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Memorabilia
for the Cup

Page 16

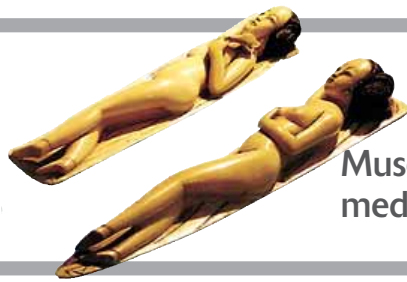


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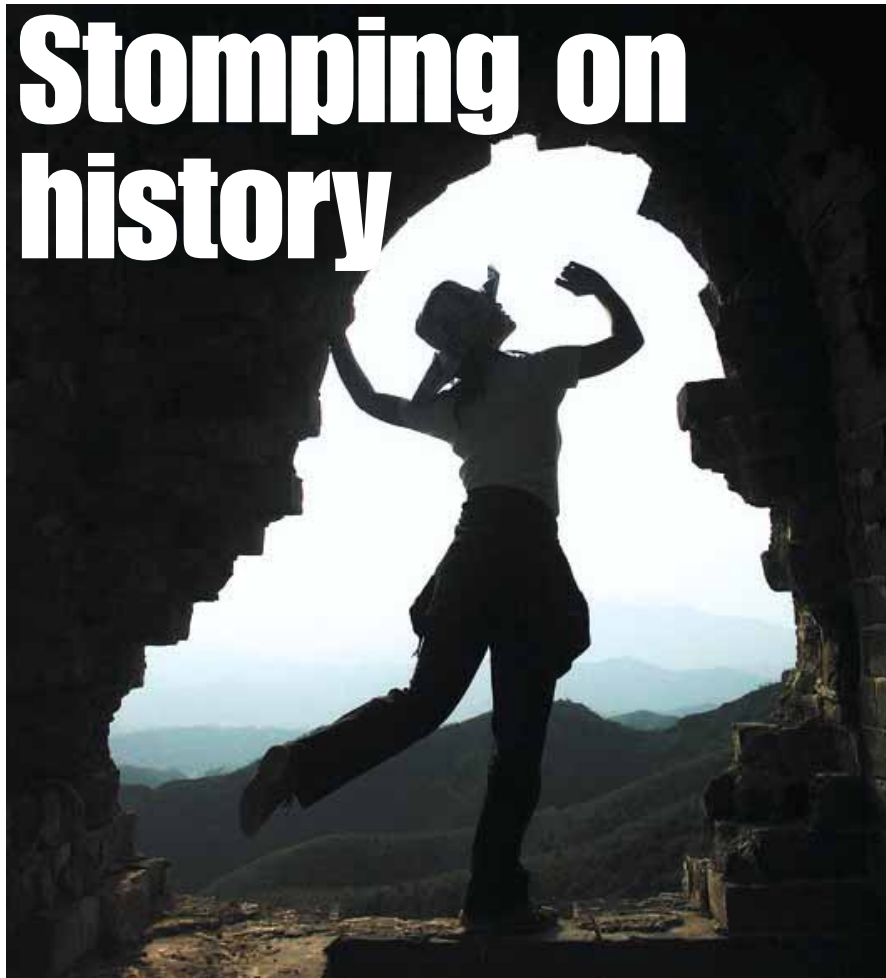
Page 15



Museum of
medicine

Page 20

Stomping on history



Six hundred kilo-
meters of the "Wild
Great Wall" are in
Beijing.

Unlike in the
restored sections, the
wild wall traverses
steep slopes and
majestic scenery:
thousands of tourists
come illegally each
year eager for an
"authentic"
experience.

The Jiankou Great
Wall in Huairou
District is especially
popular for its scenic
route and dangerous
slopes, the most
dangerous of which is
on 70- to 80-degree
incline. The narrow
steps of these "Sky
Stairs" make it nearly
impossible to get a
foothold.

But that difficulty
is as much a
temptation as a
deterrent: laws be
damned.

Read more
on Page 5

Agents sell
illusion of
love abroad

Page 4

Wage hike
won't shake
factory boom

Page 6

American
revolutionary
dead at 89

Page 9

World unites
to save
the opera

Pages 12-13

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Supermarkets a new channel for charity



The market currently sells only food and daily necessities.

Supermarket – a platform for participation

"We need an effective year-round system to collect and handle donations, raise citizen awareness of the need for charity and create channels for those who are willing to give."
– Wu Shimin, director, municipal bureau of civil affairs

The Municipal Bureau of Civil Affairs said last week it will expand the number of Charity Supermarkets by September. The program has been a success in Xicheng District and several other cities around the country.

It plans to improve its system of collecting donated clothes, home appliances, toys and goods by placing collection bins in residential communities throughout the city.

After sorting, washing and sterilizing the donations, a portion of the collected will be sent to the people who have been the victims of natural disasters. The rest, the bureau said, will be sent to the Charity Supermarkets. Cash collected from their sales will be donated to disaster victims.

But educating the public about charity may still be a big hump to overcome, Wu Shimin, director of the bureau, said.

The city sent 1,424 boxes to Beijing's 18 districts and counties. The boxes were to be supervised by nearby neighborhood committees.

However, most of the committees rejected the donation boxes or did not send people to supervise them, stating they preferred to receive donations "only when natural disasters occur" or "in November," a month already set aside for donations.

Ji Dongsheng, a professor at Renmin University and member of the municipal congress, criticized the attitudes of the street committees.

"Doing charity is a matter of love, not business," the professor said.

Wu said the lackluster efforts of many neighborhood committees frustrate the efforts of the city's willing donors.



Beijingers may be generous, but finding someone to accept donations can be difficult

By Zhao Hongyi

The city is expanding its Charity Supermarket program beyond the Xicheng District pilot to urge Beijingers to provide regular charitable donations.

In the coming months, the markets will be expanded to many more cities around the country.



Most major cities have opened Charity Supermarkets.

CFP Photos

Charity – old word but new concept

"Chinese people are not without a history of helping the needy. The problem is knowing what to do."

– Ji Dongsheng, professor at Renmin University

Charity has walked a zigzag road of development in China. Only in the past decade have wealthy businesses and individuals come to understand the word.

In the past, everyone looked to the government to rescue and aid the vulnerable.

But the central government began appealing to all sectors of society to make charitable contributions after the disastrous Yangtze River floods in 1992 and 1998.

The government also used to rely on a number of national charities to do most of the leg work: these organizations accepted cash only.

Because of this, many individuals lack an interest and enthusiasm in donating either cash or goods. Many enterprises also refuse to come through on their promised donations.

Since 2000 China has seen an explosion in its population of super-rich individuals. But

by and large these people have been invisible during the worst national disasters like the earthquakes in Sichuan and Qinghai.

"Chinese people are not without a history of helping the needy. The problem is knowing what to do," Ji said, suggesting that the Charity Supermarket offer them a way to donate and benefit at the same time.

"Donating clothes and goods is also a good way to implement a low-carbon lifestyle," he said.

Expanding throughout China

"We should use Charity Supermarket as a brand under which we can build a strong collection network throughout the country so it will be easy for people to give."

– Wang Jun, professor of civil welfare, Peking University

"The supermarkets and collecting systems are a great tool we can use to invite people to send their old goods to people who need them more," Ji said.

Wang said Charity Supermarket itself could become an umbrella brand for a sophisticated connection network that will bring in more people as contributors.

However, he said many Chinese are not yet rich enough to give things away. He suggested paying people a small reward for their second-hand donations to encourage them to donate goods before they are totally worthless.

A number of people, including big entrepreneurs and volunteers, are already contributing their goods, money and time. The One Foundation started by actor Jet Li and many business tycoons have taken an active role in helping the elderly and disabled after being pressured by both government and media.

Background

History of the Charity Supermarket

The first Charity Supermarket opened in Shanghai in 2003. The supermarket, with the support of the central and local governments, spread quickly to most major cities.

The supermarkets assist poor families by selling government-subsidized food, daily necessities and home appliances. However, relying on subsidies alone proved unsustainable.

To expand their offerings, the supermarkets began to solicit donations from residential communities. The donation model has been much more successful, and Charity Supermarkets are expected to open in many more cities during the next several months.

Charity Supermarket – donors and receivers

"The supermarket and goods collecting system can be an accessible channel for individuals to donate what they want."

– Wang Jun, professor of civil welfare at Peking University

The government created the Charity Supermarkets as a tool to aid the poor and disabled. Nearly

every big city has at least one charity supermarket selling consumables and food at low prices.

The markets are appreciated by the poor, but they may not be sustainable because the supply of goods is notoriously unstable.

Wang Jun, a professor of civil welfare from Peking University, said that "after three decades of economic growth, ordinary Chinese families and individuals have the capacity to help others."

"Donating used clothes and goods is a good start," he said.

"The supermarket and goods collecting system can be an accessible channel for individuals to donate what they want," Wang said.

Capital has World Cup fever despite China's absence

By Huang Daohen

World Cup fever has swept the capital despite the national team's failure to qualify for this year's competition in South Africa.

Soccer fans across the city turned out in droves last Friday night to watch the opening match between South Africa and Mexico. They gathered at pubs, sang and cheered the host on in its 1-1 draw.

But this week many faced a new dilemma: work or watch?

Many fans asked for World Cup leave and some skipped out of the office opting to pay a penalty.

One IT company was praised by soccer fans for issuing a notice that permitted employees to be up to 90 minutes late for work on days following World Cup matches. It also provided free drinks and stimulants to tired workers.

"A lot of our employees, myself included, are soccer zealots. When the World Cup begins we will surely be distracted," the company's manager surnamed Wang said.

Wang said instead of being anxious about employee perfor-



Watching the game with friends at the bar is the most popular World Cup activity.

IC Photo

mance during the monthlong competition, he opted to let them enjoy the games to the extent it does not affect daily business.

Merchants pounced on every chance to capitalize on the Cup.

On Houhai bar street, hawk-

ers with giant footballs, model World Cups and flags of the 32 competing teams make it impossible to forget about the competition.

Bars owners decorated their walls and windows, rebuilt their

courtyards and posted match schedules.

Cecilia Wang, a bartender at Houhai No. 5 Club, said groups of friends coming in to watch the games have created a spike in business.

"We are installing more TVs, especially large screens," Wang said. "All the rooms are reserved whenever there is an important match. But we haven't really changed the prices," she said.

Wang said soccer frenzy would likely boost beer sales by more than 30 percent.

Chen Xin, a regular visitor to Houhai, said he preferred watching the games at the pub. "Fans can talk, watch and get crazy about soccer together," he said.

But Chen said he expected the bars to be very crowded. "It's difficult to find space to stand during some of the special matches," he said.

The sudden crowds have also kept police busy.

In order to reduce traffic accidents and keep the roads safe, the police are setting up sobriety checkpoints at popular venues from 7 pm to early the next morning.

Police announced last week that drunk drivers would be more seriously penalized during the World Cup. Drunk drivers will be detained 15 days and fined 2,000 yuan.

Filmmaker's attack may have underworld link



Yan Po

CFP Photo

By Zhang Dongya

Ten men allegedly involved in the stabbing attack of film director Yan Po last week were detained by Beijing police, Xinhua reported Monday.

The director was attacked on the release date of his new movie "Shaking Marriage."

Lu Chuan, a noted Chinese filmmaker, said "the accident reveals the savage reality that the mainland film industry is being controlled and manipulated by underground criminal gangs."

Yan, 43, was stabbed by four men in Chaoyang District last Tuesday. He was seriously injured

and remains hospitalized.

Two men - Wang Zheng, 38, and Liang Jun, 40 - turned themselves into police confessing to have hired eight others to carry out the attack.

The men said the attack was revenge for Yan dating their friend's ex-girlfriend.

Actress Li Xiaoran, who was taking care of Yan at the hospital, said the attack was connected to her ex-boyfriend, a Hong Kong man.

The eight men were detained by police in Dalian and Anshan in Liaoning Province.

Police are investigating the

case and may charge the men with causing a disturbance and intentional injury.

Lu said on his microblog that the attack probably involved underground organized crime.

"[The accident] is a sign that the rules of conflict in the mainland film industry have turned bloody," he wrote the day after the attack.

When asked whether the Hong Kong underworld has a hand in the mainland entertainment industry, Hong Kong filmmaker John Wu said "It does, and it always has" at the Shanghai International Film Festival this week.

But most in entertainment circles deny the involvement of "organized crime."

Film critic Cheng Qingsong said Lu's comment was "sensationalism." He said the incident was a personal affair and did not reflect the state of the mainland film industry.

Yan has a reputation as a philanderer. His divorce from ex-wife Mei Ting, another actress, was reportedly prompted by the director's extramarital affairs.

Since Yan was attacked the day "Shaking Marriage" was released, some suspect the attack may have been a way to hype his movie.

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Mixed matchmaking industry a money pit

By Li Zhixin

Four years ago, a 37-year-old Chinese woman working in Shenzhen met Stanislaw Tyminski, then a contender for the Polish presidency, through an online-dating site.

It wasn't long before she was whisked away to Canada for a flash wedding.

Many matchmaking agencies eager to pair single local women with foreign men have been keen to retell this Cinderella story.

But these eager women rarely learn what happened to their glass slippers — and their money.

Fairy tale no more

Zhang Lan, 44, a sales representative, was stunned when she found the offices of Zhongmei Jiayuan matchmaking agency abandoned.

Only several months ago the agency was bustling with women desperate for a mixed marriage.

In Zhang's case, her husband died in 2004 and she set her heart on making her next spouse a foreigner.

One day she found an Internet post promoting Zhongmei as having a very high mixed matchmaking success rate. She phoned the agency and arranged to meet with a representative.

A woman surnamed Wu told her Zhongmei cooperated with several matchmaking agencies abroad. If Zhang paid to become a member, they would upload her picture and information to the foreign sites and help introduce her to foreign clients.

"When I asked how I could be sure the information is true, she assured me that the men in the database were strictly screened by their foreign partners," she said. "She told me that most men were middle class and interested in Chinese women, and that the success rate of their matches was consequentially quite high."

Wu told her the foreign men would usually aid a woman in getting a visa and moving abroad.

Zhang said her dream came with a 40,000-yuan price tag; of course, she could pay in installments.

"Their contract said I had to pay 20,000 yuan up front to become a member and another 20,000 when one of their men decided to marry me," she said.

After paying the initial membership fee, Zhang was allowed to scan through their albums and pick her favorite man.

"Wu helped me narrow down my choices and after an hour I settled on one of the men, a 45-year-old British man who owned 2 hectares of land and several chain supermarkets," she said.

"Wu promised me that I would be in touch with the man within one month and said she would call me when he gave her a response."

Zhang was daydreaming about life in the UK when she left the agency. In the following days, Wu called frequently with status updates. She told her the man would be coming to China next month to meet her in person.

She counted the days in anticipation, but grew suspicious when Wu's calls stopped coming.

Several days later, she called Wu a dozen times hoping to fix a date, but found Zhongmei's office line had been disconnected.



The government frowns on mixed matchmaking, but not enough to codify its prohibition. Chasing huge profits, many gray agents sell the promise of happiness abroad.

CFP Photo

"One thing the victims all have in common is that they dream of getting foreign citizenship and leading a rich life after their marriage. They are also united by their poor English."

A market in chaos

Most agencies use the same tactics to hoodwink divorcees, spinsters and widows.

The initial membership that enables the client to view potential mates abroad costs 20,000 to 60,000 yuan. More money follows after a successful match.

"No one can supervise their procedures. Even if they find a guy for you, you will never know his true identity. All you see is a picture, and possibly forged personal information," said Yang Tianfang, 38, a divorcee with limited English skills.

Yang said she was not allowed to communicate with the potential mate the agency located.

"I was asked to use the agen-

cy's assigned email address to communicate through an intermediary. The agency said this was so it could help translate," she said.

"I was never allowed to see any of the emails before they were translated, and when I wrote back, the agency once again acted as the gatekeeper. Only the agency knows if any of those letters were actually from a foreigner."

Yu Jing, a marriage counselor of Yinke Law Office, said, "I've seen a 20 percent increase in the number of clients looking for lawyers to sue these matchmaking agencies since last year."

Victims are generally

women between the ages of 40 and 55. They are rarely competitive in the local marriage market. Usually years of work or a broken marriage killed their passion and they are seeking a change through a foreign spouse, Yu said.

"One thing they all have in common is that they dream of getting foreign citizenship and leading a rich life after their marriage. They are also united by their poor English," she said.

Aside from matchmaking agencies and online dating sites, many translation agencies engage in the marriage business. On the surface they advertise expensive translation services,

but they actually provide work as a go-between for clients seeking a foreign man.

"Our translators are professionals at wooing foreign guys. They can help you to make a favorable impression. If you can't speak English, we can be a stand-in," said Huang MeiHui, a worker at Meizhiyuan Translation Company.

In order to cover their tracks, some agencies have no physical office. When this reporter attempted to phone Yueyuan, a similar Beijing-based mixed matchmaking agency, to arrange an office consultation, its receptionist hung up the phone and rejected all calls.

"We don't need to shut down the mixed matchmaking market — we need to regulate it and force these agencies to make sure the men they are recommending are really who they say they are. It's a matter of protecting Chinese women's rights."

Industry short of laws

Technically speaking, the mixed matchmaking industry is banned.

In 1994, the General Office of the State Council issued a Circular on "Enhancing the Administration of Mixed Matchmaking Service" and called for a prohibition of the agencies.

The circular was issued to protect Chinese women from being defrauded, or at worst trafficked.

However, the circular was

just that: a letter. It has no legal bearing. The huge demand and profits drive many agencies and online-dating sites to do the business regardless of how much the government frowns on their business.

"The policy is 16 years old and now terribly out of date. We don't need to shut down the mixed matchmaking market — we need to regulate it and force these agencies to make sure the men they are recom-

mending are really who they say they are," said Ren Yuanzheng, a member of the National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

"It's a matter of protecting Chinese women's rights."

Yang Lixun, director of the Institute for Social Development at the Shenzhen Academy of Social Sciences, suggested the government attempt pilot operations in several cities before passing national regulations.

"The Chinese Matchmaking Industry Association of Social Workers Committees (CMIA) should establish an information platform for mixed marriage-seekers," said Zhao Jin, president of 21xiehou.com, a matchmaking site.

"I think if CMIA steps up and asks similar foreign bodies to recommend trustworthy matchmaking agencies it will do wonders to improve the credibility of mixed matchmakers."

Crumbling heritage

Pressing need to conserve undeveloped sections of Great Wall

By Liang Meilan

Climbing the Great Wall is a must for Beijing tourists. Most choose to visit crowded sections like Badaling and Mutiyanu. Others who want a more breathtaking experience risk the dangers of the undeveloped portions of the Wall — areas banned to visitors by law. Adventurous tourists and photographers call these sections the “Wild Great Wall.”

Due to poor law enforcement and lack of awareness of the need to preserve cultural relics, these undeveloped areas like the Huanghualing and Jiankou Great Walls are crumbling and crying out for help.

William Lindsey



Tourists trekking the Jiankou Great Wall

Call of the wild

According to the Municipal Cultural Relics Census, 600 kilometers of the Wall's 629 kilometers in Beijing form part of the “Wild Great Wall.”

Unlike the restored Badaling Great Wall, the wild sections boast steep slopes and majestic scenery that attract tens of thousands of tourists who want a more “authentic” experience. The Huanghuacheng Great Wall, in Huairou District, alone sees 300,000 visitors each year.

Jiankou Great Wall, also in Huairou, is popular among trekkers for its scenic route and its dangerous slopes, one of which is the “Sky Stairs” stair-like outcropping at an angle of 70 to 80 degrees. The stairs are so narrow it is extremely difficult to get a foothold.

“The average slope angle is 75 degrees and you have to grip using both your hands and feet,” says Chen Yujiang, head of Xianzhi village where Jiankou is located. “People without professional climbing equipment won't be able to conquer it.”

The difficulty is as much a challenge as a detriment, laws be damned.

Zhang Yu, a Beijing adventurer, has been to Jiankou five times and cannot seem to get enough of the place. “It is common knowledge that the ‘Wild Great Wall’ sections are ideal places for excursions, climbing and shooting photos,” he says.

“My friends and I make plans every year to go trekking and camping on the Jiankou Great Wall. We don't need to bring much since we can get food and drinks and everything else we need at the stores at the foot of the Wall.”

People living around the Wall's undeveloped sections have taken advantage of “illegal tourists” by opening restaurants, hotels and gardens. Some villagers even help visitors scale the wall by renting out ladders for 10 yuan.

“These facilities add to the temptation of climbing the ‘Wild Great Wall,’” says Kong Fanzhi, deputy director of the Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage, “So, many people still come even though they have been warned it is unlawful.”



The stairs on the Jiankou Great Wall are badly destroyed.

Poor law enforcement

The “Notice on Further Reinforcing the Conservation and Management of the Great Wall,” a regulation that prohibits the climbing of the undeveloped sections of the Wall has been in place for seven years — but the number of “trespassers” continues to increase. These unregulated visits result in vandalism and a loosening of Wall bricks from the picks and shovels climbers use.

Some tourists pay with their lives. Last year, a newly married Chinese couple fell to their deaths from the Jiankou Great Wall after being startled by lightning. On their way to the Wall from a tour-

ist garden in Xizhazi village, a Wall ranger tried to dissuade them from going. “They would not stop, so we had no choice but to let them go,” says Chen Yujiang, the village head, explaining that visitors ignore their warnings since they are not police officers.

Jiankou falls under the jurisdiction of Xizhazi village, so the village government is responsible for protecting the section. “In ancient times, the village was the only way through to Huairou and Yanqing, and vice versa, so people created dozens of paths that now make it easy for tourists to reach the Wall,” Chen says.

Government and non-government efforts

Kong of the Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage says the government should “rethink its outdated regulations and find a way to meet both the needs of tourists and protect cultural relics.”

He suggests opening popular “wild” sections of the Wall and developing them like Badaling. “This will be safer for tourists, help preserve the Wall and contribute to the economic growth of nearby villages,” he says.

“Before these sections open, the administration of the developed sections could adopt measures like lowering fees and holding activities aimed at people who tend to go to the Wild Great Wall.”

The Municipal Administration of Cultural Heritage is already drafting a “Great Wall Conservation Plan” based on data collected in the last two years. The plan will include suggestions on which undeveloped sections of Wall should be opened to tourists, as well as restrictions on the number of visitors allowed on the Great Wall each day. The plan is scheduled to be released next year.

Non-government organizations are also involved in the conservation efforts. Among them is the International Friends of the Great Wall, an NGO founded in 2001

by British national William Lindsey, which raised awareness of the destruction of the wild sections, resulting in the 2003 and 2006 regulations.

In 2000, the NGO launched a stewardship project for the undeveloped Wall in Huairou County. The project employed six farmers as part-time rangers whose job included patrolling the Wall and the paths leading to the Wall. It also supervised the collection and sorting of trash for landfill disposal or recycling. Huairou's Wall is now considered the “cleanest section of the Great Wall.”

The organization also operates the only non-profit, private environmental and educational scheme benefiting the Wall. From 2000 to 2009, it produced and replaced various sign boards at a cost of 50,000 yuan. “This basic work has been supplemented with environmental education for local farmers carried out by society volunteers,” Lindsey, 53, says.

“The Great Wall is the world's greatest building considering its scale, the labor that was invested, materials used and centuries as a work in progress,” he says. “It must be preserved — a task that requires enormous effort.”



The NGO International Friends of the Great Wall donated dustbins to Badaling Great Wall.

CFP Photos

To help enforce the no-entry law, the village party committee organized a special team of Great Wall guards in 2007. “We have 19 members and 40 volunteers, all villagers. Members patrol the eight entrances on the main roads and hand out educational materials such as the ‘Great Wall Conservation Regulation,’ issued in 2006,” Chen says. “When they see tourists about to climb the wall, they try their best to stop them.”

Last year, the team successfully prevented 3,000 people from climbing the wall. But in most cases, tourists ignore the guards. “The guards have no

right to arrest those illegally climbing the wall,” Chen says.

Another problem is the lack of manpower. There are 40 kilometers of Wall in Xizhazi village, and they are monitored by only 19 full-time guards. The men receive only 100 yuan a month as allowance from the municipal Cultural Relics Bureau.

Dong Yaohui, vice president of the China Great Wall Association, cuts more to the heart of the problem: “Without effective administration measures, without a proper monitoring and punishment system, the regulations are meaningless.”

HONDA

Wages hike in China

Rising labour costs hold mixed future for economy

A possible wage hike has become a hot topic since Honda and Foxconn decided to increase worker salaries last week – in Foxconn's case by as much as 50 percent.

Now the Chinese union of KFC workers is also demanding more cash.

Pay rises of this order have drawn a big line under the issue, causing market observers to fear that a pay hike will eat into the huge profits of multinationals.

Will rising wages nudge off China's crown as factory of the world? Is it a boon for its neighbors?



Honda Motor said it will resume full operations after a strike that began with a walkout for higher wages.

CFP Photo

Wave of wage increases

If Li Xiaojuan has her way, the rest of the world will no longer be able to take cheap Chinese labor for granted. The 20-year-old, who works on the production line at a Honda components factory in Foshan, a manufacturing city in Guangdong Province, was one of the few workers at Honda Automotive Components Manufacturing to take a public stand in an industrial action late last month.

Li issued an open letter on behalf of 16 employees chosen by workers to negotiate on their behalf during a strike that closed the Japanese carmaker's China operations for a full week.

"We must maintain a high degree of unity," the letter urged. "We care about the rights and interests of all Chinese workers."

Li and her colleagues secured a 25 percent increase in their monthly base pay to 1,900 yuan in a victory that inspired copycat action at two other Honda suppliers in the province.

Although salaries have been rising steadily in recent years, aside from a hiatus during the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, the successful industrial action signaled that workers are prepared to fight for double-digit rises.

The government took the signal well.

Starting July 1 the Beijing government will increase its minimum wage by 20 percent to 960 yuan per month. In export giant Shenzhen, the minimum climbed 15.8 percent. And 18 other cities and provinces across China are also following the recent wage raise trend.

Rise won't deter investment

This raises the wider question of whether the generous profits manufacturers made on low-cost Chinese labour are under threat.

Former Morgan Stanley economist Andy Xie said the recent wage hike won't deter investment. A doubling of China's manufacturing wages over the next five years won't deter foreign investment



A wage hike is unlikely to close the doors of the world's factory.

Xinhua Photo

because Asian rivals such as India and Indonesia lack comparable infrastructure, he said.

Labor strikes and worker suicides have forced companies like Foxconn Technology Group and Honda Motor to raise salaries in the world's third-biggest economy. Demands for higher wages are fast becoming an issue in China and companies need to get used to it, he said.

"China's workers are getting a break for the first time," Xie, who is now an independent economist, said in a Bloomberg Television interview in Hong Kong.

The economy remains in a "sweet spot" and the country will continue to be the most popular hub for foreign manufacturers because of its superior infrastructure, he said.

Boon for neighbors

Rising wages represent long-overdue good news for the overworked and poorly paid employees who make the consumer products the US relies on. But could it be positive for American workers and the US economy as well?

Amy Traub, research director for the US-based Drum Major Institute for Public Policy, said it is good news.

Competition with low-wage workers

from developing countries has driven down wages for other workers in manufacturing and reduced the wages and bargaining power of similar workers throughout the economy.

China is the most important source of downward pressure from trade because it pays low wages and because it was responsible for nearly 40 percent of US non-oil imports from developing countries in 2008.

Traub said an increase in wages will begin to reverse the trend. Analysts are already speculating that rising wages in China could push up the price of Chinese imports to the US. If that happens, Americans would find it relatively more affordable to buy domestically produced goods and American exports might see a boost as well, she said.

This will help bolster American manufacturing and create jobs, Traub said. Better-off Chinese consumers could provide a market for American-made goods, she added.

The US trade deficit with China is still growing; Traub said increasing wages in China represent a step toward more balanced trade. "It's a good thing for Chinese workers and their American counterparts," she said.

(Agencies)

Market watch

'China price' looks safe for now

By Huang Daohen

Though wage pressures are building in the country, even in non-exporting industries, economics professor Zhao Xiao said any idea that the nation is about to surrender its status as the workshop of the world is wide off the mark.

Zhao, who specializes in government policy, said labor cost is a small fraction of the whole even for labor-intensive industries. At Foxconn International, which has in effect doubled wages for its assembly-line workers, staff costs including pensions account for 7 percent of the total cost.

Many of the biggest producers have ample room to absorb pay rises, Zhao said. Between 1994 and 2008, statistics show industrial enterprises in China experienced a 21 percent annual labor productivity growth, while annual wage growth was just over 13 percent.

"In other words, unit labor costs fell," he said.

Zhao said many contractors in China are now much more profitable than their counterparts in developed markets. The five-year average net profit margin at Zhejiang-based clothier Shenzhou International, a big supplier to Uniqlo and Nike, is 15 percent, which is double Japan's Fast Retailing and two-thirds higher than the US sports brand.

He said higher wage settlements do not necessarily lead to lower margins. Manufacturers will most likely pass some of the costs on to vendors.

Earlier this year, Zhao conducted a wage survey of Guangdong manufacturers. The majority of those asked said they were expecting pay to rise by around 10 percent, Zhao said.

While a few Chinese firms and multinationals have tentatively started to peer over the borders into Vietnam, Thailand or Indonesia, most companies said any relocation would likely be within China, Zhao said.

A wage hike is – to some extent – good news, he said. China's economic growth has long been concentrated around the eastern coastal cities and around the Pearl and Yangtze river deltas. But now companies are increasingly looking inland to Sichuan, Inner Mongolia and Chongqing, he said.

It helps spread economic activity throughout the rest of the Chinese mainland, something the government has been hoping for, Zhao said.

The "China price" looks safe for now, he said.

Plans to bulldoze landmark hotel criticized as non-environmental

By Zhao Hongyi

Gloria Plaza Hotel Beijing, one of the capital's landmark four-star hotels, will be demolished to make way for a five-star hotel, according to COFCO, the hotel's major shareholder.

Gloria Plaza, located on Jianguomen Avenue, opened in 1992. The 24-story building's amenities include more than 400 guest rooms, a banquet hall and a tennis court.

The hotel underwent extensive renovation in 2002 and 2008, in preparation for the Beijing Olympics. COFCO said the five-star hotel being planned will be 20 meters higher and its underground space will be 4,000 square meters more than the existing. It is scheduled to be completed in three years.

"Most of the equipment in the hotel is still pretty new, but we'll dispose of it by auction," said a Gloria Plaza employee who would not state his name. He was quite surprised by plans to tear down the hotel, saying it is "running well and makes a considerable profit."

Another hotel looks to suffer the same sad fate: the three-star Taiwan Hotel on Wangfujing Avenue. Taiwan Hotel, also controlled by COFCO, was inaugurated in 1990. It will reportedly be replaced by a five-star hotel, which will be "8 meters higher than the old one and have two more undergrounds levels." The new hotel is expected to be built within three years.

Local media criticized COFCO, better known for its food business, for wasting resources by



Construction workers cut iron bars to make way for new residential and commercial spaces where Taiwan Hotel used to stand. IC Photo

demolishing such new buildings. *Beijing Evening News* said the news is attention-grabbing at a time when China is emphasizing the importance of promoting a low-carbon lifestyle.

Two months ago, a vice minister at the Ministry of Construction said China's buildings are usually torn down after less than 30 years, a "great waste of resources." He said real-estate developers should put more effort into making buildings with good design and workmanship, maintaining existing buildings and optimiz-

ing their use.

The preoccupation with bulldozing old buildings is not unique to Beijing. In Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi Province, the 13-year-old four-star Lake View Hotel was demolished in February.

CCTV reported this week that there are plans to redevelop a 20-year-old residential community in Qingdao, Shandong Province - a move that residents are challenging. In Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province, the local government has turned over to a developer an eight-year-old residential area.

China constructs more than 2 billion square meters of buildings a year, utilizing nearly 40 percent of the world's cement supply, as well as huge amounts of iron and similar materials.

"These new constructions do not only waste resources but they are creating a potentially explosive social crisis," said Xia Yelian, a professor of economics at Peking University, adding that "local governments and people's associations should do more to preserve existing buildings and encourage owners to just build on what is already there."

Comment

Nearsightedness is root of the problem

These new projects also create construction waste that pollutes the environment. The root of the problem is the nearsighted designs and quality of construction.

- Zuo Yin, reporter, Beijing Evening News

Do not forget the people

Does anybody think about the displaced residents and hotel employees who will lose their work? Reports say the employees of Gloria are paid only a small severance fee, and nearby residents are worried they have to move away from the city center.

- Li Fuyong, reporter, China Economic Times

History matters

A city's appeal is not based only on new, luxurious buildings. Its historical and cultural elements are more important.

- Susan Lindberg, Norwegian living in Beijing

Take care of old buildings

We should take good care of old buildings as they are historically precious. We should only tear down buildings if they have major problems in design or construction.

- Zhang Dali, designer, China Construction Design Co. Beijing Branch

Nudity and kisses, a publicity stunt?

By Huang Daohen

Two women attracted national attention this week for their erotic behavior. One modeled naked in the countryside, while the other offered kisses to strangers.

The first woman, a 20-year-old university student in Henan Province, was paid by 10 art photographers to pose nude outdoors, *Henan Business Daily* reported. The woman, surnamed Zhang, has been a part-time nude model for three years, the paper said.

On June 9, the group traveled to Xinmin, a remote village in Henan, for their photo shoot. Locals immediately swarmed them; some took photographs of the naked Zhang with their

mobile phones.

A few hours later, several village elders arrived and shooed away Zhang and the photographers using tree branches. "Get out of here!" *Henan Business Daily* quoted them as saying.

One of the elderly men told local media that the village is a conservative place and deemed the group's behavior unacceptable. "I have lived here since I was born 60 years ago," he said. "It is indecent to take photos of naked women here, and we cannot permit it."

Zhang's actions started a heated discussion about art and conservatism. Meanwhile, a woman in Shanghai who offered kisses to passersby in

the name of environmental protection has won both praise and condemnation.

Li Xiaohu, a junior university student in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, kissed several strangers at the Shanghai Expo Park who picked up trash they threw on the ground and placed them in a garbage bin.

Li said this was her personal contribution to environmental protection, adding that the idea came to her when she saw some people casually throwing cigarettes butts and trash on the street.

Some netizens were skeptical of Zhang and Li's intentions. They said the women were just hungry for attention and thus pulled such stunts.



Li Xiaohu's kissing strangers at Shanghai Expo Park has won her self both praise and condemnation. Xinhua Photo

Comment

Read implied meaning

I don't see any deception here. It's normal for photographers to pay models to pose in the nude. Since the 1990s, Chinese people have begun accepting more edgy art forms, including artistic nude photography. In 2001, some cities on

the mainland actually held several photography exhibitions on the human body.

Residents of such a remote village might not understand and accept this kind of art, but people should read the meaning implied by these photos.

- Wang Jin, photographer

People have rights

It is people's right to do what they want as long as they don't hurt others. For the woman who offered passersby a kiss, that is legal if she bought a ticket to enter the Expo Park. To some extent, it was a creative move to prevent people from throw-

ing trash carelessly.

- Felix, engineer from Ireland
A need for respect

I saw the news on TV and it showed people passing the nude model with hands covering their eyes. It meant people still cannot accept such behav-

ior. Some young people are creative, but they should first know how to respect themselves as well as the arts.

I can appreciate this type of art, but I will never allow my daughter to be a nude model.

- Yang Ruzhen, Beijing resident



CHINA OPEN 2010
Large Children Theme Promotion Campaign



"Ball Boy Zero Distance" China Open Ball Boy Selection
"China Open Little Painters" Children Theme Drawing Contest
"China Open, Share Tennis" Tennis Training Camp

LITTLE STARS SHINING IN CHINA OPEN

Organizer: Beijing China Open Promotions Limited
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Supporting media: CCTV (Children's Channel), Legal Evening News, NetEase Health Daily, Beijing Children's Weekly and Tonight (Evening News of Tonight)
Special Partner: China National Radio Music Radio "Heart to Go to School" Language

Training Partner: Beijing Everwell Sports Co., China Tennis Club and 8th Green Tennis Academy Partner: World China
Cooperating Partner: Beijing Shijing Bai Foreign Language Experimental Primary School, Beijing Oriental Gold Tower (Children's) Primary Reading School, Jingchunyang (Children's) Palace, Peking Primary School, Beijing PUA Second Military Forces Headquarters Kindergarten, Tsinghua Children's Palace, Sunbeam Children's Palace, Chengde Children's Palace, Tsinghua School Attached to Capital Normal University, Chongqing High School, Libin Road to Beijing Normal University, International School of Beijing (Shunyi) and Langzhi International School (Shijiazhuang) Primary School. (All names are arranged in random order.)



ZHENG JIE, China Open Image Ambassador



"China Open Little Painters" Children Theme Drawing Contest

WORKS COLLECTION PERIOD: May 25 - September 10, 2010 DRAWING THEME: Tennis stars in previous China Open AGE OF PARTICIPANTS: 4-12

SIZE OF WORKS:

Works for the contest shall not be smaller than A4 (210 x 297mm) in size, not larger than A3 (297 x 420mm).
Note: A participant shall make a note on the back of the work addressed, stating the name of work, name, gender and age of painter, name and contact of parent or tutor as directed below address (in bold print):

PRIZES:

Participants will be classified into three groups: aged 4-6, aged 7-9 and aged 10-12.
There are 1 (one) prize, 2 (second) prizes, 4 (third) prizes and 10 (tenth) prizes for each group, and one grand prize will be selected out of all participants (that is one out of all participants regardless of groups).

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National Tennis Center



Hinton arrived in Yan'an in 1948



The couple with their three kids



Inspecting their Beijing farm



Receiving her residence permit in 2004

American members of the Chinese revolution

By Zhao Hongyi

Joan Hinton, an American who supported the Chinese Communist Revolution, died in Beijing June 8 at the age of 89.

Hinton, known to locals as Han Chun, or "brisk spring," had made China her adopted home, and along with her husband, devoted her life to the realization of socialist ideals.



Joan Hinton in the yard of her farmhouse in Changping District, where she lived for 30 years.

CFP Photos

Journey to Yan'an

Joan Hinton, born in Chicago in 1921, was the granddaughter of Ethel Lilian Voynich, author of *The Gadfly*, a story about the struggles of a Western revolutionary. The novel, published in 1897, is considered a "classic of socialism" and became very popular in the former Soviet Union and China in the early 20th century.

Hinton studied nuclear physics at university. Afterwards, she joined the US team that developed the atom bomb, serving as assistant to the famed nuclear scientist Enrico Fermi. But she experienced a personal crisis after seeing the devastating effects of the bombs that the US dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki near the end of World War II (1941-45).

She wrote about her misgivings to her boyfriend Erwin Engst, a graduate of Cornell University who was living in Yan'an, the stronghold of the Communists from the mid-1930s to 1949. Through Engst — who took the name Yang Zao, or "sunny morning" — she learned about the Chinese Communist Revolution, a struggle to improve the life of the masses.

"You cannot understand how attractive the theories (of communism) were in those years of the Great Depression and World War II," Hinton once said.

In 1948, a period of intense fighting between the Commu-

nists and the Nationalists, she gave up her scientific career and joined Engst in Yan'an. Early the following year, they married in a cave house, traditional style of home in Yan'an and the surrounding loess plateau.

"The years in Shanbei (region where Yan'an was located) were the happiest time of my life because everyone was equal," Hinton said.

Dedication to raising cows

After Hinton arrived from the States, she and Engst were assigned the task of cross-breeding 83 cows from Holland with cows from Shanxi Province and Inner Mongolia. Four years later, they were reassigned to another farm near Xi'an, where they would stay for a decade. At the start of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), the couple and the cows they raised were moved to a farm in Beijing's Changping District. Their purpose, the couple said, was to "give poor Chinese people safe milk to drink."

For six decades, the couple got up at 5am every day to begin work. They fashioned their own tools and machinery, and even used their own money to import breeding materials and equipment.

When asked if they regretted their hard life in China, the couple replied: "We've eaten 10,000 kilograms of China's grain. Doing something useful is our duty."

Both of them are gone — Engst died in December 2003 — but their legacy remains. Their Changping farm raises some of the best cows in the country, producing milk for yoghurt products sold by Kraft Foods in China.

Choosing the simple life

The couple was given opportunities to do office work, but they preferred life on a farm.

In 1966, they were assigned to work as translators for both the China Film Distribution Company and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The position came with accommodations at Xinqiao Hotel, one of the most luxurious hotels in the city at the time.

But Engst and Hinton soon asked to return to cow breeding. The reason, they said, "was to do work that produced something tangible and allowed us to be closer to the working class."

Their house in Changping contains old furniture, their bookshelves filled with the works of Communist Party Chairman Mao Zedong, as well as pictures of smiling Chinese people during the Mao years.

During the Cultural Revolution, the couple wrote to Mao, requesting him to remove the special privileges and extra comforts given to expatriates. They also asked him how they could contribute to the revolution.

Engst and Hinton are survived by three offspring, one female and two males. They once said they regretted that only two of their children had a chance to work in a village with millions of young Chinese.

"If a child is not in touch with the grassroots, how can he grow up and understand the hardship of life?" Hinton said.

Undying revolutionary principles

The couple embodied the values of the Communist revolution. They offered to take care of laborers who had fallen on hard times, gave financial assistance to old comrades and provided their farm workers with accident insurance, unemployment benefits and retirement pay.

"Without insurance," Hinton always used to say, "how can we say we've liberated the working class?"

In the '90s, a real-estate developer persuaded the Changping District government to develop the couple's farm into a golf course. Engst and Hinton became furious, reported it to the central government and forced the developer to give up the plan.

"Modernization should be built on infrastructure and production, not property development," Engst once said.

If not for their determination to fight for their principles, "the farm would no longer be here,"

one farm worker said.

Rare brand of idealism

On Christmas Day 2003, Engst passed away. Hinton buried his ashes under a tree in their farm, according to his will. "He wants to watch the cows every day," she said, referring to the burial place near the cow pasture. "I'd like to be there too after I die."

Before Engst's body was cremated, Hinton removed his pace-maker. "It can still be useful to the poor," she said.

Until they were 70 years old, they rode bicycles to get around the farm. Afterwards, the government provided them with a car, but they instead let their laborers use the vehicle.

In 2004, Hinton became the first foreigner to obtain permanent Chinese residency, or a green card. Asked why she did not apply for Chinese citizenship, she replied: "We love the Chinese revolution, not the citizenship."

The couple's three children moved to the US after China instituted economic reforms in 1978. Hinton used to joke that they were "right-wing deserters." Her elder son Fred returned to Beijing and now teaches at a university here.

"We'll hold a simple memorial (for Hinton) on June 18," he said, adding that his brother and sister as well as revolutionary comrades will attend the ceremony. "It's rare to find such idealism today," he said.

Singers honor 35th anniversary of Sino-Philippine relations

By He Jianwei

Wearing traditional costumes and sitting in a semicircle, a Filipino choir performed at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) last Sunday to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China.

The Philippine Madrigal Singers, better known as "Madz," is among the world's best choirs after having consistently won top prizes at international choral competitions in the last 42 years.

The group specializes in the madrigal style, a polyphonic and challenging musical approach popular during the Renaissance, in which performers and guests gathered around the main table during a banquet and sang together. In keeping with the tradition, Madz sings while seated in a semicircle without a conductor.

Through the direction of choirmaster Mark Anthony Carpio, Madz brought to Beijing a vast repertoire. The group's performance included Western classical pieces like Rossini's "William Tell Overture" and Mozart's "Der Holle Rache," as well as global pop hits like Elton John's "Circle of Life" and a medley of ABBA favorites, as well as Filipino ethnic music and classic love songs and Chinese songs like "Descendants



Performing at the National Center for the Performing Arts last Sunday

Photos provided by E. Huang



The Philippine Madrigal Singers in 2009

of the Dragon," "The Jasmine Flower" and "The Moon Represents My Heart."

"The repertoire for this evening not only reflects (Madz's) musical versatility, but also symbolizes the harmonious relationship between the Philippines and China, between the past and the future," Francisco Benedicto, the Philippine ambassador, said during a ceremony preceding the show.

Founded in 1963, Madz is composed mainly of students, faculty and alumni of the University of the Philippines (UP). The choir made its first international appearance in 1969 at the First Chorus of the World Festival held at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

Before coming to Beijing, the group performed at the Shanghai World Expo last week in honor of Philippine Independence Day.



Steven Vanhauwaert

Belgian pianist dazzles Beijing

By Chu Meng

The winner of the 2004 International Franz Liszt Piano Competition made his China debut at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) Tuesday evening, dazzling the audience with his talent and good looks.

Steven Vanhauwaert, hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* for his "impressive clarity and monster technique," said he considers his global performances channels for cultural exchange.

"Which pieces of music I play is not important," the Belgian musician said. "What is more important is that I pass a message from one culture to another."

"I have no expectations for my China tour. I came here only with a curious and open mind. I want to experience China's incredible history and culture," he said.

Vanhauwaert began his piano training at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. In 2004, he moved to Los Angeles to continue his studies at the Thornton School of Music, where he also learned jazz and musical improvisation.

In October that year, he won the grand prize at the Liszt Piano Competition, a triennial contest in Los Angeles that enabled him to tour the US and Hungary. Now he is a regular at classical music festivals throughout Europe and the US, both as a soloist and as a member of chamber music groups.

Vanhauwaert's Beijing repertoire consisted of works by Chopin, Schumann and Schubert, but he said he hoped to incorporate traditional Chinese music in his future performances. "I know little about traditional Chinese music, but I hope to learn more so I can include some in my program," he said, adding that the music of other cultures fascinates him.

He advised Chinese pianists to stay in touch with their musical roots. He said more and more Chinese pianists, like Li Yundi and Lang Lang, are becoming popular overseas, but that they portray Western artistic sense and values. "They should include more Chinese elements into their works," he said.

Vanhauwaert is someone who thrives on action to spark his creativity and imagination, like swimming and hiking the mountains of Santa Monica, California. To relax, he said he plays jazz at home in front of a small group of friends.

Year of Australian Culture in China begins

By Zhao Hongyi

The Australian government launched the Year of Australian Culture in China with a concert at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) June 10. The Australian Highlights Gala Variety Concert featured indigenous Australian performers, such as renowned didgeridoo player and singer William Barton, who told the history of his people through the song "Journey."

The Bangarra Dance Theater, a troupe composed of aboriginal artists, performed *Moth*, which was inspired by the beauty of giant moths that live in the Australian desert regions. Singer-songwriter Jessica Mauboy, who has both Indonesian, Timorese and aboriginal ancestry, wowed the audience with powerful songs about her homeland.

The country's diversity and multiculturalism was underscored by foreign musicians: the world music of Band of Brothers, the classical pieces of young violin virtuoso Niki Vasilakis and an excerpt from Australia and China's "Western Peking Opera" collabora-



Jessica Mauboy



Bangarra 2



Bangarra 1



Band of Brothers

Photos provided by imagineaustralia.net

tion, *Passion*.

Earlier that day, an exhibition of contemporary Australian indigenous paintings and artifacts, "Aboriginal Art from Australia's Deserts," was unveiled at the National Art

Museum of China.

The exhibition, which runs through August 26, features works by the Papunya community of the central and western desert regions of Australia and is curated by the National

Museum of Australia.

The Year of Australian Culture, a year-long celebration themed "Imagine Australia," will be bringing to China artistic and cultural shows from Australia, such as art exhibitions, concerts, forums, film screenings, book readings, plays and opera performances.

The organizers will also promote Australian education in Chinese cities including Beijing, Xiamen, Xi'an, Hangzhou and Hong Kong.

The Australian government has invited action star Jackie Chan to help promote Year of Australian Culture. Chan's parent migrated from Hong Kong to Australia in the 1970s.

The Year of Australian Culture is organized by the Australian Government through the Australian International Cultural Council and the Chinese Ministry of Culture. Last year, the two countries signed a memorandum to hold the Year of Australian Culture in China from 2010 to 2011 and the Year of Chinese Culture in Australia from 2011 to 2012.

For more information, visit imagineaustralia.net.

'Facehook' explores addiction to online social networking

By Chu Meng

A Beijing experimental theater group of expats and locals last week presented *Facehook*, a play that explores the damaging effects of online social networking, at Penghao Theater.

"How many times a day do people log on to Facebook? Why do people have to log on to that website before getting down to their work?" Fabrizio Massini, the Italian director of Elephant in the Room theater group, said. "At the end of the day, what is Facebook? A convenient means of communication? An amusing time-killer? Or is there something more behind its glossy pop-ups?"

Facehook, the group's first work to be presented in both English and Chinese, scrutinizes the lives of social networking fans, revealing a disturbing world of deception and deviousness in their interpersonal dealings.

The script was written by Norwegian Oda Fiskum and combines her original work with excerpts from a Chinese theatrical poem titled "File Zero," about government surveillance of citizens in the years shortly after the Cultural Revolution (1966-76). The poem was written by Yu Jian, who was part of the Chinese experimental theater scene from the late-'80s to the mid-'90s.



The Elephant in the Room theater is presenting its new play discussing social networking at Penghao Theater.

Photo provided by Elephant in the Room

Fiskum, who along with Massini is a visiting scholar at the Central Academy of Drama, admits to once being a "Face-

hook addict" and compares the obsession with being caged.

"'File Zero' elicits the feeling of being in a cage," she said, "and

I started thinking about what a contemporary cage would be like – and Facebook just snapped into my mind immediately."

"We want people to start thinking and questioning what these networking communities are for, how they are changing the way we think and behave," she said, also citing Facebook's Chinese counterparts Kaixin and Renren.

Elephant in the Room, established in 2009, mainly consists of students and professionals from China and Europe who, through their plays, examine present-day social communication trends among the young.

The group's mission is reflected in its name: "An elephant in the room" means there is something in the room that is not being talked about," Massini said. "For example, maybe you have a big family secret that causes everyone to be tense around each other. No one talks about it but everyone is thinking about it. Well, that secret is the elephant in the room."

"We design our plays for those who enjoy wise comedies. We want our plays to be a medium to reflect something that is ignored by everyone else but that happens every day," Massini said, adding jokingly, "If you're going to tell people the truth, you better make them laugh, otherwise they will kill you."

UCCA travel talks focus on environmental protection

By Annie Wei

The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art's (UCCA) ongoing series of travel talks is a departure from its usual lectures on art, design and creativity. The series, co-sponsored by Lonely Planet and The Travel Channel, shines the spotlight on environmental protection.

Last Tuesday, Xiao Wei, lead singer of the band The Catcher in the Rye, took the stage at UCCA, sharing his experience as a three-time Greenpeace volunteer at campaigns overseas.

In 2006, Greenpeace staff and volunteers were invited by the Kuni ethnic minority of Papua New Guinea to assist in the demarcation of their tribal land. It was Xiao's first experience as a Greenpeace volunteer, which involved entering the rainforests of Papua New Guinea.

Besides telling the packed auditorium about the country's people, culture and wildlife, Xiao also described how its



Xiao Wei (second from left) joined in Greenpeace's saving the forest campaigns three times, and shared his adventures with audience at UCCA.

CFP Photo

forests are being destroyed by global warming and by unsustainable and unethical global business practices.

"Locals only make \$5 (34 yuan) when they cut down a tree like this for foreign-owned logging companies," he said, showing

ing the audience a photo of a felled hundred-year-old rosewood tree.

"If locals can decide which tree to cut down and then find their own buyers, they can make \$2,000 from this tree. The middleman took away

\$1,950," he said.

To battle deforestation in Papua New Guinea, Xie said Greenpeace has encouraged locals to regenerate their forest resources instead of letting foreign-owned logging companies dictate industry practices. When Xiao returned to China, he wrote a song titled "Green," to promote forest protection.

Last September, three months before the UN's Copenhagen climate change conference, Xiao traveled to Thailand with Greenpeace to present evidence of climate change to conference participants and to speak to them about the importance of environmental protection.

The following month, he again joined the NGO in setting up a camp in the rainforests of Indonesia.

Yang Xiao, a 21-year-old college student, said he enjoyed the lecture, which combined stories about a country he has never visited with a meaningful topic like forest protection and climate change.

Event

Dragon boating

Rowing is a superb way to stay fit and to enjoy the summer sun. Come to Houhai Sunday afternoons and join the Beijing International Dragon Boating Team in its training. The team consists of foreigners and Chinese, and people of all skill levels are welcome. After training, the members head to dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Where: Houhai, Ping'an Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Every Sunday, 4:30-6:30 pm

Cost: 50 yuan for non-members

Tel: 15801354462

Free trial class at Kindermusik Summer Camp

Kindermusik is a global brand that provides music education to children 7 years old and below. Yuliya, a certified Kindermusik teacher in Beijing, opened a studio in town and will be holding a summer camp for babies up to 18 months old. Parents who would like to find out more can bring their children to a free trial class today.

Where: Honey Republic Studio, 1/F, Building 15, East Garden, Upper East Side, Northeast Fourth Ring Road, Chaoyang District

When: June 18, 10-11 am

Cost: Free

Tel: 13621354114

UCCA presents TED

TED is a nonprofit that has its roots in a conference that brought together professionals from the fields of technology, entertainment and design. It has since become a world-renowned festival of creative communication. The upcoming salon will introduce the group's series of educational and public programs.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 19, 1:30-3:30 pm

Cost: Free

Tel: 6438 6675

Pregnancy nutrition workshop

Nutritioneer regularly holds nutrition workshops run by Olivia Lee, a Singaporean with a master's degree in nutrition and a certificate in counseling. This weekend, the workshop will center on nutrition and exercises for pregnant women. Lee will discuss how a pregnant woman's diet influences her baby's health, including developing health problems like obesity, heart disease and diabetes. The event is limited to 15 participants.

Where: Park Apartments, 17 Chaoyangongyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 19, 2-4 pm

Cost: 250 yuan

Tel: 15810822296

(By Liang Meilan)

Mailer's sixth wife tells of 32-year odyssey with novelist

By Charles Zhu

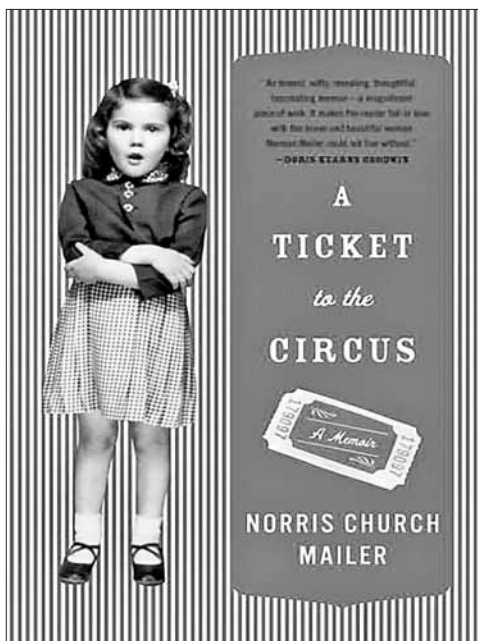
Norman Mailer is regarded as the wonder boy of American literature: he drank, threw fists, ran for mayor of New York, acted in a film by Milos Forman, consorted with a convicted killer and stabbed one of his spouses with a penknife.

Norris Church Mailer, his sixth and final wife, recently published *A Ticket to the Circus*, a memoir in which she tells the story of a genial Southern Baptist girl who by mixture of charm, luck, beauty and ambition married Mailer and allowed herself to be overshadowed by her husband.

The book grants readers deeper insight into the narcissistic hothead: His bout in a sweaty back room with Muhammad Ali the night before the boxer's famed third fight against Joe Frazier in Manila; his house party for the Bicentennial, which saw gigantic portions of his famous coleslaw; his visit to Ernest Hemingway's house in Cuba, searching the shelves for copies of his own books.

It's the story of how Norris Church, who with extraordinary patience managed not to tame the "teddy bear" Mailer, but to tolerate him. She says she was "the one who was always taking care of people, the one everyone turned to in a crisis." She tells us how she managed to live with such a difficult man for so long. In her own way, she shows exactly what type of woman could tolerate and at least partly subdue such a king-size corkscrew.

Norris Church in easy and unpretentious essays tells her story of sleeping with Bill Clinton before she married Mailer.



A Ticket to the Circus: A Memoir
By Norris Church Mailer, 432pp, Random House, \$26

Clinton was at that time campaigning for a congressional seat in Arkansas and for the hand of Hillary Rodham. She said Clinton would call her at 2 am and ask if he could swing by. "I would have so liked to be able to talk to him about world affairs and politics," she writes. "But we frankly never talked much."

She grew up in a poor and religious family in Atkins, Arkansas, and married the first man with whom she had sex. They had a son, but divorced

shortly thereafter, and it was only when she moved back to Russellville, Arkansas, that she met Mailer, 26 years her senior, at a party thrown by a friend in 1975.

Their liaison was animal-like and impulsive. "Through the years," she writes, "no matter the circumstances of our passions and rages, our boredoms, angers and betrayals large and small, sex was the cord that bound us together."

At the time, Norman Mailer was married to one

woman, living with another, had been having "a serious affair for several years" with a third and was enjoying various encounters with others in rotation. Norris Church was entrusted with seven stepchildren in the marriage, had another child with Mailer and brought her son from her previous marriage into the family.

Norman Mailer tried to test her limits in borderline sadistic ways: for instance, he demanded she cook dinner for an ex-girlfriend even though she was running a fever and shouted at her when she interrupted his work. He still kept a number of liaisons, about which he came clean only after she discovered inexplicable charges on a credit card bill.

Yet it is a mystery how she stayed with him for so long. Ten years ago, Norris Church developed a rare cancer, which at one point required chemotherapy. When she returned home from the hospital, her husband moved into a bedroom down the hall. "Until I was able to come back downstairs and function, he pretty much left me to myself," she writes.

Norris Church stayed with Norman Mailer out of the exciting life of attention that came with him. It is also possible that her Baptist upbringing made her stay.

"It's just the good outweighed the bad, and we loved those kids. I didn't want to leave them, and I didn't want to leave him because he was so interesting," she writes. "The sex was always great. That was the glue that held all this mess together, or the honey."

Trends Lounge book listing

Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of international art, design and architecture books.



Federico Fellini The Book of Dreams

By Federico Fellini, 584pp, Rizzoli, 999 yuan

Federico Fellini is one of the most revered filmmakers of the 20th century, having touched audiences around the world with his ability to breathe life into images normally confined to memory and emotion. His insights into the world of dreams have contributed to *La Dolce Vita*, *8 1/2* and *La Strada*. A unique combination of memory, fantasy and desire, this illustrated volume is a personal diary of Fellini's private visions and nighttime fantasies.



Fashion of the 20th Century: 100 Years of Fashion Ads

By Alison A. Nieder, 480pp, Taschen America, 346 yuan

Between the first decade of the 20th century, when women were still confined by figure-contorting corsets, to the last years of the millennium, when sexy sweats and low-rise jeans became must-have items, fashion has evolved from a luxury enjoyed by the highest echelon to a global business that whisks trends from runway to store before the last supermodel has left the catwalk.



Superheroes: Fashion and Fantasy

By Andrew Bolton, 160pp, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 430 yuan

This illustrated book explores how radical couture, avant-garde sportswear and state-of-the-art military garments – as seen through the lens of the superhero – can be metaphors for sex, power and politics.

(By He Jianwei)

Food writer-historian talks ancient diets

By He Jianwei

Whei-ming Chou's latest book about food is anything but a book of recommendations.

Luck of Diet (Yinshan Suiyuan) is a collection of Chou's columns published in Taiwanese magazines and newspapers. He teaches the history of Western diet culture at a university.

Unlike most diet columns, Chou approaches diets from the historical context in which they evolved.

"How can we define a delicious dish? There is no standard. At best we can try to define what tastes authentic," he said last Saturday at One Way Street Bookstore at the book's release.

Chou's quest for authenticity explores the relationship between food and homesickness, a condition with which

the perpetual traveller is profoundly familiar.

On his travels, he has recorded interesting dining experiences and sought out the origins of each dish.

One of his favorite desserts, German Black Forest cake, consists of several layers of chocolate cake with whipped cream and cherries between each layer. However, the name "Black Forest" has no relation with chocolate. It comes from the name of a mountain range in southwestern Germany.

"Most of us know it is a famous chocolate cake, but the important ingredient is liquor distilled from tart cherries. So its German name is Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte, literally Black Forest cherry torte," he said. "The Black Forest cake in Taipei is often prepared with-

out alcohol, so it lacks the authentic flavor."

He is also interested in the different menus of Louis XIV of France (1638-1715) and the Qianlong Emperor (1711-1799). Chou's book often comes off like a historical kitchen in which readers can learn about diets of antiquity.

Although born in Taipei, Chou's father is from a northern province on the mainland. "I got used to eating northern food, such as noodles and dumplings, during my childhood," he said.

His nostalgia for home cooking inspired his studies in Germany. On Mid-Autumn Day he longed for Chinese beef noodle soup, and he tried to work out a substitute with braised beef and semolina spaghetti.

"If homesickness inspired



Luck of Diet

By Whei-ming Chou, 211pp, Zhejiang University Press, 29.80 yuan

my own nostalgia, then antiquity has inspired humanity's," he said.

Finding the perfect digital reader



By Wang Yu

Laptops replaced desktop computers years ago, but few are small enough for street use. Smart phones, while portable, tend to be terrible reading devices because of their small screens.

The first to offer a solution was Amazon with its Kindle. The domestic market answered with a series of devices by Hanvon, which offered the same E Ink technology.

But this April, Apple's iPad took fans and ordinary users by storm with its beautiful design and sleek interface. Geeks and critics have called the new "tablet" a revolutionary product that will change the way people use computers.

This remains to be proven, and in China the game is still on to find the best digital reader.

Amazon Kindle 2

Features

Amazon's Kindle 2 e-book reader set an example for similar products: its lightweight, simple design and clear E Ink display made it a hit with readers. It features a 6-inch, 16-level gray-scale display, great battery life, 20 percent faster page-refreshing, a text-to-speech option and cut the thickness of the device in half. It is so lightweight that many first-time users question whether it is a plastic mock-up.

E Ink enables users to enjoy a comfortable experience similar to

reading paper. The screen does not reflect sunlight and the device has 1.4 gigabytes of user-accessible memory.

Review

As the top online book dealer, Amazon has extended its market to e-book selling. But while the original Kindle supported only unprotected Mobipocket books (MOBI, PRC), plain-text files and topaz format books (.tpz), the Kindle 2 has been upgraded to support Adobe's PDF format.

Books may be downloaded from Amazon to a limited number of devices at the same time. The limit

ranges from one to six devices, depending on an undisclosed amount of licenses set by the book publisher.

However, ordinary formats like txt run unstable on Kindle. A patch is required to view Chinese characters.

Price

Some dealers in Zhongguancun and on taobao sell the Kindle 2 for around 2,000 yuan.

Hanvon e-book reader N618



Features

As one of the first contenders in China's digital-reader market, Hanvon introduced its N618 reader at the Consumer Electronics Show 2010. It uses a 6-inch E Ink screen made by E Ink Corporation similar to the Kindle. Its voice function allows users to listen to their e-books.

The N618 has a 3.5 mm headphone jack, 320 megabytes of onboard storage and supports up to 16 gigabytes of space using its SD card port. It supports JPG, PNG, BMP, GIF, TIF image files and can play MP3, WAV and WMA audio files.

Hanvon handwriting recognition technology allows users to write while recording interviews with its built-in microphone.

The built-in Wi-Fi module makes it possible to transfer e-books directly from the Internet or read online. However, the company is still developing a better browser.

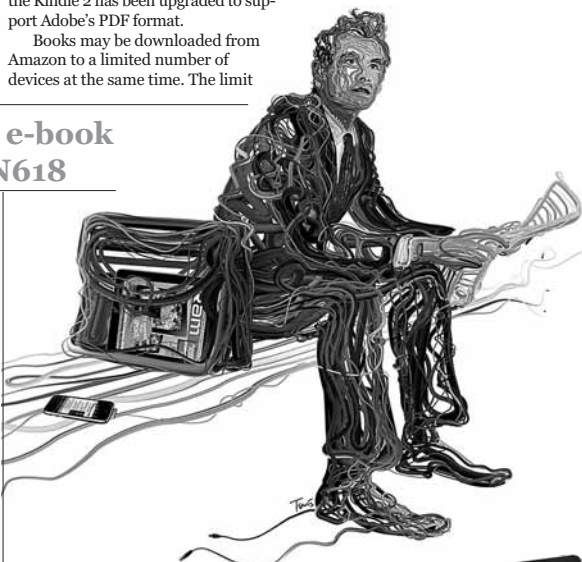
The company announced that, through cooperation with its screen provider, its next-generation readers with color screens may be available by the end of the year.

Review

Unlike Amazon's Kindle, the N618 supports a variety of e-book files including plaintext, HTXT, HTML, Adobe PDF, Microsoft Word and Excel formats. The device ships pre-packaged with 3,000 e-books: the manufacturer bought their copyrights from domestic press houses and newspapers. Users can download updated materials from the company's website and copy the files onto a MicroSD card.

Price

The extra functions come at a price. The N618 starts around 3,200 yuan and can be found at any Zhongguancun dealer.



Apple iPad

Features

The iPad may be the most popular gadget in the world today. While not officially released in China, many geeks and Apple fans have already gotten their hands on one.

The display, with a resolution of 1024x768 pixels, has a lower pixel density than the company's high-end smartphones. However, everything still looks sharp and colorful. The contrast and colors are nice and the brightness is stable regardless of the viewing angle.

But that excellent LCD screen brings problems. In direct sunlight, there is reflection. Dark pages and movies become especially difficult to view outdoors.

Apple designed its iBook software for readers on iPad. The interface is simple and readable, it has a search feature and – most importantly – books come with free samples. The touch sensitive screen allows users to turn pages as though they were reading a real book. The speed the pages turn depends on how fast you slide your finger.

Adobe PDF is the main format

used on the iPad. "For me, the iPad is a great gadget to read magazines, papers and books at home or in a bus.

However it does not support flash and you can't make notes or charts on MSN while reading: iPad only allows you to run run one program at a time," says Marvin Peng, a science writer pursuing his Ph.D in the US.

Review

The arrival of the iPad got many publishers excited. *USA Today*, the *BBC*, *Time*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *GQ* built dedicated applications to allow iPad users to access their content. All the these can be bought on the iTunes Store.

Price

All iPads in China are gray market: consequently, they cost much more than they do abroad. The 16G version costs 4,000 yuan while the 3G network version is higher – around 7,500 yuan.



More you can do on the iPad



Korg Electribe for iPad

The Korg Electribe is one of the most popular synth samplers used by electric musicians. Now it is available on the iPad as an app. Like vintage analog synthesizer, users can choose a part and toy with a 16-step sequencer to build a groove. The easy-to-use interface works well with the iPad's 9.7-inch multi-touch display.

The iElectribe has the same sound engine and sequencer capabilities as the machine. It also provides Motion Sequencing, eight supercharged effect types and 64 new preset patterns.

C64 Paint XL

This is made for graphic designers who miss the 8-bit era. It lets the users paint on a canvas of up to 160x200 pixels in the 16 colors of the Commodore 64, the most popular computer of the 1980s.

The picture editor features multiple brush sizes and canvas sizes, multiple undo and redo, and pan and zoom up to 3,200 percent. It makes it easy to place each pixel with precision.

The software can create both square and non-square pixels to replicate the look of the Commodore 64 when hooked up to a television. Touching the pencil and brush button cycles through five brush sizes: all 16 colors are available at a touch of the palette at the bottom.

Aircord AI Controller

Created by the Tokyo-based Aircord lab team, the same group behind the mobile runner app on iPhone, AI Controller is an iPad application designed to control a Box2D physics engine projected onto a building.

Controlled by OSC to an openFrameworks desktop application that projects the image, the iPad allows a user to drag around particles and adjust the color of the projected image.

Of course, you have to connect your iPad to a projector with Wi-Fi before you can have any fun. The application offers a lot of potential for artists performing live shows.



Cheering for the winning eleven

World Cup product hunting

By Wang Yu

The World Cup kicked off a month-long fiesta for soccer fans around the world last weekend. The ultimate fan experience, of course, remains at the venues, at places at Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg, but the vast majority of people will only be able to cheer on their teams from home.

This year, because South Africa is only six hours behind Beijing, it will be relatively convenient to watch the games. This week, *Beijing Today* is presenting products, from shoes to soccer-shaped crayons, that can make your World Cup experience all the more authentic – even from the comfort of home.



Adidas Original World Cup series

Adidas' original collection is famous for its slim design and inspiration from street culture and vintage fashion. Out in the bars, you can wear the "World Cup series."

Included are retro-inspired track jackets that commemorate memorable teams or performances. For instance, the 1978 Argentina squad, as hosts, won the tournament, so the Adidas Argentina jacket is inspired by the jerseys that team wore 30 years ago.

The collection also includes a variety of hoodies, sneakers and T-shirts inspired by the uniforms of competing countries. Each piece is embroidered with the year the country's team hosted or won the competition.

In particular, the collection honors the 2010 host country of South Africa with a range of apparel and footwear displaying the country's vibrant colors.

Adidas brand center

Where: Building 11, The Village, 19 Sanlitun Nan Jie, Chaoyang District
 Open: 10 am – 10 pm
 Tel: 6416 2233
 Web: adidas.com.cn



Mixco World Cup design

Designer and soccer enthusiast Alex Garnett of the English-based fashion and interior company Mixco has created a new series of designs inspired by the world's most popular sport.

The "Footbowl" is a fruit bowl resembling a deflated soccer ball (there is another version with this year's Jabulani ball) selling for about 1,000 yuan each. The brand and designer bridge the gap between furniture and art. Garnett also offers a chair shaped like a referee's whistle.

Web: mixco.co.uk

The football urinal

Men who feel bored in the bathroom after a couple of beers, there's a solution for you: a urinal designed to make you focus.

The US-based Weee Urinal Games Company brings a fun twist to keeping bathrooms clean. For bar owners, just equip your urinal with the Weee Soccer and you'll encourage your patrons to drink more – all for the chance to make some goals which the ladies cannot.

Web: theweee.com



Nike footballer crayons

We've seen Nike's cool series of TV advertisement, but the company's vision appears in places off the screen as well. As part of the brand's "Write the Future" campaign, a superstar crayon carver – the Vietnam born, US-based artist Diem Chau – has teamed up with W+K to create special hand-carved, mini-monuments of six iconic football legends: Frank Ribery, Cristiano Ronaldo, Fabio Cannavaro, Didier Drogba, Wayne Rooney and Robinho. Carved entirely out of crayons, these works of art come in a beautifully designed kit, with only 10 packages produced worldwide.

The price hasn't been announced yet. Fans who are interested should contact Nike directly or look for it on eBay.

Nike Wangfujing branch

Where: 135-136, Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District
 Open: 9:30 am – 9:30 pm
 Tel: 5817 7190
 Web: nike.com.cn



Fred Perry World Cup collection

If hoodies are too young for your taste, then Fred Perry's special collection offers a different choice.

The British brand's polo shirt is one of the most popular items of clothing among the city's stylish. To celebrate this year's World Cup, Fred Perry has created a range of polos representing 12 of the top teams.

Each shirt is based on the classic authentic fit silhouette, featuring an oversized laurel on the chest with the country's name, as it appears on the national strip, written below. The tipping on each shirt represents the colors in the national team kit.

I.T. is the only distributor of Fred Perry in mainland China, with the price a bit higher than in Hong Kong. Save money and buy it from a Taobao dealer.

I.T. World Trade Center branch

Where: WB 102-104, China World Shopping Mall, 1, Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
 Open: 9:30 am – 9:30 pm
 Tel: 6505 9226
 Web: fredperry.com



Summer appetite solutions

Dishes to beat the heat and humidity

By Ammie Wei

Even the heartiest eaters find themselves consuming less in the hot summer. The secret to regaining one's appetite is to choose foods that are prepared specially for the hot weather. Below we present two restaurants specializing in summer dishes.



Steamed cucumber, 68 yuan

Summer vegetables and fruits

Taiwanese restaurant Xinyeh recently added to its menu dishes specially created for summer. Their main ingredients are seasonal fruits and vegetables like mango, cucumber and eggplant, and they are cooked in a simple way to ensure that the raw materials' original flavors are retained.

Our top pick is curry-minced chicken and eggplant (48 yuan). The chefs use long eggplants, which are more tender than the round eggplants indigenous to northern China. The eggplants are cut into 5-centimeter strips and fried with garlic, pepper, minced chicken and curry powder produced in Japan. The dish is mouth-watering, infused with the smell of curry.

We also like the steamed cucumber (68 yuan). It is prepared by cutting the vegetable in half and making a hole in it to stuff it with minced white mushrooms, water chestnuts, tofu, dried scallops and prawns. The vegetable is topped with fish eggs and then steamed. It is served with a sauce made from prawn, ginkgo, red pepper and celery. The dish has various elements that make it sophisticated: the cucumber is juicy, crispy and sweet; the prawns and scallops give it texture; and its bright colors tempt the eyes.

Another new dish is the mango seafood roll (18 yuan for two rolls). Mango seems to be the most popular summer fruit, so the chefs decided to incorporate it into a savory dish. They layered ripe mango slices, a piece of prawn, blue spot fish and minced cucumber, then topped them with fish eggs. The concoction is wrapped in rice and deep-fried until golden. The first bite is a flavorful burst of mango and prawn with a zing from the fish eggs.

Most meat dishes leave diners with a heavy, uncomfortable feeling in summer: Xinyeh's drunken pig's feet (48 yuan) offer a refreshing experience. The feet are cooked for an hour and a half in vinegar, herbs, ginger and pepper to neutralize their smell. The chefs then remove the bones and cook them for 42 hours in yellow rice wine and nutritious ingredients like ginseng, angelica root and wolfberries. It is served after cooling in ice, making it an appetizing summer special.

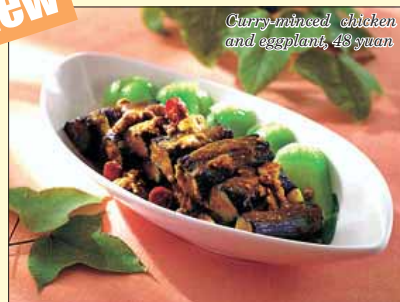
Xinyeh - Gongti

Where: 6 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10 am - 10 pm
Tel: 6552 5066

Xinyeh - Zhongguancun

Where: 19 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District
Open: 10 am - 10 pm
Tel: 8248 6288

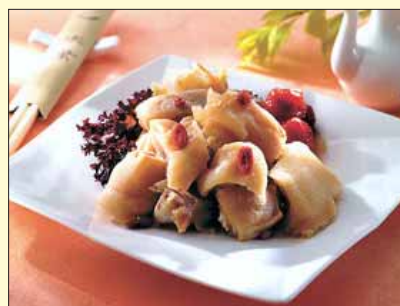
New



Curry-minced chicken and eggplant, 48 yuan



Mango seafood roll, 18 yuan for two rolls



Drunken pig's feet, 48 yuan

Photos by Alice



King prawn dumplings, 26 yuan CFP Photo

Hong Kong restaurant with 300 choices

Hong Kong restaurants are a summer favorite as Cantonese food helps the body cope with hot and humid weather.

Beijing has dozens of first-rate Hong Kong restaurants, but this week we visited Hengshan Xiaoguan, a little-known place near the airport that offers 300 choices to make the trip worthwhile. The spacious restaurant also has very good service: it is run by a Hong Kong native who is extra attentive to customers.

As appetizer, we recommend the wasabi-marinated goose web (28 yuan), Thai pomelo salad (28 yuan) and spicy vermicelli and spinach (15 yuan), all of which are served chilled.

Hong Kong-style barbeques, dim sums and seafood are the most popular main courses.

We suggest its house special, the barbeque meat combo (48 yuan), a platter of meats like goose, duck, chicken and pork. Customers who want a huge meal cannot go wrong with the crispy suckling pig (68 yuan per serving, 498 yuan for a whole pig). Other recommended barbeque dishes include roast goose (68 yuan per serving, 260 yuan for a whole goose), marinated chicken with spring onion in Hakka style (138 yuan for a whole chicken) and chiu chow-style soy marinated pig intestines (38 yuan).

Seafood like abalones are Hong Kong people's favorite. We recommend braised whole dried abalone (from Australia) in supreme oyster sauce (368 yuan for two) and abalone from South Africa (698 yuan for 10).

The following are dim sum dishes not to miss: king prawn dumplings (26 yuan), with two prawns and minced bamboo shoots; minced beef balls with fresh tofu sheets (12 yuan), which have a smooth, interesting texture courtesy of the tofu sheets; and chicken feet in tofu paste (16 yuan). Some people forgo the chicken feet because they're messy to eat and hard to chew. Hengshan Xiaoguan makes them tender so that there is no more tug of war between the bones and meat.

The pan-friend pork glutinous rice dumpling (10 yuan) is a staple when visiting Cantonese restaurants. But pass on it this time, since the customarily light flavor does not go well with richer dishes like barbeques.

Other specialties need to be ordered a day in advance, such as the preserved salted fish head and tofu soup (48 yuan), sea-salt-baked chicken (138 yuan) and soy-marinated chicken served in hot pot (138 yuan).

Hengshan Xiaoguan also offers a nutrient-rich dish that is a hit among southerners: double-boiled swallow's nest with almond milk, coconut milk or rock sugar for 288 yuan. The steep price is because of the 50 grams of swallow's nest that goes into the delicacy.

Hengshan Xiaoguan

Where: 1/F Jiali Datong, 21 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 10:30 am - 11:30 pm
Tel: 6466 1211 ext. 630

Angelic boys' voice for heart purification

By *Chiu Meng*

Boys' choirs fascinate people around the world, and one of the world's best is coming to Beijing this weekend for its first-ever concert in the city.

Praised by the *Washington Post* for "singing with a natural-sounding freedom and lightness that is even more impressive than their unusual accuracy and blend," the Copenhagen Royal Chapel Choir (CRCC) will perform tomorrow evening at the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA).

Among the oldest European choirs, the CRCC, founded in 1924, quickly developed into a world-renowned full-time institution. The boys receive a general education alongside full musical and vocal training at the Copenhagen Municipal Choir School. Since 1959, the choir has been resident at Copenhagen Cathedral, performing at state occasions and during royal visits abroad.

Since Ebbe Munk became its chief artistic director in 1991, CRCC has performed at concert halls, cathedrals and festivals all over the world.

Munk, 60, is CRCC's longest-serving artistic director. He sang in the choir as a child but never expected he would one day be the conductor.

"Members of the boys' choir have the shortest artistic life, for their voices are going to change when puberty hits around 13 to 14 years old," Munk said. "You never know where the tone of your voice is going to be. In other words, my singing life

changed as my voice did."

One of the changes was a renewed dedication to study music. After earning a master's degree in musicology and dramaturgy at Copenhagen University and further studies in Munich, Budapest, Dresden and the US, he became a key figure in Danish music of the 1980s.

In 1985 he founded the chamber choir Vox Danica, which won first prize at the Concours International de Chant Choral in Narbonne, France, in 1991. From 1982 to 1991, he served as artistic and administrative director of the Sankt Annae Youth Choir.

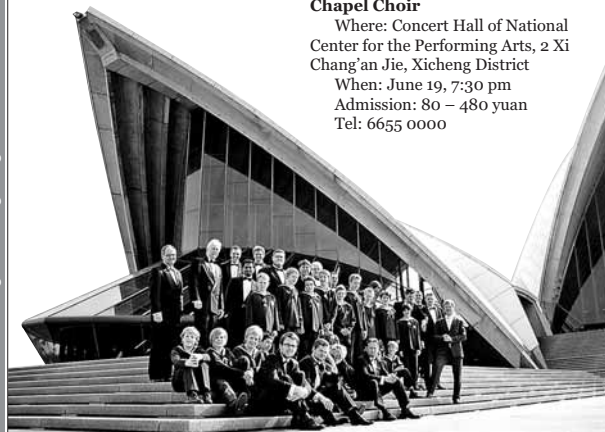
"I accumulated a lot of experience from that work, like how to run a choir financially," Munk said. "At the very beginning, I did very badly with my own choir because I didn't know how to balance the budget. As a successful director, you should not only know how to concentrate on artistic dedication, but you should also understand how to continuously lead your choir to a broader audience and different stages."

He brought that knowledge to the CRCC in 1991. Under his leadership, the boys' choir broadened its activities in terms of concerts and repertoire, with a greater emphasis on music from the 19th and 20th centuries.

At NCPA, the choir will combine its rich repertoire with a few Chinese songs. The CRCC's China tour also includes Tianjin, Qingdao, Guangzhou and Shanghai, where the choir will perform on Danish Day at the Expo, with Danish Crown Prince Frederik present.

Copenhagen Royal Chapel Choir

Where: Concert Hall of National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: June 19, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80 - 480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000



7 Sunday, June 20

Exhibition Satan's Wedding - The Photography of Qiu Zhen

Qiu puts his own confusion and perception of reality in front of the camera, asking in this world dominated by haze and desire where our destination is.

Where: 798 Photo Gallery, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 6, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9188

Nightlife Martlet

Beijing Dance Theater presents the modern dance Martlet, expressing nostalgia and remote love as well as the dilemma of survival and the beauty of life.

Where: Multi-Purpose Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 160-280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Movie Le Bossu (On Guard, 1997)

The story is set in the early 1700s. Lafardere is a former street urchin who became a best friend of the Duke of Nevers.

Never's heir is his evil cousin Gonzague. Gonzague, seeking wealth, kills Nevers, who asks Lafardere in his dying moments to avenge him.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6553 2627

5 Friday, June 18

Exhibition Stepfather Has an Idea - Xie Nanxing Solo Exhibition

Xie amuses himself in his self-styled stepfather role and draws the viewer into his psychological games, starting with the choice of the name for his one-man show.

Where: Galerie Urs Meile Beijing, 104 Caochangdi Village, Cui Gezhuang County, Chaoyang District
When: Until July 9, daily except Monday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 3393

Movie Il sangue dei vinti (Blood of the Losers, 2008)

The historical drama is set in the latter days of Benito Mussolini's reign. Francesco is a police detective working in Rome as fascist Black Shirts hold sway over the nation. He has been assigned to investigate the death of Costantina, a streetwalker

believed murdered, as allied forces bomb the city.

Where: Italian Cultural Institute, 2 Dong Er Jie, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6532 2187

Nightlife

Soul Asylum - World Refugee Day

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees invites four heavy metal bands - Afro-koko Roots, Kite, Black Cat Bone and The Verse - to mark World Refugee Day.
Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan, 35 yuan for students
Tel: 6404 2711

6 Saturday, June 19

Movie South of the Clouds (2003)

It has been a lifelong dream of the middle-aged Xu Daqin to go to Yunnan Province. Xu had the chance to work there when he was young, but an affair with a girl pushed him into marriage and kept him in the north. What followed was a non-stop routine of work and endless arguments.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 1:30 pm
Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 8459 9269

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 200 yuan advance purchase, 250 yuan at the door
Tel: 6402 5080

Exhibition Super Space - Sun Xiaochen's Sculpture Solo Exhibition

Sun's sculptures keep the identity of art in two different ways: hyperrealism and surrealism. He transfigures the camera, often used as a daily item, into a super-realistic instrument for art.

Where: New Millen-

nium Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 5, daily except Monday and Tuesday, 10 am - 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122

Nightlife

Mixing Paris-Beijing

Being the son of a famous French music star, the rock singer-songwriter and guitar player Matthieu Chedid uses the pseudonym M to step out of his father's shadow.

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District
When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 200 yuan advance purchase, 250 yuan at the door
Tel: 6402 5080



Upcoming

Nightlife

Los Piratas del Monte

Los Piratas del Monte is a performance group dedicated to Latin traditional and pop music.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou Nan Da Jie, Dongcheng District
When: June 21, 9:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6401 4611

Stage in July

Concert

Musica Alta Ripa - German Baroque Music Ensemble

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District
When: July 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

JuYa Wang and the China

NCPA Concert Hall Orchestra
Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA), 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: July 3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

China National Symphony

Orchestra
Where: Peking University Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District
When: July 11, 7 pm
Admission: 40 and 50 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Garrick Ohlsson Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: July 11, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-400 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance

Our Sky

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: July 25-26, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-400 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Can Three Make It - Part I

Where: 46 Theater, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: July 2-4, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-280 yuan
Tel: 6417 0058

The Poison

Where: Multi-Purpose Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: July 14-18, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-320 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

Sun Snow

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: July 1-3, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Finding relief for lupus with herbs

By Li Zhixin

American singer Lady Gaga has tested positive for lupus: the same disease that killed her aunt.

The 24-year-old sought medical advice for a number of problems including breathing difficulties, blurred vision, stress and headaches that have continued since last year.

What is systemic lupus?

Lupus is the common name for systemic lupus erythematosus, an autoimmune disease.

Like other diseases in the same category, lupus causes the body's immune system to attack its own tissues instead of foreign substances like bacteria and viruses. The constant assault causes inflammation, which in turn causes pain and tissue damage throughout the body.

"If you develop severe lupus you may have problems with your kidneys, heart, lungs, nervous system or blood cells," said Zhang Dongmin, an immunologist at Beijing Andingmen Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Although some people with lupus develop only mild symptoms, the disease is lifelong and can become severe. Most people can control their symptoms and prevent severe damage to their organs by regularly seeing their doctors, getting enough rest and exercise and taking medicine.

Systemic is the most common and most serious type of lupus. But there are four other types: discoid or cutaneous lupus, drug-induced systemic lupus, neonatal lupus and subacute cutaneous lupus.

The exact cause of the systemic version is unknown; most scholars say it may be related to autoimmunity and genetic factors. Many organs and connective tissues can be involved. The disease is often accompanied by serological and immunological changes, and is seen most often in young females.

A number of other factors can trigger lupus attacks. These include viral infections, especially by the virus that causes mononucleosis, and sunlight. "Although these things can trigger lupus, they may affect one person but not another person," Zhang said.

Treating with Chinese medicine

In Chinese medicine the disease is categorized as *xulao*, consumptive disease, *shuizhong*, edema, *bizheng*, arthralgia syndrome, and *wendu faban*, an epidemic disease with eruptions.

Chinese texts from the Qing Dynasty (1616-1912) indicate an awareness of the disease and attribute it to three causes: excess heat toxins, internal heat due to a yin deficiency or yang deficiency in the spleen and kidney, which may explain the red patches that appear on the skin.

1. Excess heat toxins

This condition is characterized by a high fever, flushed face, reddish rash, purple dots on the skin, irritability, thirst and in severe cases coma, delirium, arthralgia, constipation, scanty and dark urine, a deep-red tongue and rapid pulse.

"Clearing away pathogenic heats and toxic materials, cooling blood and nourishing the yin are our goals in therapy," Zhang said. "Usually a prescription will include antipyretics and antitoxins."

A decoction of dried rehmannia root, red peony root, moutan bark, gypsum, anemarrhena rhizome, scrophularia root, honeysuckle flower, forsythia fruit, artemisia or lithospermum root, ophiopogon root and cogongrass rhizome is recommended.

2. Internal heat due to yin deficiency

This condition is characterized by a low-grade or erratic fever in the afternoon, feverish sensations in the palms and soles, deep red-colored pustules, night sweats, fatigue, irritability, insomnia, aching joints, soreness of the waist, hair loss, red tongue and rapid pulse.

Therapy seeks to nourish yin, clear away bad heat, cool the blood and remove toxic

material. "Drink a decoction of sweet wormwood and turtle shells with bolus to replenish vital essence," he said.

A yin deficiency in the liver or kidney can also cause vertigo, blurred vision, tinnitus and dryness of mouth and throat. To solve these, the previous decoction can be amended to include 12 grams of glossy privet fruit and 12 grams of ephedra.

If the case is marked by jaundice, abdominal distention, loss of appetite, hematemesis, nosebleeds and enlargement of the liver and spleen, it may indicate a liver weakness caused by heat. In this case, treatment should aim to promote *chi* and blood circulation in the liver.

If the articular symptoms are marked by migratory joint pain, heat, pain and swelling in the affected region and difficulty in flexing, treatment should be aimed at clearing away heat, dispelling wind and removing dampness. The chosen recipe is usually a decoction of pubescent angelica and loranthus.

3. Yang deficiency in the spleen and kidney

This condition is characterized by a pale complexion, puffy face, swelling of the limbs, abdominal distention, coldness in the extremities, shortness of breath, loss of speech, abnormal urination, loose stool, pale tongue and weak pulse.

"Warming and invigorating the spleen and kidney and activating yang to promote regular urination is the goal of therapy," Zhang said. One common prescription is a decoction of curculigo rhizome, epimedium, astragalus root, dodder seed, codonopsis root, cinnamon twigs, umbellate pore-fungus, poria and water-plaintain tuber, white atractylodes rhizome, waxgourd peel and cogongrass rhizome.



CFP Photo

Prevention

Lupus is often manageable. One of the primary goals of care is to control the symptoms and prevent damaging flare-ups. Some ways to avoid an episode are:

1. Rest to reduce stress.
 2. Avoid the sun. Wear sunscreen and protective clothing when you are outside.
 3. Exercise regularly to prevent fatigue and joint stiffness.
 4. Stop smoking.
 5. Learn the warning signs, such as fatigue, pain and rashes, and take steps to control them early.
 6. With good self-care, most people with lupus can continue their regular activities.
- Learn everything you can about lupus so you can understand how it might affect your life and how you can cope with it. Help your family and friends to understand your limitations and needs when symptoms flare up. Develop a support system of family, friends and health professionals.

Foods to avoid

1. Avoid processed foods and foods that contain monosodium glutamate.
 2. Do not rely on red meat as a source of protein: eat fish or chicken.
 3. Maintain a low-fat diet. You can't completely eliminate fat, but you should strive to avoid excess fat.
 4. Minimize your exposure to spicy food, which may cause lupus to flare up.
 5. Drink water instead of alcohol, soda pop, energy drinks and other unhealthy beverages.
 6. Lower your intake of sugar and salt.
 7. Decrease or eliminate consumption of refined carbohydrates and starches. Look to whole grains instead.
 8. Eat more fresh, raw vegetables and fruit.
 9. Focus on foods that can be easily digested.
 10. Supplement your lupus diet with probiotics and other digestive aids.
- "Before you start any lupus diet, you should consider being tested thoroughly for food allergies. Unknown food allergens could bring on new episodes of lupus," Zhang said.

Museum born from a drugstore

Yushengtang establishes museum of traditional Chinese medicine

By *Chu Meng*

One of China's most enduring exports is traditional Chinese medicine, which dates back 6,000 years. Last year, the country applied to UNESCO to include it on its list of World Non-material Cultural Heritage.

The efficacy of traditional Chinese medicine theory and treatments is still under scrutiny, but one museum gives witness to its contributions to human health and well-being throughout the ages.



Shennong



Sculptures to help treat female patients in ancient times



Stone device for milling herbal medicines

Yushengtang was a drugstore, herbal medicine shop and antique collection firm established four centuries ago, during the Qing Dynasty (1616-1911). It was originally named Bai's Herbal Medicine Shop, after the family who established it. But it became so well-known in the north that the Qianlong Emperor (1711-1799) renamed it Yushengtang, or "longevity hall," to honor the medical prowess of Bai Linyun, his doctor of 25 years and a seventh-generation member of the Bai family.

In 1999, the family's descendants founded the Beijing Yushengtang Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum to exhibit the medical instruments, books and medicines that the shop used in ancient times.

Herbal medicine's mythical beginning

The four-story museum is one of Beijing's few private museums, and with a floor space of 6,800 square meters, is the country's biggest museum on traditional Chinese medicine. Its dimly lit halls, decorated like the imperial palace during Qianlong's reign, house 10,000 artifacts, a third of which belong to its permanent collection.

The tour begins with 24 portrait paintings of famous medical

figures from Qing to the Republic of China Period (1911-1949). Up ahead is an image that is half-man, half-divine, adorned with leaves and with two horns on his head and a plant in his hand. He is the mythical Shennong, the "Divine Farmer," considered the founder of Chinese medicine.

Shennong is credited for developing herbal medicine; he is said to have tried hundreds of herbs

a day, finally identifying 70 that had medicinal value and describing their properties. He is also said to have helped people change their eating habits, from a diet rich in meat, clams and wild fruits to one based on grains and vegetables. The first book on herbal medicine, used up to this day by medical students, was named after him: the *Herbal Classic of Shennong (Shennong Bencaojing)*.

Development in imperial times

The exhibition is divided into eight sections, including Former Yushengtang Drugstore of Qing Dynasty, Ancient Medical Tools and Apparatus, Ancient Medicinal Specimens and Equipment, Documents of Famous Chinese Doctors and Records of Medical Institutions Across China in Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Across from the north wall inside the central hall is an array of herbal medicines collected by 13 generations of Bais. Though the herbs are hundreds of years old, the veins on the leaves are still

clearly visible. They are modern Chinese people's only link to the time when their ancestors began discovering the healing properties of wild plants.

The first section of Yushengtang Ancient Drugstore shows a replica of a Qing-era drugstore. The store consists of a round, red wooden cabinet with drawers for storing medicine, with labels indicating the recommended dosage. There is also a counter on which sits a wooden medicine box, a set of acupuncture needles, an array of porcelain pots with liquid and

powder medicine, a stone pestle, a tool to help doctors feel the pulse of patients and books on herbal medicine for daily use.

The gold and silver medical tools, old account books and rare herbal medicines are like fossil fragments that help visitors envision the drugstore's once bustling business.

Not far from the "store" is an arresting golden sculpture. It is a likeness of Sun Simiao, a doctor during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), who said that men and women should be treated equally based on their physiological makeup.

Channel for medical exchange

Besides being an herbal medicine museum, Yushengtang also promotes the knowledge of Chinese medicine both home and abroad. The museum organizes exhibitions overseas, most of which are free of charge to student groups. It also invites various foreign organizations to come to Beijing and see its thousands of artifacts in person.

The museum's historical tools and equipment section has become a must-see for foreign visitors. One of its most popular displays is Tong Ren, a Taoist model of the human body's acupuncture points that is more than a thousand years old. It is a huge bronze statue marked with 354 acupuncture points and was once used as an educational tool for imperial doctors.

To test his doctors, an emperor

sealed all the holes with wax and filled the statue's hollow body with water. With their eyes blindfolded, the doctors were tasked to insert a needle into the existing acupuncture holes. The right choice was rewarded with the drip of water, otherwise, the person's skills were deemed below-standard and he was booted out of the imperial palace. Still, only those who located all the right points in one try passed the exam.

In the same section, visitors will find a porcelain sculpture of woman lying naked – a rare work of art. It was created in Qing to help doctors treat female patients.

At the time, doctors were not allowed to touch, or even look at, female patients, so they devised a solution. The patient, head covered

by a veil, showed the doctor where she felt pain or discomfort by pointing to the corresponding body part on the sculpture. The doctor then tied a golden ribbon around the patient's wrist, which encompassed her pulse point. Doctors deemed brilliant were those who could diagnose the patient's illness by feeling the vibrations of her pulse through the ribbon. In Chinese medical theory, the pulse is a key to understanding a person's state of health.

The museum's other gems include prescriptions on bamboo slips in Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD); medical prescriptions for the Qing Tongzhi Emperor (1856-1875), who died at 18 of smallpox; and stone acupuncture needles dating back to the Eastern Zhou Dynasty (770-256 BC).

Tong Ren, a thousand-year-old Taoist model of the human body's acupuncture points

Photos provided by Yushengtang

A round cabinet with drawers for storing herbal medicine

Beijing Yushengtang Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum

Where: Room 2-35, Royal Apartment, 1 Wangfu Lu, Beiqijia Town, Changping District

Open: 9 am – 4 pm
Tel: 8178 8271

Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Getting there: Take Subway Line 5 all the way to its northern terminal, and then hop on Shuttle Bus 3 to Wangfu Gongyu stop. Alternately, visitors can take bus 426, 430, 984, 985 or 996 to Pingxifu Lukou stop

The cultural face of Qingdao

21

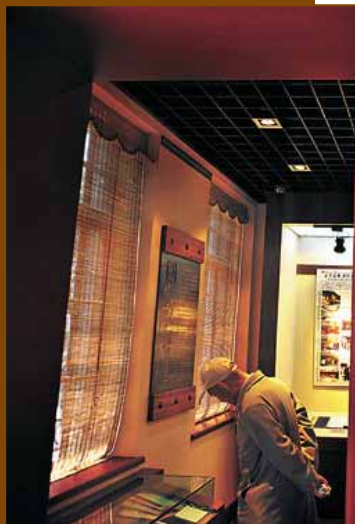
Travel China

Former residences of historical figures new tourist attractions

By Zhang Dongya

Qingdao is best known for its beachfront scenery, delicious seafood and world-famous beer. Sadly, its cultural sites are not as well-known. But this may soon change with the restoration of streets lined with the residences of historical personalities, including Kang Youwei, a prominent political reformer during the late Qing Dynasty (1616-1911).

In addition, the former residence of the writer Lao She was inaugurated as a museum last month, named after his first and most important novel, *Luotuo Xiangzi* (Camel Xiangzi).



Lao She's former residence in Qingdao was inaugurated as a museum last month. CFP Photo

Street of big names

Tourists looking for historical and cultural sites in Qingdao are often pointed to Badaguan (Eight Passes), famous for its western architecture. Memorials and former homes of historical figures rarely make it on the shortlist.

This year, the situation has changed. People visiting seaside scenic spots, like Little Qingdao and Zhanqiao Pier, can just as easily drop by the former residences of famous figures and check out exhibitions on their lives.

Since olden times, Qingdao has drawn people from around the country to its white-sand beaches, blue waters and beautiful mountains. Some merely stay for a while; others live there until their last days.

Most "celebrity" homes can be found on Fushan Street, Fushan Branch Street and Qihe Street, the recently restored streets around Xiaoyushan (Little-fish Mountain). They are collectively known as the Streets of Residences of Cultural Celebrities.

More than 10 residences in the area have been marked by the local government as cultural sites and refurbished to their former glory. So far, however, only Kang Youwei's has opened its

doors to the public. Others, like the home of writer Shen Congwen, are still inhabited by locals.

Even so, the streets, with their old architecture, are worth visiting. The majestic trees, colorful flowers and quiet neighborhood provide a respite from the hectic Beijing life.

Memorial to Kang Youwei

At the entrance to the Streets of Residences of Cultural Celebrities is Kang Youwei's former residence, which doubles as his memorial. The three-story Western-style building was constructed in 1899 as the official residence of Qingdao's German colonial governor. The building has kept its original red and white facade, characteristic of German architecture at the time.

Kang, a native of Guangdong who made his mark as a political reformer, was said to have been arranged to reside at the place by the local government when he first came to Qingdao in 1917. He was so fond of the place he decided to buy it six years later. He lived there until he died in 1927.

Through old photographs, Kang's memorial shows his main political activities.

His study, bedroom and living

room contain furniture given by Fuwei, the second child of the Qing's Prince Gong. The wooden chairs, tables and bed are carved with delicate flower patterns popular during imperial times.

Kang is also a noted calligrapher, and his former home has an exhibition room created specifically for his calligraphy works. Another exhibition on the third floor shows an unfamiliar side of Kang: an avid traveler who visited more than 30 countries while he was in exile.



Shen Congwen's former residence is still inhabited by locals.

The Hundred Days' Reform, a 19th-century movement to reform the Qing court, was inspired and initiated by Kang. It was supported by the Guangxu Emperor but resisted by the Empress Dowager Cixi. After the movement failed in 1898, Kang fled overseas, where he would stay for the next 16 years. During his travels, he surveyed the politics, folk customs, history and cultural relics of other countries.

Upon his return to China, he wrote two books on his favorite countries: *Italian Travels* and *French Travels*. The Social Science Academic Press republished them in 2007 as part of a travel series.

The third-floor exhibition hall features black-and-white photos Kang took during his trips around Italy and France. On the back of each photo he wrote the

date and place in which it was taken, sometimes including his impressions of the locality. In the same room are some souvenirs Kang bought overseas, including a triangular Egyptian mirror.

Within the residential compound is a small bookstore with publications on Kang's life and Qingdao's history and culture. Visitors who are interested can get their purchases stamped with a seal reading, "Kangyouwei's Former Residence."

Kang Youwei's Memorial and Former Residence

Where: 5 Fushan Zhi Lu, Shinan District
Admission: 4 yuan

Lao She's former residence

The Qingdao home of Lao She (1899-1966), one of the most significant figures of 20th-century Chinese literature, reopened as a museum last month.

Lao She's offspring consider the residence vital to his development as a novelist, since it was in Qingdao he decided to become a full-time writer. It was also where he produced *Luotuo Xiangzi* in 1936, better known in the West as *Rickshaw Boy*, his most important work and considered "modern China's classic novel."

The first floor of the three-story building on Huangxian Road is a tribute to the novel. It contains his study, which displays his tools as a writer: an ink pot, pen, brush holder and eye glasses. There are also faded photographs showing his life in Qingdao, as well as 1930s and '40s issues of his novels and copies of films and plays adapted from his works.

In the yard stands a life-size statue of a boy pulling a rickshaw, another reference to *Luotuo Xiangzi*. On the walls surrounding the yard is a series of comic strips portraying major events in Lao She's life.

The second and third floors of the building are being planned as venues for literary events.

Camel Xiangzi Museum and Former Residence of Lao She

Where: 12 Huangxian Lu, Shinan District
Admission: Free



Kang Youwei's memorial and former residence was built in 1899 as the official residence of Qingdao's German governor. Photos by Mockingbird

Dining



ROOMbeijing dinner with Cave de Tain

Enjoy a wine dinner at ROOMbeijing as the restaurant unites Brian McKenna's cuisine with Cave de Tain wines from the Rhone region of France. Rather than a course-by-course pairing, ROOMbeijing has prepared an elaborate multi-dish menu to allow you and your companions to discuss and match the best wines. Winemaker Julie Compos will be present to guide drinkers in the experience.

Where: ROOMbeijing, 301-302, PARK LIFE Shopping Center, Beijing Yintai Center, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: 11 am-2 am (Sunday - Wednesday), 11 am-4 am (Thursday - Saturday); through July 23

Cost: 488 yuan per person (10 percent surcharge)

Tel: 8517 2033

Regent summer garden

Warm summer breezes, soft live jazz, sparkling champagne, refreshing wine, chilled brews and cool cocktails can be yours in one of Beijing's central gardens. Throw in hot-off-the-barbecue yakitori and let the stress melt away.

The Regent Beijing Crescent Lounge is serving a special blend of fresh fruit and yogurt smoothies to break up the busy day. Come pamper yourself and relax. The Regent is the perfect setting for a casual soiree, high tea or evening cocktails. Free Wi-Fi Internet access is available.

Where: Crescent Lounge, The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 5 pm - midnight

Tel: 8522 1789



Lobster buffet

Come in for lobster madness with fresh Canadian lobsters prepared to order. The widely recognized crustacean is available all year round. At Kranzler's you get tastier, meatier and more nutritious lobster dishes that are cooked in a variety of methods. Meat from hard-shell lobsters is low in fat and carbohydrates and high in protein.

Where: Kranzler's, Kempinski Hotel Beijing, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: daily, 6 am - midnight

Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 4222

Home-made iced tea

Come to the Atrium and Lobby Bar next month to try its home-made iced green, lemon and oolong teas and find relief from the summer heat. The Atrium is also offering three kinds

of delicious sandwiches: smoked salmon, tuna and chicken caesar. Purchase an Iced Tea Combo (includes iced tea and a sandwich) at a special price.

Where: The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing, 10 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6590 5566 ext. 2116



Authentic Thai cuisine

Grand Cafe invites master Thai chef Siriluck from the Grand Hyatt Hong Kong to present home-style Thai cuisine for lunch and dinner. Chef Siriluck, also known as Chef Mum, has 18 years of culinary experience and her ability to create perfectly balanced but unpretentious dishes has allowed her to cook for the Thai Royal Family on several occasions. Other international delights are also available.

Where: Grand Cafe, Grand Hyatt Beijing, 1A Dong Chang'an Jie, Dongcheng District

When: July 1-11; 11:30 am - 2:30 pm, 5:30-10 pm

Cost: 248 yuan per adult, half price for children

Tel: 8518 1234 ext. 6024



Bountiful bento boxes

Schedule an event with the Grand Millennium and be surprised by the chef's Bento Box Specials. Choose from an assortment of international cuisines in sets of traditional boxes.

Where: Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8587 6888 ext. 5337

Aviation



Check-in experience simplified

Singapore Airlines customers who check in online and travel without checked baggage can look forward to a streamlined experience as the airline partners with Changi Airport Group to introduce the Passenger Reconciliation System (PRS) for flights at Terminals 2 and 3.

Customers with visa or credit card verification requirements will still need to present their documents at the check-in counters first. These customers should proceed to designated self-service counters at Row 9 in Terminal 2 and Row 4 in Terminal 3.

For more information on PRS visit singaporeair.com.

Air France, KLM, Jetstar join lines

Air France, KLM and the Jetstar Group of Airlines signed a new interline agreement. Under the agreement, Jetstar, Air France and KLM will form an interline partnership which will encompass all 60 Jetstar ports including 21 direct lines into Singapore and Air France and KLM hubs in Paris and Amsterdam.

Hotel

Shangri-La opens first location in Tibet

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts announced it will open a new hotel in Lhasa in 2012. Located on Lingkor Road, the hotel will be 1.5 kilometers from Potala Palace, the famous 7th century complex at the heart of Lhasa. The hotel will feature modern interpretations of traditional Tibetan architectural motifs and interiors accented with locally produced arts, crafts and fabrics. Designed with comfort in mind, guest rooms will begin at 36 square meters and many will offer views of Potala. Welcome service will include Tibetan welcome rituals and local hand-churned butter tea.

Marriott Hotel City Wall opens as 5-star

Beijing Marriott Hotel City Wall, the largest Marriott Hotel outside the US with 1,312 elegantly decorated rooms and a sprawling function space was awarded a Five-Star Hotel Rating by the China National Tourism Administration. A ceremony to accept the rating was held June 10. As many as 10 officials from the China National Tourism Administration, Beijing Tourism Bureau and other tourism organizations and media attended to congratulate hotel staff and management.

Golden Pillow Award

The recent 7th Golden Pillow Award presented by China's Hotels Presentation and held in Hangzhou went to Gloria Hotels & Resorts. The chain was crowned as China's Most Investment-worthy Domestic Hotel Management Company of 2010 and its president Wang Jinjun was named one of "the Leaders of the Hotel Industry."

For more information visit gloriahotels.com

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Hanging out with a text-hole

By Wang Yu

Among my friends, Jeffery Wu is the technocrat most familiar with the latest gadgets.

He is product manager of a music website and a geek who prefers his laptops, cell phones and newly purchased iPad to people. Wu's apartment is like a warehouse, stuffed with IT products he bought a long time ago. He seldom sells old prototypes because he thinks they will cry if he abandons them.

Believe it or not, Wu was late to the tech scene – his dad bought him his first cell phone when he was in college, not high school. But portal communication devices soon took over his life, replacing computers or video games as his main form of entertainment. Since his first cell phone, he has purchased at least three cell phones per year using money he earns working as an Internet café administrator.

Recently, I had the chance to go out with Wu for dinner. It had been almost half a year since we last met. The restaurant was small but well decorated, famous for its Guizhou cuisine. We were joined by Jon, Wu's colleague from America, and two girlfriends.

The food was great and I got along with Jon very well. We found that we had many things in common, music especially, as we were both huge Oasis fans. The girls talked on the other side of the table. Wu, meanwhile, sat between Jon and I and played with the apps on the iPhone he had just bought. He was typing, eating and talking at the



same time.

"So Howie, you know that Oasis split, right?" Jon asked me.

"Yeah, bad news. But I still think they will reunite soon," I said. "The Gallagher brothers cannot continue their career without each other."

"So which one is your favorite Oasis album?"

"Er ... I have to say their first one."

"No way! Me too!"

"What, 'no way'?" I was a bit confused.

"Oh, it's just to express my surprise. I didn't mean that anything was impossible," Jon explained.

At the same time, Wu was shaking his iPhone – machine gun appeared on the screen and fired when he shook it.

"Hey man, wake up! Don't be a text-hole," Jon said to Wu.

"What? An asshole?" I asked.

However, Wu was not angry at all – he continued to browse the Internet (we heard a message-received ding from his MSN). It made me think he didn't care what people called him.

"Oh no, man, I said text-hole," Jon said. "You didn't hear me clearly. It's a little loud here."

I laughed and pretended to know exactly what that meant. After dinner, I learned from Google that "text-hole" refers to a person who's on his or her cell phone at inappropriate moments all the time, especially in public places like the cinema, meeting room or court.

And, as my friend Jeffrey demonstrated – at the dinner table.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. Be careful what you wish for.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZS): One of my students once came to me and asked whether this is all right. It is indeed unconventional grammatically. In English, just a few adjectives can be followed directly by an object or an object clause. "Careful" is not among them. Traditionally, we have such examples as: You will get a good dinner, but be careful of the sweets; She was careful of the feelings of others; Be careful of the horses, don't ride them too fast. Obviously, "careful" is all followed by "of" before it takes an object. However, I say the sample sentence is all right. The modern tendency of English presumes that this is a correct expression. Though we normally say: Be careful of what you wish for, we do have such a way of saying things. Similarly, it is all right to say: He is unsure of whether she has arrived in Beijing. People increasingly tend to say: He is unsure whether she has arrived in Beijing.

Native Speaker Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): Though it may be grammatically incorrect, "be careful what you wish for" acts as an expression. "Be careful what you wish for – because you might just get it!" It means that sometimes the thing we wish for makes us happier than before! For example, people often long to be rich and famous but, after they gain everything, they find that they are lonely and miserable. This is comforting to the poor and unknown regular people like the rest of us!

2. Chexting

ZS: This is a new word. It made its appearance following the onset of text messages. It stimulates a burst of innovations of a great number of words with the suffix -exting. This is one of many new neologisms. It means "cheating on one's spouse through the medium of text messages." Similarly, we now have "sexting" which refers to taking nude or semi-nude pictures with a camera phone and sending them as texts; "texting" mixed with other relationship words. We have "brexting" which means "breaking up with someone via text message"; "drexting" which denotes "sending text messages, often amorous ones, while drunk"; "fexting" which means "confessing something via text message." So, you see the English language is developing at an unprecedented speed ever seen in history as technology develops.

TBZ: Very true. What will the future bring? If we add -exting behind every verb, perhaps we should be adding an "i-" in front of every noun? And emoticons after every sentence!?

3. I got to wonder why do people wait and watch so passively for the water to rise?

ZS: Can you discern what is wrong with this sentence? If you can find out where it is wrong, you are superbly smart. Let me explain to you. As you know, "to get to" is a set phrase which conversationally and informally means, among other preferences, "to start, to begin." For instance, When Grandma is alone too long, she gets to worrying over nothing at all. It has to be followed by a noun or a participial phrase. I'll show you another example: When I got to thinking about this problem, I suddenly had a brilliant idea for a solution! So, for the sample sentence, you have to turn "wonder" into a participle before it can be regarded as correct: I got to wondering why do people wait and watch so passively for the water to rise?

TBZ: While "I got to wondering" means "I started" or "I began to wonder," as Professor Zhu has said, "I got a chance to wonder" means that "I finally had time to think about (this question)." "Chance" is followed by the infinitive. For example: When I got a chance to think, I realized everything was right in the world.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Counterclockwise in counterclockwise

By Tiffany Tan

Street directions are often as difficult to give as they are to follow. Our Chinglish sign this week, found in a Houhai alley lined with souvenir shops, is a good example. How do you go "counterclockwise in counterclockwise"? Makes my head hurt to even think about it. It sounds more like the mechanics of a children's party or the code to do super-combo in a fighting video game.

Back in February, we found a sign reading, "From this come back." And I thought that was mind-boggling! If we had category winners, this would definitely take home the trophy for "Best" Chinglish Street Directions.

The sign in the photo actually says, "At the intersection ahead, turn left, then left again (at the next corner)." To turn left is to move in



Photo by Tiffany Tan

a counterclockwise direction, but in this context, a person will end up going in circles.

Somebody has got to fix this sign. A person who is ravenous – no matter how much he or she wants roast meat

– is not going to stand around trying to figure out how to get to this restaurant. There are many other restaurants in Houhai dying to get the business. At the very least, this restaurant's manager should include a phone number!

Green Zone (2010)



Scene 1

(After a meeting before Miller's next operation, CIA agent Martin Brown comes to him.)

Martin Brown (B): Martin Brown, CIA.

Roy Miller (M): Roy Miller.

B: Yeah, I know. I saw you at the meeting. You're going to the Al Mansour site in Baghdad.

M: Yeah.

B: You're wasting your time. UN biological team hit it two months ago. There's nothing there.

M: F—k me.

B: Here's my card. You're right. This thing doesn't add up (1). The Iraqis don't fight, they don't use WMD, they let us walk in here and find the goddamn cupboard's bare (2). There's something wrong here. We gotta figure out what it is.

If you find anything, you've got my number.

Scene 2

(Brown argues with Clark Poundstone from the US government about the political reconstruction of Iraq.)

Clark Poundstone (P): OK, well, let's table that for now. In terms of stabilization ...

B: Zubaidi hasn't been here for 30 years.

P: Well, he's the best bet (3) we have right now for a stable democracy.

B: You find me 10 guys in Baghdad who even know who he is.

P: Well, he's our friend, Marty. He's been very helpful. Our office is extremely satisfied with all the information that we've gotten from him.

B: Zubaidi's been selling us a crock of shit for years. This guy is not reliable. His intelligence is not reliable. His report chain is not reliable.

P: This is exactly why people are losing confidence in the Agency, Marty. You're questioning every single piece of intelligence that's coming in, up to the point where we can't make any progress.

B: You cannot just hand this country over to an exile no one's ever heard of and a bunch of interns from Washington.

P: Well, you're a Middle East expert, Marty. If you got a better idea, why don't you just throw it out here on the table?

B: We need to use the Iraqi army to help us. This country is a powder keg of ethnic division. Now that Saddam is gone, they're the only ones who can hold this place together.

P: We're not selling (4) that to the American people. We beat the Iraqi army.

B: Right. Well, they're still out there and they're armed, and they're looking for a place in the new Iraq.

P: They're going to be waiting a long time.

B: They didn't all follow Saddam. There are officers we can work with out there, if we make it worth their while.

P: Hey, let me tell you something. We've spent too much American treasure and too many American lives for us to put a Ba'athist general into a position of power.

B: Have you any idea what's going on outside the Green Zone? It's chaos. No police, revenge killings every night. People are asking why we can't stop this. We are losing the population. Democracy is messy.

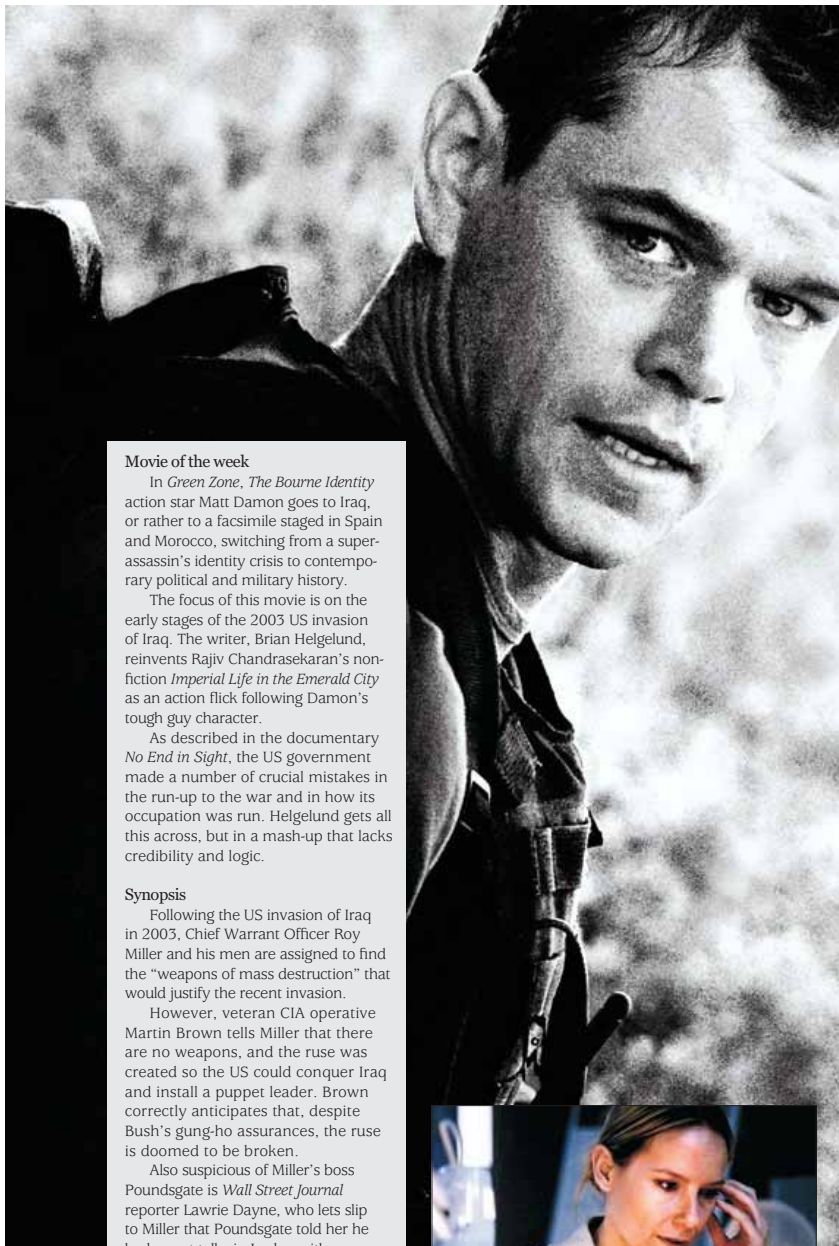
P: Democracy is messy.

B: If you dismantle this country and cut out the army, you'll have civil war in six months. I guarantee it.

Vocabulary

- add up:** make sense
- cupboard's bare:** from "the cupboard is bare," a line taken from the Old Mother Hubbard nursery rhyme and used to describe absent resources
- best bet:** best choice
- sell:** here it means to convince people

(By Wang Yu)



Movie of the week

In *Green Zone*, *The Bourne Identity* action star Matt Damon goes to Iraq, or rather to a facsimile staged in Spain and Morocco, switching from a super-assassin's identity crisis to contemporary political and military history.

The focus of this movie is on the early stages of the 2003 US invasion of Iraq. The writer, Brian Helgelund, reinvents Rajiv Chandrasekaran's non-fiction *Imperial Life in the Emerald City* as an action flick following Damon's tough guy character.

As described in the documentary *No End in Sight*, the US government made a number of crucial mistakes in the run-up to the war and in how its occupation was run. Helgelund gets all this across, but in a mash-up that lacks credibility and logic.

Synopsis

Following the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, Chief Warrant Officer Roy Miller and his men are assigned to find the "weapons of mass destruction" that would justify the recent invasion.

However, veteran CIA operative Martin Brown tells Miller that there are no weapons, and the ruse was created so the US could conquer Iraq and install a puppet leader. Brown correctly anticipates that, despite Bush's gung-ho assurances, the ruse is doomed to be broken.

Also suspicious of Miller's boss Poundsgate is *Wall Street Journal* reporter Lawrie Dayne, who lets slip to Miller that Poundsgate told her he had secret talks in Jordan with an important Iraqi, code-named Magellan, who told him about the weapons. But it now seems likely Magellan's information was to the contrary.



Scene 3

(Miller comes to Lawrie Dayne, he finds out that Magellan's story is not true.)

M: I read your articles. You said an Iraqi WMD source named Magellan met with US officials prior to the war. I need to know about that meeting.

Lawrie Dayne (D): Oh, no. Come on, Miller. I can't discuss my sources with you.

M: Well, did you ever meet the guy? Do you know who he is?

D: Of course I didn't meet him. He's an Iraqi internal, for Christ's sake.

M: Then how do you know what he's saying is true?

D: Because I made contact through a reliable intermediary.

M: Reliable?

D: Yes.

M: Have you ever even been to any of Magellan's sites? You ever been to Diwaniya? Tikrit?

D: No.

M: There's nothing there. Magellan's intel is bullshit. Who's the intermediary?

D: No. I'm not discussing sources, Miller.

M: Jesus Christ! This is the reason we went to war! All right, then at least tell me how it happened. How does this happen? How does somebody like you write something that's not true? Tell me! What do you know?

D: Look, I got a phone call one day from a senior official in DC. He says, "I've got a story for you. The truth about Saddam's WMD programs." So I go to meet him. He puts the source report in my hands. Magellan's product, the raw intel.

M: But when do you check the story?

D: He was a senior official, for Christ's sake. He had access to Magellan's debrief. All he asked was that I not disclose the location of the meeting.

M: The location.

D: Yes, in case I'd compromise the source.

M: It was Jordan, wasn't it? The meeting was in Jordan.

D: Yes.