

Shanghai Mini News No. 17

Friday, October 13th, 2006

Hi everyone!
Well, I hope you enjoyed the holidays and rested well! ☺ I did!
Btw, for some personal reasons, I won't be able to continue this Mini News: this one is the last issue... It was fun creating them, but I'll run out of time. Anyway, I'm happy if you found them useful!
Thousands of kisses,
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 text.

Overview

Info about Shanghai	p. 2
Info about China	p. 3
Traffic	p. 5
Tourism	p. 7
Culture	p. 7
Science and High-Tech	p. 9
Entertainment	p. 10
Unusual ☺	p. 11

Enjoying a touch of France

2006-10-13 Shanghai Daily

French wines, cheeses, breads, chocolates and pastries will give visitors a taste of French culture. Other highlights include singing performances and pet shows. The annual event, which will run through Wednesday along Yandang Road and parts of Huaihai Road in Luwan District, could attract more than 200,000 visitors.



Do not eat youtiao from street vendors

2006-09-26 Shanghai Daily

Shanghai food and drug authority warned people not to eat youtiao (fried loaf) sold at street vendors as it contains higher-than-standard levels of aluminum.



All eight samples from the city's street vendors failed to meet the local food safety standard, and 11 out of the 18 samples from local restaurants were substandard, according to the test results of the Shanghai Food and Drug Administration. The four samples provided by local supermarkets were safe enough to eat, said the report.

Youtiao is a traditional breakfast for the people living in Shanghai. Youtiao, Doujiang (soybean milk), Cifan (rice dumpling with youtiao inside) and Dabing (sesame seed cake), are of the four favorite dim sum breakfasts of local citizens.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/09/26/293023/Do_not_eat_youtiao_from_street_vendors.htm

Video cameras raise privacy fear on campus

2006-09-27 Shanghai Daily

East China University of Science and Technology plans to significantly upgrade the number of hidden video cameras keeping surveillance on campus, a move that has some students worried "Big Brother" will be keeping a constant eye on them.

University officials said yesterday they will invest more than 1 million Yuan to install 80 additional video monitors on the university's Xuhui campus by the end of this year. Once installed, the school's 131-acre campus will have 310 video cameras covering teaching buildings, labs and libraries, as well as major campus roads.

"Having more high-tech 'electronic eyes' will set up a watertight security system for the campus," said Zhou Yonghua, vice director of ECUST's campus security division. Zhou said the cameras have proven helpful in stopping crime in the past. For instance, a habitual thief was caught on video trying to break into an office in 2004.

Similar systems are used at other universities in the city such as Fudan and Donghua, school officials said. But not everybody is happy with such close supervision. Chang Jiajia, an ECUST student, said that hidden monitors could lead to an intrusion of privacy. "The monitoring system will expose almost every single action on campus. That will make me feel uncomfortable."

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/09/27/293094/Video_cameras_raise_privacy_fear_on_campus.htm

New rules try to clean up hair salons, bathhouses

2006-09-29 Shanghai Daily

Hair and beauty salon employees and staff working in public bathhouses will be asked to carry health certificates, according to new rules issued by the Shanghai Bureau of Quality and Technical Supervision. The rules, which come into force on December 1, also state that at least two employees in each salon or bathhouse must have professional certificates issued by the government.

"Prostitution, drug taking and gambling easily happen in these places," said Zhu Ziming, an official with the bureau. Without regulations, the bureau said, health and safety in these facilities cannot be guaranteed. The regulations will also supervise the size and facilities of salons and bathhouses built after December 1.

Each hair salon should occupy no less than 20 square meters, beauty salons no less than 50 square meters and bathhouses no less than 4,000 square meters, the regulations state.

Salons or bathhouses built after December 1 should be located at least 5 meters away from public toilets, litter bins, manure pits or other possible source of contamination, according to the rules. Hair and beauty salons must not have inner rooms for service and bathhouses should be equipped with changing rooms and deposit facilities for customers to leave their valuables in. Bathhouses should clearly display signs at entrances forbidding customers with venereal diseases, skin diseases and other infectious diseases to enter. In hair and beauty salons, equipment such as scissors and towels should be sterilized after use, the regulations state.

The bureau declined to say what penalties the salons or bathhouses would face if they disobeyed the regulations.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/09/29/293308/New_rules_try_to_clean_up_hair_salons_bathhouses.htm

INFO ABOUT CHINA

Social insurance system covers 6% more Chinese each year

2006-09-24 Xinhua News

China's social insurance system covers 6% more Chinese annually in recent years.

By 2005, China had accumulated 606.6 billion Yuan of social insurance funds for basic pension, unemployment, employment injury, maternity and basic medical insurance, with an annual income growth of 20 percent in recent years. The national social security fund has added up to more than 200 billion Yuan.

From 1998 to 2005, more than 24 million laid-off workers from state-owned enterprises benefited from basic living allowances, while over 19 million were reemployed. In that period, 160 million more retired workers were included in the basic pension insurance system, with 252.8 billion Yuan of pension granted.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-09/24/content_5130189.htm

China to stop circulation of 2nd-version RMB cent paper money

2006-09-25 Xinhua News

China will stop the circulation of the 1, 2, 5-cent paper money of the second version of the Renminbi from next April 1, the People's Bank of China announced on Monday. After the 1, 2, 5-cent paper money quitting circulation, coins will fully replace the cent paper money in circulation in China.

The 1, 2, 5-cent paper money can be changed into 1, 2, 5-cent coin in commercial banks between this October 1 and next March 31, the announcement said.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-09/25/content_5136779.htm



Caring for Girls plan to address big gender gap

2006-10-09 Shanghai Daily

With China worried that it does not have enough girls, the central government is implementing new policies to counter the country's growing gender imbalance.

A nationwide Caring for Girls campaign, spurred by a determination to narrow the imbalance over the next three to five years, has captured public attention. "The central government has started to lavish more care on daughter-only families," said Zhang Jian, head of publicity at the State Population and Family Planning Commission, the sponsor of the campaign.

The campaign has been launched in 24 counties where a serious gender imbalance exists. Families with no sons will receive an annual allowance of 600 Yuan if the parents are each **more than 60 years old**. The average yearly income of families in these counties is about 2,000 Yuan.

Daughter-only families will also get preferential loans to help with agricultural production, Zhang said. Only daughters will be given bonus marks when they take college entrance exams and have also been promised "special treatment" when job hunting.

The gender imbalance reflects a deep-rooted view dating back thousands of years that men are superior to women. According to a census in 2000, the ratio between newborn boys and girls was 117:100 - a normal ratio is 103-107:100. A sample survey carried out last year showed the gap had increased to 118.58:100, thus triggering government action. But in the 24 counties where the campaign has been implemented, the ratio of newborn boys to girls has dropped from 133.8:100 to 119.6:100, according to the State Population and Family Planning Commission.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/10/09/293713/Caring_for_Girls_plan_to_address_big_gender_gap.htm

More acquaintances, fewer friends

2006-09-26 China Daily

Nanan has lived in Beijing for 7 years, and she has many acquaintances, but very few friends. Last month, she went to her hometown to hold her wedding ceremony. When she came back, she found that she could not find anybody in Beijing to share the joy with her.

As a matter of fact, with the advancement of communication, it is easy for people to get to know each other; however, people seem to exchange feelings and ideas with each other less and less.



In a survey conducted by Tencent and China Youth Daily, nearly 87.5 percent of all 15,068 responders feel in the same way. About 45.3 percent say that each of them has less than 5 friends. Another 34.3% have more, about 6 to 10 each. In other words, nearly 80 percent of responders have no more than 10 friends. In contrast, about 56 percent of them have more than 50 acquaintances, even more than 100.

Most of responders believe the mobility of the society is the main cause of the loss of friendship, as many people have to move from place to place to make a living. More than half of them think pressure should also be responsible, as it deprives people of chances of communication between each other.

One quarter of them blame cyber-friendship, as it actually cuts the exchange of real emotions.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2006-09/26/content_696924.htm

Health service for masseuses

2006-09-30 Shanghai Daily

A hospital in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, this week began to offer checkups at discounted prices to tens of thousands of masseuses, many of whom are involved in the sex trade. It is the first time a hospital has provided an overall gynecological examination specifically for masseuses in the Jiangsu capital, according to Xu Fu of the Nanjing Maternal and Child Health Hospital.

The idea to offer the special service was triggered by the "worrisome" medical exam results of 14 masseuses who had checkups at the hospital some days back, Xu said. "All of them had gynecological diseases and one even had syphilis," said Xu. "They are so young, but many of them have had abortions repeatedly. We're concerned about their health and decided to offer them a special service."

The exam costs 69 Yuan and is available Monday to Friday. The hospital has also set up a hotline 1688-8666 for consultation.

Tens of thousands of masseuses work in more than 3,000 foot massage centers, 2,600 sauna bars and numerous bathhouses in Nanjing, according to the Nanjing Morning Post. A survey conducted in late 2004 by the Guangdong Provincial Center for Skin and Venereal Disease Control and Prevention showed that more than 70 percent of the 724 masseuses surveyed had made money in the sex trade. More than 24 percent had venereal diseases and one had contracted HIV.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/09/30/293413/Health_service_for_masseuses.htm

Survey finds migrants lack ways to show sexual desire

2006-10-12 Shanghai Daily

About 88% of migrant workers suffer some form of sexual deprivation, according to a survey released by the Ministry of Health.

The often difficult lives migrants endure to earn more money for their families can lead to social problems and, in some instances, sexual crimes. The survey uncovered numerous cases of husbands and wives living apart, young adults rushing into romances without knowing how to protect themselves from an unwanted pregnancy and sexual harassment.

Zhang, a man from Sichuan Province who works in Beijing, said he can not live with his wife even though they work together on the same construction site. "Many of us cannot have a normal sex life for a year or more," Zhang said. "But at least we can see each other every day, which other couples can not do." Zhang said the managers make female workers live on the second floor. Men live on the first. The door between the two floors is locked every evening to "avoid unnecessary trouble," Zhang said. Together Zhang and his wife earn about 1,000 Yuan a month. Renting a house at even 300 Yuan per month would be a huge expense. However, Zhang said he is luckier than single workers or those who live apart from their wives.

Li Yinhe, a renowned sociologist and a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said migrant workers are forced to suppress their sexual desires. The sociologist said that it's no surprise

that the survey found many migrants spend their leisure time reading pornographic books and that some eventually commit sexual crimes. Nonetheless, Li said it's unfair to attribute the high crime rate of migrant workers to poor morals and weak respect for the law. "If there are no normal ways for them to relieve their sexual tension, they will be tempted to commit crimes," Li said.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/10/12/294055/Survey_finds_migrants_lack_ways_to_show_sexual_desire.htm



TRAFFIC

Digging begins on tunnel to Chongming

2006-09-25 Shanghai Daily

One of two digging machines began work on a tunnel across the Yangtze River, a key part of a 25-kilometer-long connection between Pudong and Chongming Island. The 9-kilometer-long tunnel will link Pudong and Changxing Island. A highway across Changxing will then connect the tunnel to a 10-kilometer-long bridge that will link the island with Chongming Island. The bridge is currently under construction.

Currently, the only way to reach Chongming Island from downtown Shanghai is by ferry, and routes are sometimes suspended by bad weather.

Chongming, which is part of Shanghai, is the country's third largest island behind Taiwan and Hainan.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/09/25/292882/Digging_begins_on_tunnel_to_Chongming.htm



Chongming Island

City's elevated roads sinking

2006-09-27 *Shanghai Daily*

Some of Shanghai's elevated roads are sinking. The situation on Yixian Elevated Road is the most severe, followed by the North-South Elevated Road. This subsiding is damaging the road pavement and juncture surfaces, which may pose as a risk to vehicles' on the highways.

The surface and junctures at certain sections of the Inner Ring Elevated Road were in bad condition since they opened to the public in 1994. Local public utilities experts suggested that the whole inner ring road area be renovated. All the junctures on the inner ring roads are being replaced at the moment. For some heavily sinking sections, experts also suggested that the road surface or piers be lifted if necessary. Besides, by the end of this year, the anti-noise facilities between Nanpu Bridge and Lupu Bridge will be fully upgraded.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/09/27/293133/City_039_s_elevated_roads_sinking.htm

Blimey, black cabs coming?

2006-10-10 *Shanghai Daily*

London's famed black cabs may soon be prowling for fares on Shanghai's streets.



Geely Automobile Holdings Co Ltd, China's biggest privately owned carmaker, has signed an intent agreement with Manganese Bronze Holdings, the producer of the black cabs, to set up a joint venture in China.

The London Taxi International is well known for its spacious interior and specially designed equipment for disabled passengers. The cabs will be made in Shanghai Maple's plant, which is expected to turn out 20,000 units starting in 2008. Under the deal, Chinese-made auto parts will supply Manganese Bronze's facility in Coventry, England.

The black cab would compete with Shanghai Volkswagen's Santana 2000 and Santana 3000, which now dominate the

Shanghai taxi market now.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/10/10/293821/Blimey_black_cabs_coming_.htm

TOURISM

Tourists told to polish up act, not their shoes

2006-10-03 *Shanghai Daily*

China yesterday published guidelines on how tourists should conduct themselves when abroad. The rules are part of efforts to improve the nation's image tarnished by some Chinese travelers.

Chinese tourists' reputation abroad has gotten so bad that in the United States and some European countries, authorities have put up signs, in Chinese, that say "No spitting," "No littering," "**Please line up,**" and "**Flush after using the toilet.**"

In the guidelines published, Chinese people are urged not to spit or litter public places. Tourists should **not talk in loud voices or jump queues at public venues.** According to the online survey, line jumping and chatting noisily have become synonymous with Chinese tourists abroad.

Smoking in non-smoking areas is also discouraged in the guidelines. People are also urged **not to walk side by side on sidewalks and block other pedestrians.**

Chinese tourists are advised against **making bed sheets, towels and other property dirty when staying in hotel rooms.** Media reports have said that some Chinese tourists polish their shoes with bed sheets or towels.

Proper dress is also promoted by the guidelines. Some Chinese men have reportedly stripped to the waist in inappropriate places during hot summer days and women have been said to wear pajamas in supermarkets or on the street. Chinese tourists are also reported to have a cavalier attitude to removing shoes and socks in airport terminals when they feel tired.

The guidelines advise tourists to **follow rules when taking pictures at museums and art galleries.** In the survey, foreigners complained that Chinese tourists tended to secretly click away at exhibits despite warnings.

Chinese men are also asked to observe the "**ladies first**" rule.

Domestic tourists are asked to respect the rights of others and not force foreigners to pose for pictures.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/10/03/293533/Tourists_told_to_polish_up_act_not_their_shoes.htm

CULTURE

Confucius disputes settled

2006-09-25 *Shanghai Daily*

From now on, there's only one Confucius. The China Confucius Foundation has published a standard portrait so that the ancient philosopher and educator will have a single, recognizable identity around the world. "Confucius is widely known around the world as a symbol of Chinese history and culture. A standard portrait is needed so that all countries can have the same image of him," said CCF General Secretary Zhang Shuhua.

The draft sculpture was based on a painting of Confucius by Wu Daozi in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), along with advice from Confucian scholars, historians, artists and his descendants. The new portrait is meant to become the standard image of Confucius, who has been represented in various ways in the past, Zhang said.

Confucius founded a philosophy that advocates the building of a harmonious society through an individual's self-refinement in manners and taste. It was promulgated by Chinese rulers beginning in the Western Han Dynasty (206BC-AD25) and spread into east and south Asia. Confucianism dominated Chinese society for centuries and spread to Europe in the late 16th century.

Born in 551BC, Confucius has more than 3 million descendants,



with many concentrated in Qufu. There are 2.5 million descendants on the Chinese mainland, 100,000 in the Republic of Korea and many in the United States, Malaysia and Singapore. Regarding Confucius as an outstanding educator, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization last year named an international prize after him - the Confucius Literacy Prize, to honor individuals and institutions that have made significant contributions to education. On Saturday, UNESCO awarded the prize in Qufu to educational officials from India and Morocco to honor their decade-long efforts in eradicating illiteracy.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/09/25/292879/Confucius_disputes_settled.htm

Collective match-making ceremony in Chongqing

2006-09-24 *China Daily*



A man holds a board with his details, such as age, height, education and job prospects on it during a match-making session at a park in Yongchuan, Southwest China's Chongqing municipality September 23, 2006. The oldest participant of the event is 80 years old while the youngest 21.

Participants search for their possible partners.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-09/24/content_695533.htm

Small explanation about how baby pandas survive:



When a female panda becomes pregnant, the baby is usually born in the autumn season. The baby panda is extremely small (maybe only 250 grams), is completely white in color and cannot see. **The mother panda will gently carry her baby in her mouth** until it grows too big. The baby will first drink its mother's milk but after about 6 months the baby panda will begin to eat bamboo for itself and the color of its fur will already have changed from pure white to black and white.

Nothing to do with China, but thought you might find it interesting:

Mona Lisa was a new mother – expert

2006-09-27 China Daily

Mona Lisa, the mysterious woman immortalized in Leonardo da Vinci's 16th century masterpiece, had just given birth to her second son when she sat for the painting, a French art expert said.

The discovery was made by a team of Canadian scientists who used special infrared and three-dimensional technology to peer through hitherto impenetrable paint layers on the work, which now sits in the Louvre museum in Paris.

Bruno Mottin of the French Museums' Centre for Research and Restoration said that on very close examination of the painting it became clear that the Mona Lisa's dress was covered in a thin transparent gauze veil. "This type of gauze dress ... was typical of the kind worn in early 16th century Italy by women who were pregnant or who had just given birth. This is something that had never been seen up to now because the painting was always judged to be dark and difficult to examine," he told a news conference.

"We can now say that this painting by Leonardo da Vinci was painted to commemorate the birth of the second son of the Mona Lisa, which helps us to date it more precisely to around 1503."

The young woman with the ambiguous half smile has been identified as Lisa Gherardini, wife of Florentine merchant Francesco de Giocondo. She had five children.

Mottin also said that, contrary to popular belief, the subject had not let her hair hang freely but in fact wore a bonnet from which only a few curls managed to escape. "People always wrote that the Mona Lisa had allowed her hair to hang freely over her shoulders. This greatly surprised historians because letting your hair hang freely during the Renaissance was typical of young girls and women of poor virtue," he said.

The council had hoped to discover more details about Leonardo's "sfumato" technique of subtly blending one tone into another, which the artist used to create a hazy effect. But scientist John Taylor said the team had been frustrated by the lack of brush stroke detail on the painting.

"It's extremely thinly painted and extremely flat, and yet the details of the curls of hair, for example are extremely distinct. So the technique is unlike anything we've ever seen before. Leonardo was in a league of his own," he said.

Close examination of the craquelure -- the fine pattern of cracks formed on old paintings -- showed the paint layers were still firmly attached to the poplar wood panel on which Leonardo created his masterpiece. "We didn't see any sign of paint lifting. So for a 500-year-old painting it's very good news. And if they continue to keep it the way they have in an environment-controlled chamber, it could remain like that for a very long time," Taylor said.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2006-09/27/content_697800.htm



SCIENCE & HIGH-TECH

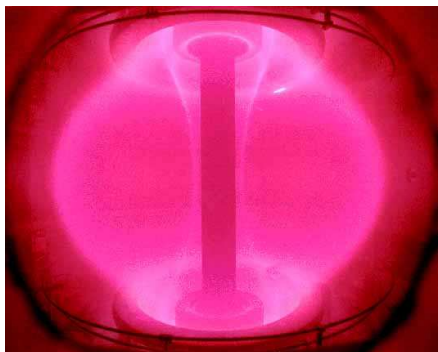
China hits milestone in nuclear fusion research

2006-09-29 Shanghai Daily

Chinese scientists yesterday conducted the country's first successful test of an experimental fusion reactor, powered by the process that fuels the sun, a research institute spokeswoman said.

China is pursuing fusion in hopes that it can become a clean, potentially limitless energy source. Fusion produces little radioactive waste, unlike fission, which powers conventional nuclear reactors. The test was carried out by the Institute of Plasma Physics in Hefei, capital of eastern China's Anhui Province.

Cheng Yan, a spokeswoman at the institute, said the test was considered a success because the reactor produced plasma, a hot cloud of supercharged particles. "This represents a step for humankind in the study of nuclear reaction," she said.



During the experiment, deuterium and tritium atoms were forced together at a temperature of 100 million Celsius in the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak fusion reactor, called EAST for short. "At that temperature, the superheated plasma, which is neither a gas, a liquid or a solid, should begin to give off its own energy," a scientist explained. The first tests lasted nearly three seconds. Scientists plan for the device to eventually create a plasma blast lasting 1,000 consecutive seconds.

Li Jiangang, director of the Institute of Plasma Physics, said the results of the test met the expectations of scientists and signified a breakthrough in thermonuclear fusion research. The data from the test will be submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency

General Conference in Austria.

EAST is an upgrade of China's first-generation Tokamak device and the first of its kind in operation in the world, Chinese scientists said. The Institute of Plasma Physics spent eight years and 200 million Yuan to build the experimental reactor.

The Chinese facility is similar to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor scheduled to be built by a seven-nation consortium in Cadarache in southern France. That reactor is due to be completed in 2015. The partners in the French reactor are the European Union, the United States, Japan, China, Russia, India and South Korea.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/09/29/293351/China_hits_milestone_in_nuclear_fusion_research.htm

Robot masters Chinese food

2006-10-12 Shanghai Daily

By as early as next year you could be able to buy a Chinese chef for your own kitchen.

Researchers from Shanghai Jiao Tong University have created what they say is the first robot capable of cooking thousands of Chinese dishes.

Users simply have to place a specially made ingredients package on the robots tray, and the refrigerator-shaped "AI Cooking Robot" will do all of the difficult work. The machine will scan a bar code on the ingredients package, which contains cooking instructions, and then fry, bake, boil or steam the food as needed. The robot is able to add oil to a pan, switch on the gas, pour ingredients into the cooking utensils and mimic the actions of human chefs. It takes only a few minutes for the robot to complete a dish.

Researchers said that the robot is capable of whipping up thousands of Chinese dishes, including Sichuan, Shandong and Cantonese food. "The key technology for this cooking robot lies in the separation of sophisticated Chinese cuisine cooking procedures and transfer it into computer language that robots can understand," said Zhao Zhengyan, a professor at SJTU's robotics research institute.

Sponsored by a technology company in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, the cooking robot took more than two years to develop at a cost of about 2 million Yuan. Zhao and his team are currently looking for a manufacturer for the robot, which they say could be available to consumers by the middle of next year.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/10/12/294028/Robot_masters_Chinese_food.htm

ENTERTAINMENT

Watchdogs to limit TV's love cheats

2006-10-02 Shanghai Daily

China's broadcasting watchdog is working on a regulation to limit the number of TV soap operas featuring extramarital affairs.

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television wants scriptwriters to add more interesting elements into their work instead of dwelling on cheating spouses.

Soaps have gradually lost popularity with TV viewers and were pulling down audience figures. However, too many soaps showing extramarital affairs would "affect family harmony and leave a bad impression on the youth." "Too many plots featuring love affairs and exaggerations of love affairs will leave young people with the wrong impression that love affairs are acceptable," the newspaper quoted Zheng Xiaolong, a well-known TV drama director whose works include "Beijingers in New York," a hit show in China in the mid-1990s, as saying.

China Central Television recently dumped 700 episodes of TV shows, most of which were related to love affairs, because of declining viewing figures. An employee at the state television's film department said the soaps CCTV threw out were poorly made and similar to those already aired.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/10/02/293492/Watchdogs_to_limit_TV_039_s_love_cheats.htm

Nasty lyrics cancel hip-hop concert

2006-10-11 Shanghai Daily

The Ministry of Culture has decided to protect the city's hip-hop fans from nasty lyrics about pimps, guns and drugs.

The ministry has denied New York rapper Jay-Z permission to perform in the city. He was supposed to make his China debut at the city's Hongkou Football Stadium on October 23. Sun Yun from KS production company, the concert's promoter, said the concert failed to receive permission from the Ministry of Culture because "some of Jay-Z's songs contain too much vulgar language." Like many rap stars, Jay-Z is known for his use of profanity and songs about the ugly side of street life, complete with drug dealers, pimps, and violence.

Some critics of the ministry decision point out that the Black Eyed Peas performed their sexually suggestive songs in the city just three months ago. An industry insider who refused to be identified said the difference is that Jay-Z hasn't released an album on the Chinese mainland, while the Black Eyed Peas have.

http://202.101.38.80/art/2006/10/11/293909/Nasty_lyrics_cancel_hip_hop_concert.htm

UNUSUAL ☺

Gigantic mooncake for the Mid Autumn Festival

2006-09-27 China Daily



Residents wait to taste a gigantic mooncake during a mooncake festival in Chengdu, Southwest China's Sichuan province September 26, 2006.

The 400-kilogram mooncake was part of celebrations for the upcoming Mid Autumn Festival which falls on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month of the Chinese calendar.

This year, it fell on October 6. The mooncake took seven days to finish.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-09/27/content_697916.htm

Giving lecture, professor strips off

2006-09-29 *China Daily*

Mo Xiaoxin, an assistant professor of art at the Teachers' University of Technology in Changzhou, Jiangsu Province, stunned 30 students by stripping naked. The teacher said he wanted to emphasize the power of the body and "confront taboos."

Mo was teaching a class on physical art and humanity culture studies, the first course of its kind to be approved by the Ministry of Culture. It has been running for six years.

Mo's action, which was not expected by his students, stunned all those present, and has led to heated debate after being reported on Tuesday by a local newspaper. "Mo's nudity might have disgusted many students who weren't prepared to see the unattractive body of an old man," said Wang Xiongjun, a college student in Beijing. However, people in art circles say they can understand Mo's action.

According to Zhuang Tianming, dean of the Art Research Institute under Nanjing Museum, teaching with nude models is common in the art world, with teachers themselves sometimes acting as nude models. "In Mo's case, the motivation for his action should be considered before any judgement is made," he told *China Daily*. "The action is excusable if it was part of the lesson," said Zhuang, adding that nudity was fundamental to studying physical beauty and sketching. Zhuang said it is a pity society is not tolerant enough towards the artistic use of nudity.

However, an official with the Ministry of Culture said Mo's nude teaching was an improper act, reported *Beijing News*. "Mo's project on humanity and physical art concentrates on material collecting, sorting and analysing. It is improper to teach nude for this research project," Tian Junting, an official with the ministry, was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

But during an online interview with Sina.com on Wednesday, he denied the allegation that he took his clothes off just for the publicity. "It was for artistic research. I would not adopt this method of teaching in normal classes. The teaching methodology of public classes should be approved by university supervisors beforehand," said Mo. Art school heads said the school would not punish the teacher.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-09/29/content_699176.htm



Gold house to receive visitors in HK

2006-09-21 *Shanghai Daily*

A businessman from Hong Kong built a house with 2.5 tons of gold that he used for its furniture and adornments, including gold bed frames, gold ceilings and gold sofas.

The gold house was Lam Sai Wing's idea to attract visitors to Hong Kong, after his first gold toilet was listed into the Guinness World Records in 2001, said the newspaper under China's overseas Chinese affairs office.

Lam, the Chairman of Hang Fung Gold Technology Group, a Hong Kong-based jewelry retailer, bought 300 million Hong Kong dollars (US\$38.59 million) worth of gold five years ago. However, the current market price of the house may be 400 million Hong Kong dollars since the price of gold as skyrocketed. The house is believed to be inspired by a traditional Chinese fable about Emperor Wu during the Han Dynasty (141-87 BC), who built a gold house for his beloved concubine Ajiao.

The house looks like a western styled palace. Despite the gold furniture, all of the interior decorations are made of gold, including the ceilings and frescos. Visitors can take photos inside the house, Lam said. It also welcomes wedding ceremonies or parties, but it costs around 200,000 HK dollars to rent, he said. Also, guests have to pay 200,000 HK dollars to stay overnight. "It's expensive, but I spend that much on security per month," Lam explained. "I have paid 300 million HK dollars to insure my house." Overnight guests can enjoy various cuisines created by skillful chefs. They can also invite five of their friends to accompany them, the report said.

http://www.shanghaidaily.com/art/2006/09/21/292637/Gold_house_to_receive_visitors_in_HK.htm

To view the house, please click on this link: <http://media.smh.com.au/?rid=22136>

Have a very nice weekend!

