



## PIGEON POST

### Driver's test offered in several languages

#### NOTICE

Taipei City's Motor Vehicles Office is offering its written test in several languages to accommodate expatriates and new immigrants. The office offers written tests in Mandarin, English, Japanese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai and Cambodian. To allow alternative testing, the office also built a database of pre-recorded spoken questions in different languages. The alternative testing is available in Mandarin, Taiwanese, Hakka, English, Japanese, and Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai and Cambodian. Details about the English-language test are available at: [www.mvo.taipei.gov.tw/cgi-bin/SM\\_themePro?page=461d9c5e](http://www.mvo.taipei.gov.tw/cgi-bin/SM_themePro?page=461d9c5e). A list of sample questions from the foreign language testing database is available at [www.mvo.taipei.gov.tw/cgi-bin/SM\\_themePro?page=461f1ead](http://www.mvo.taipei.gov.tw/cgi-bin/SM_themePro?page=461f1ead). More information about the exam is available from the 1999 Citizen Call Center at (02) 2720-8889.

### Mykonos founder dies

#### OBITUARY

Long-time Taipei resident Michael Stephen Waldor, who brought Greek food to Taipei with a string of Mykonos restaurants beginning in 1993, died in Pattaya, Thailand, where he had a second home, on Oct. 10. The 61-year-old Waldor, known as Mickey or Mike Waldorf to his loyal clientele, had been battling pancreatic cancer since being diagnosed on Oct. 8 last year. The New York native first came to Taipei in April 1985 to work for Asia World Hotel after working on cruise liners and passenger ships for 22 years, mostly in the Mediterranean area, as a catering manager. Those years at sea served as an inspiration when he decided to leave the hotel industry to run his own restaurant, Mykonos, which he opened in a lane off Anhe Road in November 1993. Mykonos moved from its first location to the other side of Anhe and then to Lishui Road and is now in its fourth incarnation in a lane off Siwei Road. Waldorf also owned a Chinese restaurant in Athens for several years and the Cruise Ship Restaurant, which opened on Anhe in December 2003. He was famous for his authentic *spanakopita* and New York cheesecake, for his sense of humor and for always encouraging people to travel to Greece or try a cruise. He is survived by his partner of 23 years, Gino Lin.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GINO LIN

### TAS holds flea market, rummage for orphanage

#### CHARITY

Taipei American School's (TAS) Orphanage Club will hold a Flea Market and Rummage Sale in the school's lobby on Saturday, rain or shine. Items offered at the sale include clothing, household items, electronic appliances and furniture, TAS said in a press release. "The proceeds from the Flea Market will go to the Orphanage Club to provide funding for needy children and orphans in Taiwan [and] overseas," it said. TAS is located at 800 Zhongshan N Road Sec 6, in Tianshu (天母). For more information, contact Richard Arnold at (02) 2873-9900 ext. 239, or Ms Koh at (02) 2874-0902.

### AIT sponsors democracy challenge

#### CONTEST

The American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) has invited all budding filmmakers, democracy advocates and the general public to participate in the inaugural Democracy Video Challenge. Winners will enjoy an all-expenses paid trip to the US to meet prominent figures in the movie industry and democracy advocates. "We expect this competition will be well received and lively in Taiwan, not only because of Taiwan's vibrant democracy, but also because of Taiwan's creativity in filmmaking," AIT Chief of Public Affairs Thomas Hodges said. The three-minute film must complete the phrase "democracy is." Three semi-finalists from Taiwan will be chosen to compete in the regional finals and the ultimate winners will be selected by YouTube viewers worldwide. For more information on the contest rules, visit [www.videochallenge.america.gov](http://www.videochallenge.america.gov). All videos will be judged on artistic content, promotion of democracy and production values.

### Grand Hyatt hosts St Andrew's Ball on Saturday

#### EVENT

The British Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the annual St Andrew's Ball at the Grand Hyatt Taipei on Saturday. Traditionally a Scottish evening, the event is now held in more than 200 cities around the world. The ball in Taipei features a wine reception starting at 6pm, a seven-course dinner of traditional Scottish *Fayre* and a dance to Scottish music, followed by breakfast at 1am and "carriages" at 3am. The fee is NT\$4,600 per seat and NT\$44,000 per table of 10. More information is available on the British Chamber of Commerce Taipei Web site at [www.bctaipei.com/Events/20081101\\_SAB.htm](http://www.bctaipei.com/Events/20081101_SAB.htm), by e-mail at [aurora.chien@bctaipei.com](mailto:aurora.chien@bctaipei.com) or telephone on (02) 2547 1199.

STAFF WRITER, WITH CNA

# Trio seeks to spark soccer fever

**I HAVE A DREAM:** Three former Brazilian professional soccer players say hard work and help from the government and the corporate sector could make Taiwan a soccer state

BY **SHELLEY SHAN**  
STAFF REPORTER

To Brazilian Claudio Roberto Lopes, or "Toddy," coming to Taiwan and being a soccer coach was not a difficult decision to make.

"My girlfriend wanted me to choose between her and soccer, and I said 'I love soccer,' and here I am," he said, adding that he had never heard of a soccer team in Taiwan before he came.

Lopes arrived earlier this year with three other Brazilian coaches at the invitation of the Chinese Taipei Football Association (CTFA), which launched the project "Taiwan Football Dream" (台灣足球夢) that aims to enable the soccer

A crucial part of the project is to have Brazilian coaches train young soccer players in Taiwan.

For the moment, Lopes and two other coaches — Levi Villibor and Claudio Fernandes Ribeiro — are still here coaching players at high schools and universities. All three used to play in Brazil's professional soccer league before becoming full-time coaches.

Joined by Villibor and Ribeiro, Lopes sat down with the *Taipei Times* earlier this month to share their views on the sport in Taiwan.

"Boys and girls, on average, are all good in their soccer skills," he said. "And overall, girls here are more disciplined, focused and determined to win than boys."

Lopes said training at the beginning was somewhat difficult because of the language barrier and players' changing positions during

games. But the three coaches said the players showed their great respect and quickly grasped their instructions.

The main problem, meanwhile, was a lack of a fighting spirit, Lopes said.

"They are not aggressive enough when they play," Lopes said. "You win, or you lose, it's OK, but you must fight like a warrior."

That lack of fight, as Lopes said, may have a lot to do with Taiwanese culture.

For one, soccer is not a very popular sport here.

"Education is still a very important matter for many students here and they spend too much time studying," Lopes said, adding that this leaves players with hardly enough time to do quality training.

Brazil built its reputation as a soccer country after winning five World

Cups since 1958, Lopes said, and it is common to see small children play soccer on the streets. Since in Brazil education is generally a privilege for rich people, many children from poor families aspire to play in the professional soccer league because the high salaries mean they can support their families, he said.

Every school in Brazil makes sure that its soccer players are fully developed and continue to improve their skills — without compromising their education.

"Here, not every school has a soccer team," he said.

Nonetheless, Lopes said it is possible to change culture and that this

**"My girlfriend wanted me to choose between her and soccer, and I said 'I love soccer,' and here I am."**

— Claudio Roberto Lopes, soccer coach

change must begin in schools.

"You need to have at least one soccer coach in every school," he said.

Players also need more time for training. The more they practice, the more *evolucão* (Portuguese for "developed") they get, he said.

Lopes said Taiwan "has no problem" in meeting the requirements for a professional soccer team, at least in terms of infrastructure.

Asked about how the corporate sector could be encouraged to support soccer, he said all it takes is "the government and the companies to sit down and talk."

In Brazil, the government gives tax breaks for firms that support soccer teams or sponsor games, he said.

Lopes said Taiwan's situation with soccer was similar to Brazil's with volleyball 16 years ago, when the volleyball team was simply no match to more experienced teams from China, the US or Australia.

However, with help from the government and corporations, volleyball is now the second most



Brazilian soccer coach Claudio Roberto "Toddy" Lopes, left, instructs players during practice at the Taipei Zhongshan Football Stadium.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHINESE TAIPEI FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

important sport in Brazil, he said. The women's national volleyball team won the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics, while the men's team won the silver. Both men's and women's teams are currently ranked No. 1 in the world by the International Volleyball Federation.

He said both South Korea and Japan faced the same problems with soccer years ago, but eventually the sport gained momentum in both countries because "somebody had a dream."

"I have a dream [for soccer in Taiwan]," he said. "In the last game you played against South Korea, you were beaten 2-0. After more practice, more training, you can beat them with a score of 4-2."

The three will stay in Taiwan for at least another year and all have expressed a willingness to renew their contracts. People in Taiwan are very friendly, they said.

Just as the interview was about

to wrap up, Villibor and Ribeiro showed clips they had found on YouTube about the "Soccer Hoopla" in Brazil — fans dancing and singing to cheer their favorite teams, or crying in disbelief when their team loses.

"I hope, Taiwan, one day, I hope," Villibor said, pointing at the screen. "It's possible if every player can fight like Taiwan's taekwondo fighter" Su Li-wen (蘇麗文).

Taiwan is ranked 173rd by FIFA. The CTFA intends to have a professional soccer league by 2018, with six professional teams. The number of professional soccer teams is expected to grow to 12 by 2028. By 2038, Taiwan wants to be one of the top 32 countries in the world competing for the World Cup.

Readers interested in contributing to the "Taiwan Football Dream" project can visit the Web site at [taiwanfootballdream.ctfa.com.tw/](http://taiwanfootballdream.ctfa.com.tw/).



### WE ARE THE WORLD

Indonesian Sally Liu performs a song at the 2008 Southeast Asian Multicultural Festival in Kaohsiung City on Sunday.

PHOTO: TUNG HAN-HEI, TAIPEI TIMES

## Shilin International Cultural Festival celebrates diversity

BY **MEGGIE LU**  
STAFF REPORTER

Residents of Taipei City's Shilin District gathered in Tianshu on Sunday for the 9th annual Shilin International Cultural Festival, an event that attracts thousands of expatriate residents.

In addition to food stalls, eight cultural artifact stalls were set up, with game and health checkup stalls organized by community clinics and hospitals also offered.

Saying that Shilin had always been culturally rich, with famous writers and painters residing in the district for the past 100 years, district Secretary-General Chen Yi-yuan (陳奕源) said the district government had every intention to continue the tradition, while bringing new blood to the community.

"We have three of Taipei's best-known foreign schools — Taipei American School, Taipei Japanese School and Taipei European School — and many foreign diplomats live here," he said.

Shilin is the district that has received the highest number of new immigrants — about 2,000, who came from countries such as Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and Cambodia — and has the largest expatriate population. The district government is dedicated to integrating the different cultures and blending them into one diversified community, Chen said.

"We want to develop Shilin as an 'international city' by promoting a more globalized perspective and mutual respect among residents," he said.

Chen said this year's event differed from the previous ones in that seven ambassadors from the nation's diplomatic allies were invited and featured 17 food stalls highlighting cuisine brought into the country by immigrants.

Among the guests was Honduran Ambassador Marlene Villalobos-Talbot, who has been to Taiwan for six years. During a speech, Villalobos-Talbot said she was happy to set up her office in the district and hoped to see more such events in future.

Nicaraguan Ambassador to Taiwan William Tapia, as well as Guatemalan Ambassador Ivan Espinoza Farfan, were also present.

# Foreigners lend their voices to anti-China protest



An expatriate gives the thumbs-up to participants during the anti-China demonstration in Taipei on Saturday.

**A NEW EXPERIENCE:** A Japanese onlooker said that in his home country, protests tended to be more spontaneous than those held in Taiwan

STAFF WRITER, WITH CNA

Many foreigners joined the protest on Saturday to support the pan-green camp's views and experience the atmosphere of a local political rally.

The rally was organized by the Democratic Progressive Party, the Taiwan Solidarity Union and a number of pro-localization groups, opposing standard Chinese products, the "one China" principle,

the recognition of Chinese diplomats and President Ma Ying-jeou's (馬英九) pro-China policies. Protesters also accused the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) government of incompetence.

Maddalena, an Italian who came to Taiwan four years ago to study Chinese philosophy, said that demonstrations in Taiwan are quite different from those in her native country, where protests against educational reform took place recently.

"Most of the protesters in Italy are young and intellectual, while here we can see many middle-aged and elderly people," she said in fluent Mandarin, adding that rallies generally had a peaceful atmosphere.

Some foreigners who participated in the protest were sympathetic to its outlook and demands.

A Japanese who works in Taiwan said he joined the rally to express opposition to China, as Japan and Taiwan both have had to deal with unsafe food imports from their giant neighbor and the economic threat posed by China, which has drawn considerable investment from Japanese companies.

He said, however, that in Japan, protest marches are generally organized by nongovernmental associations and that people rally spontaneously, while most protesters in Taiwan seem to be mobilized by political parties.

Kathryn, an Australian who

**"Most of the protesters in Italy are young and intellectual, while here we can see many middle-aged and elderly people."**

— Maddalena, Italian student

has studied in Taipei for two months, said it would be best for Taiwan to remain independent from China to safeguard its democracy.