Fists of fury

By MICHAEL CHEW and LAM FOO TSENG

FOR some people, nothing proves a bromance (brotherly romance) more than being there when the going gets tough.

And as puzzling as it might sound, 20-year-old Patrick holds the call of bromance close to his heart. The unfortunate part of this is that he sometimes shows it with his fists.

"When my friends ask for help, I cannot just back down and leave them in harm's way. I fight for my friends" sake. I want to help them," he said.

According to Patrick, these fights he gets called in to are often over girls. He's been called by friends in other colleges to help settle their love triangles, and we don't mean settling it the Oprah way.

"Once a friend called me up to help him beat up a guy who was flirting with his girlfriend. We tried to settle it through discussion, but things went ugly and we ended up bashing each other instead," he said.

Despite his "valiant" effort of helping friends by beating others, Patrick admits that he hates fighting.



toothpaste tubes not rolled up - you know, the things that happen on TV. Most of the time, the two (or more) will be punished, then they make up and be best of friends.

In real life, however, the consequences are more serious.

arguments or just the result of manisfestation of anger.

get injured, sometimes permanently, and sometimes death is caused.

There is a reason why your parents often tell you that fighting does not solve anything. What makes all this even less worth it is, of course, the fact that many fights and brawls are the result of petty

UCSI University College Student Wellness counselor Teow Ker Shin says that many fights are not even

Being caught and punished for fighting aside, there are sometimes more serious ramificantions - people can

triggered by the intention to be violent.

"It always starts with unresolved conflicts within us, whether it is anger or dissatisfaction. Actions such as fighting or brawling are the result of keeping such conflicts within us for too long."

Guy A finds out that Guy B is talking bad about Guy C behind his back, and Guy C happens to be Guy A's close

That might sound like the storyline to some chick flick, but it is exactly the plot for 19-year-old Victor and his

"I found out about a guy who talked bad about one of my close friends. I approached the guy to talk things out,

The best option is, like Patrick realises, to talk it out instead of keeping silent or keeping it to yourself.

but he just ignored me. I walked away at first, but came back later and asked him again to have a discussion,

field.

brawling action series.

but he ignored me again.

excuse to let my anger towards him," Victor said.

Bad blood

Reality bites

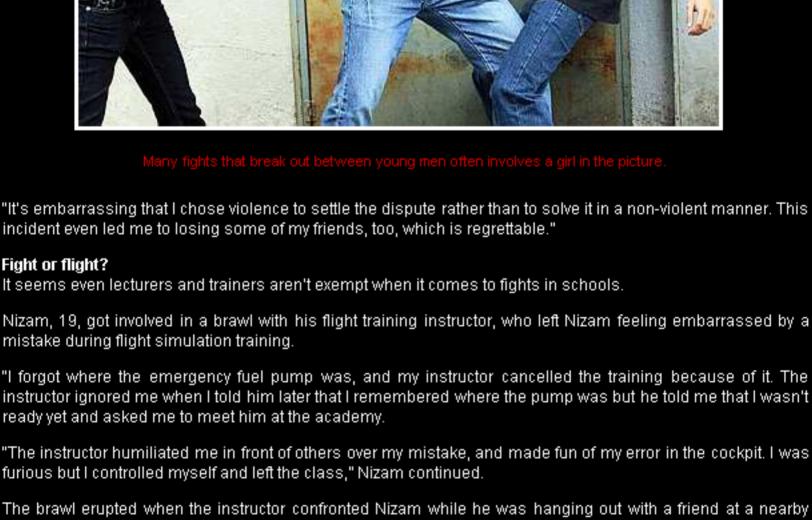
"I was frustrated at that point, and I slapped him on his face. A couple of my friends ganged up on him and we beat him up," Victor added.

As if the punches and kicks weren't enough, Victor and his friends continued the bashing with chairs and pool cues (they were at a poll centre), but were eventually pulled off by the workers and other bystanders. As horrible as it sounds, Victor takes it as a sweet victory over the guy.

"I have hated that guy for some time. I always thought he was snobbish and arrogant, so I used it as a perfect

But as much as it gives Victor the pleasure to put him one up against his bitter rival, the violent incident gave him a bad reputation.

""People around me started to have a bad impression on me," Victor said.



Obviously, Nizam could not run away from the dire consequences of getting into a fight, especially with an instructor. He received a warning letter over his actions and lost the communication and trust of the instructor.

The story came to public knowledge when a video started circulating on the Internet showing some students crowding around members of an unofficial student organisation at a canteen and threatening them. Some clips

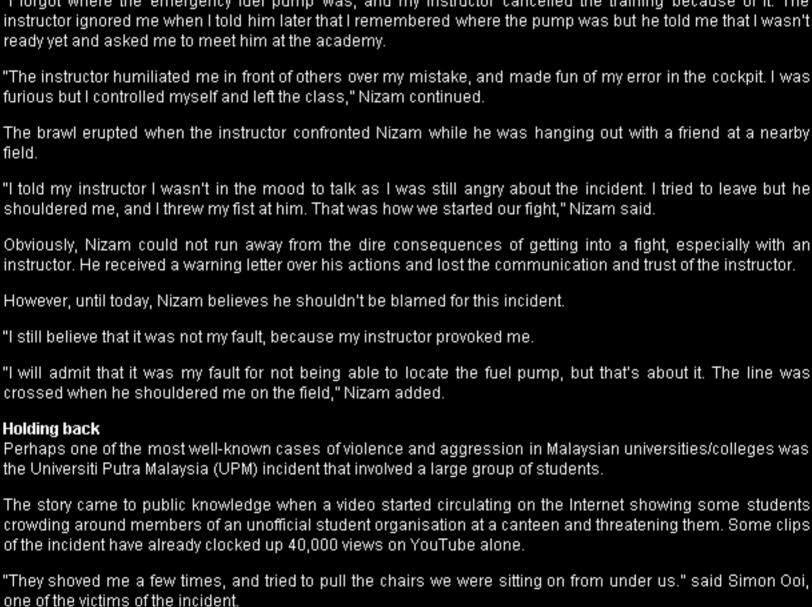
In spite of that incident, Simon did not expect fights over things like love triangles and disagreements to still occur in colleges or universities.

been the ones at fault," Simon said.

it manifests out of control.

the bullies were yelling aggressively in their faces, especially Simon's friend who was capturing it all on his digital camera. "We just decided that we didn't want the situation to get any more violent. I reminded myself that though they were being aggressive, they hadn't done anything yet. If we had responded by fighting back, we would have

What impressed a lot of people was how Simon and his friends managed to stay completely calm even though.



"Personally, I think fights or brawls in college are ridiculous and should not occur. I always opt for talking things out and try to solve things without harming others," Patrick said.



and depending on the situation, the police might be roped in to help with the case. "Counselling will help to identify the problems and provide a platform to pour up their thoughts, but it entirely depends on the individual to whether it could be the solution to their problems," Ker Shin said.

"Counsellors usually do not deal with brawls, as it is out of our field. Fights and brawls where actual physical harm is caused will be dealt with the disciplinary board or the Security department. They will take it from there,

Some of the names have been changed to protect the identities of the interviewees.