As early as in the 1940s, Mao Zedong began to emphasize the importance of developing industries, pointing out that industrialization should take top priority for China after the fall of imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucrat-capitalism. He envisioned the nascent People’s Republic of China (PRC) transformed from a country with an underdeveloped agriculture-based economy into an advanced industrial country with an independent and complete industrial system.

Laying the groundwork: 1949-1972

China had been void of any modern industry till 1949, when the PRC was founded. In the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), China built its first railway, power plant, and match factory; and the Jiangnan Shipyard, followed by other industries during the Republic of China period (1912-1949). However, imported equipment at the time was operated by foreign technicians. Industrialization and industrial system were nonexistent in China.

In the eight-year war against Japanese aggression (1937-1945) and the following three-year war of liberation, most of the few factories that had been in operation in the country were destroyed. By the time the PRC was founded, domestic industry consisted of no more than a handful of dilapidated, outdated factories.

China began industrialization in the 1950s. During this period, it received 6.6 billion rubles (US $1.65 billion) in assistance from the Soviet Union, exceeding the amount of U.S. aid to Germany under the Marshall Plan (US $1.45 billion), and China Insight

Fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S.

VOL. 18 NO. 6 中国展望  美
June 2019

Beijing’s new art installation?

Business & Economy

Chinese industry: a journey of 70 years

By Cai Qibi, China Today, April 30, 2019

March 2019: The carbon fiber production line of a factory in the Economic and Technological Development Zone of Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province

Continues on page 10
Publisher’s Pronouncements

Greetings:

As summer heats up, so do the number of great local outdoor activities scheduled throughout the Twin Cities area to capitalize on the arrival of summer vacations and great weather. This bodes well for all of the graduation ceremonies and parties to be held. We congratulate the Class of 2019 and wish them great success as they move on to the next chapter of their lives.

Although the 2020 U.S. presidential election is still a long way off, the Chinese American community must be enjoying some satisfaction in seeing Andrew Yang, one of its own, fairing well in the early stages of the campaign – he’s just been included in the top ten ten rankings by CNN. See page 16 for the updates and details on his recent visit to Minnesota.

Circle July 13 on your calendars. The Dragon Festival in St. Paul is celebrating 19 years of honoring the Pan-Asian heritage and spirit the weekend of July 13-14. It is 19 years of honoring the Pan-Asian heritage and spirit the weekend of July 13-14. It is

During the WWII years, Father’s Day (Baba Jie, 八八节 or 八爸) is not an official holiday, but is widely observed on August 8. People often take their fathers out for dinner, give gifts, or at least call them to give them a greeting.

As always, thank you for your support of China Insight.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh
President – CEO
China Insight, Inc.

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Entry Form

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Ethnicity

☐ Asian ☐ Caucasian ☐ Hispanic

☐ African American ☐ Other

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

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China Briefs

Itching nets traffic ticket
A motorist in Shandong Province choked his face while driving past a traffic camera. Next thing he knew, he received a traffic ticket and two demerit points for “using his mobile while driving.” He posted the photo on the traffic department’s Weibo account complaining he had no phone in his hand. His ticket was canceled.

A Weibo user recommended fellow motorists “to show your palm to the camera before you scratch!” Big Brother is watching.

Undies pay the bills
Six thousand pigs in HK were called to prevent the spread of African swine fever. What is a butcher who sells pork for a living to do when there’s no pork to sell? Sell undies! Women undies at that.
The butcher bought women undies in bulk for resale: undies at US$0.60 each, bras at US$1.30 each and t-shirts for US$2.50. Business is brisk and good enough to pay for rent and living expenses. Other butchers are considering the same path. Until the pork shortage is over, there’ll be plenty of cheap undies for sale.

Illegal names beget jail time
A dog breeder in his 30s in eastern China was detained by police because he announced the names of two of his dogs: Chengguan and Xieguan, online. According to the BBC, “Chengguan” refers to officials in urban areas who tackle low-level crimes and Xieguan are informal community workers such as traffic assistance.
The police said the names were “insulting law enforcement personnel,” and “caused great harm to the nation and the city’s urban management, in terms of their feelings.”

Snooping earns a beating
A Japanese tourist entered a building in Hong Kong’s red-light district known for “one-woman brothels.” The prostitute, who is in her 20s, was offering her “services” out of her own apartments, no law was broken. The prostitute was offering her services as a “one-woman brothel.” However, it is illegal to run a mere “dispute” and left.

On the other hand, mainland students mostly told the writer she should be ashamed of herself or her parents should be ashamed of her. One even threatened execution, stating, “Whomever opposes my greatest China, no matter how far they are, must be executed.”

Now, how would you respond if you were asked, “Where are you from?”

Max speed of 600 km/h
China is a step closer to production capacity in high-speed maglev engineering. A prototype magnetic levitation train designed to get up to a maximum speed of 600 kilometers per hour was unveiled in Shandong Province early May. This makes a major breakthrough by China in high-speed maglev trains and is a key project in the Ministry of Science and Technology’s 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020). Compared with standard bullet trains, high-speed maglev trains are quieter and vibrate less. They also can hold more passengers and cost less to maintain.

The prototype helps check and optimize key technologies and core system components of the maglev system. The world’s first maglev line was launched in Shanghai in 2002 with a speed of 430 km/h. The Japanese plan to put its 500 km/h maglev trains into operation by 2027.

All-white panda
The image of a rare all-white panda was captured in a nature reserve in China’s southwest Sichuan Province in mid-April 2019. A bear specialist from another Hong Kong college wrote, “She can speak up for all of us, or maybe a majority of us [who are worried about Hong Kong].”

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Now, how would you respond if you were asked, “Where are you from?”

Passing the torch
The 2008 Beijing Olympic torch used by then San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee in the torch relay will be donated to the Beijing Olympic Museum. A San Francisco group dedicated to collecting cultural relics for Chinese museums said the torch was from Anita Lee, widow of the first Chinese American to be elected mayor of SF. The mayor died suddenly in December 2017 after being in office for nearly seven years.
The torch donation will enhance the collection in Beijing, the venue of the 24th Winter Olympics in 2022.

Bruce Lee memorabilia
“Where are you from?” is an innocent and simple enough question, unless you’re from Hong Kong.

A junior at a Boston college penned a column in her campus paper titled “I am from Hong Kong, not China” and her opening line was, “I am from a city owned by a country I don’t belong to.” It sparked outrage from mainland Chinese students.

The column was picked up by Chinese online forums and received hundreds of comments. Many from students from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore expressed encouragement and support for the writer as they, too, had been pressured by mainland Chinese students to “fix” their identity because they “are Chinese.”

One Hong Konger from another Boston college wrote, “She can speak up for all of us, or maybe a majority of us [who are worried about Hong Kong].”

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The torch donation will enhance the collection in Beijing, the venue of the 24th Winter Olympics in 2022.
Freedoms in HK, once freest city in Asia, rapidly declining

By Elaine Dunn

Agence France-Presse (AFP) reported on May 22 that two former Hong Kong independence activists who were active in the 2016 Fishball Revolution have secured refugee status in Germany – the first such request from the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

In 2017, Hong Kong book sellers disappeared; believed to have been abducted and jailed in China. Months passed before two appeared on mainland TV admitting to "wrongdoing" – apparently because they published and sold tabloids unflattering to Beijing officials.

Summer 2018, the Hong Kong government and Chinese officials criticized the foreign correspondents' Hong Kong Press Club for hosting an address to international media by an advocate for independence from China, noting it was "unacceptable and unprecedented." As an example, two months later, British journalist Victor Mallet, Asia editor of the Financial Times who was the acting president of the press club at the time of the pro-independence talk, had his visa revoked and applied for asylum. Author of "Red Capitalism" Fraser Howie called this turn of events "a very chilling message … Rublings like this undermine Hong Kong’s claim to be a safe place to do business under the rule of law.”

At the end of April 2019, the Hong Kong government sentenced eight of the nine leaders of the 2014 pro-democracy Umbrella Revolution to prison sentences ranging from six to 16 months. (One’s sentence was suspended because of his age: 75.) During the Umbrella Revolution, several journalists were physically and violently attacked. Advertisers were strong-armed by boycotting pro-democracy publications and broadcast stations, exerting undue economic pressures on these media outlets.

These anti-pro-democracy activities continue to stoke fears that freedoms in Hong Kong are rapidly deteriorating. Hong Kong of the 1950s and 1960s was a dizzying time and place of transformation – from a sleepy fishing village to the gate to a sprawling metropolis. It was the Pearl of the Orient. It was one of the most important financial hubs of the world. More significantly, it was a window into China.

The then British Crown colony enjoyed a laissez-faire atmosphere – the perfect setting for the hordes of entrepreneurial refugees from mainland China in the 1860s. These refugees put Hong Kong on the map as the textile, manufacturing and export hub, spurring its economic growth and the economy’s importance as gateway to China.

Under British rule, Hong Kong also enjoyed freedom from censors and freedom of expression. Media freedoms and tolerance for free speech were cherished. Local pro-democracy movements made Hong Kong its base for reporting on news across Asia and, of course, mainland China.

But that was then, and this is now. Much has changed since China took back ownership of Hong Kong in 1997. And much has changed in its freedom of expression.

Reporters Without Borders, also known as Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF), is a global nonprofit, non-government organization that advocates for press freedom worldwide. It began its annual evaluation of the state of journalism in 180 countries since 2002. Factors for press freedom worldwide. It began its index shows the number of countries considered safe for journalists. The index is no guarantee of a fair trial and the rule of law.

The freedom of speech and "Reject rendition to China" signs were displayed by the tens of thousands of protesters – the largest anti-government turnout since the Umbrella Revolution. This extradition proposal even united different factions, from pro-democracy groups to pro-Beijing business leaders. The former chairwoman of the Democratic Party said, "...don’t believe it when people tell you people here are disillusioned and pessimistic and will not take action to protect their core values." However, on May 22, the HKU appointed its new Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and the extradition proposal will be tabled at the June Legislative Council meeting, limiting both the opportunity for the bills committee to deliberate and for opposing views to be heard.

"The most important thing is to continue speaking out, and tell everyone Hong Kong people would not accept this kind of ruling from China," Roy Wong, one of the Fishball Revolution activists told AFP in a phone interview from Germany.

If passed, the proposed extradition law would further jeopardize Hong Kong’s standing as an international commercial hub. As it is, Hong Kong’s top ranking on the Economist Intelligence Unit’s annual Index of Economic Freedom has shown its lead over second-place Singapore to be narrowing in recent years. If the extradition proposal becomes law, HK-based international businesses will be fearful for the security of their executives and employees, which, in turn, may mean their departure from Hong Kong, crippling the city’s economy.

Hong Kong’s ranking on RSF’s World Press Freedom Index had also been slipping. When RSF first started its ranking in 2002, Hong Kong was ranked 18th freest in the world. In 11 years, Hong Kong’s rank dropped to 58th. And since then, it has steadily fallen, ending in 73rd place out of 180 in the 2019 report. (China ranked 177th)

Separately, of the 200 HKU students who resided gave the city an overall score of 45 out of 100 in a survey on the public’s satisfaction in the city’s press freedom. The survey was conducted in the months leading up the Hong Kong Journalists Association and the Public Opinion Programme of the University of Hong Kong (HKU). The score is the lowest since the survey started in 2013. In 2013, the HKU survey showed that a significant 22 percent of the respondents said their superiors had "applied pressure for less or zero reporting about the controversy surrounding those calling for the city’s separation from China." Media self-censorship was very much at play.

RSF did not spate the Hong Kong government’s stance in the case. It said a 2013 increase in Beijing influence was only part of the reason. The rest lay squarely on the local government’s increasing restriction of the amount of information accessible to the media, which, in turn, is available to the public.

In 2013, the Hong Kong government began issuing statements instead of holding press conferences, with public requests for information: 4,826 grievances filed for requests for information denied in 2017-18.

People have a right to know what is happening in government. An objective media provides citizens accurate news. An unbiased press serves as the people’s watchdog on government officials. Strengthening press freedom, the freedom of speech and expression may be China’s way, but for Hong Kong, most will be a long time coming.

“Hong Kong has always been a sanctuary for those with different views to grow new ideas on China,” said Benny Tai, one of the pro-democracy leaders who was sentenced to 16 months. "I will not give up the right so easily.

Given the sentiment of a lot of the refugees who fled to Hong Kong from mainland China, Tai is not the only one who thinks that way. China’s increasing meddling / transgression on communications and civil liberties will only breed discontent and distrust of the Hong Kong government.

A free and independent press is a cornerstone for the people’s right to information. Hong Kong’s troublesome decline in press freedom is putting the city on call for its future, especially in its global standing."
Another way of asking a question is to use a verb+not+verb construction. In this lesson, is

Some of the vocabulary we will be using require some explanation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Chinese Characters</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bā</td>
<td>把</td>
<td>a measure word used with chairs and things with handles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>běn</td>
<td>本</td>
<td>a measure word used with books and magazines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bù, bǔ</td>
<td>不, 不</td>
<td>Not, no See Grammatical Note 3 above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fēn</td>
<td>份</td>
<td>a measure word used with newspapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ē</td>
<td>个</td>
<td>a general use measure word used with people many other nouns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mà</td>
<td>麻</td>
<td>a spoken question mark for yes-no type questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zhān</td>
<td>窗</td>
<td>a measure word used with lamps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zhāng</td>
<td>张</td>
<td>a measure word used with most furniture and things in sheets such as paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zhī</td>
<td>张</td>
<td>a measure word used with animals, stick-like objects such as pens and pencils</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tones

Using numbers: 5 = your normal high 4 = mid-high 3 = your normal mid pitch 2 = mid low pitch 1 = your normal low pitch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>á</td>
<td>High level pitch (55)</td>
<td>Regarding Tone á when occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone á be comes tone à. Thus “bên hào” (very good) changes to “hén hăo” (very good).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ã</td>
<td>Mid-Rising Tone (35)</td>
<td>1. When occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone à be comes tone à. Thus “bên hào” (very good) changes to “hén hăo” (very good). 2. Occurring directly after any other tone, tone à will change to a mid-falling tone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>è</td>
<td>Dipping (213)</td>
<td>Regarding tone è when occurring before another á tone, the first á tone reduces its fall to 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ē</td>
<td>High falling pitch (51)</td>
<td>Regarding tone ē when occurring directly before another dipping tone, tone à be comes tone à. Thus “bên hào” (very good) changes to “hén hăo” (very good).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next month, we will continue with this topic of introducing rooms in the home, and places in the city. ⊕

About Pat Welsh

In 2019 while teaching English at Sichuan University, Welsh was asked to give a speech where he was introduced to the audience as a “pioneer of Chinese American relations” as a result of his cooperative work in international banking during the Deng Xiaoping era. For more than 65 years, he was introduced to the audience as a “pioneer of Chinese American relations” as a result of his work in international banking during the Deng Xiaoping era. For more than 65 years, Welsh has been learning Chinese and has used this knowledge both professionally and personally to enhance his understanding of Chinese and Asian affairs. He uses Beijing Mandarin most frequently when meeting with senior Chinese government officials when conducting business in China. For 17 years, Welsh taught Chinese, German and Spanish in two local high schools. Now fully retired, he currently resides in Georgia where he used to lecture on China to a number of classes at Dunwoody High School.
In August 1954, the United States revised its revenue code to allow the accelerated depreciation of fixed asset investments. This move was designed to encourage American manufacturers to invest in new plant and equipment. Its actual effect was to fuel an explosion in shopping center construction.

Between 1955 and 1970, the number of shopping centers in the United States rose from fewer than 500 to more than 10,000, and the new centers were much larger, with many more stores. Fifteen years later, the total exceeded 50,000. The retail revolution was complete long before China joined the World Trade Organization and globalization became a household word. By the mid-1980s, the United States was already the world’s first shopping mall society.

Gary G Hamilton and Cheng-shu Kao’s “Making Money: How Taiwanese Industrialists Embraced the Global Economy” doesn’t start in Taiwan, or even in Asia. It starts in America, because 30 years of research and 800-plus interviews have convinced the authors that East Asia’s economic miracles have been led by demand — American demand. Asia’s production networks, it turns out, were “made in America.” That conclusion is all the more remarkable because Hamilton and Kao didn’t start out with a demand-led theory of capitalism. They were supply-siders who, by the 1990s, with a demand-led theory of capitalism.

Demand-led capitalism is the life-force of contemporary globalization. The older wave of globalization that lasted from the 1870s through the 1920s was characterized by manufacturers going abroad in search of new markets for their products. But in the 1960s, American merchandisers and retailers started going abroad in search of suppliers for the new shopping centers. Technological innovation was driving a “retail revolution” in the United States, as the development of the universal product code (UPC) to cover every single stock-keeping unit (SKU) enabled the emergence of point-of-sale (POS) inventory management. As a result, barcodes and optical scanners became ubiquitous in retail operations all around the world.

For the first time in history, retailers know exactly how many units they are selling of every variety of every product they stock — every day. That has transformed merchandising from inspired guesswork into a calculable (and thus manageable) business practice. Instead of manufacturers guessing how many units to produce, then doing their best to sell them, retailers now calculate how many units they will sell, then shop for manufacturers to produce them. And that — according to Hamilton and Kao — is what led to the transfer of American manufacturing across the Pacific to Asia.

Before the retail revolution, manufacturers made goods in their own factories, then marketed and sold them globally. After the retail revolution, retailers sold goods in their own stores, then sourced them globally. That’s how the rise of the shopping center (and its culture of own-brand chain retail stores) in America led to the rise of contract manufacturing in Asia. At first it started with simple goods, like ready-to-wear clothing, but the retailers found that a contractor who could manufacture clothes to a set of specifications could probably manufacture just about anything else, given access to components and the promise of a paying order. And here, at last, Taiwan comes into the picture, because Taiwanese businesses (along with their cousins in Hong Kong) became the kings of contract manufacturing.

Hamilton and Kao’s “Making Money” is not a book about Taiwan, whatever the subtitle may say. It is a book about globalization, or as they would have it, a book about capitalism. The authors focus on Taiwan because they conducted the bulk of their interviews with Taiwanese businesses (originally located in Taiwan, but later increasingly in China). Their quantitative data cover all of East Asia, and they provide almost as much insight into the operations of Japanese keiretsu and South Korean chaebol as into the workings of Taiwanese business networks. Nonetheless, they claim that Taiwanese contract manufacturing is at the heart of China’s export sector — and they have the data to back that up.

Two things you won’t find in this book are a lot of nonsense about the mystical qualities of Chinese guanxi, and panegyrics to the East Asian developmental state. Guanxi is mentioned only twice in the book, dismissively, and the authors consistently found that the businessespeople they interviewed were usually not even aware of the state programs that were supposed to be guiding them to greater profitability. They found instead that major investment decisions were more often guided by advice from the big American buyers (or, in the initial phases of Asian take-off, by the big Japanese buyers) than by the state. In fact, the biggest change in East Asian production networks, the epochal move to China, was almost entirely driven by explicit pressure from American buyers. Taiwanese contract manufacturers didn’t go to China to find cheaper inputs; they went to China because American buyers told them that they wanted lower price points, and that China was the only way to meet them. The American buyers told them, quite literally, to go to China or lose their contracts. So they went to China.

“Making Money: How Taiwanese Industrialists Embraced the Global Economy” is the one truly crucial must-read book for anyone who wants to understand globalization, contemporary capitalism, or how the East Asian economy works today. It is fully up to date with developments through 2016, with interviews that span the heyday of Taiwanese contract manufacturing, the move to China, the heyday of Chinese contract manufacturing, and the current disenchantment with China. The book covers the clothing, footwear, computer/smartphone, and semiconductor industries in detail, and many other industries (including plastics, toys, bicycles, automobiles, machine tools, and dental equipment) in passing.

Hamilton and Kao have put a lifetime of experience into this book, and it shows. Though intended for an academic audience, it is accessible to everyone, and well worth the investment.

About the reviewer
Salvatore Babones is an American sociologist at the University of Sydney. His research takes a long-term approach to interpreting the structure of the global economy, with a particular focus on China. He is the author of “American Taino: Chinese money, American power and the end of history” (Policy 2017).
Shan, a former hard laborer who is now one of Asia’s best-known financiers, is thoughtful, observant, eloquent, and brutally honest, making him well positioned to tell the story of a life that is a microcosm of modern China, and of how, improbably, that life became intertwined with America. “Out of the Gobi” draws a vivid picture of raw human energy and the will to succeed against all odds.

Born and raised in Beijing, Shan only finished elementary school when Mao Zedong’s Cultural Revolution tore his country apart. He was a witness to the brutality and absurdity of Mao’s policies during one of the most tumultuous eras in China’s history. Exiled to the Gobi Desert at age 15, he spent his formative years doing hard labor. Denied schooling for 10 years and a secondary education altogether, he returned to Beijing six years later, in time to witness Mao Zedong’s death and the start of economic reforms that would transform China.

Of the many books about the Cultural Revolution, this memoir by financier Weijian Shan might be one of the most detailed accounts. “Out of the Gobi” focuses on the author’s harsh years as a “sent-down” youth in a work camp in the Gobi desert, as well as how he eventually makes it out and goes on to study in the United States.

When the Cultural Revolution began in 1966, violence and unrest exploded around the country. Shan recounts walking past public “struggle sessions” in his hometown of Beijing where people were denounced by crowds as well as walking past and seeing an old couple being beaten by a group of schoolgirls in a dark room inside a school. One major policy during this time was, as part of Mao Zedong’s attempt to shake up Chinese society, the sending of millions of urban youths to the countryside to live and work alongside peasants for years and supposedly learn proletariat ideals. Shan writes that this mass upheaval of urban youths was also due to the suspension of classes in schools that had resulted in lots of idle and violent students in the cities.

In 1969, Shan, then 15, was sent from Beijing to a work camp in the Gobi desert. There, he became a cadre in the Construction Army Corps. Alongside other “sent-down” youths, they were called, Shan dug ditches, harvested grain, and even cut river reeds for making paper.

In painstaking detail, Shan describes the harsh weather and living conditions, backbreaking work, and the senseless political developments. Conditions were very spartan: food was scarce and doled out in precise amounts. Sometimes, the details overwhelm in their almost encyclopedic recounting of seemingly every moment of Shan’s work camp years.

At the start of every chapter, which are in chronological order, Shan gives an explanation of major developments, including political events as well as such economic and social policies as the “barefoot doctors,” people trained in basic medical knowledge who were mainly sent to serve rural communities across the country.

Shan himself also served as a barefoot doctor for his unit. Even basic medical training was tainted by Communist dogma; the author recounts an instructor saying during a surgical workshop:

A revolutionary isn’t afraid of risks... As for technical problems, Chairman Mao guides us to the answer in his teachings on capturing the principal contradiction.

Shan is unapring about the futility of the work of the Construction Army Corps and of the tremendous wastage of the Cultural Revolution. The corps “did not help in any way to develop or transform the impoverished countryside for the better,” while “consuming three to four times the amount of food” they produced.

In one particularly affecting chapter, Shan describes how the commander of his platoon extorted a female cadre for sex and was eventually arrested for attempting to do the same with another. He ends with the sad revelation that exploitation and rape of young women was widespread among officers nationwide, including a political instructor who was arrested for having slept with “practically every young woman under his command.”

After six years, Shan eventually escapes the work camp by being selected to attend university in Beijing. From that point on, his life takes a turn for the better. He marries, applies for a university exchange to the U.S., then finishes both a graduate program and a Ph.D. program there. While this part of the book is nowhere as turbulent as the China chapters, there is considerable interest in Shan’s experiences of American society and academia as one of the first Chinese graduate students in the U.S.

“Out of the Gobi” is both a remarkable life story and an important historical document of the Cultural Revolution. While what Shan and other Chinese youths had to endure during the Cultural Revolution seems unbearable, it should be noted that many other Chinese suffered worse. Given that China is still yet to fully come to terms with the Cultural Revolution, more in-depth individual stories like this would be welcome.
The notorious stinky tofu

By Elaine Dunn

Taiwan’s shrine to stinky tofu: Dai's House of Unique Stink in Taipei

When the pungent stench of rot hits your nostrils, you’ll know you’re near Dai’s House of Unique Stink (aka House of Stinky Tofu), one of Taipei’s most popular restaurants. It is also the restaurant that Minneapolis TV food host Andrew Zimmern surrendered in 2007: “… the 14-day-old tofu at the House of Unique Stink is just too putrid and foul for me.”

Dai’s, in Taiwan’s capital, has been a family business since 1989. The matriarch, now in her 70s, still creates this smelly dish using a 60-year-old secret fermenting process passed down by her parents. For years, she and her younger brother create batches of pressed tofu by hand each day for the long fermentation process in the making of their stinky tofu. The matriarch is passing the baton on to her son, hoping he will keep the secret family recipe and the restaurant going.

Taiwan’s shrine to stinky tofu: Dai's House of Unique Stink in Taipei

The notorious stinky tofu is sold not as an edible item but as an ointment to help smooth and firm skin. Hmm … perhaps this is truly one of those instances that “if it doesn’t kill you, it’ll make you stronger!” Or firmer, in this case.

Other purported health benefits of eating stinky tofu include prevention of osteoporosis, lowering the risk of prostate and breast cancers, reducing cholesterol, and improving the digestive system. As with most great inventions, the Chinese proudly lay claim to “inventing” stinky tofu as well. Albeit by happenstance. One legend has it that hundreds of years ago before refrigeration came to be, a struggling tofu vendor opened a container of unsold tofu several weeks past its prime. The bean curd and soy milk mixture had started to ferment. To his amazement, when he bit into the green-colored, rancid mess, he found the taste quite pleasing. From then on, he started selling his stinky overripe tofu. It became so popular that the Qing Dynasty Empress Dowager Cixi requested it be added to the list of imperial foods to be served in her palace. And, as unlikely as it sounds, stinky tofu even made CNN’s list of the world’s most delicious foods in 2011.

Stinky tofu is often referred to as “the national snack food of Taiwan.” When millions of mainlanders fled to Taiwan during the Chinese civil war between the Communists and the Kuomintang in 1949, they brought along their love of and recipes for stinky tofu. So popular is stinky tofu that there is a street in Taipei where all the eateries on it are dedicated to serving variations of the dish. And, the stinkier the better! Hope all the neighbors who live on the street love stinky tofu.

Of course, besides Taiwan, stinky tofu is widely available in Beijing, Changsha, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Shaoxing and some Chinatowns. Street hawkers at night markets is a good place to find and eat it. When eating from street hawkers, the cubes of tofu are usually deep-fried and skewered. The customer can then add the sauce(s) of choice. And first-time eaters beware: the first bite can be messy as the juicy filling squirts out! What makes stinky tofu stink? Making stinky tofu takes time. It utilizes live bacterial action on the tofu to give it that distinct putrid smell of rotting garbage and sour milk. Slabs of pressed tofu sits in a mixture of fermented milk and vegetable, meat or fish-based brine at room temperature for up to two years. The age of the brine is the brine. Taipei’s Dai’s uses an herb-based brine.) The longer the tofu is allowed to sit and ferment, the softer and smellier it gets. Think Blue Stilton and Limburger!

Stinky tofu is not immune to food safety concerns. There have been reports that industrial chemicals were used in the making of stinky tofu by illegal, unethical shops to produce the traditional black color. In addition, rancid meat, dead snails, etc. have been rumored to be added to the fermenting brine to produce a more potent stench. In 2013, a customer slipped into a coma after consuming a plate of the delicacy on the streets of the port city of Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province. His doctors “speculated” that his illness was caused by tofu fermented in human feces. Of course local health “experts” discounted that. But in a report a decade ago, an undercover reporter told of a boss telling workers at a stinky tofu workshop in Shenzhen to “put a little feces water in it” if the stinky tofu isn’t stinky enough! The authorities did shut that particular workshop down quickly. But it is an eat-at-your-own-risk deal when eating stinky tofu in China.

With the passing of the National Food Safety Law in 2015, there are fewer and fewer people making stinky tofu in mainland China. Most of the independent street vendors cannot stomach the hurdles of bureaucratic paperwork and license fees.

So, if you’re headed to China or Taiwan this summer, perhaps it’s time to hold your nose and take a bite! You may be pleasantly surprised by the crunchy crust and silky tofu within. Top it up with pickled cabbage, garlic and chili sauce, and it can’t be bad.

There are also reports that some street hawkers even serve stinky tofu ice cream! Maybe start with that!
The Moon Represents My Heart: Music, Memory And Belonging

Date: Through September 15, 2019
Location: Museum of Chinese in America, 215 Centre Street, New York, NY

How does music reflect who you are? The groundbreaking exhibition “The Moon Represents My Heart: Music, Memory and Belonging” focuses on the transformative power of music identity in immigrant Chinese communities from the 1850s to the present. During this period, disparate music genres converged with historic milestones, including changes in U.S. immigration legislation and China’s soft power emergence. The exhibition delves into how Chinese immigrant communities have yearned for the ‘old country,’ fashioned new American identities, or challenged stereotypes through their embrace of music forms as far-reaching as Cantonese opera, hip hop, Asian American Movement music, Taiwan love ballads, Canto-pop, western classical, karaoke, Beijing underground rock, and many other genres.

Although music has been an important facet of the Chinese experience in America since the Hong Took Tong Cantonese opera troupe performed in San Francisco in 1852, the contributions of Chinese and Asian Americans have gone largely unnoticed to mainstream listeners. “The Moon Represents My Heart” highlights the work of more than 50 notable singers, performers, musicians and organizations such as Peking opera star Mei Lanfang, rapper MC Jin, Cantonese opera group Chinese Music and Theatre Association, pop singer Teresa Teng, hip hop producer David Eng, experimental sound artists C. Spencer Yeh and Charmaine Lee, Broadway actor and Chinese folk singer Stephen Cheng, Winnie’s karaoke bar, the Chinatown singing group The Fortune Cookies, and many others.

The exhibition connects diverse musical forms in ways that break from conventional genre categorizations and historical timelines. Is there shared DNA between Cantonese opera and Asian American hip hop? Why did a generation of Asian Americans find solace in English new wave bands, such as Erasure and Depeche Mode? By free associating with the typical way music is organized, we hope the exhibition will prompt visitors to explore how music, memory and belonging are connected.

“Putting together this show was like making a mixtape. It’s full of echoes, resonances, connections across time and space, proud defiance and soft-neon sappiness,” says Hua Hsu, co-curator and staff writer at The New Yorker. “We knew it was impossible to tell some definitive story about music’s role in Chinese American life. Instead, we tried to mix together as much of it as we could, from the epic performers to everyday fandom. It’s about what happens when sounds cross borders or beckon you home.”

Stories are told within a dynamic presentation of event flyers and posters, performance documentation and artist notebooks, music listening stations and contemporary art, magazine and album cover art, and liner notes and manifestos. These materials, presented on and around an enclosed central stage, will immerse visitors in a discussion of immigrant music, memory and identity, and will be a dramatic backdrop for nighttime karaoke sing-alongs and musical performances.

The Museum of Chinese in America aims to engage audiences in an ongoing and historical dialogue, in which people of all backgrounds are able to see American history through a critical perspective, to reflect on their own experiences, and to make meaningful connections between the past and the present, the global and the local, themselves and others.
Chinese industry: a journey of 70 years

Continues from page 1

3.08 billion rubles (US $770 million), worth of technical equipment from East European countries. With their support, China launched an industrialization unlike anything it had ever seen before, launching 150 large industrial projects (150 of which were completed) in sectors of heavy industry such as energy, metallurgy, machine, chemistry, and national defense. The influx of foreign capital also sped up the transition from private ownership to state ownership of the Chinese economy, reaching its goal 10 years ahead of schedule. The foreign assistance however did not come free, and was repaid in agricultural products and industrial raw materials.

Starting in the mid-1950s, China concentrated its resources on industrialization through the collectivization of its agricultural section, which at the time contributed as much as 30 percent of the national annual income by average to fund industrial development. The contributions made by the agricultural sector soared to staggering levels during the years from 1959 to 1961, when China was suffering the dual blow of natural disasters and pressure to repay Soviet Union debts. The rate was 43.8 percent in 1959 and 39.6 percent in 1960 compared with 24.9 percent in 1957 and 33.9 percent in 1958. As a result, farmers had to cut back on grain for their own consumption in order to contribute more to the state-funded industrial development. The collectivization of agriculture in the 1950s opened up the rural market for heavy industrial products made in cities. At the same time, the “scissors differential” between higher prices of industrial products and lower prices of agricultural products generated capital for industrialization in cities.

During the first three decades of the PRC, Chinese people tightened their belts to develop the industrial sector. According to a 1978 study by Prof. Van Ruizhen of Renmin University of China, for the first 20 years after 1949, the state extracted RMB 20 billion, all of which began operating 1978. Based on the industrialization progress before, China began to restructure the industrial sector. It shifted the priority from heavy industry to light industry, and adopted the strategy aimed at improving people’s livelihoods, seeking an overall development of industry, opening up to the outside world, and promoting the development of diverse economic sectors.

Opening to the outside world: 1972-1979

During the decade of 1969-1979, China upheld the fiscal policy of not borrowing any money from other countries or its own people. It was not until December 1979 that it took out its first foreign loan. For the 1970s, the development of Chinese industry was entirely funded by domestic funds. With a decent fiscal reserve, a largely well-staffed national economy, and industry in all categories in a balanced distribution, China’s GDP underwent rapid growth during the 1970s, ranking it the eighth and ninth fastest in the world.

When Premier Zhou Enlai delivered the government work report at the National People’s Congress on January 13, 1975, he declared, “In contrast to the economic upheavals and inflation in the capitalist world, China has maintained a fiscal balance, and owes no foreign or domestic debts. Prices are stable, and people’s livelihoods are steadily improving. Socialist construction is going from strength to strength.”

In October 1971, China’s status as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council was restored. In 1972, the U.S. President Nixon visited China. Over the following months, more than 40 countries established diplomatic ties with China. The long-existing economic and technical blockade against China by the West came down, paving the way for China’s opening up to the outside world.

During the five years after 1973, China imported US $1.1 billion worth of complete sets of equipment. This marked the beginning of the second wave of technical imports by China after the Soviet aid in the 1950s. With both imported and home-produced equipment, China launched 26 large-scale industrial projects with a total investment of RMB 20 billion, all of which began operating by 1982 and bolstered China’s economic growth in the 1980s.

In the period 1949-1978, China increased its GDP by an average of 7.3 percent year on year, and established a complete industrial system and national economic system. By 1980, the size of its industrial sector had exceeded that of the U.K. and France, the world’s two largest industrial powers, and was close to that of the world’s No. 3 largest industrial economy. China’s gross industrial output value soared and soon became the world’s third largest in the mid-1980s.

Adjusting the Industrial Structure: 1978-2000

China introduced a raft of economic reforms after the Third Plenary Session of the Eleventh CPC Central Committee in 1978. Based on the industrialization progress before, China began to restructure the industrial sector. It shifted the priority from heavy industry to light industry, and adopted the strategy aimed at improving people’s livelihoods, seeking an overall development of industry, opening up to the outside world, and promoting the development of diverse economic sectors.

Globalization of Manufacturing: 2000-Now

China’s entry into the WTO in 2001 ushered the country into the globalization era. For the previous two decades, China’s industrialization was largely based on the domestic market. Its admission to the WTO brought about the second revolution in China’s social productivity. Driven by exports, investment, and domestic consumption, China grew into an international manufacturing power.

Since the year 2000, most of the world’s Top 500 companies have set up operations in China, grabbing market shares, monopolizing core technology, and attracting a great number of researchers with high salaries. Economic globalization has brought into China advanced corporate management know-how and business models from which local companies can learn.

With the influx of both foreign and domestic investment, the Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta, and Bohai Sea region have grown into international manufacturing hubs, holding the No.1 title in overall production ability. The “Made in China” tag is now found in stores all over the world.

The large quantity of export of manufactured goods has also strengthened China. Bolstered by sustained increases in foreign investment and trade surpluses, China’s foreign exchange reserves soared up to US $3.18 trillion in 2011 from US $165.6 billion in 2000, and peaked at US $3.84 trillion in 2014. In 2015, it dipped to US $3.33 trillion.

By adopting a fitting development model, China came to an unprecedented economic boom prior to the 2008 financial crisis. After that, it shifted growth gears to high-quality, sustainable development by slowing down growth and restructuring, and upgrading its economy. Accompanying the challenges it has faced under the ongoing supply-side structural reform are new opportunities for Chinese companies.

Cai Qibi is an official with the municipal government of Sanming, Fujian Province.

Read CHINAINSIGHT online
www.chinainsight.info

September 1958: A 4,000-hp diesel locomotive manufactured by Dalian Locomotive and Rolling Stock Factory

July 2002: Baosteel Group ranks the fourth among 13 world-class iron and steel producers

A railway bridge built by China Railway Group Limited

To stimulate the development of light industry, China began to give preference in 1979 to the sector in supply of raw materials, fuel, and electricity, innovation and renovation measures, infrastructures construction, bank loan application, use of foreign exchange, importing of technologies, and transportation. These measures led to structural changes in the Chinese industrial system.

The 1990s saw a surge of growth in China’s heavy chemical industry and processing industry. While light industry remained the focus, upgrading consumer spending, accelerating urbanization, and increasing investment in transportation and infrastructure boosted the development of heavy industry. To break the bottleneck in the fields of energy, transport, and raw materials, the heavy chemical industry took off the ground in 1993. The next year witnessed China’s iron and steel output take the lead in production around the world, with crude steel production accounting for half of the global total.

In 1997, a fundamental shift occurred in Chinese economic development. Amid the economic soft landing and the Asian financial crisis, China adopted a proactive fiscal policy, and started extensive industrial restructuring. After people’s needs for food, clothing, and home appliances were met, the demand for durable consumer goods spiked. It had found freedom from the "shortage economy," and the changing structure of demand spurred modifications and upgrading of the industrial structure, which led to a resurgence of the heavy industry and processing industry.

By then, after 20-plus years of rapid development, China’s industrialization had entered a middle phase where heavy and light industries supported each other, formed a balanced structure, and grew in synergy.

After the readjustment from 1989 to 1991, China had preliminary accomplished primitive industrialization. In 1994, China announced new reforms following Deng Xiaoping’s inspection tour of south China. The market economy replaced planned economy and became the basic state policy. The expansion of modern corporate systems further accelerated the industrialization of cities, and the boom of capital market added fuel to the take-off of China’s economy.

Cai Qibi is an official with the municipal government of Sanming, Fujian Province.
150th anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad

By Bill & Sandra Chen

We attended the Golden Spike Conference at Salt Lake City, Utah, May 8 – 11, sponsored by the Chinese Railroad Descendants Association. The big event was on May 10 at Promontory Summit, Utah, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the driving of the last “golden spike” that joined the Central Pacific Railroad going east from Sacramento, Calif., to the Union Pacific going west from Council Bluffs, Iowa.

On May 8, we went on a tour of the original grade of the first transcontinental railroad built in 1869 at the town of Terrace, an operations base of the Central Pacific Railroad. Chinese railroad workers had created the grade as they raced toward the finish line at Promontory Summit. Terrace flourished until it became a secondary line in 1904. The railroad tracks are gone as we drove on the nearby Skin track Bed Road going west from Council Bluffs, Iowa.

On May 9, 2019, we visited Ogden, about 40 miles north of Salt Lake City. Ogden served as a major railway hub. We toured the railway museum and attended a re-enactment of a locomotive travelling west to east to the Ogden station.

The May 10 ceremony at Promontory Summit drew an estimated crowd of 20,000 - the largest crowd of any previous anniversary commemoration. Speakers included the governor of Utah, the president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Secretary of Interior, and the Secretary of Transportation.

The completion of the transcontinental railroad transformed America. It unified the post-Civil War nation. It cut down the travel time from east to west from months to a week, and spurred economic development, trade, commerce, tourism, and passenger travel.

At the 100th anniversary in May 1969, then Secretary John A. Volpe stated: “Who else but Americans could have laid miles of track in 12 hours? Who but Americans could dig tunnels through the solid granite of the Sierra?” without once mentioning the Chinese.

The 150th anniversary, virtually every therapist acknowledged and honored the role of the Chinese railroad workers. Chao commented the Chinese railroad workers “risked everything” to build what she called “one of the greatest infrastructure projects” in U.S. history.

The enunciation of the Chinese American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act on Dec. 20, 2018, some 73 years after the end of World War II, properly recognized and honored the role of the Chinese railroad workers. Chao commented the Chinese railroad workers “risked everything” to build what she called “one of the greatest infrastructure projects” in U.S. history.

Majority of entities added to DOC’s Entities of National Security Concern List have China connection

On May 13, the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the U.S. Department of Commerce announced that it added 12 foreign entities and individuals to the Bureau’s Entity List. This list contains the names of foreign entities and individuals that are subject to specific license requirements for the export, re-export, and/or in-country transfer of controlled items, ensuring that sensitive technologies do not fall into the hands of those who would threaten U.S. national security or American citizens.

In total, the additions include four entities with locations in both China and Hong Kong, and a further two Chinese, one Pakistani, and five Emirati persons. The Trump Administration will vigorously defend against any action which could harm American citizens or our nation’s security. We are putting individuals, businesses, and organizations across the world on notice that they will be held accountable for supporting Iran’s WMD activities and other illicit schemes, said Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross. Moreover, we cannot allow China’s civil-military integration strategy to undermine U.S. national security through prohibited technology transfer plots orchestrated by state actors. This designation complements criminal actions BIS and the Department of Justice are taking to penalize the theft of controlled U.S. technology.

The four new entities located in both China and Hong Kong attempted to procure U.S.-origin commodities that would have supported Iran’s weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and military programs, in violation of U.S. export controls. Separately, four Emirati persons are included for obtaining U.S.-origin items for an existing entity list member without a license and for a denied party, Mahan Air, which is currently subject to a temporary denial order.

Two other Chinese entities participated in the prohibited export of controlled technology, which was then supplied to organizations affiliated with the People’s Liberation Army. Additionally, one Pakistani company is included on the update for procuring controlled technology on behalf of that country’s unsafeguarded nuclear activities. Another person in the UAE refused to support a BIS end-use check, which is cause for admission to the Entity List.

The Bureau of Industry and Security’s mission is to advance U.S. national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives by ensuring an effective export control and treaty compliance system and promoting U.S. strategic technology leadership. BIS is committed to preventing U.S.-origin items from supporting WMD projects or destabilizing military modernization programs.
Chinese American WWII Recognition Project Veteran Registration Instructions

All Chinese American WWII Veterans and/or their family requesting consideration for the Congressional Gold Medal must complete the intake form at www.caww2.org so that the military service of the said Chinese American WWII Veteran can be reviewed and confirmed by Verification Committee.

METHODOLOGY

Verification (via submission of any items in (i) or (ii) (highest priority in item (ii) as numbered):

i. A Veteran’s name and service appears in the enlistment and/or draft record in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) WWII records.

ii. A Veteran’s military service can also be verified by other primary sources, including:
   1. Submission of the Veteran’s Honorable Discharge or Separation Papers;
   2. American Legion and/or Veteran of Foreign War membership rosters;
   3. Other veteran organization roll call and/or publications;
   4. Photograph of Veteran in U.S. military uniform and confirmed by Verification Committee;
   5. Submission of letters which confirm military service from a state or federal agency;
   6. Submission of letters home to family and/or friends from a WWII Theatre of War;
   7. Submission of newspaper articles identifying the Veteran as having served in WWII;
   8. Verifiable artifacts with name and/or serial number of Veteran
   9. Other online registries for WWII Veterans;

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

A. Scans:
   1. Documents and images must be scanned at a minimum of 600 dpi (dots per inch) or in black and white.
   2. Color images are acceptable but NOT preferred as color photos were not readily available in the 1940s and may alter the context of the image.
   3. If you do not own or have access to a scanner, please go to any of the following possible resources to scan documents and images (do not send cell phone camera images):
      a. University and college libraries;
      b. Public Library – please check with your neighborhood library before going;
      c. Retail outlets such as Kinko’s/FedEx, UPS Stores & Office Depot/OfficeMax;
      d. Family member or friend.

B. Release Form:

Publicly available Veteran’s data and images (via NARA or other public domain sites) submitted in any fashion to Chinese American Citizens Alliance for inclusion into the Recognition Project’s database shall be for the purpose of verifying a Veteran’s eligibility to receive this Congressional Gold Medal and for non-commercial purposes of disseminating information to the public about merits of the Project. A release form from C.A.C.A. shall be requested from submitters of Veterans’ documents should the scope extend into ventures where the use of any documents, photographs, etc. (not available via NARA or other public domain sites) be used for the creation of commercial ventures about Chinese American WWII Veterans.

NOW IT’S UP TO YOU. . .

• Spread the word to ensure all eligible veterans are registered
• Make a donation
  www.caww2.org
30th anniversary of the infamous Tiananmen Square Massacre

By Elaine Dunn

Chinese history textbooks make no mention of this event. Public discussion of the event is taboo within China. Furthermore, as each anniversary of the event draws near, Chinese authorities have detained well-known human rights lawyers and activists to deter them from commemorating the event.

In the early morning this past May 17, an independent Chinese filmmaker was taken into custody for posting a photo (below) of a bottle of baijiu the authorities claimed included the characters “6-4,” a reference to the year “89” (ba (8) jiu (9)). The label also alluded to “the event.” “Baijiu” sounds like “bai” (white) in Chinese in China has no inkling of the horror of a bottle of baijiu the authorities claimed into custody for posting a photo of baijiu. Creators of the baijiu bottle detention will only be one of many to come to the date of the event. The filmmaker’s detention will only be one of many to come until June 4. Creators of the baijiu bottle were sentenced to years in prison in April, in addition to having already spent three years in pre-trial detention.

A man in a white shirt (bottom left) moved back and forth to block a column of tanks from advancing toward Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989. He became known as “Tank Man.”

While “the event” is all hushed up in mainland China, Hong Kong, on the other hand, has marked each anniversary with a well-attended candlelight vigil.

The event that an entire generation of Chinese in China has no inkling of the horror that took place on the evening of June 4, 1989, is the Tiananmen Square Massacre, also known as the 6-4 Incident (六四事變) or 89 Democracy Movement (八九民運). (Read a detailed account of the student protests culminating in the crackdown in the June 2015 China Insight, p. 6, at chinasights.info.)

Hong Kongers make sure one of the most violent suppression of pro-democracy protests in Beijing by Chinese armed forces will never slip into oblivion.

The Chinese government has never come clean about the event. What happened during one of the worst crackdowns on student pro-democracy demonstrators? Hundreds, and more likely thousands, were killed. No one will know for sure because Beijing has never divulged that figure nor acknowledged its actions on Tiananmen Square. The Chinese Red Cross estimated that 2,700 civilians were killed, but other sources point to a much higher toll. In a 2014 confidential U.S. government document, it reported that a Chinese internal assessment estimated that at least 10,454 civilians were killed. No wonder the entire episode of the weeks-long protests ending with the massacre are banned from public discourse by the Chinese government.

This year, 60 Hong Kong journalists who covered the Tiananmen Square event in 1989 initiated the “1 am a Journalist, My June 4 Story” project to share their accounts and insights into this tragic piece of history.

The project includes a series of videos of journalists talking about the incident. Each day, one video interview will be released, which began on May 5. You can watch these on YouTube (search “I am a Journalist, My June 4 Story”). All have English subtitles.

In China, heavy monitoring and censoring of “negative and harmful” online postings and discussions of this sensitive subject are evident and successful. Hong Kong Free Press stated in an April 20 article that, “Searches on Chinese social media for the film or discussion of it failed to return any results on Saturday, suggesting that China’s massive censorship machine was blocking the video and any comments about it.”

“Then the man climbed up the first tank and tried to talk to the soldiers inside. When he came down, four or five people came out from the sidewalk and pulled him away. He disappeared forever.”

The Newsweek photographer who captured the “Tank Man” images from the hotel balcony had the foresight to hide his roll of film in the flush tank of the toilet shortly before the Chinese police came and searched his room. The roll of film in one of his cameras was confiscated.

Try as China might to erase the Tiananmen Square Massacre from its history, the rest of the world won’t make it easy. From rubber ducks to an inflatable tank and “Tank Man” to the large sculpture of the number 64 by Interstate 15 between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, artists have taken up the cause to keep the memory of the horrific event alive.

Amnesty International will hold a rally at the Capitol West Lawn in Washington, D.C., at 1:30 p.m. this June 4.

Hong Kong expects a five-year-high turnout at this year’s vigil because of the controversial extradition bill. The theme of the vigil is “The people will not forget.” Organizers of the recently reopened June 4 Memorial Museum said, “In China, the Communist Party attempts to erase people’s memory of this historical event and bans any discussion. In Hong Kong, we still have room for freedom of expression. Thus, we bear a greater responsibility to preserve history.”

The Chinese government has never acknowledged its actions on Tiananmen in a 2014 internal assessment estimated that at least 10,454 civilians were killed, but other sources point to a much higher toll. The Chinese government has never divulged that figure nor acknowledged its actions on Tiananmen Square.

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“The film / video” refers to an online advertisement by a German camera manufacturer who used the iconic “tank man” image with the slogan “This film is dedicated to those who lend their eyes to make us see.”

“Serendipity played a huge role in capturing the “Tank Man” image used in the advertisement: the incident took place in front of the hotel housing foreign journalists! The image of a slight, white-shirted man standing his ground in front of the menacing tanks has to be the most iconic image of the 20th century!”

Whether the “Tank Man” planned his civil disobedience or whether he was an afterthought brought about by opportunity, what it did that day became the symbol for fighting oppression. That image of him out-maneuvering the tanks appeared on the front pages of newspapers across the world.

It has been thirty years since the June Fourth Massacre. The dead remain un-named, protesters persecuted and killers at large. Facts are being distorted and rewritten so that the young generation will never know. No journalist should let this happen; in particular those who witnessed the killings. Not only should they retell the tragedy but also their insights into it. That’s the obligation of every witness of history.”

The Chinese government has never acknowledged its actions on Tiananmen in a 2014 internal assessment estimated that at least 10,454 civilians were killed, but other sources point to a much higher toll. The Chinese government has never divulged that figure nor acknowledged its actions on Tiananmen Square.
First annual Qu Yuan Poetry Contest marks grand opening of Chinese garden at Lake Phalen

Deadline for submission: midnight, June 10, 2019
Entry fee: none

Poetry is an important art form in Chinese and Hmong culture. The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society and Dragon Festival are co-sponsoring the first Qu Yuan Poetry Contest to mark the Grand Opening of the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters – the only Chinese garden in the U.S. built in Changsha (capital of Hunan Province) style, and to celebrate the ideals of the poet Qu Yuan.

The contest is open to anyone, any age and of all cultures. Poems should be original and can be in free verse or rhymed, in a traditional form or contemporary — the tone and style are open.

The story of Qu Yuan — China’s “People’s Poet” — provides the basis for the Dragon Festival celebration. He lived from 340-278 B.C. in the Chu State of China whose majority population was Hmong, ancestors of present-day Hmong. Betrayed by his government, his country lost to an enemy, he walked into a river and was pursued in vain by townsfolk in boats banging drums. (Visit Chinainsight.info, June 2013 issue, for the story of Qu Yuan.)

In writing your poem, please consider the following.

* The themes that Qu Yuan’s story evoke are loyalty to country, beauty of nature, and transcendence — what the famous poet Li Bai calls “the celestial space” in Qu Yuan’s poetry -- and the many principles he is known for: patriotism, self-sacrifice, love of country and rural life, kindness. You are encouraged to research this.
* Through his imagination, the poet travels freely between heaven and earth; his poetry represents an entire celestial sphere where he longs to reside. This space is superior to the mundane order of the secular world and signifies another kind of existence.
* We encourage you to see this Xiang Jiang Pavilion at St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden, much like a pavilion where Qu Yuan and Li Bai would have found inspiration for their poetry.
* In addition, please observe the following: • LENGTH AND FORMAT: No more than one page, typed. No author identification on the page. • LANGUAGE: English. Each poem should have a title. • The author’s name must NOT appear on the poem page, only on the cover form (see below). • Limit of one poem per person.

The winner will be requested to read his/her poem on Saturday, July 13 at 11 a.m. at Phalen-Keller Regional Park. If unavailable, the Contest Curator will select another suitable reader to read the winning poem.

Additional contest details
PRIZE: The poet of the winning poem will have the honor to read his poem on July 13, 2019, and will receive $100. Poem will be published on the MCFGS website and the East Side Arts Council’s Poets Post at their Phalen Poetry Park and Dragon Garden. Two poets shall be named as runners-up, acknowledged and awarded gift certificates at the ceremony.

JUDGES: We are very honored to have three accomplished poets — Margaret Hassen, Wang Ping, Kao Kalia Yang

If you have any questions, please email Contest Curator Romi Sowiak at romislowiak@gmail.com using POETRY CONTEST in the subject line of your email. Thank you for your interest!

Xiang Jiang Pavilion
The Xiang Jiang Pavilion湘江亭, located in the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows and Flowing Waters at Phalen-Keller Regional Park, is a gift to the City of St. Paul from the City of Changsha and Changsha Yanghu Wetlands Park in 2018 - the 30-year anniversary of the St. Paul-Changsha sister-city relationship. The Xiang Jiang Pavilion is named after the Xiang River湘江 that runs through the heart of the City of Changsha, much like the Mississippi River through St. Paul. The Xiang Jiang Pavilion is a replica of the 18th Century Aiwan Pavilion爱晚亭 in Changsha, one of four famous pavilions in China. The Xiang Jiang Pavilion illustrates the Changsha architecture with sweeping eaves and landscaping style with open garden grounds, unlike the Beijing style with straight eaves, or the Suzhou Southern style with extreme sweeping eaves and enclosed ground.

Four poets will be invited to read their poems at the contest.

Dragon Festival
The Dragon Festival in St. Paul is celebrating 19 years of honoring the Pan-Asian heritage and spirit on July 13 and 14, 2019. It is held on the banks of Lake Phalen at Phalen Regional Park, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The mission is to bring together the Greater Twin Cities community in celebration of the diverse Asian Pacific cultures through an annual dragon festival.

QU YUAN POETRY CONTEST COVER FORM

SUBMISSION by email: Submit your poem to Contest Curator: romislowiak@gmail.com with the subject line “Submission to Poetry Contest.” Send the poem as an attachment to the email, not in the body of the email.
SUBMISSION by U.S. mail: Mail three (3) paper copies of your poem along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to Contest Curator: Romi Sowiak, 1492 East Shore Drive, St. Paul, MN 55106.

1. Contact information

Poet’s Name: __________________________
Address: __________________________
Telephone Number: __________________
Email: __________________________

2. Poem

Title of Poem: __________________________
________________________
I have included a copy of my poem (3 paper copies if by U.S. mail).

3. Verification: My signature below confirms that I have closely reviewed and accepted the rules and conditions of the contest as published in the contest document above and available online at the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden website at http://mchinagarden.org/st-paul-changsha/ I hereby verify that my submitted poem is a new work (whether published or unpublished); that I am the author of the poem; that decisions of judges are final; that if I am unable to read my poem on July 13, I will inform the contest curator as soon as possible so another reader may be arranged to read my poem.

4. Permission to use: By submitting this poem, I grant explicit permission for the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society to use this poem and publish this poem with my name on their website, Facebook page, eNewsletter, and other marketing materials and be posted at the Phalen Poetry Park.

5. Hold harmless: My signature below signifies that I hold harmless the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society and its Board members and Advisors, the poetry contest judges, and the Dragon Festival and waive any liability in connection with this contest.

Poet’s signature: ____________________________ Date: ___________________________
Presentation on Financing and Securing International Business Development and Trade Operations

Date & time: Tuesday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., June 18
Location: 1st National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota St., Ste E200, DEED Conference Center, Saint Paul
Fee: $45 (includes breakfast, refreshments and lunch); $55, late registrations after June 16 or walk-ins
Registration: www.regonline.com
Event contact: Nikolay Megits, Ph.D., Regional Trade Manager, Minnesota Trade Office, at 651-259-7495 or nikolay.megits@state.mn.us

The Minnesota Trade Office offers the many Minnesota-based businesses actively involved in business operations an opportunity to discuss the various credit guarantee systems and hands-on export finance practices, opportunities, and challenges in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Today, innovative approaches in financing and securing export operations present both significant challenges and opportunities. Banks are often initially reluctant, if not opposed, to financing companies’ exports because of the risks. The traditional approach of an export financing technique related to industrialized countries, in many cases, do not apply to the most developing nations.

Sometimes the Export-Import Bank is not able to assist customers when exporting US-made goods. For this reason, an innovative approach to an export credit insurance is a significant challenge for the financing bank against a loss of funds or when the exporter encounters difficulties in repaying the credit.

Event agenda
8 – 8:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast
8:30 – 8:35 a.m. Welcoming remarks
8:35 – 9 a.m. Role and Value of the US Government in Providing Financial Assistance
9 – 9:30 a.m. EBRD’s investment to Emerging Economies
9:30 – 10 a.m. How to Strategically Grow Sales and Distribution in Key Markets Using Finance
10 – 10:20 a.m. Networking
10:20 a.m. – noon Panel Discussions and Q&A – Hands-on Aspects of Trade Financing and Risk Mitigation Technique
noon-2 p.m. Lunch and networking, “Meet the International Finance Experts”

Speakers
• Michele Small, head of Washington Representative Office, The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, District of Columbia
• Jeffrey Kamins, president and CEO, International, Integrated Trade Finance LLC (ITF), Omaha, NE

Panelists
• John Crouch, director, Global Trade & Supply Chain Solutions, Bank of America-Merrill Lynch
• Leslie A. Bergland, principal, Trade Acceptance Group
• Denis Griffin, director, Minneapolis Regional Office, EX-IM Bank
• Regional Export Finance Manager Carlos Sosa, SBA.

Production Editor Needed
Great opportunity to gain experience in laying out China Insight, a monthly tabloid newspaper that has serving the community for 17-plus years.

• The right candidate must know InDesign Creative Suite and have graphics background.
• Reliability and ability to meet deadlines are critical.
• A strong interest in Chinese culture and business matters will be an asset.
• Must be willing to take creative initiative and be a team player.

This is classified as a volunteer position, but a small stipend will be provided to the right individual who demonstrates a strong passion for our mission and can work with minimal supervision.

Send resumé to Greg Hugh at ghugh@chinainsight.info or call 612-723-4872

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED
Host a Chinese student and make a difference... Enrich their experience and enhance your own

• As a host family you share American culture with a student from China and provide them more than they could learn in a classroom.
• Learn about their culture, explore the differences and develop new connections.

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

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

While we are seeking host families in all parts the Twin Cities area, we are especially seeking families in Eden Prairie.

To learn more about being a host family, contact Richard He at 612-987-6540 or email, rhe@chinainsight.info.

Wayzata High School students visit St. Paul Changsha China Garden

A group of Wayzata High School students recently went on a field trip led by their teacher Sheen Heng. They visited the Chinese Garden at the Phalen Regional Park, shop at the Hmong Village and dine at Legendary Spice in St. Paul.

Local artist Paul Kwok displays photographs of Chinese Gardens

The subject of Kwok’s recent exhibit at his studio at the Traffic Zone in Minneapolis was photographs of the Chinese Garden at the Arboretum and the Chinese Garden at Lake Phalen Regional Park.

Chinese Senior Center Society celebrates Mother’s Day

Friends and families celebrated Mother’s Day at Hibachi Buffet in Minneapolis. Mark your calendars to celebrate Father’s Day with CSCS.
A chilling (tea) change comes over China

By Bill Waddington, owner, TeaSource, contributor

Twenty-five years ago, you would be hard-pressed to find a chilled tea drink anywhere in China. Now you can find versions of iced tea everywhere, particularly in the summertime. What happened?

For hundreds of years the Chinese understood that a hot beverage will cool a body down faster and more efficiently than a cold beverage will because a hot beverage will briefly cause you to perspire more. (Perspiration is your body’s way of getting rid of excess heat. The little bit of heat added to your body by a cup of hot tea is much less than the extra heat your body will give off as it perspires and cools down.) So the Chinese have always drunk hot tea even during the summer months. Also, historically, refrigeration and ice have always been luxuries only enjoyed by the middle class and above. But even during the summer months, most Chinese would adjust their tea drinking to the heat. They would enjoy sweeter and lighter teas such as jasmine, sweet oolongs such as Huang Jin Gui, or tea with any fruit, dried orange being the most popular. The Chinese would wisely avoid teas such as Lapsang Souchong (smokey) or Dark/Puer teas (earthy).

However, starting in the 1990s, in conjunction with the rise of the middle class and the ready availability of refrigeration and ice; versions of chilled tea started to appear across China. The first was a variant on American iced tea. This was Hong Kong-style iced lemon tea, a strong black tea, with a frothy confection floating on top, usually a combination of whipped cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk. This new concoction is very popular today amongst young Chinese hipsters -- the next logical step after the development of a thriving Chinese middle class.

China is the birth place of tea, approximately 5,000 years ago. And for 4,975 years there was relatively little change in Chinese tea-drinking traditions. But as China has culturally and economically entered the world stage during the last 25 years, changes came with it; from the explosion of the middle-class, to the huge increase in disposable income for almost everyone in China, to the types of tea and lifestyle they enjoy. Yes, even cheese tea.

How to make the easiest American style iced tea, the cold brewed method.

Place 8-10 rounded teaspoons of tea, either loose or bagged, in a gallon jug. Fill the jug with cold water. Let steep overnight (at least 8 hours) in the refrigerator. Strain. Serve over ice. Add lemon slices just before serving if you wish.

This method requires less tea and produces a smooth, light and refreshing iced tea.

Whether you use red (aka black tea) or green tea is your preference. Red is stronger and green, lighter.

Blue raspberry iced tea from TeaSource

Chinese hipsters queue up around the block for hours for their cheese tea:

Government & Politics

Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Andrew Yang’s May visit and CNN rankings

By Greg Hugh

Less than a month after Andrew Yang, the first Chinese American candidate for president of the U.S., arrived in Minnesota to appear at a rally and a separate fundraising dinner, CNN released their latest rankings for the 2020 Democratic field. Out of 24 candidates, only 10 are placed in the ranking.

“Hey, Yang stated, “they placed me in the Top 10. They placed us far ahead of sitting sena- tors, governors, mem- bers of Congress, and former Cabinet members. We are gaining serious momentum — and the media is finally starting to catch on.”

According to the CNN rankings the 10 men and women most likely - as of May 23 - to wind up as their party’s nominee, two new faces got added this time around, which means two people had to drop off the list. The two eliminated? Former San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro and New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand.

As stated in the CNN ranking announcement placing Andrew Yang in 10th place, “Once you get past the first seven-ish candidates, it gets very hard to differentiate between the next 10. But here’s the case for Yang: He’s built a large and aggressive online presence. And he created the 65,000 individual donor plateau - one benchmark for qualifying for the first debates next month - way back in mid-March. He’s also averaging 1 percent in the RealClearPolitics average of national polling, which is better than, say, Gillibrand. (Previous ranking: Not ranked)

It is not surprising that Yang is gaining momentum based on the enthusiastic crowd that greeted him at Boom Island Park in Minneapolis last month. He got a rousing welcome from the crowd of over 2,000 that had assembled to listen to him speak. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon and the crowd that comprised mostly of diverse and younger voters, cheered and participated in the rally displaying many banners and decked out in Yang T-shirts and MATH (Make America Think Harder) caps. They broke into cheers every time he referred to numbers or statistics. They chanted “Pow- erPoint! PowerPoint!” when he renewed a pledge to use the program to deliver the State of the Union. And when the Yang supporters realized he was about to drop his biggest applause line, they screamed the words to help him finish his rally with a bang: “The opposite of Donald Trump,” Yang yelled, pausing to let his fans join in. “Is an Asian man who likes math!”

At the conclusion of the rally, Yang graci- ously walked into the crowd, spent time with his supporters, and posed for pictures with all who wished to do so.

Later in the day, Yang arrived at the home of SK and Sing Lo in Edina where more than 200 guests attended a fundraising dinner. The crowd had gathered outside for photos, and when Yang arrived, he decided to make his presentation right in the front yard, which included some points from his afternoon rally.

Yang at Edina fundraiser

Yang stated, “It is not immigrants but automation and technology that are causing economic dislocations around the country. We need to wake up to the transformation around us and think much bigger about how to make our economy work for people.” In response to a show of hands as to how many in the group have previously participated in political activism, the low response did not surprise Yang. He challenged the group, saying Chinese Americans needed to be more politically involved. Although he wel- come the support of the Chinese American community, he stated that it was important that everyone exercise their right to vote and participate in the political system. He concluded his talk by making another of his classic slogans and banners, “I will take solutions from anywhere,” he said. “It’s not left or right, it’s forward.”

Yang spent the rest of the evening visiting with individuals and groups, posing for pictures and signing copies of his book “The War on Normal People.”

Although Yang has qualified to be part of the June debates, he still needs to achieve a financial goal in fundraising. So, to learn more about Yang’s initiatives and to donate to his campaign, visit www.yang2020.com.

Andrew Yang's May visit and CNN rankings

Supporters surrounded Yang (in baseball cap right of center MATH sign) at May 5 rally in Minneapolis