next bus to the North Shore. Got off at Sunset beach and had lunch on the sand. Missed one bus back, as was standing on the other side of the road (in the shade!); waved, but the driver don't notice. Waited ½ hour for the next bus and got off at Haleiwa and walked through. Got the next bus to 'Dole'. Didn't take the tour as it cost nearly \$20!, also did not do the maze (\$5). Bus back to Waikiki, then to supermarket and back to hotel. Off to the beach about 6 pm, Short swim only as the water was too shallow. Then watched the final part of a cultural show on the beach.

13 Friday

Supposed to get Bus 22 at 8.15 am but overslept. So got Bus 58 instead though it doesn't pass through Hauama Bay. But #89 does the *South* circle route so, as the bus was heading back to town, had to get off and cross the road to get #55. Eventually got off at Waimea beach and spent about three hours sunbathing and swimming. Took Bus 52 back, but had to transfer to #8, eventually taking three hours!

14 Saturday

No early rubbish truck wake-up call. After breakfast, walked to the main road to watch the Aloha parade. Back to the hotel for lunch.

Took a bus to Ala Moana then #5 to Moana Valley. Met a chap who graduated from MIT. Back to Ala Moana then to Aloha Tower and surrounding area. Back via supermarket. Walk in the evening - watched part of "Blue Hawaii" movie (where - on TV?).

15 Sunday

Last day for the bus pass. Via Ala Moana to Kailua beach. Quite a stiff breeze. Rested on the beach then went for a brief swim. Ate a pre-packed sandwich lunch. At the beach for three hours.

Back to town - Ala Moana Center. Hot, so went for a swim again; calmer and no current and only a little breeze. Then by bus to have a look at Chinatown; not very interesting and also quite dirty.

Walk to a park after dinner to see the movie "Notting Hill" but it had already finished.

16 Monday

After breakfast, walked along to the Hilton Hotel for the guided walking tour. Lasted nearly two hours. The tour was mainly related to botany and the plants in the area. The tour ended in the adjacent Russy Park. (Needed ID to get through US military recreation center with the tour; didn't have any but was allowed through anyway.)

Then spent a couple of hours at the beach by the park - last swim in Honolulu. Looked through the US Military Museum and bookshop; the museum was closed on Mondays. Back to the hotel via a walk through the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. Had a rest for several hours. Then a brief walk around town and back to cook dinner. Too tired to go out after dinner.

17 Tuesday (Honolulu)

18 Wednesday (Tokyo)

Finished off most of the food in the fridge for breakfast. Then for a walk along the beach. Was going to buy some macadamia nuts but didn't after finding the price had returned to \$8.99 / lb from \$5.99 which they said was a special.

Left after 10 am for the airport; took about one hour. Check-in quick and queue for security not too bad.

Flight to Tokyo took about 7 ½ hours, on a JAL B747-200! Good window seat in front of the wings. Able to rest a little even though all three seats were occupied.

At Tokyo, took the bus from the tarmac to the terminal. Again, very slow immigration with only two people serving a long queue of foreign passport holders. Then booked a ryokan at the Tourist Information Counter. Took a local limited Keisei Express to Tokyo. Got off at Nippori - the hotel was very close by. Had a Japanese bath. Then a walk around; bought a loaf of raisin bread to eat.

The temperature on arrival was 25°C, down a lot from those in Tokyo just a week earlier.

19 Thursday

Slept in for a while. Noise from trains not too bad, though I did get up and put in ear plugs. Checked in for three more nights in a room without a bath (¥7000 instead of ¥8000); decided this was preferable to looking for another place that *may* have been cheaper.

Walked around the commercial side of the station for a while. Had 'brunch' at a very small stand-up 'restaurant'. Then back to the hotel for a rest.

Later, went for a walk around the district. Interesting, with narrow streets, pedestrian street with many small shops, temples and cemeteries. Then back for another rest.

Ate the bread rolls and bananas for 'dinner'. After a bath, my breathing felt rather tight so took a (reliever) puff - actually ended up taking three puffs!

20 Friday

New room (without bath) - quieter than the previous room. Slept OK, though again woke up

early because of early sunrise. Had a banana before setting out.

Intended buying bread rolls but forgot as I was concentrating on the train ticket. Took a train to Tokyo station. Then remembered about the bread rolls but it was difficult to find a shop in the business district. Walked alongside the palace moat. Wanted to go in and look at the gardens, but closed on Fridays! Eventually got bread rolls in a shopping mall. Ate them and continued walking around the palace to the Diet building. Then down to Hibaya (sp?) park where had an ice-cream and listened to the second half of a Friday concert by the Tokyo Fire Department band. I think the ice-cream gave me tummy trouble as I got tummy pains and had to visit a toilet in a shopping mall in the Ginza district (with 'Toilet for Men' signs on the floor). Then to Tokyo Station and back to the hotel where I immediately went to bed and slept soundly for two hours. Then went out for a meal. Then started to get severe tummy pains followed by diarrhoea; just made it to the hotel but covered the toilet seat!

21 Saturday

Slept well after diarrhoea last night. Had bread rolls for breakfast. Set off, minus the map which I had left on the bed. Got a one-day travel pass then off to Ueno station and to the Shitimachi Museum with its recreation of an old Tokyo street.

Back to the station and to Tokyo station and across to the Imperial Palace gardens for a walk around. Then back to the station and had lunch in a small restaurant there.

Then along to A.....(?) station to have a look at the latest electronic goods; rather like Mongkok. I scolded a guy who asked me to remove my foot from a box instead of thinking to move the box for a 'customer'. Then watched a guy demonstrating a new kind of vegetable slicer.

Decided to go down to the fish and vegetable market but was informed that it would be closed in the afternoon. So decided to visit an 'Educational' park near Meguru station but changed my mind on finding there was a ¥1000 entrance fee. So, off around town to look for the Toyota Company exhibition near Ike station. At the station, briefly watched some open-air cultural show in progress and bought some cooked bread from a food stall. Eventually found the Toyota building and looked around until it closed at 7 pm. Then back to Nippori. Had a tempura dinner at a nearby restaurant.

22 Sunday

After a breakfast of raisin buns (again!), checked out at about 9.30 am but left bags at the hotel. To Keisei station to check train times (to airport), then for a slow walk around the area. Bought an apple pie. Saw children carrying a portable shrine during the afternoon. Then bought some potato salad (turned out to be curried!) at ¥750 per 100g. Along the road back, came across an 'open day' at a school which people had said was one of the top private

schools in the country. Went in. Watched juggling, stuck my head into disco rooms, visited the chemistry, physics and biology laboratories and some other rooms.

Back to the hotel to pick up things. Missed the 1.29 pm limited express but got the 1.50 pm. About 70 minutes to the airport terminal. Arrived in plenty of time; quick check-in and security and immigration not too bad.

Another JAL B747-200 for the flight to Hong Kong. Rain just before and during take-off; the first of the trip. About 10 minutes late boarding.

Arrived back about 9 pm. Bought a fruit drink at the airport while waiting for the hotel bus. Letter from Gavin waiting.

23 Monday

No work today! Took it easy. Went to the supermarket and also got films developed. The Mauritius Science Book 1 arrives. Catholic Bishop Wu dies this morning. An outbreak of dengue fever at a construction site.

24 Tuesday

The CE unveils proposals for a bill on sedition and subversion. Cooler and some rain.

25 Wednesday

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26 Thursday

Nadine calls at 7:30 am; talk for about ½ hour. Lunch at the Sheraton Hotel and talk with Hei Kan.

27 - 30 Friday - Monday

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OCTOBER

1 Tuesday

National Day holiday. Fireworks over the harbour in the evening. To the gym again.

2 Wednesday

Nicholas Tze found guilty [?of what].

3 Thursday

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4 Friday

CUHK and UST announce they are to merge; Education Department [?Faculty] to disappear [neither eventuated]. A & E departments at hospitals to cost \$100 per visit. Ombudsman's report on gang bullying at license plate auctions. HK now has two gold medals at the East Asian games in Pusan. Arthur's pass avalanche tunnel (?) in a TV documentary. A Chinese tycoon, recently put in charge of a North Korean SAR arrested in China for tax evasion and other charges.

5 Saturday

PLA open day. HK gets a table tennis gold medal at the East Asian games.

6 - 7 Sunday - Monday

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8 Tuesday

Li Lai San wins gold in Busan.

9 Wednesday

San san back in HK in hospital with abdominal colic. A Japanese captured by North Korea many years ago to be allowed to return home.

10 Thursday

Double tenth! Watched the Louis Vuitton challenge races on TV.

11 Friday

Jimmy Carter awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Listened to an interesting radio programme with the Westminster Abbey choir. A second person affected by flesh-eating flies!

12 Saturday

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13 Sunday

Free Yakult at the hotel! Terrorist bomb explodes outside a Bali nightclub and kills about 200 and injures about 300. Some players from HK Rugby teams missing, presumed to be in the nightclub.

14 Monday

Chung Yuen holiday. Ceremony at the City Hall gardens to commemorate those who dies defending HK against the Japanese. Stephen Ambrose [US historian] dies of lung cancer, aged 66.

15 Tuesday

Five of the kidnapped Japanese return from North Korea for a brief stay!

16 Wednesday

Nicholas Tze gets just 240 hours of community service!

17 - 21 Thursday - Monday

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22 Tuesday

A HK resident one of the students killed by the (Chinese) gunman at Monash University yesterday. President Jiang leaves for the US, then APEC in Mexico. The government to appeal against Tze's 'punishment'. Monks on Lantau monastery for a week in protest about the MTR building tourist shops. Nadine gets back from Boston today.

23 Wednesday

E-mail from Keith about Mum going into hospital.

24 - 25 Thursday - Friday

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26 Saturday

Hostage situation in Moscow theatre over; troops 'forced' to storm the building. All the kidnappers killed or taken prisoner and about 67 of the 750 people killed. Ate at Cafe de Coral in the evening; bad pains and diarrhoea afterwards.

27 Sunday

Nadine calls in the afternoon after getting my e-mail about Mum.

28 - 29 Monday - Tuesday

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30 Wednesday

A big gas explosion in a flat in Wong Tai Sin; three killed and 15 firemen badly injured.

31 Thursday

Had the second of two remaining Nuelin tablets to try to control troublesome asthma. Nicholas Tze fined \$7000 and loses his [driving] license for a year because of excessive speeding.

NOVEMBER

1 - 3 Friday - Sunday

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4 Monday

Some phone companies to revert back to earlier rates after increasing, in response to China Telecom's big hike in IDD rates to China.

5 Tuesday

Three alleged Al-Qaeda members (two Pakistanis and one Indian) arrested trying to get Stinger missiles for drugs. The charge at A & E departments of \$100 to come into effect at the end of the month.

6 Wednesday

Republicans win control of both houses of Congress in mid-term elections - unfortunately. The Yangtze river closed for the Three-Gorges dam project.

7 - 9 Thursday - Saturday

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10 Sunday

In the evening, saw a replay of the NZ - England Rugby match. NZ lost 28 - 31 but what an exciting game!

11 Monday

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12 Tuesday

Yo to 29°C in parts of the NT! CH Tung's popularity down to about 47%. Big storms in the US; about 70 (?) tornadoes in the mid-west.

13 Wednesday

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14 Thursday

Signed the lease for one more year.

15 Friday

The 16th communist party congress closes. Two 10 000 tonne tankers explode in Guangzhou.

16 Saturday

First run of the season. Big drop in temperatures from yesterday. Wet at the start. A bit faster than last year. The Macau GP starts.

17 Sunday

Macau F3 GP today in fine weather. Overseas maids in HK stage a protest against suggestions to tax them \$500 - 700 per month! Annual sedan chair race held on the Peak. 183 old WWII British bombs found at the Disneyland site.

18 Monday

Zhu Rong-ji [Chinese premier] arrives in HK for a few days.

19 - 20 Tuesday - Wednesday

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21 Thursday

Nina Wang, HK's richest woman loses her attempt to get her deceased husband's wealth; will deemed to be forged! On TV, saw “Around the World in 80 *ways*” team in HK.

22 Friday

A police constable collapses and dies during a 2.4 km run at Kowloon Tsai park, as part of an annual fitness test.

23 Saturday

Run in the morning. Most of the afternoon and evening checking the HK Chemistry practical book final proofs.

24 Sunday

An LPG tanker ablaze just east of HK; fear it might explode.

25 Monday

E-mail from Gavin. Got two \$100 laundry vouchers from the hotel.

26 Tuesday

Soccer gambling to be legalised. A HK citizen jailed for four years in the US on passport fraud and pretending to have died on 9/11.

27 Wednesday

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28 Thursday

Crisis at Beacon Hill school. A poor inspectors report (carried out once every 10 years). Mr Lydon resigns! A & E charges come into effect (\$100 for ID holders / \$500 for non-ID holders). Martin Lee to step down as leader of the Democratic Party this coming weekend. The USS Kitty Hawk to visit HK.

29 Friday

A & E charges begin. About 6500 patients 'disappeared' from hospitals last year. [?]

30 Saturday

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DECEMBER

1 Sunday

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2 Monday

A bit warmer. Gym and dinner midday. To Macmillan's office at 6 pm about a merger of Macmillan with a local publisher and to meet the UK director.

3 Tuesday

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4 Wednesday

After the swim, met the CUHK psychology department [?Michael Bond]; holding a one-day retreat at the hotel.

5 Thursday

General Ne Win of Burma dies, aged 92. CUHK confers an honorary doctorate on Li Lai-san! Really!!! An interesting TV documentary on the An-225. Universal Studios to build a 'theme park' in Shanghai.

6 Friday

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7 Saturday

Tough run; hot, humid, congestion and rather tired. Also 31°C in Sek Kong! The uphill half very slow!

8 Sunday

Very cold; down to about 11°C.

9 Monday

Cold, but still went for a swim; water relatively warm at 22°C. In the evening, to piano / violin / choir recital at the City Hall.

10 Tuesday

Jimmy Carter receives his Nobel Peace Prize.

11 Wednesday

17°C. Still the only one to use the pool. Nina Wang being quizzed over the 'fake' will. Anti-terrorist exercise at the airport overnight.

12 Thursday

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13 Friday

“HK Bin Laden” jailed for nearly seven years. Nadine arrives in the evening. Good swim, water about 19°C; did 1 km.

14 Saturday

Up at 5:30 am for Nadine to leave by 6 am. Tried to sleep for another two hours! Run difficult and not very enjoyable. Nadine back later in the afternoon, but off again at 7:30 pm to meet Lisa and stay at her place overnight.

15 Sunday

Two protests. In one, about 50 000 protest against Article 23 [anti-subversion article in the Basic Law]. In the other, Filipinos protest against a wage cut.

16 Monday

Feeling miserable again Bit still went for a swim; water temperature about 21°C. Swim felt good so did 1 km. On returning, had an e-mail from Gavin. ESF subsidies may be removed.

17 - 19 Tuesday - Thursday

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20 Friday

Body of murdered 10-year old girl found in a closet in a hut in a village near Yuen Long.

21 Saturday

Run quite good except when the left calf tears on the bridge across the Shing Mun river. Very painful but continued shuffling to the end.

22 Sunday

Many turn out for a pro-Article 23 rally. Chicken sales down because of the H5 virus killing birds around HK.

23 Monday

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24 Tuesday

Worked in the morning. After lunch, to TST with Nadine to watch the ballet “Nutcracker”. Back on the last hotel bus at 5:30 pm, after eating noodles in the Cultural Centre café. Didn't go to the gym. Listened to a local primary school girls' choir in the foyer in the evening.

25 Wednesday

[Christmas day] Lost of rubbish and graffiti in TST after last night's celebrations. Work all day and a swim. Nadine up at about noon. Into TST at 8 pm!

26 Thursday

Big drop in temperature. In the evening, a TV documentary on the NZ Moa.

27 Friday

Cold day; temperature down to 5~6⁰C. Nadine picks up her [NZ] passport. After evening dinner, sudden pains and diarrhoea and slight vomiting.

28 Saturday

Leg still injured but managed a run OK.

29 - 30 Sunday - Monday

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31 Tuesday

Called Christchurch with Nadine at 8 am (1 pm NZ time) to speak to Mum / Nana. Went to the gym. Nadine goes to Cheung Chau for a while. The first commercial Maglev train begins service in Shanghai. Woken up at midnight by a phone call for New Year! [?from whom]

Hikes: 2002 - 2003

2002

1	16/11	20°C	Tai Po (Viaduct) → lead mine pass (36) → loop → Grassy Hill / rd (1.16) → forest → Tai Po	1:54
2	23/11	22°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (34) → forest / tracks → Stage 10 (rd) (1.11) → reservoir (1.27) → village (Tai Tong Rd)	1:54
3	30/11	21°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (35) → Stage 10 track → road (1.15) → forest track t.o. (1.30) → Tai Tong Rd (1.57) → Tai Tong	2:12
4	7/2	25 - 31°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass (38) → Tai Mo Shan (1.50) → Twisk (2.10) → Kap Lung trail → Sek Kong	2:57
5	14/2	20°C	Tai Wo → Cloudy Hill (48) → first reservoir (1.14?) → family walk (1.30) → Hok Tau res (1.49) → Cloudy Hill (2.32) → Tai Wo park	3:07
6	21/12	20°C	CU → ridge stage 4 (52) → Kowloon peak (2.00) → Shatin river (2.31) → (injury) → CU Station	3:02
7	28/12	13°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass 937 → top of reservoir (51) → rd to base Needle Hill → Needle Hill (1.58) → Grassy Hill → pass (2.39) → Tai Po V	3:06

2003

8	4/1	17°C	Tai Mei Tuk → Nam Chung t.o. (1.05) → peak (1.56) → Hok Tau (2.40) → Cloudy Hill (3.27) → park	4:00
9	11/1	17°C	Tai Mei Tuk → Brides pool (49) → village (1.04) → Sam A Chung → Lai Shi Wo (1.53?) → fire lookout (2.30) → Brides pool (2.50) → Tai Mei Tuk	3:45
–	18/1		[No run! Mum's funeral day]	
10	25/1	18°C	Plover cove dam → grave (59) → ridge (1.47) → stream (2.18) → Brides pool (2.47) → Tai Mei Tuk	3:38
11	1/2	21°C	Tai Wo → (Tai Po) (29) → lead mine pass (1.05) → top of reservoir (1.18) → pineapple track → main dam (1.44) → reservoir track → top of reservoir (2.24) → pass (2.50) → Tai Po V	3:13
12	8/2	20°C	Tai Po V → lead mine pass (35) → Tai Mo Shan (1.41) → Twisk (2.05) → Tai Lam Chung res (3.06) → tunnel bus	3:44

13	15/2	20°C	CU → ridge [4] (52) → Pyramid peak (1.18) → Ma On Shan (1:47.5) → [4] (2.25) → CU station	3:05
14	22/2	?	Tai Wo → Cloudy Hill (48) → Hok Tau reservoir → Sha Lo Tung → Tai Po	~3:30
15	1/3	25°C	Tai Po → lead mine pass (35) → Ng Tai Chung t.o. (1.20) → temple (1.44) → Kadoorie farm (2.03) → Fanling	4:22!
16	8/3	17°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (40) → forest tracks → Stage 10 road (1.24) → reservoir (1.43) → village / Tai Tong Rd	2:15
17	15/3	22°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (34) → Stage 10 track → road (1.10) → main dam (far side) (1.36) → reservoir (2.15) → village / road	2:42
18	23/3	19°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (40) → Tai Lam Chung trail → tunnel bus	2:00
19	29/3	24°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (33) → forest → road (58) → roads to dam t.o. (1.28) → main dam (1.49) → [10] t.o. (2.16) → small reservoir (2.36) → Tai Tong bus terminus	2:50
20	5/4	23°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (34) → Tai Lam Chung trail → [tunnel bus t.o.] (1.38) → Y-junction (1.58) → Sek Kong	2:56
21	12/4	25°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (43) → Yuen Tun trail & shortcut → road (1.50) → top of reservoir → tunnel bus	2:43
22	19/4	20°C	Tai Tong → reservoir (35) → Yuen Tun trail & shortcut → road (1.14) → top of reservoir → Ho Pui t.o. (1.29?) → Ho Pui reservoir (2.00) → roads back to Y-junction → tunnel bus	2:53

Average time (22 runs) 3 hours