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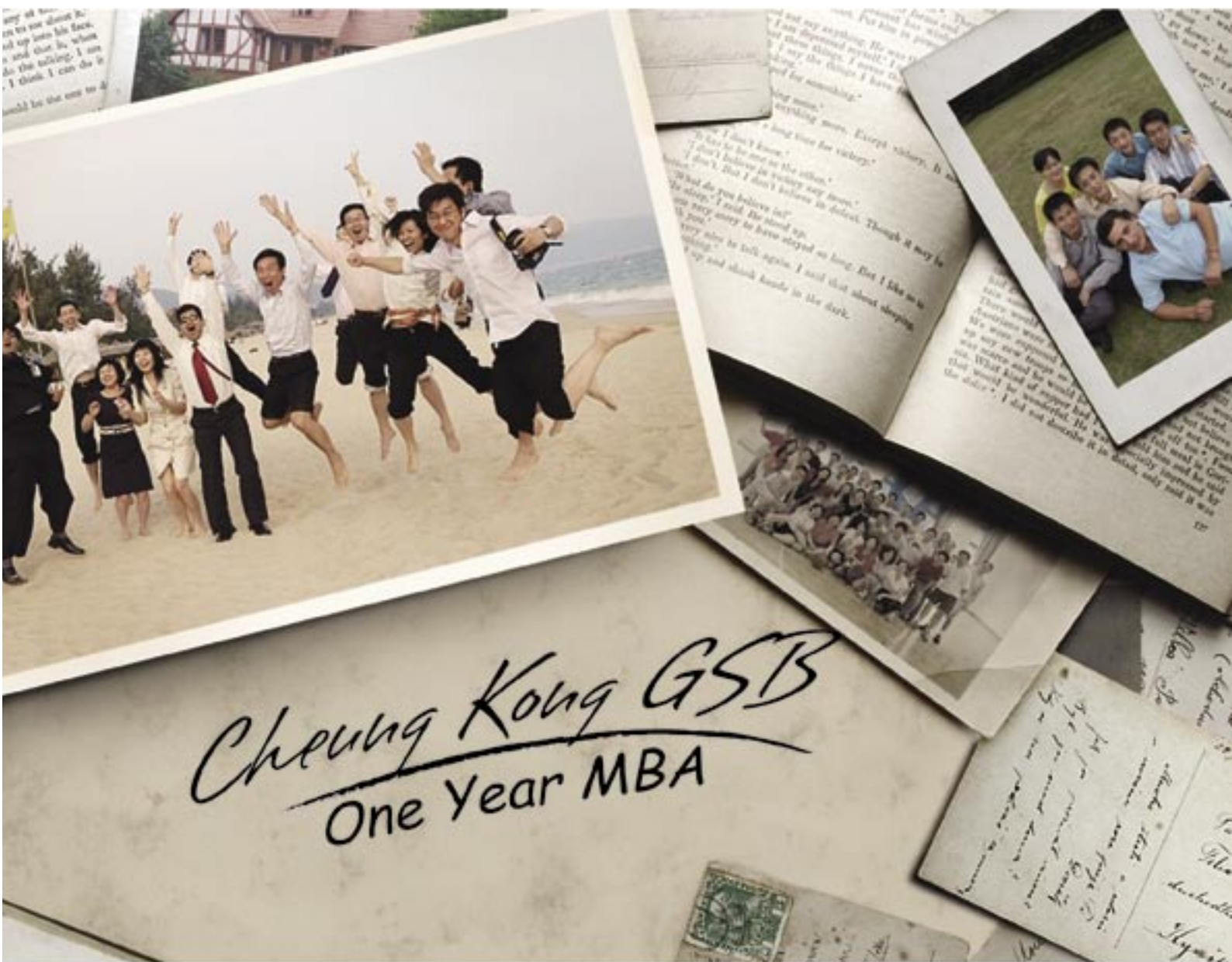
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# theBeijinger

## ECOLOGICAL ECONOMY

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**BEIJING MEATS**  
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Moses Liu, China Weekly

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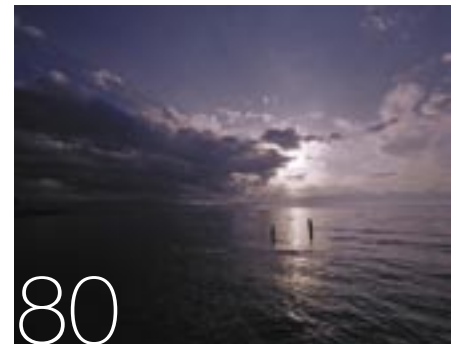
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# LETTERS & NOTES

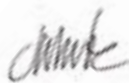
## FROM THE EDITOR

**M**y love affair with books started badly. Very badly, in fact. I struggled with the whole reading English aspect of the affair. I hope others did too. How was I to know that the word “chaos” was of course pronounced “kay-oss” and not “charse”? As for “vehicle,” it makes sense now but it seemed – and understandably so – on our first acquaintance that it ought to be said “veh-hih-cull.” This was the source of much amusement for my classmates and, to my recollection, the teacher (which may be the reason that to this day I detest both children and English teachers). The fact I was 17 at the time can’t have helped my case.

Once I learned that you don’t need to read aloud in order to read, I took to it like a duck to water.\* The printed word became a fascination. To be fair, everything was a fascination at the time but these were all fleeting in comparison to that of letters put on paper in the right order. I made the leap from comics to magazines to books and I was hooked. If there’s blame to be apportioned then I’d say it rests with the writers of the *Choose Your Own Adventure* series. If you choose to flee to Burma, turn to page 75. If you choose to sneak around other people’s houses, turn to page 18.

Over time I have realized that books speak volumes about their readers. This explains why certain members of our editorial staff who shall remain nameless carry works by Freud around with them in an attempt to impress not-so-young ladies in cafes. Such aspiration is the reason I have an unopened copy of *Ulysses* on my bookshelf while a well-thumbed copy of *Bravo Two Zero* sits next to it. Now there’s a book that just gets better with every read.

So there you go – books are great. You don’t even need to read them. They make good decoration, they’re a nice accessory, some are even hollowed out to hide things in. But if you do read them, you might find out things such as it used to be a crime in the UK for a man to pretend to be an Egyptian.† Pharaoh ‘nuff. ‡



Jonathan White  
Managing Editor

\* In case you were unsure, ducks are massive fans of water. Massive.

† This may explain why The Bangles only reached #3 in the UK charts with “Walk Like an Egyptian.”

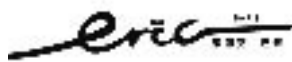
‡ If you’re a fan of jokes this bad, you can find more in joke books.

## GIVETH AWAY

Win a **six-course dinner for two** at **Hotel Côté Cour Beijing**, by correctly answering this month’s Trivia Travails (p12).



Be first to spot this month’s **Bogus Ad** and win vouchers for **Éric Paris Salon** (worth RMB 300).



E-mail your answers to [marketing@thebeijinger.com](mailto:marketing@thebeijinger.com)



Romance novelist **Susu Luo** paired up with non-fictional photographer **Mary Dennis** to author this month’s cover image.

## ON THE WEB

It’s your last chance to vote in **the Beijinger’s 7th Annual Reader Restaurant Awards**, widely recognized as the most comprehensive and legitimate restaurant awards in the city. Over 4,600 votes were cast last year – expectations are high that the number of voters this year could exceed the 5,000 mark.

New categories for 2010 include **Best Contemporary Chinese, Best Chef, Best Kung Pao Chicken, Best Mediterranean** and **Best Tapas**. Voting closes on March 9, so hurry. Just go to [www.thebeijinger.com](http://www.thebeijinger.com) and follow the links. It’s open to all so there’s no need to register.

The full roundup of winners will be published on the blog and in the April issue of *the Beijinger*.



Got something more to say about Beijing’s restaurants and bars? Need to rant or recall a recent delectable dining experience? Express your views on **TheBeijinger.com**, the city’s most widely read English-language site.

While we’re talking food, each week, our **Food Fight** contest rewards the best web reviews with great prizes that range from books to ski passes to vouchers for your favorite Beijing restaurants. The topic of each week’s Food Fight competition is posted on the blog every Wednesday, and winners are announced the following week. You don’t need to be a literary genius to win – just witty, concise and informative.

Posting restaurant reviews is easy – just register as a user, go to the “Directory” on **TheBeijinger.com**, find your chosen venue and click “Add a Review.”

## BEIJING BABBLE

“I just count my **blessings** when the woman at **McDonald’s** can speak **English**.”

– from the thread “How Does It Feel Like Living In Mainland China?”

“**Pop stars** in the last five years. Just **bloody horrible**.”

– from the thread “What kind of people do you hate?”

“**All kids**, especially **fat ones**.”

– from the thread “Well what people do you LOVE?”

“One for every **meter** required by my **restraining order** ... **f\*\*k** this is going to be **expensive**.”

– from the thread “How many roses do you plan to buy for your gf on Valentine’s Day?”

“Getting your **arse kicked** and your **Mandarin skills** insulted by the **nice old men** who let you and your friends play **Chinese chess** with them.”

– from the thread “[Are] there any ‘fun to do things’ besides clubbing?”

For more nonsensical narrative, visit

[www.TheBeijinger.com](http://www.TheBeijinger.com)



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