



Confucius Institute Executive Director receives worldwide recognition from Confucius Institute headquarters/Hanban



Madame Liu Yandong presents Joan Brzezinski, Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota's executive director, with an Individual Performance Excellence Award at a ceremony during the 7th Annual Confucius Institute Conference held in Beijing, China in December 2012.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota's (CIUMN) executive director, Joan Brzezinski, was awarded a 2012 Confucius Institute Individual Performance Excellence Award. She received the award at a ceremony during the 7th Annual Confucius Institute Conference in Beijing, held on December 16-18, 2012. This honor, given to only 30 people who are affiliated with the 400 Confucius Institutes worldwide, recognizes Ms. Brzezinski for exceptional service and leadership.

The Confucius Institute Headquarters/Hanban recognizes organizations for their programs with the Confucius Institute of the Year Award and recognizes individuals for their dedication with the Individual Performance Excellence Award. A selection committee of 300 Chinese partner organiza-

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Top 10 weird stories to emerge from China in 2012

By Esta Chappell, eChinacities.com



Photo: npr.org

One of the most important and auspicious years in the Chinese calendar: the Year of the Dragon. This year the unexpected was predicted, and true to form there were many strange and downright odd news items that came out of China. A look back on 2012 reveals drama, (bad) luck, enterprise and surprise. Here's our round up of the year's top 10 weird stories:

1) Ferocious stamps (January 2012)

As unpredictable as the mythical animal itself, the stamp issued by the Chinese postal service commemorating the Year of the Dragon was not well received. Deemed too scary, ferocious and "incomparably ugly" by critics, the dragon drawing was a far cry

from the previous cutesy wide-eyed bunny of 2011. The designer argued, however, that the revered dragon should "never be rendered a mere cartoon".

2) Your child's future is in their hands (February 2012)

There are many features bestowed upon children born during the Year of the Dragon suggesting their future personalities and career prospects. However, the use of palm reading to predict Chinese children's future musical, mathematical and language skills was banned in kindergartens this year. Parents in three privately run kindergartens in Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, reportedly paid 1,200 RMB each to know the future prospects of their toddlers. However, after a series of complaints, city authorities have criticised the practice and placed a ban on these fortune-telling activities.

3) Kidney for iPhones (April 2012)

The year of the dragon didn't bring much luck to one teenager who was so desperate for an iPhone that he sold his kidney. The 17-year-old received 22,000 Yuan from the illegal organ trade, which he used to purchase an iPhone and iPad. Sadly, he now suffers from renal deficiency, something that no 'app' can fix. Five others involved, including the surgeon, have been charged with intentional injury.



Photo: aoehome.com

4) Bridge over troubled water (May 2012)

Bad luck also hampered efforts to show off a brand new luxury cruise ship, the Pearl No. 7, when she tried to sneak under a bridge in Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province. There was

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Publisher's Pronouncements

Greetings:

China Insight is proud to begin its 11th year of publishing and continues to be committed to focusing on promoting cultural and business understanding between the United States and the People's Republic of China. Recently, China Insight assisted the Minnesota Timberwolves in organizing an Asian Heritage Night when the Wolves hosted Jeremy Lin, the first Chinese-American player in the NBA, and the Houston Rockets. See article on page 6.

As most of you already know, Chinese New Year will occur on February 10, 2013, so to all our friends in the community, we wish all of you a Happy Chinese New Year (Gung He Fat Choy) as we prepare to celebrate the Year of the Snake, which will be year 4711 according to the Chinese Lunar calendar.

Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends recently hosted an event that focused on explaining many of the customs and traditions that Chinese practice during the celebration of Chinese New Year. See article on page 9. If you still want to explore more about how to celebrate, the Plymouth branch of Hennepin County Library will be holding such an event on February 9 as noted on page 10 along with a partial listing of other Chinese New Year celebrations that will be taking place in the Twin Cities. Since it is impossible for us to attend all of these events, we invite you to submit a follow up article and photos which we would consider including in China Insight.

China Insight along with the Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends is also now busy planning the Sixth Annual A Passage to China (APTC) that will be held at Mall of America on April 13 and 14 so be sure to save these dates. We also invite you or your organization to participate. See announcement on page 3.

We are also excited about introducing a new activity to APTC this year, a Terra Cotta Warrior coloring contest, which we expect will generate a great deal of interest by children of all ages and motivate them to be involved with APTC. Complete details can be found on page 7. We invite educators to consider this as a class project for their students and will be making every effort to accommodate their participation.

All of us at China Insight thank you and our advertisers for your continued support as we work with the community to provide a bridge between our two cultures. We invite you to contact us to let us know if you have any suggestions as how to expand our mission.

We extend our best wishes for a healthy and prosperous Year of the Snake.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh

Gregory J. Hugh
Publisher
CHINA/INSIGHT

CHINA/INSIGHT

Publisher:

Gregory J. Hugh
ghugh@chinainsight.info

Editor:

Jennifer Nordin
jnordin@chinainsight.info

**Manager of Operations/
Circulation:**

Richard He
rhe@chinainsight.info

Marketing Director:

Will Ahern
willahern@chinainsight.info

Artist/Intern:

Lauren Hugh

Staff Writers:

Greg Hugh
ghugh@chinainsight.info

Shilyn Chang
schang@chinainsight.info

Anthony James
ajames@chinainsight.info

Jodi Yim James
jjames@chinainsight.info

Jennifer Nordin
jnordin@chinainsight.info

China Correspondent:

Kent Clark
articles@chinainsight.info

Contributors:

Elizabeth Greenberg
egreenberg@chinainsight.info

Albert Leung
aleung@chinainsight.info

Raymond Lum
articles@chinainsight.info

Mike Xiong
mxiong@chinainsight.info

About CHINA/INSIGHT

CHINA/INSIGHT is a monthly English language newspaper fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S.

CHINA/INSIGHT is a Member of The Minnesota Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA).

**Submissions &
Correspondence**

CHINA/INSIGHT welcomes guest articles and letters to the editor. Correspondence should be addressed to:

Editor, CHINA/INSIGHT
6520 South Bay Drive
Minnetrista, MN 55331
Tel: 952-472-4757
Fax: 952 472-6665
articles@chinainsight.info

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Contact Greg Hugh at 952-472-4757 or
ghugh@chinainsight.info

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"One Man's Search for Ancient China" Leads to Smithsonian's Sackler Gallery

Exhibition of Paul Singer Collection Marks New Beginning for Research in Ancient Chinese Art

On view through July 17



Apartment of Paul Singer, Summit, New Jersey, 1997. Photo by John Tsantes.

Renowned for his passionate dedication to ancient Chinese material culture, collector Dr. Paul Singer (1904-1997) built an expansive collection of some 5000 objects, once displayed in its entirety in his modest two-bedroom apartment in New Jersey. The selection of 63 works in "One Man's Search for Ancient China: The Paul Singer Collection," on view Jan. 19-July 7 at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, provides a glimpse into Singer's seven decades of work in ancient Chinese art.

Singer's collection, most of which has never been on public view, reflects an enormous range of artifacts produced by ancient

Chinese cultures. Although it includes masterworks appreciated for their beauty, its greatest value resides in the large number of minor pieces—from objects of personal adornment to ceramics and weaponry—that form an almost encyclopedic reference for archaeological study.

"The Singer collection fills in many gaps in the story of early China," said J. Keith Wilson, exhibition curator and curator of ancient Chinese art at the Freer and Sackler galleries. "Objects such as these are found in few museum collections, but they contribute greatly to our understanding and study of thousands of years of history." ■

Glimpse a "Promise of Paradise" in Freer Gallery's Chinese Buddhist Sculpture

Ancient Masterpieces Revealed for Museum's 90th Anniversary

On view indefinitely



John Tsantes. Freer Gallery 17. Photo by Neil Greentree.

In honor of its 90th anniversary, the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art presents "Promise of Paradise: Early Chinese Buddhist Sculpture," one of the finest assemblages of Chinese devotional art outside of China. Finely carved stone figures, architectural reliefs and gilt bronzes—some of which have never been on display—represent Charles Lang Freer's original gift to the Smithsonian and the nation. The exhibition opened in December 2012 and will be on view indefinitely.

"Remarkable in themselves, these icons of Buddhist teachings align with Charles Lang Freer's vision of a museum whose objects please the eye and stimulate the mind,"

said Julian Raby, the Dame Jillian Sackler Director of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the Freer Gallery of Art. "These wondrous stone carvings form the foundation of a collection that places a strong emphasis on transcendent beauty and profound cultural significance, both informed by our ongoing scholarly research."

Most of the sculptures on display were created as objects of worship or for religious instruction and were used in temples, cave chapels or domestic shrines across northern China during the sixth to eighth centuries, a period marked by rapid evolution in both artistic expression and religious belief. ■

Visit <http://www.asia.si.edu> for more information about the Smithsonian Institute Freer and Sackler Galleries.

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(952) 472-4757

E-mail:
ghugh@chinainsight.info

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St. Paul, MN 55104

UCBC hosts presentation on cyber security

US-China
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US-China Business Connections (UCBC) will hold its monthly breakfast meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 -9:30 a.m. The featured presentation will be "Cyber and Digital Asset Security." The speakers will be Scott Singer, CSIO for ParSys, and current Executive Officer or Commander Pacific Fleet Maritime Operations Center Mike Mantzke, CEO Global Data Sciences Inc.

Singer is responsible for supporting the communications and cyber security needs of the Pacific Fleet. Mantzke is a security and data forensics expert who has worked on projects with federal law enforcement agencies.

Attendees will learn how to make certain electronic communications and any Intellec-

tual Property (IP) that needs to be shared in a printed or recorded fashion are protected. Amy Xu, IP attorney for Dorsey & Whitney will moderate the discussion.

This UCBC meeting and networking opportunity will be held at the University of St. Thomas, Opus Hall, Minneapolis, Rm 201. Directions and a campus map can be found at http://www.stthomas.edu/media/campusmaps/mplsdirections_color.pdf

The attendance fee is \$25. This event is free for students. Parking vouchers are available for free parking in the ramp on Hennepin and 10th. To register, e-mail ucbcevent@gmail.com or call Jim Smith at 612-865-6543. ■

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There are a limited number of positions available at several universities in China that can be customized to suit your schedule. If interested, you should send a current resume along with a brief essay as to why you would like to teach English in China and send it to Richard He, rhe@chinainsight.info or call (612)987-6540 for additional information.



GLOBAL LEARNING ALLIANCE

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Confucius Institute Executive Director receives worldwide recognition from Confucius Institute headquarters/Hanban

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tions selected Ms. Brzezinski as an awardee of the Individual Performance Excellence Award where they cited her contributions to connecting more than 20,000 Minnesotans to Chinese language and culture through the opening of two CIUMN satellite offices in Crookston and Duluth, Minn; collaborating with the Minnesota Department of Education on Hanban Volunteer Teacher programs; encouraging high levels of participation in the Youth Chinese Test (YCT); being awarded StarTalk grants for four consecutive years to provide Mandarin teacher training programs; and introducing innovative summer camp programs for youth.

Ms. Brzezinski's connection with China dates back to her undergraduate years, when she was selected to participate in the reciprocal exchange program at Peking University, the first undergraduate-level exchange program with a private university in the United States. In 1997, she joined the University of Minnesota's China Center where she administered the unit's business and activities. She coordinated the University's efforts to establish a Confucius Institute and became the director of the newly established Confucius Institute in 2008. Since then, she has assisted Minnesota in discussions with the Confucius Institute Headquarters/Hanban

regarding the state-level visiting teachers program, developed a number of professional development seminars and meetings for Chinese language teachers throughout Minnesota, and worked with school districts to bring quality Chinese language programming to schools and enhance Chinese cultural offerings throughout Minnesota. She became the executive director of the China Center and the Confucius Institute in 2012.

The CIUMN provides language- and culture-learning opportunities for elementary students, high school students and business professionals and professional development and networking opportunities for educators. Its resource center houses an extensive collection of Chinese language textbooks and supplementary materials including workbooks, CDs, software and flashcards that are available to the public. There is also a selection of Chinese films, television programs and serials and many bilingual books about Chinese culture on topics such as Chinese cities, cooking, literature, travel and philosophy. Confucius Institute Headquarters/Hanban honored awarded CIUMN the Confucius Institute of the Year in 2011. Learn more about the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota by visiting <http://confucius.umn.edu> ■

Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans requesting 2013 Annual Award nomination submissions

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans is currently seeking a diverse collection of nomination submissions for its 2013 Annual Leadership Awards. This is the time for community members to nominate and recognize one of their own. Please help us to honor an outstanding business owner, leader, and organization, volunteer who has given themselves, their talents and resources to serve and better the Asian-Pacific community.

A committee of Council board members and community members will determine the number of awardees. The Award Ceremony will be held at the Council's Annual Heritage Dinner on Friday, May 3, 2013, starting at 6:00 p.m. The location is still to be confirmed. Awardees in the past have been the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota, May Kao Hang, True Thao, Glen King, and Cultural Society of Filipino Americans.

The Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans honors individuals or organizations who have:

- Achieved excellence in his or her field
- Contributed to the well-being of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community
- Displayed leadership to advance social, economic, or educational spheres for people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent living in Minnesota

Candidates are to be nominated under one or more of the following categories:

- Outstanding contribution in any field showing vision and leadership
- Lifetime Service Award
- Humanitarian Award

Nomination submission guidelines

--Submit 1 Original and 7 Stapled Copies of the nomination materials for a total of 8 copies.

> Documents submitted will not be returned (Items of Personal Value Should Not Be Submitted)

> Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans suggests the nominator make a copy of the materials for his or her record

--Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans must receive nomination materials no later than Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

> Materials may be mailed or hand delivered

> Enclose all materials in a large 10" x 13" envelope—or equivalent—and address it as follows:

2013 Heritage Month Award Nominations
Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans
658 Cedar Street, Suite 160
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

2013 Annual Award Nomination Instructions

* Call the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans with questions at 651-757-1740 or e-mail pa.yang@state.mn.us

* Nominator or Co-Nominators Are Asked to Compile and Submit 8 Copies of All Materials Below in the Order Listed

* Principal nominator of awardees will be asked to introduce the winning nominee at the Award Ceremony.

I. Nomination Letter:

> 1 - 2 page, type written letter from the nominator(s)

> Give a detailed description explaining why the nominee is an excellent candidate for an award

> Specific examples should be used: Provide copies of newspaper articles and other written documents about the nominee

> Please include any compelling reasons which capture your heartfelt belief in the nominee as a deserving candidate

> Describe the impact of the nominee's contribution: Who and how many have benefited from the nominee's work

> Include nomination category(s) from the list on page one

> At the end of the letter—on a third page if necessary—please document the following for BOTH the Nominee & the Nominator:

1. Full, Correct Spelling of Name
2. Complete Mailing Address (including city, state, and zip)
3. Home Phone Number (incl. area code)
4. Work Phone Number (incl. area code)
5. Cell Phone Number (incl. area code)
6. Fax Number (incl. area code)
7. E-mail Address
8. If nominating an organization, list information above for two contacts

II. Letters of Support: (Please read the disclaimer)

> 1 page, type written letter from two additional people supporting the nomination.

> It is most helpful if each writer can offer unique perspectives on the nominee

> It is highly preferable that each knows the nominee in distinct capacities and for considerable length of time

> Letters should paint a well-informed, thorough testament of the nominee's qualifications; make a case for strong consideration by the committee; and communicate confidence in his or her endorsement of the nominee

III. A Resume and a 2 - 4 Paragraph Biography of candidate (nominee may prepare documents)

IV. Optional: Copies of press coverage, sample work, brief stories, history, etc. (Encouraged if Available)

V. Photograph: Submit one 3" x 5" or 4" x 6" color photo. Black & white acceptable.

1. Co-Nominators are allowed. It is the nominator(s) responsibility to compile all the nomination materials and submit them in the manner outlined above & on Page one under Nomination Submission Guidelines. Nominees may not turn in materials to the Council—either by mail or hand delivery.

2. A nominee may be chosen for an award in a category other than the one listed by the nominator(s) if there is compelling reason and cause. Please include your reasoning for this new category. ■

Disclaimer: Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans board members, staff, or their immediate family members MAY NOT submit nominations or write letters of support for any nominee. These same individuals may not be nominated for an award, though it is acceptable to have an affiliation with a nominated organization. Nominations for those who have previously won a Council Leadership Award, out of fairness, will not be accepted. Additionally, nominator and co-nominators cannot be immediate family member or relatives of the nominee.

Cool for School: China's growing study abroad market

By Li Yuan, *China Today*

Over the last decade, the number of Chinese studying abroad has ballooned. Besides providing an economic boost to the host countries, returned Chinese students from overseas are benefiting their own country with newly gained knowledge, skills and experience.

Australia was the first country opening to Chinese students on a large scale. Li Ping, CEO of Aoji Education Group, was an early trailblazer and headed to the country in 1985 for self-funded study. In the following years, as Li went from student to CEO of a study abroad service agency, he bore witness to great changes in the study abroad market in China.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, a few thousand Chinese students went abroad for study each year. Most received government funding. One of very few self-funded students, Li Ping studied in Australia for two years. It was during his time "down under" that he came up with the idea of starting a business serving Chinese students studying overseas.

"At the time I noticed that many Chinese students didn't know what to do to transfer to another school, if their visa expired or if they were sick or in an accident. Because of the language barrier and other issues, many students would find themselves needing help dealing with the unfamiliarity and difficulties of overseas life," said Li. After graduating in 1988, Li put his idea into action. He's been in the business for over 20 years.

The United Kingdom and United States opened to Chinese students on a larger scale in 2001 and 2006 respectively. As the financial crisis swept the world in 2008, an increasing number of developed countries have opened their doors to students from the world's most populous country. They have developed their education sectors to cater to greater numbers of international, and particularly Chinese, students, who generally pay higher fees than domestic students. This has given a boost to many countries' economic growth prospects. The situation is mutually beneficial – these days, more and more Chinese students want to study abroad.

From 2001 to 2011 the study abroad market in China developed quickly. As of March of 2012, total visits made abroad for study purposes amounted to 2.3 million person-times, ranking China as the largest source country of overseas students in the world.

In order to help more students enter foreign universities, a large number of study abroad agencies have emerged. Li Ping has gradually expanded his company's business to cover more prestigious universities and colleges in Australia, Europe and America. Today, Aoji is an influential player in China's study abroad market.

Li's memory of his study abroad experience is still fresh. "In 1985, when the Inter-

net was not yet the phenomenon it is today, students usually learned about countries and institutions from the students who had gone before them. Returned students brought back a limited amount of information about the universities they attended. Students wanting to study abroad would simply write an application letter and post it to the university they decided on. It was considered very lucky to get an offer from any university at all. Obtaining visa approval was also an issue. This process, which relied on second-hand knowledge and hearsay, meant students had a very limited understanding of foreign universities," Li said.

Nowadays the situation is different. The Internet and other information tools make it easy for Chinese students to learn about universities and colleges around the world. Educational consultancy services and study abroad agencies are also available should potential students wish to seek out professional advice.

Moreover, many universities have launched Chinese versions of their websites. Some have even established offices in China to ease the application process. Various international education exhibitions also provide a platform for schools and students to communicate directly with each other.

For example, at the Aoji 2012 Fall International Education Fair, Carnegie Mellon University made it possible for admissions officers to interview attending students, rather than conducting interviews on the telephone or by Skype. The French Culture Center in China also had a booth at the fair. One representative, responsible for promoting French study programs, told *China Today* that some French universities have begun adding English-language programs to their syllabuses specifically to attract Chinese students.

With greater access to information, Chinese students are more rational and pragmatic in their study abroad decisions. Up until the turn of the millennium, many were satisfied just to have the opportunity to study abroad. Career benefits, it was assumed, would follow. Since then, as a great number of students have started heading overseas, many have begun to think more carefully about their objectives, choice of program and career prospects after investing in an expensive year or two of foreign study.

Every year, Aoji helps thousands of Chinese students gain admission to overseas tertiary institutions. The choices the company offers in terms of location, university and program have expanded from a few hot destinations and "in-vogue" majors to almost any area of study. ■

Source: *China Today*
<http://www.chinatoday.com.cn>



Today Aoji is an influential player in China's study abroad market, its services covering language training, preparatory courses, international summer programs and immigration services.

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Global Learning Alliance (GLA) is a Twin-Cities based organization that serves as a facilitator to assist students from China that want to study in the United States. To ensure that these students obtain the best experience possible, GLA seeks to place the students with host families. The length of their stay could vary from a few months to a full school year and include high school and college students of both sexes.

Since we recognize that hosting a student from China may place a financial burden on many families, we will provide some financial reimbursement but expect a family to be a host because of the mutual cultural exchange that both will receive and not just the financial aspect.

To learn more about being a host family, contact Richard He at (612) 987-8540 or email, rhe@chinainsight.info.



GLOBAL LEARNING ALLIANCE

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Intensive Summer Language Institute fellowships available

American Councils for International Education is pleased to announce the 2013 Intensive Summer Language Institute in Changchun, China. The Intensive Summer Language Institute provides fully funded fellowships for non-native speakers of Chinese who are teaching Mandarin to spend six weeks overseas studying intermediate and advanced-level Chinese at Northeast Normal University. Fellowships are available to current K-12 teachers and community college instructors of Mandarin Chinese, as well as to students enrolled in education programs who intend to teach Mandarin. This U.S. Government sponsored language program is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and implemented by American Councils for International Education.

Participants in the Intensive Summer Language Institute receive ten hours of

graduate credit through Bryn Mawr College. Previous program participants have taken good advantage of the Summer Language Institute's many opportunities for curriculum building, networking and professional development. The site in Northeast China is highly conducive to language learning and provides a myriad of activities to encourage language acquisition through cultural immersion. In addition to daily intensive language training, participants enjoy cultural activities and excursions designed to reinforce classroom material.

The program application, benefits, and detailed application instructions are located online at <http://www.americancouncils.org/isli>. In addition to the online form, applicants are asked to provide official transcripts and two reference letters. All materials are due on February 11, 2013. ■

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Timberwolves prevail during Asian Heritage Night

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

A near-capacity crowd at the Target Center recently watched Jeremy Lin as the Houston Rockets played the Timberwolves in what was billed as a pivotal game for both teams since both were experiencing a losing streak. The Timberwolves prevailed, beating the Rockets 92-79.

In addition to the action that took place at center court, the Timberwolves, with the assistance of China Insight and support from the China Center, held Asian Heritage Night to make the evening at Target Center a memorable and special one for fans.



Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends table in the upper concourse.

Photo by Pearl Bergad

Prior to the tip off, Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends was stationed on the upper concourse level where they provided calligraphy name translations and fortune telling. On another concourse level, the University of Minnesota China Center promoted its China-based American Cultural Center for Sport. They also distributed over 1,000 hand clappers to fans who wanted to make a little more noise while cheering on their favorite players.

Over 60 students from the Minnesota International Chinese School were also



Joan Brzezinski, Executive Director (L), with other China Center staff members, Merritt Wilson and Emily Hanson with Timberwolves mascot Crunch.

Photo courtesy of U of MN China Center



Students from the Minnesota International Chinese School in the Target Center lobby.

Photo from MICS

present to cheer on the basketball players as they came through the tunnel onto the playing floor. This was a special treat for these students since there were many students attending the game from many other schools and universities from the Twin Cities area. The only disappointment expressed by the students and others who came to watch the game was the fact that Jeremy Lin was not available to meet, greet and have a photo op with fans.

The half-time entertainment was a traditional lion dance by the Hui's Troupe. This performance was probably a first-time experience for many of the fans in attendance.

Evidently some astute marketing people must have recognized that there would be a strong Asian presence at this game.



Above: Students from the Minnesota International Chinese School wait in the tunnel to cheer players on as they run on to the court.

Photo from MICS

Below: Hui's Lucky Lion Dance Troupe that perform a traditional lion dance at half time.

Photo by David Tsao



There was an obvious effort to reach them as evidenced by the Chinese language electronic boards scrolling in front of the scoring tables. I was informed by David Tsao that one of the ads was for Saiqi, a sportswear company located only in China so this message was directed to Chinese living in Minnesota.

As for the game itself, I will leave it to the professional sports pundits to report on how the game was played but I know the Asian fans appreciated watching Jeremy Lin who played at least half of the game for

the Rockets. ■



Scrolling banner displayed ads in Chinese courtside at the Timberwolves game on Jan. 19, 2013.

Photo by David Tsao

The Adaption of a Nation

By James Yang, Student at Breck School

I saw the basketball game of Timberwolves and Houston Rockets. I saw the only Chinese on the court, Jeremy Lin. He is well known and popular. Many Chinese are proud of him as he does a fantastic job in the NBA, but maybe not so many Americans think so. As soon as Jeremy got the ball, some Americans began to tease him loudly. At first I thought it was because they didn't like the Houston Rockets, but later, I found out that they only shouted when Jeremy held the ball, and I began to wonder why.

Jeremy is an American-born Chinese. He looked Chinese, but all of his identities show that his nationality is American. The only thing that makes him unique from others is the color of his skin. A few days after the game was Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Martin Luther King Jr. claimed equal-

ity for the people even with different skin colors. However, it requires both the tolerance of Americans to other colors and the hard work other nations make to integrate to the local community. I think the reason why Chinese are still not fully accepted by some Americans is because we usually block ourselves in a small group that mostly consists of Chinese and don't spread ourselves to other American communities, which makes a huge community of Chinese not so influential in United States.

When I was young, my mom told me that to make others respect you, you had to have good grades. After several months in the United States, I found out that to make you respectful, you have to show your ability, not only in academics, but also in various activities and getting along with each other. Now, after the basketball game, I know, no matter

how strong our abilities are; we will never get to leave a huge expression on Americans if Chinese only hang out with Chinese. We need to integrate into this society, the society we are in now.

For a small portion of a nation's people to adapt in another nation, it requires it to show the power of a nation. However, the exhibition of the power could only be made by those people that live in the foreign nation, just like us, Chinese. Although most of the Chinese have pretty good grades, it won't impact the impression of others to us because studying is only an individual ability and what we have to show them is more of an ability of being in a group. For example, we have to show others how well we get along with others.

However, making Chinese more adaptable to USA is not only beneficial to those

that come to USA, but also beneficial to Chinese people who are born in USA, such as Jeremy Lin. Since more and more Chinese come to USA, Americans cannot really identify what kind of Chinese you are. Therefore, we have to improve the impression of us to the Americans by getting away from our own friend circles and integrating into the society of America. ■

Editor's Note: China Insight invited a few students to write an article on what they observed during the Timberwolves-Rockets game. James Yang is a visiting student from Shanghai, China, now attending Breck School as a sophomore, who is living with a host family.

Enter the competition to Color the Terra Cotta Warrior and bring him back to life



A PASSAGE TO CHINA

In response to the tremendous popularity of the Terra Cotta Exhibit recently held at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, *A Passage to China* is holding a coloring contest and inviting students to imagine how colorful the warrior might have looked two millennia ago. Students can choose whatever style or medium they prefer.

The contest will be divided into 3 different age brackets: 5-9, 10-14 and 15-18. The top five submissions selected in each category will be awarded prizes at *A Passage to China* at Mall of America on either April 13 or 14. They will also be invited to paint a small replica warrior and have their photos taken with a life-sized one.

All participants will receive a certificate of participation to be issued during *A Passage to China*. All entries must be submitted on Official Entry Form below. Additional copies may be downloaded at www.chinainsight.info.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Age _____
 Parents _____
 *Email _____ Phone _____
 School _____ Grade _____

**Contact information must be provided. It is for notification purposes only.*

Deadline for all entries is 5 P.M., Saturday, March 31, 2013. Mail to:

China Insight
 6520 South Bay Drive
 Minnetrista, MN 55331

RULES

All submissions must be the sole work of the student in whatever style or medium they prefer, but only 1 entry per student is allowed. All entries become the property of *A Passage to China* and will not be returned. Family members of judges may not participate. There will be five winners in each age category. All winning entries will be displayed during *A Passage to China*. You will be notified if you have won and informed when to attend to receive your awards. Attendance is required. Awards will not be mailed.



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www.ciactravel.com

IN-KIND SUPPORT: Mall of America, China Insight

The changing but still colorful face of U.S. Chinatowns

By Kelly Chung Dawson, China Daily

For immigrants, the desire to cluster with others from one's country of origin is universal, Chen said. Chinatowns allow new arrivals to retain ties with their homeland while they get help finding a place to live, a job, legal services and other resources.

Abramson described the role of a traditional Chinatown in a 2006 article.



Customers crowd into the Yunhong Chopsticks store in Chinatown in New York. [Photo/Provided to China Daily]

"Ethnic minorities themselves have found the notion of 'enclave' useful to maintain their identity, provide themselves with information and social and cultural services, and to empower themselves politically through mobilization and solidarity - all of which are made easier through spatial concentration," he wrote in the Journal of Architectural and Planning Research.

"North American Chinatowns can be seen as extreme cases of dichotomous urban ethnic space. They are typically among the most sharply-bounded urban enclaves to be found in American cities."

In recent years, the economic rise of China has helped alter the demographics of the United States' Chinese population and provided an impetus for the establishment of Chinese enclaves with new characteristics, said Sarah Swider, a sociology professor at Wayne State University in Detroit and an expert on immigration.

"The earlier wave of Chinese immigrants was more likely to be poor," said Swider. "Now, the situation is that these migrants include people across different social classes, from the global 1 percent to the poor."

The Census Bureau reports that recent arrivals from Asia are twice as likely to have a bachelor's degree as those that arrived in the [United States] three decades ago. This shift has created a need for "one-step-up" Chinese communities such as New York's Flushing and Sunset Park, said Tunney Lee, professor emeritus of urban studies and planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Highly educated, higher-income immigrants are going directly to the suburbs," Lee said.

According to the Asian American Federation's Shih, the median household income in Flushing in 2011 was [US]\$45,810, with Sunset Park trailing at [US]\$32,371. The

figure for Manhattan's Chinatown was [US]\$26,046.

Additionally, the population of Manhattan's Chinatown is aging, with younger generations opting for cheaper, more spacious living in Flushing and Sunset Park, Shih said. The Manhattan enclave saw a decrease of 1,858 children in its population between 2000 and 2010, according to census data.

Middle-class, educated immigrants aren't dependent on Chinatown-centered services in the way their lower-income counterparts are, the University of Washington's Abramson said.

"Wealthier immigrants tend to be better-educated and more likely to speak English," he explained. "They can get around, and they're able to hire support in the form of lawyers, insurance and real estate agents that will ease their transition. They will live like affluent Americans of the same wealth level in other areas, but they will still shop in Chinatown or other places where there's a concentration of good food and products they're familiar with."

In cities such as Seattle and Portland, Oregon, traditional Chinatowns have become almost entirely commercial districts, Lee said. He also pointed to Las Vegas' Chinatown, which is strictly commercial and actually pan-Asian in character.



President Barack Obama greets patrons during a visit to the Great Eastern Restaurant in San Francisco's Chinatown. [Photo/Provided to China Daily]

This indicates a continued need for traditional Chinatowns, regardless of where Chinese choose to live, said Kevin Hsieh, who runs the online information platform SanFranciscoChinatown.

"Many students in San Francisco might live in another part of the city, but they come back to Chinatown to shop and eat," he said. "If you want to feel like you're home for a bit, and you know it'll be a while before you get to go home, Chinatown is where you go."

According to the 2010 census, the average Asian-American lives in an area where 20 percent of residents identify themselves as Asian; in contrast, most Hispanics live where 45 percent of people are self-identified Hispanics. However, Asian-Americans make up far less of the U.S. population than Hispanics do, and are therefore statistically less likely to cluster, the report notes.

The 'Gold Mountain'

With China's emergence as an economic power, more overseas Chinese may be seeing their home country as "Gold Mountain" a nickname applied to the [United States] during the Gold Rush days. But Madeleine Sumption, a senior analyst at the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, believes China's growing wealth may actually be a driver of emigration. There has been evidence of immigrants returning to China after living in the [United States], but mostly among higher-educated Chinese, she said.

For lower-income immigrants (who are more likely to live in a traditional Chinatown), economic prospects still remain more attractive in the [United States], according to MIT professor Lee.



A customer examines the produce at a market in Chinatown in San Francisco. [Photo/Agencies]

"Income inequality is still pretty large in China, and in the rural areas there are fewer opportunities," he said. "I think that both the higher- and lower-income immigrant groups here in the U.S. will continue to grow. There is a continued influx of working-class Chinese people coming into the U.S., and there will continue to be a need for places like Chinatown."

Abramson pointed to cities in China such as Fuzhou, in the east coast province of Fujian, that have a long history of sending people to the [United States].

"It's part of the culture and tradition," he said. "But now people are here, and it's difficult to go back once their children have been raised here and they end up living a transnational kind of life. There is improved mobility now, and instead of people leaving China for a short period to make money and then going back to live out the rest of their lives in China, they travel back and forth and end up having lives on both sides."

In Swider's view, traditional Chinatowns will continue "because the ethnic enclave plays an important economic role in offering opportunities to migrants with capital to invest and in providing lower-skill- and language-level migrants with jobs."

Abramson agreed: "As long as migration doesn't stop, I don't think that Chinatowns are going to disappear. They will change their shapes and locations in some cases, but they have real heritage meaning for Chinese-Americans and for Chinese who have become full citizens."

"They still value this part of their history. There are all kinds of reasons that Chinatowns will continue to be relevant," he said.

Chen, of New York's Chinatown Partnership, said tourism will remain a boon to the Manhattan enclave.

"We have tremendous assets, and the way I see it we are sitting on a gold mine," he said. "We are within walking distance of Ground Zero, which over the next 50 years will be one of the most-visited places in New York. It's our job to divert those tourists to our neighborhood. It's up to us to combine forces and evolve."

In the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the area lost thousands of garment-manufacturing jobs. And although the tchotchkes, counterfeit handbags and souvenirs sold on Canal Street remain a perennial draw for tourists, Chen looks to Japan as a model.

"After World War II, Japan's imitation knock-offs were a joke, but Japan emerged at the other end with manufacturing and design prowess," he said. "It's my hope that Chinese designers like Vera Wang and Nautica will be a bridge in leveraging Chinese design talent and creativity in utilizing our manufacturing capabilities."

"Chinatown is not going to be taken over. We can't count on our residents alone; we have to diversify, reconnect with our surrounding areas, and we have to re-imagine. What does Made in China mean? And what does Made in Chinatown mean today?" ■

Contact the reporter at kdawson@chinadailyusa.com

Source: China Daily, 12/7/2012

Chinese New Year Preparation 101 presented at gathering by Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

The Party Room at the Gramercy Park in Richfield, Minn., was recently decorated by the Chinese Heritage Foundation's Friends (CHFF) as a traditional Chinese home would be in preparation for Chinese New Year. It provided the proper setting for CHFF's presentation on how Chinese customarily celebrate their new year.

This very popular event organized by CHFF was attended by more than 200 people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. They came to learn how and why Chinese New Year should be celebrated. Event co-chairs and CHFF board members Yin Simpson and Margaret Wong outdid themselves in creating a festive atmosphere and the traditional foods customary in Chinese New Year celebrations.

Unlike most Western civilizations, Chinese New Year is determined by the traditional lunar calendar that is based on the cycles of the moon and the sun's longitude. In fact, in other countries that celebrate Chinese New Year, it is usually translated as the Lunar New Year. In any case, the Chinese New Year celebrates what the traditional calendar labels as the beginning of spring (therefore, also known as Spring Festival in mainland China) and usually falls during the first week or two of February, although it can occur as early as late January. Chinese New Year this year falls on February 10 and is the year 4711 on the Chinese calendar.

In Chinese tradition, each year is dedicated to a specific animal of the Chinese Zodiac: the Dragon, Snake, Horse, Ram, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig, Rat, Ox, Tiger and Rabbit. In 2013, we will be celebrating the Year of the Snake, which is the beginning of a 15-day celebration.

The Chinese have for centuries believed that a person's animal sign determines much of his character and destiny. Decisions about such important issues as marriage, friendship and business are almost always made according to the guidelines of one's animal sign.

Since the Zodiac plays such an important part in Chinese culture, it was prominently featured as an activity during the CHFF presentation on how to prepare for Chinese New Year. Guests were invited to put their name into a container that represented their

Zodiac year and would be eligible to win door prizes donated by board members of CHFF, CIAC Travel and China Insight. In addition, there was an abundance of hand-outs about the Zodiac and other Chinese New Year information prepared and provided by Margaret Wong.

Guests also were able to try their hands at making dumplings, a traditional holiday food, participate in games or solve riddles administered by Shen Pei and Eyang Wu, learn paper cutting from Ying Liang or have traditional words or couplets created in calligraphy by Steven Mao which were also available for purchase. Children also were invited to participate in the singing of Chinese holiday songs.

Naturally no Chinese celebration would be complete without the partaking of traditional foods, which was available in abundance to sample or purchase. All of the tables were provided with octagonal trays of many different types of snacks that are symbolic of the holiday.

For those more adventuresome or looking for authentic Chinese holiday fare, Linda Tam prepared an assortment of traditional dishes appropriate for the celebration along with handmade dumplings prepared by Shen Pei and peanut puffs made by Yin Simpson. Traditional sesame balls with sweet bean paste were also available.

At the conclusion of the event, Ming Tschou, CHFF founder, distributed a "hongbao" to all unmarried children, as is the custom during the Chinese New Year's celebration.

Although it is not possible to squeeze over 4,000 years of traditions and customs into a two-hour event, it appears that all who attended went home much better informed about how to prepare for a Chinese New Year celebration. The event would not have been possible without the dedication of CHFF board members and their respective spouses, along with the dedicated volunteers.

To learn more about Chinese culture and history, mark your calendars now for April 13 and 14, 2013, to attend the Sixth Annual A Passage to China event to be held at the Mall of America. Visit www.chineseheritagefoundation.org or www.chinainsight.info for more information. ■



Chinese New Year Events

Midtown Global Market

920 E Lake St
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612-872-4041

Midtown Global Market will bring a taste of Asia to south Minneapolis as it hosts its Chinese New Year Celebration on Friday, Feb. 8, 2013 in conjunction with the Market's Friday Family Night. There is no charge for the event and guests will receive 3 hours of free validated parking.

Members from the Chinese Heritage Foundation will be on-hand for fortune telling and distributing red envelopes that are traditionally believed to usher in good luck for the New Year. Children can also take home their name written in traditional Chinese calligraphy. A donation to the Chinese Heritage Foundation is suggested for these services.

A traditional Chinese Lion Dance will commence at 7 p.m.; the lion will circle the Market with graceful movements and magnificent colors to help ring in the Year of the Snake.

Other activities include: a cooking demonstration by Katie Pham of Pham's Deli, a live dance performance by Ha Family Entertainment, distribution of free fortune cookies containing Market coupons and special offers, and a Chinese herb and acupuncture presentation.

Hennepin County Library-Plymouth: Exploring Chinese New Year

15700 36th Ave. N.
Plymouth, MN 55446

Feb 9, 2013
Part 1: 1:30-2:15 p.m.
Part 2: 2:30-3 p.m.
Details: www.hclib.org/events

US-China Business Connections

US-China Business Connections will celebrate the Year of the Snake with a celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Summit Brewery Tap Room, 910 Montreal Circle, St. Paul, MN 55102.

The Year of the Snake is a good omen in China, bringing happiness and wealth. The Lunar New Year is a time for great fun, excellent food, scintillating networking, and

fabulous and free Summit beer. Join ex-pats, old China hands, first-timers and Chinese entrepreneurs who are involved, or want to be, in some form of business with China: exports, imports, education or simply travel.

Swap tales and build relationships or see if any of the many China opportunities are for you. Bring your spouse, partners, friends, clients and customers. Just don't miss it and register or RSVP to ucbcevent@gmail.com or call 612-865-6543.

Minnesota Zoo

Schools are invited to celebrate the Chinese New Year on February 20, 2013 at the Minnesota Zoo during the Zoo's Chinese World Language Day. The event features Chinese language student animal presentations, activity stations, a Chinese narrated Monorail ride, and of course many animals on display including a Burmese python.

To register your class, please visit their website http://www.mnzo.org/education/education_teachersSchools_eventDays.asp#language or call 952-431-9218.

Yinghua Academy Lantern Festival

Yinghua Academy is hosting its third annual Lantern Festival Gala, with a live and silent auction fundraiser to benefit the school on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 6 to 11 p.m. at 2755 Long Lake Road in Roseville, Minn.

Tickets are \$45 per person (or \$50 at the door) and include dinner, a hosted bar, and an intimate concert by nationally acclaimed jazz trio The New Standards and dance music by popular local DJ Jake Rudh. A wide selection of auction items will be available, including gift certificates for restaurants, shops and a variety of entertainment venues, as well as works by local artists. www.yinghuaacademy.com

Chinese Christian Church of Woodbury

Date: Feb 9, 2013
Time: 5:30 PM
Place: Chinese Christian Church of Woodbury, Cafeteria in the New Life Academy Building, 6758 Bailey Road, Woodbury, MN 55129 ■

Editor's Note: The above listings are only a few of the events that we know will be taking place. Since Chinese New Year celebrations will be held at many schools, businesses and other organizations throughout the Twin Cities check with them to find out if they will be hosting an event.

US-China Peoples Friendship Association Minnesota Chapter

美中人民友好協會明州分會

Celebrates the Year of the SNAKE



**CELEBRATING
OUR SISTER RELATIONS**

**Sunday, February 17, 2013
5:30 Reception
6:00 Dinner**

 **Little Szechuan**
Chinese Restaurant and Bar

422 University Ave West, Saint Paul, MN 55103 (651) 222-1333

Dinner features three appetizers, soup, fruit dessert
and ten tasty dishes including vegetables, tofu, meat and fish

Cost: \$25 members - \$30 non-members - \$13 under 12
Add \$5 after Feb 9 + Add \$10 at the door (if available) + No refund after Feb 11
Become an event sponsor and reserve a table for 10 for \$400

RSVP highly recommended:
To reserve your space, send guest names and check payable to USCPFA-MN
Your reservation is complete upon arrival of your check

SEND TO: USCPFA-MN, c/o 10119 Portland Avenue So, Bloomington, MN 55420
FOR QUESTIONS: 612-692-7068 and wenli2@deloitte.com

Visit our NEW website at www.uscpfa-mn.org

2013 Chinese New Year Celebration



Place: North Star Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center, University of Minnesota
(2017 Buford Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108)

Time: 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Sunday, February 10, 2013
2:30 PM Admission
3:00 PM Performances: Lion dance, Chinese dances, Ballet, and more!!
4:30 PM Lucky Money for children, Door Prizes (Luggage Set, Garmin GPS, and more.)
5:00 PM Delicious food of your choice - Food Bazaar

Ticket: Adult: \$12 (in advance, or \$15 at door)
Student/Senior: \$10 (in advance, or \$12 at door)
Child (5-12 years old): \$8 (in advance, or \$10 at door)
Raffle Ticket: \$2/each (in advance, or at door)

* Free admissions for children less than 5 years old.
* All tickets include food coupons equivalent to \$6 in value.
* Over \$2000 value of door prizes!

Advanced tickets are available, before 2/2/13, at the Twin Cities Chinese Language School on Saturdays, or from ticket-sales volunteers. For further ticket information, please contact bdstu2@mmm.com (651) 733-9827 or chenfu@comcast.net 763-639-5202.

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Happy Chinese New Year!

Year of the Snake
2013

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and supporting Hopkins Chinese Immersion Programs

**Gung He Fat Choy
from China Insight!**

Remembering New Year celebrations

By Shen Pei 沈培



Shen Pei

Time flies like a shuttle, and here comes another Chinese New Year. Every year during this time, I remember celebrating New Year with my family when I was young. It was the happiest time of the year.

For Chinese people, Spring Festival, the so-called Chinese New Year, is the most important holiday of the year. Moon Festival is meant to be family gathering time, but its importance mainly emphasizes the virtual idea of gathering. China is and always has been an agricultural country. For most farmers, the winter, after the harvest and before spring, is the only available time to gather the family together and celebrate.

To me, the celebration of New Year is especially delightful because it lasts for a long time. At my house, the celebration is a long process. It starts on Dec. 24 according to the lunar calendar, and this day is called "Dust Cleaning Day". On this day, all the family members will work together and clean out the dust inside the house and in their yard. It is said that people shouldn't clean their house the three days before New Year, because if you sweep the house then, it is likely that you will also sweep out your fortune. In other words, it is very important to clean the house in preparation for the New Year for a fresh start.

After sweeping and cleaning, people decorate their house and put out New Year scrolls and the door-god. My mom is a calligrapher, and she always writes our scrolls on sheets of red paper. Sometimes people decorate their house with New Year paintings. The most famous ones are from Tianjing and Suzhou. In northern China, people like to decorate their window with papercuts. According to this tradition, papercuts can scare away evil and summon good luck, but for my family, we simply enjoy putting them up and having them on display for the New Year. The scrolls, lanterns, and paper-cuts are all red, because red represents the arrival of the New Year.

The most important New Year memories for me from my childhood are about eating. After cleaning the house, my mom always stays home and makes delicious foods like rice dumpling, sugar paste and sponge cake. The fillings are usually sweetened red bean paste, date paste or sesame paste. She makes lots of sponge cakes, so our relatives and neighbors can all have some. They liked her cake so much that every year they suggest she open her own bakery. But I think the bakery would never succeed as a business because it takes many of the best ingredients and a great deal of careful and experienced effort to get it just right. Zongzi, a type of traditional Chinese rice dumpling, also plays an important role. Our family has a big pot at home, so we can make hundreds

of Zongzi. The sweet odor from the food is the true smell of the New Year.

The high point of the entire celebration is always the New Year's Eve dinner. I am the eldest grandchild in the family. My grandma loves company and loves children. We always have relatives from other parts of the country or even from abroad coming over to our house to enjoy the dinner. My mom and aunts start preparing the dinner early in the morning and work to fill our balcony with delicious food and dishes until the end of the day (we didn't have a refrigerator back then). We have four main courses for the dinner: chicken or duck, fish, pig feet, and a vegetable. We like to have bean sprouts because it represents best wishes, pig feet because it looks like a gold ingot (which was the Chinese money in the old days) and fish because the Chinese word "fish" sounds the same as the Chinese word "plenty". (It is very common in Chinese to use homonyms to represent good luck or good things). In recent years, some families like to go out for dinner on New Year's Eve. It is true that when the family goes out to eat, the women have fewer things to worry about and less work to do, but the warm and fun atmosphere of working together is also gone. Many women enjoy the busy time in the kitchen. In the countryside, people usually live simple lives and try to save money on food and expenses but when it comes to New Year, most families would kill a pig and make some special dishes. It is a special treat of the year. Some families like to stay home and make dumplings together, and in my opinion, family time is priceless and can't really be replaced by even the most delicious food at the best restaurants. Finally, at home, when dinner is ready, the hungry kids must first "worship" and honor their ancestors before they can eat their meal.

Another tradition is to stay up late or even all night on New Year's Eve. All the family members stay up together to celebrate the end of the old year and welcome the new one. After dinner, people sit around the fire and play games. The most common ones are cards, mahjong, and all different kinds of chess games. My mother used to have a set of dominoes, and we can use it to pile pagodas, play flipping the turtle, and compete to answer questions. To play these intellectual games, you have to find out the clues from former trials, shout out the correct answer, and grab the right cards immediately. Riddles always highlight the night. People laugh and learn many Chinese characters in interesting and uncommon ways.

As soon as the clock strikes twelve o'clock, everyone goes outside to set off fireworks. Although the fireworks in the old days were not as good and spectacular as today's professional shows, the sound and bright color made everybody very happy and excited. In recent years, the loud sound of fireworks is sometimes missing, and then I always feel that the celebration is lacking something.

It is a rare and long-anticipated night, but people still can feel really tired by the second half of the night. But for those who stay up very late, they can always sleep until noon on the next day. The first thing kids want to do in the morning is to check for a red envelope. Nowadays, parents usually put some money inside the red envelope and hand it to their children, but traditionally parents are supposed to hide a red envelope

under the child's pillow while he or she is sleeping, just like Santa secretly brings kids presents on Christmas Eve. The red envelope is always a great surprise for the kids.

Visiting relatives is also a must-do event for the New Year. People wear their new clothes and bring gifts wrapped in red wrapping paper to visit their friends and family. It is a very important social event, and people usually plan where to visit ahead of time. Because there are so many places to visit, people don't usually stay for lunch or dinner. Also, people don't cook on the first day of the year, so foods are always bought or prepared in the past few days. Fresh fruit, dried fruit, and candies are the most common foods. Around the Zhejiang Area,

there used to be a snack called smoked green beans and it was my favorite. When people come to visit us, we serve them tea with a special set of teacups. Putting two olives on the side, I forgot the meaning for doing this but olives help keep people healthy. Desserts such as yin'er soup and Babao Zhou are sometimes served to the guest as well.

At the same time, the streets are decorated with lanterns and streamers, people do dragon dance, and Chinese music can be heard everywhere. This lively atmosphere continues until Jan. 15 when kids start school and farmers are back to work. ■

Editor's Note: Translated by Amy Yin, Breck School Senior

A close look at the Spring Festival rush on rail

As the annual Spring Festival holiday rush approaches, millions of homebound passengers are flocking to the rails for travel. China Daily website will present readers some things often spotted among train travelers:

Instant noodles

It is a Japanese invention, but the biggest market for instant noodles is China. Chinese people consumed 98.2 billion packages of instant noodles in 2012, about half of the world's consumption, according to Koki Ando, chairman of the World Instant Noodles Association. A large part of Chinese consumption is made by train travelers.



Passengers enjoy some instant noodles while waiting at Changsha Railway Station in Central China's Hunan province on Jan 11, 2013. [Photo by Guo Liliang/CFP]



A passenger holding a bowl of instant noodles walks through a crowded passage on a train heading from Beijing to southwestern Chengdu on Jan 8, 2013. [Photo by Kele/CFP]



Noodles 3: A mother feeds instant noodles to her child at Kunming Railway Station in Southwest China's Yunnan province on Jan 16, 2013. [Photo by Long Yuzhou/CFP]

Spring Festival continues on Page 12

CHINA/INSIGHT is seeking Production Editor

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Contact Greg Hugh at 952-472-4757 or ghugh@chinain-sight.info

Cured meats and crusty claypot rice

By Pauline D. Loh, China Daily



The Chinese believe that all food on the table must have the mouth-watering combination of color, fragrance, taste and texture. Add a little patience, seasonal produce and a pinch of kitchen craft, and you may well be describing a batch of aromatic clay pot rice.

There is nothing simpler to cook on an open fire or stove-top, and the result is a heart warming and tummy warming one-dish-meal guaranteed to chase away the chills on the coldest winter nights.

And, this is the right season for a steaming hot pot of rice.

In the southern parts of China, the sausages and salted cured meats are [sold], ready to be served at reunion dinners on the eve of Spring Festival.

These cured meats are marinated in sugar, salt and spices and then hung up to dry in the bitterly cold winds that blow down from the north. There are cured whole ducks, duck drumsticks, sausages made of lean and fatty mince, and liver and meat sausages, among others.

In the past, when having fat on the table was still a luxury, a favorite used to be a whole liver blanched, slit and stuffed with a piece of pork fat. Sliced and served with steamed arrowroot, this was the highlight of a rural family's New Year meal.

The years of plenty are now upon us, and sausage producers are heeding the trend and cutting down the fat. But there must be fat enough in the sausages to make them slowly render as they steam or cook - because that is what makes them so delicious.

There are various regional varieties of sausages, ranging from the sweet, wine-flavored Cantonese links to the more savory Hubei sausages to the spicy Sichuan sausages. But the general guidelines to cooking them are the same.

Most Chinese families steam them on top of the cooking rice, or slice them for stir-fries with vegetables. Sometimes they are braised with potatoes or yam.

Here is a simple recipe using the seasonal sausages, with tips.

Recipe | Silky Chicken and Sausage claypot rice

Ingredients (serves 4):

- 2 cups of long-grain rice, soaked
- Half a chicken, cut into pieces
- 1 tbsp oyster sauce
- 1 tsp corn starch
- 1 tbsp Chinese yellow wine
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 2 cured pork sausages, left whole



Method:

1. Lightly oil the bottom of a claypot.
2. Drain the soaked rice and then add enough water to cover the rice with about 2 cm of water. Place on a medium fire until rice boils, then turn down on low until water has gone below the surface of the rice.
3. In the meanwhile, marinate the chicken pieces with the seasoning and mix well. Rinse the sausages and set aside.
4. As soon as the water has evaporated enough from the rice, immediately spread out the chicken pieces on top, add the sausages and cover tightly.
5. To get a nice crust at the bottom of the pot, tilt the claypot so it cooks on all sides on a medium fire.
6. Just before serving, turn up the fire to dry off the rice and brown the crusts.
7. Serve the rice with a combination of soy sauce, sesame sauce and oyster sauce drizzled on top. Snip the sausages into bite-sized pieces with a pair of scissors. If you like, serve with some freshly blanched kale or Chinese mustard greens (caixin). ■

A close look at the Spring Festival rush on rail

Continues from Page 11

Full and big bags

For a lot of Chinese, the Spring Festival is the only family union chance for a whole year. People always buy many gifts for their family members in their hometown, making their bags fill up.



Two passengers lay down their big bags for a rest at Chengdu Railway Station in Southwest China's Sichuan province on Jan 24, 2013. [Photo/Xinhua]



A little girl stands beside a pile of baggage in this undated photo. [Photo/Xinhua]



A man uses his self-made shoulder pole to carry his luggage at Chengdu Railway Station in Southwest China's Sichuan province on Jan 24, 2013. [Photo/Xinhua]



A migrant worker carries a big bag on his back at Chengdu Railway Station in Southwest China's Sichuan province on Jan 24, 2013. [Photo/Xinhua]

Folding stool

A folding stool is the best tool that allows people with no-seat tickets to relax on a long-distance railway journey.



A passenger sleeps on a folding stool in a train on Jan 19, 2011. [Photo/CFP]



Passengers holding folding stools wait in line before a ticket window in Qingdao Railway Station on Jan 9, 2009. [Photo by He Yi/CFP]

Poker cards

How do you kill the boring long travel time in the limited space of a train? Playing card games is the most-common choice for passengers.



A man plays card games with his son in a train heading from eastern Yantai city to Guangzhou city on Jan 10, 2012. [Photo by Zhou Jian/CFP]



A passenger plays a card game in a train heading from Shanghai to the southwestern city of Chengdu on Jan 15, 2012. [Photo by Liu Yuyang/CFP] ■

Source: China Daily
http://europe.chinadaily.com.cn

BOOK REVIEW

Zoë Roy, *The Long March Home*. Toronto: Inanna Publications, 2011. 260 pp. ISBN9781926708270

Reviewed by Raymond Lum, Contributor

China's Cultural Revolution, which was launched in 1966 and ran its course when Mao Zedong died in 1976 and his wife and the rest of the so-called "Gang of Four" were arrested, touched millions of lives and ended millions more. In blurbs on this book's cover, that period is identified as the "Red Terror," a term normally used to describe the Stalinist purges in the Soviet Union. That



is one of the several anomalies in this book. Another is that it has not been marketed as a young adult novel, which it appears to be. The basic story covers the early life journey of a young girl named Yezi. Her mother is the illegitimate daughter of a Canadian missionary mother and an unfound Chinese father. The mother grows up in Boston but as an adult travels to China to find her father. While there, she marries a Chinese husband, has three children, gets caught up in the Cultural Revolution, and is imprisoned for being an American spy. The rest of the story should not be revealed so as not to spoil the suspense. Go read it.

Charming and fluidly-written as this book is, it has a predictable denouement. But so do many young adult books, and properly so. Young readers need to know, or at least anticipate, that things work out well in the end, no matter what. It gives them hope and guidance and a measure of joy.

As a novel that provides a slice of life of one child during one of China's many turbulent times in the 20th century, Roy's second book works well. But were one to attempt to read it on another level, one that perhaps the author had not intended, the reader would be left wanting. The historical context of what transpires in the book is lacking. We want to know much more about the Cultural Revolution and its impact on the lives of the people; of the struggles the Chinese-Canadian mother experienced during her years of imprisonment (starvation? beatings? interrogation?); of the suddenness of her rehabilitation, etc. What were Western missionaries doing in China? What were their lives like there? Why did the Chinese government become so anti-foreign?

Anyone not familiar with China's history after 1949 will be completely at a loss to understand what were the historical events that are only alluded to in this novel. Even the title hints at but does not explain the Long March, during which Mao and his followers walked—yes, walked—thousands of miles through heat and bitter cold to the caves of Yan'an in western China to escape the troops of Mao's arch-rival, Chiang Kai-shek, head of the Nationalist Army during China's civil war, which Mao won.

An historical introduction, and an af-

terword, would have gone a long way to putting the whole story into a context that the reader not only deserves but sorely needs. We also want more information on the author, Zoë Roy. Her photo appears in the book and she is obviously Chinese, but we long to know if the novel is based on her own experiences, if she lived through what she or her editor terms the "Red Terror." And where was that editor? There are many lapses in the book where words are missing or misspelled, or where the facts are not correct. For example, on page 41 the mother is picking strawberries on a farm in Cambridge, Mass. But there have been no farms in Cambridge for at least a hundred years. On the next page the University of Washington is stated as being in Washington, D.C. It is in Seattle. On page 55 is printed "alright," but "alright" is not a word. On page 146 we read "...that they probably would find something further along the road." "Further" refers to time; it is "farther" that refers to space. Some misplaced modifiers also mar the text, such as this on page 27: "Falling to her knees, two workers in red bands on their right forearms forced her head down." The two workers did not fall to the protagonist's knees. A good editor would have caught that. On page 17 "syste" is given for "system," and on page 21 "desparate" is given for "desperate," and on page 139 appears "Me and my best friend want to learn English from you." Me want?

Yes, this is nitpicking, but every writer deserves an editor who can see what the author overlooks, even an author who writes with such facility as Roy. I also found the Americanisms glaring, such as "Let's get a move on [p. 88]," "hang out with [p. 92]," "A done deal [p. 93]," "Absolutely [p. 155]."

One of the anomalies that most struck me is that despite some hardships, such as the absence of parents, Yezi and her brother do not seem to suffer much for being the children of a so-called reactionary who is accused of being an American spy and they go on with their jolly lives until all things are resolved in their favor. Why weren't they sent down to the countryside to learn from the peasants? How did they continue to attend school? Why were they not Red Guards, as almost all young people were during the Cultural Revolution? Most of the hardships they suffered revolved around the availability of food, an age-old tale in China until comparatively recently.

Still, any book that introduces China to Western youth is a welcome addition to a growing reading list. We look forward to more from Zoë Roy after this, her first novel. ■

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Raymond Lum

Raymond Lum (林希文) is Librarian for Western Languages in the Harvard-Yenching Library, where he is also curator of historic photographs. A native of Chicago's Chinatown, he studied Chinese there and in Taiwan. He holds a master's in library science from the University of Michigan, and an MA and PhD in East Asian Languages & Civilizations from Harvard University. From 1968 through 1970, he was a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Sarawak, Malaysia. Formerly, he also was Harvard's librarian for South and Southeast Asia and Instructor in Chinese in the Harvard University Extension School. He is the book review editor for a new (debuting 2010) online scholarly journal, *TransAsia Photography Review*, and contributes the column "Asia Resources on the World Wide Web" to the *Asian Studies Newsletter of the Association for Asian Studies*. He has directed several Harvard projects that digitized photographs and other visual images of Asia.



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Fact Sheet: 23rd U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade

U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk and U.S. Commerce Acting Secretary Rebecca Blank, together with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan, co-chaired the 23rd Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) in Washington, D.C., on December 18-19, 2012. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack also took part in the discussion to address agricultural concerns. Other participants included U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke, U.S. Trade and Development Agency Director Leocadia Zak and representatives from the State and Treasury Departments. Senior Chinese officials from 25 ministries and agencies also attended.

Provided below are key results from [the 23rd] JCCT. Industry facts and figures appear in italics.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, LOCALIZATION OF IPR & TECHNOLOGY

According to a 2011 report by the U.S. International Trade Commission, U.S. industry losses in China from intellectual property rights infringement in 2009 totaled roughly US\$48 billion.

Copyright – State-Owned Enterprise Software Legalization

- China confirmed that it requires state-owned enterprises under the authority of the China Banking Regulatory Commission and central state-owned enterprises directly supervised by the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council to purchase and use legitimate software, including but not limited to operating system and office suite software.

Judicial Interpretation on Intermediary Liability

- Building on an existing JCCT commitment to develop a Judicial Interpretation making clear that those who facilitate online infringement will be jointly liable for such infringement, China announced that its Supreme People's Court will publish a Judicial Interpretation on Internet Intermediary Liability before the end of 2012.

Localization of Intellectual Property and Technology

- China reaffirmed that technology transfer and technology cooperation are the autonomous decisions of enterprises. China will not make this a precondition for market access. If departmental or local documents contain language inconsistent with the above commitment, China will correct them in a timely manner.

◦ *Multi-level Protection Scheme (MLPS)*

Article 21 of China's 2007 MLPS Administrative Measures specifies an indigenous intellectual property requirement for the selection of information security products for level three and above with the objective of protecting national information security. China will conduct a process to revise this measure and seek the views of all parties, including through dialogue with the United States.

◦ *Official Use Vehicles*

China's central, provincial, and local level governments procure more than US\$16 billion in official use vehicles per year. China committed to delay issuing the 2012 Party and Government Organ Official Use Vehicle Selection Catalogue and to discuss U.S. concerns with regard to the draft catalogue and applicable vehicle selection rules with the United States.

◦ *High and New Technology Enterprises*

The United States and China will maintain communication on U.S. concerns regarding whether China's High and New Technology Enterprise Certification Administration Measures and related rules apply equally to Chinese and foreign invested enterprises or contain technology transfer or intellectual property localization requirements, including through the U.S.-China Innovation Dialogue.

GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

China reported that in 2011 government procurement was US\$179 billion dollars. China's government procurement has been growing at 25 percent per year over the past seven years.

- China's definition of government procurement in its Government Procurement Law is narrower than the definition in the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). Accordingly, China recognized that some Chinese government procurement projects are for public service and that some enterprises, including some state-owned enterprises, procure in the public interest. Understanding that many enterprises are for profit with diversification of ownership, including being publicly listed, China and the United States will conduct consultations, under the GPA framework and through bilateral dialogues, focused on projects for public service and on the entities that procure in the public interest.

REGULATORY OBSTACLES

Testing and Certification for the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) Mark

Approximately 20 percent of U.S. exports to China are delayed due to China's Compulsory Certification mark requirement.

- China confirmed that eligible foreign-invested testing and certification entities registered in China can participate in CCC mark-related work and China's review of applications from foreign-invested entities will use the same conditions as are applicable to Chinese domestic entities.

ZUC Encryption Algorithm

Removing the pressure on operators to use the ZUC encryption standard would relieve a burden on highly competitive U.S. telecommunications component exporters competing for an estimated US\$30 billion in market opportunities by the end of 2013.

- China agreed it will not mandate any particular encryption standard for commercial 4G Long Term Evolution telecommunications equipment.

Civil Aviation

In 2011, U.S. aerospace firms exported US\$6.3 billion in aircraft and aircraft parts to China, which currently operates more than 800 U.S. commercial aircraft.

- China committed to engage in discussions with the United States on measures related to fleet planning associated with the civil aviation industry.

TRADE, AGRICULTURAL, AND INVESTMENT ISSUES

Strategic Emerging Industries (SEIs)

China plans to invest US\$1.5 trillion in the strategic emerging sectors in the next five years and has set a target for SEIs to account for 8% of China's GDP by 2015 and 15 percent of China's GDP by 2020.

- The Chinese Government clarified that it will provide foreign enterprises fair and equitable participation in the development of SEIs, including the 20 major projects announced on May 30, 2012 by Premier Wen.
- China committed that policies supporting SEI development comply with the World Trade Organization's national treatment rules and that such policies are equally applicable to qualified domestic and foreign enterprises.
- Relevant Chinese Government ministries will engage in dialogue and exchange with relevant U.S. departments on the development of SEIs.

Medical Device Pricing

China is the world's third largest market for medical equipment and is expected to become the second largest market in the next few years. Based on the estimates, total market size is expected to grow from approximately US\$11.4 billion in 2010 to US\$39 billion in 2015.

- China committed that any measures affecting pricing of medical devices will treat foreign and domestic manufacturers equally, and that China will take into account comments from the United States on this issue, including how to improve transparency.

Value-Added Tax (VAT)

- China confirmed that a Ministry of Finance-led delegation would hold discussions with the United States, beginning in the first half of 2013, in order to work toward a mutual understanding of China's VAT system and the concepts on which a trade-neutral VAT system is based.

Draft Smart Terminal Regulations

U.S. industry estimates that total spending on smartphones in China will rise to US\$57 billion in 2012. China is also the fastest growing market for mobile applications in the world – the number of app sessions increased by 1126 percent in the first quarter of 2012 when compared to the same quarter in 2011.

- China confirmed that it will take the views of all stakeholders into full consideration in regard to the regulation of information technology and telecommunications hardware, operating systems, applications, app stores, and other related services. The United States and China will continue to discuss this issue at the working level as China works to revise and improve the current draft.

Agriculture

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) affirmed new access for pears in the Chinese marketplace through a commitment to allow reciprocal trade between the two countries beginning in 2013. Additionally, USDA and China's Ministry of Agriculture made a commitment to a biotechnology pilot program, which could provide greater cooperation in the approval process for new products.

Regulatory Data Protection

- To promote scientific advancement and to establish effective regulatory data protection, China agreed to define new chemical entity in a manner consistent with international research and development practices in order to ensure regulatory data of pharmaceutical products are protected against unfair commercial use and unauthorized disclosure.

COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

Environmental Industries Forum

The Environmental Industries Forum (EIF) is a bi-annual event that draws Chinese and U.S. environmental businesses and government officials together to discuss issues and



Commerce and Trade continues from Page 14

opportunities in China's environmental sector. The EIF concept was developed jointly between the Ministry of Environmental Protection, U.S. Department of Commerce, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under a Memorandum of Understanding.

- The United States and China will hold the 3rd Environmental Industries Forum next year during the China International Environmental Protection Exhibition and Conference in Beijing.

U.S.-China Legal Exchange

The U.S.-China Legal Exchange is a longstanding dialogue between the United States and China, providing an annual opportunity to exchange information about recent developments in commercial law and to promote the strengthening of commercial rule of law in China.

- The U.S. Department of Commerce and China's Ministry of Commerce successfully led the 2012 U.S.-China Legal Exchange, during which representatives from the Government of the United States informed members of the Chinese business, legal, and academic communities in Harbin, Beijing, and Guiyang of recent developments in specific areas of U.S. commercial law. To promote greater U.S.-China trade, the U.S. representatives described developments in the U.S. legal regimes governing electronic commerce and intellectual property rights under the recently-enacted America Invents Act and intellectual property enforcement developments. Both sides agreed to convene the 2013 Legal Exchange in the United States, and to work together promptly to agree on the topics of the exchange and the cities in the United States where it will take place.

Administrative Licensing

The U.S. business community consistently ranks China's administrative licensing process as a primary challenge to doing business in China. U.S. companies view China's administrative licensing as one of the top areas in which they experience protectionism, as an impediment to new and expanding businesses, and as being unnecessarily costly.

- In April 2012, the United States and China launched a joint exchange on administrative licensing rules, focusing on the use of technology to facilitate licensing procedures and on methods used to educate the business community about licensing procedures. This fall, we expanded the exchange to include the U.S. and Chinese business communities, and we engaged in a robust discussion of specific concerns of businesses with administrative licensing in both countries. Both the United States and China agree to continue this work in 2013 with the goal of facilitating commercial activity impacted by administrative licensing.

Trademark - Bad Faith Trademark Registrations

- The United States and China agree to continue close communications and exchanges through the existing channels to promote the work in developing solutions to the issue of bad faith trademark registrations.

Trade Statistics

- In the Statistics Working Group meeting on November 13 in Hangzhou, China the United States and China agreed to expand the reconciliation exercise to include services. The U.S. and China agreed to exchange statistical data and information on coverage, definitions, and methodologies to support this effort. The reconciliation will begin in 2013 with an examination of travel and transportation statistics and then be expanded in 2014 to two other services categories.

Standards and Information Technology

- The United States and China agreed to hold a technical dialogue in Spring 2013 to discuss approaches to improving cybersecurity in critical infrastructure.

Spectrum Roundtable

- On September 5, 2012 officials from China and the United States convened the third annual U.S.-China Spectrum Roundtable to discuss their respective plans to make additional spectrum available for advanced wireless services. Of particular note was discussion of both sides' efforts to make more spectrum available for use by unlicensed devices on a technology neutral basis, particularly in the 5 GHz band. ■

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Top 10 weird stories to emerge from China in 2012

continues from Page 1

a reported miscommunication about the ship's height as four tugs dragged her up river, ripping the chimney from its stack as they passed under a bridge. No casualties were reported.

5) Got a spare 1001 mattresses? (July 2012)

Take 1001 mattresses, 1001 humans, and an empty shopping mall and you have a recipe for the world's biggest human mattress domino rally. The gathering in Shanghai in July broke the previous record set in USA of 850 human domino mattresses. The event required time, patience and, like the dragon, fearlessness (well maybe a bit extreme, they are only falling on mattresses after all).

6) Chinese Noah's Ark (August 2012)

"Expect the unexpected" was the advice for the Year of the Dragon. What better way to be prepared for the totally unexpected than by purchasing a six ton stainless steel globe able to withstand a volcanic eruption, tsunami, flood, earthquake or nuclear reaction. Entrepreneur and businessman, Yang Zongfu designed the capsule with enough food and water to survive in for up to one year. Luxury models also come with LCD televisions, Internet (?) and air-conditioning. Crash tests revealed some glitches though, including the door unexpectedly coming open—probably not ideal during an extinction level event.



Photo: datelinenews.org

7) When rivers run red (September 2012)

Water supposedly has a calming effect on the Dragon's fiery temper, but in the Year of the Water Dragon, the Yangtze River instead turned a flaming red. Members of the public started noticing the unusual color of the water in Chongqing near the junction of the Yangtze and Jialin Rivers. Experts ruled out an algal bloom as the culprit, instead suggesting that some sort of pollutant such as dyes being discharged into the river.

8) Holidaying to a bomb site? (October 2012)

Staying on the fiery theme, China is investing six million RMB to upgrade the site

where the first Chinese atomic bomb was tested in Malan, Xinjiang Province—not to continue with the atomic bomb program but to allow for tourism. Once completed, visitors will be able to explore the laboratories, dormitories, and 300m anti-air strike tunnel where over 40 nuclear tests were allegedly carried out from 1964-1996.



Photo: thegloss.com

9) Child bikini models...enough said (November 2012)

In what can only be described as totally inappropriate and distasteful, preteen girls were dressed in bikinis and paraded around vehicles at the Chutian Automobile Culture Festival in Wuhan. Alongside the scantily adult clad models, the young girls (some only 5 years old whose parents gave consent), struck "sexy" poses while cameras snapped away. The event organizer, 7-Wind Model Costume Company, defended its position by suggesting it would help to boost the children's courage and self-confidence.



Photo: news.bbcimg.co.uk

10) Heart-throb of North Korea (November 2012)

If you believe the dragon was once a real animal, then you, like The Peoples Daily, may also have been duped by the article published in The Onion declaring North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-Un, as "The Sexiest Man Alive in 2012". Seemingly convinced by the spoof article, The Peoples Daily published a 55-page photo spread showcasing the leader riding horses and greeting army officers. The Chinese article even quoted The Onion as saying "this Pyongyang-born heart-throb is every woman's dream come true". The Peoples Daily spread was soon removed. ■

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