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(M,W,F, 1:00pm:-2:50pm)

In this paper, I am going to talk about the different behaviors of holding a party, or attending a

party between US people and Hong Kong people.

Last Sunday, it was the birthday of the son of my uncle’s friend, who was called Michael. His

parents held a birthday party for him. He invited my uncle to attend his party. At that night, my

uncle called me and invited me to join the party. The first question in my mind is: What? I don’t

know who is Michael. Isn’t it so strange that I go to somebody’s party that I do not know at all?

I said no but my uncle said ‘Never mind! You will have fun. Let’s go…’. Therefore, I said yes

eventually.

After I arrived there, my uncle introduced me to that family. We had chatted for a little while

then they asked me to take the food provided on the desk. In the party, there were so many

people. What I was thinking was ‘Wow! Michael must be a very nice guy. He has so many

friends to celebrate his birthday with him.’ However, I found that actually Michael only know

some of the people there, but not all of them. Some were his schoolmates and friends, some

were his parents’ friends, some were not the friends of that family, they are just the friends of

the invitees. (Just like me and I am not the only one!)

From this event, I found that the parties hold in US and the parties hold in Hong Kong is totally

different!

The attendants are different. In the US parties, there may be the friends of the ‘party

holder’ and even somebody who’s the invitees’ friends but do not know the ‘holder’. Their

norms is that it is normal to see somebody that they don’t know in a party. On the

contrary, in Hong Kong, it seldom happens like this. In a party, usually all people are familiar

with each other, of course the ‘party holder’. Moreover, if the holder has many different groups

of friends, such as schoolmates of primary school, schoolmates of secondary school, teammates

of volleyball team, families and so on. He/she has to hold different parties at different time, not

at the same time. So that he can ensure the attendants in the same party know each other and

will not feel unfamiliar or uncomfortable. That is their norms about party. Therefore, it is not

uncommon that a person hold 4 to 5 parties for a birthday.

For myself, I prefer the ‘style’ of holding parties in US more than that in Hong Kong. It is more

convenient and efficient. We do not need to spend so much time on holding parties for the

same purpose. For example, we can celebrate the birthday once, instead of celebrating it for so

many times in a year. And that big party will be more meaningful! Besides this, people can

make more friends easily. I’m glad to have the chance to attend a party here and learn the

different culture or behaviors about party between US and Hong Kong. I will try to hold a party

by this ‘ US style ’ when I go back to Hong Kong.