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梦想 & 理想



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Introducing some of our contributors, editors & designers

Our Editor-in-chief and Music Critic, Frank Hossack, has been a radio host and producer for the past 34 years, the past 25 of which working in media in China, in the process winning four New York Festivals awards for his work, in the categories Best Top 40 Format, Best Editing, Best Director and Best Culture & The Arts.

贺福是我们杂志的编辑和音乐评论员，在过去的34年里一直从事电台主持和电台制片的工作。在中国有近25年的媒体工作经验。工作期间他曾经四次获得过纽约传媒艺术节大奖，分别是世界前40强节目奖，最佳编辑奖，最佳导演奖以及最佳文化艺术奖。

As an Australian journalist living in Nanjing for many years, Renée Gray has a background in research, print and online publishing, taking great pleasure in discovering more about Nanjing with every article. 作为在南京居住多年的澳大利亚新闻工作者，Renée Gray有着调研以及印刷品和线上出版物的工作背景。她总是乐于在每篇文章里发现关于南京的内容。

Matthew Stedman has spent years living and working in China. He has sold Chinese tea in the UK, and loves discussing the miraculous leaf with new (and suspicious) audiences. He however never feels happier than when researching the product here in beautiful South China.

Matthew Stedman在中国生活工作了多年。多年在中英两国从事茶叶贸易的他，喜欢和新读者讨论神奇的东方树叶(虽然有时他的读者保持怀疑态度)。没什么比在美丽的江南走访品尝各种茶叶更让他开心的事了。

Legal columnist Carlo D'Andrea is Chair of the Legal & Competition Working group of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China; Shanghai Chapter, Coordinator of the Nanjing Working Group of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in China and has taught Chinese law (commercial and contractual) at Rome 3 University.

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Roy Ingram has over 25 years experience working as an artist and Creative Director. His early career was with agencies in London but for the past eight years he has lived and worked in Nanjing.

Roy先生有着超过25年的创意总监和艺术家的工作经历。他早期的职业生涯是在伦敦的一家机构里开始的，但是在八年前他决定来到南京生活工作。

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Forsaken Dreams

*Her dreams slipped away in the night.
Waking she found them gone -
Now nowhere to be seen -*

*Perhaps, she thought, stolen
By time's light-fingered thief
Or eroded maybe - gradually*

*Forgotten in the old locked drawer,
There left to moths and rust -
Replaced with shadows and lines.*

*The child inside of her cried for unicorns,
For forgotten lands of pixie dust
And dragon-shaped clouds.*

*The teenager rolled kohl-rimmed eyes -
Unsurprised that the adult
Could not understand*

*How delicate dreams require care
Like her fine filament necklace
From an unfaithful lover - lost.*

*Her younger woman smiled - reaching to where their
lost dreams flapped - trapped amid old night terrors
In an Obwije dream snare.*

*Wings frayed yet not beyond repair
Here- she sang - One more chance
To let them fly, set them to soar!*

*To let them sing for us once more.
But each was worried they could not- any one-
Take time to tend them anymore.*

By Maitiu Brallaghan '18

EDITORIAL

I Want More, Impossible to Ignore

This month sees the start of a new monthly column, Chomping Thru China, one which makes staff writer and Executive Editor Renée Gray Beaumont a pretty happy camper; therein read the tales behind some of China's culinary delights, some familiar, others less so, but all sure to tantalise an expat's taste buds.

So to our theme for this issue. Cade Wilburn herein presents the argument that our desires, in fact, only exist to prove worthiness or morality within our characters (p21-22), while we also discover that the search for a soul

mate in China can, for some, only begin after completing lessons at recently created "love schools" (p10-12).

Finally, our readership is overly aware of the crisis for housing in many western countries that has left many unable to buy their own home. In China, the exact opposite is the case (p14-15).

Welcome to "Dreams & Desire" from The Nanjinger.

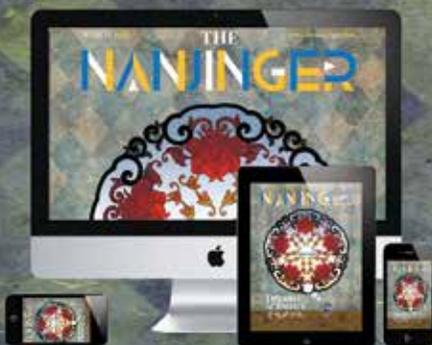
Ed.

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Fake Plastic Friends

True Love in Modern China

By *Renée Gray Beaumont*



A contestant on Jiangsu TV dating show "If You Are The One", shocked China a few years back when she famously said ***she would rather cry in a BMW car than laugh on the back of a bike.***

As you have probably guessed, the reason this was so shocking was that it clearly highlighted just how much Chinese society had changed from the not so distant days of its proletariat past.

According to the World Happiness Report of 2017, China is "no happier than 25 years ago", and notes that, "They attribute the dropping happiness in the first part of the period to rising unemployment and fraying social safety nets". As inequality continues to rise in China, so social pressures become stronger.



Fake Plastic Friends

Material wealth is now one of the most important things for which a middle class Chinese person strives, and with that is coming a shift in attitude towards social status. A member of the Nanjing CPPCC Municipal Committee, Hou Xiaodong, was recently quoted expressing his disgust toward a junior high school boy, who reportedly told him that, because the economic strength of his home is better, he will not date girls of a lower economic status.

Appalled, Hou proposed that Nanjing middle schools ought to begin teaching "love courses", in order to better teach children about how to look at love. The suggestion has some singing his praises and others up in arms. "When it comes to the topic of love, most parents automatically evade; the social attention is not enough, when students are in adolescence, schools have a heavy educational responsibility", Hou was quoted saying by Shanghai publication, The Paper.

'Schools have a heavy educational responsibility'

Nanjing No. 5 Senior High School psychology teacher, Yang Jingping, told reporters of female student woes, saying, "What if you were rejected? If you love him and gradually fall out of love, then what?" Yang believes in the importance of her course and hopes for more to open in schools around Nanjing.

Late middle school student, Kate Zhang, talking with the Nanjinger, said, "Perhaps the classes could be good for students, but not more me; I don't have time to worry about relationships. The girls and boys in my grade have relationships involved around buying things... They are proud to have girlfriends or boyfriends, but they don't know what love is. Girls will dump boys if they don't buy them things, they [girls] often demand boys buy them pencils and sweets, stuff like that. I think what they do is childish".

Su Liao Hua 塑料花 (plastic relationships)

"Su Liao Hua" is an Internet phrase that became popular in 2017, it translates as "not true friend", "fake friend" or more amusingly, "plastic friend". Kindergarten teacher Elaine Zhou used this phrase when she spoke with The Nanjinger and expressed her frustrations. "Love classes are necessary for middle schools because in this society, lots of people have lots of power. They know the power of 'love', but don't know how to use it properly, because they are... 'leng mo' (冷漠) or 'detached' from love. Their influence on their children is bad, and so in the future, this will filter down. Love needs to be taught to these kids; not just about romance but in all aspects. Su liao sister ships need to be cut!"

Fake Plastic Friends

‘People have lots of power, they know the power of love’

Early middle school student, Rosamonde Hu, told us, "Love classes are necessary because they can teach us how. In China now, lots of students don't know how to love. They view their friends as useful, nothing else. In many classrooms, if a student's parents have power or money, many students will want to make friends with her/him just because of the power".

Not all are in favour of the proposed love classes, however. The parent of a middle school girl, who wished not to be named, said, "The traditional Chinese concept [of love] has remained relatively conservative after thousands of years of evolution. This makes us unwilling to see the phenomenon of puppy love. Now information has developed, the child's horizons are opened by a lot of external factors, good and bad. Children are ignorant and when ignorant, if the deal is not good, it is easy to break the bottom line, which for children (especially girls) this will cause harm, and for this, Chinese parents are not willing to see! This of course is the common responsibility of society, schools and families.

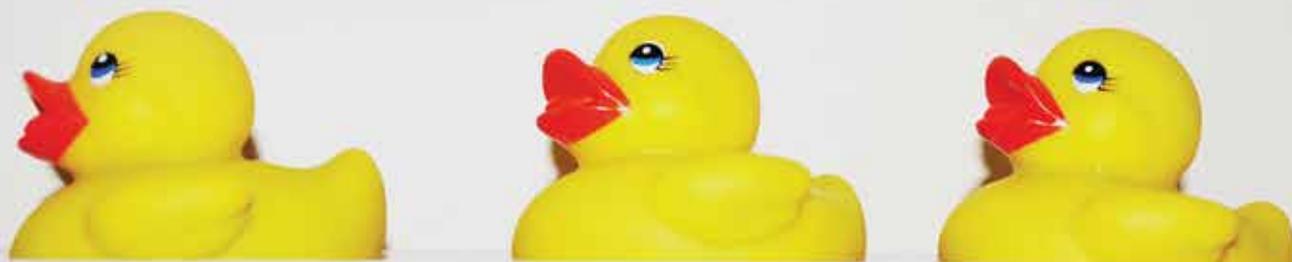
"If the so-called 'love course' is set up, I am not particularly in favour of it as a parent, that may be because I belong to the conservative group. However, if it is a form of psychological consultation, it is feasible. Setting up a love course, I think, will need good communication between schools and parents, and whether the government allows the opening of such

courses is not yet known! Although they can ease the children's concepts of love, I don't know whether it will further stimulate the hearts of children that will remain ignorant of the idea, and that worries me.

"There is now a focus on the pursuit of rich, beautiful and handsome partners, which seemingly has no problem, as beauty is in the heart of everyone, and everybody wants to live a rich and stable life, this is not wrong. The point is not to blindly pursue this, while ignoring the most important aspects of as a person's intrinsic nature. These are the indispensable factors that revolve around the concept of love, can children understand this? Can love classes grasp these basic principals? Is the content suitable for setting up a course in school? This is probably a question that needs to be discussed!"

“Indispensable factors that revolve around the concept of love, can children understand this?”

While the jury is still out on love classes, the rise in class separation and struggle amongst China's post 90s generation is clear. That which remains emphatically important in the Chinese education scene is academic and economic success. All else is left to the community and society as a whole. Su liao, or fake, relationships are very real and very present in modern Chinese society; they are found in kindergartens, retirement homes and everywhere in between. Can China's new-found wealth find a way of steering its next generation back onto the path of unrequited love? 🧡





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Dreams that Come True

A Nanjing lady, slightly advanced in years, was recently overheard to have asked her mixed-race grand daughter what she thought of her house in New Zealand. The little girl replied, "Well, it's quite nice, but it's a bit small, and kind-of old".

"Pa!" snapped the grand mother. "Just tell your parents to buy you a new one."

By Frank Hossack



DREAMS THAT COME TRUE

If there was ever a measure of how much China has caught up with the so-called developed world, one need look no further than the property market.

We read stories all the time of the sky rocketing prices for property in China; how the dream of becoming a homeowner is now as inaccessible to people here as it is in the West.

That was not quite what Xi Jinping had in mind when he coined the term “The Chinese Dream” upon his accession to power, while articulating his vision for the nation’s future back in 2012.

Hang on a second.

The above was all very true, until some interesting things started happening, things that have led to the present situation whereby an amazing 70 percent of Millennials (those aged between 20 and 37) on the mainland own their own home.

You read correctly; 70 percent.

Compare this with elsewhere. You know where this is going. That figure in the U.S.A. is 35 percent; in the U.K., 31 percent.

The survey, conducted by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, also revealed that of the remaining, malnourished 30 percent who do not yet own a home, 91 percent intend to purchase a property in the next few years.

Now, before we look further into the phenomenon, a diversion, into a psyche that takes buying property and makes it into both obsession and art.

It all comes down to China’s household registration system, known as the “hukou”. All kinds of administrative functions for the people, as individuals, are tied to the hukou. One of them is where their children can go to school, for free at least, for both primary and middle school.

In practice, this means that people need own a property before they can have a hukou and that the school their children can attend must be in the vicinity of the hukou registration.

This makes property prices near decent schools unfathomable.

The upper levels of property in Nanjing now have an asking price of ¥40,000 per square metre, meaning that a decent 100 square metre apartment is going to cost ¥4 million. This kind of money buys a castle almost anywhere else, while it is also a figure that has almost doubled in the last 2 years alone.

If we go just down the road to Shanghai, prices for city-centre property are now at ¥100,000 per square metre. Beijing is the same.

The aforementioned figure of 70 percent home ownership is seemingly and additionally all the more remarkable when the rise in property prices is compared with salaries. Many people could save for their entire lifetime and still not be able to buy a home.

Here comes the interesting part.

The country’s National New Urbanisation Plan, that aims to transform rural residents into their urban equivalent, includes an aim to help 100 million rural migrant workers to obtain an urban hukou in order to settle down in cities.

Settle down, yes. Buy property, no.

The same HSBC report referred to earlier also revealed, most interestingly, that of those who do not yet own property, 60 percent of non-locals in major cities want to purchase back in their hometown, not in their newly adopted home where they work.

For this is where prices are lower. Much lower. As much as 10 times lower. Now, everything becomes so much more affordable, and the astounding figure quoted near the start of this article becomes all the more believable.

This brings us to the reality of today. The real estate industry has generated the most number of billionaires in China, since it was privatised in 1997. That, according to the Hurun Report, means that China is now the country with the fastest wealth creation in history. 🏡

That’s a dream come true if ever there was one.



Motivation is the hunger that each of us have to go out and get what we desire. Each of our desires point us in the direction of our own individuality and purpose. Having a purpose gives us moral meaning to our lives. Therefore, we work to achieve our purpose.

Self-value is induced by both the opinions of others and for the sake of self-enrichment. Yet, the main objective of our journey is to prove worthiness or morality within character. The directions we take in life are strongly dependent on that to which we are exposed while growing up, ergo each of our desires derive from our social and cultural backgrounds.

Reshaping Our Desires

with International Mindedness

By Cade Wilburn

Being an American-born youth living in Nanjing, I have become aware of the variations between Chinese and Western culture in so far as they play a huge role in the ways we bring light to our dreams and desires.

In the past decade, international travel has become more and more accessible, and as a result, multi-cultural communities such as Nanjing have been able to quickly evolve. Take events such as the 2014 Youth Olympics, for example. Thousands of young competitors travelled from all around the world to compete in Nanjing, each bringing along their own individual story of how they got here. Although almost 4 years have passed since the sporting spectacle, it goes to show how much more multi-culturally enriched Nanjing has become. As capital of China in the early 1900s, Nanjing is responsible for a large amount of Chinese history while its cultural enrichment as well as that of other cities like it,

represent the overall development of China, in terms of its acceptance of other countries' ideas and perspectives.

After the Opium Wars (1839-1860) and the Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901), foreigners were not highly considered in China, a sentiment now prevalent in many other countries in the world. However, in Nanjing, and China at large, a new wave of acceptance and positivity has emerged in recent years. This has inevitably changed the outlook of both host and guest, creating a shift in values and desires at both ends of the spectrum. Moving away from the traditional collective ideologies of the past, many of my Chinese counterparts now show new desires for self-betterment and actively seek out different perspectives and ideas.

One of my Chinese classmates who has lived abroad spoke to *The Nanjinger* on how travelling and

RESHAPING OUR DESIRES

studying at an international school has affected their outlook, saying that, "[They have] developed a better overall perspective of cultures and a more cohesive personality". In addition to this, they said, "For a certain amount of time, I had thought that Western culture was much better than the conventional and conservative Chinese culture. However, when I was in Australia, I experienced a totally new culture and therefore, changed my mind. I realised that there is no culture that has absolutely no disadvantages". As a Chinese citizen, this just goes to show how much of an impact multi-cultural exposure can have.

As a former student at the Overseas Family School in Singapore and now enrolled in Nanjing, I have spent 6 years outside of my native country. Living abroad for such a length of time (a considerable proportion of my life) and being exposed to a variety of different cultures has allowed me to notice a lot more about culture itself, especially when I go back to visit the United States in the summers.

Being an international student in Singapore (as one of the most culturally-diverse countries in the world) has resulted in me making friends on a global basis; mainland China, Taiwan, Germany, Korea, India and so many more (not to mention my teachers as well). As I became a part of this international community, I slowly began to realise all of the possibilities that we each have within us.

A person's social background depends on factors involving their economic status, together with the culture and ideologies of where they grew up, in addition to all of the above as they relate to their family. All of these factors are clearly displayed in the personalities and motivational drives of students at international educational institutions all over Nanjing.

The learning of new languages and the history of different nations is very important for the future, and those aspects themselves give us more desire to achieve something big in life. Being exposed to so many different stand-points opens up our perspectives over life itself and unquestionably reshapes our desires as we figure out more about what we actually want to do in life and how we can make a difference.

Our time spent in Nanjing, specifically within an international environment, encourages the exchange of ideas and ethics between cultures, and can guide us in the direction of our discovering of our own desires and purpose for the future. 🌍



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Chomping Thru China

With Renée Gray Beaumont

The Trusty Lotus Root

There are two kinds of lotus varieties; one with pink or white flower (Chinese lotus), *Nelumbo nucifera*, which is found in Asia and northern Australia; another kind with yellow flowers (American lotus), *N. pentapetala*, found in the Americas.

The existence of lotus root in China can be traced back 7,000 years, according to Auburn University's LOTUS project, and Dr. Hongwen Huang, Director of the Wuhan Botanical Institute. Although it grew along the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers before that time, scientists are still divided as to the origins of the humble root; some claim India and others China.

In addition to the "common" lotus root (京塘莲藕) just discussed, one other variety also exists; the Jingtang lotus root, said to likely originate in Jintang, Guangzhou. However, for the most part of your culinary adventure in China, the former will be that you consume.

Chinese and Indian people have a strong symbolic connection with both the flower and the root, and as an aquatic plant, needing sunlight and water to grow. Flowers are grown and harvested in Wuhan, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing and Suzhou.

Along with its tantalising crispy, tangy taste and the many health benefits associated with the plant, not to mention that which it symbolises, together pretty much make it the top super food out there! The many benefits of lotus root include improving blood circulation, reducing stress, regulating blood pressure and improving digestion. It is also rich in vitamins A and C, improves heart health and helps manage weight.

Lotus root functions in very much the same way a potato does; however, it feels less starchy and heavy, and produces more flavour (although that's dependent on one's taste buds!). In China, as with many other things, lotus root can be presented to you in a variety of ways. As a seasoned lotus root eater, here is my pick for the most commonly found lotus root dishes in China.

Yunnan Fried Lotus Root Chips, with Pork and Chili
Sichuan Kung Pao Lotus Root
Spicy Lotus Root

Stir Fried Lotus Root with Vegetables
Crispy Stuffed Lotus Root with Pork
Lotus Root Congee
Steamed Lotus Root
Stuffed with Glutenous Rice
Stewed Lotus Root with Pork Belly
Pickled Lotus Root
Lotus Root Meat Balls in Gravy
Lotus Root Soup
Shredded Lotus Root

Serving as the muse of poets and scholars for thousands of years, it is often associated with peace, tranquillity and economic prosperity. The Chinese have not only been cooking with lotus for 3-5 thousand years, but all parts of the root are also used in Chinese medicine.

For the Shanghai Daily, Zhang Qian wrote, "An emperor in the Song Dynasty (AD 960-1279) had diarrhoea after eating too many hairy crabs. No medicine prescribed by royal doctors relieved the symptoms, so the emperor's father travelled in disguise among ordinary people to find a cure. He was surprised to see a bunch of lotus root nodes quickly sold out at a TCM pharmacy. The pharmacist told him that the lotus root nodes were a perfect medicine for diarrhoea, prevalent at the time. The father invited the pharmacist to treat his son. The emperor followed their advice to drink fresh juice from lotus root nodes, and quickly recovered."

In Chinese, medicine lotus root is "cold"; when cooked, it becomes "warm" and is used to cure such ailments as nose bleeding, abnormal uterine bleeding, coughing up blood, vomiting blood and blood in the urine and stool. It nourishes nerves, dispels pathogenic heat, moves bowels and removes blood stagnation.

Go out there and brave the menu; choose a lotus dish you have not yet tried. Send us a picture and let's see how many different ways we can enjoy lotus.

Peace.



STRAINER

By *Matthew Stedman*



Loaded Drinks

We can never borrow each other's mouths. I will never know what it means to taste the way you do, nor you me.

Then again, perhaps if we could try that, we would no longer be the sufficiently the same people we originally were to make the new observation meaningful...

Anyway, that imperfect empathy is part of the tragedy of writing and reading about food and drink. I also often wonder if my speculations on taste may be even less meaningful to someone who has a Y chromosome.

In Classical legend, there was the figure of Tiresias, who experienced life first as a woman, then a man. Sadly, none of the questions people queued up to ask the old man related to his gustatory functions, so we are still at a loss.

What science tells us about the human tongue suggests that men's and women's taste and smell are largely similar. Yes, there's an increased likelihood of a woman being a "super-taster", but that difference is probably more quantitative than qualitative; her tongue simply contains more taste receptors (nee 'buds').

Yet, we do readily assign masculinity or femininity to drinks, don't we?

Is Bacardi Breezer a "woman's drink"? Yes. Arguably, gender-loading was crucial to the conception of that one.

Is Chardonnay a "woman's drink"? If so, it has become so by association. A visit to the UK last month also suggests its place as a "be good to yourself, girl!" drink has been supplanted by Prosecco).

An international craft-beer renaissance is underway. But it is still the bearded hipsters drinking more of the stuff than the dungarees-

dress wearing hipsters. Beer, somehow, remains a "rough", "unrefined", "dude's" drink. I hate that word.

What inspired me to address this subject was a recent conversation about "ginger tea" (姜茶). This is a traditional "comfort" drink in China, once made by mothers, using black sugar [红糖] and boiled ginger. Yes, technically, there is no "tea" in it. Latterly, it has become popular as a sachet containing powder, added to hot water.

I was told just how gender-imbalanced is the market for this product. So firm is the belief that the product relieves monthly troubles for one half the population that the other half is scared of touching it.

Even more than the home-made version, the convenience version of this drink (flaunting female brand mascots and ambitious health claims) carries a stain. Men run a mile from it.

This is consistent with the theory that male disgust/insecurity drives most gender-specific marketing.

It is therefore a welcome relief to find how few teas in China have acquired such associations. Drinking leaf tea in China remains a truly unisex activity.

Sure, there are the tea names, such as Oriental Beauty (东方美人) and Goddess of Mercy (铁观音), as well as the recurring images of young girls picking leaves and performing tea ceremonies. But the drinking of these teas has never been the preserve of one sex.

Compared with western tea terms like "Builder's Brew" and "Lady Grey" (for the "floral" jasmine-scented version of bergamot black tea), Chinese tea remains unaffected by colour-coding conventions and gender envy.

Preview

Chinese Super League 2018

The Ping'an Chinese Super League (CSL) has returned, and kicked off on 2nd March. This new season brings 15 teams the challenge of dethroning Guangzhou Evergrande, after their winning of seven consecutive titles. Shanghai, Hebei, Tianjin and possibly our own Nanjing look like the main contenders. With new rules, managers and foreign players, the 2018 season seems to be tighter than ever before, while Dalian Yifang and Beijing Renhe are promoted from China League One to replace the relegated Yanbian and Liaoning.

Transfers

As of last summer, transfers have a 100 percent tax. If the transfer fee is less than ¥45 million, the same amount must be invested in the buyer club's budget for youth football; more than that amount, the tax must be paid to the government development fund. This rule was also intended to curb CSL clubs' spendthrift. During the last two winter transfer windows, CSL teams spent more than any other league in the world. In 2017, Chinese clubs spent almost US\$500 million; for this season the expenditure has

been almost five times less.

The Main Contenders

Shanghai SIPG have a managerial change after Andre Villas Boas decided not to extend his contract. Another Portuguese, Vitor Pereira, will be his replacement. Expected as the main team to fight Guangzhou Evergrande for the title, the club did not majorly engage during the transfer window and will bet on the continuity of its stars Oscar, Hulk, Ekelsom and Wu Lei.

Ex-Fiorentina coach, Paulo Sosa will take charge of third-place Tianjin Quanjian, where strikers Anthony Modeste and Alexandre Pato are expected to fight at the top goal scorers table. Hebei Fortune's confidence in the battle for the title is high after the big signing of Mascherano and being the second complete season of Manuel Pellegrini, as their manager gives the club a real chance in the season, but they have to gain consistency in the results. Nanjing local club, Fabio Capello's Jiangsu Suning, will try to fight back after a disastrous 2017 season. Palleta must bring experience to defence, a main problem last year, although departure on loan of Ben-

jamin Moukandjo to Beijing Renhe could be a weakness in attack. If new signing, ex-Juventus striker Richmond Boakye nets regularly, it might be a club to consider in the top four.

New Stars

After the main departures of Paulinho and Tevez, and contractual releases of Stephen Mbia and Jackson Martinez, other famous players have arrived to China's top football level. Probably the most famous and by far the most successful player to arrive is the ex-Barcelona and Argentinian vice-captain Javier Mascherano, who has signed to Hebei Fortune. French-born Congolese striker Cedric Bakambu has left Villareal to join Beijing Guo'An, while other players arriving from the Spanish League are midfielder Augusto Fernandez, who will play with Beijing Renhe, his ex-Atletico de Madrid's teammates Nicolas Gaitan and Yannick Carrasco, who join Dalian Yifang and Jonathan Viera, coming from Las Palmas, and going to Bakambu's new club. Finally, our own Jiangsu Suning have signed Italian 32-year old centre back Gabriel Palleta from AC Milan and Ghanaian striker Richard Boakye from Red Star Belgrade. 📺



FIVE THINGS THAT YOU PROBABLY DID NOT KNOW:

- 1 Cedric Bakambu became the most expensive African player ever.
- 2 Fabio Capello is the most successful coach participating in CSL; he has won 15 titles in his career as manager.

- 3 Zhang Xiuwei, from Tianjin Quanjian, was banned for 9 months for lying about his age.
- 4 Newcomers Dalian Yifang spent the most on transfers; \$66 million.



- 6 Left midfielder Song Boxuan was the highest transfer ever paid for a Chinese player; Tianjin Quanjian handed over \$3.2 million to Beijing Guo'An.



THE Trip

Dali; *Cool Kid* of China

By *Renée Gray*
Beaumont



“How much is this?” I asked the shop keeper, holding a handmade leather bag. It smelled raw and felt smooth, styled rustically. It brought me back to Chiapas, in the mountains of southern Mexico. A place that, just as with Dali, celebrates its indigenous craft and culture.

The rest of my time in Dali was spent in absolute amazement at just how similar these two places are, yet they sit opposite each other on either sides of the world. Furthermore, at roughly the same elevation above sea level (around 2,000m), both Dali in Yunnan, China and San Cristobal Del Las Cases in Chiapas, Mexico, are situated in ancient locations at the foot of a valley surrounded by mountains.



Before 1253, Dali was the capital of the Bai kingdom, and was known as Jumie. Situated between the plateaus of eastern Tibet and Yungui, it boasts a mild subtropical climate, while its Mexican counterpart sits in the Central Highlands enjoying mild subtropical conditions. Geographically, environmentally and culturally, the uncanny similarities between the two help restore faith in the theory that the ancient Mayan peoples of Chiapas indeed walked over from Africa, settled in Eurasia before migrating onto the Americas, from perhaps Dali itself.

It was a couple of days before Spring Festival when we arrived early in the evening. We plonked our bags and went out for a bite. The trip was long and tiring; 15 hours of travel helped our first Dali beers go down a treat. We had taken a flight from Nanjing to Kunming followed by a 3-hour wait at the airport before a 4-hour bus ride. Due to the time of year, prices for flights direct to Dali from Nanjing were astronomical.

Known locally as Dali Old Town, it is distinctly different from Dali New Town, which is exactly as the name describes. Strolling down one of the Old Town's main walking streets it is easy to see that, for once, the "ancient" buildings you see in front of you are indeed ancient. It feels old, it looks old and it smells old, omitting an aura of wisdom and tranquillity.

Coming from Nanjing, we did not expect to be sunburnt on our first day. Beaming vitamin D and good vibes all over the city is spectacular sunlight that shines all day long. After sunset, a light jacket is needed in order to step out and enjoy Dali's nightlife. Electronic music bars sit side by side reggae lounges and rock pubs, which all host live acts every single night, something Nanjing lacks.

The Yunnan people of Dali are so chilled out that they seem a world away from their Northern workaholic

countrymates. People can be seen lazing about in the sun outside cafés such as at corner favourite, Serendipity. They read, they play guitar, they chat and drink coffee or tea; they don't seem stressed, they look happy and content, and it's an infectious vibe.

After a few days of slowing down and living like a Dalian, we found our bodies and minds completely surrendering to this ancient town and its wise ways. In San Cristobal, pregnant women would make the pilgrimage there from all around the world in order to give birth; they make use of Mayan midwifery and bask in the area's natural vibes. It is my suspicion that these ancient mountainous regions of the world have been fortunate enough to freeze the wisdom of the past that works at one with the environment by which it is surrounded.

Dali is not immune, however, to the lure of capitalism, as the streets are filled with tourist traps. Although one can get a feeling for Yunnan cuisine anywhere one lives in China, the freshness in Dali is second to none. Drinking water flows from the mountains and down into the town, where it is used to wash organic vegetables that have been grown locally, and that sit outside restaurants for guests to select; a luxury not even the riches of Nanjing can afford.

Dali is colourful, bright and a testament to local government efforts to preserve its ancient feel. Nearby is Erhai Lake, huge and surrounded by mountains and small villages. While a large part of its environs area is under construction, efforts to utilise Dali's abundant sunlight it is evident in the public use of solar power.

Begrudgingly, we left Dali, making our way to the train station where we boarded a 7 hour sleeper train for Kunming. The gentle rocking of the train lulled us to sleep, where our dreams of a Dali life have solidified in our imaginations ever since.

Eccentric Encounters & Salty Solutions



On the top floor of the flashy Deji Plaza is a recently opened art museum which is showing an exhibition of the "Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou", a group of artists who flocked to Yangzhou in the 18th century to cash in on the deep pockets of salt merchants during the city's period of prosperity. One would naturally assume there are eight members in the group, but in fact the list is disputed with around 14 painters associated with the Yangzhou Eccentrics, all of whom are represented in the exhibition on show until May.

While it is impossible to define a single style for the group of artists, they are known for their expressive brushwork and spontaneous or unusual composition, breaking away from rigid painting formats that existed at the time.

For Bian Shoumin, that meant brisk, confident brush strokes in his rendering of water reeds and wild geese. Scroll after scroll, he addressed the same subject matter with a safe and pleasant colour palette. It is not surprising he became known among friends as Luyanbian, literally "Reed and Goose Bian".

Gao Fenghan's technique, on the other hand, is anything but expressive in his highly photographic portrait of an elderly man. Composed and peaceful, the figure gazes into the distance, his wispy beard hairs a diaphanous veil over spine tingling fingernails that rival today's taxi drivers'. The portrait fills a circular space in the centre of the hanging scroll outlined by a fine white glow, giving the sense it protrudes from the painting, casting away from the calligraphy surrounding it which stays firmly put on the silk surface.

Shortly after finishing this scroll, Gao's painting style changed dramatically as he lost ability in his right hand and had no choice but to use his left. Unfortunately however, the exhibition lacks any of his later left-handed works which would provide an engaging comparison.

The Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou as a term only came to be used around a century after the artists were active, meaning not all members of the group were contemporaneous. Luo Pin was but a toddler when Gao passed away and is the youngest to be identified in the Yangzhou group. Yet, his paintings are perhaps the most outlandish.

With slick calligraphic contours, Luo conjures up his oddball characters with admirable effortlessness in his eight-part hand scroll of ghosts. Using only a dozen or so lines, the artist expertly captures the gestures and emotions of his subjects as they drift and run through washy ethereal backgrounds. I can't help but laugh at the cloaked creature with his exaggerated bald head and stealth determination as he chases two fearful mortals. The amusement a painting almost 250-years old can still bring is testament to the success of Luo as an artist.

Luo's obsession with ghosts may well have been linked to the tragedy that left him orphaned at a young age, but he was recognised in adolescence for his artistic ability and taken on by fellow Yangzhou Eccentric Jin Nong, who acted as both mentor and father figure. Known in particular for his thick and boxy calligraphy, Jin was so successful during his time that often he asked Luo to paint on his behalf, before signing each finished piece to sell.

To whom a painting should be credited is an issue not limited to Jin. Zheng Xie of the Yangzhou Eccentrics also openly forged the paintings of his friends, while others did so in secret, exploiting their profitability to sell to affluent patrons. But before we can decipher the shams from the originals, we have much to learn, making it worth the visit to Deji Art Museum's current display.

"The Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou" at Deji Art Museum, F8, Deji Plaza 2. Finishes May, open Tuesday-Sunday 10:00-22:00; Monday 14:00-22:00. Entrance is ¥100.

OUR SPACE

GASTRONOMY *By Renée Gray Beaumont*

Out Of Africa; Xinjiekou Grooves to Ghana

Have you ever gone online to see what "Western" or "international" food options there exist in Nanjing? Perhaps you were looking for a new place to take your friends? Or perhaps you were looking for somewhere to host your work party? For whatever the reason, you continued to search... and search... and search. With a heavy heart you said to yourself, why do I even bother? I know there isn't going to be anything aside from the handful that have really made it in Nanjing.

I guess it takes time to really "internationalise" a city, perhaps a city's international food selection says a lot about its international community as a whole. So with that said, it gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Chaley! Pronounced with the English "ch" not the French "sh" (I was told is how people greet each other in Ghana), this place is helping give Nanjing that true international feel.

Moving what was Calabash on Shanghai Lu to a new location further downtown, brain child, co-owner and resident chef Paa, moved to Nanjing in order to study architecture. He found himself, however, cooking his mother's recipes in his dormroom before the popularity of West African comfort



grew so much he began making deliveries all over Nanjing by bike. The obvious next step was to open his own place.

With fellow partner in crime and front man, Lloyd, helping to realise that dream, this dynamic duo walk the walk on what it means to eat and talk African food. As a child, Paa spent time in his mother's kitchen; while doing the washing up, he watched and learned. Why fix something that isn't broken? Better yet, add something new and make it your own. With a creative blend of his mother's recipes and his help from Pinterest, Paa serves up some finger lickin' goodness indeed.

First up, soup, and my, was it to die for! This creamy peanut soup had a flavour in it I couldn't quite put my finger on, which is what made it so exciting. Slightly orange in colour, this peanut goodness is rich, yet light and playful on the tongue, while we also sampled the palm nut soup; mildly spiced yet rich in colour.

Next, barbecued skewers. Now, for those lovers of barbecue out there severely disappointed with Chinese fat flaps at their local BBQ joint, get yourself down to Chaley. Big, marinated, smoky, melt-in-your-mouth chunks of lamb really did have me pondering and picturing myself on an African beach, sunglasses on with the smell of barbecue in the air.



The "piece de resistance" came in the form of grilled chicken thigh accompanied by jollof rice, two spiced sauces, coleslaw and a boiled egg on a banana leaf, a generously-sized homely dish. In addition, we munched our way through grilled fish (sourced from the Guangdong African community) and banku, a Ghanaian dish cooked by mixing together fermented corn and cassava dough. This takes some getting used to, but together with the fish and spices, it was a culinary adventure.

Disappointed as I was that the ice cream was all out, but from what we heard, "I'll be back" to try it, as homemade coconut ice cream with rum and berry jam sounds too mouthwateringly tempting to pass up. When you make the trip to Chaley, settle yourself down at the bar for a few very reasonably priced pre dinner drinks; three lagers on tap at ¥25, ¥38 for a house wine and at prices unheard of in

Xinjiekou, cocktails go for ¥35-40. Meals come reasonably priced as well, in the ¥25-60 range.

The Nanjinger however, felt the trip to the toilet to be a rather arduous trek, as one needs to use the neighbouring hotel. Yet, if it is this is all we can fault them on, that's saying something. The safari in your mouth awaits.

Vegan options also available.

Chaley is located at No. 136 Zhongshan East Rd (next to the Hanting Hotel) 中山东路136号 (汉庭酒店旁边)

Tel: 13160020121 / 15651725575. 📍

GASTRONOMY *By Frank Hossack*

Cantina Identity Crisis; but Solid Mexican Fare

Nanjing has had more than its fair share of bad luck when it comes to Mexican restaurants, an opening statement perhaps best illustrated by a 2014 TripAdvisor review of the now-defunct, long timer Behind the Wall, calling it "Maybe the worst restaurant in China".

Valentina's opened amid a trickle of publicity a few years back, to only just as quietly disappear after every foreign student near its Nanjing University location had been, once.

Then there is Tacos. At worst, it's still open. At best, its name is as near to Mexico as it gets.

On the happy end of things, Axis Mexican Cantina has been doing a solid and consistent job, despite its flop of a second location in Hexi, and is poster child for a government backed scheme to provide start up capital to young entrepreneurs.

More recently, however, the gloves have really come off, with the opening of Luga's. Fresh from the infamous Sanlitun in Beijing, our fair southern capital has been decreed worthy, by Luga himself, to be second in his empire of (mostly) Mexican eateries.



As for a locale, Luga's has opted, very sensibly, for the re-envisioned 1912 in Jiangning that has been enjoying something of a renaissance over the last year. Certainly it is a huge improvement on the its downtown forefather that is the city's premier destination for hedonism.

There is, however, a bit of a hodgepodge going on at Luga's, a kind of all-bases-covered approach to the menu that ensures profitability, if not authenticity. While we could have pushed the boat out and gone for the Italian offerings, and there are plenty, perhaps even adding in a steak or two and maybe a salmon pasta, for the purposes of this review The Nanjinger felt it best to concentrate on those ubiquitous Mexican favourites.

To begin, Jalapeno Poppers (¥65) consisting of six flash-fried, breadcrumb coated Jalapeno peppers stuffed with mozzarella cheese complimented by Chili Cheese Fries (¥55). At Luga's both are perfection itself.



Then there came the highlights; beef steak fajitas and chicken tacos (¥65). Once again, impossible to fault; the former's meat cuts deliciously succulent and the latter cooked to just the right degree of crispness.

The only disappointment was the chicken quesadillas (¥68), and it's quite possible "disappointment" is too strong a word; this correspondent being far from the biggest fan of the flour tortilla.

As for the liquid end of things, The Nanjinger sampled mango juice, a delicious IPA and a Mojito refreshingly made with very little of that sugar which sinks to the bottom to be sucked up in a straw full. Good job.

With an open plan layout and glass across three walls, Luga's could be construed as the goldfish bowl of 1912. Yet, this is one tank one is happy to sit in, for most of the afternoon.

Membership program offering fairly generous discounts also available, along with various daily specials.

Luga's is located in 1912 beside Baijia Lake in Jiangning District (next to the musical fountain) 江苏省南京市江宁区百家湖1912街区卢卡斯餐厅酒吧 (音乐喷泉附近)

Tel: 86166385. 📍



Providing a platform for ideas worth spreading and organised by teachers and student volunteers at Nanjing International School, the second TEDxYouth@NIS presented another series of interesting talks, from artists, entrepreneurs, farmers, students, teachers and musical connoisseurs, in both English and Mandarin!



Talk Talk Talk Talk

3 March, 2018



If you would like to see photos from your event on these pages, contact us via thenanjinger@sinoconnexion.com. Conditions apply.

The British School of Nanjing prepared for the Year of the Dog with an exciting start to the day that was the Chinese New Year Assembly, with entertainment and traditional Chinese performances, followed by various activities and a splendour of colour with traditional Chinese Dress Up Day outfits worn by students, teachers and staff!

Diamond Dogs

9 February, 2018



The Nanjing Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment joined forces with many of the city's chambers of commerce to present Global Food Exchange in Nanjing's 1865 Culture & Creativity Park, whereby the international community celebrated International Women's Day and shared their love of cooking and, er, eating, with a panel of judges awarding scores to participants and prizes for the winners.

Savoy Truffle

8 March, 2018



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Nanjing International School Chinese New Year festivities united both culture and joy, showcasing the symbolic Dragon and Lion Dance and the "Hongbao", followed by student assemblies, including dance, Tai Chi, Chinese pop songs, a fashion show with traditional Chinese poetry by teachers and an astounding violin performance; the "Butterfly Lovers".



Howlin' for You

9 February, 2018



It was a festive time at EtonHouse International School Nanjing with Early Years, Primary School and Secondary School students joining forces to create a performance for their families and guests. Students showcased their skills in a wide variety of Chinese cultural activities from music, dance and Tai Chi to Yue opera and martial arts.

Cracker Jack

6 February, 2018



If you would like to see photos from your event on these pages, contact us via thenanjing@sinocommexon.com. Conditions apply.



A Legal Dose of Desire

Everyone has desires, but we often think that desire should be limited and that the law is the last line we can draw in terms of applying it. But what we do not know, and what can surprise us, is that too much of a limit on desire may in fact be illegal.

Zhang Liang (pseudonym), a citizen of Weihai, Shandong province, has been married to his wife for 2 years. At some point, his wife asked Zhang to hand over his bankcard because he was such a big spender. After the birth of their baby, the wife worried that the family's expenses might be too large and that she could not make ends meet. After confiscating the bankcard, the wife gave her husband ¥1,000 per month. Soon after, Zhang realised that he had little money and became panicked. He went out to dinner with his friends, bought game cards and cigarettes, resulting in his monthly allowance being completely spent in just 2 weeks. He reached out to his wife for money, but she subsequently turned him down and complained that he did not care about his family. Zhang began to grow very depressed, and believed his wife had implemented a form of domestic violence on him. He and his wife argued several times, often ending with the pair giving each other the respective "cold shoulder"; their relationship deteriorating as a result.

Zhang's relationship with his wife is commonplace, but could such a limitation be considered domestic violence?

In fact, the Anti-domestic Violence Law of the People's Republic of China, Article 2 states, "For the purpose of this Law, 'domestic violence' means the inflicting of physical, psychological or other harm by a family member on another by beating, trussing, injury, restraint and forcible limits on personal freedom, recurring verbal abuse, threats and other means". And according to the Interpretation of the Supreme People's Court on Several

Issues Concerning the Application of the Marriage Law of the People's Republic of China (I) Article 1, "the term 'family violence' as mentioned in Articles 3, 32, 43, 45 and 46 of the Marriage Law, refers to a behaviour whereby a person causes a certain consequence of physical or mental injuries to his or her family member(s) by blow, binding, cruel injury, forced restriction of personal freedom or by other means".

Recurring or frequent family violence constitutes maltreatment, and therefore domestic violence is far more than punching and kicking and other forms of physical abuse; it also includes mental attack or abuse.

Therefore, it turns out it may be illegal to limit a family member's desire for consumption. To determine whether or not it is indeed domestic violence, we need look specifically at the impact of this approach on family members. Some people spend very little, go to work and eat with little additional expenditure. Perhaps for people living in Weihai, as little as ¥500 each month is enough on which to live. As a result, the confiscation of a bankcard to limit the spending of money would not amount to a form of domestic violence.

However, in the case of Zhang and his wife, confiscating his bankcard restricts his expenditure, which in turn affects his life, and results in Zhang feeling controlled. With the couple's relationship suffering accordingly, this can be deemed as domestic violence. Due to the concealment of such forms of domestic violence, this kind of abuse is seldom known to outsiders and even the parties involved may not realise that they are themselves the perpetrators of domestic violence.

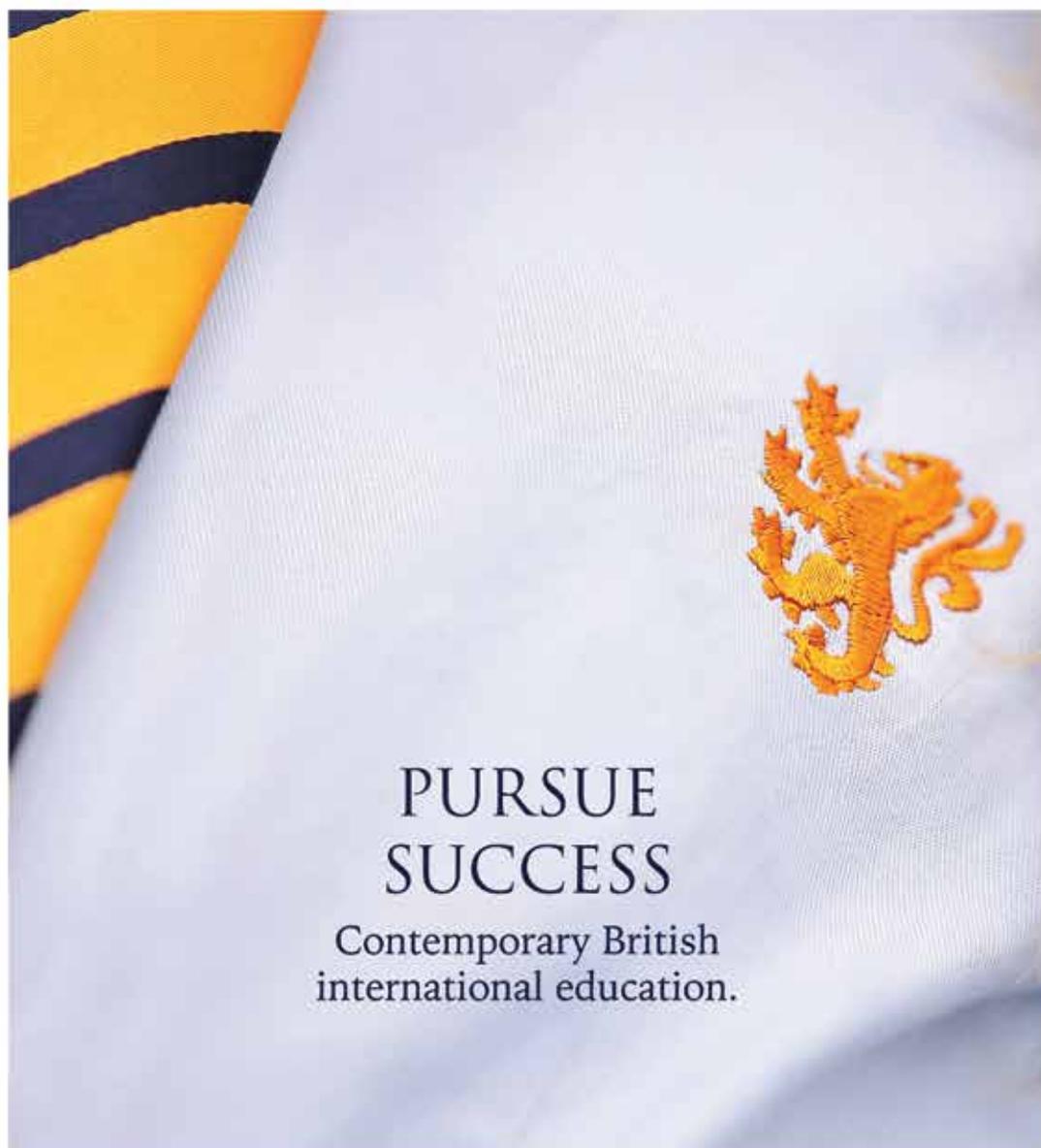
A certain degree of limiting our desires can be a good thing; it makes the desired more desirable, but one should remember to keep it under the legal dose.

DISCLAIMER

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To assist with journey planning, The Nanjinger's Metro Map includes first and last train times for every station.



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