

Shanghai Mini News No. 14

Monday, August 21st, 2006

Hi everyone!

*Having fun during the summer holidays? I hope so! Personally, trying to survive, here, in Shanghai...
By the way, for those who are interested in the new Fake market, it is called **Yatai Xinyang Fashion & Gift Market**,
opened on July 12, and is located in the Metro station of the Science and Technology Museum on Metro Line No. 2.*

Have fun and see you soon!

*Cheers,
Christelle*



*Please note that these are not the full articles.
To read the full ones, please click on the link
below the article. If the link doesn't work, you
can ask me for the full article.*

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Service for foreigners

Shanghai Call Center, a 24-hour hotline hosted by Shanghai Municipal Government, provides foreigners with free information ranging from living conditions in the city to ticket booking for various events in Shanghai.

Working languages: English and Mandarin.

Tel: 962288 + country/area code

Staff: 52, 12 of whom speak English

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/21/289609/Not_1_ost_in_translation.htm

City marks Men's Day for 1st time

2006-08-05 Shanghai Daily

Male employees at 50 multinational companies in Shanghai took time off work on August 3rd to celebrate "Men's Day."

The holiday was created three years ago by the editor-in-chief of the Chinese edition of Men's Health magazine, who goes by the nickname Shou Ma. He called for the day to be celebrated with a Men's Day party, which was held in Shanghai for the first time this year. Shou picked August 3 (the 3rd day of the 8th month) for Men's Day, as it is opposite of International Women's Day on March 8 (the 8th day of the 3rd month).

The local offices of Marlboro, BMW and Volkswagen, among other large companies, allowed their male employees to relax on Thursday. Male editors from Men's Health magazine were given the day off their regular duties, but had to spend the day preparing for the Men's Day party.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/05/288216/City_marks_Men_039_s_Day_for_1st_time.htm

Minimum wage to rise in September

2006-08-08 Shanghai Daily

The **city** announced plans to raise minimum wages for full- and part-time employees, as well as increasing subsidies paid to families living below the poverty line.

The minimum monthly salary for full-time workers, based on a **40-hour work week**, will climb to **750 Yuan** from the **current 690 Yuan** when the changes go into effect on **September 1**. Part-time workers will see their minimum wage climb 0.5 Yuan to **6.5 Yuan an hour**.

This is the **14th time** the city has raised minimum wages since they were introduced in 1993.

The minimum wages don't include social insurance fees that companies must pay to cover their employees' medical insurance, unemployment insurance and pension payments. Those fees are based on average incomes in the city, so higher minimum wages could push them up.

The monthly allowance for families living under the poverty line will rise from 300 Yuan to 320 Yuan **starting this month**.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/08/288413/Minimum_wage_to_rise_in_September.htm

Some improving in the city:

Water systems set for upgrade

2006-08-04 Shanghai Daily

Shanghai is preparing to launch an ambitious plan to improve tap water quality by upgrading pipelines and equipment and shifting the management of all residential water systems to city utility firms. After trial operations are wrapped up in select communities, the 4.5 billion Yuan citywide campaign will begin next year and is scheduled to be completed by 2010.

Officials intend to upgrade water supply facilities as needed within the city's 8,000 residential areas, including pipelines, pumps, roof-top tanks and meters.

The city claims its water is drinkable when it leaves the processing plants but becomes contaminated inside residential complexes, especially the older ones, due to the poor maintenance of pipes, pumps and tanks. In addition, the materials used in the water supply facilities in most residential buildings built before 2000 are of poor quality. The city calculates that 15,000 kilometers of pipes, 120,000 roof-top tanks and 8,700 underground tanks fall into that category.

At present, property management companies are in charge of all water facilities within their complexes, while water companies are responsible only for the pipeline networks.

The trial takeovers in several communities have worked well so far, city officials said. But several details need to be worked out, such as the source of the investment and whether the municipal water companies will employ property management staff for maintenance.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/04/288167/Water_systems_set_for_upgrade.htm

Pools pass test

2006-08-09 *Shanghai Daily*

The Shanghai Health Supervision Agency said 99% of local swimming pools met the national requirement on hygiene after checking 399 facilities.

The agency started the move in July to test all the pools to ensure local people's health.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/09/288544/Pools_pass_test.htm

English learning on buses

2006-08-11 *Shanghai Daily*

English learning is taking a whole new route - the bus. World Link, published by US-based Thomson Learning, will be available on some buses in Shanghai this month, according to Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press at the ongoing Shanghai Book Fair. The program is jointly sponsored by Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press, Oriental Pearl Mobile TV and Thomson Learning.

Passengers can follow English programs on monitors aboard buses to improve both listening and speaking skills. According to Oriental Pearl Mobile TV, the program will have at least 9 million viewers every day.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/11/288756/English_learning_on_buses.htm

Shanghai most attractive to investors

2006-08-09 *China Daily*



The Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone located in Pudong New District in Shanghai. China's economic hub Shanghai issued a white paper on the environment for foreign investment on August 7. More than 70% of the surveyed foreign businesses in Shanghai have moved or plan to move their regional headquarters to Shanghai, and will expand investment here in the coming three years. 90% of the foreign businesses said Shanghai was their favorite investment destination in the China.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2006-08/09/content_660483.htm

Spending gap a worry

2006-08-12 *Shanghai Daily*

Six of Shanghai's districts failed to increase funding for compulsory education by a smaller percentage than their fiscal revenues increased last year, a violation of national laws, the city's first annual education development report said. The report also showed a massive difference in the amount of money various districts spent on each student.

The six violators were suburban districts: Fengxian, Baoshan, Songjiang, Nanhui, Jiading and Yangpu.

The country's compulsory education law states that spending on education should rise every year by more than a government's fiscal revenue growth rate. The biggest violator was Fengxian District, where revenues grew 36.72% last year while education spending rose an anemic 8.62%.

Roach campaign

2006-08-09 *Shanghai Daily*

The city kicked off a two-week campaign against cockroaches on Monday. The campaign will target wet markets, restaurants, cinemas, supermarkets and office buildings.

Health officials said the number of cockroaches in the city is increasing quickly recently. More than 34% of inspected wet markets have a roach problem.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/09/288543/Roach_campaign.htm

Education spending varies widely by district according to the report. Downtown Jing'an District is the biggest spender, putting up **9,759 Yuan on each primary school student** last year. Fengxian District was at the back of the pack spending just **861 Yuan on each student**. "We should admit that balanced education between downtown and remote areas is still big problem," said Qu Jun, vice director of the education commission.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/12/288884/Spending_gap_a_worry.htm

INFO ABOUT CHINA

PANDAS!

Twin cubs of lesser pandas so cute

2006-08-01 Xinhua News



Photos taken on August 1 shows a twin of lesser pandas at the safari park in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province, July 31, 2006. The male twins, born on June 16, began to receive artificial feeding on Monday.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-08/01/content_4906261.htm

Deserted giant panda has to be manually fed

2006-08-17 China Daily

A newly born giant panda is fed in an incubator at a giant panda breeding center in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on Wednesday August 16, 2006. Weighing only 51 grams on birth, the baby giant panda, the world lightest in record, is deserted by its mother Qizhen and has to be manually fed, Xinhua reported.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-08/17/content_667314.htm



ENGLISH

Chinglish signs to be corrected

2006-08-04 *Shanghai Daily*

Beijing has launched a campaign to correct its "Chinglish," or Chinese-style English, on bilingual signs as part of its make-over for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The Beijing Municipal Tourism Bureau has issued a regulation requiring correct English signs as one of the most important criteria for unrated hotels to qualify as official accommodation providers. The city has around 4,000 unrated hotels, which are competing for the right to join star-rated hotels offering services for the Games. The regulation requires hotels to translate their names, service hours, room rates, and notices for guests into accurate English. They should also provide signs and menus in correct English.

"Chinglish" was once prevalent in the city's signs. For example, the Park of Ethnic Minorities is identified as the "Racist Park", and drivers are warned of the hazards of a wet road with a sign that reads: "The slippery are very crafty." Foreigners are often confused or misled by these signs.

In a bid to improve the city's bilingual signs and teach the public basic English, the Beijing Speaks to the World Committee, a non-governmental linguistic organization established in 2002, is identifying and correcting translation mistakes in shopping centers, hotels, parks, buses, subways and even the airport.

[http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/04/288119/Chinglish signs to be corrected.htm](http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/04/288119/Chinglish%20signs%20to%20be%20corrected.htm)

Bulldoze or save historic brothel?

2006-08-18 *Shanghai Daily*

Historical dross or the nation's heritage? That is the question at the center of a public controversy over whether to preserve a 300-year-old brothel in central China.



The brothel, built in 1733 in Jinggang, an ancient prosperous town in Hunan Province, is teetering on the verge of collapse and the local government has been pressed to make a decision on its historic value. The authorities have held meetings to discuss its fate and most officials support protection of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) building known as Hongtaifang. But many locals have protested, arguing it should be demolished as it represents the worst aspects of China's former feudal system.

Parents see red over blue shirts

2006-08-15 *Shanghai Daily*

English swear words on clothes are causing concern among parents who have to use dictionaries to vet their children's wardrobes.

A woman surnamed Niu, living in Yangpu District, gave her high school son money to buy new clothes for the current summer vacation. "I gave him some money. He bought a pile of clothes, and many of them had English words printed on them," the mother said. "I didn't know these words, but I thought the clothes would help him with his English." Several days later, Niu looked up the words in a dictionary after washing a jersey for her son. She discovered the words were abusive or obscene. "I was so angry," she said. Her son insisted on wearing the jersey, saying the clothes were very popular among his classmates. It's only one example. In a local garment market, clothes with the expletives were available at many stalls. Besides English, there were also Japanese and Korean swear words.

Middle-school students were the main buyers of the clothes. "It's not nice to say these words, but it's cool to wear them," said a student.

A stall owner said the clothes were his best sellers. On a good day he could sell nearly 1,000 pieces.

[http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/15/289112/Parents see red over blue shirts.htm](http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/15/289112/Parents%20see%20red%20over%20blue%20shirts.htm)

However, a commentary under the name "Zhifan" in the Shanghai-based Jiefang Daily said historic fact should be acknowledged and respected. "Protection of the terracotta warriors and horses doesn't mean we look approvingly on the atrocities of Qingshihuang, who ordered the giant mausoleum for himself," the author wrote, adding protection of the brothel should not be taken as approval of prostitution.

The debate has spread to the Internet, with many Websites opening special columns on the issue. "Demolishing an ancient building will have no effect in preventing prostitution," said one correspondent on the Website of Beijing Youth Daily. Too many ancient buildings had been bulldozed, and the ancient brothel should be repaired and protected, said another Internet user.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/18/289477/Bulldoze_or_save_historic_brothel.htm

More Chinese suffer social diseases

2006-08-11 Shanghai Daily

The number of China's syphilis cases in 2005 jumped 35.79%, compared with the year before that, according to the Ministry of Health. During the last year, the country found 180,030 cases of gonorrhea and 126,400 cases of syphilis, which are among the list of China's most widely-spread epidemic diseases.

Venereal diseases have been increasing since the 1980s. Chlamydia trachoma, genital herpes and condyloma acuminata are regular social diseases nowadays, the plan said. For syphilis, the survey and monitor will be conducted every year, for other diseases, the period is two years. China's disease control and prevention center will combine the monitoring with its AIDS research.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/11/288850/More_Chinese_suffer_social_diseases.htm

Site posts business card details

2006-08-18 Shanghai Daily

Key in your name, and you may find your mobile phone number on the Chinese Website www.mingpian.com. The site reveals business card information of more than 2 million people. The information, including mobile and office phone numbers, e-mail and company address, is posted on the Website without owners' consent. A person registering on the Website can browse a total of 10 name cards. Visitors can earn another two cards if they contribute one to the Website.

The Website claims to provide valuable business information for China's sales and marketing people, and help companies recruit competent employees for less time and money. All the information is free.

With 5 million clicks every month, the Website is popular, but also controversial.

A Website employee confirmed they had received protests from some people whose business cards were posted on the Website. "We've deleted their information as requested."

Individuals' privacy is protected under China's Civil Law. China has started drafting a new law to protect personal information. "Information including people's mobile phone number, family address and occupation will be protected under the draft law," said Zhou Hanhua, a law professor with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, one of the authors of the draft law.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/18/289452/Site_posts_business_card_details.htm

TRAFFIC

Smooth sailing

2006-08-17 Shanghai Daily

Passengers can use public transport cards to take ferries across the Huangpu River starting September 1, Shanghai Ferry Co Ltd announced.

The paper ferry travel card will be discontinued. Officials said passengers who paid for a month's ferry service, including 44 trips for 22 days a month, can receive more discounts than previously offered with the monthly paper ferry card.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/17/289324/Smooth_sailing.htm

Beijing-Shenzhen rail

2006-08-05 *Shanghai Daily*

China has begun work on a 220 billion Yuan passenger-only rail link between Beijing and Shenzhen city. The new line, expected to be completed in 2010, will reduce the 2,300-kilometer-trip from the current 24 hours to 10 hours.

The new line will run parallel with the existing Beijing-Guangzhou railway, one of the busiest lines in China, which has been operating beyond capacity, said Song. Once the new line opens for traffic, the existing Beijing-Guangzhou line will only be used for cargo transport, he said.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/05/288288/Beijing_Shenzhen_rail.htm

Asia's largest railway station planned

2006-08-11 *Shanghai Daily*

The city government announced yesterday it would start building Asia's largest railway station this year. Hongqiao Railway Hub will be located in the west of downtown Shanghai and cover an area of 1.33 million square meters, said Liu Lianqing, director of the Shanghai Railway Administration.

Construction of the station, which is expected to cost up to 15 billion Yuan, will be completed by 2010. The design of the new station has been made, according to Liu. The station will provide terminals for four high-speed lines, including high-speed trains between Beijing and Shanghai, Shanghai and Ningbo and a line for the Shanghai-Hangzhou maglev railway, according to Liu.

Currently, the largest passenger transport railway station in Asia is Beijing West Railway Station, covering 510,000 square meters, which began operation in 1996.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/11/288780/Asia_039_s_largest_railway_station_planned.htm

TOURISM

Travelers' tips: Don't disgrace your country

2006-08-17 *China Daily*

Don't spit, litter or be loud. Don't yell into the mobile phone, and wash your hands before and after eating. Well, generally, behave well.



These are not rules for kindergarten kids they are the basic "do's and don'ts" China wants its citizens to abide by when they travel, at home and abroad.

Yesterday, the **Spiritual** Civilization Steering Committee of the Communist Party of China Central Committee launched an educational campaign after gathering public inputs on how travelers should behave. Expert groups and Party and governmental departments are compiling the guidelines.

Civil servants and executives in State-owned enterprises are the immediate target while the media will educate the general public.

The campaign will last till the end of 2008, when Beijing hosts the

Olympic Games.

Robert Lao, a retired senior Chinese-Canadian official, said the campaign is timely as some travelers have marred the image of the country. "Decent behavior is a reflection of a country's character," said Lao, who has organized many overseas trips for Chinese officials and now lives in Beijing after working for the Canadian Government for more than three decades. "Travelers should also learn social conventions, table manners and etiquette in different countries," said Lao. "It's a demanding task, but it is important to win respect."

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-08/17/content_666715.htm

Sex DVDs spark chaos

2006-08-12 *Shanghai Daily*

An offer for free sex education DVDs at an adult products expo sparked mayhem yesterday, with over-eager visitors grabbing anything they could get their hands on, including for-sale videos.

Organizers had prepared free DVDs for the first 100 visitors to the Third China International Adult Toys and Reproductive Health Exhibition opening at the Shanghai International Exhibition Center. But when the doors opened just before 10am, visitors surged towards the DVD stalls and snatched whatever they could.

"The free gifts were gone in no time, and then people started to take the ones that had price tags too," said Gao Guoxing, a spokesman for the event. "Soon the situation was out of control." Several DVDs were taken from the shelves before security guards could control the situation. Gao said no one was caught stealing the videos, but all DVDs were taken off the shelves for the rest of the day.

The Jilin Province-made DVDs covered a range of sexual topics, including pleasurable positions and foreplay skills.

Visitors to yesterday's opening were treated to some of the latest products and innovations in the sex education industry from home and abroad. Wu Hui, who founded the country's first adult toy factory, Loves, in 1995, said his company's next product would be a vibrator triggered by mobile phone signals. Overseas firms, including the Alexander Institute from Los Angeles, were also in attendance.



Although many overseas adult products makers are eager to find manufacturing bases on the Chinese mainland, some said yesterday they were unsure about what will sell in the Chinese market - and what government regulations will allow them to sell. Meir Sharony, president of the Alexander Institute, said for the Chinese market they might pixelate some of the more explicit scenes in their DVDs.

Visitors Nevin Zheng, 26, and his girlfriend Amy Zhang, said they might buy one or two toys, because they could get 30 percent off. Zheng and Zhang were one of a fair number of couples at the expo. Many of the visitors were young men, though few single women were to be seen.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/12/288918/Sex_DVDs_spark_chaos.htm

Danish author to get park

2006-08-11 *Shanghai Daily*

The nation's first Hans Christian Andersen children's park is expected to open to the public by the end of next year.

Construction on the Yangpu District Park will begin soon and is expected to cost more than 100 million Yuan. Investors in the project hope the park will bring the magic of Anderson's much-loved children's stories to the city.

Danish author Andersen is famous for his fairy tales and stories, including "The Little Matchstick Girl," "The Princess and the Pea" and "The Ugly Duckling." "All those famous tales will be found in the theme park," said Su Qi from Shanghai Gujin Investment Co, which invested in the project.

Andersen's tales taught children that appearances can be deceiving, and that there is a magical beauty even within the most unlikely characters. "Children will be educated through playing in the theme park," Su said. Visitors to the park will also be able to play developmental games, multi-media games and attend all kinds of cultural contests related to Andersen's tales.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/11/288779/Danish_author_to_get_park.htm

Chinese beauties of different minorities
2006-08-10 China Daily



http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-08/10/content_4944414.htm

Technology will turn garbage into building bricks

2006-08-09 *Shanghai Daily*

A new technology will be used to convert garbage into construction materials, said the Baoshan District Public Sanitation Bureau and a local environmental company. The technology, developed by Shanghai Tiannan Environmental Protection Technology Co Ltd, can convert garbage into bricks. The bricks can then be used for sidewalks or pathways in parks, according to officials.

It will be used to treat 3.5 million tons of garbage at a dump site in suburban Baoshan. Tiannan estimates that the 3.5 million tons of garbage will create 1.4 million tons of construction materials.

The company first compresses the waste and sterilizes it several times. An additive then turns the waste into bricks. The technology was patented in 2003. The new technology has already passed quality control and environmental safety tests. The company also completed a trial run. The association hopes it will be a better way to handle waste in addition to traditional methods - burning, landfill or biochemical treatment.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/09/288535/Technology_will_turn_garbage_into_building_bricks.htm

Satisfy your egghead

2006-08-04 *Shanghai Daily*



Ever wondered what dust particles look like at the molecular level? Or why the world distorts at the speed of light? Go find out at the Science Tunnel.

The interactive science show with all the answers returned to Shanghai yesterday to take visitors on a trip into the future of scientific discovery.

Covering everything from quarks to the cosmos, the free exhibition at the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum offers delights such as a close look at the surface of Mars and information on the telescopes collecting cosmic data from the uplands of Namibia. "This is a good example of innovation and provides the public with opportunities to learn more about leading edge science," said Tilman Krauch, president of BASF Asia Pacific, which is jointly organizing the show along with the Max Planck Society.

The event will run through October 7 and be closed every Monday.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/04/288103/Satisfy_your_egghead.htm

ENTERTAINMENT

Foreign cartoons to be banned in prime time

2006-08-14 *Shanghai Daily*

China is banning foreign cartoons from prime time TV amid efforts to protect China's struggling animation studios. The ban takes effect on September 1 and applies to the "golden hours" between 5pm and 8pm, the media reported. The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television notified TV stations about the new regulation but did not make it public, according to the news reports.

Cartoon programs co-produced by domestic and foreign companies will need approval from SARFT to be shown during the target hours.

The first foreign cartoon aired in China was the Japanese "Astro Boy" series in 1981, which opened the floodgates for many others. In 2000, SARFT began requiring TV stations to get approval from the administration to show foreign cartoons, and it set quotas on imports. At that time, China's cartoon programs were almost completely dominated by Japanese creations.

The latest regulation aims to save the domestic cartoon industry by "clearing up the sky" with preferential policies. The paper expressed the hope that the quality of domestic cartoons would improve after several years of internal competition. But it went on to say the new move might hurt the interests of children by depriving them of their rights as consumers.

The editorial also argued that, while quotas might be needed to protect competition, an outright ban on foreign cartoons during prime time was "irrational." "This is a worrying, short-sighted policy and will not solve the fundamental problems in China's cartoon industry," it concluded.



http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/14/289026/Foreign_cartoons_to_be_banned_in_prime_time.htm

International team to film Nanjing Massacre

2006-08-15 Shanghai Daily

China is teaming up with the United States and Britain to bring Iris Chang's international bestseller "The Rape of Nanking" to the silver screen.

"We hope we can make the film a World War II classic just like 'Schindler's List,'" said American producer Gerald Green, referring to the Oscar-winning film about the European Holocaust by Steven Spielberg.

The partners plan to invest at least US\$28 million to make a film that explores the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of Chinese by Japanese troops invading Nanjing in 1937, according to Li Xiangmin, chairman of the Chinese investor, the Nanjing-based Jiangsu Cultural Industry Group.

The American investor, Green's Hollywood entertainment firm Viridian, will put US\$20 million into the project. The Chinese partner will contribute 50 million Yuan, and the British investor, who was not named, will put up US\$2 million. Li said the film has obtained production licenses in the United States and Britain and is awaiting approval by the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television. Shooting will likely begin at the end of this year. The movie is scheduled to be completed before September 1, 2007 and make its debut in China before December 13, 2007, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Nanjing Massacre. The film is expected to reach the world market in the spring of 2008.

The Nanjing Massacre occurred in December 1937 when Japanese troops occupied what was then the capital of China and killed more than 300,000 people. More than 20,000 women were raped and one-third of the city's houses were burned. The book that the movie's based on - "The Rape of Nanking - The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II" - was the first English-language narrative describing the atrocities to reach a wide audience. It remained on the New York Times bestseller list for months.

Investors said they will try to get Chinese film star Zhang Ziyi to join the cast, which may also include Malaysia's Michelle Yeoh. Both actresses played major roles in the Oscar-winning "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/15/289137/International_team_to_film_Nanjing_Massacre.htm

'Miami Vice' to premiere in mainland

2006-08-14 *Shanghai Daily*

"Miami Vice" — a hard-hitting new Hollywood action movie starring famous Chinese actress Gong Li, has obtained approval from China's film authority to premiere in the mainland after National Day, Beijing Times reported today.



Directed by Michael Mann, the movie is a 2006 adaptation of the 1980s TV series of the same name, but is set in modern times rather than the 80s like the sitcom. Academy Award winner Jamie Foxx and Collin Farrell act as two undercover police officers.

The 142-minute movie became the weekly box office champion after its premiere in North American theater chains on July 28. It is also notable for some of its violence and sex scenes, which were once rumored to might cause the movie to be blocked from screening in mainland theaters.

However, mainland film authorities said that the movie can be screened after the local publisher shortens it and cuts some violent scenes. "The original copy is too long, and we'll cut some of it to screen in local cinemas. Violence and sex are not the major reasons for us to do so and the number of sex scenes is not as many as people imagined," said a woman employee of the publisher, who was identified as Zhang.

Gong plays Isabella, the Chinese-Cuban wife of the leader of a transnational crime syndicate and the love interest of detective Sonny Crockett (played by Farrell). Her performance has won her a lot of applause and is considered one of her best roles in recent years, the newspaper said.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/14/289048/_039_Miami_Vice_039_to_premiere_in_mainland.htm

UNUSUAL ☺

Foreign love denied

2006-08-09 *Shanghai Daily*

Hundreds of local women who signed up for the chance to attend a matchmaking party with 11 single or divorced men visiting town for a week from the United States have had their hearts broken by city officials.

The Shanghai Civil Affairs Bureau banned the event yesterday, saying no matchmaking agencies in Shanghai are licensed to set up dates between Chinese and foreigners.

The event was set up by Shiji Jiayuan, an online dating agency established in 2003. The company, which is based online at love21cn.com, has offices in Shanghai and Beijing.

"They will visit Shanghai on a group tour and also wanted to meet some Chinese ladies," Gong Haiyan, founder of the agency, said of the American men.

He said the men range in age from 43 to 67 and include computer engineers, doctors, lawyers and bankers. The agency posted a notice in the middle of July saying that it was looking for women interested in meeting

11 single males from Washington State on August 15. About 230 local women signed up to take part in the event by the August 5 deadline. The agency had selected 25 of the applicants to attend the matchmaking party.

"Decisions were made based on their family background, appearance and professions," said Gong. "We declined the really young applicants - some were only 20 years old." *[Women who signed up for the dinner should be able to speak English with them and be well-educated. Besides, they needed to pay to join the dinner.]*

The event had to be scrapped when the Civil Affairs Bureau sent Gong a notice yesterday banning it.

Xu Anqi, a relationship expert in the city, said she agrees the event should be banned as cross-cultural relationships are very difficult. "Many issues will show up during such a relationship, but they rarely occur in relationships with someone from the same country," said Xu, noting problems include communication, cultural values and living habits.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/09/288536/Foreign_love_denied.htm

Cyber-marriage can be addictive

2006-08-12 *Shanghai Daily*

Increasingly, online games boast a "cyber-marriage" function, and marriage games are popular with millions of Chinese teenagers.

A 17-year-old boy has been married 10 times, each lasting from hours to a year. It's easy for him to marry and divorce. He just clicks the mouse. When he was just 14, Zhao Mingliang learned to play an online dancing game, in which two players get married and compete with other players as a team. In the three years since then, he has had a dozen cyber-wives, aged from 13 to 22. All are good-lookingers. "We got to know each other in the game, and used video chat tools to communicate. I would marry them if they were pretty," Zhao said. Zhao felt it was his responsibility to buy "furniture" and "clothes" to simulate family life. But he had to change his parent's real money into virtual coins in order to play. However, one of his virtual wives disappeared just after he bought her a suit of "gorgeous" clothes. "I was extremely angry, I felt cheated," Zhao said. Finally, his parents had enough. They sent Zhao to Beijing Internet Addiction Treatment Center because he often fought and quarreled with them and stole their money to spend on his cyber-wives.

Tao Ran, director of the treatment center, said there are 15.4 million young Netizens in China, and 2 million of them are addicts.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/12/288867/Cyber_marriage_can_be_addictive.htm

Restaurant lets diners eat on 'toilet seats'

2006-08-16 *China Daily*

A new restaurant themed on toilet utilities opened in Shenzhen recently, winning the favor of some novelty-seeking consumers. Although some felt disgusted when dining with the surroundings of a toilet, young people seem to enjoy it very much. In the restaurant, toilet bowls are used as seats, bathtubs are used as bowls and some dishes are served that are shaped like manure.

The concept for such a restaurant was introduced last year. "Customers are mainly young people," said the manager. "Some are willing to be on a waiting list for the toilet-bowl seats."

The restaurant has four outlets in Shenzhen, and there are allied outlets in Chengdu and Wuhan.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-08/16/content_665926.htm

Baby language deciphered by city's new technology

2006-08-16 *Shanghai Daily*

A local company has developed an infant voice recognition system, which will help parents understand their babies. The patented technology is based on a huge databank which has a recorded database of over 3,000 baby cries. Computers have converted the different cries into digital signals and saved them in the data bank, the newspaper said.

It will analyze a baby's cry after receiving it and is able to judge the reason for different cries, such as being hungry, uncomfortable, fatigued, fussy, unhappy and scared. During the first 10 to 15 days of staying with a baby, the system can understand 70 to 80 percent of the baby's "language." Technicians can then adjust the software after the system has gathered more sounds from the baby, and install an upgrade to the system which may raise the voice recognition accuracy to 96%.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/08/16/289282/Baby_language_deciphered_by_city_039_s_new_technology.htm



Have a nice week!

Byebye!