

the Beijinger

中外生活广场

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City Life Magazine

Who is the Beijinger?

The many faces of our city



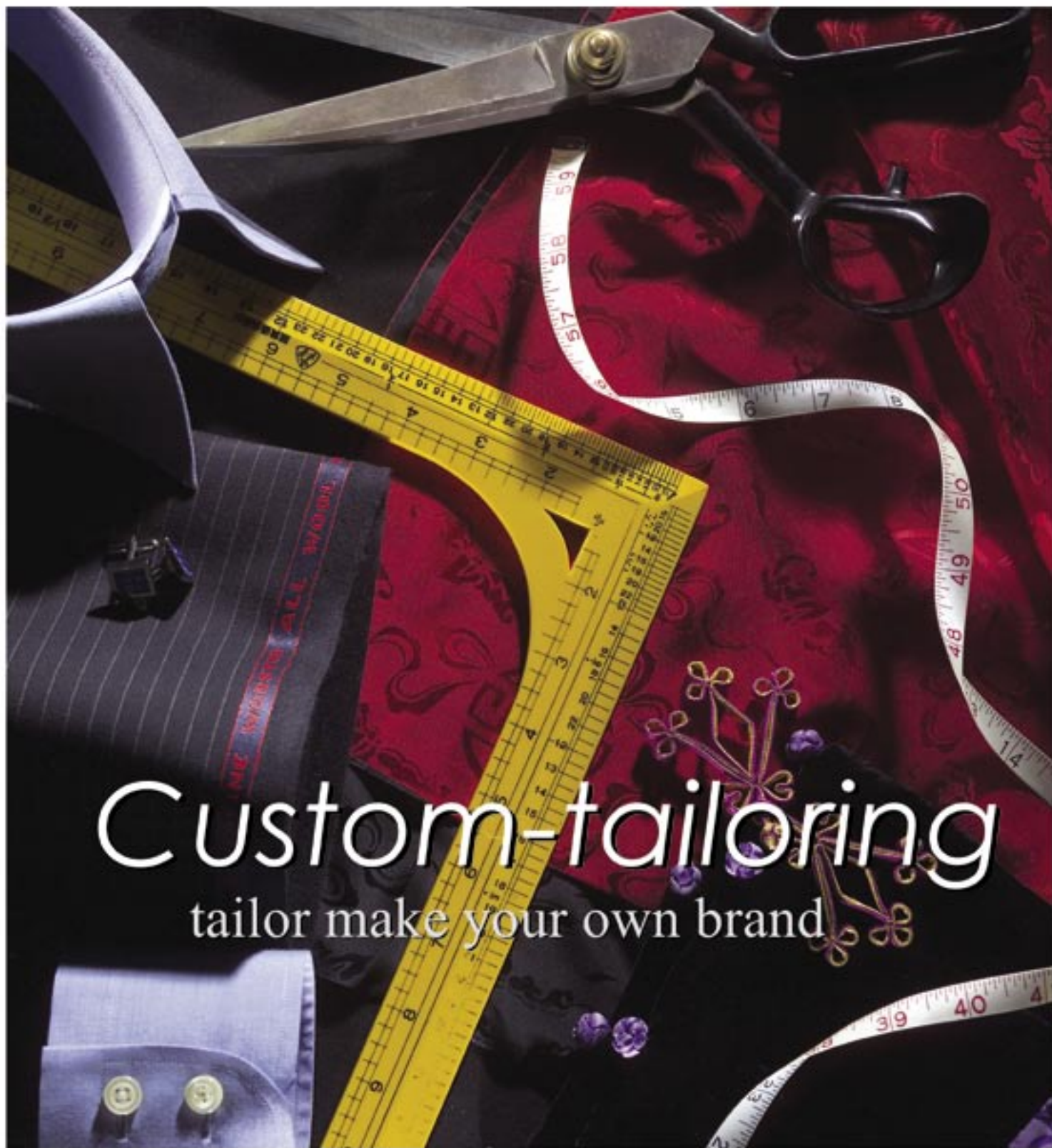
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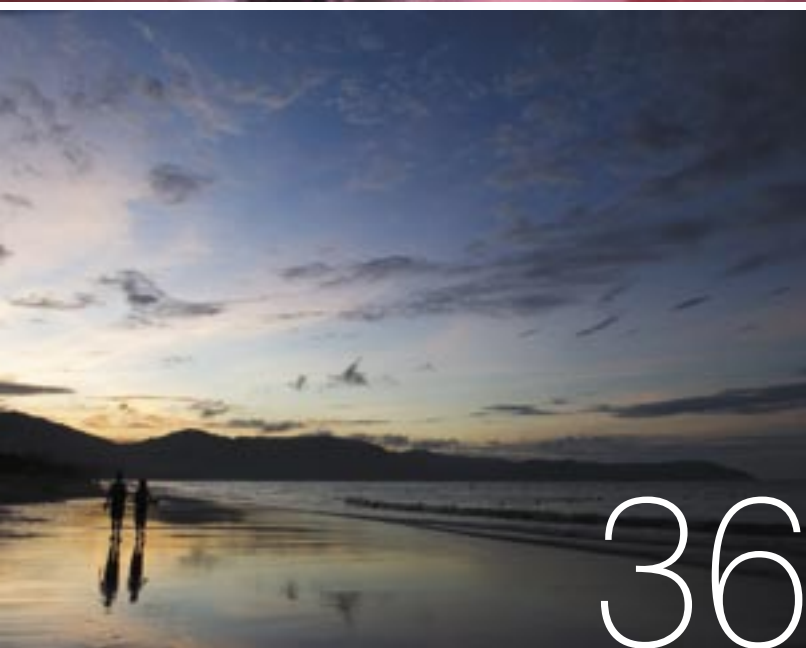
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EDITOR'S LETTER

The first year I lived abroad, I had an epiphany: Not all English-speakers are from the United States. Was I aware of this fact beforehand? Of course. It just took a few thousand miles and an ocean before I could put the concept into practice.

Embarrassing though it may be, I'm not afraid to admit my previous naïvete concerning the world outside my little American box, because I'm proud to announce that I'm a different person now. In fact, if I may say so myself, I'm pretty good at being an expat. I've gotten used to the horn-honking, the shoulder-jostling, and the oft-intrusion of curious smells. I now have a knack for counter-offering when bargaining, and have acquired that all-important pedestrian's peripheral vision. And I think I'm starting to understand British English. I think.

A recent trip back home showed me how much I had grown. My worldview had changed and become truly distinct from friends who have never lived outside the States. They too have moved on with their lives – not for better or for worse, but each in their own individual ways.

Sometimes it saddens me to think how much my friends and I have grown apart. Then again, I know that change isn't such a bad thing – as long as I remember to regard it as such. The name of this magazine, for instance, has changed in the past year, as has the managing editor from this month onward. And all seems to be going relatively well thus far.

Change, and perpetual change, is very much a part of expat life. And in the past year, Beijing often seemed to be transforming itself by the hour. It doesn't take long for friends to come and go, venues to open and close, and ceremonies to commence and conclude. And all the while, life goes on for those of us Beijingers who remain.

Most of us don't know each other. In a circle that changes so quickly, it's impossible to know everyone. All the same, we are all Beijingers – people who, for one reason or another, have ended up in this great city. You and I might never know each other, but we know that we are out there. And that, amidst all the uncertainty, is quite comforting. *Lisa Liang*

GIVETH AWAY

Be the first person to spot this month's **Bogus Ad** and win a **RMB 1,000 voucher** for **Zen Spa!**

E-mail your answer to editor@thebeijinger.com



Pop diva **Kylie Minogue** will be loco-motioning through town, with a stop in Beijing on Dec 1. Read all about it in Up Front (p28).

Want a chance to **win tickets** to see Kylie? Turn to p14 to find out how!



This month's amalgamation was designed by *tbj's* visual mastermind Joey Guo. Find out who the pieces belong to on p19!

Corrections/clarifications:

In last month's **Scene & Heard**, we forgot to note that the **Ayala Champagne** launch was hosted by ASC Fine Wines, and photos were provided by **ASC photographers**.

ON THE WEB

www.TheBeijinger.com

Got a restaurant to recommend? Had a horrendous experience somewhere and need a place to vent? Let TheBeijinger.com come to your rescue! Share your stories, insights and highlights with other Beijingers through our website's new "user review" option. Do it – if not for your fellow countrymen, then at least for the free prizes.

Yes, that's right! Your feedback on where to go and what place blows will be rewarded with a free meal (or something close to it). Every week, one lucky person who writes the best or most useful review will receive a voucher to one of Beijing's finer dining establishments. Winners are announced every Thursday in our "7 Days" newsletter.

So what are you waiting for? Get online now! And eat for free, courtesy of www.thebeijinger.com.

Mmm ... food ... thanks,



BEIJING BABEL

Big words and small talk on *the Beijinger* forum

"You probably still think drinking out of a **beer-bong** sets a **spotlight on your manhood**, too."

– from the thread "Beijing girls easy?"

"Mine **scream** when I **touch** them. I don't know **why**."

– from the thread "Backster Effect – Feelings in Plants"

"I had never seen **my father** so **surprised**"

– from the thread "Man hugs and other male greetings"

"Everyone has to **go through it**. Consider it a **right of passage**."

– from the thread "Why do imported products have Chinese pasted over the English ingredient list?"

"I'm **f****r**, **dangerous**. Are you **want to die**?"

– from the thread "question of "BEING""

"A **priest**, a **pervert**, and a **pedophile** walk into a bar ... and that was just the first guy."

– from the thread "Had to tell some jokes for a boring Monday after the holidays"

"The other **theory** is that **tornadoes** are caused by **trailer parks**."

– from the thread "Science Game!"

For more nonsensical narrative, check out www.thebeijinger.com

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|  <p>2 Reggae Sunday Free BBQ and righteous reggae standards by DJ Tootles and friends make this party totally irie. Free. 5pm. Obiwan (6617 3231)</p> | <p>3 Bookworm Pub Quiz Put your gray matter to the test under some tough questioning from quizmaster Paul. Wine specials all night. Free. 7.30pm. The Bookworm (6586 9507)</p> |  <p>4 Beijing Dub Session Lively up yourself with the dubstep sounds of selectors Je ne sais quoi (a.k.a. Saul), Slingshot, and Tootles the Phant. Free. 9pm. Obiwan (6617 3231)</p> | <p>5 Napoleon Dynamite The guy who went from dork to debonair brings his tater-tot-flavored style to town. English with Chinese subtitles. Free popcorn. 8pm. Free. Obiwan (6617 3231)</p> |  <p>6 Grand Prix Figure Skating Expect sequins aplenty. Tickets at piao.com.cn. RMB 40-580. Capital Gymnasium (6825 8306)</p> |
| <p>9 Umbrella Showing at the newly opened screening room in documentary film production company CNEX's 798-style warehouse space. Free. 3.30pm. CNEX or Space for Imagination (6279 1280)</p> | <p>10 International Student Film Festival of the Beijing Film Academy Student filmmakers and famous faces present short films. Festival runs until Nov 15. RMB 3. Beijing Film Academy (8204 1955)</p> | <p>11 Fashion Edition of Kunqu: The Romance of The West Chamber The opening show of the 6th Beijing International Theater & Dance Festival. RMB 100-1,280. 7.30pm. Poly Theatre (6500 1188 ext 5126/5127)</p> | <p>12 Paddy's Quiz Free prizes for every round and free drinks for the top five finishers. Free. 8.30pm. Paddy O'Shea's (6415 6389)</p> | <p>13 World Ballet Gala Get your ballet on. RMB 180-1,280. 7.30pm. NCPA Opera House (6655 0000)</p> |
|  <p>16 Hugh Reed Performs with Maggie Who and Wang Wei. RMB 30, RMB 40 (students). 9pm. MAO Livehouse (6402 5080)</p> | <p>17 Scratch Mondays A DJ battle on the decks for all you hip-hop heads, plus free bubbly for ladies from 9pm until midnight. Free. 9pm. Bling (5905 6999)</p> |  <p>19 Musical: Aida An energetic tale of power and forbidden love inspired by a classic Egyptian opera and adapted for Broadway by Elton John and Tim Rice. See Stage Feature, p58. RMB 80-280. Beijing Exhibition Theatre (6835 4455)</p> |  <p>22 Queer-essence Pop down the rabbit hole to experience Beijing's best regular club night. Free. 10pm. White Rabbit (133 2112 3678)</p> | |
| <p>23 Flamenco Passion Last chance to catch the Paco Mora Company. RMB 80-1,280. 7.30pm. Poly Theatre (6500 1188 ext 5126/5127)</p> | <p>24 Coming Soon ...  Dec 1: Kylie Minogue The Australian pop queen stops in Beijing (see Up Front, p28). RMB 380-2,000. 8pm. Beijing Olympic Basketball Arena (6585 5755)</p> | <p>25 Beijing Guoan vs. Changsha Ginde It's the penultimate game of the season. Will our boys still be in the race for the title? RMB 30-100. 7.30pm. Fengtai Stadium (6381 1576)</p> |  <p>26 Chen Wenbo: Asian Rays What better time than now to peruse the new works of hot artist Chen Wenbo? PKM Gallery (8456 7429)</p> | |

November

Fri

Sat

1

The Syndicate presents DJ Krust

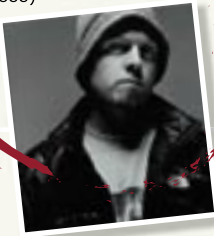
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7

DJ Shadow

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8

New Photon Trio

OT Lounge's Saturday night attraction. Free. 10pm. OT Lounge (6502 5722)

14

New Pants

Short pants, hot pants, blue pants, underpants? No - New Pants! RMB 80, RMB 60 (advance). 9pm. Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)

15

Hotel Costes 11

Chill-out legend DJ Stephane Pompuognac brings the sounds from his new album, a journey through world music. Free. 10pm. Zeta Bar (138 1151 5110)

21

Wax Tailor

French hip-hop DJ graces the stage of Yugong Yishan. RMB 110, RMB 80 (advance). Yugong Yishan (6404 2711)



22

James Pants

Stones Throw DJ conjures up some hip-hop. See Clubhouse, p69. RMB 70. 10pm. White Rabbit (133 2112 3678)

Tsingtao Brewery Tour & Tasting

the Beijinger presents ... RMB 50. 7pm. Tsingtao Beer Palace (5905 6018)

28

The Canterville Ghost

TNT presents this tale of a grumpy old English ghost who haunts an American family. RMB 60-200. 7pm. Peking University Hall (6275 1278)

Lonely China Day

Back in Beijing and hot off their US tour. RMB 40. 9pm. 2 Kolegas (6436 8998)

29

American Yearbook

The Martha Graham Dance Company throws some serious shapes with this presentation of American dance styles. RMB 100-800. Tickets at 6417 7845. 7.30pm. NCPA (6655 0000)



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CityScene

STATS

12.1 Percentage of Chinese university graduates who find a job directly after graduation



2.7 Percentage increase in price of fuel in Beijing in October

330 Height in meters of Beijing's tallest building, the China World Trade Center Phase III



561.5 Estimated length, in kilometers, of Beijing subway lines by 2015

354 Number of Beijing residents over 100 years old



230,000 Number of people in Beijing living on less than RMB 390 a month



300mil (USD 43.9 million) Amount set aside by the Chinese government to help farmers adversely affected by the ongoing melamine-tainted milk scandal



640,000 Number of people who took part in the annual civil service recruitment exam in 2007



2.42mil Number of people who visited the Olympic Green over the National Day holiday

Compiled by Victoria Yang and Paul Pennay; illustrations by OliverRaw.com
Sources: Beijing Daily, Beijing Evening News, Beijing News, China Daily, China Highway, China News, China.org

NEWS BITES

Drug tests, space races and



Surrogate breasts Sports fans in the capital city had another opportunity to show case their national pride after the close of the Paralympics. The first **World Mind Sports Games**, which include competitions in chess, bridge, checkers, Go and *xiangqi* (Chinese chess), brought together 3,000 "mind athletes" from more

than 100 countries, all seeking WMS gold. Since doping controls are now de rigueur at any international sporting event, physical or otherwise, competitors underwent the same strict tests as Olympians. It was a formality: No one has yet been caught cheating and, as one official said, performance-enhancing drugs couldn't conceivably help a mind sports athlete. Still, WMS organizers have bigger aspirations of making it under the IOC umbrella – and if they want to play, they have to comply. There's no word yet on a posthumous test on Bobby Fischer.



Shenzhou VII blasted off last month amid much hoopla, and Chinese around the world eagerly awaited word from the three men aboard.

Xinhua jumped the gun in providing the news, printing a statement from airborne taikonauts before they had lifted-off. The state news agency immediately retracted the statement, chalking it up to technical problems. At least the glitch didn't come at the expense of the actual mission, as was almost the case with China's first man-made earth satellite project in 1970.

Wet nurses are in the money following the milk scandal. Chinese mothers unable to nurse and with money to spare are appealing to agencies for surrogate breasts. Following the revelations, wet nurses in Guangzhou were commanding RMB 20,000 a month – up from RMB 6,000. Beijing's own household management agencies reported a surge in interest, despite the health risks that abound from the practice. Nutritionists warn that any old breast milk won't do, advising mothers to breast-feed their own babies where possible. Families of many potential wet nurses are also less than thrilled, with some husbands threatening to bar their wives from nursing the infants of others. But if it was good enough for Puyi ... *Ashley Eldridge*



ILLUSTRATION: LI XING

Avant Guard

The humble *baoran* (security guard) is often seen but rarely heard from. Usually, he is in his twenties and instantly recognizable from his dark blue uniform and the walkie-talkie strapped to his belt. **Ge Wang** caught up with one such *baoran* (who wished to remain anonymous); the chat took place at the CBD's Hou Xiandai Cheng residences, just behind Soho New Town.

Throughout the conversation, the *baoran* continued about his business: addressing the queries of passing residents and occasionally taking a break to deal with the mumblings on his walkie-talkie.

tbj: The Beijinger: Can you estimate how many foreigners are living in this compound?

Wang: I'd say many – probably half of all the residents. Most of them work in Soho.

tbj: How do you communicate with them?

Wang: Well, most of them speak Chinese quite well. I can also say a few words in English. The good thing is they are always as patient as I am, so we communicate well.

tbj: What don't you like about dealing with foreigners?

Wang: The worst is when they ask me for directions. Although I told you a lot of them speak good Mandarin, the problem is, in some cases they don't actually understand the meaning of the words coming out of their mouths. They can say the word *fangdong* ("landlord") but they don't know what that is. Then I have to try and explain to them that it means the guy who rented their apartment to them, with my broken words and hand gestures.

tbj: And what do you like the most about foreigners?

Wang: They are always polite. Especially when I see them in this residential area. They always nod and say hello to me, with warm smiles on their faces. I actually think sometimes foreigners are more polite than many Chinese.

tbj: Can you remember your first encounter with a foreigner?

Wang: I think it was when I was 12 or 13, and I thought they looked really strange. After a few years, when I was working in Shandong province, I saw many foreigners living there. Back then I felt kind of intimidated by them, and I thought they wouldn't bother to talk to me if I said something to them. Of course, I've gotten used to them since I came to Beijing, as I see many of them on the streets. Plus, things got better after I became the security guard here as I interact with them all the time. We're all human beings, aren't we? They are not much different than we are.



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It takes a village: Photographer Simon Lim snaps dusk settling on The Village at Sanlitun.

Got a Peking Pic? Send it to editor@thebeijinger.com for a chance to win a RMB 500 voucher for Oriental Taipan Cafe.

TRIVIA TRAVAIS

How closely have you been paying attention? Each month we run a series of questions based on the content of the issue. Answer them all correctly, and win free stuff! This month's prize is tickets to see **Kylie Minogue** in her upcoming Beijing concert (for more, see Up Front, p28).

E-mail your answers to editor@thebeijinger.com.

1) What does TDS stand for?

- a. To Die Sadly
- b. Two Dancing Scorpions
- c. Total Dissolved Solids
- d. Totally Discombobulated Stooges

2) What prize did Tseng Yu-chin win at the Chinese Contemporary Art Awards?

- a. Best Young Artist
- b. Best New Media Artist
- c. Best Drag Artist
- d. Best Starving Artist

3) What's unusual about fixed-gear bikes?

- a. Their price is always the same
- b. The pedals move whenever the back wheel does
- c. Recovering junkies use them
- d. They repair themselves

4) Yang Fan, of Ourselves Beside Me, was formerly a member of:

- a. Candy Monster
- b. Hang on the Box
- c. Steely Heart
- d. New Pants

5) At Club MGM, how much does a bottle of Hennessy Richard cost?

- a. RMB 51,300
- b. USD 51,300
- c. GBP 51, 300
- d. An arm and a leg

6) What was Chris Patten's former job?

- a. Singer/songwriter for Tomahawk and Mr. Bungle
- b. Coordinator for the British segment of the Olympics Closing Ceremony
- c. British governor of Hong Kong
- d. British Prime Minister

7) What does BFA stand for?

- a. Buddhists For Animals
- b. Beijing Film Academy
- c. Beijing Foreign Academics
- d. Budding Florists Association

8) How old is Chiaw Lan Lake?

- a. over 2,000 years old
- b. as old as the hills
- c. 200 years old next Tuesday
- d. around 20 years old

LAST MONTH'S ANSWERS:

- 1) c. The Fly 2) b. *Elle* magazine's Asian Designer of the Year 3) c. *Taming of the Shrew* 4) d. "Vanilla Sky" 5) b. Geremie Barmé 6) d. David Sandström 7) c. pink 8) c. speed skating 9) a. three 10) a. EUR 600

Last month's lucky winner of VIP tickets to see Kanye West was **Benjamin Han**.

9) China Tracy is the *Second Life* avatar of which artist?

- a. Elton John
- b. Jeff Koons
- c. Yue Minjun
- d. Cao Fei

10) Who is Aida?

- a. An unjustly imprisoned Nubian princess
- b. Lead singer of Brazilian pop band Kasino
- c. Sarah McLachlan's daughter
- d. The new creative director of the NCPA

Bogus Ad

Be the first person to spot this month's Bogus Ad and win a RMB 1,000 voucher for Zen Spa.

E-mail your answer to editor@thebeijinger.com

Michael Armstrong attends the opening of Song Kun's show in the 798 District and asks, "What makes a typical Beijing expat?"

“He reads *the Beijinger*, goes to the restaurants in the magazine and the parties on the weekend. He takes cabs, not the bus. He has lots of non-Chinese friends. And he lives a life that he couldn't possibly have at home.”



Julie Clemenson, 31,
Fine Arts Manager, Crown Fine Arts

“I notice the American accent. It has a certain imposing quality. The accent cuts through background noise – it's like how on certain days, because of the light-waves, certain colors are more noticeable.”



Reg Newitt
Manager, Red Gate Gallery

“He's stupid. He pays 10 *kuai* for fake drinks in Sanlitun and can't tell the difference. There are two different kinds: the student who parties all the time and has lots of money to spend, and the worker who also has lots of money, but is too tired to party.”



Cederic Lebarillif, 28,
Musician, Last Chance of Youth

“When he's been here for three days, he says: 'Chinese people are friendly.' After two weeks: 'I like Chinese culture.' Three months: 'I'm looking for a teaching job.' A half year: 'Life's not bad here.' A year: 'Why do Chinese people ... ?' After three years, Chinese people tell him: 'How do you have such good Chinese?'”



Duoyi, 27,
Project Assistant, Peking University Art Department

“I love to come here because they all smile at me. It's beautiful. But when I say this to a Chinese, they say, 'It's because you're a Westerner.' Is this really true? It's sad because the smiling is so beautiful.”



Paolo Seletti, 58,
Owner, Caffè Parana

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Scene & Heard



Acupuncture Records celebrated their first birthday at the Star Live. Sep 30. Photos by Simon Lim



Pimp My Club Launch Party @ Bling. Oct 12. Photos courtesy of the organizer



DKNY Party at Block 8. Oct 8, Photos courtesy of Block 8





Lane Crawford's one-year anniversary party. Oct 11. Photos courtesy of Lane Crawford



Diesel's star-studded 30th anniversary party at 798. Oct 11. Photo courtesy of Diesel



Beer fun at Drei Kronen 1308 Brauhaus grand opening. Sep 27. Photos courtesy of the organizer



Dr. Winfried Vahland, President & CEO Volkswagen Group China, at the opening party of the 2008 Oktoberfest at Paulaner Bräuhaus. Oct 9. Photo courtesy of Kempinski Hotel

920 Career Women's Health Campaign at Solana. Sep 20. Photo courtesy of Butterfly PR

French duo AIR's live performance at Yugong Yishan. Sep 26. Photo by Susu Luo

Singer Khalil Fong at Cartier 2008 Love Campaign at The Village at Sanlitun. Sep 19. Photo courtesy of Ogilvy

