

山寨 Shanzhai Times

WAR OF THE WORLDS

The Guardian
August 24, 2002

It has become synonymous with the terrorist attacks of September 11 - but what is the origin of the name al-Qaida? Giles Foden on how Bin Laden may have been inspired by Isaac Asimov's Foundation continued on

CHINESE FIRMS SEE A PROFIT IN SWIMMING STARS' NAMES

Li Qian

TWO Chinese companies are hoping to profit from the world renown of China's swimming sensations at the 2012 Olympics, Ye Shiwen and Sun Yang.

Long before their triumphs in London, a gardening company in Sichuan Province and a dietary supplement producer in Henan Province filed trademark applications related to their names.

Last month, China's top market watchdog gave Chengdu Huabohui Gardening Co Ltd preliminary approval to build a business around the trademark "YESHIWEN."

However, Henan Hongsheng Health Industry Service Co Ltd's application to use "SUNYANG" is still under consideration, according to the Trademark Office of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce's website.

Records showed that Huabohui entrusted a local intellectual property agency to file its application on August 16 last year, 22 days after the then 15-year-old swimmer sprung a surprise in winning the women's 200 individual medley at the FINA World Championships in Shanghai.

Websites containing Ye's name, such as yeshiwen.com, yeshiwen.com.cn, and yeshiwen.net, have been registered, and other Chinese Olympic champions, veteran lifter Wang Mingjuan and shooter Yi Siling, face similar issues, Chengdu Economic Daily reported yesterday.

However, companies who register celebrities' names as trademarks are likely to face intellectual property infringement cases because renowned athletes would not likely allow other parties to make money by taking advantage of their reputations, Qian Yuanchun, a Shanghai lawyer, said.

He said that celebrities could lodge complaints with the national office to have such trademarks revoked.

In February, basketball legend Michael Jordan filed a lawsuit claiming that Fujian Province-based Qiaodan Sports Co Ltd deliberately and aggressively using his name without permission and misled customers into thinking he authorized its goods.

Jordan accused Qiaodan Sports of filing more than 100 trademark

applications related to his name and alleged that company's logo was a silhouette of the former Chicago Bulls star in action.

Shanghai No. 2 Intermediate People's Court has accepted the suit as Shanghai Bairen Trade Co Ltd, the sales subsidiary of Qiaodan Sports in Shanghai, is also listed as a defendant.

On the other hand, fellow NBA star Jeremy Lin didn't take a sports utility company in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, to court even though it had registered "Jeremy Lin Shuhao" trademarks without his authorization.

"I was impressed by his talent when I was watching an NBA game on TV in July 2010. I sensed that he would become an NBA superstar someday," said Yu Minjie, owner of the company.

The company spent just 4,460 yuan (US\$699.77) on trademark registration last August. Forbes magazine believes the trademarks are now worth around 100 million yuan.

If the Harvard point guard wants to use his Chinese name as a trademark, he has to get Yu's approval because she owns the trademarks until August 2021.



Tearing another hole in the airport security net

ANDREW BLANKSTEIN
AND HOWARD BLUME

Virgin America Flight 415 from New York to Los Angeles was already two hours into its journey when some passengers in the upscale "Main Cabin Select" section complained that the man seated in 3E reeked of body odor.

A flight attendant asked Olajide Oluwaseun Noibi for his boarding pass and was surprised to see it was from a different flight and in someone else's name. She alerted authorities, and Noibi went back to sleep in his black leather airline seat. When the plane landed, authorities chose not to arrest Noibi, allowing him to leave the airport.

On Wednesday, Noibi was arrested trying to board a Delta flight out of Los Angeles. Once again, he had managed to pass undetected through security with an expired ticket issued in someone else's name. Authorities found at least 10 other boarding passes, none of which belonged to him: [See Stowaway, A22]

Washington Post Foreign Service

FAMILIAR LOGO ON UNFAMILIAR EATERIES IN IRAQ

Kurdish Entrepreneurs Bring In a Taste of the West



SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq -- This dusty town near the Iranian border does not yet have a McDonald's. But it does have a MaDonal, as well as a Matbax, both of which sell cheeseburgers and french fries using an unmistakably familiar pair of golden arches. It is the only city in Iraq with mobile telephone service and has dozens of shops selling electronics. It has liquor stores with shelves full of Tennessee whiskey and Dutch beer, plus Internet cafes offering espresso.

This ethnically Kurdish town in the rounded mountains of northern Iraq has, in short, a thriving private economy, albeit one not fully calibrated to the finer points of international copyright. Its free-flowing, free-market ways are the result of the independence it has known for the past decade from the rule of Saddam Hussein.

Now, with Hussein gone and market forces beginning to seep into Iraq, the Kurdish areas of the north seem likely to take the lead in the development of a private sector, serving as a sort of incubator for capitalism in the rest of the country. Trading networks are already established here, with merchants well versed in how to move products into Iraq from neighboring Turkey and Iran. Goods have traveled overland the other way as well, reaching Iran after transiting here from the port of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, by way of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and Turkey.

"This place has been a very important place for transit," said Assan Hawrmy, a local agent for an Iranian trading company. "In business, he who is strong will remain so no matter who is in government. We will get the benefit of these 10 years. We have connections and experience. Maybe the Kurdish will be the leaders in the market."

Under Hussein, private businesses were largely discouraged. Those that did pop up were taxed heavily and subject to random confiscations of goods. But after the 1991 Gulf War, this area became essentially severed from the rest of Iraq.

continued on

MALL IS ALL FOR FAKES



The Sun (England)
January 6, 2009 Tuesday

A SHOPPING mall is to open for fake stores only. The centre has a Pizza Hut lookalike named "Pizza Huh", a "McDnoald's" burger bar and a "Bucksstar" coffee shop. But city leaders in Nanjing, in China's Jiangsu Province, are under pressure to shut the development after pictures of the fake stores were leaked online. One shopper said: "It's dishonest. A lot of people will walk in thinking they are getting the real thing."

SHOCKING EVOLUTION OF FAKE PRODUCTS IN CHINA

Korea Times
October 6, 2011

China has been confirmed as a hot bed of bootlegs again recently. Not only just selling imitations, it has parodied or recreated the original ones as well.

While just counterfeiting the external appearance of cell phones in the past, now it has added new function in the products. On top of that, it even shows the latest model of popular brands, which is not released yet in the market.

For example, although iPhone 5 is not released yet, 'self-claimed iPhone 5' has already sold all across China.

The Chinese government confiscated 561 fake iPhones in Fuzhou, the capital of Chinese southeastern province of Fujian, according to Xinhua News Agency on Monday. 'They looked 90 percent genuine in terms of design, finish and operating system,' Xinhua reported. Attached an Apple logo on its back, the labeled iPhone 5 featured functions such as double SIM card compatibility and GPS, which the real iPhone does not have. Because of these reasons, some people have said that the fake one is better than the real one, according to the news agency.

'The sliding touch screen menu worked very slowly and photographs captured by its low-resolution camera were blurry. Meanwhile, its double SIM card function was unstable,' said one of officials of the Fuzhou authorities.

There is another story. A restaurant has parodied the Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), one of the most famous fast food restaurants in China. The store in Beijing set up its sign on Oct. 3 which reads 'OFC,' meaning 'Obama Fried Chicken.' The sign shows a face of U.S. President Barack Obama instead of Colonel Sanders who founded KFC. The small restaurant will open Saturday to sell hamburgers and fried chickens.

The U.S. media such as the New York Post extensively reported the OFC last Tuesday, after it became known to the public through the Chinese blogs. 'It is very insulting and rude behavior,' said Al Sharpton, a Republican Representative, after seeing the sign which uses the president's name illegally. The KFC has also felt unpleasant. 'OFC is not related to KFC,' said one of the officials from KFC based in Beijing. 'It is definitely sure that they pirated its trademark, so we are going to take legal action against the store.' we are going to take legal action against the store.'

WELCOME TO CHINA'S FAKE APPLE STORE



The Atlantic Wire, July 20, 2011
By Uri Friedman

When Apple announced record-high quarterly revenues and profit yesterday, COO Tim Cook noted that China--where the company's four stores bring in the most traffic and revenue of any Apple stores in the world--was "key to our results." That growing popularity among Chinese consumers, however, may also explain the incredible discovery an American living in Kunming, the capital of China's southwestern Yunnan Province, revealed on her blog, Bird Abroad, today: an elaborate and strikingly realistic fake Apple store.

The whole thing began innocently enough. A couple weeks ago, the blogger and her husband stumbled upon what appeared to be an Apple store near their house. The scene, pictured above, had all the trappings of the company's iconic retail outlets. There was the winding staircase, the Genius Bar and upstairs sit-and-play-with-our-products area, the employees with blue T-shirts and Apple name tags, at there were also suspicious signs. Kunming, as the blogger put it, "is the end of the Earth." Why would there be an Apple store there? What's more, the stairs were shoddy, the walls were painted poorly, the employees' name tags only said "staff." And then there was the matter of the signs. Apple Store signs generally just show the company's trademark fruit symbol. The Kunming store's signs read, "Apple Store."

All this evidence--plus the rather damning fact that Apple's website showed only four stores in Beijing and Shanghai--led the blogger to conclude that the store was a "beautiful ripoff" (an Apple spokesperson later confirmed to MSNBC that it doesn't have a retail outlet in Kunming, though it does have a reseller in another part of the city). Perhaps even more surprising, the blogger claims that the store's employees "genuinely think they work for Apple ... when really they're just filling the pockets of some shyster living in a prefab mansion outside the city by standing around a fake store disinterestedly selling what may or may not be actual Apple products that fell off the back of a truck somewhere."

The blogger soon discovered two more fake Apple stores nearby, including this gem:



The fact that Chinese counterfeiters ripped off an entire Apple store is funny. The Financial Times notes, but the discovery is also "a worrying development for Apple and Steve Jobs" and a "serious embarrassment to the Chinese government, which has been trying to crackdown on counterfeits and IP infringements." ZDNet adds that "Apple's job will be to shut down the stores. But the rip-off stores are probably just the tip of the iceberg. Apple is likely to have a lot more counterfeit fires to put out as it enjoys crazy growth in China."

IN CHINA, APPLE MAKES STOVES?



By Deborah Netburn
February 27, 2012

IStove? iDon't think so. Chinese officials have confiscated nearly 700 stoves branded with Apple's trademark logo from two warehouses in Wuhan, a city in the Hubei province in Southeast China, according to Chinese news reports.

In photographs circulating around the Internet, a green sticker affixed to the simple stove top not only has an image of Apple's apple, but also bears the word "iPhone."

Apparently it's no longer enough to do an Apple knockoff, now they are slapping the Apple brand names on products that have nothing to do with what Apple makes.

The small gas stoves, which come with just one burner, were reportedly confiscated because they were deemed unsafe, rather than for ripping off the Apple logo.

After all, this is the country where authorities have seized dozens of real Apple tablet computers from store shelves in northern China over a legal argument over who owns the trademark to the name "iPad."

The iPhone stove is just the latest in a series of examples of Chinese entrepreneurs' experiments in counterfeit Apple products.

In August 2011, an American blogger living in China exposed an entire fake Apple store in the city of Kunming. The store looked like an Apple Store -- blond wood, workers in those blue T-shirts, but somehow didn't quite feel like an Apple store. And that's because it wasn't.

And it turned out there were at least 25 more fake Apple stores in Yunnan province alone.

Other fake Apple products to come out of China in the past year include Apple-branded high-top sneakers and an Apple-branded USB hub.



Double trouble in Shanghai

In-N-Out fights to guard its signature brand in Asia

TIFFANY HSU
REPORTING FROM
LOS ANGELES

DAVID PIERSON
REPORTING FROM SHANGHAI

Millions of Chinese have come to love Big Macs and Whoppers. So when a California-inspired chain put up signs in Shanghai announcing the coming of the Double-Double, local burger lovers rejoiced.

The same can't be said of In-N-Out.

The Irvine-based company doesn't operate any stores in China. So its owners were miffed to see a red-and-yellow doppelganger called CaliBurger laying claim to its signature burger, touting "Animal Style" fries topped with cheese, special



CALIBURGER touted a "Double-Double" burger in China until In-N-Out filed a trademark lawsuit.

sauce and onions, and planning to serve thick shakes in palm-tree-print cups.

Enforcing its intellectual property rights half a world away might seem a challenge for privately held In-N-Out, whose cult following belies its modest size. But it

turns out CaliBurger's founders were Americans with company offices in Diamond Bar.

They agreed to tweak CaliBurger's menu and decor after In-N-Out filed suit in U.S. District Court in [See Burgers, A6]

CHINESE IPHONE, SAMSUNG, MOTOROLA KNOCKOFFS USE CREATIVE SPELLING



By David Sarno
April 26, 2012, 5:00 a.m.

Everyone knows Apple is popular in China -- so popular that people riot outside Apple's stores, or set up fake stores, or just crank out fake iPhones.

On a recent trip to an electronics bazaar in Shanghai, we spotted a few of the most blatant of these knockoffs. Amusingly, the phones on display didn't look anything like actual iPhones -- instead, the manufacturers concentrated their piracy efforts on attempting to replicate the spelling of the names of popular devices and brands.

Those efforts went humorously awry. For the iPhone: iPhence and iPheno. For Motorola: Motoralo and Motcrolv. For Samsung: Smusvng. For Nokia: Nioka.

For those wondering, Changchong is an actual Chinese electronics and smartphone maker, although "Changchong" is not. Speaking of Apple knockoffs, Changchong recently announced its plans for its "Ciri smart voice TV," which includes the following flourish in the product description: "There is a intangible fairy in the smart TV, after the consumers buy Ciri TV, they not only get a actual TV, but also get a lovely and functional family member."

Although China is a font of funny misspellings and translations, it bears mentioning that electronics piracy is not all fun and games. Besides the obvious issues of intellectual property theft, phone fakery may have led to at least one violent death. A Shanghai online publication reported that a man stabbed someone to death after getting in an altercation over the sale of fake iPhones.

COUNTERFEITS A GREAT DANGER TO CONSUMERS

The Nation (Nairobi)
October 5, 2011
By Esmond Shahonyia

A recent survey carried out by the Quality Control Laboratories and Pharmacy and Poisons Board has alarming facts indicating that 30 per cent of drugs in Kenya are fake. This is part of the growing menace of counterfeit goods.

In the health sector, the dangers posed by fake drugs range from death to emergence of drug-resistant pathogens. Counterfeit drugs have dire consequences for unsuspecting patients.

In the world of electrical appliances and electronics, the message to consumers is that fake products can be quite troublesome and deadly. Fake electrical goods can cause electrocution or start fires.

To show the extent of the dangerous trade, the Communications Commission of Kenya earlier expressed concern over the growing numbers of fake mobile phones in the market. It directed the operators to switch them off by the end of the year because of the dangers they posed. Mobile phone users are being exploited by unscrupulous traders who peddle fake hand-sets that might pose health risks because they are not compatible with international standards.

Counterfeit products have become challenges for the entire business community. Their proliferation is a pointer to lapses in regulation and weak law implementation. The scourge of counterfeits is exacerbated by the ease with which fake products can be manufactured and circulated due to corruption and laxity among law enforcers. Poor vigilance and loopholes in the regulatory mechanisms, in addition to greed, have led us to this pass.

Manufacturers and distributors of fake products are devilishly smart. That's why the government wants to eradicate the menace for consumers who cannot distinguish between genuine and fake goods. In many cases, even the packaging is replicated to exact precision.

Besides, the so-called cheap mass production for the African market has loopholes for unscrupulous traders who pay little attention to standards. This is already common with products from the East, especially China. A few months ago, Apple, the manufacturer of iPhones and iPads, discovered dozens of fake Apple stores in China which were dealing in the gadgets. A raid exposed the degree to which counterfeits mimic established brands.

In Kenya, there are chances of coming across electrical appliances and medicinal drugs that have been counterfeited to mimic common brands. The antibiotic you purchase in the nearby chemist might actually bear the name of an established brand yet it is fake. The antibiotic in the nearby chemist might not just be generic but rather a product made by a counterfeit dealer across the globe.

There is more to a fake phone than just the loss of cash or short life of the gadget. The exposure standard of radio frequency from mobile phones employs a unit of measurement known as the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) and any deviation from the set standards could spell health problems. The SAR level provides a substantial margin of safety to users.

The problem of fake phones, drugs and any other counterfeits might not have a quick fix. All that is required is for the relevant bodies to find appropriate ways of stemming the malpractice. Key among them is proper regulation, vigilance and adherence to laws governing the desired standards, trade and consumer safety.

5 charged in smuggling scheme

Ring allegedly hired black drivers in effort to avert suspicion when crossing border.

VICTORIA KIM

In the calculus of cross-border human smuggling, Customs Enforcement and Maria Lopez-Diaz allegedly the Border Patrol. concluded that black in- A second driver facing a stead of brown equals green. Conspiracy charge, 32-year- The 60-year-old Comp- old Yvette "Hazel" Binford, ton woman, prosecutors say. [See Smuggle, AA6]

tried to cash in on racial profiling by operating a human smuggling ring that hired mostly African American drivers who didn't speak a word of Spanish to ferry small groups of immigrants from Mexico to Los Angeles.

In the end, the alleged venture failed. Authorities announced charges Thursday against Lopez-Diaz and four others, including conspiracy and transporting and harboring illegal immigrants. Lopez-Diaz, two family members and a driver were arrested by agents



The Hollywood Reporter
April 13, 2011

China Bans Time Travel Films and Shows, Citing Disrespect of History

The order comes during the year of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China.

BEIJING — China’s media authorities have stopped the clock on time travel in film and television, saying the sci-fi notion “disrespects history.”

This would be odd for a country whose big and small screens have long been filled with historically porous period epics about scandalized courts of bygone eras, but not so when one considers that 2011 marks the 90th anniversary of China’s ruling political party. “The rationale [for the time travel ban] is that whatever isn’t possible in the real world belongs to superstition,” said film critic and journalist Raymond Zhou Liming, who notes that time travel is untouched by censors in Chinese literature and theater. In the electronic mass media, however, which in China reaches the world’s largest TV audience and the globe’s fastest growing movie market, the idea of time travel presents a clear and present danger. In time-travel dramas such as Myth (Shen Hua), currently popular on Chinese TV, audiences seem to like the story of a modern man going back to ancient China where, after some adjustment, he finds love and happiness. “Most time travel content that I’ve seen (in literature and theater, that is) is actually not heavy on science, but is more to comment on current affairs,” Zhou said. Since China’s ruling party bases much of its doctrine and strict media management on scientific Marxism, the fantasy of time travel — which potentially gives the individual the freedom to reorder reality — conflicts with politically correct thought completely ruled by the CPC. In some ways, it’s much ado about nothing. Time travel has hardly been a popular theme for moviegoers in China. The last time a major Chinese time travel film made it to cinemas here was Hong Kong director Clarence Fok’s Highlander-inspired Iceman Cometh (Ji Dong Qi Xia in Chinese), featuring actor Yuen Biao and actress Maggie Cheung in 1989, the same year the Chinese government crushed a student-led, pro-democracy movement in Beijing.

It’s not particularly surprising that a country without free speech won’t let you say whatever you want about a historical figure. Meanwhile in America (F**K YEAH!), we’re making a film adaptation of a book titled “Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter”. God bless America.



“Follow the central spirit of the CPC to celebrate its 90th anniversary on television. All levels should actively prepare to launch vivid reproductions of the Chinese revolution, the nation’s construction and its reform and opening up,” one bit of SARFT guidance said. The April 1 time travel guidance from SARFT, which has the power to pull the plug on any Chinese show anywhere, anytime — answering as it does directly to China’s cabinet, the State Council — was not an April Fool’s prank, which has no such tradition. In Myth, an adolescent hero travels back 2,000 years to find he is blood brothers with Liu Bang, the first emperor of the four-century long Han Dynasty to which modern China’s ethnic Han majority traces its lineage [4].] “I don’t think it’s a bias against one particular show, but a general guideline,” Zhou said. Since China’s ruling party bases much of its doctrine and strict media management on scientific Marxism, the fantasy of time travel — which potentially gives the individual the freedom to reorder reality — conflicts with politically correct thought completely ruled by the CPC. In some ways, it’s much ado about nothing. Time travel has hardly been a popular theme for moviegoers in China. The last time a major Chinese time travel film made it to cinemas here was Hong Kong director Clarence Fok’s Highlander-inspired Iceman Cometh (Ji Dong Qi Xia in Chinese), featuring actor Yuen Biao and actress Maggie Cheung in 1989, the same year the Chinese government crushed a student-led, pro-democracy movement in Beijing.

No, China Didn’t Ban Time Travel Movies

Written by RoboPanda

Recently a story circulated including a rough translation of a ruling by China’s General Bureau of Radio, Film and Television saying that movies and TV programs based on time travel or on the Four Great Classical Novels of Chinese literature should not “be encouraged anymore”. The part about time travel was mistranslated, however. China hasn’t banned time travel movies. In fairness, they’re just getting the Ashton Kutcher magnum opus Butterfly Effect over there, so even if this were a correct translation we would understand. The true purpose of the ruling seems to be to discourage the misrepresentation of historical figures in films and TV shows, including in time travel movies. As for limiting the adaptation of the Four Great Classical Novels, that may be out of respect (no crappy adaptations of revered source material) or, more likely, it’s about controlling dissent: adaptations of the Novels are often used to subversively criticize those in power. Hopefully this won’t affect Neil Gaiman’s adaptation of Journey To The West.

It’s not particularly surprising that a country without free speech won’t let you say whatever you want about a historical figure. Meanwhile in America (F**K YEAH!), we’re making a film adaptation of a book titled “Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter”. God bless America.

Smuggling ring allegedly hired black drivers to avert suspicion

[Smuggle, from AAI] remains at large.

Authorities said the group’s approach was the latest innovation they have seen in the evolving trade of sneaking illegal immigrants into the United States.

“It’s absolutely true that most of the people involved in transporting human smuggling networks are Hispanics,” said ICE Special Agent in Charge Claude Arnold. “This organization thought, ‘What if we recruited those who attract less attention from law enforcement?’ Obviously they were wrong.”

The group, allegedly headed by Lopez-Diaz and two family members, recruited drivers who were down on their luck — jobless, homeless or drug-addicted — who were lured by the few hundred dollars’ payoff and kept in the dark about the extent of the enterprise, prosecutors said. Had they been able to communicate with their passengers, they would have learned that the ringleaders charged the immigrants up to \$4,000 a person for the ride north, authorities said.

“There were two layers of exploitation here, one of the aliens in the trunks coming up to Los Angeles, and then of the drivers they used,” said Assistant U.S. Atty. Rupa Goswami, the federal prosecutor in the case.

The investigation began when Border Patrol officials noticed an unusual pattern in early 2010. They found African Americans, mostly from Compton, carrying up to six immigrants in the trunks and hidden compartments of their cars. Their vehicles were elaborately modified, including compartments under the hood or under the back seats.

The group is estimated to have smuggled several dozen immigrants a month into Los Angeles, immigration authorities said.

Juan Eduardo Baltazar, 35, Lopez-Diaz’s son-in-law, was allegedly responsible for preparing the vehicles and installing the compartments. Her daughter-in-law, 23-year-old Karen Esteban-Morales, is accused of coordinating the pickup of the immigrants. Lopez-Diaz and her two family members are themselves in the country illegally, according to authorities, and face deportation if they are convicted.

Also charged are drivers Binford and Bobby Johnson, 67, who allegedly transported groups and recruited drivers. Authorities said they have identified an additional 19 drivers, many of whom are cooperating with investigators.

On Thursday, a federal magistrate judge ordered that Lopez-Diaz and Esteban-Morales be held without bail and that Johnson be released to a drug rehabilitation facility. Baltazar’s initial appearance was delayed until next week.

Dana Cephas, an attorney representing Lopez-Diaz, declined to comment.

Each charge in the three-count indictment carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Man gets through flight security with old ticket

[Stowaway, from AI]

Law enforcement sources told The Times they suspect Noibi has used expired plane tickets to sneak on to flights in the past. On his website, Noibi describes himself as a “frequent traveler.”

Now, federal authorities and Virgin America are trying to explain how the Nigerian American was able to get through layers of security — and then avoid arrest for five days after officials discovered he was a stowaway.

Aviation safety experts said they see several major breakdowns in security procedures. Transportation Security Administration and airline officials should have noticed the ticket was expired and not in Noibi’s name when he boarded at New York’s John F. Kennedy Airport, they said. He was allowed onboard by showing his expired university ID card, even though college identification cards are not on the TSA’s list of valid IDs and federal transportation sources said that it alone should not have been accepted.

The experts were also perplexed at why officials allowed Noibi to leave LAX after the plane landed when he had clearly violated laws.

“Obviously the system did not work the way it was supposed to,” said Brian Jenkins, a transportation security expert at the Mineta Transportation Institute in San Jose and the Rand Corp., the Santa Monica-based think tank. “Procedure was not followed.”

The incident is another black eye for airport security officials, who are still dealing with the publicity surrounding the TSA’s decision last week to force a 95-year-old woman in a wheelchair to take off her adult diaper when she went through a security check in Florida.

TSA officials said Thursday it was reviewing Noibi’s case. But Virgin America acknowledged in a statement that its workers “may have missed an alert” in processing Noibi in New York.

“The airline maintains security and other screening systems [are] in place to prevent such an occurrence; however, in this case it appears staff may have missed an alert when the passenger presented a boarding pass from a prior flight,” said Virgin America spokeswoman Patricia Condon. “We take security matters very seriously and are reviewing our training to ensure that this anomaly does not occur again.”

The saga began June 24, when Noibi got on the plane at JFK.

Noibi was not on the list of passengers for the flight,

which would be mandatory “for each paying passenger on every U.S. domestic flight,” wrote Special Agent Kevin R. Hogg in an FBI affidavit. Virgin had no record of Noibi paying for his ticket.

Despite this, he was able to move past two checkpoints — at the security screening area and at the gate — with his expired ticket and university ID.

Investigators later determined the boarding pass belonged to a man identified in the affidavit only as “M.D.”

The man told authorities he printed his boarding pass at home, folded it up and put it in his back pocket. But when he arrived at JFK after taking the subway, he couldn’t find it. He said he did not know Noibi and printed a replacement boarding pass.

When the flight attendant approached Noibi two hours into the twin-jet Airbus A320 flight, Noibi produced a boarding pass for the day before. The attendant alerted Capt. Joseph Groff, who directed her to seek additional identification, according to the affidavit. Noibi initially hesitated but then produced a student ID from the University of Michigan. Noibi attended as an undergraduate student between 2006 and 2008, the college confirmed.

Groff noted that the names did not match, and the crew alerted authorities on the ground.

The crew kept the subject — who was asleep for much of the flight — under surveillance, but at no time felt there was any threat to the security of the flight, Condon said.

The five-hour, 23-minute flight landed in Los Angeles at 12:53 a.m. Saturday. Waiting officers let Noibi go after questioning him, and it’s unclear how he spent his time in Southern California. But he returned to LAX on Tuesday, passed through security screening and waited for hours at the airport.

When he tried to board Delta Airlines Flight 46 to Atlanta using the expired ticket, authorities took him into custody Wednesday morning.

He tried to persuade Delta officials to let him on the plane, saying he had missed his flight the previous day. “The Delta agent told Noibi ‘no’ twice, and Noibi kept trying to hand her the boarding pass,” the affidavit said.

Noibi, also known as Seun Noibi, proclaims himself a “storyteller, strategist and designer who is passionate about reaching the world for Jesus,” according to his Facebook page. He was arrested in Chicago in 2008 after allegedly refusing to pay a \$4.70 fare on a Metro train. Those charges were later dropped.

Noibi faces stowaway charges and is scheduled to appear in federal court Friday.

‘OBAMA’ ENDORSES CHINESE ‘BLOCKBERRY’

June 23, 2009

By WSJ Staff

It’s the biggest product launch of the year: a Chinese company is selling a BlackBerry-like device with promotional assistance from none other than the president of the United States.

Okay, not really. But that’s the idea behind this ad, the latest emanation from China’s zany shanzhai culture, a mixture of old-school copycatting and arch parody.

The ad promotes a smart phone called the “BlockBerry” 9500” (方块, xuanfeng, means “whirlwind”), that more-than-slightly resembles the BlackBerry Storm, Research In Motion’s first touch-screen device, released last fall. The touch-screen BlockBerry purportedly runs on Windows Mobile software, has Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS and 3G wireless

capabilities, and comes in six colors, from purple to champagne. “Obama’s BlackBerry. My Blockberry” 9500,” reads the tagline below the president’s photo (which is inverted, apparently by a sloppy layout designer, with the American-flag pin backwards on the wrong lapel). China Journal admittedly hasn’t verified this with Robert Gibbs, but we’ll go out on a limb and say that Obama’s presence in the ad is unauthorized.

So who’s behind the BlockBerry and its clever marketing — and is it even for real? As with many shanzhai products, the maker seems to prefer anonymity. The ad claims it comes from Haff-Comm, or 方块 (another shanzhai touch: 方块, or ha fo, is Chinese for Harvard), but no such company comes up in searches on baidu.com or google.cn. So we spoke to someone at mobileuncle.com, the Chinese gadget chat site where BlockBerry appears to have first been noticed, spawning a host of other posts in the blogosphere.

Our mobileuncle contact, who didn’t want to be identified, claims to have spoken to the BlockBerry’s maker, which he says provided him with the ad poster and information about the device. He says the producer is a factory in Shenzhen that isn’t called Haff-Comm (fake name), and that BlockBerry is scheduled to go on sale next month for less than 1,500 yuan each (about \$220). The BlockBerry’s makers saw news stories recently about Obama’s well-known love of the BlackBerry, he says. “They were inspired by the news and decided to market it this way.”

Is all that accurate? We can’t vouch. In a shanzhai world, we may never know for sure.



CHINESE TEEN SELLS KIDNEY FOR IPAD AND IPHONE

By Melisa Goh

An iPhone and iPad were worth more to a Chinese teenager than his kidney, according to a report Friday from China’s Xinhua news agency. Now five people in southern China face charges of illegal organ trading.

The 17-year-old, surnamed Wang, received about \$3,500 for his kidney, which was removed and delivered to a recipient last April. Wang’s mother grew suspicious when her son returned home with the costly new gadgets, and his confession soon followed. Xinhua says the teen is now suffering from “renal insufficiency” — a decreased level of kidney function — and that his condition is deteriorating.

The five charged include the surgeon, as well as the broker, who was reportedly penniless and hounded by gambling debts. Another of those charged was tasked with hunting for donors through online chat rooms. Xinhua says, and another with leasing the operating room. Together, they shared the rest of the \$35,000 received for the organ after giving Wang his share.

The case is stirring alarm in China as citizens worry about increasing consumerism, particularly among the young. The Associated Press says.

Also alarming is the enormous gap between people needing transplants in China and donors, which Xinhua says has led to a huge black market for organs.



CHINA’S ‘WONDERLAND,’ AN ABANDONED FAKE-DISNEYLAND



The Washington Post
December 13, 2011
By Maura Judkis

It’s as if you hopped off of your flying elephant and walked straight into an apocalyptic wasteland, surrounded by scrubby grass, empty buildings, and the shell of a Magic Kingdom. This is the ghost of a Disney World-style amusement park in China, abandoned partway through construction, and now a hauntingly beautiful scene of decay.

A farmer carries a shovel over his shoulder as he walks to tend his crops in a field that includes an abandoned building that was to be part of an amusement park called ‘Wonderland.’

“Wonderland,” which is situated on a 100-acre plot of land 45 minutes outside of Beijing, was intended to be a huge tourist destination. But according to Reuters, construction was halted in 1998 when farmers and local government sparred over property prices. A small “town,” the skeletal remains of a castle, and the metal framework of a huge pavilion are all that remain, and the site is completely open to explorers.

Reuters photographer David Gray was amazed and amused to see farmers working their fields amid the ruins. “I came across a rather farcical sight of some farmers digging a well next to a castle; a moment I will always savor as a photographer in a place like China where castles are not in huge supply,” wrote Gray in the Reuters’s Photographers Blog. He called Wonderland “another sad example of property development in China involving wasted money, wasted resources and the uprooting of farmers and their families.”

Wonderland is another example of the Internet’s obsession with Urban Exploration — finding abandoned places of the world. There are sites tracking abandoned shopping malls, abandoned theaters, abandoned swimming pools, and of course, abandoned amusement parks. With Wonderland, fans of nightmarish ghosts of theme parks can add a new destination to their list.

Videographer Catherine Hyland also took a trip to Wonderland, and set her haunting images to a spooky horror-movie soundtrack.



MALL OF MISFORTUNE

UAE / June 12. 2008
By Michael Donohue



The people who work at the South China Mall, in the muggy, factory-filled city of Dongguan, have the honor of passing each day in the biggest shopping mall on the face of the planet. In theory, it’s a glorious place: a seven-million-square-foot retail and entertainment behemoth in the heart of China’s southern Pearl River Delta, the wealthiest region in a nation that boasts the world’s biggest population and its fastest-growing major economy. The mall is part of China’s new arsenal of superlatives: the world’s largest airport terminal, the highest train track, the golf resort with the most holes. The employees of this giant mall could, if they wanted, spend their breaks driving bumper cars, browsing for house wares, strolling along a Venetian canal, petting fake herons in an indoor rain forest, or gazing at an eighty-five-foot replica of the Arc de Triomphe – all, of course, without leaving the premises. They could also picnic next to the bell tower of St Mark’s Square in Venice, soak up the ambience of San Francisco, or take a ride on themall’s indoor-outdoor roller coaster, a 553-meter flying railway known as Kuayue Shi Kong, or “Moving Through Time and Space.”

As it happens, it’s just those things – time and space – that give so much trouble to the workers here. They have too much of both. On a recent Friday afternoon,

MOM OF FACE-EATING ATTACKER SAYS: ‘HE WAS NO ZOMBIE’

The Los Angeles Times
May 31, 2012
By Rene Lynch

A face-eating zombie cannibal or a Bible-reading, church-attending Christian?

Those are the two vastly different portraits being presented of Rudy Eugene, above left. He was gunned down by police Saturday afternoon in Miami after horrified onlookers found him naked and chewing on a homeless man’s face, eating off his mouth, nose and forehead and gouging out one of the victim’s eyes. The victim, above right, remains hospitalized and faces months, if not years, of recovery.

Eugene’s mother, speaking out for the first time, said she’s devastated by her son’s inexplicable actions. But she says the media have her son all wrong.

She also criticized police for killing her son instead of trying to find other means of subduing the man that she said faithfully read the Bible and accompanied her to church.

“Everybody says that he was a zombie, but I know he’s not a zombie; he’s my son,” the mother, identified by the Miami Herald as Ruth Charles, told the newspaper.

“I feel devastated. That was not him who was seen on TV doing that. He was a nice kid. He was a good kid. He gave me a nice card on Mother’s Day,” she told CBS TV in Miami. She added: “I never had any problems with him. The police don’t have to shoot him. They could have Tased him.”

Mom might be speaking from experience. The Herald and CBS report that North Miami Beach Police used a stun gun on Eugene to break up a domestic dispute involving his mother in 2004. Beyond that incident, Eugene was arrested for a handful of minor, marijuana-related charges.

There has been some speculation that Eugene might have been fueled to a frenzy by “bath salts” -- a nickname for a potent, cocaine-and-speed laced street drug. It will take weeks before toxicology reports are completed.

Meanwhile, the victim’s chances of recovery remain unclear. A homeless man who had a problem with alcohol, Ronald Poppo has suffered a loss of more than 75% of his face, according to reports. Doctors are trying to deal with the immediate concern -- infection -- before they begin addressing the possibility of facial reconstructive surgery.

an amusement-park employee, slouched in a forsaken ticket booth, tried to kill time by making origami. Another worker slept, with perfect impunity, on a table. In front of the haunted house attraction, one attendant was doing hand-stands while two others looked blankly on.

There was nothing else to do, because the South China Mall, which opened with great fanfare in 2005, is not just the world’s largest. With fewer than a dozen stores scattered through a space designed to house 1,500, it is also the world’s emptiest – a dusty, decrepit complex of buildings marked by peeling paint, dead light bulbs, and dismembered mannequins.

“They set out to be the biggest, and hoped that being the biggest would be the attracting factor,” says David Hand, a retail analyst at Jones Lang LaSalle in Beijing, who has followed the project. “It hasn’t delivered.”

The world has plenty of empty malls; there’s even an American website, deadmalls.com, where connoisseurs of desolation post photos and where they spent the Saturday afternoons of their youth.

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GHOST TOWNS GROW WITH URBAN DEVELOPMENT



South China Morning Post
January 25, 2010
By Toh Han Shih

China’s economic stimulus programme has accelerated the already aggressive pace of urban development in the country.

But while investment in construction is creating much-needed infrastructure in some cities, it is also adding to the number of ghost towns with nearly empty facilities in other parts of the mainland.

The nation already has its share of empty edifices. Overlooking Beijing’s “Water Cube” swimming centre and “Bird’s Nest” stadium stands Pangu Plaza, a huge but little-used five-tower complex spanning the length of seven football fields.

The project includes an office block, serviced-apartment buildings, a shopping centre and the Pangu 7 Star Hotel.

Although Pangu Plaza was completed two years ago, the shopping centre is mostly empty, with virtually no tenants and many outlets boarded up, Patrick Chovanec, a professor at the School of Economics and Management at Tsinghua

University, said. “There are no lights in the offices. At night, people don’t seem to be home.”

A public relations executive at the Pangu hotel said the shopping centre and office building are still seeking tenants, adding: “Our hotel’s occupancy rate is alright, but this is the low season, so the occupancy is low at the moment.”

The China edition of GQ magazine threw a lavish launch party at Pangu Plaza in November last year, but a New Zealander who attended said the complex is mostly empty.

“The hallways on the ground floor are empty and you feel that it is a ghost town apart from the top floor where we were. It certainly was not full of activity beyond the show,” he said.

Examples of mega projects abound.

Chovanec describes his visit to a development zone in Yingkou, a port city in Liaoning province, where an industrial zone and a residential zone with a marina are planned.

“The scale of this thing will take your breath away. It is comparable in scale to Pudong (Shanghai’s business district),” he said.

Yingkou’s development zone is under development and hence is mostly empty space.

A government building and a steel mill are possibly the only two buildings in the zone, Chovanec said. “The administrative building is this monstrous monolith. It’s almost empty except for a presentation.”

The steel mill was completed one year ago, added Chovanec. “It’s sitting there empty and they haven’t fired up the furnace.

There is so much overcapacity in steel, they can’t sell what they make.”

Over in Guangdong, many residential units sit empty, said Neeraj Sawhney, a Hong Kong textile trader who often travels to the province.

“I have seen houses and shops built in second and third-tier cities in Guangdong in 2005 that are still empty,” he said.

“Supply is much more than demand in these cities. Funding was easily available for developers, who went ahead and constructed, disregarding demand.”

China’s fixed-asset investment increased at a faster rate after Beijing launched its four trillion yuan (HK\$4.5 trillion) stimulus package in late 2008 to combat the global economic crisis. Investment rose 30.1 per cent to 22.5 trillion yuan last year, 4.6 percentage points higher than in 2008, the National

Bureau of Statistics said. Gross domestic product grew 8.7 per cent last year, thanks to the stimulus.

To support the stimulus, banks lent out a record 9.59 trillion yuan last year, of which a quarter went to infrastructure construction, the People’s Bank of China said.

And that investment in physical infrastructure boosts GDP.

“If you spend money, you’ll make 8 per cent GDP growth,” Chovanec said. “Whether it’s productive is another question.

The central government said to the provinces, give us your wish list. The local governments accelerated their projects.

“You got 10 to 20 years of infrastructure developments accelerated to a three-year time frame. Once you accelerate it like that, the vetting process gets thrown out the window.”

Although it is difficult to judge any single project as unviable, given that so many massive projects are being rolled out, the probability of waste increases, Chovanec said.

“All over the country, every province has at least one mega project. It’s one thing to build one mega project over a 10-year plan. It’s another thing to build this 10-year project in two years and do many of them all over the country. How much capacity expansion can the economy digest at one time?”

In Yingchuan, the capital of Ningxia province, 70 per cent of GDP growth last year was related to fixed-asset investment, according to the city’s officials.

“I can’t think of any economy where that rate of growth is sustainable,” Bruce Richardson, an American businessman living in Yingchuan, said.

Both useful infrastructure and empty buildings can be seen in Yingchuan, he said. “I see significant investment in transport infrastructure like roads and airports. As soon as a road is finished, it’s used. There are no bridges to nowhere.”

On the other hand, high-end residential units in Yingchuan have a 50 per cent vacancy rate. The local government is considering discouraging the purchase of second or third residential units to slow construction, Richardson said.

Some local officials have realised the massive build-up is generating undesirable effects and are switching towards sustainable growth, including Yun Guangzhong, the mayor of Ordos, a city in Inner Mongolia.

Ordos, with a population of 1.55 million, has been described as a “ghost city” in blogs and Al-Jazeera television, because it contains a newly built city centre with ultra-modern buildings that is nearly empty. Ordos’ population density is 17.8 people per square kilometre, compared with an urban density of 10,606 people for New York City.

In a speech on January 12, Yun said the speed of development “cannot substitute quality and efficiency. GDP alone cannot represent the people’s aspirations or the raising of their income. Fixed-asset investment does not mean industrialisation and urbanisation have improved.”

In contrast to focusing on building infrastructure last year, Yun recommended alternate policies like attracting competitive industries to Ordos and increasing jobs this year.

Yun admitted failings in the administration of projects, saying: “We must not undertake prestige projects for the sake of image and must not fake data.” The city government “contains elements of laziness, falsification, laxness and shallowness in work ethic, which has seriously damaged its efficiency and image”

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Jonathan Woetzel, a director in the Shanghai office of international consultancy McKinsey, said: “There is a lot of living dead out there.”

Most cities have newly developed zones that are often initially empty when completed, he said. “Some work out well, some not.”

As a rule of thumb, if a new city centre has a population of one million in 15 years, that would be successful, and these projects have long-term payback timetables measured in 10 to 20 years, Woetzel said.

In contrast to isolated Ordos, the bustling coastal cities of Quanzhou and Jinjiang in Fujian province are benefiting from the construction of badly needed infrastructure.

The two cities are merging as part of the government’s policy to create mega cities, Douglas Sheridan, a United States footwear trader who does business in Jinjiang, said.

The result is a series of infrastructure projects such as highways, sewage systems and buildings in Quanzhou and Jinjiang, Sheridan said. “They are merging cities, but they don’t have enough fundamental infrastructure like transport and food supply logistics. Buses are not enough. There are more trucks on the roads, so traffic flow is increasing enormously.”

Woetzel said: “On a national level, China has another 15 to 20 years of rapid urbanisation, so on average, urban construction is a necessary development.”

Ramped up thanks to the stimulus measures, fixed-asset investment grew to 22.5 trillion yuan last year, a rise of: 30.1%



continued from

What sets the South China Mall apart from the rest, besides its mind-numbing size, is that it never went into decline. The tenants didn't jump ship; they never even came on board. The mall entered the world pre-ruined, as if its developers had deliberately created an attraction for people with a taste for abandonment and decay. It is a spectacular real-estate failure – but it is also, as I

Three years ago, just before the South China Mall opened, it was featured on the front page of The New York Times as part of China's "astonishing" new consumer culture. As the Times put it, with perhaps a trace of hyperbole, the "Chinese have started to embrace America's 'shop till you drop' ethos and are in the middle of a buy-at-the-mall frenzy." A spokesman for the mall's developer Hu Guirong, an instant-noodle billionaire, told the Times that Hu's team had spent two years traveling the world – France, Italy, Nevada – in search of ideas. They expected the mall to average more than 70,000 visitors a day. "We wanted to do something groundbreaking," the spokesman said. "We wanted to leave our mark on history."

In making size the first consideration, Hu was following a general trend among mall developers, for whom the competition for the "largest" mall can be as fierce as an arms race. Consider the label-building craze underway in the Emirates. Its largest shopping center, the 2.4-million-square-foot Mall of the Emirates, is only three years old, but will relinquish its throne this year to the even bigger Dubai Mall – which in turn will be superseded in 2010 by the gargantuan Mall of Arabia. (Together, the three properties will contain about 100 million square feet of leasable space – more than two square feet for every resident of the country.) And it's not enough for a 21st-century mall to have shops; it must also have gondolas, trams, water slides, "Olympic sized" hockey rinks, ice palaces or – in the case of the Dubai Mall – one of the world's largest aquariums, to be filled with 41,000 fish. The big attraction of the South China Mall was supposed to be its "foreign" design. Learning from Las Vegas, where replicas of European monuments and New York landmarks draw throngs of tourists, the Dongguan mall modeled seven zones after various exotic world locations. Its rooftops reflect at least twenty different influences, from Czech town halls to Turkish mosques.

As the mall was about to open, one of its design consultants, Ian Thomas of the Thomas Consulting Group in Vancouver, told the trade publication Shopping Centers Today that the zones were "done with such authenticity, with such great attention to detail, that you really think you're in the real thing."

The Arc de Triomphe that stands in the very middle of the South China Mall – one of the first things I saw upon arrival – bears eleven circular seals engraved with the name of the city that meant so much suffering for Napoleon's army: the "SCSOW". It takes a minute to figure out that the seals have been affixed upside-down.

The great arch leads you out of Paris and into either Venice or Amsterdam – it's hard to tell, since this hall of the mall, where the pedestrian walkways are all outdoors, has never been finished. The buildings have ornate, generically European facades, but their insides remain shells filled with puddles, unrailed staircases, and random stacks of tile and concrete. The exotic palm trees lining the sidewalk have been invaded by homegrown South-China weeds.

A suspicious security guard, clearly elated to have something to do, turned me away from this section. "We just want to look at the tower," my translator told him, pointing to the red-brick Venetian campanile down at the end.

That's what they all say," he replied. Back through the triumphal arch, past the never-opened Eagle Nest Bar, a sign heralds the entrance to San Francisco: "Here you can find high-grade perfume from France, genuine leather items from Italy, as well as well known watches from Switzerland." But there's nothing except vacant storefronts, with a couple of escalators sheathed in dust covered plastic.

It's a relief to find Amazing World, the mostly outdoor amusement park on the east side of the mall. On my first day, a Friday, a few dozen schoolchildren, bused in from more than an hour away, were enjoying the massive, brightly-colored rides. The Action Arm, a giant yellow swing, flipped them around three hundred and sixty degrees, while the Drop Tower let them free-fall from twenty stories. (The mall's English website asks, "Do you dare to take a try – experience the feeling of 'death'?" The answer is yes because the safety is ensured.") A Mayan-themed flume would have looked pretty good too, if only it hadn't been drained of water. On Saturday afternoon, a couple of hundred locals gathered in Amazing World. Chen Xiaodong, a 23-year-old insurance company worker, sat by the central pond with her boyfriend. "It's not very exciting," she said. The two had already tried the rides and had considered looking for shops, but decided against it. "I didn't want to go inside," she said, "because there was a weird smell."

Exactly why the South China Mall failed so badly is a matter of some dispute. Did the retailers hold back because there were no customers, or did the customers stay away because there were no retailers? Or did Hu Guirong doom the project by opening it before construction was finished – driving everybody away with the scaffolding and the dust?

Dick Groves, a retail consultant based in nearby Hong Kong, chalks it up to inexperience in the leasing business, mixed with an undisciplined financial system.



When it's easy to get financing without having to convince someone of the project's feasibility, and without having to show pre-leasing commitment, you can start to get into trouble," he says.

"It's all wrong," said a middle-aged man I met exploring the empty storefronts, who wouldn't give his name because, he said, he's a rival developer. "It's too big. It's too confusing. But if it were in Guangzhou" – a much bigger city, about forty miles away – "you might have a chance." The people at Hu Guirong's company, Sanyuan Yinhui, declined to be interviewed, but Edward deSward, an industry veteran brought in last summer to turn the South China Mall around, thinks the location is fine. "It's a pretty good market, about 50 million people in the Pearl River Delta," he says. "We will draw from all the cities around, but it has to be a strong enough attraction." DeSward got hired after Sanyuan Yinhui sold a controlling stake in the mall to the Founders Group, a division of Beijing University.

"Many developers [in China] have fallen into what I call the cowboy league," deSward says, trying to explain how the mall ever got built. "Guys who all of a sudden have a lot of money and want to build a magnificent structure, without thinking it through." Now he plans to "wind the clock back" and start completely over, leasing the mall in small phases over several years. (The complex does have two fairly healthy anchors, a Spar department store and a B & Q housewares center, both of which can be entered without having to pass through the mall's interior.)

Hand, the retail expert from Jones Lang LaSalle, maintains that Chinese developers are learning quickly and that the market has great potential. "The Chinese love shopping, they love brands, and they love international products, even though the average income is low," he says. "New shoppers are born every day. We won't run out of them."

"It's so boring here," said Xia Quanyan, the shop assistant in Polo Meisdol, a leather-goods and clothing store whose logo contrives to emulate that of Ralph Lauren. "There's no business." Xia, a friendly woman in her early thirties, rolled her eyes when reminded that she works in the world's biggest mall. "That's what they told us to get us here," she said.

Rent for the shop, located in a theoretically high-traffic spot next to an escalator, was originally 28,000 yuan (Dh15,000) a month, but Xia says it's never been paid. The company invested 230,000 yuan in renovations, she said, and since they're one of only four small retailers left, the mall gives them free rent.

On Friday, Xia passed the time chatting with a friend who'd dropped by with her baby. On Saturday, my translator and I found Xia alone, playing cards with herself. At her suggestion, we sat down and played three rounds of a game called Catch the Landlord. This section of the mall has four floors, and two levels above Xia's shop is a loud arcade, Dino's World, that blares techno music throughout the empty atrium. (There's also a huge Teletubbies playroom for kids, and a bridge leading off to the indoor section of Amazing World. A tour of the section's 600 retail storefronts yields glimpses of what the South China Mall might have been; in some parts, there are even signs for three or four stores in a row, most of them South Chinese or Hong Kong chains with eccentric English names. You pass Kentex, Marino Orlandi, and Ebosé, all empty. US Eell, Wen Chun, IP Zone, Weekend Workshop – empty. Orlandi, and Ebosé, all empty. US Eell, Wen Chun, IP Zone, Weekend Workshop – empty. Balenno, Smith's [sic], Greenwood – empty. Carslan – gated. Henan Medicine – locked, full of pharmaceutical products, with an eviction notice for "breach of contract". Triumph International – empty but with an angry notice from the mall: "According to records, the entity closed its business without first acquiring

official permission from our company, thus constituting a breach of contract and directly affecting the image of the shopping center."

It's odd to find a store with an actual person in it, like S-Square, a small, stylish clothing store with black-painted walls. Its 21-year-old shop assistant, Miss Chen, said business wasn't so bad back when the mall first opened. Rent was then 10,000 yuan, but it's no longer collected. "We used to get lots of tour groups," she said. "Now it's just student groups, and occasionally groups of factory workers, and they don't buy anything." She gets "one or two" customers a day, and passes the hours reading magazines and sending text messages to her friends.

Miss Chen often sends texts to Miss Peng, also 21, who sits behind the cash register at Eyaya, an accessories shop that is just far enough around the corner to prevent the two ladies from chatting. "Our bosses say we could go into the corridor and yell down to each other," Miss Peng said. "I usually just stare into space. Sometimes I get really sleepy and want to take a nap, but I get scared because at any time a customer could come in, and I might miss the only customer of the day."

Neither Peng nor Chen spends much time with Xia, over in Polo Meisdol. "There used to be a girl our age who worked there," Peng said, a little sadly. "Her astrological sign was a dragon, and we used to hang out sometimes. But then she left."

People in real estate say that retail is the most difficult kind of property to develop. Even in highly affluent markets like the UAE, it can be risky if too many malls open up at once. "You hear simultaneously everyone launching the project that's supposed to be the regional draw," says Groves, the Hong Kong consultant, who has also worked on projects in the Emirates. With malls "so large they beggar belief" sprouting up all over the Middle East, Groves says, "one or more of the projects could have trouble."

The situation is even more complicated in China, where per capita income is about a fifteenth of the UAE's. Much is expected of China in the next decade. Its economy continues to experience double-digit growth and its factories now assemble most of the toys, shoes and microchips in the world. The country expects to quadruple its year 2000 per-capita income by 2020. China is rising, and before long – the conventional thinking goes – there will be a gigantic Chinese consumer class, four or five hundred millions of prosperous, educated people looking to stroll through malls and buy lots of stuff they don't need. (At present, fewer than 10 percent of China's population of 1.3 billion have enough discretionary income to count as "middle-class".)

About 500 new malls have been built in China over the last five years, estimates Kevin Jiang, a researcher at the Mall China Information Center. All of them are waiting for the arrival of this coming mega-middle class, as are the rest of China's countless "visionary" development projects. These include a from-scratch "eco-city" for 500,000 residents north of Shanghai, a compound of a hundred luxury villas in the Ordos desert of Inner Mongolia and a summer-acre theme-park replica of the old imperial Summer Palace, which was destroyed by British and French troops in the nineteenth century.

The cowboy developers of China, like the bored employees of the South China Mall, are still waiting. Some day – and they hope it's soon – this new middle class will finally show up to fill the empty spaces. The malls will overflow, the stuff will sell, and the country will take its rightful place among the world's great consumer powers. But until then, Xia Quanyan remains sitting on a stool in front of her shop, shuffling her playing cards and wondering how to pass the time.

The Guardian (London)
May 12, 2003

‘WE STOPPED GETTING ORDERS FROM IRAQ A LONG TIME AGO’

For 17 years, the pride of the Iraqi navy – two small warships – have been moored in the middle of a Nato naval base in northern Italy, unable to sail because of a UN embargo. The 12 crewmen still scrub the decks daily, whom? Sophie Arie is granted a rare audience with Saddam's forgotten sailors

By Sophie Arie

Abdul Wahid Toama beams from ear to ear and his soft brown eyes sparkle as he tucks into a thick Italian ice cream amid the striplights and plastic chairs of his favourite hang-out, a Co-op shopping centre in the northern Italian port town, La Spezia.

"Isn't it bello , beautiful here?" he asks, gazing at a couple of pimply teenagers canoodling at the next table. "It's so beautiful. I must show you upstairs."

I try to muster some enthusiasm, when I can't think of anything I would rather not do than check out the Co-op's bargain shoe selection. Actually, all I want to do, after scouring the streets for this man for several weeks, is find out who is giving him his orders these days. Because, although Saddam may be gone, my gentle friend is one of 12 Iraqi sailors still loyally serving the Iraqi government – even though there isn't one – on two battleships that are the proud remains of the Iraqi navy.

Each day they solemnly hoist the Iraqi flag, but they haven't been able to put up much of a fight in the recent war, or in fact for the past 17 years, because of a slight mobility problem. The two 680-tonne corvettes, complete with helicopter launch-pads and 76mm cannon, have not moved since they were built by the Italian shipping constructors Fincantieri as part of a 12-ship mega-order from Iraq in the early 80s. Iraq had just paid for the first two ships in 1986 and Italians had begun training the Iraqi crew to sail them home when a UN embargo was slapped on the country after the Iran-Iraq war.

Since then the Mussa Ben Nussair and the Tarik Ben Ziad have been stuck in La Spezia, nestling quietly near ranks of Italian frigates in the vast naval harbour which doubles up as a key European Nato base and centre for anti-submarine and mine-warfare research. Over the years, Iraq has refused to sell the ships and Italy has tried to deny there is anything awkward about hosting their crews, who oil the cogs and polish the brass while patiently waiting to set sail.

Originally the scores of sailors and their families were comfortably housed in an idyllic suburb called Lerici, looking over the so-called Bay of Poets where Byron and Shelley once came for inspiration. But as Saddam made more and more enemies, the chances of the boats ever leaving shrank and the crews were whittled down. Today just 12 sailors, most of them from the Iraqi port town of Basra, live and eat and watch the news reports from their bombed-out country on board the ships. To save money they do their own handwashing, causing giggles and frowns among the pristine Italian sailors by stringing up their boxer shorts to dry on deck, alongside the Iraqi flag.

"We stopped getting orders from Iraq a long time ago," Toama says in broken English and Italian. "We watched bombs falling on places we know. All the phone lines were cut. The government is finished. Now the capo (boss) in Basra is your people, the British. But they have not phoned us."

As we wander along the palm-tree lined seafront, passing clusters of novice Italian sailors in Popeye tunics, Toama

takes my arm and rolls his eyes at the thought of Saddam. His smile shows his relief that the regime is gone. He even gives me a present of a 250-dinar note, pointing at Saddam's face, as a souvenir. But he says that any Iraqi leader is better than an American one. "I did not want any more wars. No more mess. I have had enough of Saddam. Basta . I have served eight years in the war with Iran. And then in Kuwait."

"But I know the Americans don't care about Iraqis. All they want is our oil, our wealth."

Toama, 37, left his wife Basma and five-month-old baby Eli in Basra when he was posted to La Spezia last November, as part of the regular annual change of guard.

The men have hunkered down together, cooking Iraqi dishes with fresh local fish and zapping to skimpily clad ladies on Italian TV gameshows for light relief from the war. They hope they might be able to return to Iraq "in a year or two".

After weeks without contact, Toama has managed to speak to his 28-year-old wife using the international call centre at La Spezia train station and a borrowed satellite phone in Basra. Before the war, she did not know where he was. The Iraqi regime kept the sailor's destinations secret – and their families were kept in Iraq to ensure the sailors did not run off into the Italian sunset. Some of Toama's fellow sailors are still cut off from their relatives and are said to be worried now about reprisals against military families.

Last month the Iraqi embassy managed to pay the running costs of the ship, apparently from its reserves in a local Italian bank account. "But who knows whether there will be money next month? Maybe the Italians can help," says Toama, who has no personal money problems. Making a sign of a growing pile with his hand, he tells me he has saved most of the Dollars 700 (pounds 436) monthly pay he has receiving for the last seven months, spending only a little on tiny presents – a cheap Chinese portable radio, a football for his toddler son.

Depending on how long it takes the rest of the world to decide whether to lift the embargo on Iraq, Italy may well find itself having to bail out the stranded Iraqis. Naval officials, fearing a diplomatic incident, had a hard enough time convincing Saddam's regime to pay for emergency repairs to save the two rusting hulks from sinking. "It took us four years to talk the Iraqis into repairing the ships," says the Italian naval spokesman, Comandante Pilato. "We had to do the work at a special price, or else one day they could have sunk. That would be a waste."

While Italy continues to play the perfect host, and Iraq is now supposedly free, the 12 sailors remain trapped in a gilded cage. Toama proudly shows me his temporary residence permit, which gives his current address as "Marina Militare, La Spezia"

He and his fellow sailors are not allowed to wander outside the town, not even to nearby Genoa: carabinieri clock them in and out of the high-security navy base every time they feel like going for a walk.

Everyone seems a bit embarrassed by the odd situation. The Iraqi consul, Faris al-Shooker, says he still does not know when their situation will change. The mayor of La Spezia is still waiting for an answer from the Italian government after he demanded a decision on the status of the 12 men and has offered to provide them with humanitarian assistance.

Spezzini, as the locals are known, have developed an affection for the burly, moustached men whom they often spot gazing into designer shop windows, sipping cappuccinos and carrying food supplies back from the supermarket. "They've been here so long, they might as well be Italians," says the newspaper seller outside the entrance to the naval base.

During the war the men were harder to find, hiding behind the high, barbed-wire topped walls of the navy, manning a piece of Iraqi territory

that was floating inside one of Nato's key European bases. A US battleship recently came within a stone's throw of the Iraqi outpost, stopping off at the base as it returned from Iraq.

Amid the tension of the war, Italy expelled four Iraqi diplomats just in case they were spies. The men, reportedly phony cooks at the embassy, left the country and Al-Shooker was left rattling around the shabby, yellowed corridors of the Iraqi embassy with only Arab television stations and portraits of a young Saddam for company.

Local MPs in La Spezia questioned the wisdom of allowing Iraqis to live inside a military base that was on high alert. But Italian officials insisted that their guests were not a threat. There was a sense of deja vu: everyone had gone through the same rigmarole in the last Gulf war. Back then, suspicions were raised that from their unusual vantage point, the Iraqi sailors could feed European military secrets to Saddam's regime. And one crew member, 39-year-old Mohand Kasim Orsed and another sailor, downed their uniforms and claimed political asylum in Italy. "I'm not sure which was more important at the time, his desire to defect or his love for a local prostitute," a moustached terrorist police agent told me with a grin. "Orsed said he'd fallen in love."

Italy granted Orsed political asylum and mounted an intricate plan to put Iraqi agents off the defector's trail, letting it get out that he had slipped out of Italy and gone to sea on an unidentified oil tanker. In fact he holed up in a sleepy village outside La Spezia until the storm had settled and then moved to Milan to work as an electrician.

But eight years later, Orsed popped up in a flat overlooking the perimeter wall of the La Spezia naval base, with a machine-gun, some hand grenades and 250 floppy discs full of military information downloaded from the internet. He was arrested but the spying suspicions could not be proved and he got a two-year suspended sentence for illegal possession of a weapon.

It seems highly unlikely that Toama is a spy. Just a gentle, lonely guy living a bizarre side-chapter of the whole Iraqi saga. The only time his smile evaporated was when he explained that his wife won't tell him how many friends and "brothers" have been killed in the war. "I know I have been lucky to be in Italy," he says. "The Italians are good people. They have white hearts. But I am Iraqi. As soon as there is a new Iraqi government, I want to go back."

"I want to fill my ship with batteries and sail them back home. It's hard to get batteries in Iraq. It's a problem, you know?"

TALIBAN IMPOSTERS VEX REINTEGRATION PLAN

KABUL

Many are believed to be opportunists looking for handouts

BY ROD NORDLAND
AND ALISSA J. RUBIN

In an insurgency, everyone is an impostor. The enemy wears no uniform and carries no identity card.

Just so with a mullah in Kandahar named Noorul Aziz. After trading his job as a Taliban commander for a cushy post as an Afghan government official, the story goes, he was taken last month by the military coalition on a tour of his old bases, where he made speeches to persuade the locals not to support the insurgency.

Except the locals say they never heard of him.

Then there was the Afghan "senator" who instead may have been a Taliban operative. In January, he conned his way into getting a V.I.P. tour of some of the most secret locations in Kandahar, with briefings from the provincial governor, Tiorayal Wesia, the local head of the Afghan intelligence service and the governor of the strategic district of Dand.

He did not even bother to adopt a real senator's name. "There was no senator by that name in the entire senate," said Bismillah Afghanistan, who is a real senator, from Kandahar.

These are hardly isolated cases. In September, a man posing as a Taliban peace envoy traveled from Kandahar to Kabul to meet the head of the High Peace Council, and used a bomb hidden in his turban to assassinate him. The year before, an impostor who persuaded the Americans that he was a high-ranking Taliban official who wanted to talk peace was flown in by a NATO helicopter to meet with President Hamid Karzai, and paid handsomely for his time. In late 2009, a CIA informer who turned out to be a Qaeda plant killed eight people in a suicide attack at a C.I.A. outpost.

Mr. Aziz, the supposed Taliban commander, showed up in Kandahar last year with 30 armed men and a letter from the Taliban leadership in Pakistan showing that he had just been appointed the shadow governor of Kunduz Province.

His story was that he did not like it up north so was turning himself in as part of the government's reintegration program, in which former Taliban fighters are offered access to community and jobs programs.



Seeing Double-Double in China

[Burgers, from AI]
Santa Anna for trademark infringement and counterfeiting. In-N-Out wouldn't comment on the settlement except for a statement saying "the matter has been resolved."

But in Shanghai, where CaliBurger opened its first branch last month, some of the restaurant's employees aren't shy about the source of their inspiration. Jonathan Wong, CaliBurger's chef de cuisine and director of training and development, is a former manager at an In-N-Out store in Northern California.

"The model was In-N-Out," said Wong, 28, a native of Hercules, Calif.

Still, CaliBurger has made some tweaks to the In-N-Out formula that even some Southern California die-hards might find an improvement on the original: booze and babes.

The Shanghai restaurant serves California wine as well as vanilla shakes spiked with bourbon. And its mascots are leggy, mostly Western models "as golden as the California sun" who represent the company at events in China, according to the CaliBurger website.

"The staff really loved them," Wong said.

The burger battle is just the latest skirmish over intellectual property in China, where pirated movies and merchandise are giving way to knockoff services and retail businesses.

Photos of a fake Apple store in southern Yunnan province went viral on the Internet last year.

Global restaurant chains have become popular targets as well. Big Chinese cities are filled with knockoffs such as Dairy Fairy, Pizza Huh and Jambo Juice. Then there's OFC, or Obama Fried Chicken, a restaurant in Beijing that was threatened with legal action by KFC, which has zeroed in on China as a major market.

Executives at CaliBurger, which is now part of a holding company based in the Cayman Islands, figured Chinese fast-food lovers were ready to step up to made-to-order burgers.

"In Asia, which has fast-growing economies...we saw more opportunity for a higher-end, premium brand," said John C. Miller, a Los Angeles native and one of the chain's three co-founders.

Miller and CaliBurger executives wouldn't comment on the feud with In-N-Out. But the spat began last year when CaliBurger began constructing its outlet in Shanghai. It placed English-language signs reading "Enjoy a Double-Double" and "Messier is Better/Animal Style" over its future home but didn't mention the company name.

No matter. Photos of the signs soon began circulating on the Web, and speculation started flying about In-N-Out going global.

It wasn't — not yet anyway. Long a regional chain, In-N-Out didn't venture beyond California until 1992 when it opened in Las Vegas, which remained its only out-of-state location until 2000.

The chain now has more than 250 restaurants in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Texas. It has no stores outside the United States. But it wasn't about to let a bunch of upstarts from its home state copy its style in one of the world's fastest-growing consumer markets.

In September 2011, In-N-Out filed a lawsuit, alleging

CaliBurger's actions led to "substantial damages" and "irreparable harm."

CaliBurger made some changes and launched a menu and decor that seem slightly less like an In-N-Out clone. Diners can order a dual-patty (and trademarked) Cali Double wrapped in wax paper for about \$7.60. The fries can now be ordered "Wild Style." Burgers without buns are referred to as LC Style, or "low-carb."

CaliBurger uses Australian beef instead of American meat because of import restrictions, chef de cuisine Wong said. The company imports Land O' Lakes cheese and frozen French fries from the U.S. and is developing a "secret" menu with more vegetables.

Executives said CaliBurger plans to open a second store in China and one in South Korea by the end of the year. The chain, which also hopes to expand to Taiwan, Hong Kong and elsewhere, said it will partner with franchisees for all international growth.

Meanwhile, In-N-Out appears to be testing the market across the Pacific. In December, it took its signature burgers to Shanghai for a one-day pop-up event to introduce the brand to consumers. Last month, In-N-Out held a similar tasting in Sydney, Australia.

Protecting its image is

nothing new for In-N-Out, which has been quick to take legal action against 118 copycats. A Maryland chain called Grab-N-Go Burger agreed to change its red-and-yellow logo after In-N-Out sued last year for trademark infringement.

All the fuss was lost on Chinese customers dining at the Shanghai CaliBurger on a recent Friday night. Though the initial buzz was driven by expatriates, many diners had never heard of In-N-Out.

"I live in the neighborhood and I wanted to try something new," said Stephen Sun, 31, a shoe salesman dining with his wife. "I like how they toasted the bun. I also like how strong the spiked shakes are. I worked hard today."

Zhang Wenting, a 24-year-old local resident wearing Dior glasses and a faux-fur coat and carrying a dark Gucci purse, said the California vibe was lost on her. She found the cream-colored banquettes and chessboard floors uninspiring.

"I think they need to do something about the color scheme in here," she said, describing her plain burger as "no different from Burger King."

Customers who knew about the In-N-Out connection — mostly U.S. expats — said CaliBurger is a welcome addition to Shanghai, which is better known for its famous soup dumplings, or *xiao long bao*.

As she attacked a cheeseburger, Cheryl Hung, an American, said its flavor was close enough to In-N-Out to satisfy her taste buds.

"It's China," said Hung, 26. "Anywhere else and I'd be surprised by a rip-off."



LOOK FAMILIAR? One big difference is you can get bourbon in your shake at this CaliBurger eatery in China. In-N-Out also is testing markets in Asia.



[MaDonal]

ruled by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, an ethnic Kurdish Party, and protected by a no-fly zone that barred Iraqi military planes and was enforced by the United States and Britain.

In the years that followed, hundreds of private businesses emerged, encouraged by the local government and aided by the easy availability of goods from Turkey. The firms have been constrained by the absence of a banking system that has generally forced transactions to be in cash, but they have also been nurtured by capital from Kurdish relatives abroad.

Sulaymaniyah today is a place that feels unlike the rest of Iraq, a place where money can fetch what it desires and the traditional mores that prevail elsewhere generally do not obstruct the selling of product. It is a place that feels prosperous, as evidenced by Swiss watches on many a wrist and the BMWs ubiquitous in the traffic.

At a cafe in the lobby of the Sulaymaniyah Palace Hotel on a recent afternoon, patrons in well-tailored clothes sipped bottled peach juice from Turkey as they watched music videos on a large-screen television -- Abba, followed by an animated sketch featuring a pair of women in bikinis exploring Miami in a convertible adorned with vanity plates: "Make Luv."

Down the street, Ismail Hama Amin attended to his framing shop, which was full of posters of President Bush and Prime Minister Tony Blair superimposed on a map of Iraq. Nearby, a row of appliance shops offered hair dryers from Germany, juicers from France, and vacuum cleaners and Sony PlayStations from Japan. Other shops offered pirated DVD movies, such as "Jaws" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark," and a Charlie Sheen picture called "Hot Shots! Part Deux," featuring a cigar-smoking Saddam Hussein character as a villain.

Nearby, Mohamed Abdul Wahid piled ice cream bars from a factory in Iran into a Styrofoam cooler, handing them off to a boy who would sell them in a nearby market.

A block away at Renas Internet Center, a largely unknown and illicit medium in Hussein's day, satellite delivered the global computer network to men occupying 15 cubicles. They stared at the same sort of content that attracts most of the attention in other lands: One downloaded a photo of an Italian soccer star, while another surveyed a German casino gaming site. A third visited an "adult love line," taking in the sight of "blissfullgrl25" in her underwear, next to her vividly detailed description of how she prefers to pass the evening.

"They like to check e-mail, chat, then visit the sexy sites," the manager, Aram Omer, said. "Mostly sexy sites. But some sexy sites want MasterCard. We don't have a bank in our country."

Lately, northern Iraq lacks a lot of other things, too. Though the war hardly touched this region, sparing it the heavy damage inflicted elsewhere, the conflict inspired Turkey to shut its borders, crimping the flow of goods and raising prices. At his electronics shop, Khader Abdulla complained that the same Samsung videodisc player he used to buy from a trading company in Turkey for \$23 now costs \$48.

At Matbax, which opened four years ago, owner Ahmed Amin does not worry about legal challenges from McDonald's, asserting that a small rectangle in his logo that blocks the bottom of one of the arches makes clear that his is a non-infringing operation. Moreover, he said, the name Matbax, is close to the word for "kitchen" in Arabic, solidifying his legitimacy. He said he is exploring plans to build restaurants in Kirkuk and Baghdad. His manager, Amanj Mohamed, scoffed at the suggestion that their cross-town rival, MaDonal, was competition. He warned against even setting foot in the place. "Cheap quality," Mohamed said.

Amin even holds out the possibility of partnering with McDonald's, imagining that the world's most successful hamburger franchise might wish to tap his extensive knowledge of beef shwarma, which occupies a prime place on his menu and a large chunk of his kitchen space as well.



FASHIONABLY BLACK;
AFRICAN AND
CARIBBEAN STYLES
CATCH ON; WAY OF
DRESS THAT BRIDGES
RACIAL GAPS

USA TODAY
August 14, 1990
By Elizabeth Snead

Fashion is turning black by popular demand. Dressing Afrocentrically - in dashikis, small round kufi hats, "fade" shaved-side hairdos, Rastafarian dreadlocks, kinte cloth, batik dresses and African beads - is now hipper than hip for young (and young-at-heart) blacks and whites.

"African looks are very big among kids," says Irma Zandl, president of Xtreme, a New York-based youth-marketing agency. "Black kids are responsible for 70% of the new trends in all kids' clothing."

It's not just clothes, though. All things African are being embraced in a cross-cultural trend social observer Charles W. Thomas calls "the darkening of white America."

The show biz black pack - including Soul II Soul, M.C. Hammer, Spike Lee, Eddie Murphy and Arsenio Hall - has put black lingo, culture and fashion in the limelight.

"What we are seeing is various aspects of black culture incorporated into the daily lives of white Americans," says Thomas, professor of urban studies at the University of California, San Diego. "It began with music and has spread to fashion, dance, language and body adornment."

Seventeen magazine proclaims dreadlocks and Caribbean chic as "the new fashion passion spreading from coast to coast."

And still trend-setting singer Cyndi Lauper flaunted long Rasta dreads in her recent concert at the Berlin Wall.

"The interracial clothing trend began a few years ago in Venice Beach and San Diego," says Regina Rizzo, 19, a trans-planted "El-Ayer," now a saleswoman at Nomad, an ethnic clothing shop in Washington, D.C.

"Now," says Rizzo, who sports blond dreadlocks and nose rings, "it's really happening."

Vendors have been pushing ethnic trinkets and togs on street corners from New York to Miami for months; now the trend has hit Seventh Avenue, where batik, bold colors, foreign pattern mixes are de rigueur in surfer jams, sarongs and summer dresses.

It looks like the trend may hang around. Paris couturier Yves Saint Laurent draped his models in python prints and Afri-can wooden jewelry for spring '91 couture, previewed in Paris last month.

"It's an alternative style of dressing," asserts Bob Dotolo, 26, a Washington, D.C., musician and bartender who wears a Jamaican knit hat for an "attitude adjustment" and to complement his tattoo-smothered forearm. "It's just something different and untraditional."

Rizzo takes pride in her untraditional dreadlocks. She read a book about Jamaican Rastas that told how to make dreads, and "I just stopped brushing my hair. It took about five months to get it matted in round locks."

Randy Levy, 40, St. Paul, Minn., head of Rose Production, a music booking agency, stopped cutting his hair 15 years ago. Dreads were a natural outgrowth. Even though fashion has finally caught up with him, Levy says, "A lot of older people tend to look at me cross-eyed."

Still, full lips, broader noses and darker-skinned fashion models are in growing demand at major talent agencies.

Even Vogue, that oracle of material modes, notes the regrowth of the old Afro hairstyle. The retro-do is also imitated by a new funk band called, yes, the Afros.

And teen idol Bart Simpson has been Afrocentricized. Bootleg versions of Simpson T-shirts - Rastabart, Air Simpson, MC Bart and Black Bart Simpson - are selling wild in the streets.

Modern tribal body-embellishments - tattoos, nose rings, even belly button rings - are also growing in popularity.

And while matted dreadlocks can be cut off, these ethnic accoutrements aren't so easily discarded.

Rizzo, who wears a trio of nose rings, admits she's over the cutting edge with her pierced lip. Yes, it does get reactions.

"People are always asking me stupid questions, like did it hurt and how do I kiss," Rizzo says. "But some people like it."

Even if you aren't going to be pierced, inked or dreaded, you can't miss the message in popular music.

"Read a book or something. Learn about yourself. Read about your culture," the controversial rap group Public Enemy admonishes in She Watch Channel Zero.

And that's precisely what blacks and whites are doing, through the wearing of cultural fashions.

"For me, (black culture) is the only thing in this country that has any culture that I'm interested in," Rizzo says. "After all, Africa is the mother of where we all came from."

How do black people feel about whites wearing dreadlocks and African pendants?

"It's a joy to see the subcultures reflected by both young blacks and whites," says Malik, drummer for a Richmond, Va., reggae band, Burma Jam. "It's an absolute joy."

And there is also the feeling that this fashionable exchange will bring the cultures closer together.

Erika Betts, 20, of Annandale, Va., has been cultivating dreads for 10 months. "Overall, the cross-cultural trend is good," she says. "They (white youths) have to at least know what the colors mean to wear them."

BROOKLYN RESTAURANT'S
NAME MAY BE A POINT
OF PRIDE, BUT THE
NOTE IT HITS IS SOUR



The New York Times
April 4, 2009
By KAREEM FAHIM

To the list of lofty names that glamorize the city's fried chicken stands, like Crown, Royal and Kennedy, one Brooklyn restaurant owner decided to add another: Obama.

From the restaurant's perspective, the name change grew out of pride in the new president and a keen sense of commerce. From other perspectives, it was tone-deaf at best, and racist at worst. When the restaurant, Royal Fried Chicken on Rutland Road in Brownsville, changed its name last week to Obama Fried Chicken, the reaction was swift.

"Community leaders came. They told us we have to change the name," said Mohammad Jabbar, 33, the manager. "They said if you don't change it they will take action."

It was the latest outbreak of commercial enthusiasm for President Obama and his family. An Illinois company tried to sell dolls that looked like the president's daughters, and a Brooklyn brewery, Sixpoint Craft Ales, named a beer Hop Obama in honor of the community organizer in chief.

A few minutes' drive from Obama Fried Chicken, Obama Beauty Supply, opened its doors several months ago. Its owner, Mohammed Seraji, said he was inspired by his children's enthusiasm for the president, along with Mr. Obama's popularity in the neighborhood. A Michelle Obama wig he sells, for \$49.99, is emerging as a popular item.

A White House spokesman, Ben LaBolt, said in an e-mail message, "The White House has a longstanding policy of disapproving uses of the president's name and likeness for commercial purposes."

At the restaurant, Mr. Jabbar, who said he had been a lawyer and university instructor in his native Bangladesh before moving here in January, has, apart from serving food, become Obama Fried Chicken's spokesman. The owner, he said, did not wish to speak to reporters.

Explaining the decision to rename the restaurant, Mr. Jabbar said that not only was the owner fond of President Obama but that the entire neighborhood also "loved" him.

"From this love, everything is happening," Mr. Jabbar said, weary from all the attention.

There were support and derision for the unnamed owner along Rutland Road, where most every store hangs a picture of the president, and where, on a rainy Friday, passers-by took cellphone pictures of the rebranded fried chicken stand.

Chantel Harewood, 18, a college student who grew up in the neighborhood, ordered food from Mr. Jabbar and said she liked the new name. "Why not? It's history," she said. "All these stereotypes. People got to relax."

However, Mr. Jabbar said that the restaurant was bowing to the pressure, and that it would be renamed Popular Fried Chicken by the weekend. Ms. Harewood did not think much of the new name. "That's so blah, predictable, typical," she said. The current name, she added, gave her "pride."

In the Au Monde Chic barbershop, where Mr. Obama's portrait hung on a back wall, Alnord Benoit cut a customer's hair and called the name change "disrespectful."

"Did he get permission from Obama?" Mr. Benoit asked.

In a nearby computer store, the manager, Earl Dennis, jokingly said he should rename his place Obama's Computer Store. "It's publicity," Mr. Dennis said. Of the chicken restaurant, he said, "I'm not eating there."

Competition might have played some role in the new name. Crown Fried Chicken is across the street, owned by Osman Mohibi, 47, an Afghan immigrant. He keeps pictures of Mr. Obama and Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. taped to the plexiglass divider by the cash register.

Mr. Mohibi said his competitor's misstep was winning new customers for Crown Fried Chicken. "He used the name," Mr. Mohibi said of the owner. "He used black people."

Kevin McCall, one of the community organizers who confronted Obama Fried Chicken's owner, said he received calls from residents disturbed by the sign, and quickly contacted the owner to tell him it was "very offensive to African-Americans."

The owner told him it would be taken down the next day, Mr. McCall said. When it was not, he contacted the owner again. "I said we would be out there having a rally," Mr. McCall said.

City Councilman Charles Barron, who was also involved in the effort to change the name, said it was possible that the owner was simply trying to exploit the president's name. "Fried chicken, watermelon and minstrels are part of the racist stereotyping of black people in America," he said. "It's outrageous. You have to be sensitive and knowledgeable."

At the store on Friday afternoon, Mr. Jabbar served ice cream to teenagers and chicken wings to regulars. He said he did not really understand the pressure to bring down the sign, since everyone who came in the store seemed to like the idea. And he was concerned about what would happen if the community advocates returned.

"I'm new to this country," he said. "I don't really know what they could do."

I'M BART, I'M BLACK
AND WHAT ABOUT IT?

By MICHEL MARRIOTT

While there have been occasional blackened Betty Boops and a few attempts last year to recast Batman as "Black Man," no other non-black figure, born or drawn, has been so freely appropriated by young blacks as Bart Simpson. "Bart is so flexible, almost anyone can relate to him," Tony Jackson, a black 32-year-old street artist, said as he was custom-painting "Black Bart," as the transformed character is known, on T-shirts at a recent street fair in Detroit.

The T-shirts have gained popularity at a time when movies like "House Party" and television shows like "In Living Color," created by blacks, are beginning to make small inroads into popular culture.

Nonetheless, Reginald Hudlin, who directed "House Party," said there remained a conspicuous absence of blacks in movies and on television, on the screen, which may account for the popularity of "Black Bart."

"This shows us that there is an audience so hungry that they will blackface a white idea," said Mr. Hudlin, who is develop-oping a pilot for a black prime-time animated series.

Yet in an era in which ethnic polarization seems widening and racial relations are more edgy, others - including some black scholars who have examined the phenomenon - say there is something more complex in Bart's darkening com-plex-ion than just the addition of color.

Russell Adams, the chairman of the Afro-American Studies Department at Howard University in Washington, said he believes that young blacks have a special affinity for Bart for two reasons.

First, he said, Bart is a celebration of the outsider. "There is a rowdiness about Bart and an unvarnished chutzpah on the part of Bart," he said. He suggested that these qualities speak particularly well to many black youngsters who are grow-ing up in a society that often alienates them.

"There is a suppressed rage in the cartoon that black people are picking up on," Dr. Adams said.

Second, there are elements of the character that make him particularly accessible, he said. The most obvious example is the character's hair, which is starkly similar to the box-cut hair styles that have been popular among young blacks.

Ernest White, the host of Cross Talk, a daily telephone call-in program on WDCU radio in Washington, said the subject of "Black Bart" has come up frequently on his program.

"I believe there is a feeling in the black community that blacks are being blamed for a number of social ills that they are not necessarily responsible for," he said. "I guess this presence of the 'Black Bart' T-shirt" says there is an association with the underdog, a need to fight the establishment."



Given all that, said David Rambeau, director of Project BAIT, or Black Awareness in Television, a public-interest group in Detroit, the primary motivation of selling "Black Bart" is commercial.

"It is just another aspect of, interestingly enough, crossover," he said. "This time it is from the white side to the black side."

Sadly, he added, black artists who could create original black cartoons have been shut out of the mass media.

Simply darkening Bart's skin was not enough to make him more popular for black youth, said Percy Newsum, produc-tion manager for Olmec Corporation, a black-owned toy company in New York. He said that the character was made to reflect a black background, with clothing styles and accessories.

"The trend right now is that minority people are looking for something that suits their background," said Mr. Newsum, whose company has sold more than 1.1 million black dolls and action figures since the company was founded in 1985.

He said that the results of a survey the company conducted in Washington this summer showed that almost 90 percent of black respondents considered it "insulting" to offer white toys that were only painted black.

But while some blacks say they are encouraged by what they interpret as black youths' rejection of a basically white character until it reflected more of their own style and attitude, many other blacks say the character that has emerged on the T-shirts is crudely stereotypical and will be ultimately harmful to African-American children at a time when positive black images in popular culture are painfully scarce.

Dr. Adams of Howard said he was disturbed by Bart's generally anti-authority, anti-education and "verbally violent" behavior and its potential influence on young psyches. This fall, he said, new episodes of "The Simpsons" have been moved by the Fox Broadcasting Sunday to Thursdays, when the program

will directly challenge "The Cosby Show" - a satirical cartoon family taking on an idealized family.

A black version of a Bart T-shirt, carries one of the white Bart's popular slogans: "Underachiever and proud of it, man."

Moreover, some critics of the "Black Bart" phenomenon complain that recasting Bart as black trivializes authentic black heroes and concerns.

Minutes after Nelson Mandela spoke at Yankee Stadium last June, for example, vendors were hawking selling souvenir T-shirts with the likenesses of the South African leader and Black Bart standing against an African backdrop.

Ultimately, the reasons for the popularity of the black Bart character may be as elusive as determining where the dark masses of T-shirts come from.

Ask any street vendor where he gets the T-shirts, which sell for \$5 to \$10, and you're likely to receive a shrug of the shoulders and a rather dubious "I don't know."

Tony Jackson, the street artist in Detroit, said his shirts are not mass-produced and that he did not know who designs and markets the mass-produced versions.

A Fox spokeswoman in Los Angeles said recently that none of the Black Bart T-shirts are licensed by Fox or the crea-tor of "The Simpsons," Matt Groening.

In a written statement, Mr. Groening said he had mixed feelings about the proliferation of dark-skinned Barts. Part of the statement: "You have to have mixed feelings when you're getting ripped off."

But, speaking more specifically about the character's racial or ethnic identity, he denied that Bart had any. "Bart is like Santa Claus," he said. "No one really knows what color he is."

Oba-Ta-Iye, a 48-year-old black vendor at Harlem's African Market, said there was no mystery to Bart Simpson's herit-age. "He's a white boy who's crude and arrogant and has no respect for his elders," he said. "This is a disgrace, that our people buy this stuff. It's messing up black kids."

Oba-Ta-Iye, who has been selling African art objects for 20 years on the corner of 125th Street and Malcolm X Boule-vard, said he refuses to stock any of the dozens of variations on the Black Bart T-shirt.

A few feet away, hundreds of those T-shirts beckoned to frequent passers-by. A slender black woman in her 20's stopped and scanned the many rows of neatly folded T-shirts that spoke to her, in boldly lettered blurbs: "Apartheid. No!," "I didn't do it," "Watch it, Mon!!!" "I got the pPower," and the coolly sly "You wouldn't understand; it's a black thing."

On learning that the vendor didn't have a fall line of Black Bart sweat shirts, she huffed and walked away.

Derrick Saunders, 23 years old, who lives in the Rockaways in Queens, frowned at the suggestion of a black Fred Flint-stone or George Jetson or any other popular cartoon character.

But, he said, there is "something about Bart" he likes.

GERMAN BIZ'S ODE
TO BAM RAISES
FINGER-LICKIN' FUROR

Daily News (New York)
March 17, 2009
BY MICHAEL SAUL

A GERMAN FROZEN food company seeking to capitalize on President Obama's popularity recently began marketing a new fried chicken product called "Obama Fingers," sparking outrage from African-Americans on this side of the Atlantic.

"It's racist and inappropriate," declared Councilman Charles Barron (D-Brooklyn), calling for a boycott of the company's products. "We should do all that we can to see to it that no [company] disrespects the first black President."

Judith Witting, a sales manager for the company, Sprehe, said the connection. between Obama and fried chicken - a stereotype long associated with African-Americans - never occurred to her

"It was supposed to be a homage to the American lifestyle and the new U.S. President," Witting told Spiegel Online, a German media outlet.

"We noticed that American products and the American way of eating are trendy at the moment," Witting said. "Americans are more relaxed. Not like us stiff Germans, like [Chancellor Angela] Merkel."

While the company alleges it didn't intend to offend, African-American leaders here in the states called on the company to rename the product and apologize.

"Without a doubt it does raise concerns that are rooted in the history of racism and stereotypical types of characterizations of AfricanAmericans," said state Sen. Bill Perkins (D-Harlem). "It reminds us that [Obama's] victory does not automatically end that which we've been struggling against."

According to the product packaging, the fingers are "tender, juicy pieces of chicken breast, coated and fried."

It comes with a tasty curry sauce.

The White House declined to comment.



[Foundation...]

In October last year, an item appeared on an authoritative Russian studies website that soon had the science-fiction community buzzing with speculative excitement. It asserted that Isaac Asimov’s 1951 classic Foundation was translated into Arabic under the title “al-Qaida”. And it seemed to have the evidence to back up its claims.

“This peculiar coincidence would be of little interest if not for abundant parallels between the plot of Asimov’s book and the events unfolding now,” wrote Dmitri Gusev, the scientist who posted the article. He was referring to apparent similarities between the plot of Foundation and the pursuit of the organisation we have come to know, perhaps erroneously, as al-Qaida.

The Arabic word qaida - ordinarily meaning “base” or “foundation” - is also used for “groundwork” and “basis”. It is employed in the sense of a military or naval base, and for chemical formulae and geometry: the base of a pyramid, for example. Lane, the best Arab-English lexicon, gives these senses: foundation, basis of a house; the supporting columns or poles of a structure; the lower parts of clouds extending across a horizon; a universal or general rule or canon. With the coming of the computer age, it has gained the further meaning of “database”: qaida ma’lumat (information base).

Qaida itself comes from the root verb q-’-d: to sit down, remain, stay, abide. Many people appear to think al-Qaida’s name emerged from some idea of a physical base - a command centre from where Bin Laden and other leaders could direct operations. “We’ve got to get back to al-Qaida on that one,” it’s possible to imagine a footsoldier saying. Bin Laden himself has spoken, post-September 11, of being in “a very safe place”. There have also been stories that his father had a vernal estate called al-Qaida in Yemen or Saudi Arabia. Could there be a sense in which the name of the organisation represents a notion of the eternal home in the consciousness of its fugitive leader?

On the surface, the most improbable explanation of the name is that Bin Laden was somehow inspired by a Russian-born writer who lived most of his life in the US and was once the world’s most prolific sci-fi novelist (born in 1920 in Smolensk, Asimov died in New York in 1992). But the deeper you dig, the more plausible it seems that al-Qaida’s founders may have borrowed some rhetoric from Foundation and its successors (it became a series) and possibly from other science fiction material. As Nick Mamatas argued in an article on sci-fi fans in Gadfly magazine, “even the terror of September 11th had science fictional overtones: it was both an attack on New York from a tin-plated overlord with delusions of grandeur and a single cataclysmic event that seemingly changed everything, for ever”.

Science fiction has often featured “evil empires” against which are set utopian ideas whose survival must be fought for against the odds by a small but resourceful band of men. Such empires often turn out to be amazingly fragile when faced by intelligent idealists. Intelligent idealists who are also psychopaths might find comfort in a fictional role model - especially one created by a novelist famous for castigating that “amiable dunce” Ronald Reagan: the president who prosecuted the CIA’s secret war in Afghanistan.

The Empire portrayed in Asimov’s novels is in turmoil - he cited Gibbon’s Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire as an influence. Beset by overconsumption, corruption and inefficiency, “it had been falling for centuries before one man really became aware of that fall. That man was Hari Seldon, the man who represented the one spark of creative effort left among the gathering decay. He developed and brought to its highest pitch the science of psycho-history.”

Seldon is a scientist and prophet who predicts the Empire’s fall. He sets up his Foundation in a remote corner of the galaxy, hoping to build a new civilisation from the ruins of the old. The Empire attacks the Foundation with all its military arsenal and tries to crush it. Seldon uses a religion (based on scientific illusionism) to further his aims. These are tracked by the novel and its sequels across a vast tract of time. For the most part, his predictions come true.

Seldon, like Bin Laden, transmits videotaped messages for his followers, recorded in advance. There is also some similarity in geopolitical strategy. Seldon’s vision seems oddly like the way Bin Laden has conceived his campaign. “Psycho-history” is the statistical treatment of the actions of large populations across epochal periods - the science of mobs as Asimov calls it. “Hari Seldon plotted the social and economic trends of the time, sighted along curves and foresaw the continuing and accelerating fall of civilisation.”

So did Bin Laden use Foundation as a kind of imaginative sounding-board for the creation of al-Qaida? Perhaps reading the book in his pampered youth, and later on seeing his destiny in terms of the ruthless manipulation of historical forces? Did he realise much earlier than anyone else that the march of globalisation would provide opportunities for those who wanted to rouse and exploit the dispossessed?



In the Arab newspaper al-Hayat, the Muslim intellectual Yussuf Samahah put it like this: “Anyone who believes that his (Bin Laden’s) ‘ideas’ and the new phenomenon (globalisation) are contradictory would be mistaken, because while globalisation is gradually uniting the planet, it is causing many introverted and revivalist reactions which use the tools that globalisation provides to give the impression that they are not only fighting it but will ultimately defeat it.” Using something like game-theory, Asimov’s Hari Seldon worked on exactly such principles, taking into account, across time, the dynamic between intergalactic megatrends and local reactions to them.

If Bin Laden did read Asimov, when was it? It is clear that from an early age he consumed western products and media, until a fundamentalist reversion occurred when he met the Palestinian preacher Abdullah Azzam, who was to be a crucial influence.

As Bin Laden’s best biographer, Yossef Bodansky, puts it, he “started the 1970s as did many other sons of the affluent and well-connected - breaking the strict Muslim lifestyle in Saudi Arabia with sojourns in cosmopolitan Beirut. While in high school and college, Osama visited Beirut often, frequenting flashy nightclubs, casinos, and bars. He was a drinker and womaniser, which often got him into bar brawls.” If Bin Laden did read Foundation , it most likely would have been in these wild years, when he was aping western habits. Maybe he read an English version, bought in one of Beirut’s English-language bookshops, or during a trip to the US or London (where he bought property in Wembley).

Was there any science fiction for him to read in Arabic? A search dating from 1972 to the present of the Index Translationem , Unesco’s register of translated books, reveals a reasonable amount of classic fantastic fiction in Arabic: The Time Machine , The Invisible Man , Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea . But so far as 20th-century science fiction is concerned, a search found only two clear-cut examples: a 1985 Kuwait book which collected Ray Bradbury’s Pillar of Fire and The Fog Horn and a 1988 Iraqi edition of Colin Wilson’s The Mind Parasites.

Maybe, says Dennis Lien from the University of Minnesota, who made the search, the fabled Arabic edition of Foundation was published prior to 1972 and has not been reprinted since, but passed from hand to hand. “I suppose one could argue that since Asimov was Jewish it may have become politically incorrect in the Islamic world to reprint his books, but the same argument would apply against their being printed to any great degree in the first place.”

In the wake of September 11, the spectre of another science-fiction novel, Frank Herbert’s Dune , was also raised as a possible influence on Bin Laden’s self-mythology. It features a mysterious man whose followers, Arabic-speaking sons of the desert, live in caves and tunnels. They engage in a religious jihad against a corrupt imperialist civilisation.

The case that science fiction, and in particular Asimov, could have had an effect on Bin Laden is strengthened by their better documented effects on other

psychopathic personalities. Japan’s Aum Shinrikyo sect - which released 11 packets of deadly sarin gas into the Tokyo subway in 1995 - was also apparently trying to build a community of scientists modelled on the members of Asimov’s Foundation. “Aum’s bible was, believe it or not, the Foundation series by Isaac Asimov,” says David Kaplan, author of The Cult at the End of the World , a book on the sect, or “guild” as it styled itself.

This is backed up by others. According to Yoichi Clark Shimatsu, former editor of the Japan Times Weekly, “The ultimate purpose of the guild, said the sect’s science minister Hideo Murai, before he was murdered by a Korean gangster, is to rebuild civilisation after a cataclysm and to combat the powerful globalist institutions that are bringing on an apocalypse.”

In 1995, after the subway attacks, a coded letter arrived at the magazine Takarajima 30. Believed to have been from Aum sympathisers, it gives a sense of how seriously the sect’s members took Asimov and science fiction more generally. The letter, which promised an attack on the Tokaimura nuclear reprocessing plant, embedded its threat in a passage of literary criticism.

Shimatsu explains: “The letter was a rebuttal to an essay by Susan Sontag in which she claims the sci-fi film genre is based on a fascination with catastrophe in the age of the bomb. Instead, this critic asserted, science fiction is really about surviving catastrophe, and is therefore optimistic - and the key to the genre is the longing for a sense of scientific community resembling the craft guilds of the past.

“A professor of American literature at one of Tokyo’s top universities, a specialist in science fiction, immediately recognised the passage as the work of literary critic Frederic Jameson. It was obviously selected as a defense of the Aum sect’s effort to build a community of scientists modelled after Isaac Asimov’s Foundation series.”

A small, unplanned nuclear reaction took place at the Tokaimura plant in 1999, the same year the Japanese government cracked down on the sect. There had been other, more minor incidents. All are generally attributed to human error, but Shimatsu believes they may be connected to a second, resurgent wing of Aum working in the nuclear industry on Asimovian lines. “Aum enjoys a huge following within Japan’s nuclear establishment, which is riddled with believers from millennialist sects. Another clue is contained in Asimov’s masterpiece. After the visible First Foundation was crushed by the Galactic Empire, the invisible Second Foundation persisted to eventually win the universal struggle.”

One can’t blame Asimov for fuelling the swollen fantasies of the murderous. It is the last thing this committed pacifist (“violence is the last refuge of the incompetent”) would have wanted. He may not be the only famous sci-fi author to have been taken up by lunatics, anyway. Killer cultist Charles Manson’s favourite book is said to have been Stranger in a Strange Land , written by Asimov’s rival for the imaginative future Robert Heinlein.

More generally, the space opera sub-genre of science fiction offers the possibility of a massive expansion of self- mythologising will-to-power. In a 1999 New Yorker article on galactic empires, Oliver Moreton yanked up French philosopher Gaston Bachelard, author of The Poetics of Space , to explain all this: “Imminence is a philosophical category of daydream. Daydream undoubtedly feeds on all kinds of sights, but through a sort of natural inclination, it contemplates grandeur. And this contemplation produces an attitude that is so special, an inner state that is so unlike any other, that the daydream transports the dreamer outside the immediate world to a world that bears the mark of infinity.” A world, one might add, in which knocking down the twin towers with passenger jets seems a possibility that can be realised. As a genre, science fiction can’t claim exclusive villainous effect. Other figures of extreme public animus have been influenced by different types of novels. Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber, who held science in contempt, told his family that he’d read Conrad’s The Secret Agent “about a dozen times” in his Montana hut, and is thought to have modelled himself on Conrad’s anarchist. He also registered under the name “Conrad” in the Sacramento hotel from which he believed to have sent his bombs.

Earth First!, the militant US environmental gang, claim inspiration from Edward Abbey’s 1975 novel, The Monkey-Wrench Gang , in which eco-guerrillas sabotage dams and bridges. Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh was a fan of neo-Nazi William Pierce’s The Turner Diaries , which tells of a group that blows up the FBI headquarters in Washington.

As, in that very same biscuit-brown building in Federal Plaza, more “Most Wanted” pictures of Bin Laden were being pinned up in the wake of September 11, the Asimov/al-Qaida story was spreading. There was a piece in the Ottawa Citizen. On Ansible, one of the most popular science-fiction websites, hip sci-fi novelist China Mieville was quoted: “An expert on the Middle East told me about a rumour circulating about the name of Bin Laden’s network. The term al-Qaida seems to have no political precedent in Arabic, and has therefore been something of a conundrum to the experts Unlikely as it sounds, this is the only theory anyone can come up with.”

The expert Mieville was referring to is Fred Halliday, who teaches international relations at the LSE. Trying to define al-Qaida, Halliday inclu-deed the Asimov connection as a glancing aside in the “keywords” section of Two Hours that Shook the World , a book about September 11: “The term has no apparent antecedents in Islamic or Arabic political history: explanations range from a protected region during the communist era in Afghanistan, to it being an allusion to the Bin Laden family’s construction company, to the title of a 1951 Isaac Asimov novel which was translated into Arabic as al-Qaida.”

Many readers of Gusev’s original website posting disagreed with its thesis entirely. “Asimov’s story hinges on a secular extrapolation of human history based on mathematics,” says John Jenkins, an expert on the author. “It’s an idea which would make a Muslim extremist cringe.” A letter to the most important British science-fiction magazine, Interzone, pointed out that the German title of Karl Marx’s preparatory musings on capital, Grundrisse , can also be translated as “base” or “foundation.”

Fantasy has certainly been an element in other terror campaigns, as in the influence of Celtic myths of nationhood on Irish Republicanism. Fergal Keane brought a quotation from Yeats into his contribution to the BBC’s 9/11 book The Day that Shook the World: “The heart fed on fantasy, grown brutal from the fare.” What Yeats was indicating, says Keane, “was the power of mythology in the shaping of the terrorist’s consciousness”. To be capable of sustaining a savage war, he went on, “it is necessary to narrow the mind, make it subject to a very limited range of ideas and influences.”

That would seem to cut out Asimov. But other reasons why al-Qaida might be so called are no less mysterious. After all, communiques issued by Bin Laden and his associates never use the name. Instead they refer to themselves as the “World Islamic Front for Jihad against Jews and the Crusaders”, the “Islamic Army for the Liberation of Holy Places” and so on.

The first use of al-Qaida in western media was in 1996 in an American newspaper report which identified it as another name of the Islamic Salvation Foundation, one of Bin Laden’s jihadi charities. The term only came into general usage after the group’s bomb ing of the US embassies in East Africa in 1998, when the FBI and CIA fingered it as an umbrella organisation for various projects of Bin Laden and his associates - many of which grew out of ideas originally hatched by Abdullah Azzam, who’d been killed by a car-bomb in Peshawar in 1989.

The network grew exponentially. By the time Bin Laden was expelled from Sudan in 1996, his roster of jihadis had been computerised. Flying back to Afghanistan on a C-130 transport plane, he is said to have had with him, along with his wives and 150 supporters, a laptop computer containing the names of the thousands of fighters and activists who would help him further expand his struggle against the west. This qaida ma’lumat , this “information base”, seems a very plausible source of the name.

Dr Saad al-Fagih, a Saudi dissident and former Afghan mujahideen, thinks the term is over-used: “Well I really laugh when I hear the FBI talking about al-Qaida as an organisation of Bin Laden.” Al-Qaida was just a service for relatives of jihadis, he said, speaking to the American PBS show Frontline. “In 1988 he (Bin Laden) noticed that he was backward in his documentation and was not able to give answers to some families asking about their loved ones gone missing in Afghanistan. He decided to make the matter much more organised and arr-anged for proper documentation.”

Fascinatingly, the acclaimed biography of Bin Laden by Yossef Bodansky, director of the US Congressional Task Force on Terrorism, hardly mentions the name al-Qaida. Written before September 11, it does so only to emphasise that al-Qaida is the wrong name altogether: “A lot of money is being spent on a rapidly expanding web of Islamist charities and social services, including the recently maligned al-Qaida. Bin Laden’s first charity, al-Qaida, never amounted to more than a loose umbrella framework for supporting like-minded individuals and their causes. In the aftermath of the 1998 bombings in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam, al-Qaida has been portrayed in the west as a cohesive terrorist organisation, but it is not.”

There’s no doubt that the name came to prominence in part because America needed to conceptualise its enemy. This is certainly what Bodansky thinks now. “In the aftermath of September 11,” he says, “both governments and the media in the west had to identify an entity we should hate and fight against.”

Rohan Gunatara, research fellow at the centre for the study of terrorism and political violence at the University of St Andrews, takes a different view. In an important recent book on al-Qaida, he argues that the name came from political theory, citing the concept of al-Qaida al-Sulbah (the solid base) formulated in an essay by Abdullah Azzam, Bin Laden’s intellectual mentor. The solid base provided a platform, Azzam wrote, for the “sole purpose of creating societies founded on the strictest Islamic principles.”

Al-Qaida al-Sulbah mixes a type of revolutionary vanguardism, borrowed from European political philosophy, with Islamic martyrdom: it’s the pioneering vanguard that, after “a long period of training and hatching”, must be prepared to “jump into the fire”. And there may be another borrowing: the essay reads like nothing so much as Hari Seldon’s plans for his foundation. Perhaps it was Azzam, after all, who read Asimov.

CHINESE MARKET AWASH IN FAKE POTTER BOOKS



The New York Times August 1, 2007 By HOWARD W. FRENCH

SHANGHAI— Chinese readers could not wait for the official release of “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,” the much anticipated seventh and concluding book in the series, a little more than a week ago. And they did not have to.

A book with the same title came out a full 10 days before the official worldwide English-language release on July 21 — a wholly unauthorized version that bears nothing in common with the instant best seller written by J. K. Rowling.

The iterations of Potter fraud and imitation here are, in fact, so copious they must be peeled back layer by layer. There are the books, like the phony seventh novel, that masquerade as works written by Ms. Rowling. There are the copies of the genuine items, in both English and Chinese, scanned, reprinted, bound and sold for a fraction of the authorized texts.

As in some other countries, there are the unauthorized translations of real Harry Potter books, as well as books published under the imprint of major Chinese publishing houses, about which the publishers themselves say they have no knowledge. And there are the novels by budding Chinese writers hoping to piggyback on the success of the series — sometimes only to have their fake Potters copied by underground publishers who, naturally, pay them no royalties.

No one can say with any certainty what the full tally is, but there are easily a dozen unauthorized Harry Potter titles on the market here already, and that is counting only bound versions that are sold on street corners and can even be found in school libraries. Still more versions exist online.

These include “Harry Potter and the Half-Blooded Relative Prince,” a creation whose name in Chinese closely resembles the title of the genuine sixth book by Ms. Rowling, as well as pure inventions that include “Harry Potter and the Hiking Dragon,” “Harry Potter and the Chinese Empire,” “Harry Potter and the Young Heroes,” “Harry Potter and Leopard-Walk-Up-to-Dragon,” and “Harry Potter and the Big Funnel.”

Some borrow little more than the names of Ms. Rowling’s characters, lifting plots from other well-known authors, like J. R. R. Tolkien, or placing the famously British protagonist in plots lifted from well-known kung-fu epics and introducing new characters from Chinese literary classics like “Journey to the West.”

Here, the global Harry Potter publishing phenomenon has mutated into something altogether Chinese: a combination of remarkable imagination and startling industriousness, all placed in the service of counterfeiting, literary fraud and copyright violation.

Wang Lili, editor of the China Braille Publishing House, which published “Harry Potter and the Chinese Porcelain Doll” in 2002, one of the Chinese knockoffs, said: “We published the book out of a very common incentive. Harry Potter was so popular that we wanted to enjoy the fruits of its widely accepted publicity in China.”

The attitude reflected in Ms. Wang’s comment goes a long way toward explaining not only the explosion of unauthorized Harry Potter literature in China, but also the much larger problem of rampant piracy in China, where travelers can find six different knockoffs of Viagra, without prescription, on display at airport drugstores, and where bootleg DVDs, fake Picassos, and even near-identical copies of famous-brand automobiles are widely available.

China has recently stepped up efforts to rein in the production, and especially the export, of fraudulent and substandard goods in the wake of scandals concerning exports of contaminated food and a dangerous drug additive. Authors and editors say, though, that cleaning up the worlds of literature and publishing is, at best, an afterthought.

Wei Bin, editor of the Writers’ Publishing House, which investigates book piracy, said that his group’s last survey in 2001 showed that as many as 30 to 40 percent of the books for sale in China might be illegal.

“The focus of the government is not to fight against

piracy,” Mr. Wei said. “It seems they fight harder for banned publications, like pornography, political books, such as things written about the leadership, the government, and historical matters like the Cultural Revolution, and the Anti-Rightist Campaign.”

“They maintain tight control over such things, but as literary books, such as the ones we identify as being pirated, when we report the matter to the relevant authorities, they settle matters by leaving them unsettled.”

Neil Blair, a solicitor at the Christopher Little Literary Agency in London, which represents Ms. Rowling, said the company was investigating reports of piracy and preparing to take action through its local lawyers and Chinese publishers and with the help of law enforcement officials in China.

“Some of these examples seem to suggest that J. K. Rowling actually wrote the books,” Mr. Blair said, speaking of the fake books. “It is possible that people might buy those believing them to be part of the series, and obviously they’d be disappointed.”

An Boshun, the editor of one of the best-selling works of Chinese fiction in recent years, “Wolf Totem” (whose author has maintained anonymity), said there were at least 15 million fake copies of that novel in circulation here, compared with 2 million legal ones.

“I once even got a call from someone who said that he represented two pirate-book businessmen and they wanted him to say thanks to me for my work,” Mr. An said. “They wanted me to know that ‘Wolf Totem’ had brought many job opportunities to country folks working in printing shops in Hebei and Shandong Provinces.”

Some homegrown “Harry Potter” authors are also unabashed about their forays into publishing. One such writer is a manager at a Shanghai textile factory named Li Jingsheng. “I bought Harry Potter 1 through 6 for my son a couple of years ago, and when he finished reading them, he kept asking me to tell him what happens next,” he explained. “We couldn’t wait, so I began making up my own story and in May last year, I typed it up on my computer. I had to get up early and go to bed late to write this novel, usually spending one hour, from 6 to 7 in the morning and 10 to 11 in the evening to write it.”

The result was “Harry Potter and the Showdown,” a 250,000-word novel, the final version of which he placed recently on Web sites, followed by a notice saying he was looking for publishers. The book quickly logged 150,000 readers on a popular Chinese site, Baidu.com’s Harry Potter fan Web page.

“This is fantastic,” Gu Guaguai, an admiring reader, wrote online about “Showdown.” “I wonder if Rowling would bother to continue to write if she had read it.”

Another reader was even more breathless. “You are the pride of our Harry Potter fans,” he wrote, adding, “We expect you to go on and write Harry Potter number eight!” which Mr. Li has in fact already begun.

For all the reader enthusiasm, no publishers contacted Mr. Li, a 35-year-old high school graduate who grew up in rural Henan Province and said that he and his wife, who works at the same factory, together make about \$600 a month.

That didn’t stop his book from turning up for sale in a bound version on the streets of Beijing, Tianjin, Dalian and Shenzhen under the imprint of the People’s Literature Publishing House, the official publisher of the Harry Potter series in China, which says it had nothing to do with the printing of “Showdown.”

“You are not supposed to use the name of Harry Potter anywhere else other than J. K. Rowling’s own books,” said Sun Shunlin, director for business development of the publishing house.

Not all book editors hew to this strict interpretation of copyright, however. Lu Jia, whose Ba Shu publishing company acknowledges printing one knockoff, “Harry Potter and the Chinese Empire,” a few years ago, initially said she did not wish to discuss Harry Potter. “It had problems of intellectual property violations,” she said.

Moments later, though, Ms. Lu spoke almost wistfully about the experience. “Everything would have been fine if they hadn’t made the cover so obvious, even if you copied some sections of the original story,” she said. “But the cover was so outstanding, and foreign people care a lot about things like that.”

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**CHINA STRIKES AT
WEST THROUGH POP
CULTURE WARS**
'Serious' video games aimed at combating
encroaching influence from 'international hostile
forces'
By Calum MacLeod

When Chinese leader Hu Jintao recently warned his nation's ruling Communist Party of an imminent risk from the West, he wasn't talking about the United States boosting its military capabilities in East Asia. He was alluding to things such as video games.

"International hostile forces" use thought and culture "to Westernize and split" China, Hu stated in a speech publicized in January in the party magazine Seeking Truth.

At least China's embattled youth can strike back at the West come May when Glorious Mission, a civilian version of the Chinese army's first training simulation game, goes on sale, according to the state-run China Daily newspaper. Co-developed by the People's Liberation Army, the online, first-person shooter game allows players to destroy enemies that resemble U.S. forces.

Glorious Mission and other "serious games" supported by Chinese authorities form one front in Beijing's multihued cultural offensive, launched last fall. There's been fighting talk from Hu's likely successor, Xi Jinping.

China's universities are "a key ideological front to equip our youth with the core values of socialism," he told the country's deans last week.

Through massive investment, and countless censors, the Communist Party aims to boost China's "soft power," or cultural influence, abroad and shore up "cultural security" at home by guiding audiences back to "socialist core values." Neither goal will come easily.

The international culture of the West is strong while we are weak," Hu admitted

China is the home of pandas and kung fu, yet it took Hollywood to make the smash-hit animated movie Kung Fu Panda, the sequel of which was China's most popular film in 2011.

The fast-swelling ranks of young, urban consumers here have proved highly receptive to the pop culture of the USA and Asian neighbors South Korea and Japan.

State censors launch regular crackdowns, sometimes with bizarre targets: Last year, authorities restricted time-travel TV dramas and banned downloading of certain foreign pop songs, including The Backstreet Boys' seemingly non-political 1999 hit I Want It That Way.

In recent weeks, the government has stripped two-thirds of entertainment programs, mostly talent, talk and dating shows, from the schedules of China's popular satellite stations.

Citing "excessive entertainment and a trend toward low taste," regulators have forced satellite channels to switch to programs promoting "traditional virtues and socialist core values," the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

Some viewers reject the changes.
"I can't understand why the government deprives us of the right to enjoy TV entertainment programs, as they are so mild and interesting," complains Zhu Qiansheng, 23, an unemployed graduate from Zhengzhou, central China.

As authorities shrink his options, Zhu has gone online for U.S. shows such as House and Prison Break and Chinese websites' own shows that dare to air "more open" content. "I worry the Internet will also be more controlled this year," Zhu says.

The clamor of cultural rhetoric reflects the political atmosphere of this transition year for China's leadership, says Sheila Melvin, a U.S. writer working on a book exploring China's cultural rise. Some party analysts hope to buttress China's cultural strength against the Western culture they see spurring the "Arab Spring" revolutions and the collapse of another communist dictatorship, the Soviet Union. There's also a deeper, moral purpose, Melvin says.

"The Communist Party has inherited the ancient belief that culture transforms -- exposure to high culture can make you a more moral person, exposure to low culture can cause you to behave immorally," she says. "The party sees the many problems in Chinese society and hopes to address them with culture. To some degree, it can be seen as a substitute for religion."

Video game creator Linus Xin hopes his "serious games" achieve some impact by enlivening the ideology and morality classes every Chinese college student must take.

Being tested in the capital's colleges, the Emotional Quotient Gas Station game teaches students how to interact with the opposite sex in a respectful manner, says Xin, CEO of Intellect Valley Communications. China's Ministry of Culture promotes the "serious game" category, characterized by strong educational and moral messages, although Xin and fellow game developer Zheng Yaqi say they have not received funding support.

"I hope the name 'serious game' won't scare off players," says Zheng, CEO of Pipilu Culture and Technology, who is transforming the popular children's stories of his father, Zheng Yuanjie, into educational games.

Online game fanatic Liu Bowen, 23, has never played a "serious game" and dismisses EQ Gas Station for its "boring and silly" name. But he looks forward to the PLA's Glorious Mission "if it's violent and bloody." Otherwise, "I have no interest."

"I don't think it's good for government to control or encourage which type of game we should play," Liu says.

billion, up 64 percent from 2009. Even with their comparatively small numbers, foreign films drew 44 percent of all receipts and made up 4 of the Top 10 draws last year.

"You can control the system and all the incentives for people to watch movies, but at the end of the day they are going to watch what they want to watch," said Kevin Lee, vice president for programming at dGenerate Films, a distributor of independent movies from China, most of which are never seen at mainland theaters.

The government also wields a heavy hand over domestic productions and imports, tinkering with scripts, censoring content and barring entire genres. Recent regulations include bans on scenes depicting excessive drinking and smoking and plots that denigrate revolutionary heroes and government officials. Another guideline warned television producers to steer clear of dramas employing time travel. Such shows, the State Administration said, "casually make up myths, have monstrous and weird plots, use absurd tactics, and even promote feudalism, superstition, fatalism and reincarnation."

In two dozen recent interviews at theaters around the capital, some patrons said they were pleased that domestic films were beginning to adopt Hollywood production values. But younger viewers, especially those who have grown up downloading American sitcoms and films -- nearly all of them illicitly -- increasingly demand the technical wizardry and narrative complexity that they say is often lacking in state-backed productions.

"Unlike domestic films, foreign ones often have layers of plots," Wang Tong, 14, said earlier this week as he waited to see the Hong Kong thriller "Mysterious Island" at a theater not far from Tiananmen Square.

That's not to suggest that Chinese filmmakers are short on creativity. A number of recent box-office successes, including "Let the Bullets Fly," an action comedy set in the 1920s, and "City of Life and Death," a period drama about Japanese war atrocities in Nanjing, have also been well received critically.

China redacts 'Men in Black'

Censors reportedly have cut out scenes in New York City's Chinatown.

By STEVEN ZEITCHIK

"Men in Black 3" is the latest film to face the wrath of Chinese censors.

At least three minutes of Sony's sci-fi comedy have been excised for its Chinese theatrical run, according to a person with knowledge of the matter who asked anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak about it publicly.

The offending scenes take place in New York's Chinatown. They include a shootout between Will Smith's Agent J and Tommy Lee Jones' Agent K and evil aliens disguised as workers in a Chinese restaurant, plus a moment when Smith's J "neuralyzes," or memory-wipes, a group of Chinese bystanders.

A Chinese paper, the China Southern Daily, speculated that the latter scene may have been cut because it could be viewed as a comment on China's censorship of the Internet.

The news was first reported in the English-language press by Britain's Daily Telegraph, which pegged the total time of the cuts at 13 minutes.

"MIB 3" brought in more than \$21 million last weekend when it opened in China, by far the largest total of any

of the more than 50 foreign territories in which the movie has premiered.

Chinese law limits the number of Hollywood movies that can be shown in its theaters, prompting studios to be careful about any China-related content in their films. In this case, Sony learned of the Chinese government's objections after the film had been completed.

This is hardly the first time a Hollywood movie has been altered for its mainland release. A moment in "Mission: Impossible 3" featuring laundry hanging in Shanghai, for instance, was removed before the film was shown in China. Scenes of the Hong Kong actor Chow Yun-fat playing a villain in "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" were also excised.

Studios are sometimes proactive in removing scenes themselves. MGM changed in postproduction the nationality of villains in its upcoming "Red Dawn" reboot, digitally transforming them from Chinese to North Korean.

Sony is no stranger to working with the Chinese government. The company collaborated with the Asian nation on its 2010 remake of "The Karate Kid," which was shot in Beijing and other parts of the country and offered a generally positive view of life on the mainland. It starred Will Smith's son, Jaden.

steve.zeitchik@latimes.com



And a growing number of sophisticated art-house dramas and documentaries have been made without government backing, though such films are often banned from Chinese theaters and rarely make it beyond the international festival circuit.

Then there are films like "Beginning of the Great Revival," the state-backed extravaganza that features over 100 stars but has been panned by many of those who have seen it. The production has earned \$46 million during its first three weeks, according to the state-run Xinhua news agency. But with state-owned enterprises buying up large blocks of tickets, the film's popularity has been questioned.

Despite adamant denials by a co-director, Huang Jianxin, many audiences seem to believe one prevailing rumor: that foreign blockbusters will be delayed until "Great Revival" receipts surpass \$120 million. Such suspicions are reinforced by a couple of undeniable truths: "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" will not reach China until Thursday, three weeks behind the United States premiere, while "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" is not scheduled to land here until Aug. 4.



Pros and cons of soft power Chinese college students love American films and TV dramas but are also aware of the US' hegemonic and seamy side

In this era of well-developed technology, it is possible to change our stereotype view of another country or culture without crossing national borders. A study involving 114 Chinese college students was conducted to find out how they viewed the United States and how they formed their views.

Today's college students will become the backbone of society and, hence, have an impact on future Sino-US relationship. Did the image of the US they had formed during pre-college years change with time and accumulation of wider knowledge?

The students, interviewed over four years from 2008, revealed that the media indeed had a great impact on the formation and alteration of their views on the US. Apart from Chinese media, the other sources that influenced the students' views were American movies, music, TV dramas, novels, news reports, sports (especially NBA), Western festivals, chatting websites and occasional acquaintances with Americans.

All the respondents said their perspectives of the US had changed since childhood, the change being closely associated with the channels of communication they had been exposed to.

The Chinese media mainly served as information provider. Most of the students said they also sourced their information from international news on TV and weekly magazines, mostly read by elites in China. Their impression: the US seemed to occupy the center stage of international news.

Consciously or unconsciously, China's mainstream media have

defined the US' political image for many Chinese youths. One of the students said: "When sitting for exams in political science and answering questions on the US, words such as hegemony, power politics and imperialism kept popping up in my mind without any prompting."

But another student seemed to contradict the first: "Our perspectives of the US, of China, and even the whole world, are undergoing slow but subtle changes. We do not confine ourselves to the information fed us by the traditional media. By integrating the voluminous amount of information available to us through the Internet, we construct one 'brave new world' after another for ourselves."

The general view of the students on the US, however, was that it is a country with limited equality (equality in American society is equality among whites, not interracial equality), relative freedom and liberty (mostly referring to freedom of speech), absolute openness (all kinds of stimulating activities to seek fun and excitement), hegemonic politics, developed economy and false human rights claims (interfering with domestic affairs of other countries and playing the role of global police).

Most of the respondents said that though their high school curriculum for subjects like history, geography and English initially provided a rational idea about the US, it created different attitudes among them. Some of them admired the US for being a great power, some hated it for using its strength to bully weaker countries, while others called it

somewhat of an "upstart" country with a brief history and little legacy.

Though the accounts of the US that some of the students had read in newspapers and magazines during adolescence left an indelible mark on them, they began seeing new facets of the US after they entered college. Hollywood movies penetrated their hearts and minds, while American TV dramas, all downloaded from the Internet, opened a window to the "American spirit and American character". Regardless of whether they admired or despised the US, they said that American TV dramas had greatly influenced their views on the US.

They started asking: Why Chinese films and TV dramas don't have the same influence to infiltrate other countries and cultures? How can the US successfully use all kinds of media to promote American values?

In general, the students surmised: The power of culture is inseparable from the power of politics and economy. Hollywood movies have been the most influential factor in creating the US' image as the "dream nation" among Chinese students. Many Chinese students saw startling high technologies, lingering and loyal love stories, strong patriotism and the eternal spirit to strive for excellence in Hollywood movies.

The respondents were college students who could blend their sentiments and perceptions with strong rational thinking to reach a conclusion. They were exposed to many media channels, which often offered conflicting images of the US, and had to sort, analyze, compare and integrate a variety of information before reaching their respective conclusions.

Sometimes, a student's reaction to and cognition of American cultural products changed with the passage of time. Though they perceived the US as a "wealthy, civilized, and liberal" country, they were acquainted with news about the conflicts and seamy side of American society, which also came from movies about gangsters and was confirmed by media reports.

Many respondents said the Chinese as well as the American versions of US history had had a strong impact on the formation of their views. Others said their initial impression of the US began with films and TV dramas, but they realized that was not the best way to know the country.

Most of the students alluded to the US bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in 1999 when they talked about how they formed their views on the US. Many of them expressed mixed feelings about the US. One student who planned to go to the US for higher studies wrote: "I am not sure how many people are like me, who on one hand censures American hegemony and on the other cherishes a secret longing for the multiple opportunities it offers."

To conclude, Chinese college students' perspective of the US comprises perceptual as well as conceptual knowledge gathered from a variety of sources, of which the mass media are the main channel. But overall, they remain cool-headed when it comes to enduring "American cultural waves".

The author is a professor with the School of Journalism & Communication at Xiamen University.

The New York Times
July 18, 2011 Monday
**WAITING FOR HARRY,
CHINESE FILMGOERS
GET PATRIOTIC EPIC**
By SHAO HENG and ANDREW JACOBS

BEIJING -- It has been something of cruel summer for Chinese movie audiences. The latest installments of Hollywood blockbusters like "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" and "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" have been delayed, and it is doubtful that American-made crowd pleasers like "Horrible Bosses" and "The Hangover Part II" will ever arrive in theaters. In the meantime countless moviegoers have been driven into cinemas as part of a government campaign to promote a sprawling epic about the Chinese Communist Party.

"I was confused throughout the entire movie," Liu Yang, sophomore at Tsinghua University Medical School, said after watching "Beginning of the Great Revival," which was released last month to coincide with the party's 90th anniversary. "It featured way too much romance with Mao Zedong."

Even as box-office revenue soars and the nation accelerates construction of new theaters -- 313 were built last year for a total of 6,200 screens -- audiences in increasingly sophisticated cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou criticize the selection and quality of films. Government regulations effectively limit wholly foreign-made films to 20 titles a year, roughly equal to the number of monthly domestic releases. Despite a World Trade Organization ruling that seeks to remove the quota, the Chinese State Administration of Radio, Film and Television continues to shield the domestic film industry from foreign competition.

Box-office receipts last year in China totaled \$1.57

FAKE HARRY POTTER BOOK RELEASED IN CHINA



BEIJING (AP) — Roll away, “Sorcerer’s Stone”! Step aside, “Prisoner of Azkaban”! Harry Potter and Leopard-Walk-Up-To-Dragon are here!

Chinese fans of the British boy wizard with the lightning-bolt scar on his forehead are snapping up the fifth book in the wildly popular series.

There’s just one problem. It’s fake — written by a Chinese author for a Chinese audience.

The 198-page book — titled “Harry Potter and Leopard-Walk-Up-To-Dragon” after its mysterious villain — has the name and bio of British author J.K. Rowling on its cover. But the tale in which Harry turns into a hairy dwarf after a “sour-sweet rain” is the unauthorized work of an anonymous author.

“We have not found who wrote the book or where they come from,” said Zhang Deguang of the People’s Literature Publishing House, which has the series’ publishing rights in China. “It’s made a negative impact on our book sales.”

Rowling is at work on the real fifth installment, which is not expected to be finished this year.

Rowling’s agent, the Christopher Little Literary Agency in London, said it was aware of the fake Chinese Harry. A spokeswoman who asked not to be identified refused to comment by telephone, but sent The Associated Press an e-mail saying, “We are taking this issue extremely seriously.”

It was unclear what punishment the fake author could face, given the uniqueness of the situation. However, China’s government has promised repeatedly to crack down on counterfeiters and and intellectual property theft. Still, flocks of hawkers trade unpunished Friday in central Beijing, in full view of police. selling fake DVDs were playing their



Harry Potter — “Ha-li Bo-te” in Mandarin — has had authorized translations into 18 languages.

A movie made from the first book, “Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone,” ranked No. 7 on the all-time box office list in the United States, taking in \$317 million. In China, unauthorized copies were being sold by DVD peddlers on the street four days after it opened in the United States and Britain.

Publication in 2000 of the genuine Harry Potter — a boxed set of the four books to date — was a major literary event in China.

A team of four translators, veterans who had rendered “Alice in Wonderland” and “Tom Sawyer” into Chinese, drew on China’s own tales of ghosts, magic and kung fu for language to portray Harry’s world of sorcery.

The first printing was 600,000 copies, which the publisher said was the biggest of its kind ever in China for a commercial work.

Zhang said the People’s Literature Publishing House has found copies of the unauthorized Harry in wholesale markets and private bookstores throughout Beijing.

One unidentified bookseller told The Beijing Youth Daily that nine out of her 10 copies were sold in a matter of days.

Most booksellers visited by reporters on Friday denied having copies. They said police threatened to fine them 10 times the \$2.80 price if any copies were found.

“The fifth one hasn’t been published!” yelled one merchant at a wholesale warehouse.

A shopkeeper in western Beijing sold a copy for \$1.20, pulling it from a hiding place behind a stack of books.

The cover of “Leopard-Walk-Up-To-Dragon” shows a dark-haired, bespectacled boy in black robes riding a satyr battling a dragon. The story centers around a struggle between Harry and his classmates at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and a mysterious wizard.

In a bizarre touch, the book is dedicated to the owner of a house in Edinburgh, Scotland, where Rowling lives and to the owner’s 3-year-old granddaughter.

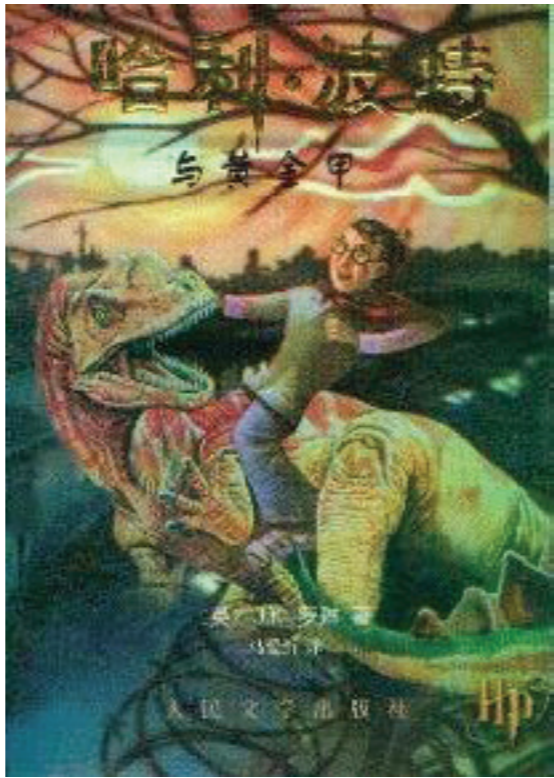
Characters well-known to fans of Rowling’s series make an appearance — the Dursleys, Harry’s friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley and his archrival, Draco Malfoy.

A cartoon sketch begins each chapter, as in the original. Among their quirky names is, “The Dance of the Spider and the Fly.”

For all that, true Harry Potter fans won’t be fooled for long. Rowling’s imitator just doesn’t have her touch. Consider the opening paragraph:

“Harry is wondering in his bath how long it will take to wash away the creamy cake from his face. To a grown-up, handsome young man, it is disgusting to have filthy dirt on his body. Lying in a luxurious bathtub and rubbing his face with his hands, he thinks about Dudley’s face, which is as fat as Aunt Petunia’s bottom.”

CHINESE PIRATES ROB ‘HARRY’ OF MAGIC, FEES



Chinese Harry Potter fans have been rushing to buy a new instalment of the hit book series - but it is a fake.

An anonymous Chinese author has decided JK Rowling is taking too long to write the fifth book - so has written a new adventure to satisfy the huge Potter market in the country, according to a report in The Times.

Harry doesn’t know how long it will take to wash the sticky cream cake off his face

Opening line of Harry Potter And Leopard Walk Up To Dragon

Harry Potter And Leopard Walk Up To Dragon, on sale in Beijing street markets for about £1, is selling fast to the dismay of the publisher of the genuine Potter books in China.

Neil Blair, of the Christopher Little Literary Agency which represents Ms Rowling, told The Times: “As with all piracy matters throughout the world, we take this issue extremely seriously and are looking into the matter urgently.”

The People’s Publishing House, which has the Potter publishing rights in China, said the writer of the pirate novel had also used the names of its translators and editors - as well as a photograph of JK Rowling.

But the new Harry plot is a radical departure from anything in the genuine Rowling books to date.

Drenched by a mysterious rain, Potter is transformed into a fat, hairy dwarf and stripped of his magic powers as he battles the forces of evil in the shape of a dragon, reports The Times.

Characters from the real Potter books have been resurrected and new ones invented to populate a plot that is reportedly evocative of Hobbit author JRR Tolkien.

The book begins with the lines: “Harry doesn’t know how long it will take to wash the sticky cream cake off his face.

“For a civilised young man it is disgusting to have dirt on any part of his body. He lies in the high-quality china bathtub, keeps wiping his face, and thinks about Dali’s face, which is as fat as the bottom of Aunt Penny.”

The Harry Potter phenomenon has been hit by many kinds of piracy around the world, including pirate videos and DVDs.

Pancakes like you’ve never had before at the IHOP

By Grouchy

Years ago it was called the International House of Pancakes, but the acronym, IHOP, was just so easy to say and so easy to use in advertising. IHOP had a nice sort of jingle and so the official name is still the International House of Pancakes, the acronym rules and so it is IHOP.

Grouchy’s sweet tooth took charge so with two friends in tow IHOP and all of its fantastic breakfast delicacies became too much to resist.

IHOP is located on Haines Avenue conveniently located near the exits from Highway I-90, the main artery through South Dakota. It has ample parking spaces and it is an easy in and out.

The restaurant itself is of modern design and it is neat, clean and attractive. The service is outstanding. The day Grouchy and guest arrived they were shown to their table by a pleasant waitress named Lori. She was quick, friendly and efficient.

Coffee at IHOP is a little too expensive. A cup costs \$1.99 compared to the 59 cent coffee at McDonald’s. There is an item on the menu called 2 x 2 x 2 and it gives the customer the opportunity to choose from a variety of breakfast items on the menu. Grouchy had scrambled eggs, bacon and hotcakes and his guest chose likewise.

Grouchy asserts that the scrambled eggs were the best eggs ever and the hotcakes were light, fluffy and delicious. There are several choices for syrup in little glass dispensers already in place on the table. There are different kinds of fruit syrups such as blueberry or strawberry, but there is also the old standby of maple syrup.

The 2 x 2 x 2 meal costs \$7.59 and that is not bad for a great breakfast meal. All total the meal for three at IHOP cost \$29.19, but the \$6.00 for three cups of coffee was a bit much.

Anyhow, IHOP is a great place to eat anytime of the day because all of the breakfast items are available all day.

Grouchy liked it so much that a return trip for a hearty breakfast was made just one week later and once again, Grouchy was not disappointed in the meal.

IHOP is a very busy place especially on weekends so get there early when you’re in town for basketball games or are here just to shop for your back-to-school items.

The school year is just around the corner so before it starts, treat your kids from Kyle, Eagle Butte, Pine Ridge, Porcupine, Mander-son, Wanbli or all of the other places as far away as Standing Rock to a great, delicious and satisfying meal at the IHOP on Haines Ave.

MR. PRESIDENT, HERE WE USE CHECKS AND BALANCES

St. Petersburg Times
November 19, 2006
BY ROBYN BLUMNER

Vice President Dick Cheney has already said he’s not going to cooperate. He told ABC News on Nov. 5 that if he got subpoenaed by Congress he’d probably refuse to show up.

“Obviously, we’d sit down and look at it at the time,” Cheney said. “But (I’d) probably not (appear), in the sense that the president (and) vice president are constitutional officers and don’t appear before Congress.”

This isn’t much of a surprise coming from Mr. Undisclosed Location, and the more momentous question will involve whether Cheney also intends to hold back documents that Congress seeks. But Cheney’s contempt for Congress’ oversight authority and his presumption of unreviewable executive prerogative is a pervasive one throughout the administration. This means, expect a coming constitutional crisis.

It has been a hallmark of this administration that it has taken special pains to limit the flow of information to congressional overseers, and a pliant Republican-led Congress has not made much of a fuss.

For example, a significant number of President Bush’s signing statements declare that the executive branch will ignore requirements for submitting reports and information to Congress.

And Congress has received the same treatment from agencies and departments. When Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., documented the use of expensive private jets by administration officials for their travel, he noted that there was no information on the abuses from the Homeland Security Department because it had failed to respond.

Even some Republicans have run up against the wall of executive branch arrogance. Sen. Arlen Specter, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was so frustrated trying to pry information from the White House about the administration’s warrantless domestic spying program that he threatened to shut off the money to it.

The administration’s attitude of impunity reflects the view that the executive branch operates in its own orbit. Somehow, in Bush’s and Cheney’s minds, the separation of powers has warped into the segregation of powers, with the commander in chief and all that flows from that office immune from accountability.

But there’s a rude awakening coming with the 110th Congress when Democrats control the gavel. They are not going to be so easily put off.

I expect the phrase “executive privilege” will soon be tattooed on every news junkie’s mind the way it was during the Nixon years. And if Bush broadly asserts the privilege, the courts will soon be drawn into the fracas.

A nice treatment of the legal issues was done by Morton Rosenberg in a 1995 Congressional Research Service report. He found that Congress cemented its power to probe the executive branch during the 1920s Teapot Dome scandal, which involved oil company payoffs to members of the Harding administration.

Congressional investigators homed in on Harding’s attorney general and his refusal to prosecute the corrupt officials. But that investigation was stymied when subpoenaed witnesses refused to provide information.

The issues landed in the Supreme Court, which ruled in two seminal cases that Congress has sweeping powers to investigate the operations of executive branch departments. The rulings essentially wiped away any executive privilege claims for executive branch department and agency operations beyond the ambit of the White House itself.

Fast forward to 1974 and U.S. vs. Nixon. Here, during the tumult of the Watergate investigation, the president of the United States asserted executive privilege to quash a subpoena sought by the special prosecutor for tapes made of certain Oval Office conversations.

Richard Nixon claimed that he had absolute executive privilege and could refuse to turn over the tapes even if they were pertinent to a criminal investigation. He also claimed that, under the doctrine of separation of powers, the courts had no power to review the president’s decision to withhold information.

This didn’t go over well with the Supreme Court. In a unanimous ruling the court reminded the president that no man is above the law and that the courts are charged with policing this mandate. It also rejected his claim of executive privilege on the grounds that the president’s right to receive confidential advice was outweighed by the interests of criminal justice.

The court did throw out one nugget that Bush administration lawyers must now be polishing to a high sheen. It mentioned almost offhandedly that the case might have been resolved differently had the president been asserting a “need to protect military, diplomatic, or sensitive national security secrets.”

The court did throw out one nugget that Bush administration lawyers must now be polishing to a high sheen. It mentioned almost offhandedly that the case might have been resolved differently had the president been asserting a “need to protect military, diplomatic, or sensitive national security secrets.”

We’ll see if this dangerous caveat has legs. It shouldn’t. Courts have generally concluded that Congress can demand sensitive and classified information.



ELMO ARRESTED FOR PANHANDLING



Tuesday, October 25, 2005

LOS ANGELES-October 25, 2005 -- The red and cuddly Sesame Street Muppet Elmo has learned a new lesson: ‘H’ is for handcuffs.

A man dressed as the character was one of three impersonators arrested last week for allegedly harassing tourists for tips after posing for photos on Hollywood Boulevard. Booked with him were people impersonating superhero Mr. Incredible and the dark-hooded character from the horror movie “Scream.”

The impersonators said they were taken into custody at gunpoint, handcuffed and paraded on the Hollywood Walk of Fame before stunned tourists and other impersonators. They were charged with misdemeanor “aggressive begging,” police said.

“With all of the crime in Los Angeles they pick on us?” said Elmo impersonator Donn Harper, 45, who makes up to \$400 a day in tips.

Tourists have complained that the costumed characters harass them for not tipping after posing for photos in front of Grauman’s Chinese Theater and the Kodak Theater. Merchants say some of the costumed characters are scaring tourists.

Los Angeles Police Officer Michael Shea said police warned impersonators at a meeting last month that the department would start enforcing solicitation and harassment laws. Officers conducted a sting operation by posing as French tourists who didn’t understand English or the American tipping culture.

“Make no mistake about it – I wanted the characters to know what we’re doing,” Shea said.



► Popular TV show accused of ripping off US programs

Netizens post evidence of scene stealing

By Lu Chen

Dozens of forum and microblog users have uncovered that recent episodes of the popular Chinese television series *Ipartment* have many of the same plots, lines and jokes as well-known American TV series.

The posts have sparked heated discussion online because the show, now in its third season, started airing for a national audience last week on four major satellite TV channels across the country.

The group of online critics have accused producers of stealing ideas from shows such as *How I Met Your Mother*, *Friends* and *The Big Bang Theory*, according to posts on Sina Weibo, tianya.cn, the popular Chinese forum, and douban.com, an online community that focuses on books and movies.

Critics have posted screenshots with subtitles of different *Ipartment* episodes. Some offered links to edited video clips from previous seasons on youku.com, the online video website, to show further evidence that the show's producers have long been copying ideas from American TV series.

"Many lines and scenes have been completely ripped off from American shows. I thought it was shameful to do this. It is an insult to the American TV producers and an insult to the screenwriters and

producers of original Chinese TV shows," said a netizen who asked to be identified by her English name Grace.

On Saturday, the show's producers sent an apology letter to a famous online joke and screenplay writer for using his jokes without permission. In the apology, the producers acknowledged that the show contained jokes from "various sources."

They offered to pay 10,000 yuan (\$1,569) in compensation for every 1,000 Chinese characters of material.

One of the actors on *Ipartment*, Chen He, defended the show Friday in a report in the Shanghai Evening Post, saying the episodes were an homage to the American TV series.

However, Grace and other online critics didn't buy the explanation. Grace said that some of the 40-minute episodes are 30 minutes of plot copied from another show and 10 minutes of jokes compiled from other sources.

"According to Chinese copyright law, translating an original work requires that one first get permission from the author. Otherwise, it may result in copyright infringement," said Ren Haiyong, a Shanghai-based lawyer specialized in intellectual property law.

Grace said she hopes her efforts will help promote originality on Chinese television.



(Top) The cast of the TV show *Ipartment*. (Below) Comparison screenshots from *Ipartment* and the US series *How I Met Your Mother*, as compiled by a Weibo user. Photos: CFP and weibo.com

TV revival needs more than SARFT guidelines

By Yu Jincui

According to the Beijing News on Friday, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) recently put forward six new guidelines on the production of TV series. The new guidelines demand that a clear line be drawn in dramas of China's revolutionary history and that dramas cut back on excessive family conflicts and jokes about history. They also demand that business-themed shows emphasize positive values, and on-line games and foreign shows not be adapted into TV series.

SARFT reportedly came up with these guidelines at a working conference with high-level management from various TV stations several days ago. They have been put into effect in the past few days. This is not the first time that SARFT has tried to regulate TV dramas. In December last year, it issued regulations prohibiting dramas about historical court intrigues and time travel from being aired on TV during prime time.

Those guidelines and regulations

SERVER

have their merits. With time travel-themed TV dramas and online novels becoming so popular in recent years, many young people have become addicted to them and even seek to travel in time when facing difficulties in reality. Two schoolgirls in East China's Fujian Province committed suicide in March, leaving notes saying that killing themselves could help them travel back to ancient times.

China's TV dramas are considered to be lacking in vitality and characteristics. In recent years, Chinese TV screens have become filled with costume dramas, repetitive family dramas and poor adaptation of Chinese classic novels. It is laudable that the authorities are trying to clean up TV, but tightening the censorship on TV dramas may be a superficial move. The new guidelines may dampen the inspiration of screenwriters. This worry is not groundless. Indeed, some writers have already said that

they would quit their jobs.

Besides, China's TV dramas may lose any quality that makes them interesting by complying with these guidelines. For example, adapting online games into TV series is not undesirable. Many popular online games such as *Tomb Raider* and *Dead Frontier* have been adapted for TV and become hugely popular. Properly adapting online games could diversify the style and content of TV dramas.

The controversies around the new guidelines for TV production actually mirror the embarrasment state of the industry. The quality of TV series is worrying and regulation is necessary, but SARFT's regulations also bring undesirable side effects. Cultural vitality could be better achieved through encouragement. More work, besides administrative regulations, needs to be done to revitalize Chinese TV.

Page Editor: wangwenwen@globatimes.com.cn

SARFT bans remakes of overseas TV drama series

By Du Liya

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) has once again tightened its oversight over the content of television series.

The guidelines demand that revolution-themed TV dramas draw a clear line between friend and foe, that family dramas are not exaggerated, and that historical dramas must remove fabrications.

The guidelines also state that TV dramas adapted from foreign productions and online games should be banned.

An anonymous staffer at SARFT confirmed the news on Saturday and said that the guidelines had already been carried out nationwide, the Beijing News reported.

"The ban on remaking foreign TV series is positive, as remakes damage the creativity of our own industry," Miao Ruomu, a scriptwriter, told the Global Times. While saying SARFT's restrictions are based on good intentions, Miao noted "they are going too far and limiting our creative space."

Li Daoxin, a professor with the School of Arts at Peking University, echoed Miao's opinion saying SARFT should act more like a guide that leads the industry to develop, instead of constantly imposing bans.

An online posting titled "SARFT forces us to turn off television" on Tianya forum, a popular domestic online social community, was viewed 47,000 times and received over 900 replies, most of which were critical of SARFT.

"Domestic TV dramas are really boring. I will turn to online programs if the ban is put into practice," a viewer surnamed Du told the Global Times on Sunday.

China under influence of American cinema

Hollywood's influence takes hold across the tightly controlled country's commercial and artistic zones.

BETSY SHARKEY
FILM CRITIC

HONG KONG — A few days ago, an art professor from northern China named Li Xu was in a small Beijing gallery in the shadow of Tiananmen Square explaining the unlikely inspiration for one of his paintings: the \$2.7-billion blockbuster "Avatar."

After the 34-year-old finally caught the film last year (it first opened in China in early 2010), Li wanted to see if he could marry the serenity he felt infused "Avatar" with the aesthetic of traditional Chinese painting. It's an ethereal piece — black and white, brush strokes of ink on rice paper creating willow trees, cascading waterfalls and clouds of spray — that does indeed evoke the lush, liquid paradise of James Cameron's Pandora.

The painting was just one of the many ways I felt the impact of American cinema rippling through China during a recent trip to Asia for the Hong Kong International Film Festival, which winds to close this week.

It seems like hardly a week goes by without some story in the Hollywood trade publications about this U.S. studio or that setting up shop in China, or doing deals here, the better to mine its fast-growing, multibillion-dollar market. But such headlines rarely capture the thoughtful and savvy ways Chinese are adapting the Hollywood system to expand and refine their own industry, and the desire for more artistic and cultural freedom that is the subtext flowing through their conversations, and increasingly, their art.

I was struck by how American entertainment

was such a tangible part of ordinary life. In Hong Kong, I ran into a waiter who saves to buy his favorite mainstream Hollywood hits on DVD. Outside a theater in the city, giggly teenagers were camped out as part of "The Hunger Games" mania. And my Great Wall tour guide said he idolizes Brad Pitt in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" and is on his 80th episode of "Desperate Housewives" — just, he assured me, to work on his English skills.

When I went to the National Museum in Beijing, the biggest draw was not a display of ancient artifacts, or a visiting European retrospective on art from the Age of Enlightenment; it was an exhibition on comic books and animation. The show was curated to celebrate the Chinese artistic and commercial progress in the art form since the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party in 2007. It was an interactive experience, video monitors lining the walls with a continuous loop of animated shorts and the comic books were all within reach, the better to be thumbed through.

In Hong Kong, I encountered an entrepreneur who had conducted a very studied reflection of the movie business and was setting up an operation modeled after Hollywood's old-style studio system, complete with above- and below-the-line contract players. "Why start from scratch each time you make a film? The original studio system made sense," said the entrepreneur, who was reluctant to have his name published until his effort is more fully developed.

He's hoping to be a force in developing China's film-making infrastructure, which is not big enough yet to easily support all the U.S. studio interest there. He's found a local workforce eager to learn trades for the small operation he's started about two hours by train north of Beijing. At Filmart, Hong Kong's version of the American Film Market, he chatted with representatives of a South Korean CGI

house he's just put under contract. He's already made a couple of low-budget films and is in talks with U.S. filmmakers about handling their projects. While he hopes for big profits, capital from his Internet company is funding his studio dreams for now.

Although Chinese culture feels open and global minded in casual conversation, there are reminders everywhere of how tight a rein the government maintains. Only last week, the artistic community was protesting the government's step-up of website censorship, one of which I got a taste of with my access to Google, Facebook, even the Weather Channel, blocked on my computer in Beijing.

One of the films at the Hong Kong film festival had censorship very much on the mind. Pigg Ho-cheung's "Vulgaria" is a satire about rumors that the government may start restricting the use of Cantonese — spoken in Hong Kong and southern parts of the mainland — in favor of Mandarin, at least as the official language used by major Chinese media. His film also worries that the younger generation isn't worried — his argument being that suppression leads to extinction.

I sensed that the punger generation might not be that complacent if Roger, my Great Wall tour guide, is any indication. From rural part of the country, Roger is also fluent in English, has very employable in Beijing.

Though he's barred from accessing Facebook, he's still acutely aware of it, wants it, and can't be only 24-year-old with such an obsession. He spends part of every day seel, what he can access on YouTube, he is a student of American entertainment and eager to analyze what he sees, as well as his likes and dislikes, a one-man focus group. Oh, and he predicts the Facebook ban will eventually end, within five years he guesses, but he hopes it will come sooner.

betsy.sharkey@latimes.com

TV series viewers worried after ban

By HAN BINGBIN

hanbingbin@chinadaily.com.cn

Chinese TV series fans are worrying they may have nothing interesting to watch on TV after the country's top broadcasting watchdog issued new guidelines that restrict the making of six genres of serials on the Chinese small screen.

The six guidelines issued by the State Administration of Film, Radio and Television ban remakes of foreign serials and serials based on online games. The guidelines also demand that revolution-themed TV series clearly distinguish between friend and foe, and that serials in a modern setting cut down excessive displays of family conflicts.

Serials adapted from online novels are also "not encouraged".

The information was first released on a micro blog published by Zhongguo Juben Wang (the China Script Website), who said that the news was first heard at a national TV serial conference.

The information caused panic among scriptwriters, such as Lin Lisheng and his peers, who complained on Sina Weibo — a popular micro-blogging service — that they might lose their jobs.

An anonymous official from the administration confirmed the information to the Beijing News on Thursday, saying the new guidelines became effective a few days ago.

That same day, more than 900,000 micro-bloggers discussed the topic on Weibo.

"I am shocked by the guidelines. So will we still have interesting TV serials to watch in the future?" said Xu Kai, a loyal fan of historical dramas.

The guidelines demand that historical dramas cut out fabrication and dramatization. But in Xu's opinion, as long as a historical drama, which is different from a documentary, gets the basic facts right, dramatized details are necessary because otherwise the show will be boring to watch.

The so-called clear distinction between friend and foe, she added, will also make shows uninteresting because it will stereotype all the characters.

Xu's views are supported by culture critic Tan Fei.

Tan said that the guidelines will prevent scriptwriters from fully applying their talent and creativity and pose a major challenge to the TV industry's "core values".

He predicted the guidelines will have a "huge impact" on the whole industry as its favorite subjects and major sources of inspiration will be wiped out.

But veteran TV serial director Wang Huiheng remained optimistic. He said that in the guidelines, only two genres of serials are strictly banned. For other genres, the administration uses vague terms such as "excessive" and "not encouraged". For him, that means there's room for negotiation and compromise.

"I don't think that it will have a huge influence. It doesn't mean we have all to give up our ongoing projects because they fit into the dangerous genres. We may just have to slightly adjust them," he said.

For Wang, the administration's purpose is not to wipe out those TV serial genres. At a time when the screen is replete with "slipshod and illogical productions that blindly follow market trends", he said, the guidelines are rather a method to "encourage original and better productions".

But he still worries that his work will be harder in the future. While the guidelines point out what the authorities don't like, he said, they don't provide a clear standard to what kind of choices will be appreciated.

"I hope the administration will point us in a clear direction, like what genres of TV serials are safe choices. We can't keep guessing what it is they want us to film," he said.

Hidden Meaning in a Market Drop?

2 | CHINA In a bizarre incident that sent the Chinese establishment into overdrive, the Shanghai Composite Index fell 64.89 points on June 4, echoing the date of the Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations—June 4, 1989—exactly 23 years earlier. The Chinese blogosphere was abuzz with reactions—“Maybe God does exist?” one person wrote—but the country’s censors, already tasked with erasing references to the tragedy, quickly began blocking online searches for stock market, *Shanghai Composite Index*, *Shanghai stock market* and other such phrases. Still, in a nation that puts great emphasis on numerology—hence the Beijing Olympics’ starting time of 8:08 p.m. on Aug. 8, 2008; multiple eights are considered very lucky—that number had already resonated.

THE BUSINESS | By John Bussey

Inside China, Getting Rich Isn’t Always So Glorious



declaring: “To get rich is glorious.”

Turns out that really meant: “Get rich and you’ll get audited.”

Entrepreneurs who make it big and land on well-publicized rich lists in China are more likely to draw government scrutiny, some new research shows. That can be costly—to the business and the entrepreneur. And while plenty of high-fliers in the business elite still easily avoid this sort of problem, the finding highlights the troubling forces at work in China’s complex, and evolving, business culture.

The unleashing of capitalist animal spirits transformed China in a single generation, enfranchising hundreds of millions with new economic power. It also gave rise to widespread corruption, expanded income inequality and deepened suspicion among the

masses toward the newly rich. Just under 1% of households globally control nearly 40% of the world’s private financial wealth, according to the **Boston Consulting Group**. In China, where nearly half the population is still rural, just under 1% of households control more than 70% of the nation’s private financial wealth, BCG

<1%

Percentage of households in China that control 70% of private financial wealth.

estimated in 2008. Surveys of public opinion regularly place corruption and income inequality at the top of Chinese concerns.

Two factors especially feed the problem. Chinese state-owned and affiliated enterprises—the moneymaking machinery of the Communist Party—account for about half

of China’s nonagricultural GDP. That concentration of commercial power keeps business and markets from behaving normally. Instead, the leaders of nonstate companies often do the logical thing: They seek out officials to trade favors.

Or they’re connected to begin with. The Hurun Report, based in Shanghai, tracks the nation’s wealthy and calculates that there were a record 271 billionaires (in U.S. dollars) in China in 2011. A third of the top 50 and five of the top 10 hold official political positions, the report says. “The richer they are, the more political positions they have,” it adds.

And, at times, vice versa. “State intervention and government ownership are the causes of China’s inequality,” writes Zhang Weiyang, an economist at Peking University. It encourages “official corruption and the collusion between the government and business.”

Another problem: The well-known difficulty of getting recourse through Chinese law.

Two professors from the Please turn to the next page

In China, Getting Rich Isn’t as Glorious

Continued from the prior page City University of Hong Kong and University of California at Irvine examined decisions made by the Shanghai Courts. When a Chinese government agency took on a farmer, individual or company, it won 100%, 92%, and 94% of the time, respectively. When a government company tangled with an individual or company, it won 90% and 86% of the time.

“Many entrepreneurs have given up on gaining wealth from normal business activities,” writes Andy Xie, a former Morgan Stanley economist. “Instead they rely on cultivating special relationships with government agencies or state-owned enterprises to gain special advantages.”

Public dissatisfaction “is not about who is rich, but about how one becomes rich,” he continues. “Chinese people suspect that most riches in China are ill-gotten.”

Oliver Rui, a professor at China Europe International Business School in Shanghai, who received his M.B.A. and Ph.D. in finance from the University of Houston, wondered how public sentiment and publicity affect the wealthy and their businesses.

He and two colleagues looked at the publicly listed companies affiliated with individuals appearing on the much-publicized Hurun Rich List from 1999 to 2007. They found that on average the share prices of the companies declined in the days and



Entrepreneurs who land on well-publicized rich lists in China are more likely to draw government scrutiny.

months following publication of the list.

The companies also reported a decline in subsidies from the government. And individuals on the Rich List were more likely to be investigated or arrested by the government—a 17% likelihood compared with 6.8% for entrepreneurs not on the list, the research showed.

In an interview, Mr. Rui says the government may cut subsidies because it doesn’t want public condemnation for supporting the evidently wealthy. The share prices may drop because investors fear the new publicity will draw negative government attention, he adds,

and investigations may ensue because they’re warranted.

“For entrepreneurs who got rich overnight, there must be a lot of under-the-table transactions,” says Mr. Rui, reflecting public opinion.

Mr. Rui’s research is of a select universe. But the Rich List has nonetheless come to be known in certain business circles as the “Death List.”

All this is another reminder of the thicket that foreign companies must navigate in China. High-profile Chinese partners can land a foreign firm on the wrong side not just of Chinese law, but of U.S. or European law too. Alexandra Wragge, the head of Trace

International, a U.S. nonprofit that does due diligence for U.S. firms seeking tie-ups abroad, says “there’s disproportionate interest in China.”

The good news: 260 companies in China, hoping to woo business from foreigners, are active members of the Trace compliance program. That is up from 35 in 2006.

The bad news: That is a drop in the vast ocean of Chinese companies. And many of the rest believe that getting rich, no matter how you do it, is indeed glorious.

Write to John Bussey at john.bussey@wsj.com; follow @johnbussey on Twitter.



This is the right road to socialism

Editor’s note: Party General Secretary Hu Jintao addressed the opening session of a workshop for ministerial and provincial officials on July 23. The following is the latest People’s Daily commentary on the speech:

The kind of banner we hold to guide social progress and the kind of guiding ideology we depend on to unite public opinion will decide the success or failure of our cause.

Addressing a workshop for ministerial and provincial officials on July 23, Hu Jintao once again stressed that socialism with Chinese characteristics is a distinct achievement of the Party and the people through more than 90 years of struggle, creativity and accumulation, an achievement that we must redouble our efforts to cherish, stick to and develop further.

We have opened a socialist road, formed a socialist theoretical system and established a socialist system, all with Chinese characteristics, in the process of devising a series of theories and practices over the past decades. These theories and practices range from the decision to initiate the reform and opening-up policy to the drafting of an overall plan for socialism with Chinese characteristics, from the creation of Deng Xiaoping Theory to the creation of the important thoughts of Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Develop-

ment, from the establishment of a socialist market economic system to the development of a legal system with Chinese characteristics.

On the basis of practice-based theoretical innovations, we have formed and implemented the Scientific Outlook on Development over the past decade, a significant strategic thinking which we must adhere to and implement in developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. All these significant achievements answer such questions as what kind of banner we should hold and what kind of road we should embark on, both of which are pertinent to the fate of the Party, the future of the nation and the welfare of the people.

To fully realize the rich substance and internal requirements of socialism with Chinese characteristics, we should fully understand correlations among the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, its theoretical system and its political system. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a banner for the development and progress of contemporary China. It is also a banner for the unity of the whole Party and people of all ethnic groups.

The socialist road with Chinese characteristics is the only road to realize socialist modernization and create a better life for the people. The socialist theoretical system with Chinese characteristics is the theory that

can guide the Party and the people to realize national rejuvenation. The socialist system with Chinese characteristics, which will provide fundamental institutional guarantee for China’s development and progress, is an embodiment of the characters and advantages of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

By embarking on the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, we have developed ourselves into the world’s second largest economy, established the world’s largest social security system, succeeded in combating the sudden outbreak of SARS and overcome the deadly Wenchuan earthquake. By following the socialist theory with Chinese characteristics, we have continuously created “miracles” in improving people’s living conditions. By adhering to socialism with Chinese characteristics, we have given a satisfactory answer to how we have overcome the global financial crisis.

Our adherence to socialism with Chinese characteristics fundamentally depends on our adherence to the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, and its theoretical and political systems.

To fully realize the rich substance and internal requirements of socialism with Chinese characteristics, we should have a profound understanding of practical, theoretical, national and contemporary characteristics of socialism with Chinese

characteristics. This socialism is the Party’s theoretical innovation, based on China’s national conditions and the combination of the tide of the times and the practices of reform and development.

To continuously push forward socialism with Chinese characteristics under new historical conditions, we should continue advancing with the times and deepening our perceptions of the laws of the Party’s governance, socialist construction and humankind’s development.

To fully realize the rich substance and internal requirements of socialism with Chinese characteristics, we should have an in-depth understanding of the powerful force of developing socialism with Chinese characteristics. The reform and opening-up are a crucial choice that has decided the fate of contemporary China and contributed to its rapid development over the past 30-odd years. We should continue unwaveringly to adhere to this initiative for further development.

There are no limits for the expansion of the socialist road with Chinese characteristics, and its theoretical innovation and institutional improvements. By holding high the banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, we can firmly take the right direction for the development of the cause of the Party and the nation, and create a broader prospect for it.

COUNTERFEIT CAR MAKER CRANKS OUT PORSCHEs AND FAUXRARIS

By Vince Beiser and Joel Gershon
January 31, 2011

You can buy cut-rate bootlegs of Mad Men and Chanel handbags all over the world. But if you want a fake Ferrari, you need to go to a garage on the outskirts of Bangkok. That’s where Chris Pongpitaya and his 10-man crew use scavenged and scratch-built parts to piece together ersatz Porsches, Maseratis, and other dream machines for enthusiasts whose budgets are too small to match their egos. “When you look at the car, there’s nothing different,” Pongpitaya says. “But when you test-drive it, you may notice.”

Buyers from Sweden to Dubai call on Pongpitaya, who learned his skills working for a Porsche parts supplier in Germany. He generally repurposes a chassis, taking, say, a Toyota MR2 as the base for a Lamborghini, or an Opel Carrera for an Aston Martin. Power depends on budget, but typically he’ll put Toyota engines in his Ferraris and Subaru engines in his Porsches. Pongpitaya picks up genuine locks, door handles, and other parts on the secondary market; body panels are all handcrafted in foam and fiberglass—fortified with Kevlar and carbon, with details copied from photographs and toys. Pongpitaya claims that his bodies are stronger and lighter than the aluminum and steel you’d get on a real supercar, and a Lamborghini from his shop costs about 4 million baht—around \$130,000, roughly half of what a midrange (real) Lambo would set you back. It may not do 200 mph on the autobahn, but it’ll turn heads on city streets. Just hope no one looks under the hood.





YES! WE

Röstzwiebeln
150 g
(5.59 / 100 g)

AKTION
-88
statt 1.99

11% billiger

Rocky Mountain Marshmallows
300 g (5.97 / kg)

AKTION
1.79
NUR KURZE ZEIT

6 Hot Dog Würstchen
300 g
(5.30 / kg)

AKTION
1.59
NUR KURZE ZEIT

Hot Dog Sauce
Salsa Hotdog
450 ml
(2.87 / l)

AKTION
1.29
NUR KURZE ZEIT

Spreche „Fingers“
Hähnchenfleisch in knuspriger Panade, mit Curry-Dip, tiefgefroren
500 g (5.38 / kg)

AKTION
2.69
NUR KURZE ZEIT

Dr. Oetker Culinaría Pizza
tiefgefroren, versch. Sorten
355 - 400 g (4.98 - 5.61 / kg)

AKTION
1.99
NUR KURZE ZEIT

BREADIES Hot Dog Brötchen
250 g (5.52 / kg)

AKTION
-88
statt 1.99

11% billiger

CAN!

American Cole Slaw Salad
400 g (2.48 / kg)

AKTION
-99
NUR KURZE ZEIT

ültje Erdnuss Creme
versch. Sorten
350 g
(3.98 / kg)

AKTION
1.39
NUR KURZE ZEIT

Popcorn
200 g (5.40 / 100 g)

AKTION
-79
NUR KURZE ZEIT

Coca-Cola Fanta Sprite mezzo mix zero
1,25 Liter
zzgl. Pfand 0.25
(0.60 / l)

AKTION
-75
statt 1.95

21% billiger

Southern Comfort Geschenkpackung
bestehend aus:
• 1 Flasche 0,7 Liter Southern Comfort
• 1 Flasche 0,75 Liter Rose's Lime Juice gratis
• 2 SoCo & Lime Shot-Gläser gratis

AKTION
13.99
NUR KURZE ZEIT

fabulo Backmischung
für Muffins, Pancakes oder Brownies
250 - 435 g
(3.66 - 6.36 / kg)

AKTION
1.59
statt 1.79

11% billiger

9 Mini Brownies
kleine Schokoladenkuchen mit Schoko-Stückchen
270 g
(5.52 / kg)

AKTION
1.49
NUR KURZE ZEIT

SPAIN’S WHITE ELEPHANT AIRPORT SPENT 30 MILLION EUROS ON ADVERTISING

The scandal of a “ghost” airport in Spain that has yet to see a single passenger through its terminal has deepened with revelations that 30 million euros has been spent on advertising it.

The Telegraph
January 9, 2012 Monday
By Fiona Govan Madrid

Castellon airport in Spain’s Valencia region was inaugurated in March last year after an estimated 150 million euros (£130m) was spent on its development. But not a single aircraft has landed on its runways after the airport failed to secure a license and was unable to attract airlines to add the destination in their routes.

The airport has become a symbol of reckless public spending on ill-thought out projects across Spain that has left the country crippled with debt. A recent report showed that only 11 of Spain’s 48 airports were profitable.

Now, Just days after the debt-laden autonomous region was forced to seek assistance from the central government to stall a default on a loan of 123 million euros, details of the accounts of the Spain’s newest airport have been made public.

It emerged that 30 million euros was spent on publicity for Castellv>n’s airport as it was promoted at tourism fairs, ac-cording to a report in Spain’s daily El Pais newspaper.

The airport even became the sponsor for first division football club Villarreal CF, whose players bore the airport logo on their strip for three seasons in exchange for 2.35 million euros. The sponsorship was later extended to CD Castellv>n.

But while all advertising for the stricken airport has now been put on hold, a 25 meter high metal sculpture is currently being erected in front of the gleaming, and abandoned terminal, at a reported cost of 300,000 euros.

The sculpture, by artist Juan Garcia Ripolles, is said to represent Carlos Fabra, the former premier of the Castellv>n province, who masterminded the airport project.

After 16 years in power for the conservative Popular Party, he was forced to step down last June pending an investiga-tion into tax-fraud, influence peddling and bribery.

It was hoped that Castellv>n airport would open up a new area of Spain’s eastern coast to tourism, although the region is already served well with busy international airports in Valencia and Alicante to the south and Barcelona to the north.



Sunday Mirror
September 25, 2005, Sunday
PLEASE DEMOLISH OUR HELLISH TOWN
By Steve Smith

FED-UP residents who want their entire town centre demolished as part of a TV show are a step closer to their dream.

Locals in Cumbernauld have begged Channel 4 bosses to crown their 1950s-built town Britain’s worst eyecore and have it flattened.

Producers of the show Demolition have revealed that Cumbernauld - voted Scotland’s worst town - has joined the £431m Scottish Parliament in the final of 12 buildings people want bulldozed.

A show insider said: “We were stunned at the number of votes for Cumbernauld - they literally poured in after we asked people to vote for their worst building.”

“The Scottish Parliament was also a surprise because it only opened last year and is up for some top design awards.”

Earlier this year Channel 4 asked people to vote for buildings they want pulled down. A winner from the final 12 will be announced during the series.

Show presenter Janet Street-Porter has already been filming in the town for the series which starts mid-November.



CITY ARTS: GHOST RIDER REDEEMS AND CRITIQUES

By Armond White

If the filmmaking team Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor wrote out their thoughts on how contemporary pop has traduced fun, warped thrills and debased energy in the art form they love, it would be a great provocative piece of criticism—although few film publications would want such a principled view of the destructive entertainment that’s routinely sold to the public. That means this wildly sophisticated team remains obscure (and perplexing to some), but their new film Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance ought to be the movie news of the week.

Ostensibly a sequel, Spirit of Vengeance turns Marvel’s death-and-action Ghost Rider comic book franchise into more than just an entertainment: It’s a spot-on cultural assessment. Neveldine-Taylor use the story of badass biker John Blaze (Nicholas Cage) saving a child from the devil for a modern Redemption allegory.

Neveldine-Taylor redeem cinema unexpectedly by pushing its commercial extremes: outré violence and sarcasm (coin of the Tarantino/video game realm) where horror and comedy mix, as in their two terrific Crank movies. Spirit of Vengeance isn’t the perfect introduction to Neveldine-Taylor’s cynical brilliance but it claries their method: They are the only filmmakers interested in simultaneously mastering genre technique, pursuing an on-going cultural critique and laughing.

After the troubled Jonah Hex project (which Neveldine-Taylor wrote without directing), their gallows humor finds the basic Faust element in Ghost Rider. When John Blaze reneges on his deal with the devil, Neveldine-Taylor trace his madness to our sped-up, digital-age culture. Tarantino exploits vengeance but Neveldine-Taylor explore the ramifications of the “Lust to punish” in today’s berserk world—a criminals-and-monks allegory for how media mavens and private citizens act vengefully without humility or compassion.

Neveldine-Taylor’s moral clarity seems paradoxical given their hyperbolic, deliberately trashy-looking style, but there’s old-fashioned satisfaction to the way they connect modern nihilism to a classic theme. Concerned with the preservation of human values, they express them when angel Moreau (Idris Elba) enlists Blaze to protect Danny (Fergus Riordan) from the satanic clutches of Roarke (Ciaran Hinds). They work through contemporary decadence the same way medieval artists did. Like the Crank movies, Gamer and Jonah Hex, Spirit of Vengeance satirizes purgatory.



FANS OF Harry Potter, who have been thronging the boy wizard’s world at Universal Orlando, above, can expect the same magic when the blockbuster attraction opens in Japan in the not-too-distant future.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE
Fries with a side of fame

An American who fed a homeless woman prompts more soul-searching in China.

By JONATHAN KAIMAN
REPORTING FROM BEIJING

An American student has shot to Internet fame in China since buying a packet of French fries for a homeless woman in Nanjing.

Photos of her enjoying the food with the student — a Southern California native named Jason Loose, who is now endearingly known as “American French Fry Brother” by many Chinese Internet users — have been forwarded hundreds of thousands of times on Sina Weibo, China’s popular Twitter-like microblog.

The images have set off a new round of soul-searching in China since they were posted Saturday. Many Chinese believe that their country’s blind pursuit of wealth has created a moral vacuum, causing feelings of indifference toward the suffering of strangers.

Loose, who has been studying at Nanjing University for nine months, was caught off-guard by his sudden popularity. “I just gave some food that isn’t really even healthy to an old woman and talked with her for a few minutes,” he said of the McDonald’s fries when reached by phone Wednesday. “I don’t see much that’s newsworthy about that.”

“There wasn’t much money in her collection bowl, and it was really hot out,” Loose recalled. “I walked past her and thought that maybe she could use some food and some company.”

The two talked about her poor health, her home in rural Anhui province, and the weather. She said she was thirsty, he recalled, so he poured her some water. He left after about 10 minutes.

‘I just gave some food that isn’t really even healthy to an old woman and talked with her for a few minutes. I don’t see much that’s newsworthy about that.’

— JASON LOOSE,
American student in Nanjing

“I asked what’s her favorite food to eat,” he said. “Her answer was ‘Not French fries.’”

Loose did not find out until the following day that an onlooker had photographed the encounter and posted the images online. He opened his own Weibo account soon afterward. Although he has written only 17 posts, he already has more than 9,000 followers.

Comments on Weibo reflect admiration for Loose’s charity and question why the Chinese aren’t often seen performing similar acts of kindness.

“Truly wish this was a fellow countryman,” wrote one user. “Chinese people, let’s all learn from this,” wrote another.

Yet some users accused Loose of putting on a show, and others questioned his taste in food. One user responded with a tongue-in-cheek nationalistic swagger. “American Imperialism won’t even spare our old ladies,” he wrote.

In an online question-and-answer session with Loose, organized by Sina Weibo, Internet users sought more details about the encounter. “Being a foreigner in China itself attracts attention, but you also sat with a beggar. At the time did a lot of people gather around you?” asked one user.

“This is something I didn’t notice,” replied

Loose. The good Samaritan has been a hot topic on China’s social media websites since last fall, when CCTV video of pedestrians ignoring a mortally injured 2-year-old girl in Guangdong province sparked widespread debate over the country’s moral conscience.

The girl, nicknamed Xiao Yue Yue, was hit by two cars and ignored by 18 passersby before she was finally taken to a hospital by an elderly scrap collector. She later died of her injuries.

Internet users have taken to calling foreign good Samaritans “foreign Lei Feng,” inspired by a Mao-era propaganda symbol.

On Saturday, a Brazilian man in Dongguan in Guangdong province was severely beaten after attempting to stop a mugger from stealing a woman’s purse. About 20 onlookers — and two nearby security guards — failed to intervene as three men pummeled the Brazilian with sticks and belts, Chinese television reported.

Last fall, an Uruguayan woman rescued a suicidal Chinese woman from drowning in Hangzhou’s West Lake, a well-known tourist attraction. “I was angry because the crowd was just curious and simply watching us. It’s not a fashion show,” the Uruguayan woman told the Shanghai Daily newspaper.

In another recent incident, an unidentified Caucasian man helped a woman after she was stabbed numerous times by her mentally ill son in Shanghai’s Pudong airport. He knelt by her side and held a scarf to her wounds until paramedics arrived.

Though Loose is slightly baffled by the attention, he hopes to use his newfound fame to highlight the altruism of many Chinese people he knows.

“I have had a great experience over here, and this has been a part of that experience,” he said.

Kaiman is a special correspondent.



A Ground Zero Grows in Los Angeles

By DAVID M. HALBFINGER

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 11 — Scores of extras loiter, their faces covered in soot. A man sprays gray insulation foam — in lieu of concrete dust — at what looks much like the corner of Church and Vesey Streets in Lower Manhattan. Another tosses reams of paper in the air. Nearby, others are debating precisely how to crush a fire truck and an ambulance.

And just over there, across a dirt road in this isolated industrial tract not far from Marina del Rey, the twisted facade and mangled girders of the wreckage of the World Trade Center are taking shape into a meticulously rendered mockup of ground zero.

A continent removed from the scrutiny of scarred New Yorkers, Oliver Stone’s film about 9/11 rescue workers is deep into its second month of principal photography. And

Oliver Stone recreates the wreckage of 9/11 far from a scarred city.

crew members working round the clock are dressing one of the most sensitive movie sets imaginable.

The film, which as of now is to be called, simply, “World Trade Center,” tells the story of two Port Authority police officers, John McLoughlin and Will Jimeno, who were the last two rescue workers pulled from ground zero alive. It is billed as an uplifting story about everyday New Yorkers helping one another amid a cataclysmic tragedy. So far 20 days in October and November, the cast and crew were in

the New York metropolitan area, filming at the police desk in the Port Authority bus terminal and along the route the officers took downtown on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. They filmed scenes on the Staten Island ferry, the Long Island Rail Road and a subway train in Brooklyn. They shot in Clifton, N.J., near Mr. Jimeno’s house, and in other suburbs.

But now, as the production turns to the grim heart of this story — the scenes inside the World Trade Center, and inside the horrific pile it became; the discovery of the two officers 30-odd feet below the surface by an accountant who had donned his old Marine fatigues; and their extrication after a long and arduous night by teams of rescue workers — the shooting of Mr. Stone’s movie is being done where it will attract far less attention: in and around the gigantic airplane hangar where Howard Hughes once built the Spruce Goose.

Continued on Page 7

FIRST SHOPPING MALL
NAMED THE NATION’S
UGLIEST BUILDING

The Daily Telegraph
December 12, 2005 Monday
By Tim Hall

IT WAS considered a masterpiece in the 1960s, but now Britain’s first shopping mall has been named the nation’s ugliest building.

Cumbernauld shopping centre, perched on stilts above a dual carriageway, was built as the centrepiece of an innovative new town near Glasgow.

The shopping centre’s stock has fallen considerably since its heyday and it is now variously described as “looking like a war zone” and “a national embarrassment”.

Residents in Cumbernauld agree that the collection of derelict buildings, dotted with abandoned shopping trolleys, can now only be improved by bringing in the bulldozers.

In a poll of 10,000 nominations to find Britain’s worst eyesore, Cumbernauld shopping centre beat Gateshead car park, the cement works in Rugby and the new pounds 431 million Scottish Parliament building.

The poll was conducted by Channel 4 ahead of its programme Demolition, which producers hope will create enough public pressure to see the shopping centre razed to the ground.

That the No 1 eyesore should be in their town will come as no surprise to residents of Cumbernauld, a new town begun in the late 1950s as an overflow for Glasgow. The town, whose name means “meeting of the waters”, won awards in the 1970s for its “brave” and “innovative” approach to town planning.

The centre was designed by the late Geoffery Copcutt in the early 1960s and won plaudits for its futuristic raised walkways which placed shoppers away from traffic.

However, by 2001 it had won the Carbuncle Award for the most dismal place in Scotland and was described by the judges as “a rabbit warren on stilts”, and “soulless and inaccessible, something like eastern Europe before the Berlin Wall came down”.

In 2003 The Idler’s Book of Crap Towns named it the second worst place to live in Britain, beaten only by Hull, and when Channel 4 launched its Demolition poll it received votes to flatten the entire town. Many residents said they would help tear it down.

Programme makers thought this a little extreme and accepted instead the nomination of the town’s shopping centre.

More than 1,000 buildings were nominated, including power stations, public lavatories and 156 concrete tower blocks.

Most of the 12 buildings on the list are now unoccupied, including No 1 Westminster Bridge, which sits opposite the House of Commons.

However, at number eight is the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh, which opened only last year after protracted construction that eventually cost pounds 431 million - 10 times the original budget. Britain’s dirty dozen:

- 1 Cumbernauld shopping centre
- 2 IMAX cinema, Bournemouth
- 3 Bus station, Northampton
- 4 Crown House, Kidderminster
- 5 Cement works, Rugby
- 6 Park Hill estate, Sheffield
- 7 Gateshead car park
- 8 Scottish Parliament building, Edinburgh
- 9 The Tower, Colliers Wood, south-west London
- 10 Lodge’s supermarket, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire
- 11 No 1 Westminster Bridge
- 12 Westgate House, Newcastle



The Los Angeles Times
August 25, 2009

BEIJING LOVES IKEA --
BUT NOT FOR
SHOPPING

By David Pierson

BEIJING — With no plans one Saturday, Zhang Xin told his wife, son and mother to wear something smart and hop into the family sedan. He could have taken them to the Forbidden City or the Great Wall, but he decided on another popular destination -- IKEA.

Riding an escalator past a man lying on a display bed with a book opened on his belly, the clan sauntered into the crush of visitors squeezing onto the showroom path, bumping elbows and nicking ankles with their yellow shopping trolleys.

Zhang said the family needed a respite from the smog and a reliable lunch.

“We just came here for fun,” said the 34-year-old office manager. “I suppose we could have gone somewhere else, but it wouldn’t have been a complete experience.”

Welcome to IKEA Beijing, where the atmosphere is more theme park than store.

When the Swedish furniture giant first opened here in 1999, it hoped locals would embrace its European brand of minimalism. A decade later, Beijingers have done just that. Perhaps too much.

Every weekend, thousands of looky-loos pour into the massive showroom to use the displays. Some hop into bed, slide under the covers and sneak a nap; others bring cameras and pose with the decor. Families while away the afternoon in the store for no other reason than to enjoy the air conditioning.

Visitors can’t seem to resist novelties most Americans take for granted, such as free soda refills and ample seating. They also like the laid-back staffers who don’t mind when a child jumps on a couch.

Purchasing anything at Yi Jia, as the store is called here, can seem like an afterthought.

“It’s the only big store in Beijing where a security guard doesn’t stop you from taking a picture,” said Jing Bo, 30, who was looking for promising backdrops for a photograph of his girlfriend.

The store’s success can be traced, in part, to how grounded it is in the capital’s zeitgeist. At a time when home ownership is more within reach and incomes are rising, IKEA offers affordable, modern furniture to an emerging middle class clamoring to be bai ling, or white collar.

It doesn’t hurt either that the understated style is a satisfying departure from, say, the faux French imperial designs favored by the older nouveaux riches and gaudy hotels.

“Our values are changing,” said Lizzy Hou, 25, a university graduate who moved to Beijing in May from neighboring Hebei province for a teaching job.

We want to be modern. I think IKEA stands for a kind of lifestyle. People don’t necessarily want to buy it, but they want to at least experience it.”

Imagining the possibilities here is one of the reasons Bai Yalin drove an hour and a half from her apartment to spend a day at the store with her 7-year-old son and two teenage nieces. There are few other indoor spaces, she said, where she can entertain the children free on an oppressive summer afternoon.

Bai mapped out a five-hour outing. First, they had hot dogs and soft ice cream cones at noon. Then they enjoyed a long rest lounging on the beds. Bai kicked off her sandals and sprawled out on a Tromso bunk bed. The 36-year-old homemaker made herself comfortable and even answered passing shoppers’ questions about the quality of the mattress.

“It’s soft and a great buy at this price,” she told a young woman, pointing to a dangling price tag.

After that, Bai and her family took group pictures. By 5 p.m., it was time for another meal, so they headed to the cafeteria and ate braised mushrooms with rice.

Bai and her husband, a clerk at a heating company, have bought plates and cups at IKEA, but what they’d really like one day is to rid themselves of their clunky old Chinese furniture and bring on the do-it-yourself particleboard.

“Today we didn’t plan to buy anything, just eat and rest,” Bai said.

Many others arrive with the same intentions, sometimes bringing a book to read on a bouncy Poang armchair or carrying stuffed toys for their children to play with on a mattress. For the midday squatters, the abundance of seating is no small detail in a country of 1.3 billion where nabbing a subway or bus seat is practically a blood sport.

The store’s nerve center is the cafeteria. The lunch hour is an endurance contest. Hungry customers pace the dining room balancing overflowing trays, ready to pounce the second a table becomes available.

Beijingers have scarfed down their fair share of Swedish meatballs. Most, however, seem to favor Chinese food such as marinated pork belly with tofu.

It was the prospect of a satisfying and inexpensive meal that brought Luo Jing and her mother, sister and boyfriend into IKEA for the first time one Saturday. The group was resting in the sofa section, each carrying waxy paper cups worn in by one soda refill after another.

“We’ve heard a lot about IKEA but never came,” said Luo, 23. “I like the simplicity. My mom liked the food. We’ll hang out for a while.”

China’s trademark
squatters sit tight

By DAVID PIERSON

BEIJING — The Kardashians sisters don’t sell their clothing and perfume in China, and you can’t buy authentic J. Crew khakis here. But both names are already trademarked by Chinese businesspeople looking to profit from American enterprises that want to tap China’s booming retail market.

Extortion? Nope. It’s called “trademark squatting.” And it’s legal in China, where trademarks generally are awarded to those who are first to register them with government authorities. If these and other U.S. companies want to use their own names, they probably will have to pay the Chinese holder for the rights.

That’s a major contrast to the U.S., where the law tends to favor the first user. And it has led to a crush of applications in China to tie up the names and logos of well-known foreign brands, either to resell them or use them on Chinese-made products.

About 600,000 trademarks were filed in China last year, according to Thomson Reuters research. That’s about three times more than in the U.S., the [See Trademarks, A6]

GOOPHONE I5 FULL
SPECIFICATION LEAKED!



The GooPhone i5 looks set to be the new iPhone 5 beater in more ways than one if these rumoured specifications are any indication of how the new iPhone wannabe will perform!

According to sources close to GooApple, and various pieces of information we have personally gathered we already have a pretty good idea of the specification

the latest GooPhone Android phone will get once it is launched, and there is a good chance that the GooPhone i5Ds specification could be every bit as good as the real new iPhone 5!

As previously reported GooPhone are expected to use Nvidia’s powerful and, now low-cost, Tegra 3 quad-core CPU in the i5 which will be running at 1.4ghz. 1GB RAM and 16GB ROM will help in the memory department, and there are rumors a 32GB version will be made available also.

The 4 inch screen, the same size we expect Apple to be using in the new iPhone 5 (the 6th generation iPhone) is said to have a resolution of 1280 x 720 which could actually be higher than the real iPhone’s which is rumoured to have a resolution of just 640 x 1136!

Android ICS (ice-cream sandwich) 4.0.4 will be loaded on the GooPhone i5 as standard, but this won’t be any old Android ROM, but rather a customised version of ICS to give the OS the look and feel of iOS 6!

While we still don’t know if the genuine iPhone 5 will get 4G, we can be pretty certain the GooPhone i5 will not, but all the other data and navigation options should be accounted for including Bluetooth 4.0, Wi-Fi, GPS, AGPS along with 3G and 2G network support.

Cameras are likely to be on par with the new iPhone 5, unless Apple are planning to up the ante with a 12 mega-pixel rear camera that is, and both the i5 and iPhone 5 are expected to share a similar 8 mega-pixel rear, 1.3 mega-pixel front camera arrangement!

We’ll bring you more on the GooPone i5 as we get more details!

While you’re here what would your dream GooPhone i5 iPhone 5 killer specification be? Let me know in the comments sections below!

A6 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012 WST

Los Angeles Times

LATIMES.COM

Chinese rush to file trademarks

[Trademarks, from A1] runner-up.

Although it’s unclear how many of the recent Chinese applications were for established Western brands, anything appears to be fair game.

A man in Guangzhou registered the name of teen idol Justin Bieber. A Shanghai snack maker took the name and logo of the popular computer game Angry Birds. In northeastern Liaoning province, someone owns the trademark to make clothing under the Oprah Winfrey brand. The Facebook trademark has been registered for a variety of products, including soccer cleats and condoms — even though the social media site is banned in China.

“It’s not as sexy as counterfeiting, but trademark squatting is a big problem,” said Mark Cohen, former intellectual property attache for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and now a visiting professor of law at Fordham University. “The system creates lots of opportunities for abuse. It’s very common for foreign companies to give in and pay.”

The practice has been given renewed attention with Apple Inc. embroiled in a legal battle with a financially troubled Chinese electronics company that holds the rights in China for the iPad name.

Provius Shenzhen is seeking \$1.6 billion in compensation from the Cupertino, Calif., technology giant.

Provius has owned the iPad trademark since 2000, a decade before Apple’s tablet computer was launched, so experts don’t consider it a typical example of squatting. Still, they said the high-profile case could inspire countless others to join China’s trademark free-for-all.

Chinese law does provide some protection for foreign companies. Those that can prove that their name or brand was too well-known for the Chinese trademark owners to have registered it in good



WORKERS WALK outside Provius Shenzhen, which is seeking \$1.6 billion in compensation from Apple Inc. for rights to the iPad name. Provius has owned the trademark since 2000, a decade before the tablet’s release.



A WOMAN TRIES OUT an Apple iPad 2 at a store in the city of Chongqing in southwest China.

faith can prevail.

But it’s not easy, said Stan Abrams, a law professor at the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing.

“The system here on the whole is geared towards first to file, and it takes a lot of time and effort to rebut the presumption that the registrant filed in bad faith,” he said.

Apple may have good reason to worry.

In just the last month, two famous global luxury brands have been dealt setbacks by Chinese courts. Hermes International lost a bid to stop a small Chinese clothing maker from making neckties under the luxury brand’s Chinese name, Ai Ma Shi. Chivas Bros. failed to stop another garment

firm from selling clothing labeled with its Chivas Regal Scotch whiskey logo.

Chivas said it would continue to appeal. Hermes International did not respond to requests for comment.

Pfizer Inc. tried unsuccessfully for 11 years to stop a Chinese pharmaceutical company from selling a drug using the popular Chinese name for Viagra, Wei Ge, which translates to “Mighty Brother.”

“These guys are using the goodwill of other brands to sell their own stuff,” Abrams said. “This is why we’re supposed to have trademark enforcement.”

Basketball Hall of Famer Michael Jordan is one of the latest to test China’s legal system. The former hoops star filed a lawsuit last month against a well-known Chinese athletic apparel brand named after Jordan in Chinese, Qiaodan (pronounced chow-dan).

Qiaodan Sports Co., which is valued at about

\$350 million and is planning an IPO, uses a logo that resembles Nike’s Air Jordan silhouette and is accused by Jordan of duping Chinese consumers into thinking it was the official brand of the former Chicago Bulls legend.

A search of China’s national trademark database reveals the company also owns the rights in Chinese to the Hu Ren Dui or Lake People Team — the common name here for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Qiaodan did not respond to requests for comment.

If Jordan wins, he won’t be the first basketball star in China to prevail in a trademark dispute. Several years ago, retired Houston Rockets star and Shanghai native Yap Ming blocked a company from using his name on a line of women’s sanitary napkins.

Meanwhile, a sporting goods maker in eastern Jiangsu province continues to manufacture basketballs emblazoned with Jeremy

S.H.L., the Romanized Chinese initials of New York Knicks sensation Jeremy Lin.

Yu Minjie, the owner of the company, trademarked the name in 2010, reportedly because she saw great potential in the Chinese American athlete.

Other trademark holders say it was serendipity that led them to their curious names.

Xu Junwu, who makes public-address systems under the J. Crew brand in Guangdong, said he’s never heard of the U.S. clothing chain and explained that his sales team came up with the name.

“They just picked something easy to remember without a lot of letters,” he said.

But if the American retailer decides to open stores in China one day, Xu said, he isn’t prepared to give it up easily.

“We’ve put a lot of effort into building this brand,” Xu said. “We’re recognized in China.”

Zhen Yongyu said he trademarked Eminem after he saw it written on a bar in Hong Kong. He now wants to import Scottish whiskey and Russian vodka under the name and a logo, which looks identical to the Detroit rapper’s album covers.

“I’ve never heard of Eminem,” said Zhen, who’s based in Beijing. “The only Western artist I know is Lady Gaga,” which is already trademarked by a Beijing company to make walking sticks and sausage casing.

Zhen, who said he’s now focused on developing a brand of liquor for women, is open to negotiation.

“If this Eminem turns out to be a famous singer, we’re willing to cooperate as a potential partner to release this brand in China,” he said. “We’re also open to selling it.”

Meanwhile, a sporting goods maker in eastern Jiangsu province continues to manufacture basketballs emblazoned with Jeremy

david.pierson@latimes.com
Tommy Yang and Nicole Liu
in The Times’ Beijing bureau contributed to this report.



Woman awakens after she's declared dead

Xu Chi

A FIRST-AID doctor has been suspended for mistakenly declaring an 85-year-old woman dead after she cut her wrist in a suicide attempt but came to during a forensic check.

The women gradually opened her eyes and gently moved her shaking hands when a forensic doctor was photographing her body, about 30 minutes after the first-aid doctor declared her dead and police cordoned off the apartment on Wednesday, her relatives said.

The woman is now stable after her shocked relatives and neighbors called the medical emergency hotline again and rushed her to a hospital.

Pudong Medical Emergency Center officials apologized to the family yesterday and said

the incident was caused by the first-aid doctor's "improper rescue efforts." The doctor has been suspended, said Tang Zhihong, vice director of the center.

Tang said the center got the first call for help about 9:30am on Wednesday from the woman's daughter who found her mother lying in blood in an apartment on Jinkou Road in Pudong.

Tang said the first-aid doctor checked the woman's vital signs and declared her dead after reading results from an electrocardiogram machine. Police later arrived and asked the forensic doctor to check the body, when the woman awoke.

"Although first-aid doctors are all trained and required to give first-aid treatments to patients

even when the machine shows they are dead, the doctor didn't make proper rescue efforts and left," said Tang.

Regulations require doctors to carry out rescue efforts for at least 30 minutes, and then stop only when the patient's family asks them to stop, Tang said.

The woman's daughter, surnamed Bian, said she begged the doctor to give one more try to save her mother, but he didn't act after a straight line was shown on the machine.

"My mother was not dead. Why did the doctor not rescue her but declare her dead?" asked Bian.

An official surnamed Dong with the Shanghai Medical Emergency Center told Shanghai Daily that pressure, a lack of responsibility and rather low pay may have driven the doctor

to make such a mistake.

"If he could have waited for another five minutes to try more rescue efforts instead of totally relying on the machine, he could have saved the woman himself," said Dong.

Dong said the number of local first-aid doctors, who save lives under heavy physical and mental pressure, is shrinking sharply.

In summer, a first-aid doctor has to take about 10 trips a day in ambulances due to a shortage of doctors.

They usually check and rescue patients alone but don't get paid as much as a doctor in a hospital, said Dong.

"More than 50 first-aid doctors have quit their jobs in the emergency center this year as they don't want to work under heavy pressure," Dong said.

“

My mother was not dead. Why did the doctor not rescue her but declare her dead?

the daughter of a woman mistakenly declared dead

LEATHER YOGURT AND THE POWER OF WEIBO

By Michael Ardaiolo

Zhao Pu, a CCTV anchorman, made enemies in the yogurt and jelly industries early last week when he spoke his mind on Weibo, advising consumers to stay away from the possibly suspect confectioneries: "You never eat solid yogurt or jelly ever again, especially the kids. The inside story is horrible, but I won't go into details."

His reliable source? A text message from a colleague investigating the industry.

An anchorman spilling a story before it airs might have originated as a CCTV human resources problem, but it grew into something much more consequential.

For starters, an actual journalist appeared to corroborate it. Zhu Wenqiang of The Economic Observer wrote on his microblog, "a friend working for the CCTV said that eating yogurt is like eating rotten leather shoes. And this year's March 15 Gala to expose business fraud had intended to expose the yogurt scandal, but, the program was not broadcast."

Two unverified comments should not start a scandal, even if they originate from players in the media. China's food industry, however, has a serious soft power problem. Thanks to numerous health and safety infractions over the last couple of years, making a comment like Zhao's is akin to putting a cigarette out in a pile of dry leaves. It is no wonder the Internet's kindle went up in flames.

Despite lack of evidence, the rumor evolved to claiming that Chinese yogurt-makers were adding harmful industrial gelatin, made from used leatherwear, in place of edible gelatin.

Major manufacturing groups, such as the China Association of Bakery and Confectionery Industry, the China National Confectionery Association and the China Dairy Industry Association, were quick to respond. They claim that it is neither possible (as it would ruin the taste) nor beneficial (as it would only provide a meager savings) to use industrial-grade gelatin.

The final stage of the weeklong rumor-train was the backlash. Zhao and Zhu were subjected to journalist-on-journalist verbal violence for their lack of reporting standards.

As the cycle comes to an end, Zhao Pu goes back to his job reading the news, yogurt-and jelly-makers prep a new round of expensive ad campaigns to highlight their quality control and dedication to natural products, and we are left to, once again, hesitate before buying anything stamped with a "Made in China" insignia.

Opinion

Don't pay the price for abuse

By Du Qiongfang

When a South Korean friend told me that he was nervous about entering some Shanghai neighborhoods alone, I laughed at his timidity. However, a recent report suggests that his concerns may not be groundless.

A British man and his wife were attacked by two men at the wholesale market on Qipu Road – commonly known as "cheap road" – early last month.

Steven Bateman and his wife were tailed by two men who were trying to persuade them to buy a pair of fake Armani jeans. The couple was followed inside the market for 30 minutes before being physically attacked.

The two men fled before police arrived. And they were still at large as of last Thursday when police stated that they

had apprehended five vendors suspected of attacking foreigners. However, it turned out that none of those held were the men who attacked the Batemans.

Qipu Road is well known for selling cheap or fake brands and has been popular among locals for decades. And in recent years it has unsurprisingly attracted the attention of foreigners for the same reason.

A security guard at Qipu Road told reporters that physical altercations between vendors and overseas customers are a common occurrence.

And it seems the problem is only getting worse. Vendors now hire people to harass people in the market even outside their own stalls.

One vendor even went as far as to suggest that a recent spate of anti-foreigner stories in the media may have contributed to this current antipathy towards certain customers. Another vendor, surnamed Ding, told

local media that he thought it was right to overcharge foreigners for goods, because they are generally richer.

So what is the solution to this?

I would suggest that one good idea is to make sure that you don't travel to Qipu Road market alone. It is better to travel in a group or at least with one other person. Trying to tackle these people on your own is not a good idea.

If you can, try to go to Qipu Road with Chinese friends. If they know the market well it will be all the easier for you to escape from any trouble. They can also help you in bargaining with vendors and make sure that misunderstandings don't arise.

It's also a good idea to avoid dressing too ostentatiously. If you do, vendors may think you are an easy target for buying their fake, but flashy, brand-named goods.

It's a good idea when you are in the malls to know where the quickest escape routes are. And if you are harassed, inform the security guards of what is happening.

And if you are unlucky enough to be attacked, try to remember exactly what the attacker looks like, not just their clothes, but also their height, facial features and body shape. Make sure you report any incident to the nearest police station as soon as possible.

Last, but not least, try to learn some Chinese phrases that will help in negotiating with vendors. It might just do the trick in dissipating a potential volatile situation.

Page Editor:
duqiongfang@
globaletimes.com.cn

Illustrations: Lu Ting/CTF

CHINA MILK SCANDAL WIDENS AS MELAMINE FOUND IN YOGURT

By Lee Spears and Dune Lawrence
September 16, 2008

China's tainted milk scandal widened as melamine was found in products of a second dairy company, after infant formula contaminated by the chemical was linked to 1,253 cases of infant kidney stones, killing two.

Wellcome, a supermarket chain owned by Dairy Farm International Holdings Ltd., said it will stop selling ice cream made by Inner Mongolia Yili Industrial Group after the chemical was found in a sample, according to a statement sent by e-mail late today.

The discovery in Hong Kong of the industrial chemical in a second company's products boosts concerns that contamination may be widespread after the Ministry of Health said melamine-tainted milk made by Sanlu Group Co. sickened children. Milk powder produced by 22 Chinese dairy producers, including Sanlu and Yili, were found to have melamine, China Central Television reported late today.

"There should be more and reliable testing laboratories established where you can check these products," Joerg Wuttke, president of the European Chamber of Commerce in China, said today in a phone interview from Brussels. "This is a severe weakness."

Sanlu, 43 percent owned by New Zealand's Fonterra Cooperative Group Ltd., apologized to consumers and promised to recall all milk powder produced before Aug. 6, Xinhua News reported late yesterday.

Hu Liping, board secretary of Yili, wasn't immediately available for comment when called after office hours today. Calls to different phone numbers at the company weren't picked up.

Melamine can make the protein level in dairy products appear higher than it is. The chemical, used to make plastics and in tanning leather, was found in exported pet food last year and blamed for killing thousands of cats and dogs in the U.S.

'Natural Choice' Yogurt

Hong Kong's Food and Environmental Hygiene Department found melamine in Yili's 'Natural Choice Yogurt Ice-bar with Real Fruit,' Wellcome said in its statement. The supermarket operator said it will stop selling all Yili brand ice cream as a precaution.

Other products made by the dairy company will still be for sale, according to Annie Sin, Wellcome's marketing and communication manager. Wellcome had sold Yili ice cream products in some of its more than 250 stores in Hong Kong, Sin said.

People who answered the 24-hour hot line of the Food and Environmental Hygiene's Center for Food Safety in Hong Kong said no statement had been issued and that they couldn't comment.

Fonterra Recall

Separately, Fonterra recalled one batch of prenatal milk sold in China under the Annum Materna brand name, according to a statement sent by e-mail today. The batch was manufactured under license by Sanlu using local raw milk that may have been contaminated and sold only in China, according to the statement.

All other batches of Fonterra's Annum and Anlene products were produced using milk imported from New Zealand, the company said. A media officer who returned a message at Fonterra's 24-hour media line said the batch recalled was 11 metric tons.

China announced an investigation into Sanlu's infant formula last week after reports of a rash of cases of kidney stones in infants in at least seven provinces. The company has since admitted that it knew of the contamination in early August, more than a month before the public recall issued last week.

The Ministry of Health ordered the recall of products made by the 22 dairy companies that produced milk powder found to contain melamine, China Central Television reported, citing the latest findings in the government's investigation.

Two more men were arrested in China for allegedly adding melamine to milk, bringing to four the number of people arrested in relation to the scandal. The two milk dealers, who supplied Sanlu, were arrested early today, according to a statement from the Hebei Province Public Security Bureau.

Yili's shares fell to the lowest in more than two years in Shanghai trading, which closed for the day before Wellcome sent its statement. Yili fell 6 percent to close at 13.43 yuan, the lowest since March 2006.

Woman says was forced to end 8-month pregnancy

By Yu Qian

A woman in Southwest China's Yunnan Province has accused local officials of forcibly terminating her eight-month pregnancy in 2005, provoking another wave of public anger over forced abortion.

Tang Leqiong from Xiping county, Yuxi told the Global Times that she and her husband applied for a permit for a second child in 2002, but was told by local family planning authorities that the permit had expired in 2005, when she was eight months pregnant.

Tang said that several days before she was due to give birth, local officials came to tell her husband that Tang was not qualified to have the second child, and took her to a hospital.

"In the hospital, I was forced to take abortion pills under the supervision of a doctor who collaborated with the officials. After that, the doctor gave me an injection through my stomach. Then my baby was motionless," said Tang.

For the past seven years, Tang continually petitioned local governments and finally posted her experience online, demanding that the officials involved, including Fang Hongping, the then director of the Xiping Family Planning Bureau, get their due punishment.

However, Fang claimed the abortion was in accordance with the law, citing the expiration of Tang's second child permit, the Southern Metropolis reported.

Zhai Zhenwu, dean of the School of Sociology and Population Studies at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times Sunday that forced late-term abortion should never be allowed regardless of the validity of the birth permission.

"Since Tang was officially permitted to have the second child, she was legally authorized to give birth to the child.

Samaranch liking what he sees from China so far, he says

By ZHANG CHUNYAN
and CECILY LIU in London



way of life, and the Chinese culture."

He also lauded China's success in a growing number of sports.

"Your medals are coming from a wide variety of sports. That gives an idea of the depth of Chinese sports," Samaranch said.

Even so, Samaranch also noted: "You see that in most team sports, your country still has more work to do; there is a lot of room for improvement."

However, in individual sports you are mostly up there in most of the sports right now."

When asked about his impression so far of the London Olympics, Samaranch said: "I think the London Olympics has just started ... so far so good. We are happy."

About the London Olympics opening ceremony, Samaranch commented: "It was a wonderful, wonderful ceremony, a big success."

There have been concerns over whether London's public transport system, the busiest in Europe, would be able to handle the rush of spectators attending the Games.

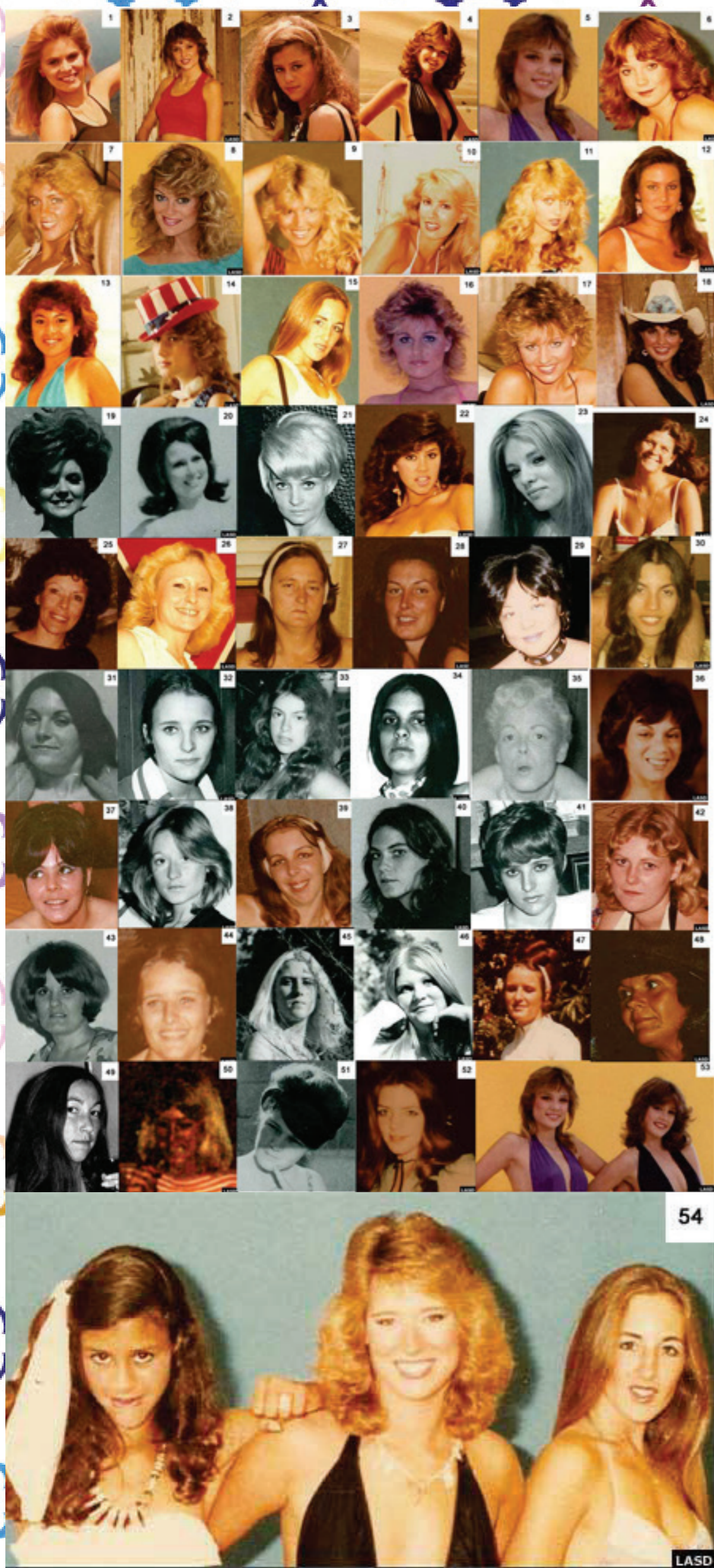
Samaranch said: "I've been to so many Olympics. I've been going to the Summer Olympics since 1992 ... and the first days, transportation is always very difficult. Then it improves, because everybody knows where they are going."

So London is not going to be any different, he said, adding, "the start is difficult, but it's getting better and better."

"Replacing urine with green tea for medical testing was unethical, even it was for a journalistic investigation."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Health commenting on a recent healthcare case. China Central Television reported on Monday that a journalist replaced his urine with green tea to do a test in a private hospital in Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei province. The journalist was later diagnosed with several serious diseases based on the test result. The news attracted wide attention.

abibas



LA DETECTIVES SEEK 50 WOMEN SEEN IN CONVICTED KILLER'S PHOTOS

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ

LOS ANGELES - Sheriff's investigators who reopened an old case file are trying to find about 50 women who were photographed decades ago by a man now on death row for murdering two aspiring models in the early 1980s, authorities said Tuesday.

Detectives are investigating whether the women were raped or killed between and 1975 and 1984 by William Richard Bradford, said Los Angeles County sheriff's officials, who posted numbered photographs of the women on a department Web site in hope that the public could help account for them.

One, No. 28 on the display, was identified as Donnalee Campbell Duhamel, 31, whose decapitated body was found in a Malibu canyon in 1978 a few days after meeting Bradford at a bar, said sheriff's Capt. Ray Peavy.

"What we have here is a very large group of pictures of women that we do not know for the most part who they are," Peavy said. "Some of these women we ... identified; several of them were his wives, ex-wives. But for the most part the majority of these folks we do not know who they are, who they were."

"Many of them could have likely been homicide victims themselves. Many of them may have just been women that he met in bars and took home and took photographs of."

Following a televised news conference in which the photos were shown, phone calls began pouring in from people claiming to be women in the photos or having information about them, said sheriff's Sgt. Alfredo Castro. "The phone hasn't stopped ringing," he said. "I'm pretty sure we're going to identify a lot of them soon."

Meanwhile, other local law enforcement agencies are also looking into possible connections to other homicide cases from 1975 and 1982. Other local law enforcement agencies are also looking into possible connections to other homicide cases from 1975 and 1982.

In the first, the Santa Monica Police Department was investigating whether he was involved in the slaying of Patricia Dulong, 33, last seen in Santa Monica. And the Los Angeles Police Department may have linked him to the death of 23-year-old Mischa Stewart, Peavy said.

In the 1970s and '80s, Bradford, 60, posed as a freelance photographer in the West Los Angeles area, taking photos of women he met at bars and "car race events," according to information on the Web site, which showed women striking poses in the photographs.

The photographs and film were seized when search warrants were served on Bradford's home at the time of his arrest in 1984, Peavy said.

"Those items went into a case file. That case file, quite frankly nothing was really done with those photographs up until right now," Peavy said.

"I have a number of detectives that I have hired back to look at old cases for DNA evidence and stuff like that," he said. "One of those detectives came forward with these photographs and said, 'You know, this is something that I think we should take a look at.' And obviously we all agreed that it should have been looked at - probably looked at before now."

The case could lead outside California. Through the years, Bradford has spent time in Illinois, Texas, Florida, Michigan, Oregon and elsewhere.

"We could have victims theoretically all over the country," Peavy said.

Bradford was convicted in 1987 of first-degree murder in the stranglings of Shari Miller, 21, who he met in a bar, and Tracey Campbell, 15, a neighbor. Prosecutors said he lured them into accompanying him with promises to help their modeling careers.

Miller's body was found in a West Los Angeles parking lot in July 1984, while Tracey's decomposed body was found in August 1984 at a campsite 28 miles east of Lancaster, a high desert area north of Los Angeles.

In the penalty phase of his trial, Bradford asked the jury to sentence him to death.

"Think of how many you don't even know about," he told jurors.

It was unclear whether Bradford was currently represented by an attorney. A message left with an attorney who represented him in the past, Robert R. Bryan, was not immediately returned Tuesday.

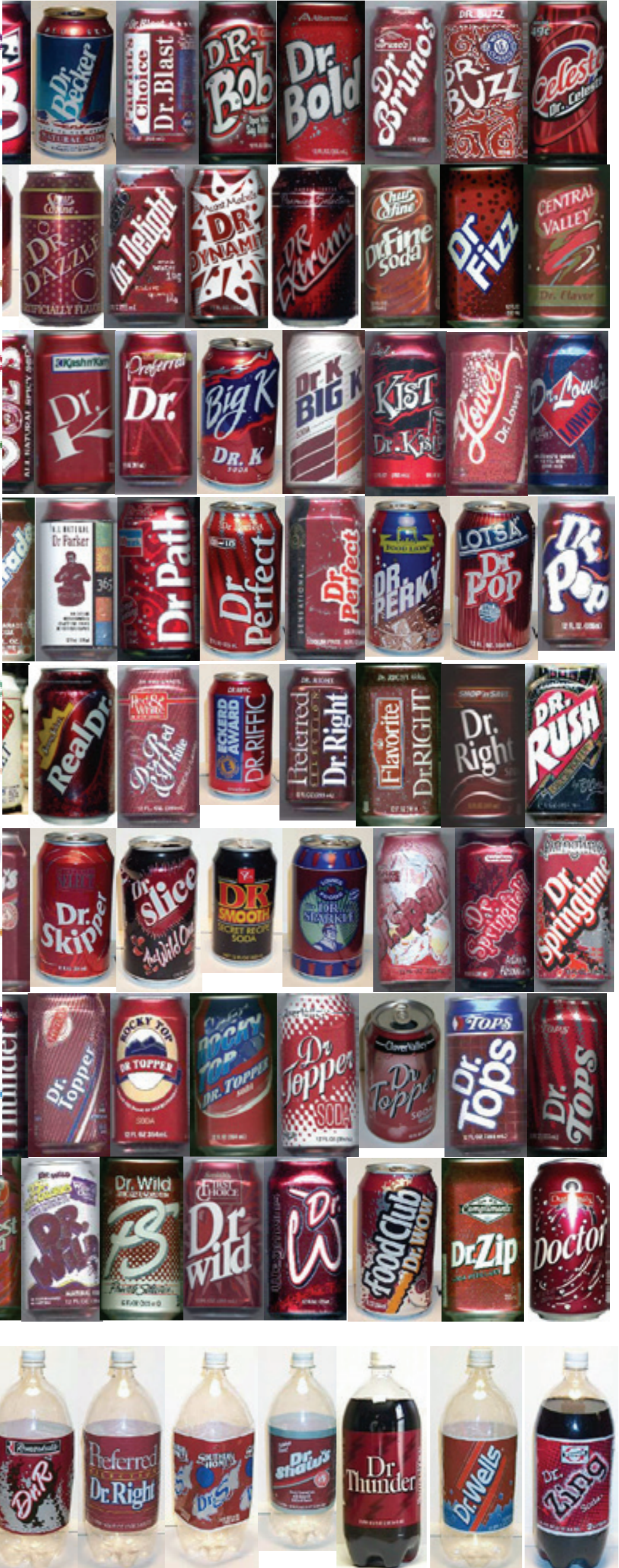
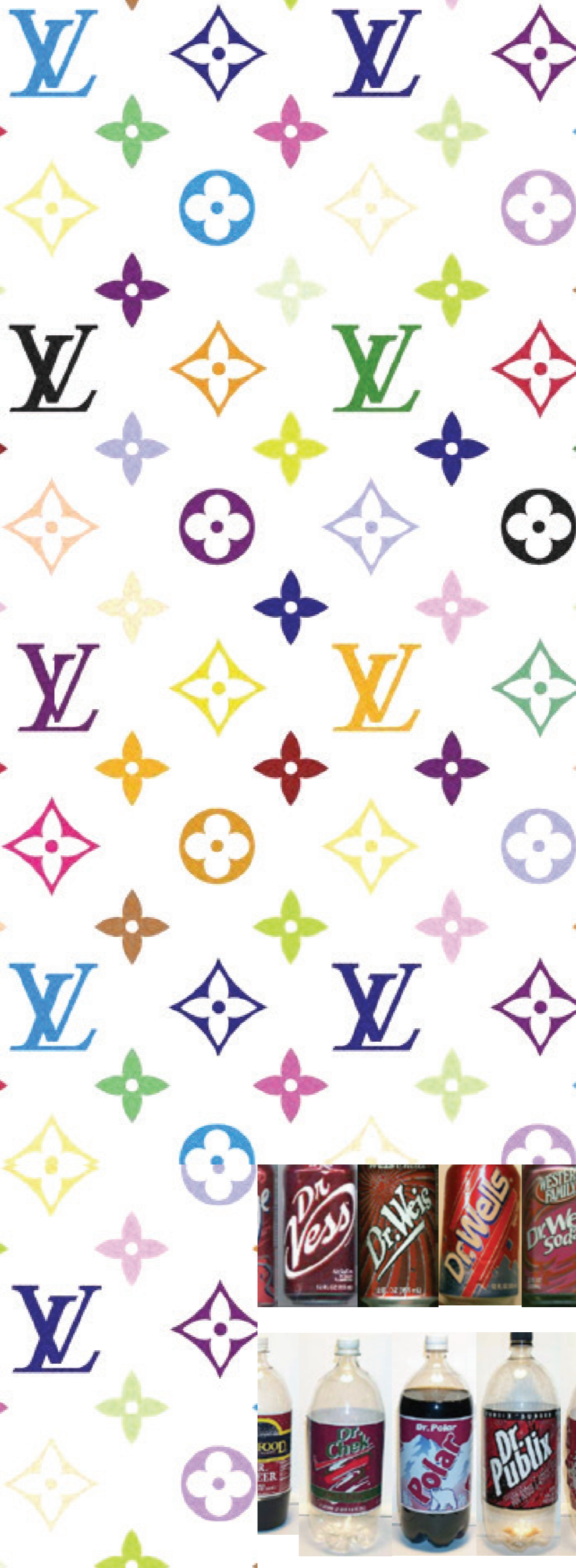
The unaccounted-for women were believed to have lived in West Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Culver City, Inglewood and local beach cities.

When he wasn't taking pictures, Bradford was a handyman in a Mar Vista apartment complex, said sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore. Authorities said he also owned a motor home, rode a Harley Davidson motorcycle and hung out with a motorcycle gang.

Shortly after his arrest in the two killing in 1984, he pleaded no contest to an unrelated charge of forcible rape and was sentenced to eight years in state prison. He was previously arrested for burglary and sex crimes against one of his ex-wives, Peavy said.

Peavy said it's possible the remaining unidentified women were alive and well, though he wasn't hopeful.

"My gut instinct," he said, alluding to a collage of the women's photos at the sheriff's homicide office, "is that there are probably a substantial number of victims on that board."



The Star-Tribune
February 24, 2012
By Jeremy Pelzer

House Bill 85 passed on first reading by a voice vote. It would create a state-run government continuity task force, which would study and prepare Wyoming for potential catastrophes, from disruptions in food and energy supplies to a complete meltdown of the federal government.

The bill's sponsor, state Rep. David Miller, R-Riverton, has said he doesn't anticipate any major crises hitting America anytime soon. But with the national debt exceeding \$15 trillion and protest movements growing around the country, Miller said Wyoming — which has a comparatively good economy and sound state finances — needs to make sure it's protected should any unexpected emergency hit the U.S.

"I don't think there's anyone in this room today what would come up here and say that this country is in good shape, that the world is stable and in good shape — because that is clearly not the case," state Rep. Lorraine Quarberg, R-Thermopolis, said. "To put your head in the sand and think that nothing bad's going to happen, and that we have no obligation to the citizens of the state of Wyoming to at least have the discussion, is not healthy."

But King noted that the federal government set up a Continuity of Government Commission in 2002, of which former U.S. Sen. Al Simpson, R-Wyo., was co-chairman. However, King said he didn't know of any states that had established a similar board.

The Washington Post
January 5, 2011
By Rosalind S. Helderman

"State legislatures have to get a little more creative and savvy to counter the buffoonery that's been plaguing

But Marshall's bills aren't always embraced by the rest of the legislature, even his fellow Republicans. He is also sponsoring legislation this year to bar gays and lesbians from serving in the Virginia National Guard.

Gas continued to erupt from the ground Wednesday after the blowout Tuesday afternoon near Douglas. But the leak was diminishing and officials were optimistic that workers would plug it soon, Doll said.

Francis said the internship would be part of the prize package for the winner of "The Search for the Hottest Girl in America."

The Washington Times
Thursday, March 10, 2011
By Stephen Dinan

While similar legislation has been proposed in nearly a dozen states, Mr. Galvez said that if Mr. Herbert signs his bill, Utah will be just the second state to officially recognize the coins as legal tender. Colorado has recognized gold and silver for decades, he said.

The U.S. was on the gold standard and then a gold-exchange standard for much of the 20th century, but President Nixon finally decoupled the U.S. money supply from gold in 1971. Many investors, though, continue to believe it holds value better than other investments.

That's the address for the Center to Protect Patient Rights, an organization with ties to Charles and David H. Koch, the billionaire brothers who bankroll a number of conservative organizations.

The money from the center provided a sizable share of the war chest for those attacks, which included mailers in California, robo-calls in Florida and TV ads that inundated a pocket of northeastern Iowa. The organizations it financed poured at least \$46 million into elec-

[See Silent money, A13]



On Anniversary of Crackdown, Blocked Searches Include Stock Market, 'Today'; Bizarre Numerology Echoes in Shanghai

Terms blocked by Sina Weibo included the Chinese characters for "Tiananmen," "square," and "candle," and even seemingly innocuous words such as "today" and the emoticon of a candle

China Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said the nation had reached a "clear conclusion" over the Tiananme

Both Sina and rival Tencent Holdings Ltd. have been attempting to meet a government demand that all microblog users register with their real names, which analysts say is part of an effort to improve monitoring of online speech. Sina has also re-

In Hong Kong, tens of thousands of protesters packed Victoria Park, including activist Fang Zheng, whose legs were crushed by a tank in 1989. Having flown in from the U.S., Mr. Fang was moved to tears at moments, call-

—Andrew Galbraith
and Carlos Tejeda
contributed to this article.



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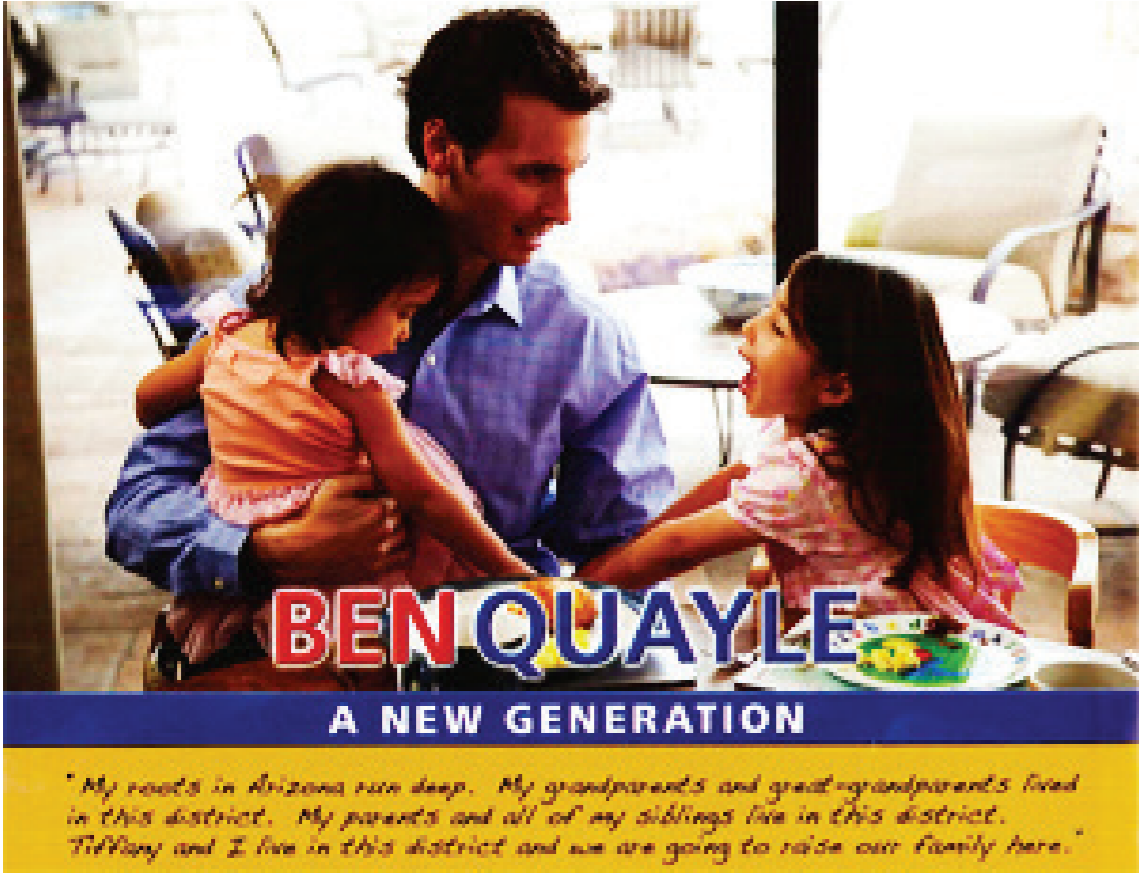
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SURPRISE VICTOR IN A PACKED RACE:
DAN QUAYLE’S SON



By MARC LACEY

PHOENIX — Those who want to stop Ben Quayle from going to Congress had better start studying his old lacrosse game films.

Mr. Quayle, who managed a slim win in a crowded field for the Republican nomination for Congress on Tuesday in a district that encompasses northern Phoenix and the upscale Scottsdale and Paradise Valley suburbs, played high school lacrosse while his father, Dan Quayle, was vice president. He went on to play for Duke.

Old coaches and teammates said he was often considered a lightweight because of his lean, unassuming physique. But as rivals rolled their eyes, Mr. Quayle would scoot past them.

"I was definitely not a star player but I worked hard," Mr. Quayle said in an interview.

That is what happened this week when Mr. Quayle, 33, a political neophyte, defeated nine Republican challengers, some of them veteran politicians, to win the nomination for the Third Congressional District. Some of those rival camps were still staring in disbelief at the results on Wednesday.

Democrats, meanwhile, said they eagerly anticipated a crack at another Quayle, hinting that they might pour money into the Republican-leaning race to neutralize the son of the gaffe-prone former vice president.

Mr. Quayle, who seemed to be surprised by the victory himself, acknowledged that he had his work cut out for him, having won just 22 percent of Republican voters on Tuesday.

"For those who voted for someone else, I know I have to earn your trust," he said on Wednesday, with supporters and relatives, including his wife and father, gathered around.

Those who have known Mr. Quayle recalled him as well-grounded, for someone who grew up with government bodyguards.

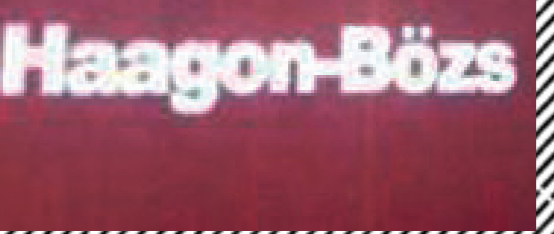
"He was a good player, a good kid, worked hard," said Peter Babor, Mr. Quayle's lacrosse coach at Gonzaga College High School, a Roman Catholic prep school in Washington.

As a boy, he was a Congressional page, and when his mother, Marilyn, made disaster preparedness her cause, Ben and his older brother, Tucker, participated in a mock disaster in California, acting wounded while soldiers scampered around to respond.

And his campaign sent out a mailer of Mr. Quayle with two young girls, leaving the impression they were his children. But the newly married Mr. Quayle has no children and opponents accused him of "renting" a family for the campaign. The girls were his nieces. The episode won him a jab from Jay Leno, a milestone for a little known Congressional candidate.

Mr. Quayle runs an investment firm with his brother and has made restoring the economy his prime campaign theme. (In one attention-getting ad, he called President Obama the "worst president in history" for his economic stewardship and said he planned to go to Washington "to knock the hell out of the place.")

Even before Mr. Quayle won, one Arizona business he has already helped is that of thedirty.com, the successor to the Web site for which he once wrote, which says traffic is higher than ever.



REALLY?
DEMOCRATS DECRY
MORGAN FREEMAN
SOUND-ALIKE



A Republican campaign group has come under fire for using a Morgan Freeman 'sound-alike' in a political attack ad.

The actor has fervently denied narrating the aggressive advert, saying 'they are close, but no cigar.'

And now Democrat officials have demanded that the ad, which has run on several TV stations, should be pulled, calling it a 'dangerous deception'.

The advert, created by conservative pressure group Citizens for a Strong America, is aimed at Democrat Shelly Moore, candidate in an upcoming election for Wisconsin's state senate.

It is narrated by someone who sounds strikingly similar to 74-year-old Mr Freeman, whose voice is one of the most recognisable in Hollywood, particularly after his voiceover work on films like March of the Penguins.

The ad attacks Ms Moore for allegedly supporting tax rises, giving 'free health care to illegal immigrants', and opposing tax reforms.

When the ad first appeared, the Huffington Post expressed surprise, saying 'Morgan Freeman sure is interested in Wisconsin politics.'

However, Mr Freeman's representatives quickly issued a denial, saying: 'A political ad running in Wisconsin by a conservative group narrated by someone trying to sound like Morgan Freeman was not narrated by Mr Freeman.'

'Morgan Freeman did NOT narrate that ad,' They told a local paper: 'Although it seems like a clear intent to sound like Morgan, they are close, but no cigar.'

Ms Moore, the object of the attack, has also condemned the ad. She said: 'This ad deliberately misleads voters by using a Morgan Freeman sound-alike to give these blatant lies a false sense of legitimacy.'

Yesterday the chair of the Wisconsin Democrats wrote to the four local stations which have carried the ad, asking them to remove it.

'Unfortunately, this impostor voice is not the worst deception in the ad, as these extreme conservative hacks went out of their way to distort Shelly Moore's record, hoping the phony Freeman narrator would give them the perception that the Academy-Award winning actor endorses the distortions in the ad,' he said.

It seems unlikely that Mr Freeman would in any case get involved in Wisconsin politics, as he has no links with the state.

Citizens for a Strong America has so far declined to comment on the issue.

REPORTER'S LOG | ZHANG CHUNYAN

Times are changing,
and so are the media

It's not only Olympic athletes who try to scale new heights — so do China's media.

In the social media age, Chinese journalists pursue the Olympic spirit of "higher, faster and stronger".

Every day, I read Sina Weibo, China's popular Twitter-like micro-blogging service, and find Chinese media — news agencies, national and regional newspapers, radio and websites — are very timely in updating news and information about the Games.

Amid fierce competition, powerful Chinese portals like Sina and Tencent strive to coax famous sportspersons and those overseeing the event to use social networks to communicate with legions of netizens.

I noticed swimmer Sun Yang has 9 million Sina Weibo followers.

As Chinese media swarmed into London to cover the Olympic Games, journalists work hard to grab every opportunity and keep up with the pace of the world's largest sports extravaganza.

Every time I attend the Olympic news conferences in London, I can see Chinese journalists posting short stories or pictures on Weibo using smart phones, and there's a real undercurrent of excitement.

At a company's PR event near central London's Trafalgar Square, Chinese sports legend Lang Ping, known as the "Iron Hammer", appeared for a while as an honored guest, who represents the Chinese National Women's Volleyball Team.

I met many Chinese reporters there. When Lang appeared, two young women Chinese journalists beside me snapped photos and very quickly posted a few words like "Lang Ping has attracted much attention" on their Weibo.

"Let's see who's fastest," they joked.

I'm also impressed to see many Chinese media are paying greater attention to the Olympic spirit and humanity of the London Games.

China's national news agency Xinhua published some strongly worded comments on Wednesday, condemning the nation's badminton players after they appeared to try to lose their match at Wembley Arena.

"This behavior seriously violated the Olympic spirit regarding fair play... Even if they finally win the gold medal... maybe the audience won't give them any applause," one of Xinhua's comments said.

"In sports, morality should come before anything else. Whoever violated the rules should be criticized and looked down upon."

My British friend Eleanor asked me, with a bit of surprise: "Your State media fiercely criticized your badminton match-throwing scandal? Really?"

I replied: "Yes. The gold medal isn't what's most important."

Chinese media are changing and maturing as the country develops.

Years ago, they focused more on gold medals and success. But this time, I feel media expressed more sympathy and support for losers.

Both in print and online, many media are discussing the pressure the nation's athletes are facing after some publicly apologized for losing at the London Olympics.

Weightlifter Wu Jingbiao apologized in tears for "letting down his fans and his country" in a TV interview after winning silver in the men's 56kg weightlifting event.

Many media commented: "Competing for success is encouraged. Failure is also met with more sympathy and acceptance."

'MAN IN MIRROR' IMAGES



Jackson trial artist sells wares online

By Brent Hopkins

Mona Shafer Edwards holds a sketch of a ghost-pale man, looking at his sad eyes and showy, military-style suit.

The face, delicately drawn with thin black lines on nearly clear vellum, has no color whatsoever, only set off from the paper by straightened black locks of hair and a blue background. She's drawn it dozens, maybe hundreds of times, one of the most recognizable visages in the world. For months, she sat no more than 20 feet from those unmistakable features and inked the world's biggest pop star and most famous molestation suspect.

From the paper, Michael Jackson gazes back at Edwards.

"The drawing tells a story," she said in a recent interview, staring at the pained face. "It's about family, self-destruction, celebrity. This is not an all-American family; it's a destructive one. And it's all about image."

As a contract court sketch artist for 20 years, she's drawn everyone from the Menendez brothers to O.J. Simpson. She's done two Jackson cases, watching his nose get thinner and thinner as she sold her renderings to television stations around the world. Now she's finding another outlet to shop her wares.

Drawing upon a portfolio fattened throughout

Jackson's circuslike trial, Edwards is selling 70 prints of her sketches on eBay. Starting off between \$500 and \$600 a pop, she figures she can bring in thousands from the signed and numbered drawings that showed the world what the wraithlike pop star looked like squirming behind the defense table.

"All of his weird personal antics have helped to fuel an enduring interest in him and his life," said Todd Boyd, a professor of critical studies at the University of Southern California.

"When you add to that charges of child molestation, it gets to be that much more compelling. In the same way people want any item connected to a celebrity, you have that heightened in this situation."

To tap into the interest fueled by the dark side of fame, Edwards enlisted Mark Silver, a Studio City resident who makes his living selling items on the online auction site under the handle Daddymade and raising money for local schools. Though there are thousands of Jackson mementos available, he says none quite have the insider feeling her drawings evoke.

"People bid like crazy when they hear things like this," said Silver, who quit a job as a chef to sell full time on eBay.

"How can you compare to Michael Jackson? He's all you hear on the news these days. From one extreme to the other, there's interest, whether you love him or you hate him."

The flashy suits with military medals, the perfectly arranged hair, the famously sculpted face - they all show up in her eerily accurate renderings. Edwards started as a fashion illustrator, switching over to become a freelance courtroom artist when the fascinating twist of celebrity and crime drew her in. Though vivid drawings of Winona Ryder, Courtney Love, Robert Blake and Anna Nicole Smith fill the wall of her home in the hills above Studio City, none has the unusual allure of Jackson.

Armed with a bag full of 60 markers, Edwards showed up throughout the preliminaries and through most of the trial. Setting out a sign-up sheet for media outlets, she could sell as many as seven drawings a day, bringing in around \$400 per drawing.

She captured his empty chair when he nearly didn't show up for court, and drew his outlandish pajamalike pants when he arrived with back problems. As his already thin frame got even slimmer, she captured each change in his carefully made-up face, watching it get sharper and pointier as the trial dragged on.

"I could draw him by heart," Edwards said. "He has so many mannequin features, I treat it like a fashion illustration. He looks like an extraterrestrial." Drawing upon a portfolio fattened throughout Jackson's circuslike trial, Edwards is selling 70 prints of her sketches on eBay. Starting off between \$500 and \$600 a pop, she figures she can bring in thousands from the signed and numbered drawings that showed the world what the wraithlike pop star looked like squirming behind the defense table.

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HAMMER’S MAGIC MISTRESS

THE NEW YORKER
September 23, 1996
by Edward Jay Epstein

On November 25 1990, Armand Hammer readied himself for the black-tie dinner celebrating the opening of an institution that he had erected in marble-- the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center. He knew from the grim prognosis he had recently received from his doctors that this might be his last public appearance. He was 92 years old and suffered from chronic anemia, bronchitis, prostate enlargement, kidney ailments and an irregular heartbeat and cancer that was rapidly spreading throughout his body. He also ever more frequently lost contact with reality and hallucinated. His night nurse, who twice earlier that fall had used artificial respiration to revive him, had now been instructed not to intervene again. But even in a weakened condition, he was determined to attend this event.

He had had a massive blood transfusion, which made his mind more acute. He also had a large dosage of analgesics, which relieved the pain in his body. He had his hair trimmed and was fitted with a new tuxedo designed to conceal his recent weight-loss. He was then strapped into his wheel-chair and, barely conscious when he was carried down the steps of his home in the Westwood section of Los Angeles to the waiting limousine.

Up until 1987, he had planned to leave his art to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. But when he revised his terms for the gift that year and demanded that it create a virtual museum within a museum for his collection-- one which would be run by a curator that was appointed in perpetuity by him or his designated agent, the Armand Hammer Foundation, its Board of Trustees refused to acquiesce to that extraordinary arraignment. He then revoked his pledge gift and proceeded to build a museum that he could control posthumously through his foundation.

Although it would cost over eighty million dollars, he relied on Occidental Petroleum Corporation to provide the financing. He had built this company from a near-bankrupt corporate shell in 1955 to the fourteenth largest industrial company in the U.S. Though he owned less than one percent of its stock, he was chairman and could count on it to do his bidding. He had often used its corporate treasury to fund his art acquisition as, for example, when he had it secretly donate the \$6 million to his foundationin 1980 that he used to buy the celebrated Leonardo da Vinci notebook, which he then renamed the Hammer Codex and exhibited around the world. He now wanted a special hall in the new museum dedicated to the Hammer Codex. He also wanted the museum erected adjacent to Occidental’s headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard, with its outer walls build of white marble imported from the same quarry in Italy that Da Vinci had used five centuries earlier and his name carved in letters three feet high on two sides of the museum.

Occidental accommodated him by donating to the museum the real estate its corporate headquartersstood on (and then leasing back its office building) and constructing and the edifice according to

Hammer’s approved design. It also provided it with a \$36 million endowment that would be used to subsidize its operating expenses. Even though some Occidental shareholders had sued the company over the expenditures it had made on this enterprise, which Newsweek described it disparagingly as “more like a mausoleum than a museum,” Hammer was not deterred. He was determined to open it on schedule.

He had assembled that night at the Armand Hammer Museum the leading lights of Los Angelessociety.) He now enjoyed the status not just of a captain of industry but of a world celebrity. He couldclaim to have been received by no fewer than eight American Presidents in the White House and by almost as many Soviet Presidents, as well as Lenin himself, in the Kremlin His international awards included the Soviet Union’s Order of Friendship, America’s National Medal of the Arts, France’s Legion of Honor, Italy’s Grand Order of Merit, Sweden’s Royal Order of the Polar Star, Austria’s Knight Commander’s Cross, Pakistan’s Hall-I-Quad-Adam Peace Award, Israel’s Leadership Award, Venezuela’s Order of Andres Bello, Mexico’s National Recognition Award, Bulgaria’s Jubilee Medal and Belgium’s Commander of the Order of the Crown. He even had a school, the Armand Hammer World College, named in his honor. Though still woozy from drugs and blood transfusions, he greeted the long parade of acquaintances-- the executives at Occidental, who were waiting to take over from him, the art curators, who had authenticated his paintings for decades, the politicians, whom he had helped finance, the doctors, who could do little further for him, the lawyers, ready to litigate his estate and his surviving family-- his only son, Julian, 61 years ago, and his grandson, Michael, the executor of his estate, and granddaughter, Casey.

After cutting the ceremonial ribbon, he took his seat at the table of honor. On his right, was Danielle Mitterand, the wife of the President of France. She had agreed to come to the opening after he had pledged a \$300,000 donation to President Mitterand’s private foundation in France. Across from him was Tom Bradley, the Mayor of Los Angeles, whose re-election campaign he had generously supported and Rabbi Harvey Fields, who was helping him organize an extraordinary bar mitvah ceremony that was scheduled to take place

in two weeks. Although Hammer had never had the traditional bar mitvah at the age of 13, and denied his Jewish heritage most of his life, he now wanted at his advance age to undergo this rite of passage. On his left was Hilary Gibson, a white-haired woman with striking features. She had played an instrumental role in creating the museum. Grasping her hand under the table, he said “We did it.” It was the culmination of a 17 year long relationship in which she was, as she would put it, his “confidante, friend, business associate, co-habitant, consultant, nurse, mistress and lover.” He had been her King Pygmalian, transforming her over these years into a totally new identity.

When she had met Hammer in August 1974, her name was not Hilary Gibson; it was Martha Wade Kaufman. She was then an exceedingly comely 38 years old woman with flaming red hair. She was married to a USC professor and the mother of two young daughters. She had come to California from Ohio as an airline stewardess but then earned a degree in fine art at California State University. She had decided to try her hand at art journalism and Hammer was her first assignment. East-West Publications, which publishes magazines for airlines, had commissioned her to write about Hammer’s art collection and Occidental’s public relations department had arranged for her to meet Hammer at 9 a.m. in his office that day. But, when she arrived that morning, he was not there. She elected to wait-- sitting in a cubicle outside his door most of the day. When he finally arrived at five in the afternoon, he profusely apologized for the eight-hour delay and ordered his secretary to bring them both ice teas. He was heavier than she expected (he weighed almost 206 pounds) but walked with a robust spring in his step. She noticed that he was dressed in an immaculately tailored gray suit, a white shirt and an elegant tie. He also had a deep tan that set off his lucid eyes. He looked remarkably vigorous for a man she knew was in his late seventies.

She watched him assess her carefully. (He later would tell her “You didn’t stand a chance.”) She began the interview trying to be as professional as possible. She asked him his motive for collecting art and whether he considered it another business investment or a profound passion.

Instead of answering her questions, he abruptly changed the subject to a painting in his collection. He showed it to her in the catalogue of his private collection. “It could be you,” he said looking at her with a fixed gaze. He then explained that the artist’s mistress was the model for that painting and told her that her colors perfectly matched the flesh tones in the painting. He then looked at his watch and told her he had an appointment with his barber, and asked her if she minded continuing the interview while he was getting his hair cut.

She had little choice if she wanted to complete the interview. At the barber shop, instead of the discussion about art she expected, he interviewed her about her marital status. She told him that her marriage was rocky and that she wanted more out of life than being someone’s wife and that she was in the process of separating from her husband.

When his hair cut was complete--which took only a few minutes-- he had another surprise for her. He pulled her towards his waiting limousine and told they would have to complete the interview en route to the airport where his private plane was waiting to fly him to Moscow. Again, rather than discussing his collection, he preferred telling him about his unique standing in Moscow. He told her he had met Lenin and almost every other important Soviet leader. She was impressed. As they neared the airport, he guardedly scribbled a question to her on a piece of paper-- as if he was afraid his spoken words might be monitored. What was her home telephone? She answered it and, passing the paper back to him, was amazed to see him erase his orinal question. She was intrigued by the layer of conspiracy he had imposed on a simple request.

Hammer called her a few weeks later. In a very business-like way, he told her he was back in Los Angeles and he had thought about her questions and now wanted to complete the interview. He suggested that she meet him that afternoon at a private suite at the Beverly Hills Hilton Hotel which he used when he did not want to be disturbed by routine office business.

He opened the door for her when she arrived at the suite and seated her on a sofa across a table from him. When she took out her pad to take notes, he told her that what he was saying was not for publication but he wanted her to hear him out. She was slightly mystified by the request but put down her pad.

Speaking with almost brutal frankness, he told her about his interest in building a serious collection. He explained that art for him was neither a business nor an aesthetic passion; it was a means to achieve an end--immortalizing his name. He wanted to leave behind such an unrivalled collection that future generations would associate the Hammer name with greatness. To do this, he intended to spare no expense in buying renowned masterpieces. To give it prominence during his lifetime, he would exhibit the collection in the great museums of the world. After his death, it would be housed in a separate building in the Los Angeles County Museum

of Art, where it would stand, forever, as a monument to him. He told her he had already made the preliminary arrangements with the Los Angeles County Museum but he still had to improve the collection and create a global reputation for it. He then told her the real purpose behind this meeting: He wanted her to leave journalism and work closely with him in realizing this prodigious ambition. She would act as his personal art consultant, curator and liaison with museums around the world. She would have her own office at Occidental and travel with him on his private jet. She would help him make the arrangements for exhibiting the Armand Hammer collection around the world. He then leaned close to her, suggesting this would be more than a professional relationship, and told her he was offering her a new life. If she accepted, she would, as he put it, “never have to worry about money again.”

She was overwhelmed by this sweeping proposal and the confident manner in which he had delivered it. “Why me?” she asked.

He replied that he felt himself “drawn to her” from the moment they met. He said he could sense that she wanted to learn from him. “I want to take care of you,” he said, embracing her like a child. He then led her to the adjoining bedroom and began the relationship that would change her life.

After Hammer left the suite, Kaufman saw that he had left five one-hundred bills on the table for her. Insulted, she left them on the table. But his message was clear-- if crude.

On September 22, 1974, she was put on the payroll of Occidental at a starting salary of \$22,000 per year. She nominally worked for Occidental’s public relations department, but, in reality, she could come and go as she liked, without reporting to her superior in the department. She reported directly to Hammer. The job provided a plausible reason for her meetings with Hammer in foreign countries-- including Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, Britain and Japan. She also found the job extremely challenging since it involved not only arranging exhibitions for the Armand Hammer Collection but, making sure that the officials, socialites and journalists who Hammer wanted to cultivate favor with would be invited.

When Hammer travelled with his wife Francis on the corporate jet, she would take a commercial flight to the same destination. But on almost these trips, he would then find opportunities to liaise with her. In Paris, for example, he took her to a Russian restaurant, which he had closed to other customers. As they sat alone there, served by a dozen waiters and serenaded by an entire gypsy orchestra, she marvelled at his power to magically empty a restaurant when it suited his purposes.

She soon found that Hammer had his own golden rule: “He Who Hath The Gold, Makes The Rules.” He had it inscribed on a plaque in his office, and pointing it out to her, he told her “like it or not, this is the way life is.” She soon found out how serious he was about imposing his rules on her. When, for example, she sought a legal divorce from this husband in 1976, he told her not to seek either alimony or child support for her daughters from him. If she did, he explained to her that her husband might retaliate by exposing her relationship with him and he could not risk having his name surface. Instead, he asked her to arrange an uncontested divorce and he would provide her and her daughters with lifetime support. She followed his instructions and was now heavily dependent on Hammer for her employment.

In 1978, Hammer told her that he was transferring her from Occidental to the Armand Hammer Foundation. She would serve there as his personal art consultant at a salary of \$30,000. This change increased her dependence on him-- which she assumed was partly his motive. Instead of working for Occidental, where she might find some corporate insulation, she worked directly for him from her home in Beverly Hills--a home he had encouraged her to buy because it had an ally that led to a back entrance. Having his limousine driver bring him to this alley, he could keep his visits discreet. It was to be his private retreat. He had her decorate it like an English cottage with furniture that had belonged to his deceased brother, Harry. In the master bedroom was an “Aduster” bed, so he could raise and lower in different positions, and mirrors on the wall, so he could watch himself perform. In the garden, he had her plant his favorite flower, double-delight roses that changed from white to deep red.

Usually, he would arrive about noon time take off the tie and jacket he wore to the office, and make himself comfortable at the table in the kitchen. She found her liked to make phone calls in her presence to the White House, Kremlin, Buckingham Palace and other centers of power, as if to impress her. When speaking to lesser people, she noticed he would almost always dispense with the usuals polite “hellos” and “good byes. He would tersely state his business and hang up. After lunch, he would often put on a robe and sun himself in the garden.

He would tell her during these visits, “You make me young.” And she did what she could to restore his youth, putting him on the low-fat Dr.Atkins diet (his weight dropped from 206 when she first met him to 165 pounds) and helping him “think young.”

Aside from her salary, he had promised her a lifetime income after his death that was to be paid out of a secret bank account in Switzerland. Since he was not in the best of health, and an octogenarian, this Swiss Account was an important part of their deal.

It was not an easy bargain for her. He demanded an extraordinary measure of control over her personal life during the course of the next 12 years. She had to be available to meet his schedule at short notice. He gave her two beepers to alert her to his calls. He prohibited her from seeing other men and to make sure of her wherabouts in Los Angeles, he had a homing device installed in her car and a tap placed on her phone. He also frequently had wear a disguise when they were together in public so she would not be recognized. He also controlled her vacation schedule-- for example, making sure she came to New York when he had to be there overnight on business (He maintained a town house in Greenwich Village there that he used for these tristes.) She had to submit to his sexual demands even when she considered them, as she later described them, as “extremely humiliating.” She also accomodated him by mirroring her bedroom when he told her he enjoyed watching himself. Despite his advanced age, she found him to be physically energetic, which he attributed to swimming laps everyday in his home indoor pool.

He went far beyond any conventional romantic liaison by attempting to extend his domain to her reproductive organs. Hammer wanted her to bear him an illegimate son. He would not take no for an answer, but, though he kept careful track of her menstrual cycle, she did not get pregnant. He then forced her, as she later described it, “to undergo surgical procedures to facilitate impregnation”-- procedures he had “conducted under his direct view and direction.” They also failed.

When Hammer decided to build his own museum, he involved her in the project, raising her salary to \$70,000 in 1989. Then Francis found out that she was Hammer’s mistress. She had previously suspected a liaison, but Hammer had managed to persuade her that she was mistaken. Now, even though he again denied the truth, she was not convinced. Since Francis’ own fortune, which she inherited before he married her in 1955, had helped finance the art collection, he needed her cooperation in transferring the art to the museum and could not risk her impeding the project. Nor did he want to give up his mistress, as she demanded. He therefore designed an ingenious ploy to dupe his wife.

After telling her that he had fired his Martha Kaufman from the foundation, he had his mistress assume a new identity under the name of “Hilary Gibson.” He then told Francis that he had hired “Gibson” as a replacement for Kaufman. To further diminish her suspicion, he had his mistress transform herself into a much elderly woman, telling her that older woman pass unnoticed at social functions. He made her, as she later noted, “wear wigs, glasses, make-up and attire which made her appear decades older than she really was.” When he was satisfied with his make-over, he re employed her both at the Foundation and Occidental, where she had to disguise “her true identity from co-workers.” She recalled that he took immense pleasure in the success of this deception. Francis died that December. But by this time the persona of Hilary Gibson was well established. She was the director of planning, development and financial control for the museum-- a position from which she personally supervised all aspects of this creation of Hammer’s monument. She even oversaw the engraving in marble of the letters of his name. By the fall, Hammer’s visits to her home became less frequent, and she put all her energies into making sure of the success of the grand opening. She also drew up a new contract for herself that gave her life time remuneration from the foundation, and, a week before the opening, Hammer had signed it.

The opening ended abruptly for Hammer at 10 p.m. when two medical attendants picked him, like a rag doll, and carried him out. When he got home that night, he had a prolonged hallucination. He saw his dead mother in the room and, in front of his staff, he carried on a rambling conversation with her, asking her over and over again where his missing father was. His night nurse could not convince him that it was only a hallucination. The next week, two faith-healers were brought in. They floated Hammer on the surface of the swimming pool and, in a repition of an ancient Aztec ceremony, they danced around him for two days. On 7.22 p.m, on December 10, Hammer died in bed-- it was the night before his scheduled Bar Mitzvah.

The memorial service took place at the Museum on January 4, 1991. Hilary Gibson stood alone in the row immediately behind the Occidental Board of Directors. She was felling very much like, as she put it, “a pariah.” Even since the funeral, the new management at Occidental had begun to distance itself from Hammer. His pet projects, such as Armand Hammer Film Productions, had been terminated. His photographs, paintings and busts taken down. The framed letters and testimonials to Hammer from world leaders also had been removed from the sixteenth floor executive suite. She could see “the handwriting on the wall for herself. She had been Hammer’s mistress for 17 years and the museum, which Hammer had meant her to run, had become the subject of huge shareholders suit. She knew the new management was moving to distance itself from both her and the museum. The Leonardo De Vinci book, which he had named the Hammer Codex, would be sold to William Gates of Microsoft--and re-named.

The museum would be turned over to UCLA to manage. She would be put through, as she termed it,

“total hell.” Throughout the following months she found her progressively more isolated. Her title was revoked and, finally, on June 2, 1992 two Occidental security men escorted her out of the building. She was fired.

The foundation had also dispensed with her services and made it clear to her that to sequibly settler her claim against it, she would have to sue it. She also received no money from the secret fund he had told her he had set up for her in Switzerland. He had ked her to believe it contained at least 10 million dollars-- and that this was money he had diverted from oil deals he had made in Libya. Yet, when she asked lawyers for Hammer’s estate about it, they denied it existed.

What these lawyers did not anticipate was her extraordinary determination-- and resourcefulness. “If I could handle Hammer for 17 years, I could handle anything.” She later reflected. She had during Hammer’s visits to her home made copies of numerous addresses she found on papers in his pocket. Even though he often used code-names, she was able to identify a key Swiss banker Felix Iselin. In 1994, she flew to Basel and arranged a meeting with Iselin at his office.

Iselin was very brusque and business-like. He told her that Hammer had made arrangements for her but revoked them. He then took a hand-written document from his file. It was addressed to Peter Lotz, one of his partners and dated September 6, 1990. She could see that most of the words on it had been meticulously blocked out with masking tape for her viewing. The unblocked portion read: “My instructions with regard to ... Martha Kaufman (Hilary Gibson) are revoked.” It was signed “Armand Hammer.” Iselin looked at her smugly, as if that ended the issue.

She then calculatingly asked Iselin for some information. When he left to get it for her, she grabbed the document and, concealing it under her shawl, calmly left the office. By the time she had arrived at her hotel, there was a frantic message from Iselin, begging her to return the document. Instead, she peeled off the masking tape and found the name of the secret account-- the Grazioza Account--that Hammer had established for her. The full document also showed that Hammer had secreted money outside of the U.S. that he did not intend to pass through his estate-- or pay taxes on. She speculated that this disclosure could prove enormously embarrassing to the estate. She now also knew that her lover had double-crossed her a few months before he died by revoking his commitment. She decided to sue his estate for his breach of promise.

Confronted with the document, the lawyers representing Hammer’s estate, living trust and Occident settled her claim out of court. In March 1996, she received \$4.2 million.

She had also opened a pandora’s box.

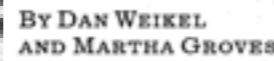


DAVID G. SAVAGE
REPORTING FROM
WASHINGTON

Menachem Binyamin Zivotofsky was born in a Jerusalem hospital on Oct. 17, 2002, and his American parents, Ari and Naomi, went to the U.S. Consulate asking to have his birthplace listed as "Jerusalem, Israel." The consulate listed it as "Jerusalem." Had their son been born in Tel Aviv, the parents

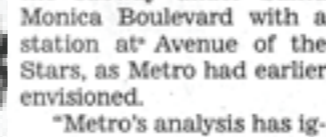
Throughout his term, Bush issued hundreds of "signing statements" when he signed bills into law, as did his predecessors, most often declaring that he would not enforce a provision because it conflicted

david.savage@latimes.com



"We wanted to get people's attention," she said. "Parents are concerned about safety. We feel Metro's not listening to the con-

[See Video, AA4]



dan.weikel
@latimes.com
martha.groves
@latimes.com

RICHARD SIMON
REPORTING FROM
WASHINGTON

Two former Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority employees pleaded guilty Monday to stealing at least \$445,000 from sub-

The men face a maximum penalty of 10 years on the theft charges and 20

richard.simon
@latimes.com

CHRISTINA HOUSE For the Times

Madame Tussaud's Hollywood Wax Museum has a secret room. Inside "the Studio," parts of the museum's celebrity wax sculptures (like Jack Nicholson's head) are repaired after ardent fans damage them. **CALENDAR**

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A Little People's Army

Kindergarten children toting toy guns were led through a park on Friday in Dongyang, China.

REUTERS



国家食品药品监督管理局 制

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V.I.P. **כל סוגי המסאז'ים**
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Fast Food Restaurant Construction
بيع وشراء واستثمار شقق وإراض
في كافة المناطق اللبنانية
- مكاتب بمساحات مختلفة للإيجار (الحازمية)
- ارض في الاشرية 3100 م² موقع مميز
- ارض في الجمهور 2300 م²
- ارض في نيو مار تقلا الحازمية 600 م² كاشفة
- ارض في الديشونية 3000 م² موقع مميز
لدينا بلوكات اراضي في كافة المناطق اللبنانية
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03/508800 - 71/898782 - 05/451315
pierrehazim@yahoo.com سنتر سان روك الحازمية

A Typeface Spells Political Trouble in Michigan

By JOSEPH B. WHITE

LANSING, Mich.—Just how big is 14-point type? That's one of the hottest political disputes in Michigan as the state Supreme Court ponders whether a ballot question about fixing the state's troubled cities and schools should go before voters.

At issue is whether a summary of the question, used on a petition to gather signatures to get the question on the ballot, was written in a type size specified by state law: 14-point boldface. The typeface used on the petition was 14-point Calibri produced by Microsoft Corp.'s Word software, but a dispute has arisen over whether the font renders the type at the full 14-point size.

At stake, depending on which side's lawyers were talking Wednesday in Michigan Supreme Court, is either a narrow matter of whether statutes about ballots should be enforced as written, or a broader philosophical question of whether typographical quirks can be used to block citizens from deciding issues at the polls.

For more than an hour, justices dug into the history of typography and the intricacies of type sizes. While the arguments at times sounded like a typography semi-

A Matter of Size

Michigan law requires that the summary of a ballot question be rendered in 14-point type, but different typefaces can look different in the same point size. Below, the font in question, Calibri Bold, along with two other common fonts. Note that the height of capital letters and lower-case letters can vary significantly.

Legislation Legislation Legislation

Calibri Bold	Arial Bold	Century Schoolbook Bold
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Note: Fonts shown larger than the 14-point size for comparison purposes.

The Wall Street Journal

nar, the underlying dispute isn't academic. It involves a power struggle between the Republican-dominated state government and business leaders on one side, and public-employee unions and city officials on the other.

The ballot question is a union-backed initiative seeking to repeal Michigan's Public Act 4, commonly known as the emergency-manager law. The statute, passed in 2011 by a newly installed Republican-led legislature and signed by new GOP Gov. Rick Snyder, gives the governor the power to effectively take over the management of cities and school districts deemed to be on the edge of bankruptcy.

Several big cities and a number of school districts, including Detroit's, already have been taken over by emergency managers. Among managers' powers is the authority to void public employees' contracts and restructure their pension and health benefits.

Unions launched a drive last year to put a proposal to repeal Public Act 4 on this November's ballot. The drive, run by the union-backed Stand Up for Democracy, collected more than 203,000 signatures, well more than the 161,305 required. The business-backed Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility challenged the petition, arguing that Stand Up for Democracy failed to comply with

state laws that detail how petitions for ballot questions must be designed, including a requirement that the heading, or summary description, "shall be...in 14 point boldfaced type."

The letters in the Calibri font used by Stand Up for Democracy, when measured using an "E scale" ruler used by type designers, were less than 14/72 of an inch tall, which is the definition of 14-point type, Michigan's Court of Appeals had ruled. But the lower court said the question should remain on the ballot because the petition was in "substantial compliance" with the law, and Michigan courts previously ruled that was good enough.

Lucas de Groot, a type designer in Berlin who created Calibri, said by email that "the typical height of capital letters is around 70% of the type size, so all typefaces are 'smaller' than 14 pt when set at 14 pt. However, Calibri has a high readability per square inch compared to many other typefaces, and from a typographers point of view 14 point is huge for reading text."

John Pirich, a lawyer for Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility, argued the Calibri letters used in the petition, even if identified as "14-point" on a computer, were smaller than required by a law that left no room for ambiguity.

Chief Justice Robert Young, holding up a diagram of a piece of printer's type, or "letter block," from an earlier era, said when Michigan's ballot laws were written in the 1950s, font size meant "the block." "Has that measurement been faithfully translated to the digital world?" he asked Mr. Pirich. The lawyer contended the answer is no.

Herb Sanders, representing Stand Up for Democracy, urged the justices to consider a bigger issue. If they refused to allow the measure on the ballot, he said, "you'd be denying people their constitutional rights based on the width of a dime."

Unabomber's Harvard profile outrages many

He updates his status from prison before a 50th reunion, listing 'eight life sentences' among his awards.

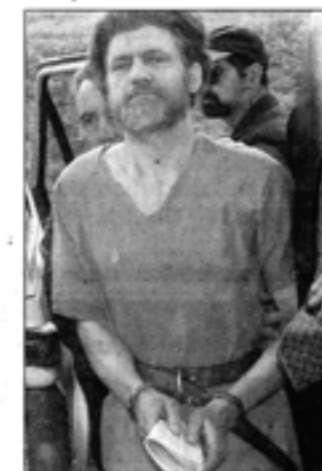
By RENE LYNCH

As the Harvard Class of 1962 prepared to gather this week, many alumni updated their profiles — no doubt proud to share their accomplishments of the last 50 years.

Theodore Kaczynski did so as well. But many believe he had a different motive: They say the man dubbed the Unabomber was mocking his former Harvard University classmates, as well as those he injured or killed and their survivors.

The Harvard Alumni Assn. said it regretted allowing Kaczynski to use its so-called Red Book to update his profile. There, Kaczynski listed his occupation as "prisoner" and included among his awards: "Eight life sentences, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California, 1998." He gave his address as the federal prison in Florence, Colo.

Some classmates were offended. "I thought, 'Have you no shame?'" Bob Bennett, now a Northwestern University law professor, told the Boston Herald.



ELAINE THOMPSON Associated Press
AN ALUMNI GROUP apologized for Theodore Kaczynski's actions.

The alumni association's apology did little for one of those injured by Kaczynski: Yale computer science professor David Gelernter, who lost his right hand and right eye to one of Kaczynski's homemade bombs and refuses to allow himself to be called a victim.

"It's very chilling," Gelernter told the Herald. "He's an unrepentant terrorist murderer who cut people and slashed people to death in their kitchens, leaving them to bleed, while he hid in a shack somewhere in the West. So for some institution to lend authority to him, well, I can't believe such things happen in the United States."

Gelernter added: "The new criminals here are the

publishers of this Red Book, for their passive collusion with this murderer."

In a statement, the alumni association offered no explanation but said: "All class members are invited to submit entries for inclusion in the class reunion report. ... We regret publishing Kaczynski's references to his convictions and apologize for any distress that it may have caused others."

Harvard officials, who were in the midst of commencement ceremonies, did not respond to a request for details.

Kaczynski entered Harvard when he was 16. He later moved to a remote cabin in Montana that lacked running water and electricity. From this hideaway, he began terrorizing the nation with more than a dozen mail bombs that killed three people and injured 23 from 1978 to 1995.

It wasn't long before Kaczynski was dubbed the Unabomber. For years, he was one of the most wanted men in America, with law enforcement failing again and again to nab him.

After the Washington Post and New York Times published the Unabomber's "manifesto," Kaczynski's brother and sister-in-law thought he might be the source and contacted the FBI. Kaczynski was arrested in 1996.

rene.lynn@latimes.com

QUICK TAKES

The reality: More Palin

His wife starred in a reality series about Alaska. His daughter stars in a reality series set in L.A. that premiered Tuesday night. Now Todd Palin, Sarah's husband and Bristol's father, will compete against retired boxing champion Laila Ali, singer Nick Lachey and other celebrities in a competition show called "Stars Earn Stripes."

NBC announced Tuesday that retired Army general and former presidential candidate Wesley Clark will co-host the series with television personality Samantha Harris. It premieres Aug. 13.

Palin and the other seven competitors will convene at a remote training facility to tackle difficult missions inspired by real military exercises. Each competitor will be paired with a trainer who has been a member of the armed forces or a law enforcement agency.

Each team will play for a military or veterans charity. A team will be eliminated weekly.



Apple Supplier Reports Unrest

By PAUL MOZUR

BEIJING—A fight at a northern Chinese factory campus owned by major Apple Inc. supplier **Hon Hai Precision Industry Co.** escalated into larger-scale unrest early Monday, according to the company and local police.

A spokesman for Hon Hai's Foxconn Technology Group arm said the situation was "under control," but added that the plant would be shut for Monday. "Our decision is to take a day off for that particular plant today," said the spokesman, Louis Woo.

An investigation into the cause of the riots, which left 10 injured, is being carried out, according to a report from China's state-run Xinhua news agency. A local Public Security Bureau officer confirmed that there were "problems" at the plant overnight and that the police were dealing with the situation.

Mr. Woo wouldn't say how many people were involved, but workers at the plant contacted over the Internet estimated several hundred to several thousand employees were involved.

The plant, located in Taiyuan in China's Shanxi province, employs 79,000 workers, Mr. Woo said. It produces electronic components for automobiles and consumer electronic components as well as moldings. It wasn't immediately clear which customers' products are made at the plant.

Hon Hai is a major contractor for Apple and other electronics companies. The plant is one of more than 20 manufacturing facilities around China.

Hon Hai has been under a microscope by labor groups for its work practices. The company has defended its conduct, but earlier this year it agreed to change its labor practices after an outside audit of its Chinese factories found widespread breaches of work rules, including 60-hour workweeks and other health and safety violations.

Apple declined to comment and referred questions to Foxconn.

Mr. Woo said a fight between two different work groups in a dormitory eventually spread into greater unrest at the factory. He wouldn't elaborate on the amount of damage at the plant, but photos spreading around Chinese microblogs Monday morning showed smashed store windows, an overturned car and riot police.

A worker at the factory contacted directly through Sina Corp.'s Weibo microblogging service said the main violence broke out at the southern gate of the campus, where motorcycles were burned and store windows were smashed around midnight. By 1 a.m. he said, paramilitary and other special police forces had arrived.

—Yang Jie in Shanghai and Ian Sherr in San Francisco contributed to this article.



Chairman Mao, in their own hand

Latitude

ERIC ABRAHAMSEN

BEIJING The past few days have brought some encouragement for observers of grassroots political mobilization in China. As June 4, the 23rd anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square incident rolled around, the sheer variety of words and phrases that online censors have had to block is a heartening indicator of how hard Chinese netizens are pushing for political justice. (The microblogging platform Weibo even removed the candle icon, a common expression of mourning, from its selection of emoticons.)

However bad 2012 may wind up being for political freedoms, there's good reason to believe that, at a social level, the fighting spirit is strong.

At least in some quarters. Last week brought a seemingly minor, but highly baffling, reminder of how limited that spirit may be among authors.

Amid very little fanfare, the Writers Publishing House, one of China's most prestigious publishers of literary fiction, brought out a book entitled "One Hundred Writers' and Artists' Hand-Copied Commemorative Edition of the 'Yan'an Talks.'"

The Yan'an Talks on Literature and Art, delivered in 1942 by Mao Zedong,

laid out his plan for the role of art in Chinese society. Seven years before the establishment of the People's Republic, Mao was essentially telling artists that in a future Communist paradise they could expect to work solely in the service of the political aims of the party.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the talks, and there's nothing unusual about state-owned publishers bringing out commemorative editions of political texts. This one would include facsimiles of several historical publications of the talks, as well as a new version pieced

ONLINE: LATITUDE

Read more dispatches from Eric Abrahamson on the IHT Latitude blog at nytimes.com/globalopinion



together from hand-copied passages by one hundred contemporary Chinese writers. And it was likely to go nowhere but warehouse shelves, next to thousands of commemorative books like it.

But the hand-copied feature caught the notice of online commentators. Among the hundred calligraphers were most of China's best-known and respected authors, including Mo Yan, Su Tong, Jia Pingwa and Han Shaogong.

With growing incredulity, critics began to spell out the significance of the exercise: decades after the official

repudiation of Soviet-style cultural management, a hundred writers were asked to meticulously transcribe what once amounted to an artistic death sentence pronounced on their forebears — and the vast majority assented.

A few did demur. Yan Lianke, a writer of conscience who is occasionally banned, wanted no part in it. And Wang Anyi noted dryly that she preferred to copy out her own words rather than someone else's. Yet others didn't bat an eye at writing phrases like: "The purpose of our meeting today is to ensure that literature and art fit well into the whole revolutionary machine as a component part."

What could they have been thinking? The writers were given 1,000 yuan (around \$160) each for their troubles: they couldn't have been doing it for the money. The book was unlikely ever to be read, so there wasn't much glory to be gained either.

Ye Zhaoyan, one of several writers who participated and later posted contrite apologies on the Web, said, "I'm deeply repentant of not taking this more seriously." Other mea culpas took the same tone: I wasn't thinking.

That this nation's literati can be so blasé about their integrity and role in society and politics is a reminder of the dangers of blithe optimism about the progress of freedom in China.

ERIC ABRAHAMSEN is a literary translator and publishing consultant.

NATIONAL

Cost Of Heroism

A teenager hit by a truck as she saved the life of a one-year-old girl broke traffic rules and has to assume some of the financial responsibility for her foot injuries, say police. Li Shushu, 16, rushed into a lane of traffic to pull the toddler to safety as a fast-moving truck headed toward her. **A8**

SARFT bans remakes of overseas TV drama series

By Du Liya

The State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) has once again tightened its oversight over the content of television series.

The guidelines demand that revolution-themed TV dramas draw a clear line between friend and foe, that family dramas are not exaggerated, and that historical dramas must remove fabrications.

The guidelines also state that TV dramas adapted from foreign productions and online games should be banned.

An anonymous staffer at SARFT confirmed the news on Saturday and said that the guidelines had already been carried out nationwide, the Beijing News reported.

"The ban on remaking foreign TV series is positive, as remakes damage the creativity of our own industry," Miao Ruomu, a scriptwriter, told the Global Times. While saying SARFT's restrictions are based on good intentions, Miao noted "they are going too far and limiting our creative space."

Li Daoxin, a professor with the School of Arts at Peking University, echoed Miao's opinion saying SARFT should act more like a guide that leads the industry to develop, instead of constantly imposing bans.

An online posting titled "SARFT forces us to turn off television" on Tianya forum, a popular domestic online social community, was viewed 47,000 times and received over 900 replies, most of which were critical of SARFT.

"Domestic TV dramas are really boring. I will turn to online programs if the ban is put into practice," a viewer surnamed Du told the Global Times on Sunday.

See also Page 8
Zhang Zihan contributed to this story

Weird names leave teachers scratching their heads

Will a wisely chosen name help a child get a leg-up in its future life?

The answer is probably "yes", as there are many Western studies that show people's names have all kinds of effects on their social relationships and career advancement. For example, children with popular names are less likely to get into trouble with the law and people with the easiest-to-pronounce names rise faster on the social ladder.

But when the new group of students enrolled in colleges across China this year, many registered monikers that were difficult to pronounce or could annoy others and draw ridicule, a phenomenon that has baffled many faculty and sociologists.

In some schools where it's now unusual for students to have the same names, professors are in constant fear of mispronouncing them while calling their names, because some have used rare, archaic Chinese characters.

Among the best-known freshmen this year are those named after Kong Zi or Confucius in English, ancient emperors and the name of the first US president in Chinese. In one case, a student of Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Hubei province who had given his name as Wang Zi, which means "prince" in English, found his roommate was Kang Xi, the title used by the fourth emperor of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911).

Names carry a lot of information, such as gender, class, success and personality, and can change with the times. Chinese names are particularly meaningful, because they are selected from among thousands of Chinese words, instead of a list of common first names that is available to Westerners.

In the past, rural children were named after animals because poor farmers hoped they would bring up their children as cheaply as raising pigs and puppies. The first names could also be ideologically charged. Many of the freshmen's parents, who were born in the 1960s or 1970s, were given ones that conformed to the then prevailing social and economic conditions.

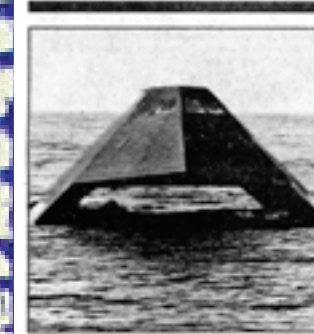
The names of younger generations of Chinese carry no such baggage. Instead, when some parents choose a name for their children now, they tend to associate it with their high expectations for the child, like naming them after a successful historical figure as a life-long inspiration to overcome rivalry and succeed.

花色冷荤拼盘

Color meat platter

综合面包

Comprehensive bread



U.S. Navy

THE NAVY USED the radar-evading, twin-hull Sea Shadow to test military hardware during the Cold War.

Ship goes from top secret to a scrap auction

By W.J. HENNIGAN

For sale: An exotic, once top-secret radar-evading ship, dubbed the Sea Shadow, that was built by one of the world's largest defense contractors during the height of the Cold War.

Specifications: about 68 feet wide, 164 feet long and around 563 tons.

Price: \$139,200 or best offer.

If interested, please contact the General Services Administration at its website: gsauctions.gov.

That's the sales pitch from the U.S. Navy, which — after five years of trying and failing to donate the stealthy Sea Shadow to a museum — is now selling the ship for scrap metal in an online auction. All bids must be in at 3 p.m. Pacific time Friday.

But there's a catch. To win the auction, the successful bidder must agree to dismantle and scrap the Sea Shadow within six months — and not keep it for a Sunday sail. Perhaps that's why as of Wednesday afternoon, there were only 10 bids made — the highest being \$139,100.

The sinister-looking ship, which when viewed straight on looks like Darth Vader's menacing black mask, was designed by Lockheed Corp. at its famed Skunk Works facility. [See Sea Shadow, A13]

Workers Riot at China Factory

Continued from the prior page
consumer electronics but didn't disclose specifics.

The incident put a spotlight on growing tension in China's factories as companies struggle to meet worker demands for better compensation and work conditions even as economic growth slows. China's gross domestic product rose 7.6% in the second quarter from a year earlier, the slowest pace since the global financial crisis. The China Labour Bulletin, reported an increase in strikes and protests, logging an average of 29 a month for the first eight months of this year, up from 11 a month for the same period last year.

To combat rising costs and worker attrition, Hon Hai has been moving its factories inland from the more expensive Chinese coasts.

But the pliant first-generation migrant workers that staffed factories a decade ago have become more savvy about their rights and willing to stand up for them. The second generation that has joined them on the factory floor are better educated and more plugged in.

"Some people are just not satisfied that Foxconn pays us so little and asks us to work long hours," a female worker said.

Average wages in China's manufacturing sector rose 18.9% last year, according to China's National Bureau of Statistics.

"Younger workers are definitely more aware of their rights and more demanding," said Geoff Crothall, a China Labour Bulletin spokesman. "They want more out of life than simply earning minimum wage."

Managing such pressures at large production facilities presents a challenge for Hon Hai, which has been under a microscope since a spate of suicides at its factories in 2009. Hon Hai's facility in Taiyuan alone employs roughly the same amount of workers that General Motors Co. employed in the U.S. last year. The 79,000 Taiyuan workers amount to only a small portion of the roughly one million workers at Hon Hai's more than 20 plants across China.

Mr. Woo, the Hon Hai spokesman, said labor expenses aren't a major cost for Foxconn and the more important question was whether China's younger workers will continue to have the desire to work difficult manufacturing jobs.

"We cannot argue that manufacturing jobs are exciting for workers. It's kind of boring and requires a lot of hard work...so we have to change that, rather

than hoping the workers will change," he said. That is why the company is moving to automate more of its production, he said.

It was unclear what sparked the Taiyuan dispute. But employees said workers from other facilities, including Hon Hai's factories in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, recently were brought in to help with a large order.

"Some of those people aren't happy because they don't want to stay at Taiyuan," the female worker said. "They want to go back where they come from."

Mr. Woo said the presence of different employee groups may have caused an initial conflict to escalate.

Hon Hai's move inland has included an effort to decrease turnover by hiring workers who live close to factories, instead of using migrant workers who live in dormitories, according to analysts.

Hon Hai has defended the work conditions at its factories. Earlier this year it agreed to change its labor practices after an outside audit found widespread breaches of work rules regarding health and safety, including 60-hour workweeks.

—Yang Jie in Shanghai and Ian Sherr in San Francisco contributed to this article.





FRENCH CITIZEN Florence Cassez, pictured in 2008 at prison in Mexico City, was convicted of involvement in a kidnapping ring, but says she is innocent.

‘A mirror’ before Mexico’s system

A French inmate’s case airs the dirty side of how the justice process frequently works in this nation.

TRACY WILKINSON
REPORTING FROM
MEXICO CITY

Six years after French national Florence Cassez was sent off to serve decades in a Mexican prison for her alleged role in a kidnapping ring, her case is once again stirring heated debate here and abroad.

A member of the Mexican Supreme Court has recommended that Cassez be freed because of irregularities in the handling of her prosecution, most notably the fact that federal police staged a replay of her arrest for TV cameras.

The court’s five-member “first chamber” must now debate and vote on the recommendation, a process expected to begin Wednesday.

The case has long strained relations between Mexico, where a kidnapping epidemic has left little room for sympathy for an alleged abductor, and France, where Cassez is seen as someone whose rights were trampled.

It is also airing the dirty side of how justice frequently works in Mexico, where politics sometimes trumps proper procedures

and where true guilt or innocence is often beside the point.

“Cassez merely holds up a mirror to our system,” Ana Laura Magaloni, a law expert, said at a forum held to discuss the case.

The government of President Felipe Calderon, along with many families of kidnap victims, reacted angrily to the recommendation of Justice Arturo Zaldivar that Cassez be given “absolute and immediate” freedom. Officials involved in the prosecution said they were confident that testimony from survivors, though at times contradictory, established Cassez’s guilt.

Isabel Miranda de Wallace, an activist whose son was kidnapped and killed, vowed to fight Cassez’s liberty and to lead kidnap victims to the Supreme Court when the debate starts.

In a national telephone survey published Monday by the Excelsior newspaper, 88% of respondents said Cassez should stay in prison.

But the case has proved divisive. A number of experts said it was bungled and that Cassez was denied due process. Zaldivar also maintained that Cassez was not given proper access to French Consulate officials after her arrest — a delicate point to argue for a country that demands such treatment for its millions of citizens who live abroad.

Mexico City’s human rights commission said it did not share “the vision of

those who think ‘due process’ is a list of technicalities and formalities that can be put to one side when someone has been prejudged as being guilty.”

“That is authoritarianism above regard for guarantees.”

In France, President Nicolas Sarkozy was quoted as welcoming the news of Cassez’s possible release. He has championed her case and tried unsuccessfully to persuade Mexico to transfer Cassez to a French prison.

Cassez, now 37, was arrested in 2005 with a Mexican boyfriend who authorities said ran the Zodiacs kidnapping ring. She was convicted the following year and sentenced to 96 years in prison, a term later reduced to 60 years.

She has maintained her innocence, although she lived in a compound where victims were held.

Authorities at the time trumpeted the arrests as an important victory against rampant kidnappings. But Zaldivar, in his motion, singled out one of Mexico’s top lawmen, Genaro Garcia Laina, for tainting the entire case by staging a raid before television cameras in which Cassez and her boyfriend were arrested and victims rescued. Reporters were allowed to interrogate the suspects.

In fact, they had been arrested a day earlier at a different location.

wilkinson@latimes.com

Teen who saved tot’s life blamed for getting hurt

Li Qian

A TEEN hit by a truck as she was shielding a one-year-old girl must assume some financial responsibility for her own injuries, according to traffic police in Foshan City in southern Guangdong Province.

Li Shushu, 16, rushed into traffic to pull away the toddler, identified as Wenwen, when a fast-moving truck headed towards the girl, who walked into the road on July 2.

While the truck hit both girls, Li is credited by many with saving Wenwen’s life.

Li’s sudden act impeded traffic safety and led to her right foot being broken, and therefore she must share responsibility for her injuries, Guangzhou Daily quoted police as saying yesterday.

Li is stable at Foshan No.1 People’s Hospital, waiting for a toe to be amputated because of a severe infection.

She was awarded 30,000 yuan (US\$4,713) for her heroic act by the provincial women’s

federation, but Li still regretted not being able to keep the truck from hurting the toddler, the paper said.

Wenwen had fractures in her left foot and is being treated in the intensive care unit in a hospital in the provincial capital Guangzhou after two of her toes had to be amputated.

Wenwen also has to share responsibility for her injuries due to her violation of the traffic rules, police said.

A minivan driver surnamed Chen was also cited for incorrectly parking his vehicle and hindering the truck driver, surnamed Zeng, from seeing the girls clearly, police said. Both bear partial responsibility in the crash, police said.

The report triggered widespread controversy.

“In order to save Wenwen, Li had no choice but to break the rules to rush to the girl. It is unfair for her because she risked her life to save the girl and was injured in the accident,” a resident surnamed Wang told the paper.



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(328)

Reagan blood sample vial for sale, controversy included

BY STEVE CHAWKINS

It’s called Lot 160, a 5-inch glass tube that’s unremarkable in every way — except that it purportedly held blood drawn from President Ronald Reagan as he lay struggling for life after an assassination attempt.

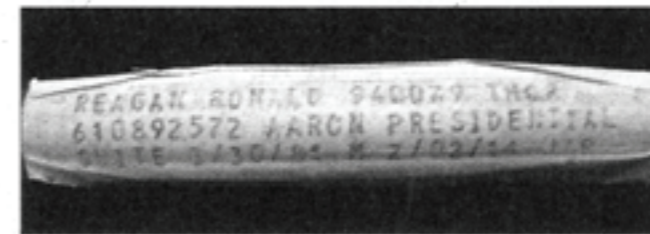
The vial, partially coated with a ring of a residue, is being offered for sale by a British online auction house where bids Tuesday reached nearly \$15,000. A label and an accompanying document identify it as having contained a blood sample taken from Reagan at George Washington University Hospital on March 30, 1981, the day he was shot outside a Washington, D.C., hotel.

Officials at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation in Simi Valley issued a statement denouncing the prospective sale.

“If indeed this story is true, it’s a craven act and we [See Reagan, AA5]



RON EDMONDS Associated Press



PFC Auctions

A TUBE THAT HELD blood taken from President Reagan when he was shot outside a Washington, D.C., hotel in 1981, top, has been listed at auction.



Reagan officials oppose auction of blood vial

[Reagan, from AA1]

will use every legal means to stop its sale or purchase,” said John Heubusch, the foundation’s director. “We’ve spoken to GW Hospital and are assured an investigation as to how something like this could possibly happen is underway. Any individual, including a president of the United States, should feel confident that once they enter into the care of a medical system their privacy and rights are held inviolable.”

The auction provides a glimpse into a strange niche of the collecting world, where aficionados pay big bucks for locks of hair from the famous, empty bottles that held the pills of addicted celebrities and, sometimes, traces of the blood that pumped through presidential veins.

“Collectors are very interested in blood relics,” said John Reznikoff, whose University Archives in Westport, Conn., is a leading dealer in historic artifacts. “Anything to do with assassinations is fascinating to collectors.”

Reznikoff, who has an extensive collection of celebrity hair, said his inventory includes a bloody sheet that was used to wrap the head of the dying Abraham Lincoln. The Reagan vial’s unidentified seller at PFC Auctions said in a statement that the tube came from the Columbia, Md., laboratory that analyzed blood samples for the hospital.

The seller’s mother, who worked at Bio Science Laboratories, asked the lab director whether she could take the tube home once the tests were complete.

“It has been in my family ever since,” the seller said, adding that “the head” of the Reagan library earlier this year declined to buy it, urging instead that it be donated. After checking with the Secret Service and the National Archives, the official gave his reluctant OK for a sale, according to the seller’s account.

“Since 30 years had passed by, he thought that it was simply something that was of no importance at this time and that I was free to do whatever I wanted with it,” the seller wrote.

Melissa Giller, the foundation’s spokeswoman, said

the seller may have contacted the library, but did not approach the foundation. Started by Reagan to preserve his legacy, the non-profit raises funds for the library and owns the right to the Reagan “name, likeness and image,” Giller said in an email.

“President Reagan’s blood would technically belong to his estate, which the foundation helps to control,” she said.

The legality of the sale is an open question.

“It would raise an issue of concern with me inasmuch as this is a body part of the president of the United States, who had it extracted while serving as president,” said Steve Proffitt, an Alabama attorney who writes frequently about auction law. “It’s a body part, not a piece of separate personal property.”

Darren Julien, whose Los Angeles auction house sold Marilyn Monroe’s chest X-rays for about \$40,000, said the problem is more moral than legal.

“It’s not a piece we would have sold,” he said, pointing out that Reagan died relatively recently, in 2004, and his widow, Nancy, and children are still alive.

Reznikoff, the Connecticut dealer in historical items, said the Reagan camp was indulging in “ridiculous saber-rattling and misguided self-righteousness.”

“If they had it, it would go in a file cabinet somewhere,” he said. “But this is a relic related to an important event in American history. There’s nothing whatever disparaging about it.”

On the auction house website, the anonymous seller, an Army veteran, echoes the sentiment: “I was a real fan of Reaganomics and felt that Pres. Reagan himself would rather see me sell it rather than donating it.”

Reagan recovered from his chest wound but his press secretary, James Brady, was permanently disabled, and a police officer and Secret Service agent were wounded.

The gunman, John Hinckley Jr., was found not guilty by reason of insanity and remains in a psychiatric institution.

steve.chawkins
@latimes.com

Merkel urges ceding power 'step by step' within E.U.

PARIS

Call for political unity is tempered by caveat that changes come slowly

BY STEVEN ERLANGER

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, with the euro under renewed pressure because of Spanish banks and the coming Greek election, said Thursday that the answer was "more Europe," with moves "step by step" toward a fiscal and political union of countries using the euro.

"We need not just a currency union;

NEWS ANALYSIS

we also need a so-called fiscal union, which is more joint budgetary policy," she told the German public television network ARD. "And most of all we need a political union," she said.

"That means that we must, step by step through the process, give up more powers to Europe as well and allow Europe oversight possibilities," she said.

Ms. Merkel is largely repeating the German mantra throughout the crisis for the euro zone: more unity, more convergence, more budget discipline and more collective oversight from Brussels, but step by step, with no magic wand, no big bang, no sudden lurch toward a United States of Europe.

While she is sometimes criticized as moving "too little, too late," her mention of a fiscal union on Thursday seemed to go a little further, implying, down the road — once the hard work of fiscal discipline and structural reform was well under way — a willingness to collectivize some debt and even to provide more German money to the poorer countries of Europe's periphery.

But as much as fiscal and political union may be the ultimate answer for the structural flaws in the euro zone, it is not a given. Further union implies more sacrifice of national sovereignty than many countries want, let alone the desires of their voters, who have an increasingly low opinion in general of "Brussels" and the European Union's largely faceless and unelected technocrats.

The concern over sovereignty is not just in countries outside the euro zone, like Prime Minister David Cameron's euro-phobic Britain.

It is also unclear that France, a presidential republic with strong central authority, is willing to allow the sort of intrusion from Brussels that a real fiscal or political union would require.

France's new Socialist president, François Hollande, is considered very much a "European," a spiritual son of his mentor, Jacques Delors, a strong European federalist who is considered the best president the European Commission has had. But Mr. Hollande has a group of powerful euroskeptics in his party and government, and his own stance will depend to some degree, analysts say, on the results of France's legislative elections set for this Sunday and the next.

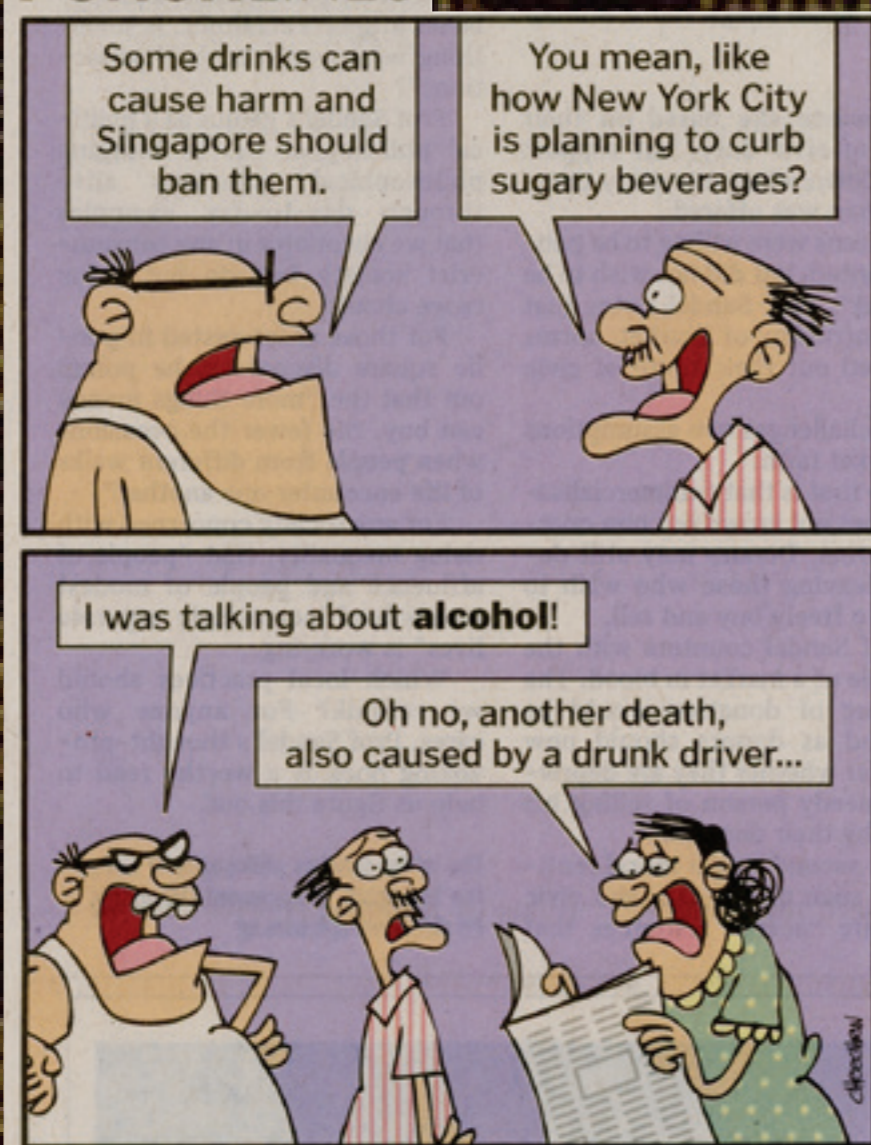
If the Socialists do well and get a working majority in the National Assembly in alliance with federalist

EUROPE, PAGE 3



Prime Minister David Cameron and Chancellor Angela Merkel at a news conference in Berlin on Thursday at the Chancellery. She called for more unity, more convergence, more budget discipline and more collective oversight from Brussels, but step by step, with no magic wand, no big bang, no sudden lurch toward a United States of Europe.

PUNCHLINES



Planet thought to be diamond

Astronomers have spotted an exotic planet apparently made of a diamond racing around a tiny star.

The planet, lying 4,000 light years away, is far denser than any other known and consists largely of carbon. Scientists calculate the carbon must be crystalline, so a large part of it would effectively be diamond.

"The evolutionary history and amazing density of the planet all suggest it is comprised of carbon — i.e. a massive diamond orbiting a neutron star every two hours," said lead author Matthew Bailes of Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, Australia. The study was published in the journal Science.

— REUTERS



MARKETBEAT | Market insight from WSJ.com

These Stocks Have Rhythm. Algorithm, That Is

By PAUL VIGNA
AND TOM LAURICELLA

Call it the rise of the machines.

The markets have been erratic lately, for sure. But trading patterns in four blue chips on Thursday showed a bizarre correlation, setting the market chatter abuzz on an otherwise quiet summer afternoon.

Dow components Coca-Cola, International Business Machines, McDonald's, as well as Apple (which isn't in the Dow), all traded with the same sawtooth pattern of rapid, tight swings throughout the trading day.

The pattern was almost identical for the four stocks: down for half an hour, up for half an hour, up for half an hour, up for half an hour. Even more curious: The peaks all came at the half-hour mark, and the lows all came at the start of the new hour.

MarketBeat looked at a number of other stocks and didn't find the trading action repeated anywhere else. And the volume of the stocks traded weren't out of the ordinary.

"Wow," one trader said. "Never seen anything like that."

But before getting too excited with talk of crop circles and alien invasions, most traders agreed that it was likely the product of a computer algorithm known as a time-weighted algorithmic program, or a TWAP. These programs are designed to parse trades out over a set period of time, helping explain the clockwork-like consistency.

"I think some large institutional buyer is using a new algorithm," said Eric Hunsader, CEO of market-data service Nanex.

Why it was left to go on for so long is anyone's guess. And there is a chance that the owner of said algorithm could have had a painful day.

"There is no reason for

someone looking to make money to continually buy it up and sell it down as they'd lose money," a trader said. "Perhaps an algo left untended and got off the rails."

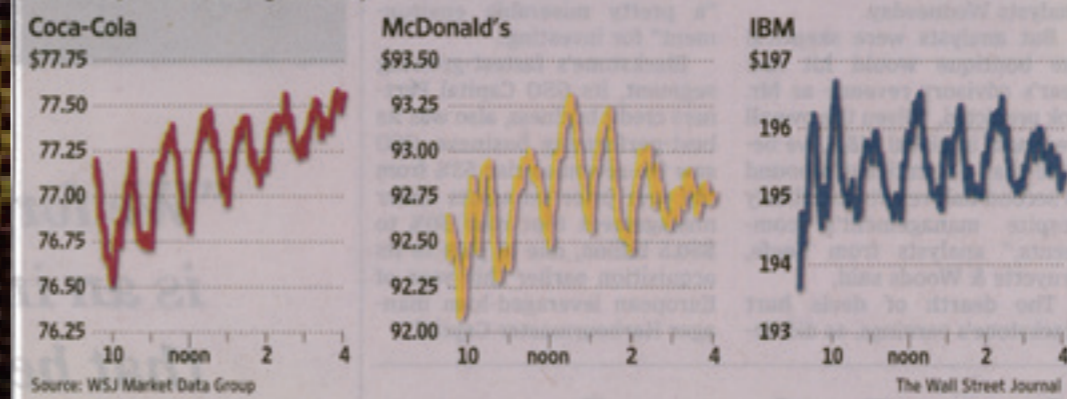
And looking closely at the charts, Mr. Hunsader said there are signs that the humans that spotted the trade began to see some easy pickings. "The later cycles are clearly deformed from traders anticipating it," he said.

As soon as the algorithm's master discovered the trading impact, it likely would have been switched off or tweaked. "They probably don't realize [until now] that it made such an indelible footprint," Mr. Hunsader said in an email to MarketBeat. "Which means it probably will be adjusted and therefore disappear."

Read the continuously updated look inside the markets, free online at wsj.com/marketbeat

Feverish Patterns

Three Dow components (and Apple) traded most of Thursday in a precise, probably computer-driven, pattern. Minute-by-minute trading Thursday



Source: WSJ Market Data Group

The Wall Street Journal



Weapon maker to the stars

Hollywood turns to a factory in India when it needs historic armaments, war attire.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAHIBABAD, India — On the outskirts of New Delhi, in a cramped concrete workshop where the air shimmers with the light of welding torches, an Indian businessman has become a master craftsman of Napoleonic swords. And medieval chain mail armor. And World War II hand grenades and helmets.

From Hollywood war movies to Japanese Samurai films to battle reenactments across Europe, Ashok Rai, 31, is one of the world's go-to men for historic weapons and battle attire.

Rai's workshop reverberates with the sounds of metal being hammered and beaten into chain mail, swords, axes, muskets, sabers, spears and helmets.

Rai, a trapshooting enthusiast, says he has been a history buff since childhood. "I would watch every war movie that came to town. All my life, I've been reading up on all the major battles in history. Now when we make medieval battle gear it's easy for me to explain to my craftsmen exactly what's to be done."

He dove into the business at age 17, when he heard a French champagne-maker needed 1,000 swords to give away as souvenirs.

Rai, whose father had a small factory making tourist handicrafts, traveled to the northern city of Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikh religion, to find sword-makers to make the replicas.

"It took some doing to get the order ready on time. But it got me thinking," said Rai. "Here was a niche worth exploring."

Soon, he dropped out of college, transforming his father's company to specialize in battle attire and weapons stretching from the 10th century to World War II.

Shortly afterward, he said he had a surprise visit from filmmakers preparing for the Tom Cruise movie "The Last Samurai."

That led to dozens of orders for all kinds of props for historical movies and documentary films. From Napoleon-era swords, to American Revolutionary muskets and sabers, to World War II helmets and uniforms.

He says he has made footwear for the Russell Crowe movie "Robin Hood," and chain mail for "Kingdom of Heaven," the Orlando Bloom film set during the 12th century Crusades.

"We created 1,500 chain mail suits of armor," for "Kingdom of Heaven," using aluminum to keep the costumes light.

About 500 workers, mostly women, riveted the links to form the armor. "Chain mail is very labor-intensive. Each link has to be riveted to the next," he said.

These days, though, Rai is shifting from Hollywood to battle reenactments. It's a big business, particularly in Europe, and unlike Hollywood — where weapons are made just to look good, and often are made from lightweight metal or plastic — he likes making weapons that have the heft of the originals.

Rai has set up his own company in Germany to market battle gear to reenactors and medieval fairs, and tied up with a Spanish company to rent uniforms and equipment to documentary filmmakers.

More than a decade after starting his business, Rai has no regrets about missing out on college.

"I'd probably be working in an office, or a bank ... pushing a pen," he said. "Instead, I feel I've become weapon maker to the world."





The hunt for ousted dictators' fortunes

ASSETS, FROM PAGE 1

tremely hard, especially when foreign legal systems are involved.

In some cases, the people who know where the money is held are at risk — not only because they are viewed as criminals in their home countries, but also because they hold secrets to questionable or corrupt deals that implicate companies and governments elsewhere in the Arab world and in the West. Shukri Ghanem, a former Libyan oil minister who fled the country last year, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in the Danube River in Vienna on April 29. Days earlier, he offered to tell Libyan officials everything he knew about a range of suspect oil deals in exchange for immunity from prosecution, according to two men who spoke with him.

Another Qaddafi confidant, Bashir Saleh Bashir — the only man who knows the whereabouts of \$7 billion in Colonel Qaddafi's African investments, Libyan officials say — was captured by rebels last year and then apparently allowed to escape, later turning up in France. Libyan officials say they believe Mr. Bashir also has information about an illicit deal between Colonel Qaddafi and Nicolas Sarkozy, the former French president (Mr. Sarkozy has long denied that he received any money from the colonel). Mr. Bashir's current location is unknown.

So far, almost none of the "shadow assets" have been returned. In March, the Libyan authorities gained ownership of a \$15 million house in north London that belonged to Saadi el-Qaddafi, one of the former dictator's sons. Two aircraft in France and Switzerland belonging to the former Tunisian dictator Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, worth a total of \$30 million, were transferred to the country's new government last year. And the state assets frozen last year are gradually being made available.

The rest of the money is hard to find, often hidden behind multiple fronts in half a dozen countries, according to several investigators and lawyers who have worked on recovering it. In theory, much of it could still be cashed in by the shadowy intermediaries who deposited it.

Once identified and frozen, it can still be defended by lawyers for the former ruling families. Lawyers hired by the Ben Ali clan have fought efforts to repatriate about \$70 million held in Swiss bank accounts at every step, according to Enrico Monfrini, a Swiss lawyer working on behalf of the new Tunisian authorities.

Saadi el-Qaddafi, who is now in Niger, expressed an interest in defending his ownership of the London house but was unable to do so in the time available, said Nick Kaufman, an Israeli lawyer and former International Criminal Court prosecutor who has been retained by Mr. Qaddafi and his sister Aisha.

"Recovering these assets is not easy," said Robert Palmer, an investigator with the anti-corruption group Glob-



The former Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. Two aircraft he owned were recovered by the new government.



Saadi el-Qaddafi, one of the late Libyan leader's sons, was stripped of ownership of a \$15 million house in north London.

al Witness. "First you must find the assets. Second, you must prove they are owned by the politician in question. Third, you must prove they were corrupt, and this requires evidence-gathering by the requesting country that is costly, difficult and time-consuming."

Even with money that has been located and frozen, delays in the recovery process have led to tensions between the new governments and Western countries. In March, the Illicit Gains Authority of the Egyptian government

"You must prove they were corrupt, and this requires evidence-gathering by the requesting country."

filed suit against the British Treasury to try to force it to provide information needed to help repatriate about \$135 million in bank accounts belonging to 19 people in the inner circle of former President Hosni Mubarak. British officials say they are bound by British law, which requires the Egyptians to provide them with criminal convictions first.

Switzerland is still blocking about \$450 million in Mubarak family bank accounts pending resolution of the Egyptian government's claims.

With money held by figures close to the former Egyptian government, recovery is likely to be harder. Hussein Salem, an Egyptian magnate who was close to Mr. Mubarak and is said to be worth bil-

lions, fled to Spain last year. He has maintained that he earned his fortune honestly. This month, the Spanish Supreme Court upheld a decision to extradite him to Egypt to face corruption charges, but the Spanish government froze only \$45 million of his assets, and it is not clear whether the rest will be returned.

In Libya, there is much more money involved, much of it missing, said Mustafa Abushagur, a deputy prime minister in the Libyan transitional government. Of the \$160 billion in Libyan state foreign assets listed by the country's Central Bank just before the revolution, billions were never actually frozen because no one knew where the money was or because the governments in question simply refused to take action. A panel at the United Nations that was formed to identify these assets reported in March that some African governments declined to respond to the panel's requests or provided false information.

Only one man is believed to have full knowledge of Libya's African assets, estimated at \$7 billion: Mr. Bashir, the 66-year-old Qaddafi confidant who was captured last year and fled to France. Mr. Bashir ran the Libyan African Portfolio, a sovereign wealth fund that invested Libyan oil wealth in hotels, banks, telecommunication shares and mining concessions spread across the continent. The fund was never audited or supervised, according to Abdelhamid el-Jadi, a Libyan banker who is advising the government on asset recovery.

"Bashir is the one who knows everything about this money, and not only that, he still has access to it," Mr. Jadi said.

Libyan officials, who this month released a list of 338 people and entities linked to stolen assets, said it was important to recover the money soon because some African countries had begun to nationalize Libyan investments. Zambia, for instance, seized control in January of Zamtel, the country's largest phone company, which is mostly owned by the Libyan African Portfolio.

The case of Mr. Ghanem, the former oil minister who died in Vienna, remains a mystery. The Austrian authorities have said the cause of his death was not clear. He had been viewed as a relative reformer in Colonel Qaddafi's government, and he once complained that the dictator's sons were using the Libyan oil company as a "personal bank," according to a leaked U.S. diplomatic cable from 2008. But he was close to the colonel's son Seif al-Islam el-Qaddafi and deeply familiar with the Libyan government's inner financial workings, according to the leaked cables and a number of officials here.

"A lot of Shukri Ghanem's partners who did corrupt deals with him wanted him to stay quiet," said Mr. Jadi, the Libyan banker.

'Mrs Bieber' succumbs to cancer at age six

A SIX-YEAR-OLD girl whose love for Justin Bieber encouraged physicians and nurses at a Boston hospital to organize a pretend wedding to the pop star as she battled a rare brain cancer has died.

The family of Avalanna Routh — who called herself Mrs Bieber — said on their Twitter account that she died on Wednesday morning. "Oh Avalanna, the brightest star — you took our hearts with you, our greatest Love," the family wrote.

During the pretend wedding, Avalanna held a yellow, green and purple bouquet of flowers, wore a T-shirt that said "Future Mrs Bieber" and stood next to his portrait under a banner that declared them "Just Married." That sparked a social media campaign to help her meet the singer. Bieber later arranged for the girl to meet him in New York, where they spent a couple of hours together.

Bieber took to Twitter to mourn the death of Avalanna.

"Just got the worst news ever. one of the greatest spirits I have ever known is gone," Bieber tweeted. "Please pray for her family and for her."

Avalanna suffered from an atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumor, a fast-growing tumor of the brain and spinal cord that usually occurs in children.

(AP)



Avalanna Roth



Mall of America T-Shirt

This summer, the Mall of America will observe its 15th anniversary. It remains the largest mall in the United States by total area, at 4.2 million square feet. (But not the world, by a long shot: several new malls in Asia are considerably larger, with the 9.6-million-square-foot South China Mall in Dongguan, China, being the current king.) The Mall of America's Web site offers various facts about its overwhelming hugeness: it houses more than 500 stores and 20,000 parking spaces, and "258 Statues of Liberty could lie inside."

Located five minutes from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the Mall of America bills itself as "one of the most visited tourist destinations in the world" and a "major U.S. brand" unto itself. One bit of evidence to support these contentions is the sale of merchandise that promotes the mall itself, including branded T-shirts, coffee mugs, key chains and plush toys. Daniel Jasper, director of public relations for the mall, says that such items marked with the mall's star logo and red-white-and-blue color scheme sell best, and T-shirts are particularly popular: well over two million have been

Merchant Memories

At the Mall of America, shopping for souvenirs ... of shopping.

bought, mostly by tourists looking to take home a gift for someone, or simply to have a "souvenir" of their visit to a really large building filled with retailers. Like visitors to "any other attraction," he says, "people want to take a piece of their vacation home with them."

Of all the visitors to the Mall of America, Rosemary Williams has what must be a unique perspective on the place and, for lack of a better word, its brand. Last year, Williams, an artist and an assistant professor of new media at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, set out to create a sculpture called "The Wall of Mall." Her idea was to build it out of shopping bags from every store in the Mall of America, prodding viewers to (as her artist's statement puts it) "look critically at the ways in which shopping dominates our mental and physical landscapes."

But she ran into a complication: shop employees didn't want to give their bags away to a noncustomer. So she elected to buy something at every store — then return it, keeping the bag. This involved many trips to the mall over a two-month period. Some of her earlier work dealt with consumption, and Williams describes herself as "not much of a shopper"; in fact, the first day of her daunting adventure practically made her nauseated. The intensity of her own reactions led her to begin an audio journal of her retail grand tour, which she has turned into a 27-episode podcast (billed as "the story of one woman's lonely journey around the Mall of America") distributed through her Web site, Rosemarygoestothemall.com.

On different trips, Williams adopted different mental personas — one day picking out only top-quality items, another looking for bargains, another choosing things that exemplified cultural decline. She didn't mind returning most of it, but there were some things she ended up wanting to keep — including the Mall of America T-shirt she bought at one of the three stores dedicated exclusively to selling mall-specific merch.

At first it struck her as an absurd thing to own. But then she thought, Why not have a souvenir of her curious odyssey? Plus, it turned out that the shirt (preshrunk, ring-spun cotton) was comfortable and fit well. "That's hands down my favorite T-shirt," she says. Around the Twin Cities, wearing the shirt is seen as a little strange — at best. She recalls a surprising exchange with a local store employee who demanded to know if she was a tourist and "didn't understand otherwise why I'd want to advertise that place." Her art-world friends didn't quite get it, either. So she tends to wear it around the house.

And after all, the nature of a souvenir is fundamentally personal. While "The Wall of Mall" (which has been exhibited in New York and London in recent months) still makes a statement about an over-branded world, Rosemarygoestothemall.com ends up telling the story of a journey that, Williams says, "kind of helped me get over my fear of shopping." She's still not much of a shopper, she adds, but somewhere along the way she learned to overcome the guilt of actually buying something enjoyable. More than most vacations, then, her trips to the mall resulted in a form of personal transformation. And that, of course, is something worth commemorating. ■

Illustration by Leif Parsons

US pulls funding for Pakistani Sesame Street

Jon Boone Islamabad

With its frenetic stars Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch, and its "letter for the day," the Sesame Street format has been a hit with children around the world for decades.

The US government thought it was on to a winner when it gave \$20m (£13m) to fund a Pakistani version of the show, hoping it would raise the country's woeful literacy rates and help turn a young generation away from the siren call of religious extremism.

But the future of Sim Sim Hamara is in doubt after the US pulled its funding amid reports that the project had become mired in corruption and mismanagement.

The latest step in Sesame's progress towards world domination was a co-production between the non-profit Sesame Workshop and a venerable puppet troupe in Lahore, the Rafi Peer Theatre Workshop. Although the programme

first aired in December and was due to continue for at least three seasons, the US Agency for International Development confirmed yesterday that it had withdrawn funding, but declined to explain why.

The newspaper Pakistan Today reported, under the headline "Elmo caught with his hand in the cookie jar!", the decision was due to "severe" financial irregularities at Rafi Peer, which allegedly used the US cash to pay off old debts and awarded lucrative contracts to relatives.

Faizaan Peerzada, the chief operating officer of Rafi Peer and one of several fam-

ily members who run the organisation, denied the corruption allegations. He said the US ended its participation after providing \$10m because of a lack of additional available funds.

"Rafi Peer is proud of its association with the project and of the quality of children's educational television programming created within Pakistan as a result," the group said in a statement.

If the corruption allegations prove true it would be an embarrassment for the multibillion-dollar USAid programme in Pakistan, which some analysts have criticised for lacking focus and not achieving results.

Rafi Peer plans to seek alternative sources of funding to continue producing Sim Sim Hamara. The show is led by Rani, a six-year-old girl who loves cricket and traditional Pakistani music. Her sidekick, Munna, is a five-year-old boy obsessed by numbers and playing Pakistani bongo drums, or tabla.



The Pakistani version of Sesame Street, Sim Sim Hamara, was intended to raise the country's poor literacy rates



How the Assads spun the West's media

Syrian leader and wife burnished their image with help of P.R. firms

BY BILL CARTER AND AMY CHOZICK

For some journalists, Syria has been one of the least hospitable countries in the Middle East, a place where reporters — if they can get in — are routinely harassed and threatened as they try to uncover the repression that has propped up the Assad government for decades.

For other journalists, Syria has until recently been a country led by a cultivated, English-speaking president, Bashar al-Assad, who, along with his wife, Asma, beautiful and British-born, was helping usher in a new era of openness and prosperity.

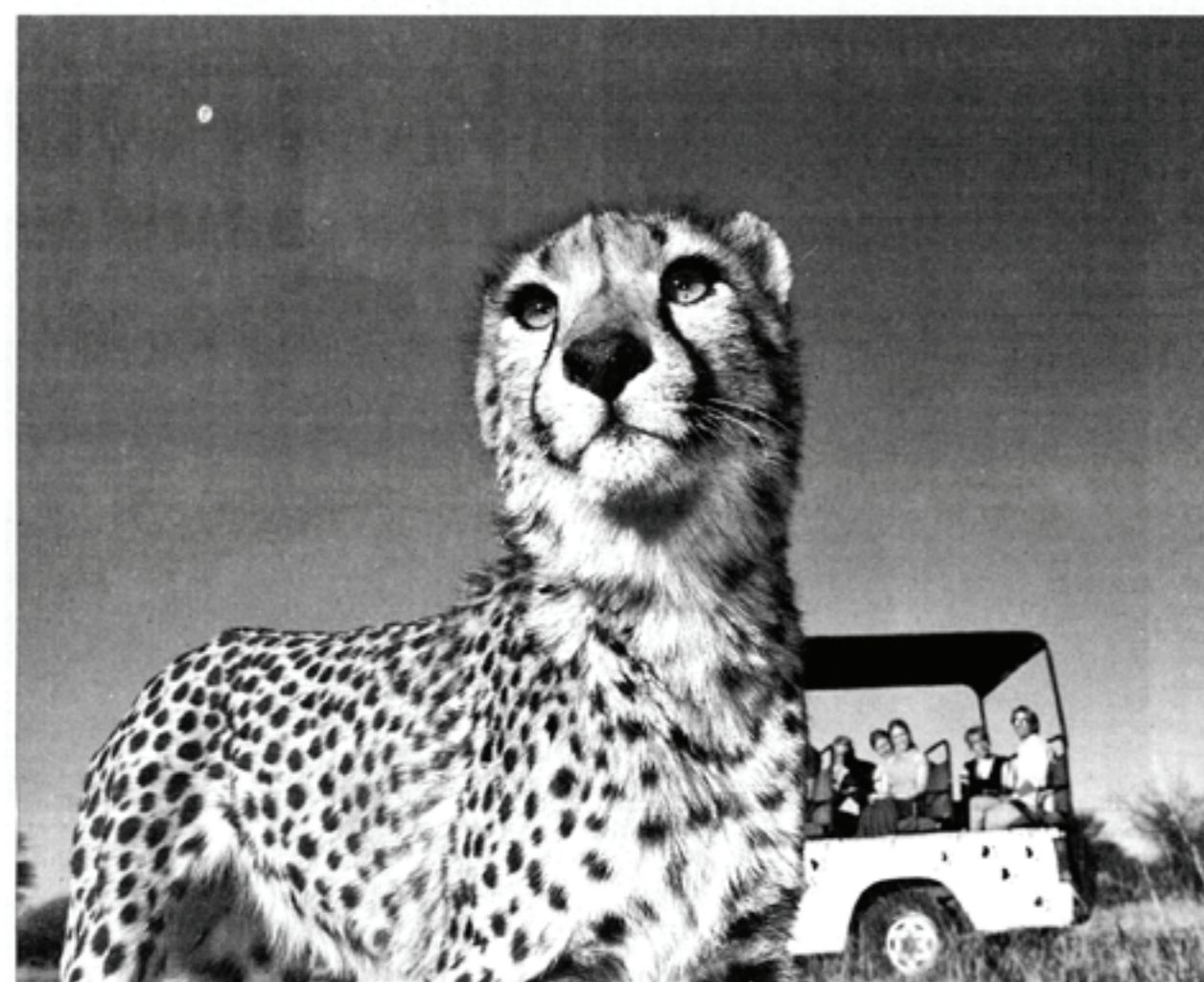
That second impression is no accident. With the help of high-priced public relations advisers who had worked in the administrations of Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Mr. Assad and his family have sought over the past five years to portray themselves in the

Western news media as accessible, progressive and even glamorous.

Magazines and online outlets have published complimentary features about the family, often focusing on fashion and celebrity. In March 2011, just as Mr. Assad and his security forces initiated a crackdown on political opponents that has led to the death of an estimated 10,000 Syrians, Vogue magazine published a flattering profile of Mrs. Assad, describing her as walking “a determined swath cut through space with a flash of red soles,” a reference to her Christian Louboutin heels.

Fawning treatment of world leaders — particularly attractive Western-educated ones — is nothing new. But the Assads have been especially determined to burnish their image, and hired experts to do so. The family paid the Washington public relations firm Brown Lloyd James \$5,000 a month to act as a liaison between Vogue and Mrs. Assad, SYRIA, PAGE 7

BALKAN WARS INVOKED AS RISK FOR SYRIA
The NATO secretary general said the Syrian conflict risked turning into a war like those in the Balkans. PAGE 7



Spending on experiences such as safaris grew 50 per cent faster than on high-end goods last year

Alamy

Appetite for luxury strikes \$1.5tn

The market for luxury, such as yachts, frocks and safaris, is set to hit \$1.5tn this year, roughly matching the entire economic output of Spain or Australia, as the income inequality gap widens across the globe, writes Louise Lucas.

Luxury goods and services have proved a rare bright spot in consumer goods, as the ranks of the wealthy grow — especially in markets such as China and Brazil — who seek the status symbols to go with it. However, money is increasingly going on luxury experiences, from spas to safaris, rather than tangible products.

Spending on experiences grew 50 per cent faster than on goods last year, according to Boston Consulting Group.

The management consultancy expects the overall luxury market to expand 7 per cent this year, a deceleration on the past two years' 12 per cent but still comfortably ahead of projected growth in global economic output.

“The gap in income inequality is growing, which is unfortunate, but as a result there are more and more millionaires every year,” said Jean-Marc Bellaiche, a senior partner at BCG and co-author of the

latest report. Millionaires, he added, account for about 45 per cent of the market.

Some analysts have questioned how long the inexorable rise of luxury can continue with swaths of Europe engulfed in economic turmoil while the US remains fragile.

Even China, accounting for 10 per cent of the market domestically and a further 12 per cent through overseas purchases according to Altagamma, is seeing slower economic growth.

Hong Kong retail sales in April, the latest month available, were damped in part by mainland Chinese

visitors scaling back lavish purchases, according to Donna Kwok, Greater China economist at HSBC.

However, Mr Bellaiche expects the country's new rich to continue snapping up the trappings of wealth. By 2020, he estimates the number of Chinese middle class — with annual incomes in excess of Rmb60,000 (\$9,400) — will almost treble to 140m.

He also anticipates 330 Chinese cities will exceed Shanghai's average GDP per capita by then.

“And Shanghai today is clearly a city of luxury like London or New York,” he said.

Assets held by ousted tyrants prove hard to find

TRIPOLI, LIBYA

Targets of Arab Spring spent decades amassing and hiding their fortunes

BY ROBERT F. WORTH

Soon after the revolt against Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi began in Libya last year, foreign banks and governments began freezing billions of dollars in assets held by his family and government, just as they had frozen accounts of the toppled governments in Tunisia and Egypt.

But the dictators and their inner circles had spent decades amassing and hiding vast fortunes, and much of the wealth was not easy to find. Libyan investigators have said they have identified tens of billions of dollars in Swiss banks alone that were never frozen — all of it skimmed from Libya's vast oil wealth and disguised under innocuous names. In Tunisia and Egypt, the new governments are pursuing foreign real estate, yachts and bank accounts that are also said to be worth billions.

Investigators in all three countries have said they now face formidable obstacles in tracing and recovering the money. In Libya, stolen oil proceeds were often laundered through complex foreign partnerships that gave them a whiff of legitimacy. In Egypt and Tunisia, the new governments are trying to recover the assets of the ruling families and of their allies in business and industry, which they say were gained through cronyism and corruption, if not outright theft. Proving that those insider fortunes were gained illicitly can be ex-

ASSETS, PAGE 5



How the Assads spun the Western media

SYRIA, FROM PAGE 1
according to the firm.

This web of politics and public relations recently ensnared Barbara Walters, the broadcast journalist. After she conducted an aggressive interview with Mr. Assad on ABC News in December, she offered to provide recommendations for Sheherazad Jaafari, the president's press aide and the daughter of the Syrian ambassador to the United Nations; she was applying for a job at CNN and admission to the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

Ms. Walters issued a statement on June 5 expressing regret for her actions, which she called “a conflict.”

Ms. Jaafari, 22, who has been accepted by Columbia, had worked as an intern at Brown Lloyd James. Last year, she expressed her feelings about the Assad family in an e-mail to Mike Holtzman, a partner at the firm who, according to his online profile, advised the Clinton administration on trade issues and worked in the State Department during the Bush administration.

“I have always told you — this man is loved by his people,” Ms. Jaafari wrote in the e-mail, which was obtained by The Guardian, the British newspaper. Mr. Holtzman replied: “I’m proud of you. Wish I were there to help.” Mr. Holtzman did not respond to numerous requests for comment.

The Assads were in many ways ripe for celebrity treatment by the news media. Mr. Assad, who was trained as an ophthalmologist, received part of his education in Britain, where he met Asma, a Briton of Syrian descent who grew up in London and worked as an investment banker in New York.

Andrew J. Tabler, a Syria expert with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy who once worked for a charity sponsored by Mrs. Assad, summed up the appeal the Assads had for some news outlets: “He speaks English, and his wife is hot.”

the article. But she said Mrs. Assad was “extremely thin and very well dressed, and therefore qualified to be in Vogue.”

This spring, the magazine removed the article from its Web site. On Sunday, Anna Wintour, the editor of Vogue, issued a statement about the article saying, in part: “Like many at that time, we were hopeful that the Assad regime would be open to a more progressive society. Subsequent to our interview, as the terrible events of the past year and a half unfolded in Syria, it became clear that its priorities and values were completely at odds with those of Vogue. The escalating atrocities in Syria are unconscionable and we deplore the actions of the Assad regime in the strongest possible terms.”

Even among the world's most repressive governments, Syria stands out in its treatment of journalists. The only way for many reporters to cover news emerging from the crackdown on dissidents is to sneak into the country — often putting their lives at risk.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least nine reporters have been killed in Syria since November, including Marie Colvin, a veteran war correspondent. (Anthony Shadid of The New York Times died of an asthma attack during a clandestine reporting trip to Syria.) Syrian officials have denied targeting journalists, but state news media outlets have said that foreign reporters killed in Syria “must be spies or have links to terrorist organizations.”

Ms. Walters, who has a lifetime of experience chasing and winning interviews with world leaders, said she had spent six years establishing a relationship with the Syrian ambassador to the United Nations, Bashar Jaafari, including once dining at his home.

The connection eventually paid off. “Assad decided he would do an interview — according to the ambassador, he had requests from all over the world,” Ms. Walters said by telephone last week. “And he chose to do it with me, based on

The campaign to make the ruling family the face of a more Westernized and open Syria began in 2006, when Mrs. Assad approached the public relations firm Bell Pottinger in London. Tim Bell, who is a co-founder of the firm and was a media adviser to Mrs. Thatcher, the former British prime minister, said Mrs. Assad had contacted the firm after several first ladies, including Laura Bush, began to hold annual meetings and conferences. “She wanted to be a part of that club,” Mr. Bell said in a telephone interview.

Bell Pottinger did not set up interviews for Mrs. Assad directly, but advised her on how to set up a communications office in Damascus to help shape her image.

A few years later, positive articles began to appear. Paris Match called Mrs. Assad an “element of light in a country full of shadow zones” and the “eastern Diana.” French Elle counted her among the best-dressed women in world politics, and, in 2009, The Huffington Post published an article and fashion slide show titled “Asma al-Assad: Syria's First Lady and All-Natural Beauty.”

None of the articles about Mrs. Assad struck a nerve quite like the 3,200-word March 2011 profile in Vogue titled “A Rose in the Desert.” In it, the writer, Joan Juliet Buck, called her “the freshest and most magnetic of first ladies.”

Ms. Buck said by telephone that shortly after the profile was published, she began “steadily speaking out against the Assad regime,” including in an interview with Piers Morgan on CNN and elsewhere. In April, on National Public Radio, Ms. Buck said she regretted the headline that Vogue had put on

the recommendation of the ambassador, and also because I had been to Syria twice before and knew something of its background and history.”

Joel Simon, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, says this kind of interview is highly sought.

“In a strange way,” Mr. Simon said, “political leaders, presidents and prime ministers who are highly repressive and restrictive are good ‘gets’ for these types of interviews, precisely because there's no fair media coverage in their countries.”

Ms. Walters's interview, broadcast in December, made worldwide news, with Mr. Assad issuing claims that he was not responsible for the Syrian military and that people were not being killed by his government.

Ms. Walters said, “I went to Syria and conducted what was a very tough and strong interview that President Assad did not like.”

But her offer of help to the ambassador's daughter has cast a shadow on that interview. Two people close to Ms. Walters said she had reacted to a plea from Ms. Jaafari because Ms. Jaafari was being removed from her position as a media adviser to the Syrian president.

Mr. Tabler, the Syria expert, said that he did not “find it surprising what Walters did for her.” The issue, he said, was the timing.

“At that point, how many had been killed — 7,000?” he said. “This is an attractive young woman, and she speaks English. Maybe you help her with an introduction. To get beyond that is a little difficult to swallow.”



President Bashar al-Assad being interviewed in Syria by Barbara Walters, whose offer of help to the daughter of a Syrian diplomat has cast a shadow on the interview.

CORRECTIONS

• An article May 31 about the way in which families in different socioeconomic strata use technology misstated part of the name of an organization whose members will work with digital literacy trainers this autumn. It is the Boys & Girls Clubs, not the Boys & Girls Club.

• An article Thursday about online services to substitute for features of Apple's soon-to-be-discontinued MobileMe rendered incorrectly the name of a company that provides online storage. It is Dropbox, not DropBox. It also misstated the maximum amount of storage available through upgrades to customers who refer friends to the services. It is 16 gigabytes, not 8 gigabytes.

• An article June 4 about recent earthquake damage to historic buildings in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy misidentified the institution where Gian Michele Calvi is a professor of seismic engineering. It is the Institute for Advanced Study of Pavia, not the University of Pavia. It also referred incorrectly to Mr. Calvi as Michele instead of Gian Michele.

• A review May 31 about “The Last Englishman,” Roland Chambers's biography of the journalist and children's author Arthur Ransome, misspelled the surname of the woman who became Ransome's second wife. She was Evgenia Shelepina, not Shlepina.

• An article June 4 about rescue funds for artists misidentified the area in Maine where Stephen King, the author and the founder of the Haven Foundation, was struck by a minivan in 1999. The accident was in North Lovell, not Lowell.

• An article on Friday about stenographers who transcribe interviews of tennis players misstated the name of one transcriber working at the French Open. She is Julie C. Rabe, not Julie Crabe.

Youth lacking basic courtesy

IT IS becoming evident that many young people today lack basic courtesy (“JC student apologises to DPM for blog post” and “Police question man who shoved woman, 76, off bus”; last Friday).

They grow up in an environment that gives them the liberty to speak freely and encourages them to have an inquiring mind.

But there is a difference between being vocal and being rude. The young should be taught to show basic courtesy, especially to authority figures and older people.

There is also a difference between having an inquiring mind and being arrogant.

The youth of today should learn the simple art of listening. One can learn a lot

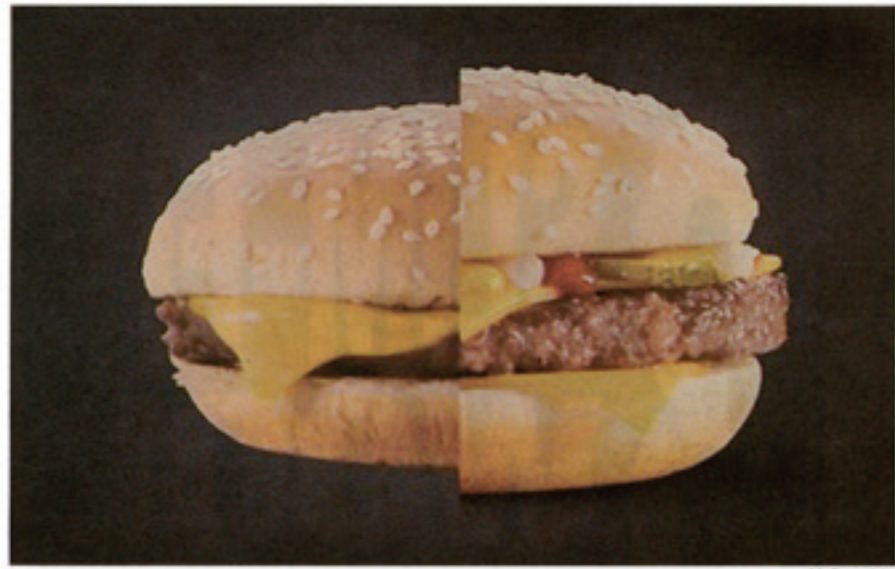
by listening and understanding, before asking questions or airing one's views.

Young people must also learn to respect figures of authority, who are there for a reason — they have experience, intelligence and maturity.

Last Friday, I was walking on the Marina Bay bridge when some teenage cyclists rode by. The bridge is meant only for pedestrians, and I told one of them, a boy, that they should not be riding there. He told me he was not cycling, and refused to heed my advice.

Such rudeness is not uncommon among many of the young today. Yes, there are young people with good manners but, sad to say, they are a minority.

Tan Lin Neo (Ms)



A SPLIT-SCREEN image compares a store-bought Quarter Pounder with cheese, left, and one made in a studio with the same ingredients.

RESTAURANTS

The secret to a camera-ready burger? McDonald's tells all

New video is part of an effort by its Canada operation to satisfy customers' curiosity.

By TIFFANY HSU

That McDonald's burger from your neighborhood drive-through never looks quite as luscious as the picture-perfect sandwiches in the fast-food giant's advertisements.

Now customers can see why in a new behind-the-scenes video produced by the fast-food giant that has garnered more than 3 million views on YouTube.

Whipping billboard burgers into shape is an intensive process not unlike priming a model for a Sports Illustrated magazine cover: A team of stylists is re-

quired, as are several hours of precision artistry.

The explanation is part of an initiative by McDonald's Canada to "open the virtual doors" and address customers' growing curiosity about food along with "the prevalence of myths," said spokeswoman Karin Campbell.

"The growth of online and social platforms facilitates the asking of questions and the getting of answers—that's how customers engage," Campbell said. "That conversation is already happening. We really want to be part of it."

The video, meant to "demystify the process of advertising," is a "small piece" of that effort, she said.

In the video, Hope Bagozzi, director of marketing for McDonald's Canada, walks viewers through the studio magic used over several hours to plump and [See McDonald's, B4]



Burger

[McDonald's, from B1] primp a Golden Arches burger to its mouthwatering max.

First, Bagozzi picks up a Quarter Pounder with cheese—probably made in about 60 seconds—from a Toronto McDonald's for comparison. The "steam effect" from the box "does make the bun contract a little bit," she says.

Then Bagozzi rides a van to the Watt International photo studio, where the same ingredients are being used to carefully craft a simi-

lar burger from scratch.

Food stylists and photographers labor over the sandwich, melting down the cheese with a warmed knife, strategically applying mustard and ketchup with a syringe and slanting the bun to highlight the ingredients.

"It's like you're a surgeon in there," Bagozzi says at one point.

For the final touch-up, colors are digitally enhanced and imperfections in the bun smoothed out on a computer.

The resulting contrast between the burgers, both photographed by the same cameras under the same lighting, is stark. The store-

bought sandwich is noticeably deflated, its condiments invisible under the weight of a dull-looking bun and a droopy glob of cheese.

McDonald's Canada—a separate operation from the fast-food behemoth's U.S. business—recently launched a section on its website where customers can pose questions publicly.

The video was shot in response to one of the questions; others include "How much food do you deep fry in a day?" and "Why does it take unnaturally long for your food to spoil?" Stay tuned.

tiffany.hsu@latimes.com

Quieres más?

POWERMAN PREMIUM

Suplemento para Prolongar y Maximizar el Momento.

Más Tiempo

Más Sensación

Más Vigor

GARANTIZADO!

De Venta en: Super Farmacia

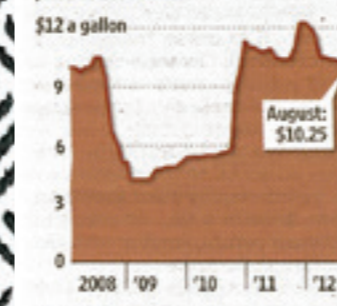
FARMACIAS GUADALAJARA

100% Original Natural



Juiced Up

Average price of Chinese apple-juice concentrate



Source: Food Institute The Wall Street Journal



A fruit grower picks apples in an orchard in northwest China's Shaanxi Province

China Puts Squeeze On Apple Market

By LESLIE JOSEPHS

Hellen Li is helping fuel apple fever in China, and it isn't of the iPhone variety.

The 30-year-old administrative assistant said she has been buying more apples since she moved from a small eastern Chinese city two years ago to Shanghai to work for a U.S. company. "Chinese people are eating more and more fruit...as our lives get better," said Ms. Li, as she shopped in a grocery store. Indeed, wage income for urban households rose 13% in the first half compared with the year-ago period, according to China's National Bureau of Statistics.

Consumption of fresh apples in China, which produces more than half of the global supply of the fruit, has soared 80% from the 2007-2008 crop year to the year ending in June, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. That compares with growth of just 36% world-wide in the same period.

The surge is shaking up a small corner of the commodities world, the market for apple-juice concentrate in the U.S., and has led to the first futures contract for the product.

China's rising consumption of apples has pushed up prices, squeezing margins for producers of apple juice in the \$3 billion market for the concentrate, a molasses-like substance that is mixed with water before the juice reaches stores. The U.S. imports about two-thirds of its supply from China, or about 176 billion liters in 2010, according to the latest USDA data.

Traders and producers said China's rise as an apple-eating nation is adding another layer of volatility to a market that has been hit by freezes and droughts across the globe in the past several years.

"The [juice-making] market cannot afford a demand increase" for fresh apples, said Tim Yin, a manager at Haisheng International, a subsidiary of juice maker China Haisheng Holdings Co., Ltd.

Prices for apple-juice concentrate from China have swung over the past five years, dipping as low as \$4 a gallon and reaching as high as \$12 a gallon, estimates Michael Choi, president of Zhonglu America Corp., the California-based U.S. unit of China's Zhonglu Fruit Juice Co., one of the world's top-five apple-juice processors.

For the past few weeks, however, traders have had a new weapon to protect themselves against the vagaries of the apple-juice-concentrate market. The contract, which allows participants to lock in prices rather than having to pay the going rate at the time they need apples, started trading on the Minneapolis Grain Exchange Inc. on Aug. 13 and was listed on CME Group Inc.'s Globex electronic-trading platform alongside products such as corn and soybeans.

Apple juice for November delivery, the front-month contract, settled flat at \$9.10 a gallon on Monday. As of midday Tuesday, no trades had been done.

"We're trying to find a way to protect our profit," said Zhonglu's Mr. Choi. Mr. Choi said he likely would participate in the market in a few weeks.

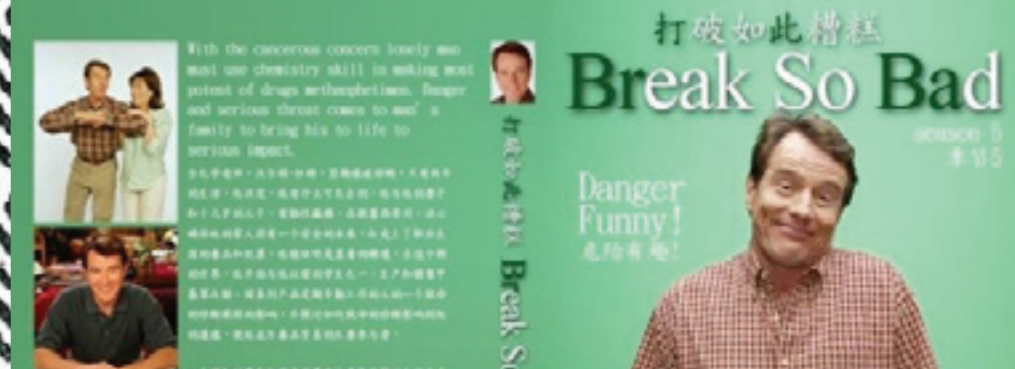
To be sure, there is no certainty the futures contract will succeed. One concern is trading volume: Just 22 contracts have been traded since Aug. 13.

Joe Tadros, a floor trader and broker at the Minneapolis Grain Exchange who also trades for his own account, had planned on trading the contract on the first day but decided not to because of the low trading volume. He said he would wait until volume is in the triple digits before jumping in.

Another thinly traded contract, for frozen concentrated orange juice, has averaged 2,299 contracts a day, year to date.

The idea for the futures contract came from members of the Juice Products Association, whose members include Coca-Cola Co., PepsiCo

Please turn to page 30



SHOW TRACKER

HBO apologizes for Bush head in 'Thrones'

The show's creators had pointed out the former president's likeness in episode's DVD commentary.

By PATRICK KEVIN DAY

The creators of HBO's "Game of Thrones" found themselves in a bit of hot water this week when word spun around the Internet that former President George W. Bush's likeness came in the first season of the epic fantasy series.

More specifically: A prop severed head bearing the former president's likeness appeared mounted on a stick.

Though the head was giv-

en a wig of long hair, spattered in mud and turned mostly away from the camera, the distinctive upper lip was a giveaway. And the creators David Benioff and D.B. Weiss pointed it out in the DVD commentary on the episode.

"George Bush's head appears in a couple of beheading scenes," the duo revealed in their commentary. "It's not a choice, it's not a political statement. We just had to use whatever heads we had lying around."

Though the DVD set has been on the market since early March, it wasn't until this week that the media discovered the bit of trivia buried in the commentary on the show's first-season finale.

On Wednesday, HBO and Benioff and Weiss issued statements of apology.

latimes.com/showtracker

For more TV coverage, visit the Show Tracker blog.

Benioff and Weiss explained, "We use a lot of prosthetic body parts on the show: heads, arms, etc. We can't afford to have these all made from scratch, especially in scenes where we need a lot of them, so we rent them in bulk. After the scene was already shot, someone pointed out that one of the heads looked like George W. Bush."

"In the DVD commentary, we mentioned this, though we should not have. We meant no disrespect to the former president and apologize if anything we said or did suggested otherwise."



PROP of a beheaded George W. Bush in "Game of Thrones" was "unacceptable" and "inadvertent," HBO says, and will be removed from future DVD production.

HBO added, "We were deeply dismayed to see this and find it unacceptable, disrespectful and in very bad taste. We made this clear to the executive producers of the series who apologized immediately for this inadvertent careless mistake. We are sorry this happened and will have it removed from

any future DVD production." HBO's statement should be of particular note to super-fans, as this version of the "Game of Thrones" DVD set looks to be a collector's item soon.

The commentary was first shared on the news site Reddit, where commenters

quickly began wondering about why the production company would have a George W. Bush head lying around. Wrote one commenter: "I thought everyone just had Bush heads lying around. I keep trying to sell all of mine at garage sales."

patrick.day@latimes.com

Russian Spy Ring Aimed to Make Children Agents

By DEVLIN BARRETT

A Russian spy ring busted in the U.S. two years ago planned to recruit members' children to become agents, and one had already agreed to his parents' request, according to current and former U.S. officials.

When the suspects were arrested in 2010 with much fanfare, official accounts suggested

they were largely ineffectual. New details about their time in the U.S., however, suggest their work was more sophisticated and sometimes more successful than previously known.

One of them infiltrated a well-connected consulting firm with offices in Manhattan and Washington, D.C., by working as the company's in-house computer expert, according to people fa-

miliar with the long-running U.S. investigation of the spy ring.

The effort to bring children into the family business suggests the ring was thinking long term: Children born or reared in America were potentially more valuable espionage assets than their parents because when they grew up they would be more likely to pass a U.S. government background check.

A spokesman at the Russian embassy in Washington declined to comment. Officials in Moscow have previously acknowledged the spy ring but haven't commented further. All the captured suspects eventually pleaded guilty to acting as secret agents for the Russian government.

Tim Foley was among the children most extensively

Please turn to page A10



New Barnes Foundation museum feels fake

ARCHITECTURE
REVIEW

A poor replica of Barnes museum

CHRISTOPHER
HAWTHORNE
ARCHITECTURE
CRITIC

PHILADELPHIA — Copies of famous paintings are everywhere: on dorm-room walls, on computer screens and lately pouring forth from Chinese art factories, which can churn out a hundred passable Rembrandts in a week. Architectural copies, on the other hand, remain rare, especially at full scale. Las Vegas and the original Getty Museum aside, it's not often you see an important building, in whole or in part, rebuilt in one location to match the original in another.

The Barnes Foundation, in moving its spectacularly deep collection of postimpressionist and early Modern art from suburban Merion, Pa., to the center of Philadelphia, will on May 19 open a high-culture, high-stakes experiment in the second kind of duplication.

The result is less success or failure than cautionary tale. Effective architecture, it turns out, is tougher to [See Barnes, D13]

[Barnes, from D1] copy than you might guess. Even tougher is re-creating the relationship between art and the personality of the rooms where it's displayed — a relationship that was unusually strong inside the old Barnes.

To be fair, the relocated museum, on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway just down the road from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, is more than a simple copy. The handsome and largely sober new building, designed by the talented New York architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, doesn't limit itself to the footprint of the original, a two-story Italianate box designed in 1922 by Paul Cret to hold the growing collection of Dr. Albert C. Barnes.

Far from it: This Barnes, which cost \$150 million to build, is nearly 10 times larger: 93,000 square feet compared with an overstuffed 10,000 in Merion, with the extra space dedicated to a huge central court, offices, a café, a gift shop, an auditorium, a special-exhibition gallery and classrooms. Wrapped in Israeli limestone panels at ground level and topped by a cantilevered light box, the building on the exterior appears wholly new, occupying a long and narrow site next door to the 1929 Rodin Museum, another Cret design.

But to carry out an idea first proposed by the trustees of the Barnes before being given the force of law in 2004 by Montgomery County Judge Stanley Ott, Williams and Tsien have produced replicas of the Merion gallery interiors as the heart of the new complex. They've done so to keep the paintings collected by Barnes



TOM CRANE The Barnes Foundation

THE NEW Barnes museum in Philadelphia is nearly 10 times larger than the Merion, Pa., museum.

executive director of the Barnes, Derek Gillman, told me that the goal of the gallery design was to "simplify and intensify" the experience of looking at this heart-stopping collection of paintings. And to a degree, thanks to the improved lighting in particular, Williams and Tsien have done that.

But the galleries are still replicas in style and substance, in execution as well as concept. The windows and doors are in the same spots as in the original rooms. (If a window faced south in Merion, it faces south in Philadelphia.) The paintings are arranged on the walls exactly as they were, the same number of inches above or below their neighboring canvases.

There are reasonable arguments on both sides of the long-simmering Barnes controversy. Moving the collection will allow more people to see it. In its new location the Barnes will be able to carry out more effectively a central part of its founder's mission, which was to use his collection as a tool for education.

But there has been a major price to pay for that new access and flexibility, tethered as it has been to the notion of duplication.

The problem is not simply that the architecture of the rebuilt galleries feels a bit hollow and insubstantial. It is that the artworks themselves are diminished. They hang in rooms where the relationship between architecture and art is not deeply personal and eccentric, as it was in Merion, but precise and clinical.

Think of it this way: The galleries' lack of authenticity — the architectural equiva-

lents of a paint-by-numbers exercise — operates like another light source. Like a naked bulb in the corner of a room, it is almost impossible to ignore, and it throws a harsh, thin glare on the art.

All of which leads to a fairly basic question: Of all the dictates that Barnes laid down about how his collection ought to be treated after his death, what makes his peculiar philosophy of display the only one the current guardians of the paintings treated as inviolable?

The new leaders of the Barnes Foundation have done all sorts of things that Barnes himself would have hated. They have stripped the Cret building of its artworks and moved them to the heart of the Philadelphia cultural establishment, which Barnes fundamentally distrusted. They have named the giant court after Walter Annenberg, a man Barnes couldn't stand.

So why this insistence on producing copies of the galleries, on hanging the paintings precisely as they were shown in Merion?

Ideally, the decision to move the art, tough as it was to make, would have set in motion a reassessment of the Barnes' architectural

needs, one open to the idea that the proper container for the relocated collection might turn out to be a building filled with entirely and forthrightly new galleries.

Imagine if the Barnes trustees, in the name of improved access to a great but historically cloistered collection, had declared they were going to produce replicas of its paintings by Matisse, Picasso, Modigliani and Van Gogh and hang those in a new building on the parkway.

The howls of protest would have been loud and immediate.

And yet the notion persists that re-creating buildings is somehow more reasonable or at least less obvious and that new rooms can be made to impersonate old ones without much aesthetic risk. That copies of paintings belong in gift shops and on refrigerators, where their fakeness is self-evident and salable, while copies of buildings can go blithely along pretending to be real. That architecture somehow is different.

Memo from Philadelphia: It's not.

christopher.hawthorne@latimes.com

WORLD BRIEFING

SOUTH KOREA

Allies hold war games

A huge North Korean flag disappeared behind a tower of flames and thick black smoke as South Korean fighter jets and U.S. attack helicopters fired rockets in the allies' biggest joint live-fire drills since the Korean War.

The war games south of the heavily armed Korean border come amid rising animosity between the rival Koreas and are meant to mark Monday's 62nd anniversary of the start of the 1950-53 war, which ended in a truce, leaving the Korean peninsula still technically at war.

Live-fire drills by the allies are fairly routine, but using the North's national flag is unusual — and will be seen by North Korea as a provocation. The government in Pyongyang has previously threatened war for what it called South Korean insults to its national symbols and leadership.

LOUISIANA

Jury sides with Costner in suit over BP contract

A federal jury has rejected claims that Kevin Costner and his business partner duped fellow actor Stephen Baldwin and a friend out of millions of dollars from a BP contract for using oil cleanup devices in the aftermath of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico spill.

The panel deliberated less than two hours in the lawsuit brought by Baldwin and Spyridon Contogouris. Their lawyer had asked the jury to award the plaintiffs more than \$17 million. That's how much they estimate they would have received if they hadn't sold their shares in Ocean Therapy Solutions before BP made an \$18-million deposit on a \$52-million order for 32 oil-separating centrifuges.

The jury gave them nothing.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS



MISSOURI

Looking out for Limbaugh

The Missouri House has spent more than \$1,100 on a security camera for a new bronze bust of conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh.

House Clerk Adam Crumbliss says he authorized the camera because of concerns the sculpture might be vandalized.

Limbaugh was inducted into the Hall of Famous Missourians last week during a closed-door ceremony intended to keep away protesters.

— TIMES WIRE SERVICES



Wild boar sighted near a condominium in Old Upper Thomson Road.

No More Ritzy Lunches For Japan's Salarymen

When Japan's army of salarymen open their wallets, one thing is clear: Ritzy lunches like those in the heyday of the bubble years are a thing of the past.

The monthly allowance for the average Japanese company man nowadays is about half of the levels of 1990—about ¥77,725 (\$996)—during the peak of the bubble economy. In fact, it has sunk to amounts on par with spending money doled out in 1981, the pre-go-go years, according to a white paper released by Shinsei Bank on Monday. The report reviews trends in the salaryman's average allowance based on annual surveys conducted by the group over the past 30 years.

The verdict: Men just can't enjoy after-work drinks or a leisurely lunch like they used to.

While it was never an exorbitant figure—the amount spent on a single lunch topped out at ¥746 in 1992—these days salarymen limit their spending to one-coin lunches, picking up midday meals that can be bought with a single ¥500 coin (roughly \$5).

The last time so little was spent on lunches was around 1979. But also gone also is the luxury of time. Salarymen used to sit at lunch for an average 33 minutes per meal in 1983. That time was cut down to 27.6 minutes in 1993, and to a rushed 19.6 minutes in 2012. The report found that price and proximity to the office now take precedence over flavor or the cleanliness of the joint when deciding where to eat.

After-work festivities are becoming a distant memory as families increasingly tighten household purse strings. The white paper said that workers are dining out and spending the least on drinking sessions than ever before. The amount spent on a single drinking session was just ¥2,860 in 2012, a drop in the well compared with the ¥6,160 spent on average in 2001.

Indeed, paring down spending on lunch and drinking have been the top two ways salarymen have saved money whether in 1981 or in 2012.

More are looking to supplement their incomes. More than 40% got extra cushion from various side activities in 2010. Nearly 50% of respondents said

they got a boost from stocks, while about 30% have taken up a second job or part-time gig.

Shinsei's annual surveys have been based on responses from about 300-2,000 men ages 20-59. —Yoree Koh

Jamming Up Nonstop Chatter

Two Japanese researchers have come up with a device to compel people to zip it.

Kazutaka Kurihara and Koji Tsukada developed the SpeechJammer, a device that disrupts a person's speech by delaying the sound of the speaker's voice for several hundred milliseconds. It usually forces a person to pause—kind of like when there's an echo during a phone call. Enough jams and

perhaps they'll give up.

Last week, the two researchers, who both work at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and

Technology in Japan, won the Ig Nobel prize. Sponsored by the Annals of Improbable Research magazine, the Ig award is the weird cousin of the Nobel given out in Sweden. The Igs ceremony is held at Harvard University and awards are given by Nobel laureates who use the occasion to poke fun at the heavy nature their work has been applauded for. The theme of this year's ceremony was appropriately grand: The Universe.

The SpeechJammer took the prize in the acoustics category. Unlike other silence-inducing options, the SpeechJammer doesn't block mobile networks.

It's a gun-like device. When aimed at the target the mounted directional microphone delays the sound for several hundred milliseconds before sending it back in the direction of the speaker.

The device, still in its initial stages, was conceived as a training tool for public speakers, according to Mr. Kurihara's website explaining the jammer. Using it would help speakers realize when they're going too fast, slow or long.

—Yoree Koh

Keep up on Japan minute by minute with The Wall Street Journal's Japan Real Time at <http://wsj.com/japanrealtime>

Malaysian shopping malls beef up security after robberies

PETALING JAYA – Security measures in at least 10 shopping malls in Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya have been beefed up, following a recent spate of robberies targeting women, which have shocked Malaysians.

One of the most recent incidents took place last Monday, when a man with a parang accosted a shopping complex salesgirl as she walked towards her car in the outdoor parking lot at 10pm, a report in The Star newspaper said yesterday.

The robber shoved her into her car, directed her to drive to an ATM and withdraw money, after which he drove off with the car, leaving her by the roadside, Sin Chew Daily reported.

The girl, who was unhurt, was also robbed of her wallet and gold jewellery. Sin Chew identified the mall as The Curve in Petaling Jaya. The mall is located across the street from a large Ikea outlet.

Two other robberies took place at the same mall in the last week of last month – one in the basement carpark, the other near the lift on the second floor.

The incidents have raised widespread concern, with Petaling Jaya mayor Roslan Sakiman calling for “a concerted and coordinated effort to adopt anti-crime measures”.

Women's groups, too, are demanding immediate action.

Selangor's police chief, Deputy Commissioner Tun Hisan Tun Hamzah, has directed district and station heads to work closely with shopping mall security management and review existing measures. Police will also advise the

malls on safety preparedness, he said.

“Private security personnel hired by these shopping malls must also be trained to respond effectively and this can only be done through proper drills,” he told The Star.

He said the police will organise campaigns to raise awareness on personal safety because “knowledge is the key to avoid becoming a victim”.

Datuk Tun Hisan suggested the number of guards at parking areas be increased and foot patrols be carried out more frequently.

A check with the managements of more than 10 shopping malls in the Klang Valley by Bukit Bintang and Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre Tourism Association chairman Joyce Yap revealed that they have already taken some safety measures.

They have increased the number of security guards and directed them to make more frequent patrols at carparks, she said. “Some also provide a service to accompany shoppers to their cars,” she told The Star.

All Women's Action Society Malaysia president Ho Yoke Lin said the problem of “unsafe public spaces” is something many women in the country face regularly. Ms Ho said that most, if not all, carpark operators insist that parking on their premises is at the users' risk.

“Thus, the burden of responsibility for the safety of a carpark is not placed on its operator, but on the users,” she said.

THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK



Internet marketeer Chin Xin-Ci (above) was bundled into her car in the basement carpark of The Curve last month, but managed to escape. PHOTO: STOMP

A salesgirl walking towards her car in an outdoor parking lot at a mall said to be The Curve (left) last Monday was accosted by a man with a parang, who made her drive to an ATM and take out money. The robbery follows two similar attacks at the same mall last month. PHOTO: THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK

Some recent cases

2012

■ **June 4:** A man with a parang confronted a salesgirl as she was walking towards her car in an outdoor parking lot near a shopping complex at about 10pm.

He shoved her into the car and forced her to drive to an automated teller machine and withdraw money.

He drove away with the car after also robbing her of her jewellery and wallet.

■ **May 28:** Two female employees of a Japanese goods store were robbed of RM80,000 (\$532,000) near a second-floor lift at 10.45am. The women were waiting for the lift to take them to a bank on the ground floor to deposit the money.

They were about to enter the lift when two men threw curry powder at their faces before grabbing the bag of money.

■ **May 27:** Internet marketeer Chin Xin-Ci, 25, was nearly abducted by two men at a mall's basement carpark. She wrote on her Facebook page that she was loading her shopping bags onto the back seat of her car when the rear door was suddenly slammed against her back and a meat cleaver pressed against her throat.

She was pushed into her car, but put up a fight before

escaping.

2011

■ **March 17:** Fifty-year-old Yuen Mei Kien was held captive for 48 hours, beaten and robbed, after she was abducted in the wee hours of the morning by two men from a shopping complex carpark in Bukit Indah, Johor Baru.

THE STAR/ASIA NEWS NETWORK



The SpeechJammer can disrupt speech without blocking mobile networks.

Another reminder of Tiananmen that China could not censor: the market



Sombre: organisers estimated that a fifth of this year's record 180,000 people at Hong Kong's annual vigil were from the mainland

By Simon Rabinovitch in Beijing and Enid Tsui in Hong Kong

In a country that ascribes great meaning to numbers, the Chinese stock market's fall yesterday was a potent and, for the government, dangerous reminder of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The Shanghai Composite index tumbled 64.89 points – a freakish coincidence on the anniversary of the June 4 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing, an event known in Chinese simply as “liu-si” or “six-four”.

Beijing, which has long tried to silence talk of the bloody events 23 years ago, acted quickly. Searches for the phrase “Shanghai Composite index” were banned by censors on popular microblogs.

“According to the relevant

laws, regulations and policies, the results for this search term cannot be displayed,” Weibo, the Chinese version of Twitter, informed users.

Other censored search terms included the words “anniversary”, “blood” and “candle”, a reference to a candlelight vigil held every year in Hong Kong. But news of the stock market's apparent memorial to the democracy protesters still spread quickly on the internet, where another odd coincidence was also noted. The market had

opened at 2,346.98 points. With a little bit of parsing, the message seemed clear: 23 for the 23rd anniversary of the killings, and 46.98 was the infamous date rendered backwards.

“Looking at the opening and the drop of the market today, I finally realise that there truly is a big force behind its movements,” said Wang Chunxiao, a Weibo blogger.

Yesterday's decline of 2.7 per cent marked the biggest daily fall in the main Chinese equity index since last November. The Communist party's official verdict on the events of June 4 1989 concluded that the actions of China's leaders were justified to “quell a counter-revolutionary rebellion”. Since then, the ruling party has worked to erase all traces of the incident from public memory and discourse within China.

News of the stock market's apparent memorial to the democracy protesters spread quickly

But with Chinese citizens travelling abroad as never before, and information flowing more freely on the internet despite censorship, the government has had to redouble its efforts to snuff out allusions to the protests.

In Hong Kong, a record 180,000 people attended the annual candlelight vigil. Lee Cheuk-yan, a member of Hong Kong's legislative council and chairman of the group that organises the event, said attendance had swelled in recent years because of participation by younger generations and mainland visitors.

Mr Lee estimates that a fifth of this year's visitors to a June 4 memorial installation in Hong Kong were from the mainland. Additional reporting by Emma Dong

He agreed, said the officials. At the end of the discussion with his parents, according to one person familiar with the surveillance, the young man stood up and saluted “Mother Russia.” He also agreed to travel to Russia to begin formal espionage training, officials said.

Officials wouldn't say where or when the conversation between Mr. Foley's father in the case, called the U.S. officials' accounts “crap.” The lawyer said it would have been too risky for the parents to reveal the operation to their son.

back in Moscow, U.S. counterintelligence officials believe the grooming of Mr. Foley was part of a long-term goal for some of the group's children to become spies when they got older.

At the time of their arrests, the spies had seven children ranging in age from 1 to 20, most U.S.-born, and one agent also had an older son from a relationship before she joined the espionage network. Anna Chapman, the spy who garnered the most attention because of her glamorous looks, didn't have children.

Though U.S. officials believe the ring planned to recruit some members' children, not every child was set along this path. One child, a teenager, was allowed to stay in the U.S. after his parents were arrested, and officials said the son isn't

back in Moscow, U.S. counterintelligence officials believe the grooming of Mr. Foley was part of a long-term goal for some of the group's children to become spies when they got older.

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Scientists Discover Spreading Suffix

Continued from Page One

base pairs of DNA that make up the average human genetic inheritance.

The suffix skyrocketed. By latest count, 404 technical terms use it, according to Omics.org, an online clearinghouse for information about the new fields.

“I am fascinated by how an ending like that—omics—can take off,” said lexicographer Ben Zimmer, chairman of the American Dialect Society's new word committee, which gave the term culturomics its 2010 prize as the word least likely to succeed. “There are so many omics that you can now talk about ome-omics.”

In fact, a scientific journal called Omics is up and running covering research in sociomics, physiomics, ecogenomics, metabiomics and pharmacogenomics, among others. In June, researchers convened in Denmark to discuss the latest in metagenomics and microbiomics at an annual conference called Copenhageneomics.

“In new scientific fields, we need new terminology because we are inventing new things,” said Harvard biomedical communications expert Alexa McCray,

who has tracked the rise of omic terms for more than a decade. “Language does have to evolve.”

Scientists have never been shy about exercising naming rights. They have given old words new shades of meaning, such as charm, which describes a property of subatomic particles. They have created entirely new ones, such as exoplanet (a world orbiting a different star than the Sun) and livermorium (a recently discovered element named earlier this year).

And they have often prized whimsy in word-smithing. Formal technical names chosen by scientists for genes found in the *Drosophila* fruit fly—an important laboratory model organism—include adrift, bazooka, dreadlocks and sonic hedgehog.

Some worry that scientists have taken “omics” to extremes. In fact, that is among the newest terms: extremeomics, coined in April by Princeton University astrophysicist Laura Landweber and colleagues to describe the genetics of bacteria that live in extreme environments.

“It helps focus a set of researchers working on organisms with utterly bizarre genomes,” she said. “We would be cautious

about coining a term that might be considered frivolous.”

Esasperated by the epidemic of neologisms, Dr. Eisen at UC Davis now regularly posts a “Bad Omics Word of the Day” on his Tree of Life blog and periodically offers a “worst new omics word” award for such terms as “circomics,” which first appeared in print this past June to describe the study of a circular DNA structure in Brazilian beans and weeds.

“I am addicted to bad omics words,” said Dr. Eisen. “I get dozens of these a month. I have had people send me their technical papers with a new omics word in the title, saying that we are taunting you.”

To parody the trend, genome analyst Mick Watson, director of ARK-Genomics at the Roslin Institute in Scotland, which does research on molecular and quantitative genetics of farm animals, recently posted a Web page called “The Badomics Generator” that automatically creates a spurious specialty by appending the suffix to a randomly selected biological term.

The result, such as “shorebirdome” or “PeritrichousFlagellatome,” is then inserted into

the title of an imaginary technical paper, which appears on the site.

“There is a lot of pressure on scientists all the time to publish and carve out an identity for themselves,” said Mr. Watson. “This is probably what is driving people to coin these new words.”

Still, even among scientists, the words struggle to become common usage. The term exposome—a person's lifetime of environmental exposures—was introduced in 2005 but not until 2010 did researchers agree on the proper way to pronounce it (ex-POZE-ohm).

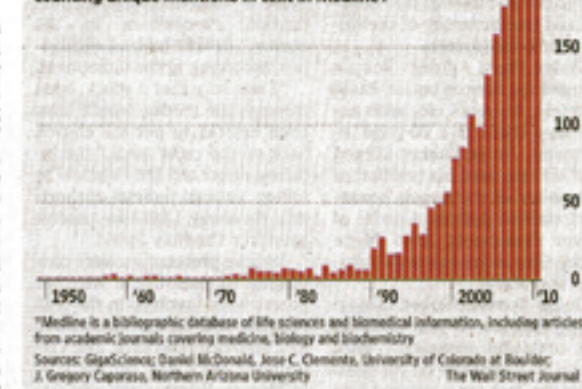
When Harvard health technology professor Isaac Kohane coined the term “incidentalome” in 2005, he glowed with pride of authorship. “I was actually so pleased with myself that I entered it in Wikipedia,” Dr. Kohane recalled.

Within days, however, Wikipedia administrators deleted the online entry because they couldn't find a single authoritative reference to support it.

Undaunted, Dr. Kohane immediately used the term in a research paper, which was then published in 2006 by the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Increasingomics

The use of the suffix ‘omics’ has skyrocketed among scientists naming new fields of study. Researchers tracked the growth of ‘ome’ and ‘omics’ words by counting unique mentions in text in Medline.



*Medline is a bibliographic database of life sciences and biomedical information, including articles from academic journals covering medicine, biology and biochemistry.

Sources: Google Scholar; Daniel McDonald, Jose C. Clemente, University of Colorado at Boulder; J. Gregory Caporaso, Northern Arizona University

“I referenced my own article in the Wikipedia entry, and this time it stuck,” Dr. Kohane said.

Not all omics words make it, though.

At the Journal Omics, Editor in Chief Eugene Kolker says he and his staff discuss the new terms but are wary of ones that are too awkward or artificial. “Omics-schmomics,” said Dr. Kolker. In one recent case, “We asked the author to take the term out of the title,” he says.

While some of these new terms may be useful, Mr. Zimmer worries the quirky constructions only promote confusion. “They are opaque,” he said. “There are a lot of possibilities for misunderstanding.”

Take Newt-Omics, for example. It is not the study of Republican politician Newt Gingrich but rather encompasses data on a single member of the salamander family called Newt Notophthalmus viridescens.



Russian Spy Ring Aimed to Make Some Children Agents

Continued from Page One

groomed for a future spy career, officials say. Though he wasn't American-born, his parents lived in the U.S. for more than a decade, under the assumed names Donald Heathfield and Tracey Foley. Mr. Foley was 20 when his parents were arrested and had just finished his sophomore year at George Washington University in the nation's capital.

His parents revealed their double life to him well before their arrest, according to current and former officials, whose knowledge of the discussion was based on surveillance by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that included bugging suspects' homes. The officials said the parents also told their son they wanted him to follow in their footsteps.

He agreed, said the officials. At the end of the discussion with his parents, according to one person familiar with the surveillance, the young man stood up and saluted “Mother Russia.” He also agreed to travel to Russia to begin formal espionage training, officials said.

Officials wouldn't say where or when the conversation between Mr. Foley's father in the case, called the U.S. officials' accounts “crap.” The lawyer said it would have been too risky for the parents to reveal the operation to their son.

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back in Moscow, U.S. counterintelligence officials believe the grooming of Mr. Foley was part of a long-term goal for some of the group's children to become spies when they got older.

Mr. Krupp said that since the summer of the spy roundup, Mr. Foley—who wasn't accused of any wrongdoing—has tried to return to the U.S., but unspecified obstacles have prevented him from doing so, and he remains in Russia. Efforts to find him there were unsuccessful. A lawyer who represented Mr. Foley's mother during the U.S. case didn't return calls seeking comment.

Based on their extensive surveillance of the secret agents and their messages to handlers

Plans to bring children into the family business suggest long-term thinking.

Ring members were trained agents of the SVR, a successor agency to the KGB, according to court documents filed by federal prosecutors in New York. U.S. authorities say they worked under the direction of SVR headquarters, known in the West as “Moscow Center.”

Besides the plans to recruit children, the new details about the spy ring show more about what its members were up to. U.S. officials say one of them, Richard Murphy—whose real name was Vladimir Guryev—worked for several years as the in-house computer technician at a U.S. consultancy called the G7 Group, which advised clients on how government decisions might affect global markets. The firm's experts included its chief executive, Jane Hartley, an active Democratic fundraiser, and Alan Blinder, a former Federal Reserve vice chairman.

The infiltration is further evidence the spying focused on economic secrets as well as military and political information.

Mr. Murphy came to the G7 Group through a temporary-help

viewed as a risk to national security. His father, who went by the name Juan Lazaro, wanted his son to become a concert pianist, according to a former colleague of the father. A lawyer for the family declined to comment.

Most members of the ring were what are known in espionage parlance as “illegals”—agents who go to a country using a false identity and without official cover such as a diplomatic position. If caught, illegals have to assume their home country won't come to their rescue.

Ring members were trained agents of the SVR, a successor agency to the KGB, according to court documents filed by federal prosecutors in New York. U.S. authorities say they worked under the direction of SVR headquarters, known in the West as “Moscow Center.”

Besides the plans to recruit children, the new details about the spy ring show more about what its members were up to.

U.S. officials say one of them, Richard Murphy—whose real name was Vladimir Guryev—worked for several years as the in-house computer technician at a U.S. consultancy called the G7 Group, which advised clients on how government decisions might affect global markets. The firm's experts included its chief executive, Jane Hartley, an active Democratic fundraiser, and Alan Blinder, a former Federal Reserve vice chairman.

The infiltration is further evidence the spying focused on economic secrets as well as military and political information.

Mr. Murphy came to the G7 Group through a temporary-help

agency in the early 2000s and stayed about three years, according to Ms. Hartley, who said she eventually concluded he didn't have the technical sophistication the firm required. She said she didn't believe he used his position to steal information.

Mr. Blinder said he didn't believe he knew or even had heard of Mr. Murphy. “My reaction, of course, is surprise. The G7 Group wasn't the sort of place a Russian spy would find interesting,” said Mr. Blinder, who is a professor at Princeton University.

A lawyer who represented Mr. Murphy after his arrest said she wasn't aware he had worked for a firm in Manhattan. After Mr. Murphy left the G7 Group, Ms. Hartley sold it, and many of its principals later reformed under a different name.

The spies' false identities, also called “legends,” were good enough for them to get jobs and mortgages and start families in America, but they weren't airtight. A background check for a job with the U.S. government or a government contractor might have exposed them. The spies were careful not to try to get too close to the heart of U.S. government, according to interviews and court documents.

Mr. Murphy spoke with an accent and didn't socialize well with his co-workers, according to Ms. Hartley. Difficulties he had blending in at the G7 Group underscored the value agents' children might have had to Moscow, being fully Americanized with flawless English.

One purpose of having such agents in the U.S. was to act as

go-betweens for other operatives who might have been more closely monitored by U.S. counterintelligence, the current and former U.S. officials said.

“There was much more to this than just trying to make friends with important people,” said one official. “This was a very long-term operation.”

After the parents were arrested, the children became an important part of the negotiations between the Russian and U.S. governments.

The admitted secret agents were eventually flown to Austria, where, in a scene reminiscent of a Cold War spy drama, they were swapped on a Vienna airport tarmac for four men who had been imprisoned in Russia, most on charges of spying for the West.

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Here's an Omical Tale: Scientists Discover Spreading Suffix

Researchers Develop Lots of New Words That All End Alike; ‘Sounds Futuristic’

By ROBERT LEE HOTZ

In the beginning, there was the genome.

Then came the foldome, the phenome and the connectome, quickly followed by the secretome, the otherome and the unknownome.

Over the past decade, a linguistic trickle swelled into a flood of buzzwords tagged with the curiously resonant suffix “ome.” Today, hundreds of “omic” terms have worked their way into the lexicon, coined mostly by scientists intent on

creating new sub-specialties.

“It sounds futuristic. It sounds computational,” said medical geneticist Robert C. Green at Harvard Medical School, who studies what he and his colleagues call the incidentalome—the realm of all incidental medical findings. “When you use the term ‘omics,’ it signals they are a new paradigm guy.”

Generally, the new terms in scientific literature are meant to



Jonathan Eisen

highlight the study of a comprehensive collection of data—such as all proteins in a cell (the proteome), all patent law rulings (the patentome) or all human culture (the culturome). Researchers hope to attract attention—and perhaps funding—by giving their topic a name brand that echoes the broader scientific advances of genomics.

Some scientists roll their eyes at this speedily spreading suffix.

“It's a language parasite,” said evolutionary biologist Jonathan Eisen at the University of California, Davis.

They have even coined a word for their antipathy—the antome. German biologist Hans Winckler coined the word genome in 1920, in an echo of the word chromosome, to describe the complete set of a plant or animal's genes. The word genomics, though, wasn't invented until 1986, when researchers were planning the Human Genome Project to map the 3.3 billion

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After Gold's Climb, Few Miners Look Down



Despite an appetite for gold, Brian Rear is one of few mining executives to hedge his company's production.

Colin Murty/The Australian



SERGEY PONOMAREV Associated Press

TRIPOLI'S NEW RESIDENTS

A rebel fighter poses for a photo as he reclines on a couch in the home of Aisha Kadafi, the Libyan leader's daughter, in the capital. Meanwhile, rebels fought off groups of Moammar Kadafi's loyalists as they struggled to secure their hold on the city while terrified residents stayed indoors. **LATEXTRA**

In Tripoli, a visit to death's door

Bodies pile up at a morgue, where a father fears the worst.

BORZOU DARAGAH
REPORTING FROM
TRIPOLI, LIBYA

The mood on the front steps of the morgue at Tripoli's Central Hospital is far from triumphant.

Every few minutes, a fearful resident, covering his mouth with a surgical mask,

makes his way into the brick building filled with dozens of disfigured bodies decomposing in the August heat. And every few minutes, someone walks out, sobbing uncontrollably.

Omar Salem had already tried to go inside once Wednesday. But the smell drove him back.

Now, as he stood outside, seeking to summon the courage to reopen the door, Salem described his plight to sympathetic bystanders. "I am looking for my son,"

the crisply dressed 63-year-old engineer explained in nearly flawless English. "He was standing around on the road and shot by the *ka-taeb*," Moammar Kadafi's dreaded militiamen.

"I'm sure he's here," Salem continued. "Because he was with his friend, and his friend is here."

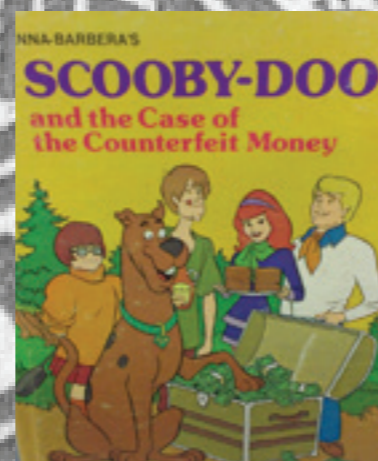
As Libyan rebels sought to tighten their grip over the capital, gunfire continued to resonate and the number of victims of Libya's six-month revolution mounted. Doc-

tors have reported 50 to 100 civilian deaths in recent days, and on Wednesday morning more than 50 new gunshot victims were being treated at the Central Hospital.

"We don't even know how many people are stranded in their homes with wounds," said Mahdi Swedani, a doctor. "Most of the dead bodies are still where the fighting was."

Among the victims were people swept up in the con-

[See Morgue, A6]



CHINA FORUM | CHEN YANRU

Pros and cons of soft power

Chinese college students love American films and TV dramas but are also aware of the US' hegemonic and seamy side

In this era of well-developed technology, it is possible to change our stereotype view of another country or culture without crossing national borders. A study involving 114 Chinese college students was conducted to find out how they viewed the United States and how they formed their views.

Today's college students will become the backbone of society and, hence, have an impact on future Sino-US relationship. Did the image of the US they had formed during pre-college years change with time and accumulation of wider knowledge?

The students, interviewed over four years from 2008, revealed that the media indeed had a great impact on the formation and alteration of their views on the US. Apart from Chinese media, the other sources that influenced the students' views were American movies, music, TV dramas, novels, news reports, sports (especially NBA), Western festivals, chatting websites and occasional acquaintances with Americans.

All the respondents said their perspectives of the US had changed since childhood, the change being closely associated with the channels of communication they had been exposed to.

The Chinese media mainly served as information provider. Most of the students said they also sourced their information from international news on TV and weekly magazines, mostly read by elites in China. Their impression: the US seemed to occupy the center stage of international news.

Consciously or unconsciously, China's mainstream media have

defined the US' political image for many Chinese youths. One of the students said: "When sitting for exams in political science and answering questions on the US, words such as hegemony, power politics and imperialism kept popping up in my mind without any prompting."

But another student seemed to contradict the first: "Our perspectives of the US, of China, and even the whole world, are undergoing slow but subtle changes. We do not confine ourselves to the information fed us by the traditional media. By integrating the voluminous amount of information available to us through the Internet, we construct one 'brave new world' after another for ourselves."

The general view of the students on the US, however, was that it is a country with limited equality (equality in American society is equality among whites, not interracial equality), relative freedom and liberty (mostly referring to freedom of speech), absolute openness (all kinds of stimulating activities to seek fun and excitement), hegemonic politics, developed economy and false human rights claims (interfering with domestic affairs of other countries and playing the role of global police).

Most of the respondents said that though their high school curriculum for subjects like history, geography and English initially provided a rational idea about the US, it created different attitudes among them. Some of them admired the US for being a great power, some hated it for using its strength to bully weaker countries, while others called it

somewhat of an "upstart" country with a brief history and little legacy.

Though the accounts of the US that some of the students had read in newspapers and magazines during adolescence left an indelible mark on them, they began seeing new facets of the US after they entered college. Hollywood movies penetrated their hearts and minds, while American TV dramas, all downloaded from the Internet, opened a window to the "American spirit and American character". Regardless of whether they admired or despised the US, they said that American TV dramas had greatly influenced their views on the US.

They started asking: Why Chinese films and TV dramas don't have the same influence to infiltrate other countries and cultures? How can the US successfully use all kinds of media to promote American values?

In general, the students surmised: The power of culture is inseparable from the power of politics and economy. Hollywood movies have been the most influential factor in creating the US' image as the "dream nation" among Chinese students. Many Chinese students saw startling high technologies, lingering and loyal love stories, strong patriotism and the eternal spirit to strive for excellence in Hollywood movies.

The respondents were college students who could blend their sentiments and perceptions with strong rational thinking to reach a conclusion. They were exposed to many media channels, which often offered conflicting images of the US, and had to sort, analyze, compare and integrate a variety of information before reaching their respective conclusions.

Sometimes, a student's reaction to and cognition of American cultural products changed with the passage of time. Though they perceived the US as a "wealthy, civilized, and liberal" country, they were acquainted with news about the conflicts and seamy side of American society, which also came from movies about gangsters and was confirmed by media reports.

Many respondents said the Chinese as well as the American versions of US history had had a strong impact on the formation of their views. Others said their initial impression of the US began with films and TV dramas, but they realized that was not the best way to know the country.

Most of the students alluded to the US bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in 1999 when they talked about how they formed their views on the US. Many of them expressed mixed feelings about the US. One student who planned to go to the US for higher studies wrote: "I am not sure how many people are like me, who on one hand censures American hegemony and on the other cherishes a secret longing for the multiple opportunities it offers."

To conclude, Chinese college students' perspective of the US comprises perceptual as well as conceptual knowledge gathered from a variety of sources, of which the mass media are the main channel. But overall, they remain cool-headed when it comes to enduring "American cultural waves".

The author is a professor with the School of Journalism & Communication at Xiamen University.



BOILING OVER IN BEIJING



MELEE: A Georgetown player is kicked during a game that was timed to coincide with Vice President Joe Biden's trip to China.

Basketball's great brawl of China

In Georgetown's meeting with the Bayi Rockets, benches empty and fans jump into the action.

BARBARA DEMICK
REPORTING FROM BEIJING

Better stick to pingpong next time.

What was supposed to be a goodwill basketball game between the Georgetown Hoyas and China's

Bayi Rockets on Thursday night degenerated into all-out hostility with a chair-tossing, bottle-flying brawl.

The game at the Beijing Olympic basketball arena was timed to coincide with a visit to China by Vice President Joe Biden, although he was with (presumably) more refined company — a banquet hosted by his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping. Biden had attended an earlier, uneventful game between Georgetown and another Chinese team, the Shanxi Zhongyu Brave Dragons.

In a statement early Friday, Georgetown Coach John Thompson III expressed regret "that this situation occurred" and said, "We remain grateful for the opportunity our student-athletes are having to engage in a sport they love here in China, while strengthening our understanding of a nation we respect and admire."

There was no immediate comment from the Chinese side. The game was not televised in China, and censors quickly tried to zap away footage from the ubiquitous cellphone cameras that made their

way onto Chinese websites — in keeping with the Chinese government's practice of "harmonizing" the Internet to remove discordant images.

Foreign websites such as YouTube, which are blocked in China, nonetheless offered a courtside — or, perhaps, ringside — view of the melee.

"It was a really tense game from the beginning because the Chinese team came out playing very aggressively, and the Hoyas weren't prepared," said Sarah Burton, an

[See China, C8]



MIXING IT UP: Georgetown and Bayi players scuffle at Beijing arena. Coach John Thompson III pulled his Hoyas from the court.

Game ends with more than nine minutes left

[China, from C1] American expatriate living in Beijing who was in attendance.

Early in the game, the atmosphere turned tense when Bayi forward Xu Zhonghao yelled at Thompson in English, "How can you let your players play like that?" Then, after Georgetown guard Jason Clark objected to a hard foul by another Bayi player, Hu Ke, the benches emptied and fights erupted across the court. Fans jumped into the action.

The video captured an unidentified Chinese man in a white polo shirt and khaki shorts stomping a Georgetown player on the floor. Gene Wang of the Washing-

ton Post grabbed a stanchion, while an unidentified player pushed Georgetown's Aaron Bowen through a partition, then punched him while sitting on his chest.

The Georgetown coach pulled his players off the court, ending the game with 9 minutes 32 seconds left and the score tied, 64-64.

At least in the videos, there was no evidence that Chinese officials tried to restrain their players, several of whom were captured on the footage wielding chairs in midthrow.

"Chinese spectators on the bench side started throwing trash and anything they could find," according to Burton. The Chi-

nese players have stood in the doorway and did nothing.

Wang Wei, a columnist with the Chinese sports magazine Play, blamed the Bayi Rockets for starting the fight.

"They shouldn't have lost their temper and started a fight. They were the host. They are a professional team, and the Hoyas are a student team," he said Friday. "Still, it is just a basketball game. It shouldn't go to the diplomatic level and hurt U.S.-China relations."

Chinese players have been frequently fined by basketball federations for fighting with their opponents, and some Chinese fans expressed dismay, call-

ing for a boycott. One online commentator. "The head of the Chinese Basketball Assn. needs to be changed again."

The Bayi Rockets are owned by the Chinese military and have a reputation for "fighting hard, military style," Wang Wei said.

The Hoyas were on a 10-day tour of China that had been supported by the State Department as an example of sports diplomacy in the vein of the 1971 visit of U.S. pingpong players to China that paved the way for relations between American and Chinese leaders. Before leaving home, the Hoyas made a series of whimsical videos about trying to speak Chinese and use local cur-

rency, there were high expectations before the tour as well that it would promote cultural relations.

The Beijing News, in an editorial published Thursday before the game, opined that basketball had become a "popular, goodwill media to create a relaxing atmosphere" for Biden's visit and the "most important window for the youth of both countries to understand each other."

Understanding? Well, that could be true: Fisticuffs are a common denominator of communication, understood equally in all languages.

barbara.demick@latimes.com



“QUOTABLE

“Replacing urine with green tea for medical testing was unethical, even it was for a journalistic investigation.”

A spokesman for the Ministry of Health commenting on a recent healthcare case. China Central Television reported on Monday that a journalist replaced his urine with green tea to do a test in a private hospital in Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei province. The journalist was later diagnosed with several serious diseases based on the test result. The news attracted wide attention.



IKEA's Products Make Shoppers Blush in Thailand

Swedish Retailer Hires Local Linguists to Police Racy Translations

BY JAMES HOOKWAY

BANGKOK—Is Redalen a) a town in Norway b) a bed sold by Swedish furniture chain IKEA or c) something that sounds uncomfortably close to getting to third base in Thailand?

The answer, it turns out, is all three. IKEA is famous for using tongue-twisting Scandinavian names to help identify its sofas and beds. But as the big-box retailer expands into fast-growing new markets, it is discovering that those hard-to-pronounce names can also have other meanings, and that spells trouble in other languages.

Take Thailand, for example. IKEA launched a new superstore here late last year, its fifth-largest in the world. It is packed



Redalen bed

with shoppers seeking bargains among the flat-pack, assemble-it-yourself furniture or wolfing down Swedish meatballs in the IKEA restaurant.

Reading a standard IKEA catalog aloud, though, can draw strange looks, or worse. Besides the Redalen bed, there is the very nice Jättebra plant pot, which can sound in part like a crude Thai term for sex, and a host of other problematic words.

To solve that problem, IKEA is saying *adjö* (Swedish for *adieu*) to unintentionally saucy product names, and *hej* (hello) to a team of Thai speakers who modify terms so they can't be so easily misinterpreted.

"The Swedish...words are important because they bring a unique character to the brand," says one member of the team, Natthita Opasipat. She spent nearly four years preparing for the launch of IKEA's Bangkok store by carefully scrutinizing terms to see how they sounded in Thai before transliterating them into Thailand's cursive, Sanskrit-influenced alphabet. In some cases, she and other team members change a vowel sound or a consonant to prevent unfor-

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JEAN CHUNG FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE

Young people with hangovers in Seoul, where police are cracking down on drunken violence.

Drunk: Koreans abuse police

86%

A recent report by Internet consultancy iResearch Inc said China's online sales of infant-oriented products this year are expected to increase 86 percent from a year earlier to 61 billion yuan (US\$9.7 billion).



DUPLICATE THIS Bruce Willis's character in 'Looper' confronts a time-travel 'duplication paradox' when he meets his younger self.

Machines: Time Travel in Physics, Metaphysics and Science Fiction." By 1944, René Barjavel's French sci-fi novel "Le Voyageur Imprudent" has already discovered the perils of the grandfather paradox: If a time traveler kills off his grandfather

terday" is also basically free of story contradictions. (The wife's frigidity toward her husband turns out to be the result of an injustice committed in an earlier time, when he was a knight and she was a gypsy about to be burned at the stake, according to

the IMDb movie database.) By 1944, René Barjavel's French sci-fi novel "Le Voyageur Imprudent" has already discovered the perils of the grandfather paradox: If a time traveler kills off his grandfather

Please turn to page D3



Many South Koreans enjoy heavy drinking after work. In Seoul, abuse of officers by drunken citizens is tolerated. An officer dragged a drunken man.

In Korea, drunkards test police

By CHOE SANG-HUN
The New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea — The drunken man banged the door of his cell in the police station with his knee. He ripped the padding off the walls, throwing sheets and spouting curses at the police officers outside the bars, who ignored him as if such rampages were part of their nightly routine.

Such scenes are common in South Korea. They say much about that society's acceptance of heavy drinking and about the peculiar relationship between citizens and their police.

Almost every night in almost every police station lockdown in Seoul, drunken men — and sometimes women — can be found abusing officers verbally and even physically, as a widely tolerated way of banishing anger. They

Heavy-drinking, resentful citizens often abuse their officers.

usually are allowed to sleep it off and go home, their punishment no more than a small fine.

"They consider the police station a place to let off steam," a police superintendent, Park Dan-won, said. "They consider us push-overs."

Now the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency has decided that it has had enough. In May, banners went up around the city an-

nouncing a crackdown on drunken violence. It is intended to reassert police authority in a country that remembers, resentfully, when the police served as henchmen for Japanese colonial masters and military dictators.

In Seoul last year, nearly 77 percent of those charged with obstruction of justice — like abusing public servants — were drunk at the time. But in only 15 percent of such cases did the police seek to hold the offender for any length of time, and they succeeded in only half of those cases because of judges' and prosecutors' traditional leniency toward drunken offenders.

"We hesitate to use force against unruly drunken citizens because then we're likely to face charges of police brutality," said Cho Yai-

SEE "DRUNK" PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 9

il, senior police inspector in the Guro district of Seoul.

Since the police campaign began, the police have arrested nearly 230 serial offenders — individuals who had been investigated an average of 26 times, but arrested only occasionally, over various drunken offenses.

Many South Koreans, who work some of the longest hours in the world, believe that one of the quickest ways of building friendship and office camaraderie is to get drunk together. "He who drinks more works better" is a common saying here, and the working person's drink of choice is often "the bomb," a shot glass of soju, the local grain liquor, added to a glass of beer.

According to the World Health Organization, South Koreans rank No. 13 in alcohol consumption over all but No. 1 in hard liquor consumption. A Korean Alcohol Research Foundation survey in 2010 found that about 44 percent of college students said they had experienced blackouts from excessive drinking.

It is also cheap to get drunk in South Korea. A 360-milliliter bottle of soju costs about 1,200 won, about \$1, at ubiquitous all-night stores.

On weekend nights, it is easy to find besotted men, some in suits and ties, vomiting or sprawled in the subways or on the street. (Some take off their shoes and glasses and sleep using their briefcase or a curb for a pillow.)

Choi Jeong-wook, an assistant police inspector in the Yeongdeungpo district of Seoul, said 80 percent of the work at his station involved dealing with drunks.

During Japan's colonial rule, from 1910 to 1945, Koreans resented the police for working with the Japanese authorities. After Korea's liberation, many officers ran the national police force, which suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations.

When the country's democratization in the late 1980s, the relationship between citizens and the police flipped. Fear of officers was replaced with an attitude of "citizens are your boss."

"We're not asking people to fear us," Inspector Choi said. "We're just asking them not to abuse us."

Not in a theater

Want to know where and when to watch free classic, cult classic and underground movies? Get the scoop every Friday from DJ and film aficionado (and Shanghai Daily columnist) Brian Offenther.

Movie: 'Pee-Wee's Big Adventure' (1985)

- Where to see it: William The Beekeeper (84 Fenyang Rd, near Fuxing Road)
- When to see it: August 5, 7-30pm
- Tickets: Free
- What's to see: The titular, loon character's surreal and fun adventure that entertains adults and kids in equal doses.
- Brian's rating: 8/10 stars

Pee-Wee a cartoon figure in a flesh and blood world

Brian Offenther

Whenever a comedy skit is plucked from its original context and has to stretch to a feature-length film, skepticism is more than due. For every "Wayne's World," "Beavis & Butt-Head Do America" and "The Muppets Movie" there are 100 forgotten flops like "Tenacious D and the Pick of Destiny," "A Night at the Roxbury" and "Coneheads."

The biggest problem is that comedy characters usually have so little time to establish themselves in a skit that the range they tend to develop is extremely limited.

Creator of the Pee-Wee Herman character and co-screenwriter Paul Reubens and director Tim Burton succeeded in "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure" by allowing this strange tension to become a joke in itself. The movie ends with Pee-Wee watching a movie about himself that has been given the Hollywood treatment, with ninjas and suave dialogue. Our Pee-Wee leaves before it's finished.

That sort of irreverence runs throughout "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure" as Pee-Wee interacts with characters that don't know quite what to do with him. The audience never really figures it out either. He's a cartoon



in a flesh and blood world, a classic clown character in the vein of Charlie Chaplin, Jerry Lewis and Mr. Bean. To try to flesh him out would only dilute his potency.

So the "Big Adventure" here is really a series of small adventures. There is an overarching plot involving the stealing and recapture of Pee-Wee's beloved bike, but other than the opening and closing, the other scenes could be put in a different order and nothing would change.

The ending sees none of the characters changing in any way.

Pee-Wee is aided by the first collaboration between director Burton and composer Danny Elfman, who later worked on similarly bizarre movies like "Beetlejuice," "A Nightmare Before Christmas" and "Edward Scissorhands." There's an underlying creepiness to their work, even in comedies. Characters can be cruel, situations can be scary. This dynamism keeps things varied just as Pee-Wee stays the same. The context changes, but Pee-Wee never does.

IKEA's Product Names Make Shoppers Blush in Thailand

Continued from Page One

tunate misunderstandings. "We've got to be careful," says the 29-year-old Ms. Natthita. "Some of them can be, well, a little rude."

Getting product names lost in translation is becoming more of a problem for companies as the whole world becomes a potential market. There are numerous examples of firms launching, say, a new car, in places such as South America or Greece only to discover the name had some unfortunate connotations.

When the owners of British food company Sharwood's spent millions of dollars launching a new curry sauce in 2003 called *Bundh*, the firm was deluged with calls from Punjabi speakers who said the new offering sounded like their word for "backside."

In China, Microsoft's search engine Bing sounds like "illness" or "pancake" when spoken in local dialects, depending on the tone. Microsoft executives there then made the search engine's

Chinese name *bǐng*, which also referred to a longer Chinese expression *you qū bǐ yīng*, which roughly means "seek and ye shall find."

The problem, for some companies, goes back decades. When Coca-Cola began looking for a suitable Chinese version of its name after launching the drink there in 1927, it found that some local shopkeepers had produced homemade signs using Chinese characters to replicate the sound of the words "Coca-Cola," without noticing that the characters in combination could be read as "female horse fastened with wax" or "bite the wax tadpole," according to Coca-Cola researchers. Coke tweaked the spelling in such a way as to take on an added meaning: "to permit the mouth to be able to rejoice."

The risks are particularly high for IKEA, which does business in more than 40 countries. It has more than 9,000 Scandinavian terms in its catalog, which is constantly being revised and updated. IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad

introduced the naming system back in the 1950s to help himself cope with dyslexia, using Scandinavian place names or children's names that identify the company's wares instead of dull, easy-to-forget product codes.

Since then it has evolved to include Swedish words for the living room, Norwegian terms for bedroom furniture and Danish words for things like toilet seats and doormats. Bar tables have names like *Björkudden*, while dining sets carry monikers like *Björsta/Henrikstad*, *Jokmokk* or *Stornas/Kaustby*.

When the musician and artist David Byrne visited an IKEA store in the U.S. with his elderly parents, he deconstructed the experience as a kind of game. Writing in his online blog, he described how contestants are equipped with measuring tapes and soft pencils and then sent out to follow the one-way layout around the store, matching beds, wardrobes and kitchen chairs along the way, wrestling with the Scandinavian names and,



A local language team transliterates original product names into Thai.

later, the assembly instructions. "Only when they get home will they know if they have truly exited the game, or if they need to return for another round," Mr. Byrne wrote.

Today, hundreds of thousands of people around the world face similar challenges as IKEA expands into new markets and

more people enter its stores. Company executives say they aim to tap into the booming middle classes in countries such as China and Indonesia that are clamoring for the same affordable but stylish furniture that made IKEA a hit in Europe after World War II.

But Thailand, for one, has a

conservative streak, which means IKEA risks offending sensibilities if it doesn't police its pronunciations.

To minimize mishaps, Swedish IKEA employees drilled Ms. Natthita and a handful of other teammates on how to pronounce IKEA's names when dealing with customers. If a word sounds a bit off-color, Ms. Natthita is asked to suggest a slight change while keeping the word as close to its original as possible.

"It's a good system," said Lars Svensson, Bangkok-based marketing director, who appears to relish properly pronouncing words that sound especially unsavory to Thai ears. He says that, with the transliterations, some Thais wind up pronouncing the words more accurately than English speakers who struggle with Swedish. Even so, "there are always going to be a few that trip you up," he says.

—Wilawan Watcharasakwet in Bangkok, Loretta Chao in Beijing and Drew Hinshaw in Lagos contributed to this article.

The Four Rules of Time-Travel Movies

BY STEVE KNOPPER

IN THE MIDDLE OF the coming movie "Looper," Bruce Willis, a retired hit man from the future, sits in a diner and offers some wisdom: "I don't want to start talking about time travel," he snarls. "Because if we start talking about time travel, we're going to be here all day, making diagrams with straws."

Mr. Willis's character is explaining one of the ironclad rules of time-travel movies: Don't get too bogged down with scientific details. "Time travel doesn't make sense," says "Looper" director Rian Johnson. "All you can do is construct a system for it."

"Looper," a thriller about time-traveling mob victims which opens next week, is the latest in a long list of books, movies and TV shows wrestling with the complexities of time

travel. From H.G. Wells's "The Time Machine" in 1895 to L. Sprague de Camp's 1956 "A Gun for Dinosaurs," time-travel stories often present headache-inducing puzzles and contradictions that can easily trip up the best storytellers.

Shane Carruth's 2004 film "Primer," for example, is so complex and methodical that fanatical bloggers have posted flow charts containing thousands of words of plot summary. "Even if you dig into that deeply enough, you're going to find stuff that doesn't make sense," says Mr. Johnson, the "Looper" director, who is a "Primer" fan.

One of the first time travel stories, Norwegian Johan Wessel's 1781 comedic novel "Anno 7603," mostly skitters over any scientific snarls, focusing on a couple who visit the past with the help of a fairy, according to physicist Paul J. Nahin's book "Time



The Pentagon aims to use a crowdsourcing contest to design a possible replacement for 1970s-era Marine amphibious vehicles still in use today.

Tapping Crowds for Military Design

By JAMES R. HAGERTY

A branch of the Pentagon is looking into whether a bunch of volunteers could design a better amphibious vehicle for the Marines than a defense contractor.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, known as Darpa, is preparing to assess whether crowdsourcing, a free-wheeling collaborative method sometimes used to develop software, can be an effective means of designing military equipment.

The military hopes crowdsourcing could help counter the enormous costs and long delays that often dog the development of new weaponry and vehicles.

Darpa aims to use crowdsourcing to tap more brainpower than the traditional defense-contractor route, while speeding up development and slashing expenses. The first test will be a competition to design a vehicle that would be used to help Marines storm beaches.

Darpa got an opening to test its crowdsourcing theories after the Defense Department in early 2011 canceled another project to create a replacement for 1970s-era Marine amphibious vehicles. The military concluded the project, led by General Dynamics Corp., would be too expensive—after sinking in more than \$3 billion toward development. Pursu-

ing the program "would essentially swallow the entire Marine vehicle budget," then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates said at the time.

The Pentagon is still pondering what alternative to pursue. Both General Dynamics and BAE Systems PLC, longtime suppliers to the U.S. military, say they are eager to develop a new vehicle for the Marines.

Meanwhile, however, the Marines have agreed to consider designs the Darpa effort produces to replace the vehicles.

The military hopes crowdsourcing could speed development and slash expenses.

Darpa plans a series of "challenges" in which designers compete for prize money, the largest award being \$2 million for the best total vehicle design. The first challenge is to take place in the first half of next year. Darpa "hopes to see a broad spectrum of participants, from small businesses to large industry to academia, as well as individual engineers at various levels of expertise," a spokesman said.

One big challenge for Darpa is

the risk that crowdsourcing could leak sensitive information about U.S. military plans or technology to enemies.

"We need to make sure we don't release any information that is sensitive," said Army Lt. Col. Nathan Wiedenman, a Darpa official. "We are still working on the right way to address that," he said, adding the project won't be "fully open" to all comers.

Darpa's effort could help determine whether crowdsourcing works for nonmilitary design and manufacturing. Fledgling companies such as New York-based Quirky Inc. already present it as a way to develop and sell household products, including pizza slicers and toilet brushes, dreamed up by freelance inventors. General Electric has described crowdsourcing as a potential boon for designing such things as medical and aerospace equipment.

As part of its experiment, Darpa, which is known for its contributions to creating both the Internet and global-positioning technology, this week awarded a \$47.5 million, three-year contract to a research lab at Pennsylvania State University to make sure the designs can be manufactured in a timely and cost-effective way. After the best design is picked, the lab would oversee the manufacturing pro-

cess, which would likely involve numerous subcontractors.

Mark Traband, who heads the Penn State team that won the contract to assess the designs' viability, said the university's Applied Research Laboratory has done research-and-development work for the U.S. military since the mid-1940s.

Meanwhile, GE and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have developed a software "ecosystem" to help participants share and build on design ideas. If the Darpa effort succeeds, the crowdsourced vehicle would likely compete with proposals from General Dynamics and BAE.

Brad Lindberg, a BAE executive who works on projects involving the Marines, said BAE is confident its technology can prevail. As for the crowdsourcing team, "they're going to have challenges," Mr. Lindberg said. "Who knows what they can do?" General Dynamics officials said they welcome Darpa's initiative and have set up a "collaboration center" to tap expertise from sources including academia and the defense industry.

Lt. Col. Wiedenman said the military must find ways to adopt technology faster. With traditional design methods, he said, it can take decades to produce a new tank or fighter jet. "This is an unsustainable path," he said.

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SCIENCE FICTION: TOM SHIPPEY

We Can Build You



ONE OF THE occupational hazards, or bonuses, of being a sci-fi author is that you may find yourself turning into a guru. The most obvious example is L. Ron Hubbard, creator of Scientology, but in different ways it happened as well to Ayn Rand, Kurt Vonnegut, Robert Heinlein—and, least likely of them all, Philip K. Dick.

Dick had a 30-year authorial career, from 1952 until his death in 1982, during which he wrote hundreds of short stories and 40-plus novels—a selection of which Mariner Books began reissuing last year. He seemed at once fabulously productive and utterly lacking in judgment. He might write six novels in one year, one of which would be hailed as a classic, two as so-so, and three as complete failures. He broke out of the sci-fi ghetto, quite unexpectedly, in 1982, when Ridley Scott made the movie "Blade Runner" out of Dick's 1968 novel "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" Since then nine or 10 further movies have been made out of Dick's works, often from short stories, like the two versions of "Total Recall" (1990 and 2012).

Dick became a counterculture guru because of the strange and baffling worlds his characters inhabit, which many of his readers nevertheless thought they could recognize in their own reality. Paranoia was a dominant element. In "Time Out of Joint" (1959), Ragle Gumm seems to live in ordinary-to-boring 1950s suburban America, doing a puzzle every day from the local paper and not much else. Wrong. His whole world is a setup, designed to keep him happy and undistracted, because in solving the puzzle he is using his psychic gifts to tell Earth's High Command where hostile moon colonists will strike next.

The next question is: Would any of us know if we were living in a perfectly engineered setup? Perhaps we are surrounded not by people but by androids, deceiving us for some unknown purpose? How, anyway—and this is the center of "Blade Runner"—can you tell an android from a person? Maybe we live in a world of "simulacra" (a Dick title from 1964). Maybe we all live in a private fantasy world, watched over by a Vast Active Living Intelligence System, a recurring theme of Dick's from 1957's "Eye in the Sky" (Mariner, 256 pages, \$13.95) to 1981's "VALIS" (1981). To Dick—and

this is another qualification for gurdom—these were not just fictional speculations. He thought he had evidence to prove he was right.

There is a certain irony, then, in the attempt—by Andrew Olney, a programmer at the University of Memphis, and David Hanson, an independent robotist—to make an android that would look, talk and respond just like Dick himself. "We Can Build You" was a Dick novel from 1972. Now it's true. Except for one problem. As David Duffy recounts in "How to Build an Android" (Henry Holt, 272 pages, \$26), Mr. Han-



PHIL Andrew Olney and David Hanson's Philip K. Dick android, sans beard.

Two scientists reincarnated the late author of 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?' as a lifelike robot.

son left "Phil's" completed head in the overhead compartment of an airliner in December 2005, and it has never been recovered.

You would think that an android head would be recognizable enough to make recovery a simple task. But (real-world explanation) how many of us have lost baggage and never seen it again? Or (paranoid explanation, one of several), maybe the head has escaped and is

pursuing some sci-fi purpose of its own. Fact, once again, gets close to fiction. In Dick's late novel "Flow My Tears, the Policeman Said" (1974), the hero's identity is lost by a giant database in Memphis, Tenn.; and in reality the giant Unclaimed Baggage Center in Memphis may still have the head. Allegedly there is a warehouse there that no one ever gets to enter. Full of androids, you bet.

Most of "How to Build an Android" is just what the title says. It follows the unexpected problems that the architects met and solved: using the "Facial Action Coding System" to give the head lifelike expressions; using "Latent Semantic Analysis" to allow it to respond to questions by drawing on a vast bank of Dick's writings and interviews; creating polymer "Frubber" to look like skin.

Yet the fiction keeps muscling in on the fact. The android was prone to verbal loops, in which it would keep responding to one question long after others had been asked. Anyone, however, who has tried to read Dick's strange, posthumously published testament "Exegesis" (2011), a sampling from his hallucinatory diaries, will know that he was just like the android. The android also responded tangentially, or perhaps cheekily, to questioners like the unfortunate president of the University of Memphis, who had come to see what the geeks were doing. ("Are you a man or a woman?" the android Phil asked. "Do you have any conditions I should know about?") Yes, that's what gurus do as well. Building the artificial PKD seems to have given its creators insights into how biological brains work.

Dick, in short, for all his heavy use of amphetamines and complete lack of common sense, was on to something. That's what people say about sci-fi too. Among the latest reissues is Dick's 1955 first novel, "Solar Lottery" (Mariner, 202 pages, \$13.95), in which the entire government and politics of the Solar System are determined by chance, which can thrust a nobody into a position of ultimate power—like Ragle Gumm of "Time Out of Joint," in a way, but without the protective illusion provided for him. Unlike anything sci-fi had seen before, yet appealing to deep fears and fantasies, this novel, along with "Time Out of Joint" and "Eye in the Sky," is among Dick's best, written before he wandered off on his own strange path to the Unclaimed Baggage Center.

Students finding it difficult on their own

A COLLEGE student in east China has been thrust into the media spotlight after she sent her dirty clothes home to be washed.

Her 74-year-old grandmother in the northeastern city of Dalian was asked to return the clothes once they'd been washed, according to a local newspaper.

The granddaughter recently enrolled in a university in Qingdao.

Newspapers and online news services quickly picked up the story and the student was suddenly at the center of much comment and criticism.

Since the beginning of the autumn semester, there have been many reports of new students, often from one-child families, finding it hard to cope on their own.

The reports gave rise to the question of whether indulgent parents should be to blame for their children's inability to take care of themselves.

"They should have basic operating abilities, and they surely need to know how to tend to their clothes," was one comment on Weibo. "They can't depend on their families their whole lives."

Another comment claimed: "Nowadays, many children are fragile," adding that parents were failing to give their children responsibilities at home, such as doing the household chores.

Xu Yafei, a junior at Nanchang University, said he had never washed clothes prior to going to university and once took a month's worth of dirty socks home for his mother to wash.

"Later, I realized that I should live independently and, therefore, started making attempts to change," he said.

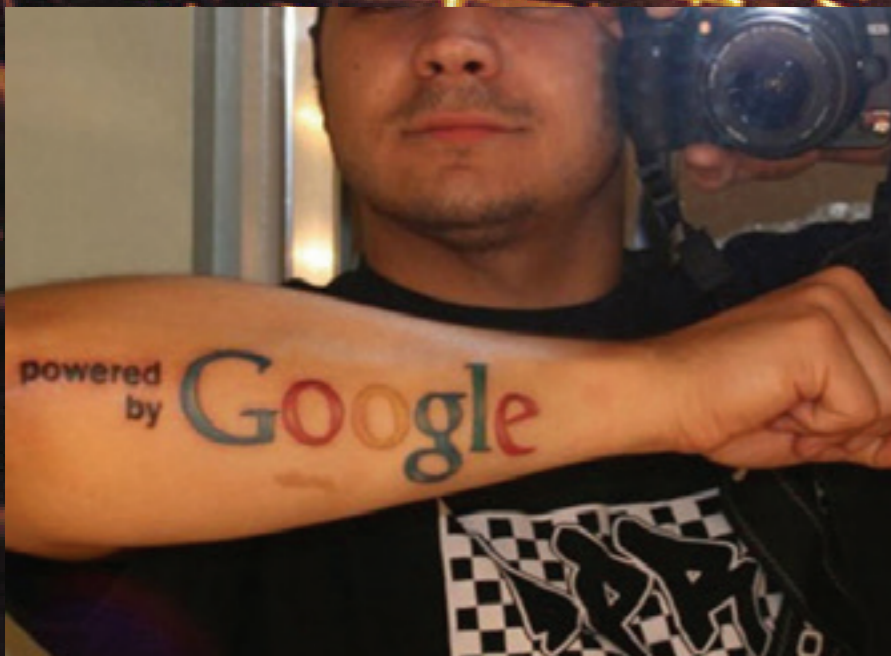
"College campus life is half like a society. After graduation, we need to live more independently," Xu added.

Freshman Liu Hao started doing his own laundry this summer, and now has no problems with campus life. "During the summer vacation, my parents arranged for me to do household chores to prepare for university life," Liu said.

Some experts say that the current education system, where students learn mechanically from textbooks, doesn't instill a sense of responsibility and self-sufficiency.

Students have been trained to study hard in school, and mastering the abilities that would make them self-sufficient and independent was not a priority, said Yin Xiaojian, a researcher at the Jiangxi Academy of Social Sciences.

(Xinhua)



In Suburban Kansas, a Plan for an Un-Metropolitan Museum

Continued from Page One

suburb in these parts already. Johnson County began turning farmland into subdivisions after World War II, and Overland Park gained national attention in 2009 as home to a suburban housewife on the *Showtime* series "United States of Tara."

The suburbia museum's backers cite a 2010 feasibility study that projects it could draw 60,000 annual visitors paying up to \$6 each. The study didn't assess where visitors would come from, but museum believers say they expect tourists and residents from the nearby metropol-

is a 70,000-square-foot abandoned hulk of a building that once housed King Louie West, a 53-year-old bowling alley that later added a skating rink. Graffiti mars some windows and weeds grow up through the parking lot on the six-acre complex, which closed in 2009.

The Johnson County commissioners paid \$2 million for the property in November 2011. After evicting a family of raccoons, they are committing another \$1.6 million to clear asbestos and make it fit for humans. County engineers expect that work to begin by year's end.

County Commission Chairman Ed Eliert says the county bought the property for half of what it was marketed for two years earlier. It plans to relocate its current county museum there and potentially other county offices, and maybe even use the parking lot as a transit yard.

Then the suburbia museum planners must raise another \$30 million. The museum's foundation board began a \$19,000 study last month to determine how to raise funds. They expect to need to raise \$10 million in private donations while persuading the county to pony up much of the rest.

Backers concede it may be 2018 before the suburbia museum opens its doors, but they do have a vision. The museum board's wish list includes displays of accoutrements of suburban life, including school lunchboxes, electric toasters and camping gear. One proposed exhibit: "A Field Guide to Sprawl."

Ms. Love, director of the Johnson County Museum, says she envisions restored bowling lanes and replicas of a drive-in movie theater. "We may bring in the smell of popcorn, the sound of kids playing on the [drive-in]

playground and you can sit in the back of a car and watch television episodes on the movie screen about suburbia, all the way up to 'Modern Family.'" At the faux backyard fence, visitors would be able to look through knotholes at skits by live actors. "Suburbia is much more complicated than houses on a road," Ms. Love says. "We want to tell the story of suburbia, the good and the bad."

The idea gained hold after a county museum in nearby Shawnee, Kan., suffered flood damage in 2009. Curators began looking for a new home for its suburban artifacts, including an exhibit of Tupperware and the "All-Electric House," a model home from the 1950s outside the museum. The museum and the county arts council held a forum to consider the idea of a suburbia museum.

There have been other testimonials to suburbia. In 2009, Rich and Amy Wagner created an online history of their hometown of Levittown, Pa., which became a template for suburbia when it opened in 1952. Bill Owens' "Suburbia," a collection of photographs chronicling life in California, is regularly on exhibit nationwide.

At Long Island's Hofstra University, the National Center for Suburban Studies is dedicated to "promoting objective, academically rigorous study of suburbia's problems and promise."

Johnson County's 2010 feasibility study, costing \$170,000, projected the suburbia museum could also serve as a place for scholarly study on the subject. There are naysayers. A suburbia museum "is the wrong museum at the wrong time for the wrong priorities," says County Commissioner Michael Ashcraft, who cast the lone dissenting vote over the purchase on the five-member panel. He says the spending doesn't make sense amid cutbacks to libraries and social services.

"I also don't see people of a young generation darkening the doors of a museum like this," says Dave Webb, a local auctioneer and former state senator. "You can just put it all online."

Even some backers aren't so sure: County Commission Chairman Mr. Eliert, while a proponent of the suburbia museum "as an asset for the county," says he thinks it's "problematic" whether the museum can raise enough private donations.

Mr. Meeker, the museum-board president, believes the idea is compelling enough to eventually convince skeptics. "Suburbia is a phenomenon that is unfolding in our own time," he says. "I'm virtually 100% certain there will be a museum of suburbia."

Body scanners offer perfect fit for reluctant online clothes shoppers

By Barney Jopson in New York

Airport security scanners, the bane of travellers and a bugbear of libertarians, may be the consumer's best friend after all.

Rival entrepreneurs have adapted the technology along with the secrets of Microsoft's Xbox to help online shoppers find clothes that will fit by digitizing their bodies.

While internet shopping for everything from food to furniture has become common, few buy clothes online because they do not want to purchase, and risk having to return, an item they have not tried on.

Now a wave of businesses is competing to overcome this by matching body scans to clothes online. They argue this will revolutionise fashion retailing in the way Amazon has changed book selling.

Forrester Research says 89 per cent - still happens in bricks-and-mortar stores as shoppers are not confident they can find the right fit from onscreen specifications and 2D images.

In recent years airport body scanners have been best known for the controversy over the right to privacy. Unique Solutions is using their millimetre wave technology - invented by a government laboratory - to offer free scans in 70 US malls, where shoppers get recommendations based on their measurements.

Bodometrics of the UK and Styku from Los Angeles have both developed scanners based on the infrared motion sensors in Microsoft's Kinect device, normally used by Xbox owners.

Bodometrics last month opened a scanner in a US Bloomingdale's store and both companies are exploring ways to use the technology to enable scanning and virtual fittings at home with a personal avatar.

Upload, in Berlin, offers home scans using a webcam and image-processing technology first used to detect defects in computer chips.

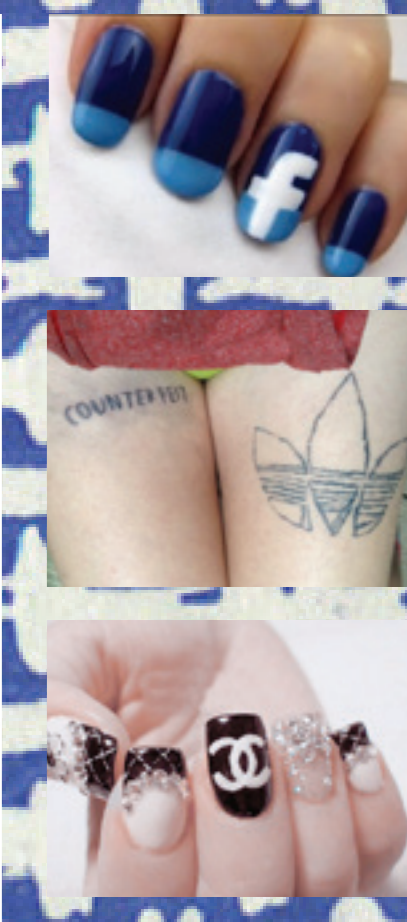
Jamal Motlagh, founder of Acustom, which offers a scanner also used by plastic surgeons, said: "All aspects of our life are digitised. Everything about you is online. One of the last holdouts is the digitisation of your body measurements."

Skeptics counter that technology cannot replace the certainty of being able to touch and try on an outfit.

Battelle, which commercialises government inventions, has given Unique a licence to the technology used in some airport scanners, but not those that have sparked concerns over their use of X-ray radiation.

Tanya Shaw, Unique's chief executive, said its scanner's waves were similar to those emitted by a mobile phone but 1,000 times weaker. To allay privacy concerns, she stressed that while the scanners collect a string of data points they are never turned into a visible image of a person.

Americans spent \$25bn on clothes and accessories online in the 12 months to June out of total ecommerce spending of \$173bn, according to ComScore.



Body scanner era, Page 12

Improved technology could end the bugbear for internet shoppers of buying ill-fitting garments, writes **Barney Jopson**

Clothes shops prepare for body scanner era

A white vertical wand swoops around Caitlin Zemla for 15 seconds as she stands in a transparent booth in a New Jersey mall, firing tiny radio waves through her clothes and capturing data as they reflect back off the water in her skin.

The result is 200,000 data points that add up to a record of her body size and shape - and could resolve one of her biggest bugbears when she goes shopping. "My pants don't ever fit," she says with a sigh at the Woodbridge Center Mall. Why? "My hips."

Ms Zemla, a medical technician, is one of the 80,000 people to have been scanned in the US in Me-ality branded machines, owned by a Canadian company called Unique Solutions.

It marries their body data with garment measurements from retail partners - including Gap, JC Penney and American Eagle - to recommend the best-fitting clothes in a move that could change clothes shopping.

Suits you madam



A Me-ality scanning machine in use in a US shopping mall



home uses of the infrared sensors developed by a company called PrimeSense, which Microsoft popularised in the Kinect motion sensor that it sells with its Xbox console.

Bodometrics plans to replace an expensive laser scanner that has been at Selfridges in London since 2008 with infrared technology, and both companies let people use store scanners to create an onscreen avatar that can try on clothes.

Such possibilities, however, can touch on human insecurities. When this correspondent stripped down to his underwear to step into Acustom's light scanner, then emerged reclothed to view the resulting image, the company declined to show it. "I've never heard anyone who said 'I looked good so we don't show it to anyone,'" said Jamal Motlagh, Acustom's founder.

Acustom's proprietary technology is an algorithm that translates body measurements into design patterns for clothes that are customised for individual women.

Off-the-rack garments bring several challenges. Different people, for example, have different preferences for snug or baggy fits that a scanner alone cannot deduce.

When I tried on a pair of Gap jeans recommended by the Me-ality scanner they fitted perfectly around the waist but were too loose for my liking around the seat.

Ms Moses at Upload recalls one "very skinny" client who always wore extra-large clothes to camouflage his body. "Then we realised our job is not to tell you what size to buy, but to

"At first I was unsure ... about whether it could get my measurements, but I think it's pretty good if it fits and it's quick and easy"

show you how it will fit you," he said. Getting the desired fit is all the more difficult because many manufacturers still make clothes for unrealistic body shapes which are defined for women by bust-to-waist and waist-to-hip measurements.

Ed Grillo, president of the size consultancy Alvaston, says that over the past decade many brands have switched their core body shape from Marilyn Monroe's hourglass to a more common "modified hourglass".

But that still leaves unanswered those who have four other body shapes: rectangle, oval, triangle and inverted triangle. And people's bodies also change.

Back at the mall in New Jersey, Ms Zemla picks up the scanner's printout of personalised clothes recommendations and loads off ready to try it on.

"At first I was unsure about everything, about whether it could get my measurements," she says. "But I think it's pretty good if it fits and it's quick and easy."

Court to Decide Whether Genes Can Be Patented

By Brent Kendall

A federal appeals court on Friday will reconsider whether isolated human genes can be patented, in a case that could reshape how biotechnology companies develop sophisticated tests and treatments for cancer and other diseases.

It is the latest legal twist in the fight over a series of **Myriad Genetics Inc.** patents related to two genes. Mutations in the genes can signal that a woman faces greater risk of developing breast cancer or ovarian cancer. Myriad's patents allow the company to be the exclusive U.S. commercial provider of genetic screenings for the diseases.

The Salt Lake City company has battled for more than three years with patients and medical groups that filed a lawsuit arguing that it is trying to patent "products of nature," which can't be patented. The challengers, represented by the American

Civil Liberties Union, won a trial-court victory in 2010.

Then, last July, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit largely sided with Myriad in a 2-1 decision. The court said the company wasn't patenting a product of nature because the

The case could reshape how biotech companies develop sophisticated tests and treatments.

process of extracting and isolating a gene from the human body made the gene chemically distinct from the DNA that exists naturally. Human beings have roughly 25,000 genes, which are DNA segments that represent basic units of heredity.

This spring, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the Federal Circuit to revisit the case, in light

of a new ruling by the justices that tightened rules on medical-testing patents.

The high court's ruling, which jolted the biotech industry, threw out two **Prometheus Laboratories** patents on a test to help doctors set drug dosages for patients with Crohn's disease. The court said the patents impermissibly sought to lay claim to laws of nature.

That decision was "a major reaffirmation of the arguments we've been making all along" against Myriad, said ACLU attorney Sandra Park. Myriad says the high court's ruling shouldn't affect its earlier legal victory because its gene patents protect an inventive artificial product that is different from a natural gene.

The Prometheus ruling invalidated a pair of "method" patents that claimed a process for setting dosages. The main patent claims in the Myriad case involve the isolated genes themselves, not a screening method.

The plaintiffs say some women can't afford Myriad's test, which costs more than \$3,000, while others can't get second-opinion tests from other labs because of the Myriad patents. The patents also "may well be preventing lifesaving research and treatment," the challengers said in a recent court brief.

Myriad says isolating the two genes—BRCA1 and BRCA2—was difficult and complex. Myriad's general counsel, Richard Marsh, says patents "provide the incentives for companies to spend the tremendous amounts of capital necessary" to produce such breakthroughs. Mr. Marsh said it was "patently false" to claim the patents had deterred scientific research. Since the two genes were patented, scientists have published thousands of research papers on them, he said. The company says a patient's average out-of-pocket cost for the screening test is less than \$100.

Judge Kimberly Moore, who penned a concurring opinion for the Federal Circuit last year, wrote that the Myriad patents "raise substantial moral and ethical issues related to awarding a property right to isolated portions of human DNA—the very thing that makes us humans, and not chimpanzees."

But she also said the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has allowed patents on DNA sequences for decades and that disturbing the industry's long-held expectations risked impeding innovation.

Tim Worrall, a partner at Dorsey & Whitney LLP who counsels pharmaceutical and life-sciences clients on patent matters, said a loss for Myriad could threaten DNA-related patents in sectors including agriculture, biopharmaceuticals and cosmetics. (Myriad isn't a Dorsey client.)

"The effect on the biotechnology industry would be really quite severe," Mr. Worrall said.





I United States of America
the beautiful
I am drunk drunk drunk



A DIFFERENT KIND OF FARMING

Microsoft bought 75 acres of bean fields in Quincy, Wash., to build a server farm, the white buildings in the foreground, to process and store data. Concerns have arisen about diesel emissions from the center's backup generators because of its proximity to an elementary school, the building shaped like an inverted T.

Data Barns in a Farm Town Gobble Power and Flex Muscle

From Page A1

The episode was "a one-time event that was quickly resolved."

Internet-based industries have honed a reputation for sleek, clean convenience based on the magic they deliver to screens everywhere. At the heart of every Internet enterprise are data centers, which have become more sprawling and ubiquitous as the amount of stored information explodes, sprawling in community after community.

But the Microsoft experience in Quincy shows that when these Internet factories come to town, they can feel a bit more like old-time manufacturing than modern magic.

In Santa Clara, Calif., a hub of technology facilities in Silicon Valley, diesel emissions from generators at a Microsoft data center caught the attention of regulators for potentially threatening the health of workers at nearby businesses. Microsoft, which was notified by state regulators last year, says it has reduced its emissions.

Over the last few years, Quincy has become an unlikely technology outpost, with five data centers and a sixth under construction. Far from the software meccas of Northern California or Seattle, Quincy has barely 6,900 residents, two hardware stores, two supermarkets, no movie theater and a main drag, State Route 28, whose largest buildings are mostly food packers and processors. Its tallest building is a grain elevator.

"A farming community in the middle of a desert," said Warren Morgan, the president of Double Diamond Fruit.

The remarkable scale of the Quincy data centers, and their power demands, have made this town something of a test tube for studying the planet's exploding need to house and process digital information.

The data centers, which include Yahoo and Dell facilities, wound up in Quincy by way of the Columbia. The river flows 1,200 miles from the mountains of British Columbia to the spectacular gorge between Oregon and Washington, where the water crashes into the Pacific Ocean.

Along the way, about a dozen large

hydroelectric dams tame the river, providing irrigation for farms and the cheap, plentiful power that has become a magnet for large agricultural operations and heavy industries like aluminum, steel, paper and chemical plants.

When Microsoft was searching the country for a location for its new installation, the Grant County Public Utility District, which owns two of the dams, says it offered the company rates that would range from 2.5 cents to 3.8 cents per kilowatt-hour in its first five years — far below the national industrial average of 6 cents to 7 cents, according to analysis based on federal figures by the Electric Power Research Institute. The power from dams is also highly reliable, a critical factor for data centers, which can crash with the slightest interruption.

Beyond power, Washington State has awarded the industry lucrative tax breaks, ostensibly to promote growth in rural areas. Although the initial expectations that private fortunes would be made on land sales and housing developments were quickly dashed, Quincy's revenue from property taxes, which data centers do pay, has risen from \$815,250 in 2003 to a projected \$3.6 million this year, paying for a library and repaved streets, among other benefits, according to Tim Sneed, the city administrator.

A New Era Begins

The ribbon cutting on April 16, 2007, for Microsoft's "server farm," as the buildings containing thousands of modular computers or servers are often called, had all the trappings of a proud civic unveiling, with speeches by area dignitaries. Michael Manos, the company's general manager for data center services at the time, walked away with a small bag of beans from the field's final crop. It carried a message: "Preparing the Site for Another Farmer: Microsoft."

"We thought that Microsoft would bring a certain air of class to our town," said Danna Dal Porto, a retired teacher. Just three days after the ribbon cutting, Microsoft began flexing its muscle.



HYDROELECTRIC LURE

Wanapum Dam is one of about a dozen on the Columbia River that help provide relatively cheap power to farms and industry.

Mr. Manos wrote to the utility commissioners complaining that they were slow in building a substation to provide 48 million watts of electrical capacity to Microsoft. That would be enough to power about 29,000 American homes, according to an analysis based on federal figures conducted by the Electric Power Research Institute — about four homes for every person in Quincy.

Mr. Manos said the pace of construction "dramatically affects our agility as a business," adding that "our confidence is becoming quite shaky." If construction could not be accelerated, Mr. Manos asked, would Microsoft be eligible for \$700,000 in reimbursements? Some local officials were taken aback at what Mr. Culbertson, the former utility general manager, called "a level of arrogance."

"Microsoft had lot of expectations," he said. "Early on, I don't think it was as cooperative as it could have been."

The stakes for Microsoft were high. According to current and former company employees, its Quincy servers ran Bing — its challenge to Google's search engine — the Hotmail service and other so-called cloud functions.

While the term "cloud" is often used loosely to refer to remote memory or other computing services accessed by the Internet, it is hardly some vaporous formation. "Quite simply, data centers are the cloud," Eric S. Laschever, a Microsoft lawyer, said during the legal challenge to its backup generators. "You've seen it on TV. The heart of the cloud are these data centers, and the data centers are really at the heart of Microsoft's business."

Microsoft's operation has now spread to four buildings and is the largest of Quincy's data centers. Taken together, Microsoft and Yahoo's operations overwhelm all nonindustrial electric usage, utility figures show. All residential and small commercial accounts in Quincy consumed an average of 9.5 million watts last year, while Microsoft and Yahoo used 41.8 million watts, the utility said.

The loads are growing so fast that some local residents and business owners — particularly irrigation farmers, who also depend on low-cost electricity — are concerned. With other industries also chasing low electricity prices, the

increases could lead to higher prices or even a shortage of available power from the dams.

Sarah Morford, a spokeswoman for the utility, said that it did not expect the capacity of the dams to be exceeded "in the foreseeable future."

Even so, the growing data centers have given the City of Quincy's Web site a new motto: "Where Agriculture Meets Technology."

A Diesel Dependence

Not long after Microsoft arrived in 2005, Robert Koster, an environmental engineer in the Spokane office of the Washington State Department of Ecology, was assigned to review the company's request for permits for 24 diesel generators.

Such huge backup generators, which can weigh thousands of pounds and stand over 10 feet tall, produce thousands of horsepower — enough to generate two million to three million watts each.

Back then, Mr. Koster said, he had little experience with data centers and no inkling of the avalanche of servers about to descend on Quincy. "Microsoft was our first indication that we were going to see this kind of project here," Mr. Koster said. "At the time, we were in scramble mode to permit our first one of these data centers."

Although emissions containing diesel particulates are an environmental threat, they were not yet classified as toxic pollutants in Washington. The original permit did not impose stringent limits, allowing Microsoft to operate its generators for a combined total of more than 6,000 hours a year for "emergency backup electrical power" or unspecified "maintenance purposes."

In 2010, during an expansion of the data center, Microsoft repeatedly rained the center on generator power. The Microsoft spokeswoman, Andrea Pfaff, said the company was forced to rely on the generators "at certain times" that year because the utility needed to perform work on a substation.

The utility, however, said its documents indicated that Microsoft asked to

Washington is pushing to work tougher IP rules into new trade deals to protect creative industries but emerging markets suspect that the terms could be loaded against them.

By Alan Beattie



The early modern European pioneers of global trade ventured abroad with "letters patent" from their monarchs and sent back royalties for the use of the sovereign's name. These days, royalties accrue to the rising barons of the global economy: the makers of Internet technology, pharmaceuticals, music and films. Global trade, once a matter of ports, trucks and container ships, is increasingly a question of patents, trademarks and copyright.

The US, the imperial capital of intellectual property (IP) rights, now earns almost as much in royalty and license fee payments from abroad as from its famed farm exports — and the net surplus in royalties for the US last year was twice as big as for agriculture.

But the global spread of IP rights, with Washington as their most enthusiastic advocate, has met resistance. Critics charge that, through its attempts to write IP rules into trade agreements, the US is promoting a one-sided — even dysfunctional — IP rights culture around the world.

Keith Maskus, an expert on IP and trade at the University of Colorado, says: "There is a lot of truth to the claim that the US has exported its IP law — and the pathology of its IP law."

Intellectual property has been an established if controversial part of trade deals since the early 1980s, when Washington succeeded in writing the Trips (trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights) agreement into WTO law. Trips, to the anger of some developing countries dependent on generic pharmaceutical production, forced WTO members to enact a minimum level of patent, copyright and trademark protection.

Many nations argued this was overkill and the move also disturbed some orthodox free-trade economists, who noted that granting a monopoly right like a patent is a very different principle to lowering import tariffs to liberalize commerce.

As the software, technology and entertainment industries have grown, and the digitization of media and the Internet have integrated global markets, the US — continually lobbied by the likes of Disney, Universal and Microsoft — has pushed for ever tougher rules. For them, it is about rule of law for some developing countries, and campaigners already skeptical of trade pacts, it is another power grab by rich-world companies.

Strong opposition to IP from developing countries kept the issue out of the global "Doha round" of WTO trade talks, launched in 2001. But with the Doha round in effect dead, the US has pursued the issue in smaller deals where it has relatively more clout. Chief among them is the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) with eight other Asia-Pacific countries, for which talks were launched in 2003 and which the US wants to turn into a global template for future pacts.

It is hard to assess progress in the TPP talks: apart from occasional leaked copies, the negotiating documents are largely kept secret. But there is no doubt that IP, and particularly copyright, is controversial.

The US administration insists that it is only trying to extend principles that already exist in American law, trading off incentives for producers with access for consumers. "It is important to make clear that we are looking for a balanced copyright ecosystem," a US official says.

Even that is too much for some. The US, under constant lobbying from the entertainment industries, has rela-

tively stringent laws on copyright, its Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 placed more onus on online service providers such as YouTube or eBay to take down copyrighted material, shielding them from liability for posting unlicensed photos or video only if they followed a precise set of rules. It also criminalized attempts to circumvent the digital locks used to protect against copyright infringement, such as "jailbreaking" cell-phones to allow them to run unapproved applications. The provisions in US law for "fair use" of copyrighted

material — for example for teaching or research — are relatively tight. Susan Aaronson, professor of international affairs at George Washington University, says: "The US has a limited idea of fair use, which we largely delegate to companies. This is not how it is done in other countries."

While lower-income nations in the TPP, such as Vietnam, often have straightforward rule-of-law IP problems like counterfeiting, even TPP members with more advanced economies, such as Chile, would have to make sweeping changes under the US proposal.

Chile, which last renewed its copyright law in 2010, has relatively strong protection for Internet service providers and users against action for copyright infringement, and would prefer that the TPP simply reaffirm existing treaties such as Trips. Instead, the US has pressed Chile to tighten its rules, placing it on its "priority watch list" for IP violations along with nations such as Russia, China and Venezuela, and pushed the issue hard in TPP.

Leaked negotiating documents have shown the TPP countries far apart on copyright, with Chile's resistance to US pressure shared by others including New Zealand, Malaysia and Vietnam. Reports suggest Chilean officials have mused publicly about whether it

is worth participating in the TPP, given that its exports already have good access to the US market through a bilateral trade deal.

Even those who broadly support the US IP regime say the Obama administration's negotiating strategy risks exporting an unbalanced version. In the US, so-called "limitations and exceptions" to copyright have been carved out through case law and administrative decision, with powerful Internet and telecoms companies acting as a counterweight to the entertainment lobby (see sidebar). The Librarian of Congress, for example, has exercised a right to issue temporary exemptions from the digital lock circumvention rules for certain types of material, such as DVD clips used for university teaching.

Matthew Schreier, vice-president for law and policy at the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), is concerned that the countervailing forces in the domestic debate have less sway in trade talks. "The US gives IP service to limitations but they tend to be optional, whereas the obligations are compulsory," he says. "If you only export half a law, you can expect a bad reaction."

The US administration says it has taken such concerns into account, though it took a long time to articulate them. This July, more than two years into the talks, the US trade representative's office (USTR) publicly released the outlines of a proposal to enshrine limitations and exceptions

to copyright law in the TPP. Campaigners were instantly suspicious, not least because actual texts, as ever, remained confidential. "This proposal could actually make things worse by subjecting existing exceptions to a new and restrictive test," says Carolina Rossini of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, an Internet rights campaign group. US officials say such concerns are unwarranted and that they have no intention of changing the rules governing so-called "small exceptions" in international treaties. These protect copyrighted material in quotations, news reporting and teaching.

USTR also defends its secrecy policy, saying it has conducted "unprecedented outreach" — while maintaining a level of confidentiality necessary to preserve the strategic ability of US negotiators to strike a strong agreement. Yet the precise details of the talks remain largely closed from the public, stoking suspicion about the version of IP law that the US is trying to foist on its trading partners.

Moreover, whatever the original intent of the negotiators, the experience of IP in past trade agreements counsels caution. Australia, another TPP country, has discovered how IP rules in international pacts can turn a domestic policy area of cherished sovereignty like public health into an unexpected battleground.

Last year Australia passed a law requiring all cigarettes to be sold in plain olive-green packaging to discourage smoking. Canberra has been embroiled in legal fights with the global tobacco lobby ever since, cigarette manufacturers claiming the action violates IP rights by assaulting the value of their trademarks.

Last month Australia's high court dismissed a constitutional challenge on those grounds by manufacturers. But Canberra still faces litigation in international forums. Ukraine, Honduras and the Dominican Republic have started cases against Australia at the WTO, arguing that the plain-packaging rules break the Trips agreement.

Philip Morris, like other tobacco companies, is working with the Dominican Republic on its case, including covering some of the government's legal costs, as is common practice in WTO litigation. The company has also aroused particular irritation in Australia by bringing a separate claim of unfair appropriation using the "investor-state" litigation mechanism, which allows a company to sue a government directly, in an Australian bilateral investment treaty with Hong Kong. Philip Morris shifted its holdings from Australia to Hong Kong shortly before launching the case to give it legal standing under the treaty — raising concerns that foreign companies have more rights in Australia than domestic businesses.

Philip Morris defends both that maneuver — which predated the introduction of the plain packaging bill, though not the government's promise to legislate — and the substance of the complaint. "This is an IP issue because nobody has produced any credible evidence to demonstrate that plain packaging would benefit public health," the company says.

Australia's government, in a sharp break from the country's tradition — and to the concern of Australian companies operating abroad — now says it will refuse to sign future treaties with investor-state provisions and has denounced an exemption from a proposed such mechanism in the TPP.

Whether the WTO and investment treaty litigation against Australia will succeed is unclear. Refusing to allow tobacco companies to sue their branding is not the same as the government stealing trademarks by copying them for its own use.

But the case underlines the potential for IP rules in trade deals to arouse fierce dissent. Luke Nottage, a law professor at Sydney University, argues that the Australian government's decision is an overreaction, and says that it could simply rewrite investment treaties to exclude IP assets. But he notes: "IP is an area where national interests are strong and often in tension... it is overruling other issues like services agreements in its ability to create controversy."

As the global economy shifts online and more of its value-added comes from research and design rather than fields and factories, few doubt the need for rules allowing the creators of valuable content to be properly rewarded. But acceptance and adoption of these laws may depend on their flexibility over time and between different countries. For now, a widespread suspicion remains that such rules are mainly being written by their beneficiaries.

Internet companies

A weak voice in lobbying trade talks

Debates over intellectual property rights, free speech and the Internet are hardly new or exclusive to international trade pacts. Earlier this year the US Congress staged a fierce argument over two proposed bills — the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect IP Act (PIPA).

According to their opponents, the bills sought to turn search engines and media sites into IP police by preventing them doing business with, linking to or providing Internet service for websites selling pirated material.

Supporters of the measures, the mighty US recording and movie-making lobby, for once found equally vigorous opponents: Internet and technology operations such as Google, PayPal and Wikipedia, which organized huge online campaigns and succeeded in getting both bills dropped. Internet

and technology companies have also established limitations to exiting US copyright law: eBay has fought off what courts agreed were overly aggressive legal challenges under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

So why does it appear that those countervailing forces have much less sway in setting US trade negotiating priorities? (US officials claim they consult a broad range of interests but Internet companies insist there is a bias.)

Scott Lincome, a trade lawyer at White & Case in Washington, says Internet companies are relatively recent arrivals and trade negotiations are a complex and time-intensive process to lobby. "These newer sectors tend not to have very sophisticated trade lobbying outfits," he says. "They are up against software, pharma and entertainment

guys who been at it a long time and regard IP as their existence."

It is much easier for Google to assemble an online petition against SOPA or PIPA or for Wikipedia to take its own site down for a day in protest, as it did in January, than to lobby international talks that last for years.

Only last week, a group of companies including Google, Amazon, Yahoo and Facebook launched The Internet Association, a lobbying group. In emerging markets where IP enforcement is weak, technology companies often have divided interests. Many have trademarks and patents to protect.

Technology companies do all their advocacy with an eye to how it might one day apply in China. Mr Lincome says, "Their interests in IP are not out and dried."

Speed read

● **Increasing importance** The US now earns almost as much in royalty and license fee payments from abroad as from its farm exports

● **After Doha** Washington is now pursuing tougher IP rules in trade deals such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership with eight other countries

● **Secret talks** It is hard to gauge progress in the TPP talks, started in 2001, as they are confidential, fanning suspicion about the US's IP plans

On the web

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40 injured after Foxconn plant clashes

By ZHENG JINRAN in Beijing
SUN RUISENG in Taiyuan
and HUANG YULI in Shenzhen

Some 40 people were injured after clashes broke out at a Foxconn Technology Group plant dormitory in the northern city of Taiyuan late Sunday, police said.

Workers at the factory, which employs about 79,000 people, told China Daily that the clashes erupted after the plant's security staff beat up a worker.

The company, which is a major Apple supplier and that has recently been shrouded in controversy over its working conditions, said that the incidents were not work related.

On Monday, workers said that the factory did not resume production that day, and that they did not know when they would work again.

Three workers were in serious condition after the incidents, while most of the other workers were only slightly injured, according to the initial investigation from the public security bureau of Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi province.

Taiwan's Foxconn, which is also the world's largest electronics manufacturing company, said that a personal dispute between employees escalated into a more serious incident at about 11 pm on Sunday in a dormitory near its Taiyuan plant.

Taiyuan's public security bureau said that the incident involved 2,000 workers and attracted more than 10,000 local people, who went to the

facilities to watch the fighting, and that it triggered chaos in the area surrounding the plant.

About 5,000 police officers were sent to the scene, and had the incident under control at 9 am on Monday.

"According to the police, a number of individuals were arrested," Foxconn spokesman Louis Woo said on Monday.

"We are working closely with the police in this process, but it appears not to have been work related," Woo said.

According to the police's initial investigation, the fight broke out between workers from Shandong and Henan provinces.

Debris such as broken windows and destroyed cars could be seen around the plant after the clashes.

The workers said that previous incidents between fellow workers and security staff may also have led to the incident, due to simmering anger.

The company, which recently relocated its plants on coastal areas to inner provinces such as Henan province, has drawn criticism due to its harsh working conditions after a series of workers committed suicide about two years ago and several others were injured in work-related accidents.

Ji Feng, secretary-general of the Citygate Industrial Relations Forum, a non-profit organization based in Shenzhen, said the frequent reports of unrest or suicides at Foxconn also show the



WEI LIANG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

A car is seen turned upside down on Monday in the Foxconn plant in Taiyuan after rioting.

"uneasiness of the new generation of migrant workers".

He said that the members of the new generation, mostly born in the 1980s, feel isolated and discriminated against.

"They work hard but cannot realize their dreams, they cannot integrate," he said.

Ji believed that Foxconn has caught the public's attention mainly because it is an Apple supplier.

"In fact, working conditions in many medium and small factories are much worse," Ji said.

He said that Apple should pay more attention to the workers assembling its products in China, as the United States-based company has "an inescapable responsibility".



SUN RUISENG / CHINA DAILY

A destroyed electronic parking display at the north gate of the Foxconn plant in Taiyuan, Shanxi province, on Monday, after rioting by its workers erupted on Sunday night.

Foxconn, which assembles Apple's iPhones and makes components for top global electronics companies, has about 1 million employees on

the Chinese mainland.

Contact the writers through
zhengjinran@chinadaily.com.cn

WORLD NEWS

Mexico Strikes Back Against Cartel

Navy Says It Killed Leader of Vicious Zetas Drug Gang—Then Gunmen Stole His Corpse; U.S. Awaits DNA Proof

By JOSÉ DE CORDOBA
AND NICHOLAS CASEY

The Mexican Navy said its marines killed the leader of the country's most ruthless drug cartel in a firefight, identifying him by his fingerprints. But in an embarrassing twist, a state prosecutor on Tuesday said gunmen later burst into a funeral home and stole the dead man's body.

The corpse's theft raised doubts that the cartel leader, Heriberto Lazcano, had been slain. A U.S. official said the U.S., which had a \$5 million bounty on Mr. Lazcano, was checking DNA samples provided by Mexico to confirm his identity.

Mr. Lazcano, known by his nicknames as "Lazca" or "el Verdugo," (the Executioner), deserted an elite Mexican army unit and rose to head the Zetas, which is considered to be Mexico's most brutal cartel.

If confirmed, Mr. Lazcano's death in a firefight along a road in the northern border state of Coahuila would be a huge victory for the Mexican government and another triumph for the Navy, which has been responsible for many of the blows dealt to the country's powerful drug cartels.

However, many analysts said Mr. Lazcano's apparent killing was likely to lead to a rise of violence, as rivals within the organization fight for control while fending off attempts from competing cartels, a pattern that has been repeated with other criminal organizations.

The events come just two

months before President-elect Enrique Peña Nieto takes office. The new leader has vowed to keep going after drug traffickers, while concentrating on lowering violent crimes that have a big impact on the population, such as homicides, kidnappings and extortions.

The Mexican Navy said one of its patrols ran into a convoy carrying Mr. Lazcano on a road about 80 miles west of Laredo, Texas, on Monday. It said a firefight began when the marines were attacked by grenades thrown from a moving vehicle. One Navy marine was wounded, and two of the gunmen were killed. The Navy said it seized weapons including rocket-propelled grenades.

In a news conference, Coahuila Attorney General Homero Ramos said a group of gunmen raided the funeral home where the two bodies were being kept, stealing the cadavers. Mr. Ramos said the assailants forced the funeral-home director to drive a hearse away with the body inside.

Some Mexicans worried that the body's theft would lead to conspiracy theories, as happened in 1997 when the late drug kingpin Amado Carrillo Fuentes, known as the "Lord of the Skies," died while undergoing cosmetic surgery to alter his appearance. "Once more what could have been a success in the war against organized crime becomes a problem when the body is 'stolen,'" wrote Juan Ignacio Gil Anton on a Mexican political blog. "It hap-



Soldiers in the northern Mexican state of Coahuila had a firefight Monday with a convoy the navy said was carrying Mr. Lazcano, the Zetas leader.

pened with the Lord of the Skies. Will it happen with Lazca?"

Mr. Lazcano's apparent killing would be the third major blow to the Zetas in recent weeks. On Sept. 26, Iván Velázquez Caballero, a Zetas kingpin known as "El Talibán" or Z50, was captured in a shootout in San Luis Potosí. This past Sunday, officials detained Salvador Martínez Escobedo, who Mexican authorities blamed for the barbaric slaughter of 72 migrants on a secluded ranch in the border state

of Tamaulipas in 2010. Mr. Lazcano's apparent death clears the path for Miguel Ángel Treviño, known as Z-40, a Lazcano rival, to lead the Zetas. Mexican officials said Mr. Lazcano's apparent death may have been tied to the Oct. 3 killing, also in Coahuila state, of José Eduardo Moreira, the son of the state's former Gov. Humberto Moreira, an ex-head of the Institutional Revolutionary Party and close Peña Nieto ally. The government responded to

that killing last week by deploying 1,500 Navy, Army and federal police to pacify the state, which it considered increasingly lawless. It is unclear if the surge led to Mr. Lazcano's death. Mr. Lazcano's apparent death would likely boost the fortunes of the Sinaloa cartel, led by Mexico's most powerful drug dealer Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán. The Sinaloa Cartel, allied with the diminished Gulf Cartel, has been fighting for control of drug routes in the northern states of

Tamaulipas, Nuevo León, and Coahuila. George Grayson, a Zetas expert at the College of William & Mary who wrote a book on the gang called "The Executioner's Men," said the Gulf Cartel, which was weakened during a vicious war there in 2010, has largely regained its footing in the state of Tamaulipas and is likely to renew fighting. "I don't think the killing will reduce violence in the north, if anything it will accelerate it," Mr. Grayson said.

Critics skeptical as Swiss unveil 'young' Mona Lisa

A SWISS foundation yesterday unveiled what it said was an earlier version of the "Mona Lisa" painted by Leonardo da Vinci, although some experts said the claim was unlikely.

Before carefully pulling back long velvet white drapes to reveal a radiant painting of what looks like a younger version of the Mona Lisa displayed in the Louvre, the Zurich-based Mona Lisa Foundation said it had evidence the work had indeed been executed by the Italian master.

"Historical evidence suggests that Leonardo da Vinci left unfinished an earlier portrait of Mona Lisa in which she is flanked by side columns," the foundation said in a statement.

The foundation had gathered a number of experts in Geneva to testify to the probability that the portrait, known as the "Isleworth Mona Lisa," had been painted but left unfinished by da Vinci about a decade before he completed its famous sister.

Alessandro Vezzosi, director

of the Leonardo da Vinci Museum in Vinci, Italy, and a renowned expert on the artist and the Mona Lisa, whetted the appetites of the 100 journalists, describing the painting as "an important work of art."

He said the foundation's claim that the two paintings portray Lisa del Giocondo at two different moments of her life was "a fascinating possibility."

Joe Mullins, a forensic specialist trained at the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, described how he had "age regressed" the original "Mona Lisa" to determine what she would have looked like 11 to 12 years earlier. He described himself as a "digital plastic surgeon," giving the painting "a digital facelift and Botox."

Showing pictures to reporters, he pointed out: "Everything lined up perfectly. Based on my experience... the facts and the images speak for themselves...."

"This is 'Mona Lisa,' two different images at two different

times in her life."

The "Isleworth Mona Lisa" was bought in 2003 by a private consortium that remains anonymous, so it is unclear who would benefit from its unveiling after 40 years in a Swiss vault.

However, several experts said they suspected the Italian master had not painted an earlier version. "The 'Isleworth Mona Lisa' mistranslates subtle details of the original, including the sitter's veil, her hair, the translucent layer of her dress, the structure of the hands. The landscape is devoid of atmospheric subtlety," Oxford University art historian Martin Kemp said in a statement.

Others also voiced scepticism about the "earlier version" claim, but refused to be cited.

Paris's famed Louvre Museum also refused to comment on whether it believed the painting displayed yesterday was in fact an earlier version of the world-famous "Mona Lisa" it houses.

(AFP)

YVES SAINT LAURENT
HALSTON

February 6 - April 18, 2015

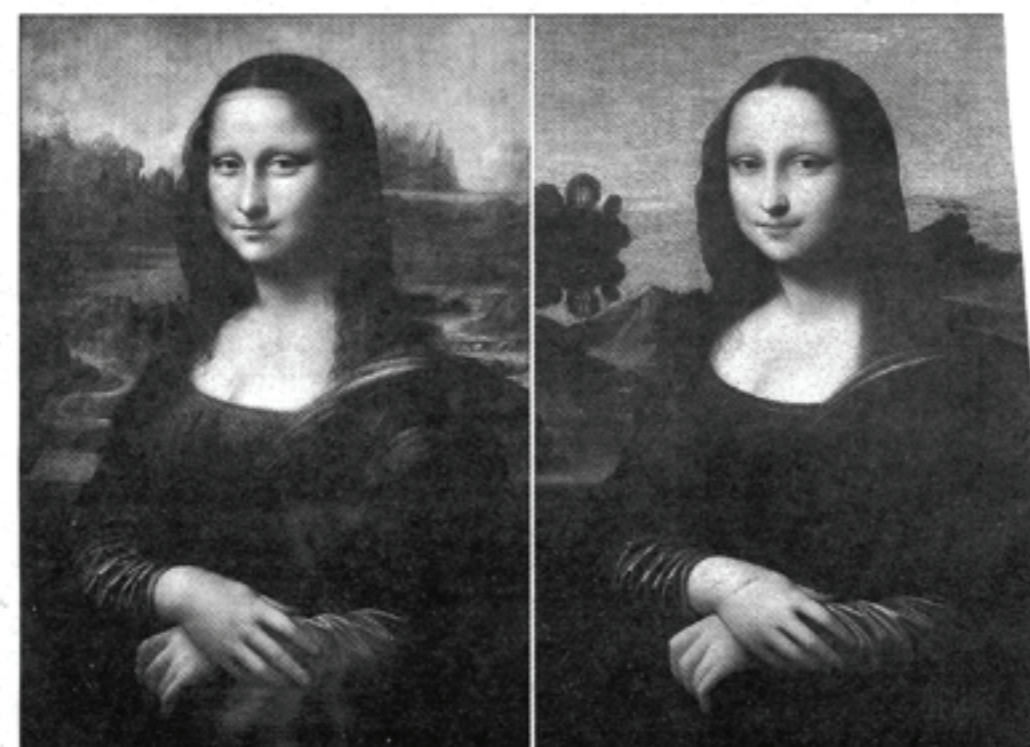
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December 2, 2014 - April 25, 2015

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A two-picture combo shows Leonardo Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" in Paris' Louvre Museum (left) and a picture released by a Swiss foundation of what is believed to be its earlier version. — AFP



Protecting intellectual property rights

Recently I signed up with Wanfang, China's public "pay-to-read" portal for academic papers. The site is easy to navigate and sophisticated in function, with bibliographies, citation statistics and buttons you can click to share an article using social networking sites. Someone has invested some serious money and the site is poised to become a market-place for research papers in China.

The "pay-to-read" website for research papers helps to illustrate how far China has progressed in protecting intellectual property over the past few decades.

China's progress in protecting intellectual property rights has been marked by several milestones, such as China's joining of the World Intellectual Property Organization and other world conventions, as well as the signing of bilateral agreements with individual countries on the matter. Most of these agreements were signed in the 1980s and 1990s when China was struggling to convince skeptical observers that efforts were under way to protect international intellectual property.

Yet during the same period, China

strengthened IP protection domestically by developing new laws or amending old ones. It is an increasingly common understanding that we as a nation are doing ourselves a disservice by tolerating copyright infringements, as creativity and innovation are at risk if the works of scientists, artists and engineers are not protected. Awareness has grown so that today a university professor violating someone else's copyright can spill out of the ivory tower of academia to become national news.

In the late 1980s to early 1990s, translations of books like *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by the Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Márquez were readily available on college campuses in China. These translations were tremendously popular. But the authors and their publishers never gained a cent from these translations as they were all unauthorized. Last year, Thinkingdom Media Group was said to have paid a million dollars for the right to translate and sell *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in China.

The novel *IQ84* was also said to have brought the Japanese author Haruki Murakami a million dollars

in royalties in China. There might be some marketing gimmicks for deals like this, but still, a million dollars?

As a translator and writer, I have personally witnessed the change in IP protection that has taken place over the past two decades. However, through my work I have found that international authors, publishers and agents are still sometimes overtly cautious of publishing in China, because they have an impression of China's IP protection that is decades out of date. They risk missing out on the opportunities that the publishing industry in China has to offer now. I think in a few years, the prices will regress to more moderate levels with million-dollar deals the stuff of legends.

In other fields, I also see large improvements in IP protection. As a columnist and blogger, my works used to be republished on many sites without my permission. In the last two years, however, I see that more people ask for permission to use my content.

This change is happening thanks to stronger laws and regulations on the one hand, and publishers' heightened self-regulation on the

other. Last year, for instance, Caixin News found that a number of sites took an article I wrote for their site without my permission. The editor, Tan Juan, took the trouble to contact the administrator of each and every one of these sites to ask them to remove the article. I was really impressed with such dedication and respect for my work.

Copyrights have much to do with protecting the creative professions' ability to make a profit. It is encouraging to find that there is so much interest in China now to protect IP. Countries, like people, go through developmental stages. There was a time when Charles Dickens complained of not making a penny for his works in the United States. Now the US has a library of laws to make sure people like Dickens get what they deserve.

China may still have some way to go in its development, but it is definitely profitable to establish a presence in China now.

The author is a US-based instructional designer, literary translator and columnist writing on cross-cultural issues.

Burn iPhone abominations, rabbi orders followers

AN influential ultra-Orthodox Israeli rabbi ordered his followers this week to burn their iPhones, the latest move in a campaign by the insular community to encourage its members to keep the outside world — and specifically the Internet — at bay.

The decree by Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky, 84, came ahead of Judaism's holiest day, Yom Kippur, which was yesterday. It said that it was forbidden to own the smartphone, and those who already had one must burn it.

The religious Yated Neeman newspaper published the ban on its front page at the same time as mainstream Israeli newspapers were gushing about Apple's eagerly awaited iPhone 5.

Israel's growing ultra-Orthodox minority tenaciously guards its traditional way of life against the influence of the secular majority. Many shun TVs and computers to avoid images that break their standards of modesty and values.

The iPhone prohibition comes amid a push in recent months

by ultra-religious Jewish leaders around the world to steer their flock away from the temptations of the Internet.

Tens of thousands of black-suited Jewish men gathered in a New York stadium in May to hear some of the community's most famed rabbis lecture on the dangers of what they deemed immoral content accessible via computers and smartphone.

The rally was broadcast live to other crowds in stadiums in London and Jerusalem.

After this week's decree, large

posters sprang up throughout Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods, calling iPhones "an abomination 24 hours a day." They called on community members to kick iPhone owners out of religious seminaries, and warned them to keep their children away from the children of iPhone users.

Ultra-Orthodox rabbis had stepped up their campaigns against smartphones in the lead-up to Yom Kippur, a period of religious introspection.

At the entrance to Jerusalem's

outdoor vegetable market, a group of ultra-Orthodox Jewish men in traditional long black coats and black fedoras showed off their "kosher" cell phones — simple devices with Internet access and video capabilities blocked, stamped with a seal of approval by a rabbinical council. They said iPhones are dangerous.

"It takes over your life. It takes over your mind," said Yitzhak Kabalo, 46, a telemarketer for ultra-Orthodox charities.

(AP)

SHANGHAI

Today	Tomorrow	Thursday	Air quality (Today)	
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20/ 27°C (68/81°F)	20/ 26°C (68/79°F)	19/ 26°C (66/79°F)	6am-noon Excellent noon-6pm Excellent	

CHINA



WORLD

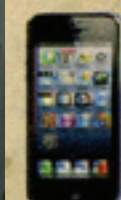
Amsterdam	10/17	50/62	rain	Geneva	13/24	55/ 75	sunny	New Delhi	23/33	74/92	sunny
Athens	21/31	69/87	sunny	Helsinki	8/9	46/48	sunny	New York	15/23	59/73	sunny
Bangkok	25/32	77/90	t-storms	Islamabad	20/32	68/90	sunny	Paris	13/16	55/61	rain
Berlin	12/22	53/72	sunny	Istanbul	21/26	69/79	sunny	Rome	18/24	65/76	sunny
Brussels	11/17	51/62	rain	Jakarta	26/33	78/92	t-storms	San Francisco	14/22	57/72	sunny
Buenos Aires	3/15	37/59	sunny	Jerusalem	15/28	59/82	sunny	Seoul	14/26	57/79	sunny
Cairo	21/31	69/88	sunny	London	10/16	50/61	sunny	Singapore	26/31	78/88	t-storms
Chicago	14/24	58/75	sunny	Los Angeles	17/27	62/80	sunny	Sydney	11/19	51/66	sunny
Copenhagen	11/16	52/60	showers	Madrid	12/21	53/70	sunny	Tokyo	19/23	67/74	rain
Edinburgh	9/11	49/52	rain	Manila	26/31	78/88	t-storms	Toronto	14/22	57/71	sunny
Frankfurt	11/19	51/66	sunny	Moscow	7/11	44/52	rain	Washington	16/24	61/76	sunny



TECHNOLOGY

Inside the iPhone 5

The new model is estimated to cost Apple about \$9 more than the predecessor, due to the larger display and added wireless technology.



IPHONE 5
16 GB
VERSION
IPHONE 4S

COMPONENTS (PRICE)

DISPLAY & TOUCHSCREEN	MEMORY	PROCESSOR
\$44	\$20.85	\$17.50
\$37	\$28.30	\$15

TOTAL COST OF COMPONENTS

\$197	\$188
\$649	\$649
RETAIL PRICE	

Note: Cost of materials doesn't include manufacturing, software or royalties. Numbers do not total due to rounding. Source and photos: IHS iSuppli Research



Dubbing artists won't be silenced

Languages
Miles Johnson talks to voice actors charged with harming education

For most film fans, the rise and fall of a star's career is little more than a footnote in Hollywood history.

However, for Spain's legion of film dubbing artists who provide the Castilian Spanish voices for foreign films in the country, the possibility of the original performers in Los Angeles churning out a series of turkeys, or heading into rehab, presents recurring risks to their livelihoods.

Film studios prefer that Hollywood actors are dubbed by the same voices in Spanish for each of their films. This enables the domestic audiences to become familiar with the dubbed voices, and regard them as the actors' own.

This means that the career fortunes of an actor can have large consequences for the careers of his or her dubs, while the original star is unlikely to meet the multitude of dubbing artists that translate every performance into dozens of languages.

Carlos Ysbert, a Spanish actor, and head of the Madrid Association of Dubbing Film Actors, has worked as the voices of John Goodman, Homer Simpson and James Gandolfini.

When the six seasons of *The Sopranos*, starring Mr Gandolfini as a mafia boss, came to a close, Mr Ysbert had to adjust to working less. After more than 20 years in the dubbing industry, he has become used to stars fading from view.

"He is a fine actor, but after the series I am doing practically nothing for him - maybe a few films," he says. "Actors get old, or have illnesses - it happens all the time."

These are the career risks for which a dubbing artist has always needed to be ready, but the most successful, such as Mr Ysbert, may have numerous roles as a hedge against one star disappearing, or a television series being axed.

More recently, dubbing artists have been drawn into a debate over their impact on wider society - forced to defend their profession against accusations that the norm of Spaniards not watching productions in the original language has held back the country's level of English.

The Madrid regional government has encouraged parents to show their children films and television programmes in English, in an attempt to improve their foreign language skills, and equip them to work in companies that increasingly demand polyglots.

As part of the region's policy to establish bilingual schools, a special television listing is produced to identify all the English language cartoons and films on local stations.

"In this moment when unemployment is so high, to know another language is not only an advantage, it is becoming a prerequisite,"

says Lucia Figar, head of education for the Madrid region.

"For children, I think it is evident that watching films in the original language can help," she says.

The relatively recent reappraisal of parts of Spain's education system to improve foreign language skills is built on a general perception that Spaniards have a lower grasp of English than countries from the North of Europe.

"It is a problem in Spain," says Bernhard Niesner, one of the founders of Busuu, a Madrid-based online language-learning company. "The education system, unfortunately, has not been so good, and even now they are thinking about getting rid of oral exams in some English degrees at university, meaning people can study for years and still not speak very well."

For Franz Heukamp, professor of Managerial Decision Sciences at IESE business school, the ability of Spaniards to speak important business languages such as English or German has become an increasingly hot topic since the onset of the financial crisis, partly due to the rising number of mostly young people looking abroad for employment.

"If they suddenly changed all dubbed films into English, the acceptance would not be high, as most people

'With an original language you might get the musicality of the film but it doesn't help you learn better English'

do not speak the language in Spain," he says.

He does not believe that dubbing films greatly limits the development of foreign language skills.

There is a wider cultural issue of how much people really wanted to learn a foreign language, but that is changing. I don't think there is really that large a difference in language skills among educated people in Spain than in many other European countries."

So why do so many Spaniards appear to believe that the country's English skills need dramatic improvement? One explanation is a tendency to be concerned about a speakers' accent, even when their command of English is strong.

The presidents of some leading Spanish businesses have stopped speaking English in public after being laughed at in Spain for their performance.

"There is a tendency for people to self-chastise, and people from Spain can be very worried about their accent, even when they speak excellent English," Mr Heukamp says.

Meanwhile, for the film dubbing artists, the idea that their profession is damaging Spain's educational standards is a sore subject.

"With an original language you might get the musicality of the film more, but it doesn't help you learn better English," says Mr Ysbert. "The demand for originals is still very low, so I am not worried."

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Good influences

Want to get people to do all you desire? Try these resources:

"Influence: The Psychology of Persuasion," by Robert B. Cialdini (HarperCollins, 2006).

"Yes! 50 Scientifically Proven Ways to Be Persuasive," by Noah J. Goldstein, Steve J. Martin and Robert B. Cialdini (Free Press, 2008).

workingpsychology.com, website of Kelton Rhoads of USC's Center on Public Diplomacy.

www.influenceatwork.com, website of consulting company founded by Cialdini.

mention that lots of other people are doing it. That's why his letter to Brit taxpayers was a billion-dollar success, Martin says. People may not want to follow the herd, Cialdini adds, but they do assume that other people make choices for a reason.

Play the consistency card: People will go to great lengths to avoid seeming flaky or wishy-washy. As Cialdini explains in his book, car salesmen exploit this trait by making fantastic "lowball" offers to potential customers. Once a customer decides to buy a car, he's unlikely to want to flake out on the deal even if the price mysteriously balloons — Oops! There was a mistake! — before he gets the keys. Or, for a less slimy example, you're more likely to get that raise or a promotion if you remind your boss that she has a long history of treating her employees well. (Surely she wouldn't want to change her tune now.)

Speak from authority: Your suggestions will be further if people think you're pulling



Future of Data: Encoded in DNA

By ROBERT LEE HOTZ

In the latest effort to contend with exploding quantities of digital data, researchers encoded an entire book into the genetic molecules of DNA, the basic building block of life, and then accurately read back the text.

The experiment, reported Thursday in the journal *Science*, may point a way toward eventual data-storage devices with vastly more capacity for their size than today's computer chips and drives.

"A device the size of your thumb could store as much information as the whole Internet," said Harvard University molecular geneticist George Church, the project's senior researcher.

In their work, the group translated the English text of a coming book on genomic engineering into actual DNA.

DNA contains genetic instructions written in a simple but

powerful code made up of four chemicals called bases: adenine (A), guanine (G), cytosine (C) and thymine (T).

The Harvard researchers started with the digital version of the book, which is composed of the ones and zeros that computers read. Next, on paper, they translated the zeros into either the A or C of the DNA base pairs, and changed the ones into either the G or T.

Then, using now-standard laboratory techniques, they created short strands of actual DNA that held the coded sequence—almost 55,000 strands in all. Each strand contained a portion of the text and an address that indicated where it occurred in the flow of the book.

In that form—a viscous liquid or solid salt—a billion copies of the book could fit easily into a test tube and, under normal conditions, last for centuries, the researchers said.

Please turn to the next page

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horóscopos

ARIES
21 de mar. > 20 de abr.

Podrán tomarse unas vacaciones y explorar nuevos lugares juntos. Vayan al campo y hospédense en una posada acogedora.

TAURO
21 abr. > 20 de may.

Rompan la monotonía y hagan algo distinto. Te sentirás más cerca de tu pareja si puedes tomarte una pequeña "luna de miel."

GÉMINIS
21 de may. > 20 de jun.

Te preguntarán si tienes futuro con esta persona que acabas de conocer. Siempre es mejor luchar, antes de quedarte con la duda.

CÁNCER
21 de jun. > 22 de jul.

Ofrecele a alguien tu ayuda y haz lo que esté a tu alcance, luego déjalo resolver sus asuntos por sí mismo. Pasará en unos pocos días.

LEO
23 de jul. > 22 de ago.

Una pareja o colega estará en medio de un cambio, te preguntarán si tienes futuro con esta persona. Aprovecha cualquier oportunidad.

VIRGO
23 de ago. > 22 de sep.

Éste es un buen día para atender tu físico. Quizás decidirás realizar ejercicios para tener más energía o cambiar tu alimentación.

LIBRA
23 de sep. > 22 de oct.

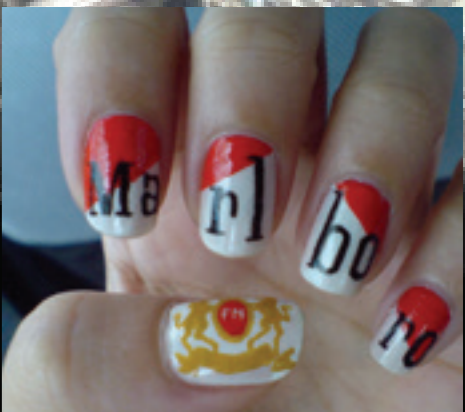
Tu cuerpo necesita mejor energía para mantenerse equilibrado. Si has estado sintiéndote presionado o cansado.

ESCORPIÓN
23 de oct. > 21 de nov.

Premoniciones inesperadas y sentimientos viscerales se harán sentir, especialmente en hechos por venir que no son para nada agradables.

SAGITARIO
22 de nov. > 21 de dic.

Estos sentimientos que recibes no son para que te preocupes o te alteres, sino para darte las pistas acerca de cómo manejarlos.



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