

NY Times "ASIA" articles – 2012

Jan 1

"Culture and Control: **China TV Grows Racy**, and Gets a Chaperon," by Edward Wong. NYT summary: "For decades, China's Communist Party has pushed television networks here to embrace the market, but conservative cadres have grown increasingly fearful of the kinds of programs that court audiences." Attention to the changes wrought to television, film and theater by new rules announced in late October. Photos. Slide shows "In China, Reality Television Proves Too Real. One of a series "exploring the struggle to shape the culture of an authoritarian culture." Links to several earlier articles. Very long article, datelined Nanjing.

"Fresno Journal: **A Hmong Generation Finds Its Voice in Writing**," by Patricia Leigh Brown in Fresno, California. "As the first generation to grow up with a written language, English --rather than the traditional spoken Hmong--the members of the Hmong American Writers' Circle are addressing a new kind of coming of age in America. . . . Writing is a way to reinforce 'Hmongness.'" Photo. Document: "Pieces From the Hmong American Writers' Circle." Long article.

"**Liu Xiaobo's Plea for the Human Spirit**," by Jonathan Mirsky. An essay upon the publication of "No Enemies, No Hatred; Selected Essays and Poems," by Liu Xiaobo, the imprisoned Nobel Peace laureate of 2010. "Taken together, his essays offer the best analysis I have read of what's wrong in the People's Republic of China." Mr. Mirsky is a journalist and historian specializing in China. He was named British International Reporter of the Year in 1990 for his dispatches from Tiananmen Square. Generous quotations within this long article, but no links to the text of the book, published by Harvard University Press. Photo.

Jan 2

"**New Year's Revelry Hurts Hundreds in Philippines**," by Floyd Whaley in Manila. Notwithstanding a government-sponsored campaign urging safety in New Year's observances, "when the smoke cleared on Sunday morning, few officials were celebrating." Attention to the numbers of injured by fireworks, gunfire and other mayhem. "The annual Philippine custom of bringing in the new year with high-volume celebrations is rooted in the Chinese tradition of driving away bad luck with noise, but here it has come to involve chaos, violence and high-powered explosives." Photos.

Jan 3

"**China's President Pushes Back Against Western Culture**," by Edward Wong. NYT summary: "In an essay published this week in a Communist Party policy magazine, President Hu Jintao said the West is trying to dominate China by spreading its culture and ideology." Substantial quotations from the essay, said to be based on a speech from last October, but no link to where the entire text can be read or studied. Photo: A Chinese audience watching a 3-D screening of "Avatar," the highest-grossing film in China in 2010.

Jan 5

"India Ink: **10 Questions for the Dean of Admissions** of the University of Pennsylvania," by Jacques Steinberg and Heather Timmons. NYT summary: "In an acknowledgement of the passionate interest that Indian students have in American colleges, India Ink introduces a regular feature in collaboration with The Choice, The New York Times's college admissions blog. First up: an interview with an Ivy League dean." The content of the questions and answers is only occasionally explicitly India-related. But the answers are clearly targeted to a readership in India. Links to other "India Ink" features at this page.

Jan 11

"**Malnutrition Widespread in Indian Children**, Report Finds," by Jim Yardley in New Delhi. "Roughly 42 percent of all Indian children under age 5 suffer from malnutrition, a sobering reminder of the persistence of poverty and hunger in the world's largest democracy, according to a major report released on Tuesday." Link to the homepage of the Naandi Foundation, an independent charitable group that conducted the study, known as the HUNGA MA Survey. There is a link there to a Naandi video of PM Singh (3:50) announcing the release of the report, the text of which I couldn't quickly find at the site.

Jan 16

"**India's Education Dream Remains Just That**," by Vir Singh from New Delhi. "India is facing a severe shortage of [college and university] faculty members. But it is not just low pay and lack of facilities that are being blamed." India is well on track toward failure to meet an ambitious goal to more than double the size of its higher education system by 2020. Long article. Much data.

Jan 17

"For Intrigue, Malaria Drug Gets the Prize," by Donald G. McNeil Jr. "The Chinese drug artemisinin has been hailed as one of the greatest advances in fighting malaria, the scourge of the tropics, since the discovery of quinine centuries ago. . . . But few people realize that in one of the paradoxes of history, the **drug was discovered thanks to Mao Zedong**, who was acting to help the North Vietnamese in their jungle war against the Americans. Or that it languished for 30 years thanks to China's isolation and the indifference of Western donors, health agencies and drug companies." Interesting and informative review of the history, now emerging, of the discovery of the curative powers of a traditional herb, qinghao, known in the West as Artemisia annua or sweet wormwood, a spiky-leaved weed with yellow flowers. Photo. Long article.

Jan 18

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: **In Search of the Indian in English Indian Literature**," by Manu Joseph. NYT summary: "The swirl of interest and celebrity around English-language Indian literature obscures a sad truth: What gets acclaim is skewed toward what can, and does, succeed in Britain and the United States." Anticipating India's pre-eminent literary event: The Jaipur Literature Festival, the writer--an

editor and novelist--offers a gloomy perspective on the sources of respect or fame for writers of fiction in India.

Jan 21

"Latitude: Come Hell With High Water," by Dan Morrison. NYT summary: "**Bangladesh has the unique moral authority** to convince big polluters to change their ways." Bangladesh, home to 158 million people, is especially vulnerable to climate change. Link to the government's plan for dealing with change. "Unfortunately, Bangladesh's sense of urgency isn't felt elsewhere."

Feb 6

"**China Fund to Support Film Projects Worldwide**," by Michael Cieply in Los Angeles. "If Chinese versions of Rupert Murdoch and Oprah Winfrey teamed up with, say, China's J. P. Morgan to start a film fund, this would be it." About Sun Media Group and Harvest Fund Management's creation of "an \$800 million fund that will back entertainment ventures in China and around the world . . . The fund, called Harvest Moon Seven Stars Media Private Equity, is expected to invest in existing entertainment companies. But it will also provide backing for individual filmmakers and build an entertainment distribution system in China and elsewhere . . ." Photo. Some data about the scope of film distribution in China.

Feb 7

"Books of The Times | A Chinese Civil War to Dwarf All Others," by Dwight Garner, reviewing "Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War," by Stephen R. Platt. "There should be a term in German that describes the sinking feeling you have **when reading a serious book of scholarship, one whose determined author deserves praise and tenure, that no civilian reader should pick up**, that will not warm your hands, that will make you regret the 10 hours of your life lost to it, and that, once put down, will not cry out to be picked back up." Very faint praise for a study of a Chinese civil war that lasted from 1851 to 1864, "likely the bloodiest civil war of all time." Photo: Stephen R. Platt.

Feb 10

"Movie Review | 'Bonsai People: **The Vision of Muhammad Yunus**': Singing the Praises of the Banker to the Poor," by Jeanette Catsoulis. "Whatever the impulse behind Holly Mosher's glowing documentary . . . , the film--save for a fleeting, easy-to-miss coda--would work perfectly as an advertisement for microfinance in general and the Grameen Bank in particular." Ms. Catsoulis objects to the fact that the movie fails to take any critical perspectives of microfinance or of Muhammad Yunus, the Bangladeshi economist, who with his bank, shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006. Ms. Catsoulis doesn't mention that, either. One image.

Feb 13

"**Saudi Writer Is Deported Over Posts on Prophet**," by Liz Gooch in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. "A Saudi journalist was deported Sunday to his home country, where he was expected to face arrest and possibly death for writing about the Prophet Muhammad." The Saudi government had sought his return. He had written about "an imaginary meeting with the Prophet Muhammad in a series of posts on Twitter, according to news reports."

Feb 15

"**Amid Image Of Ire Toward U.S. Base, Okinawans' True Views Vary**," by Martin Fackler in Henoko, Japan. "At first glance, this tiny fishing village can appear a hotbed of the sort of Okinawan anger that has damaged America's ties with Japan. Near Henoko's docks, demonstrators in tents recently marked the 2,850th day of their vigil against construction of a United States Marine airfield. But wander up Henoko's narrow streets, and the villagers will tell you a different story." Map. Long article.

Feb 16

"An Odd Game a Grandmother Can Appreciate," by Keith Bradsher. NYT summary: "Taiwanese paparazzi are a new problem for **Jeremy Lin's grandmother**, who watches her grandson's games on tape delay and denies reports she taught him basketball."

Feb 17

"Op-Ed Contributor: **Why China's Political Model Is Superior**," by Eric X. Li. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "America sees democracy as humanity's ultimate achievement; China merely sees its political system as a means to an end." Provocative perspectives from Shanghai by a writer described as a venture capitalist. "The fundamental difference between Washington's view and Beijing's is whether political rights are considered God-given and therefore absolute or whether they should be seen as privileges to be negotiated based on the needs and conditions of the nation." Brief defense of the Chinese government's response to the Tiananmen uprising of 1989.

"Needing an Artist and Calling on India," by Ben Sisario. "While **outsourcing was once viewed strictly as a cost-cutting** privilege of giant corporations, it is increasingly available to smaller companies and even individuals." Depicting this assertion by focusing on an American pop singer who found a production team in India to create a Bollywood-style video for his album. Photos.

Feb 19

"An Ambivalent **China Affirms the Charisma of the Dalai Lama**," by Andrew Jacobs in Hong'ai, China. At a modest state-built shrine, site of where the Dalai Lama spent the first three years of his life. "That this state-finance shrine to the Dalai Lama exists at all highlights Beijing's complex and contradictory attitude toward a man it frequently describes as a terrorist, a separatist and 'a wolf in monk's robes.'" Access to the shrine is severely limited; photographs are forbidden. Photo. Map.

"Looking for a Fight: **A New History of the Philippine-American War** [of 1899]," by Candice Millard. "What is striking about 'Honor in the Dust,' Gregg Jones' fascinating new book about the Philippine-American War, is not how much war has changed in more than a century, but how little." Reviewing a book subtitled "Theodore Roosevelt, War in the Philippines, and the Rise and Fall of America's Imperial Dream." Considerable attention to stories of horrific torture exacted by the American troops on Filipinos. Long article. Gregg Jones.

Feb 20

"**In China Movie Pact, More 3-D, Less Reality**," by Michael Cieply in Los Angeles. "A new agreement widening access in China to films from around the world, announced by negotiators for China

and the United States late on Friday, brings with it a message about what the next wave of movie exports will look like: They will be large, in 3-D and mostly unrelated to the real world." Photos.

Feb 21

"U.S. Influence in China," by Winberg Chai in Laramie, Wyoming. A professor emeritus of political science agrees with one aspect of Ho Pin's Op-Ed essay of Feb 13 which is linked here. "**We Americans are partly responsible for the corruption and other messes within Chinese society.** Our corporate executives are collaborators with Chinese officials in creating the 'state capitalism' now existing in China." A call for accountability.

Feb 26

"**From Virginia Suburb, a Dissident Chinese Writer Continues His Mission,**" by Edward Wong, from Fairfax, Virginia. "If the place that the Chinese writer Yu Jie and his family live in nowadays, a modest house in this pleasant Northern Virginia suburb, seems ordinary, the story of what brought them here is anything but." About Yu Jie, "one of the foremost critics of China's leadership [who, in January,] left China after months of abuse, house arrest and round-the-clock surveillance by the state. At its worst, it was flat-out torture." Photo. Long article.

Arts | Long Island: **Filipinos in America: Tangled Roots,** by Karin Lipson, reporting from Stony Brook where the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University has mounted an exhibition, "Singgalot"--Tagalog for "the ties that bind" --about Filipinos in America. Now through April 22. URL for the Wang Center. Photos.

"**China's Basketball Culture,**" a review by Jason Zengerle of Jim Yardley's new book, "Brave Dragons: A Chinese Basketball Team, an American Coach, and Two Cultures Clashing." Mr. Yardley was The Times' bureau chief in Beijing; he now reports from New Delhi. He is described here as a Pulitzer Prize-winning basketball aficionado who followed the 2010 season of a professional Chinese basketball team, the Shanxi Zhongyu Brave Dragons. "More important, Yardley's time with the Brave Dragons afforded him an entry into contemporary China, a rising power that is nonetheless plagued by self-doubt." The American coach is Bob Weiss; the fallen American NBA star Stephon Marbury was along for the ride. "In Yardley's deft handling, the tale of the Brave Dragons and their American coach becomes something much bigger than an account of an oddball basketball team." No excerpt at this time.

Feb 28

"**Country's First Oscar Victory Gives Pakistanis Reason to Celebrate,**"

by Declan Walsh in Islamabad. "Wearily accustomed for being the focus on bad news, Pakistanis celebrated on Monday after a filmmaker from Karachi [Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy] won the country's first Academy Award, for a documentary about the victims of gruesome acid attacks." About "Saving Face," a short documentary about a British plastic surgeon working in Pakistan.

"For First Time, Architect in China Wins Top Prize," by Robin Pogrebin. "The **Chinese architect Wang Shu,** whose buildings in a rapidly developing China honor the past with salvaged

materials even as they experiment with modern forms, has been awarded the **2012 Pritzker Architecture Prize.**" Photos, including one of Mr. Wang, 48, the fourth-youngest winner of the prize and the first Chinese citizen to win the prize. I. M. Pei, an American born in China, was the winner in 1983.

Feb 29

"**Mythic Warrior Is Captive in Global Art Conflict,**" by Tom Mashberg and Ralph Blumenthal. NYT summary: "A statue from the Khmer kingdom of ancient Cambodia, pulled out of an auction at Sotheby's, remains in New York while parties argue the legality of its removal from the country." Two images: the pedestal and feet; a photo from the auction catalog of the head of the figure. Map which merely locates Cambodia. "Some experts believe [the sandstone statue, with a catalog estimate of \$2 to \$3 million] was looted amid the convulsions of the Vietnam War and the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge." Long article.

Mar 3

"The Saturday Profile: A Chinese Voice of Dissent That Took Its Time," by Sharon LaFraniere in Beijing. Zhou Youguang is the **creator of Pinyin,** "the Romanized spelling system that linked China's ancient written language to the modern age and helped China all but stamp out illiteracy." At 106, he continues to study and publish. In most nations he would be celebrated as a national treasure; but in China today he has one flaw that renders him nearly invisible: "Mr. Zhou does not support one-party rule or think it can last." Long profile of a fascinating, indeed, extraordinary person. Photo.

Mar 4

"After Sunset," a review by Isaac Chotiner of "Ghosts of Empire: **Britain's Legacies in the Modern World,**" by Kwasi Kwarteng, wherein Mr. Kwarteng, "a Conservative member of Parliament with Ghanaian parents," examines six cases in the British Empire where the delegation of authority to imperial representatives or to local forces "intent on doing the empire's bidding" had serious and unintended consequences. Mr. Chotiner praises the book. The cases are Iraq, Nigeria, Sudan, Hong Kong, Kashmir and Burma. No excerpt at this time.

Mar 7

"At War: **A Granddaughter Returns to Pakistan,**" by Seema Jilani. NYT summary: "A doctor whose grandfather fled Pakistan in 1947 revisits a country on the brink of chaos, drowning in sectarian tensions and paranoia, its destiny relinquished to corrupt leaders." Detailed and moving account by a Houston physician on medical evacuation flights for critically ill children. Considerable attention here to the 1947 Partition and its unintended consequences. Links to more of Dr Jilani's freelance reporting in The Guardian from other troubled areas, including Afghanistan. Photo of the author, holding an Afghan child.

"From Opinion: Op-Ed Contributor: **Asia's Perilous Inequality,**" by Frederic Neumann. NYT summary: "In Asia, rising income disparities are a drag on productivity and make populist policies very tempting."

IHT Rendezvous: "**On a New TV Show in China, Cue the Firing quad,**" by Mark McDonald in Hong Kong. "A weekly show in China could well set a new standard in the oh-no sweepstakes.

'Interviews Before Execution' has become a sensation in Henan Province in central China, with a reported 40 million viewers tuning in Saturday nights to watch the final anguished moments of death-row prisoners and their families." One image. Documentaries about this show are forthcoming on BBC and PBS outlets.

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: **"In Art, a Strong Voice for Chinese Women,"** by Didi Kirsten Tatlow, NYT summary: "Feminist art in China, where very few women dare say they are feminists for fear of social ostracism, is still a tiny phenomenon. Three artists are trying to change that." Focus on "Bald Girls," a feminist art show in the 798 art district of Beijing. No online images here, but considerable description of provocative work.

Mar 11

"Japan Finds Story of Hope in Undertaker Who Offered Calm Amid Disaster," by Hiroko Tabuchi in Kamaishi. Photo caption: In the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, a retired undertaker, Atsushi Chiba, cared for nearly 1,000 bodies by performing ancient Buddhist rituals. Chiba has become an unlikely hero in a community trying to heal its wounds and his story has been immortalized in a best-selling book in Japan.

"Opinion: **How India Became America,**" by Akash Kapur. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "The Americanization of India brings prosperity and the collapse of social structures--and young men call their colleagues 'dude.' "

"Explorer: **Out at Sea, Relaxing in the Philippines,**" by Dan Levin. An utterly aimless sailing and snorkeling trip near some lesser Filipino islands offers unique pleasures. "After a few days of sailing, life had become a hazy routine: eat, snorkel, chill out. Repeat." Photos. Slide show: "An Aimless Sailing Trip Off Palawan." Map. Long article.

Mar 13

"Quang Yen Journal: **For Some in Vietnam, Prosperity Is a South Korean Son-in-Law,**" by Norimitsu Onishi in Quang Yen, Vietnam. Some elderly in Vietnam are prospering, "thanks to daughters who, driven by dreams of better lives for themselves and Confucian filial piety for their parents, . . . emigrated to marry South Korean men. The money they and others earned in South Korea, wired regularly to small towns in Vietnam like Quang Yen, often manifested itself in telltale new homes, though the wealth paled in comparison with the Lexus S.U.V.'s favored by businessmen in Hanoi, about 100 miles west of here." Photo. Map. Long article.

Mar 14

"Minoru Mori, Builder Who Changed the Face of Modern Tokyo, Dies at 77," by Hiroko Tabuchi in Tokyo. "Minoru Mori, a developer who helped shape Tokyo's skyline with towering buildings and then turned his attention to China, died on Thursday in Tokyo. He was 77." Details about some of his projects. Photo of Mr. Mori.

Mar 15

"Sports Tales Cast India as the Villain," by Manu Joseph. NYT summary: "A film about the Indian national women's field hockey team has become a blockbuster. But the team's happy ending

has been only on the screen." Attention to TWO films: "Chak De India," about the field hockey team, and "Paan Singh Tomar," about an athlete--a steeplechase runner--who abandoned his sport and became in the 1960s and 70s an outlaw in response to what he believed was an unjust government.

Mar 17

"The Saturday Profile: **Surprise at India's Polls Reveals a New Kind of Leader,**" by Jim Yardley in New Delhi. Akhilesh Singh Yadav has been sworn in as the new chief minister of India's largest state, Uttar Pradesh. "In a country governed by old men, Mr. Yadav represents something new: At 38, he is now India's youngest chief minister, overseeing a state with more than 200 million people, more of a country than a state." On the unlikely winner of a state election which had been expected "to coronate India's better-known new generation leader, Rahul Gandhi, the heir to the fabled Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty." Photo. Long article.

Mar 18

"In India, Eternal Rhythms Embody a National Spirit," by Alastair Macauley in Nrityagram, India. "Movement has long pervaded Indian thought. Dance here is a vivid element in religion, mythology, philosophy and art. Although I have spent over 35 years following dance in the West, a four-week visit to India in February made me feel that only now have I witnessed dance where it is truly central to culture." Attention to the eight major forms or genres of classical dance in India. Valuable reference article. Photo. Slide show: "Dance in India." Very long article.

"Post-Traumatic Filmmaking in Japan," by Dennis Lim. Long consideration of the "sheer volume of responses and the speed with which filmmakers have reacted" to the tsunami and earthquake in Japan last March. "The films have inspired debate not only about such issues [i.e., related to the catastrophic events and their effects on the Japanese people] but also about the methods of the filmmakers."

Mar 23

"Chinese Lawyers Chafe at New Oath to Communist Party," by Edward Wong. "China's Justice Ministry has issued a requirement that new lawyers and those reapplying for licenses swear an oath of loyalty to the Communist Party, another step in a **campaign to rein in lawyers who continue to challenge the political and legal systems** by which the party maintains power." Link to the Ministry Web site where the text of the oath is posted. Long article.

Mar 25

"China Attacks Dalai Lama in Online Burst," by Andrew Jacobs in Beijing. "On Saturday, the state-run news **media sought to equate the Dalai Lama, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, with the Nazis and their genocidal war on European Jews.**"

Mar 27

"In Pakistan, No Quick End to Islam Conversion Case," by Declan Walsh from Islamabad. "Hopes for the rapid resolution of a controversy over the conversion of a Hindu woman to Islam that has seized the Pakistani public were dashed on Monday, when the Supreme Court declined to decide the matter for at least three more weeks." Photo: Rinkel Kumari, 19, leaving the Supreme Court, escorted by two other women, one a military or police

officer. Only Ms. Kumari's eyes are visible behind the full hijab she is wearing. She and another woman--who may be the "other woman" in the photo-- are said to be in similar circumstances. They remain in protective custody.

Mar 29

"**Moral 'Crimes' Land Women in Jail**," by Rod Nordland in Kabul. A Human Rights Watch study released today finds that more than half of a group of imprisoned Afghan women were "there for acts that in most countries would not be considered crimes. . ." So-called "moral crimes"--running away from an abusive husband or family, eloping with someone not approved by her family, turning in her kidnapper. "The group called on the Afghan government to release about 400 women and girls imprisoned for similar accusations." No report here of a response from the Afghan government. Photo.

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: **How India Became an Outsourcing Magnet**," by Manu Joseph. NYT summary: "A new book explores the way a trade group created **the myth of Indian software genius** and influenced government policy and journalism to favor India's software industry."

Mar 30

"**BRICS Leaders Fail to Create Rival to World Bank**," by Jim Yardley in New Delhi. "The leaders of the five countries, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa--the so-called BRICS nations--emphasized their mutual good will and their growing economic power, but fell short of achieving the tangible goal most discussed before the gathering: the establishment of a new development agency to rival the World Bank."

Apr 1

"India's Way: **Industry in India Helps Open a Door to the World**," by Jim Yardley in Lahore, Pakistan. NYT summary at Home/ World: "A trade foray into Pakistan is evidence of the foreign policy role of India's private sector, which the government relies on to serve as an intermediary abroad." Ninth of a series exploring "the messy and **maddening road to progress in India**, which has built one of the world's fastest-growing economies in spite of a government that often fails to keep up." Link to a page which links to all of the articles.

"Op-Ed Columnist: Why Nations Fail," by Thomas L. Friedman. NYT summary: "A fascinating new book explains who's up, who's down and why." The book, by MIT economist Daron Acemoglu and Harvard political scientist James A. Robinson, is called "**Why Nations Fail**," and it appears--from Friedman's summary--to examine conditions in Afghanistan, China and America.

Apr 8

"Currents: Narratives With No Need for Translation," by Anand Ghiridharadas. NYT summary: "The technologies by which we find, publish and spread stories have broken open who gets to speak and what they might say. Still, there are rare gems, when a Western author gets the tone just right." Praise for Katherine Boo's first book, "All the Beautiful Forever: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity."

Apr 10

"**Years After Acid Horror, Suicide Stirs Pakistan**," by Declan Walsh. NYT summary: "More than a decade after a vengeful man doused her face in acid, Fakhra Younas jumped to her death in Rome [on March 17]." Her attacker--her ex-husband--came from a powerful and wealthy family. He was acquitted at trial nine years ago, apparently because the court declined to convict him on the basis of her testimony. She was a former dancing girl, a euphemism for prostitute. Photos. Long article.

Apr 13

"**Murder Aside, China Inquiry Puts Couple's Wealth on Trial**," by Andrew Jacobs and Michael Wines. NYT summary: "Gu Kailai, a lawyer, spent more than two decades turning the government posts of her husband, Bo Xilai, into lucrative business opportunities." Photo: Ms. Gu, 53, described here as "hard-driving lawyer and the daughter of a revolutionary hero." Long article.

Apr 15

"**How the Tech Parade Passed Sony By**," by Hiroko Tabuchi in Tokyo. "Sony, which once defined Japan's technological prowess... is now in the fight of its life. In fact, it is in a fight FOR its life." Very long article, examining "what went wrong" at Sony.

Apr 24

"In an Unlikely Corner of Asia, Strong Promise of Growth," by Bettina Wassener, in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. "**Bangladesh is probably one of the last places in Asia people would expect to see a thriving beachside resort with luxury hotels**. And yet, Cox's Bazar is exactly that--a place where affluent Bangladeshis go for a weekend of seaside fun." Long article.

"IHT Rendezvous: In Japan, Suffer the Children," by Mark McDonald in Hong Kong. Attention to a video presentation at the Asia Society by a Japanese photographer, Kosuke Okahara, who is documenting the strange practice of what is said to be one in seven young **Japanese women: deliberately inflicted self-injuries**.

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: **Muslim Women in India Seek Gender Equality in Marriage**," by Nilanjana S.Roy. NYT summary: "Several Muslim women's groups are calling for the compulsory registration of marriages with the state and the establishment of a more reliable system of financial support for wives."

Apr 25

"**Philippine Court Rules Aquino Estate Must Be Split Among 6,000**," by Floyd Whaley from Manila and Norimitsu Onishi from San Francisco. "In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court in the Philippines ruled unanimously on Tuesday to break up the rambling estate owned by the family of President Benigno S. Aquino III, parceling out land to more than 6,000 farmers and their families and removing a main obstacle to ending the oppressive plantation culture that has dominated the country for decades. . . . The court's redistribution of the land is part of an agrarian reform program started by the president's mother, Corazon Aquino, who campaigned in the 1980s on a promise to **dismantle the deeply rooted plantation culture**." Informative article. Photo; map.

"**S.E.C. Asks if Hollywood Paid Bribes in China**," by Edward Wyatt, Michael Cieply and Brooks Barnes. "The Securities and Exchange Commission has begun an investigation into whether some of Hollywood's biggest movie studios have made illegal payments to officials in China to gain the right to film and show movies there, according to a person with knowledge of the investigation." Long article, with considerable data about movie business in China.

"Samsung Heirs Stage a Korean Soap Opera," by Choe Sanghun. A **family squabble over the fortune** amassed by the founder of South Korea's largest business conglomerate has gone public and the dispute has become a sensation in a country where the financial elite face growing public scrutiny. Photo of Lee Kun-hee, 70, "perhaps the country's most exalted business leader. Long article.

Apr 26

"**As Myanmar Opens Up, Idyllic Islands Remain Unwelcoming**," by Thomas Fuller. NYT summary: "The Mergui Archipelago could become the next frontier for Asian tourism. But even as the country leaves behind military rule, the islands, nearly empty, remain paradise in a police state."

Apr 27

"**An Aging Japanese Town Bets on a Young Mayor** for Its Revival," by Hiroko Tabuchi. NYT summary: "Yubari is hoping that 31-year-old Naomichi Suzuki can turn around its deep debt and troubling demographics. . . . Japan's overall population fell by a record quarter-million to 127.8 million last year, hurt by falling birth rates and people departing for other countries." Yubari, a former coal-mining town, is on Japan's northernmost main island, Hokkaido. "The city's population has fallen by 90 percent since its heyday as a coal-mining hub in the 1950s and '60s." No map, but a photo of the mayor. Long article.

Apr 28

"The Saturday Profile: A Monk's Earthly Mission: Easing North Koreans' Pain," by Choe Sang-hun in Seoul. On the Venerable **Pomnyun, 59, a South Korean Buddhist monk and his high-profile work**, and particularly, his newsletter which provides reports of conditions in North Korea, with the organization he calls Good Friends. The newsletter, called North Korea Today, is now online. Photo. Long article.

Apr 29

"Opinion: In the **Philippines, Haunted by History**," by Gina Apostol. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "America's policies, and its defense ties with Manila, have always benefited the Filipino elite." Author and teacher Apostol examines the still-sensitive relationship of the U.S. to The Philippines, and, in particular, the explosive issue of U.S. military bases and activities there.

"**Taking Big-City Skills to Indonesia's Villages**," by Sara Schonhardt in Gobang, Indonesia. "Started in 2009 by the rector of a private university in Jakarta, with sponsors like Intel, Indika Energy and the consulting firm McKinsey, Indonesia Mengajar recruits and trains young Indonesians to work as teachers in remote, impoverished provinces. Its goal is to fill a shortfall in the number of qualified teachers in the country of 248 million people, a sprawling archipelago populated by people with hundreds of different languages and ethnicities. The program also aims to

shape a new generation of leaders who understand the needs of rural communities." Photo. Long article.

"From the Magazine: **Why Afghan Women Risk Death to Write Poetry**," by Eliza Griswold. "A new literary network revives an old Pashtun tradition."

Apr 30

"In China, **Foreign Films Meet a Powerful Gatekeeper**," by Michael Cieply in Los Angeles and David Barboza in Shanghai, datelined Los Angeles. "Any foreign movie knocking on China's door must pass through powerful gatekeepers--the China Film Group and its chief executive, Han Sanping. . . . But Mr. Han and his group are also supervising a trade route that is suddenly under close watch by regulators in Washington, after reports last week that officials in the United States are examining whether American film companies have violated domestic law by making illegal payments to officials in China." Photos: (1) image from the film "The Karate Kid;" and (2) Han Sanping. Long article, with considerable attention to the official Chinese apparatus for making and distributing films in China.

May 8

"**New Ambitions in Philippine Film Business**," by Floyd Whaley in Manila. Anticipating the release to more than fifty theaters in the U.S. of "The Road," a new Filipino horror film, said to be the first Filipino film to be commercially distributed in the United States. "If the debut of 'The Road' hits the mark with American audiences, it could open the door to the lucrative North American market and revitalize a national film industry in the Philippines that by all accounts is in need to help." Photo. One image from the movie. Much attention to domestic film production in The Philippines.

"ArtsBeat: **Slum Scenes in 'The Avengers' Are Criticized in India**," by Dave Izkoff. Summary of a news report originally published in The Hindustan Times.' One image from the superhero film. The objectionable scenes were filmed in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

May 11

"Op-Ed Contributor: **How Pakistan Lets Terrorism Fester**," by Husain Haqqani. NYT summary: "Rather than fighting terrorism, Pakistani judges and journalists are pursuing political vendettas against an elected government." Perspectives from a professor at Boston University. Mr. Haqqani was Pakistan's ambassador to the United States from 2008 to 2011.

"Movie Review | Crawling Backward in Time Into Haunted Real Estate," by Jeannette Catsoulis, reviewing "The Road" by the **Philippine director Yam Laranas**. "The dead are unquiet and the living are terrified in 'The Road,' a powerfully atmospheric blend of ghostly encounters, horrific situations and missing-persons mysteries. . . ." One image. A NYT Critics' Pick.

May 13

"Echoing Out of Texas, **Chinese Voice of Dissent for Religious Freedom**," by Andrew Jacobs. NYT summary: "Bob Fu, a Chinese-born pastor who started the dissident group ChinaAid, was instrumental in calling attention to the plight of the activist Chen Guangcheng."

May 14

"Ex-Leader's Detention Tests Mongolia's Budding Democracy," by Dan Levin from Beijing. "Mongolia's previous president has spent more than a week on a hunger strike, protesting a detention that he says is aimed at preventing him from running in the country's coming parliamentary election. With the health of Nambaryn Enkhbayar, the former president, deteriorating rapidly, the government is holding firm, throwing Mongolia's young democracy into turmoil in a crisis freighted by dueling accusations of corruption and human rights abuses." Photo: Mr. Enkhbayar in 2007 when he was president. Attention to the explosion of wealth among some Mongolians. Long article, also attentive to the allegations of corruption against Mr. Enkhbayar.

"Op Ed Contributor: Diplomats and Dissidents," by Bill Keller. NYT summary: **"When it comes to human rights, the idealists are sometimes the real realists."** Long essay on the "perennial tension between our respect for human rights and our need to deal with undemocratic regimes on issues like nuclear proliferation, trade, counterterrorism and climate change."

May 15

"Prosecutors Say **Philippine Chief Justice Had \$28 Million**," by Floyd Whaley. NYT summary: "Documents in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato C. Corona showed that \$28.7 million was added to his bank accounts during a period when he was earning about \$935 a month."

May 17

"Tracking Hidden Frenchman in China's Political Drama," by Keith Bradsher in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. "Throughout the drama this spring revolving around the dismissal of the ambitious Chinese official Bo Xilai and the investigation of his wife as a murder suspect, the most mysterious figure has been a French architect named Patrick Henri Devillers." On mysterious connections (and multimillion-dollar transactions) between Mr. Devillers, who lives in Cambodia, and Gu Kailai, wife of the disgraced Chinese politician.

"Letter: **America's Relationship With China's Power Elite**," by Perry Link. "The more than a billion non-elite Chinese also deserve attention; public, dignified support for their aspirations would be good start." The professor emeritus of East Asian studies at Princeton University--now teaching at U. of California, Riverside--responds to a "relieved American official" quoted in a Times news report about Chen Guancheng's departure from the American Embassy in Beijing.

May 18

"Echoes of Tiananmen, on Film, Face Hurdles in China," by Jonathan Landreth in Beijing. NYT summary: "A film on Cui Jian, the rock musician whose songs embodied the spirit of hope and protest among young people in China in 1989, faces obstacles in getting distributed." The film, which is called "Transcendence," documents, in 3D, a live concert by Cui Jian in Beijing in 2010. Long, informative report about the intersection of pop culture and politics.

May 19

"In New Jersey, **Memorial for 'Comfort Women'** Deepens Old Animosity," by Kirk Semple. "Japanese lobbying to remove the monument [dedicated in 2010 to 'the memory of so-called comfort women . . . forced into sexual slavery by Japanese soldiers during

World War II'] seems to have backfired--and deepened animosity between Japan and South Korea over the issue of comfort women, a longstanding irritation in their relations." Photo: the memorial plaque in Palisades Park, NJ., across the Hudson River from Manhattan. The principal text of the large bronze plaque is clearly readable.

May 22

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: **Mobile Phones Offer Indian Women a Better Life**," by Nilanjana S. Roy. NYT summary: "In India, researchers are beginning to study the effects that the explosive growth in the mobile phone market has had on women's lives, in some cases, breaking the pattern of marital isolation."

May 23

"Indians Feed the Monkeys, Who Bite the Hand," by Gardiner Harris. NYT summary: "The monkey population of Delhi has grown large and aggressive, overwhelming the city's efforts to control it, but Hindu tradition calls for feeding the monkey's twice a week." Video: "Monkey Patrol."

"Movie Review | 'The Woman in the Septic Tank' **Let's Film These Poor People; Maybe We'll Get Rich**," by Rachel Saltz. Reviewing a satirical film from the Philippines, directed by Marlon Rivera. The central characters of the movie are young filmmakers. "When it comes to making a film, though, they choose poverty as their subject, not out of social conscience but out of pure calculation. They want to go to foreign film festivals, and dream of winning Oscars." Mr. Rivera's movie "hits its targets, but softly, more in amusement than in anger." One image.

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: **The High Price India Pays to Maintain the Status Quo**," by Manu Joseph. NYT summary: "It's not government incompetence holding up crucial reforms, it's the demands of India's 'Greeks'--rural voters who want immediate welfare and turn out to elect the substandard politicians who deliver it."

May 24

"Tongren Journal: **Technology Reaches Remote Tibetan Corners, Fanning Unrest**," by Andrew Jacobs in Tongren, China. "These days, the unmistakable marimba jingle of iPhones and the melodic bleep of Skype can be heard in lamaseries across this remote expanse of snowy peaks and high-altitude grasslands in northwestern China. . . . The technology revolution, though slow in coming here, has now penetrated the most far-flung corners of the Tibetan plateau, transforming ordinary life and playing an increasingly pivotal role in the spreading unrest over Chinese policies that many Tibetans describe as stifling." Particular attention to "a campaign of self-immolations that the authorities have been unable to stamp out." Photos. Long article.

May 27

"India Becoming," by Akash Kapur. Subtitled: **"A Portrait of Life in Modern India."** Reviewed by Geoffrey C. Ward under the Book Review headline "State of Paradox." The subject is change in India. "Kapur is determinedly fair-minded, neither an apologist nor a scold, and he is a wonderfully empathetic listener, willing patiently to visit and revisit a large cast of men and women over several years to learn how they are benefiting

from--and being battered by--the change going on all around them."

May 29

"**Crackdown on Chinese Bloggers Who Fight the Censors With Puns**," by Michael Wines. NYT summary: "One of China's largest hosts of Twitter-like microblogs decreed new punishments on Monday for users who post comments that its editors deem inappropriate."

"DealBook: In Cambodia, a Start-Up Combines **Web Sales Skills and Hair Extensions**," by Ron Gluckman. Internet start-up Arjuni, based in Phnom Penh, faces more challenges than usual, but in two years, the company has grown from a handful of employees to 80 and it now generates more than \$1 million in revenue."

June 2

"IHT Rendezvous: Deciphering the Hidden Rules That Tempt China's Officials," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. "Increasingly, some Chinese officials are saying: **It's O.K. to be a little bit corrupt when others are so much more corrupt than you.** The unusual self-defense by some public servants . . . is featuring more and more in Chinese media reports, sparking wide debate in a country where the prime minister says corruption is so bad it could one day 'terminate' Communist Party rule." Photo: Liu Zhijun, China's former railways minister, who faces charges of corruption.

June 4

"Memo From India: 100 Days of Madness as the 'King of Fruits' Is Celebrated Again," by Jim Yardley. NYT summary: "**Mangoes are objects of envy, love, rivalry as well as a new status symbol** for India's new rich." More about mangoes and India at "India Ink" below.

June 6

"India Ink: **'Today's Indian Recalls the Reign of Victoria,'** 'U.S. defense Secretary Panetta Pushes India for More [defense and security cooperation with the U.S.],' and 'The Case for Computers in Chess.' "

June 7

"Books of The Times: A Dark Tale of Tokyo That Only Gets Darker," by Dwight Garner, reviewing "**People Who Eat Darkness: The True Story of a Young Woman Who Vainshed From the Streets of Tokyo--and the Evil That Swallowed Her Up**," by Richard Lloyd Parry. A true-crime book by the Tokyo bureau chief of The Times of London. The victim, in 2000, was a former British Airways flight attendant. "[The] killer, it turns out, had been drugging, raping and murdering young women for some three decades, almost directly under the noses of an incompetent or willfully blind Japanese police force." Clear there is considerable attention in the book not only to crime in Tokyo but to policing. "His book becomes not merely an exemplary piece of reportage but a sustained and quietly profound work of moral inquiry as well." Of the author and the victim, the reviewer concludes: "[He, Parry,] had hoped to find her alive. . . . That being impossible, he's done something nearly as good. He's restored her to life in this vivid book." Photo of Mr. Parry.

June 8

HOME/ WORLD/ NEWS FROM AP [International Index]at 8:11 am
EDST: "**Indian Believers Swallow Live Fish to Cure Asthma**"

June 10

"**Deadly Riots Raise Muslim-Buddhist Tensions in Myanmar**," by The Associated Press in Yangon. "Security forces in western Myanmar fired on rioters who burned hundreds of homes in an outbreak of sectarian violence that killed at least seven people, state-controlled news media reported Saturday, adding that calm had been restored. The rioting on Friday reflected longstanding tensions in the state of Rakhine between Buddhist residents and Muslims, many of whom are considered to be illegal settlers from neighboring Bangladesh."

June 15

"Mumbai Journal: In Mumbai, a **Campaign Against Restroom Injustice**," by Jim Yardley. NYT summary at Home/ World: "The lack of indoor toilets in India not only poses health and sanitation problems, but also exposes a double standard that works against women." About a Right to Pee campaign-- its catchy title "was coined by the Mumbai media and . . . appears to be on the verge of achieving some of its goals." Photos. Some data, suggesting a considerable disparity in the number of facilities available for men and women. A related article, "Toilets Become a Battle Cry in India," by Sruthi Gottipati, at India Ink.

"Movie Review | 'Patang' ('The Kite'): The Old Neighborhood, in India," by Rachel Saltz, reviewing a first feature from India directed by Prashant Bhargava. The movie, she says, "has a lovely, unforced quality." **A family drama, it's set during the annual kite festival** in Ahmedabad. Seema Biswas, memorable in "Bandit Queen" (1994) and "Water" (2005) is featured, though not shown in the online image here. Trailer. A NYT Film Critics' Pick.

June 16

"Internet Unshackled, Burmese Aim Venom at Ethnic Minority," by Thomas Fuller in Bangkok. "... Myanmar's government has ended its heavy censorship, allowing citizens unfettered access to a wide variety of Web sites that had been banned during military rule. . . . But as the poverty-stricken country of 55 million makes a delicate transition to democracy, **hateful comments are also flourishing online about a Muslim ethnic group, the Rohingya**, that is embroiled in sectarian clashes . . . that have left more than two dozen people dead." Photos. Long article.

June 17

"In Long-Overdue Speech, **Dissident Says Nobel Opened Her Heart**," by Steven Erlanger in Oslo. "In a quiet, throaty voice on Saturday, [Daw Aung San Suu Kyi] asked the world not to forget other prisoners of conscience, both in Myanmar and around the world, other refugees, others in need, who may be suffering twice over, she said, from oppression and from the larger world's **'compassion fatigue.'**" Photo.

July 27

"**Bollywood Star Remakes Himself Into TV Conscience**," by Vikas Bajaj. Aamir Khan's TV show, Satyamev Jayate, or Truth Alone Prevails, "tries to shine a spotlight of festering issues like dowries, domestic violence and the indignities of the caste system. Photos.

Long article, with considerable attention to the corporations eager to sponsor this very popular show.

Aug 5

"**99 Ways to Be Naughty in Kazakhstan**," by Edith Zimmerman. Cute but misleading headline. There is little about Kazakhstan in this long article which is really about the globalization of Cosmopolitan magazine, now published in 64 international editions. And yes, there is a Kazakh edition. And a Vietnamese and other Asian editions, each of them carefully spicy, depending on cultural conditions in the host country.

Aug 15

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: In India, the Tender Trap's a Vise," by Nilanjana S. Roy. NYT summary: "In a country here more than 65 percent of the population is under the age of 35, **most girls and women are still defined by one major life event--marriage.**"

Aug 17

"Bangalore Journal: **A Society's Dizzying Changes Cast the Police in the Role of Relationship Counselor**," by Saritha Rai. NYT summary at Home/ World: "As societal changes transform Bangalore, many young Indians are struggling to cope, and they take their problems to the only symbol of authority that is accessible around the clock: the police." Long, informative article, with much attention to changing marriage role and expectations, from a correspondent we haven't heard from for some time.

Aug 20

"Music Review: **Korean Pop's Singular Melange**," by Jon Caramanica in Newark, NJ, reviewing the first American show for the Korean-pop group 2NE1--pronounced "twenty-one" or "to anyone." "Like most contemporary K-pop, the group borrows from plenty of American and European styles, but manages not to carry any fingerprints--the melange is K-pop's signature aesthetic." Photo.

Aug 21

"India Ink: The 'Imaginary Line' That Divides India and Bangladesh," by Samrat. The editor of The Asian Age, Mumbai, writes about the slippery border between Bangladesh--once East Bengal--and India.

Aug 22

"Movie Review | 'Alms for a Blind Horse,' Gurvinder Singh's Look at Life: Fog and Faces: Day and Night in the New Punjab," a review by Rachel Saltz. A slow and careful fiction film examining **the lives of the dispossessed in a northwestern Indian village.** "But this isn't a rabble-rousing movie in which social wrongs are righted. It's too muted and studied for that." One image.

"Multimedia: **Saving India's Tigers**," by Vikram Singh. NYT summary: "India's Supreme Court issued an interim ban on tourism inside the country's game parks on June 24, and the government has been relocating hundreds of villagers to save the endangered wild tigers." A 3-minute, forty-nine second video narrated by the writer/producer.

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: **Writing Chinese in a Digital World**," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. NYT summary: "Learning to write Chinese is a difficult, circular process of learning, forgetting and

re-learning. Are written characters suited to a digital, globalized world?"

Aug 28

"**A Youthful Populace Helps Make the Philippines an Economic Bright Spot in Asia**," by Floyd Whaley in Manila. "Times are pretty good in the Philippines if you are young, skilled and live in the city. Young urban workers are helping to give the country its brightest prospects in decades, economists say." Graph: Philippines gross domestic product, year-over-year changes in G.D.P., 2004-2012. Long article.

"IHT Rendezvous: **Did the U.S. 'Lose' Ho Chi Minh to Communism?**" by Mark McDonald. The "View From Asia" column examines a new account of the beginnings of the Vietnam War, Frederick Logevall's "Embers of War: The Fall of an Empire and the Making of America's Vietnam." Consideration of a "nagging historical question: Was Ho Chi Minh a resolute communist from his very beginnings, or was he a nationalist and freedom fighter who eventually moved toward socialism?" Link to a review in Foreign Affairs.

Aug 29

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: **Where Will Literature Go From Here?**" by Manu Joseph. NYT summary: "At the World Writers' Conference in Edinburgh, authors grappled with largely unanswerable questions, including the future of the novel and whether 'national literature' can be possible." Considerable attention to general conditions of literature in Asia, particularly (but not exclusively) India.

Sept 1

"In Vietnam, **Message of Equality Is Challenged by Widening Wealth Gap**," by Thomas Fuller. NYT summary: "Vietnam's political mandarins are struggling to reconcile their party's message of social justice and equality with the realities of an elite awash in wealth and privilege."

"Blasphemy Arrest Highlights Tensions in Pakistan," by Salman Masood. NYT summary: "**The case of a young girl accused of burning an Islamic holy book** has focused attention on Pakistan's rigid blasphemy laws and the state's limited ability to protect religious minorities."

"The Saturday Profile: **A Superstar Televangelist in Pakistan Divides, Then Repents**," by Declan Walsh. NYT summary at Home/ World: "Aamir Liaquat Hussain, who has been accused of using his television pulpit to promote hate speech, now portrays himself as a torchbearer for progressive values." Says a TV studio manager: "It's the Islamic version of 'The Price is Right.'" Slide show: "Pakistan's Premier Televangelist." Long article.

Sept 6

"Memo From Beijing: **As China Ages, Beijing Turns to Morality Tales to Spur Filial Devotion**," by Andrew Jacobs and Adam Century in Beijing. A paean to filial devotion written more than 600 years ago has been re-issued by the government in an updated version "in the hope that the book ["The 24 Paragons of Filial Piety"] would encourage more Chinese to turn away from their increasingly self-centered ways and perhaps home phone once in a while, [but] it [the government] wasn't

prepared for the backlash. On public criticism and ridicule of the new guidelines. Long article, with a link to examples, translated, of the old and new texts.

Sept 9

"Defying Parents, **Some Pakistani Women Risk All to Marry Whom They Choose**," by Meghan Davidson Ladly in Karachi. The article begins with a narrative illustrating "the conflict some women encounter in Pakistan when choosing what are known here as freewill marriages. It also shows how women are increasingly asserting their rights against the traditions of forced marriage and parental authority, implicitly challenging one of the most powerful institutions in Pakistani society." Image: photo of the text of an Affidavit of Free Will" for the couple whose story is the lead of this report.

Sept 10

"What Keeps the Chinese Up at Night," by Gerard Lemos in London. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "**In China, a spiritual hunger has taken hold even as physical hunger has receded.**" Perspectives from an international authority on urban and housing policy and from 2006 to 2010, visiting professor at Chongqing Technology and Business University. He is the author of "The End of the Chinese Dream: Why Chinese People Fear the Future."

Sept 13

"IHT Rendezvous: A **Farewell to India's Milkman**," by Manu Joseph. "My latest column is an inadequate eulogy to one of the most useful Indian men ever, Verghese Kurien, who died this week. Mr. Kurien . . . was among a generation of extraordinary social revolutionaries who are the proof that sometimes some Indian politicians do fully back good people and give them complete freedom."

Sept 18

"**Maverick Minister in India Is as Perplexing as She Is Powerful**," by Gardiner Harris in Kolkata. "When Mamata Banerjee, a 5-foot- tall dynamo in flip-flops, finally defeated the Communists last year after decades of misrule here, she became one of the most powerful but unpredictable politicians in India. Now the country is left to guess whether she will announce on Tuesday that she intends to try to pull down India's governing coalition." Two photos. Long article. Also appears at "India Ink" on the Home/ World page.

Sept 25

"**At Estee Lauder, a Brand Is Developed Just for China**," by Natasha Singer. The U.S.-based cosmetics company, which already sells 12 of its 28 brands in China, will add an entirely new brand. "Next month, the company . . . plans to introduce a hybrid East-meets-West beauty line called Osaio (pronounced O-Shao)." Long article, with attention to the company's extensive marketing research in China.

"**Vanity Plates a Perfect Match for Flashy Hong Kong**," by Bettina Wassener in Hong Kong. "Non-essential, highly individual and oh-so-cool license plates that are personalized to highlight their owner's status, wealth or tongue-in-cheek humor . . . are a perfect match for Hong Kong, a city that loves to flaunt its wealth and where dashes of glitz appear on products as varied as iPhone cases, handbags and cars." Reporting about the auction of vanity license plates held by the transportation authority nearly

every month. Photo: a Mercedes with the plate "Giggles."

"India Ink: 'A Conversation With: Landesa Founder Roy Prosterman; **[Landesa is a Seattle-based non-profit which works to secure land rights for the rural poor around the world.** Thirty percent of its annual budget is spent in India.]. 'India Enters "Era of Regionalism."

Sept 29

"Memo From New Delhi: As Power Flows to Regional Bosses, Questions Rise on India's Economy," by Jim Yardley in New Delhi. NYT summary at Home/ World: "India's political calculus is again in a flux, with the economy in a tailspin and power is now radiating to regional political chieftains, who are considering a new national political alignment." **Long, detailed article about Indian politics and the strategies of opposition figures.**

"Op-Ed Columnist: In Obama's Speech, Their Voices," by Nicholas D. Kristof. NYT summary: "**These former sex slaves said the president gave the voiceless a voice in his landmark speech** [at the United Nations General Assembly] against human trafficking. Let's hope this is a turning point." Attention to several Asian cases with which Kristof has been closely involved.

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: Is Rushdie the Voice of a Billion?" by Manu Joseph. NYT summary: "**The link between Salman Rushdie and India is spectral**, but the Western literary world has designated him the spokesman for the Subcontinent."

Sept 30

"**Unlikely Warriors Emerge Against a Myanmar Mine**," by Thomas Fuller in Wethmay, Myanmar. "Two [women] farmers whose education stopped at primary school have rocketed to national prominence in Myanmar for their defiance of a vast copper mining project run by the powerful Myanmar military and its partner, a subsidiary of a Chinese arms manufacturer. . . . At the heart of the case are environmental concerns . . . and more broadly about land seizures." Photos. Long article.

"Op-Ed Columnist: Women Hurting Women," by Nicholas D. Kristof. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "**Female leaders can be just as horrible for women as men--just look at Bangladesh.**" Scathing critique of Sheikh Hasina, prime minister of Bangladesh, who is "mounting a scorched-earth offensive against Muhammad Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank and champion of the economic empowerment of women around the world."

"IHT Rendezvous: '**Japanese Novelist Denounces 'Cheap Liquor' of Nationalism**," by Mark McDonald. Quotations from a recent commentary in The Asahi Shimbun by Haruki Murakami. Oddsmakers say, according to McDonald, he is the favorite to be designated the 2012 Nobel Prize in Literature, to be announced soon.

Oct 2

"Latest From the Opinion Blogs: **Oh, to be Jewish in China**," by Clarissa Sebag-Montefiore in Beijing. "When I reveal my ethnicity I am always surprised by the expression of affection that the Chinese show for the Jews. . . . But this warmth comes with an uncomfortable catch and bizarre inconsistencies." The writer is an editor at Time Out Beijing.

Oct 3

"New Delhi Journal: The Road to the Schoolhouse Proves Perilous for India's Young," by Sruthi Gottipati. NYT summary: "**India leads the world in total traffic fatalities, and children on their way to and from school make up a surprising number of them.**"

"Op-Ed Columnist: Thomas L. Friedman: China Needs Its Own Dream." NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "**The so-called American Dream won't work for China.** How will its new leaders handle the dramatic growth of its emerging middle class."

Oct 4

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: Exposing Power and Its Effects," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. NYT summary: "With a dozen novels to his credit and a first, 'The Civil Servant's Notebook,' just out in English, **Wang Xiaofang said his goal was 'to tell the truth about China.'**"

Oct 5

"**In Myanmar's Makeover, Politics Is Just the Beginning,**" by Thomas Fuller. NYT summary: "Myanmar has begun to search for a national identity defined by its people, not the cloistered vision imposed by military governments that took power in 1962 and only relinquished control last year."

Oct 7

"**Seeking the Right to be Female in Malaysia,**" by Liz Gooch in Seremban, Malaysia. Four transgender Malaysians "are challenging part of an Islamic law--Shariah--that bans Muslim men from dressing or posing as women, . . . arguing that it violates the Malaysian Constitution, which bans discrimination based on gender and protects freedom of expression."

"Former Wife of Fallen Chinese Leader Tells of a **Family's Paranoid Side,**" by Edward Wong and David Barboza. NYT summary at H/W: "The former wife of Bo Xilai spoke of the end of her marriage to an idealist, showing the web of entanglements among China's 'red nobility.'"

"Op-Ed Contributor: The Steel Butterfly Still Soars," by Katherine Ellison. NYT summary: "With a seat in [the Philippine] Congress and a new musical about her that skirts unpleasant mentions of imprisonment and torture, **Imelda Marcos** is going strong at 83." Ms. Ellison, the author of a critical biography of the former first lady of the Philippines, listens to a sympathetic, Broadway-bound musical about Mrs. Marcos and remembers, by name, some of her victims.

"[Letter]: **Defending Tagore,**" by Hiren Gohain. From Jacksonville, FL, a reader well-informed about details of the life of the Bengali poet and playwright Rabindranath Tagore offers an alternate view of the life of the writer than the one suggested in a recent NYT review, linked here. "This [the reviewer's 'stereotype'] . . . is flatly contradicted by the robust common sense and searching intellect that informed Tagore's apparently mystical views."

Oct 8

"**With Affirmative Action, India's Rich Gain School Slots Meant for Poor,**" by Gardiner Harris, from Chennai, India. In the state of Tamil Nadu where a caste-based affirmative action program has been in

effect for "**backward castes,**" children of doctors, lawyers and high-level bureaucrats routinely get admissions preference over better-qualified students from less-favored castes. "While affirmative action in the United States is now threatened, the program in India is a vast system of political patronage that increasingly works to uplift the powerful rather than uplift those in need."

Oct 9

"Op-Ed Contributor: **Age-Old Fixes for India's Water,**" by Cheryl Colopy. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "Of all the challenges that face India, few are more pressing than how it manages water." Perspectives from a former broadcast journalist and the author of "Dirty, Sacred Rivers: Confronting South Asia's Water Crisis."

"Latitude: "The Madam and the Imam," by Huma Yusuf. NYT summary: "A Pakistani court sentences a suspected brothel owner to attend classes about Islam--yet another sign of the **state's overzealous embrace of religion.**"

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: A Model of Inclusion for Muslim Women," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. NYT summary: "**China's liberal Hui tradition challenges the power of Wahhabism,** the puritanical, patriarchal Muslim sect dominant in Saudi Arabia today that is behind much Islamic extremism."

Oct 10

"IHT Rendezvous: Putting a Face on China Inc.," by Mark McDonald in Hong Kong. "In a **new series of portraits of Chinese factory workers,** the French photographer Lucas Shifres examines some of the otherwise anonymous people who produce so much of the everyday products that are now manufactured in China and used all over the world." See also the next item.

"Lens Blog: **Looking into the Eyes of 'Made in China,'**" by Kerri MacDonald. NYT summary: "Tired of the saga of 'The Chinese Factory,' the photographer Lucas Schifres focused on making portraits of the workers who manufacture the possessions we often take for granted." Nineteen images.

Oct 12

"An Appraisal: In China, a Writer Finds a Deep Well," by Richard Bernstein. "At the center of all Mr. Mo's work to date are the characters themselves, the very flavorful, raunchy, violence-prone, cruel, obstinately individualistic, all-too-human people who, in the end, get a bit of consolation, even some tattered remnants of victory, in the ingenious facts of their survival." **Examining, briefly, some stories and novels of the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.**

"**Mo Yan:** Excerpts From His Work." After a quotation from the preface to a set of short stories wherein Mo Yan relates how he came to be a writer, **excerpts from five other works.** Long segment.

"IHT Rendezvous: **The Writer, the State and the Nobel,**" by Didi Kirsten Tatlow in Beijing. Informative, wide-ranging reports and observations about Mo Yan, the Chinese winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, including a translation of his pen name, said to mean "Don't speak." His given name is Guan Moye. Excerpts from Ms. Tatlow's notes on a Mo Yan speech from the 2009 Frankfurt Book Fair. Mr. Mo was an official delegate to the fair and, like the rest

of the Beijing delegation, boycotted events where dissident Chinese writers appeared. But see the first AP headline below.

"India Ink | 'In Rural Haryana, **Women Blamed for Rape** Where Men Make the Rules;' 'Happy 80th Birthday, Air India;' and : "What Ended India's Land March?" "

Oct 13

"Multimedia | 'Class Dismissed' NYT summary: "A 2009 documentary by Adam B. Ellick **profiled Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani girl** whose school was shut down by the Taliban. Ms. Yousafzai was shot by a gunman on Tuesday." A thirty-two-minute film made in Swat Valley. Ms. Yousafzai and her father, a school teacher/administrator, are prominent.

Oct 14

"Afghan Boys Eke Living Amid Peril," by Graham Bowley. NYT summary at Home/ World: "The war economy touches everybody in Afghanistan and will leave a desperate hole when it is gone--not least for **the Pepsi bottle boys, a prime example of how Afghans have formed their lives around America's military presence.**" NYT summary at a video at Home/ World: "A group of boys have taken up traffic duty on Mahi Par pass, a dangerous, highly trafficked road outside Kabul, using only old soda bottles and determination to make money."

"Culinary Quests." **Three of the twelve brief personal essays here are about Asian dining.** A dozen far-flung NYT correspondents write about feeding their obsessions: Mario Batali writes about unmentionable chicken parts prepared to exquisite perfection in Yakitori Alley under Yurakucho Station in Tokyo; Nathaniel Rich goes in search of (and finds) the "tongueasm:" perfect Sichuan dining in Los Angeles; and in the heart of Nairobi, Kenya, Jeffrey Gettleman has discovered the perfect buttered naan, Indian flatbread, in Diamond Plaza in the heart of the African city's old Indian community. Why Nairobi? You'll have to read this (and all) the engaging short essays here to get the entire story: there are stunning meals available in unexpected places.

Oct 16

"Room for Debate | '**Supporting Pakistanis, Stopping the Taliban.**' The NYT question for this online "debate:" "Is there a way to safely support women's rights in Taliban-heavy areas or its it time to take a tougher stance?" Six short essays: "The West Should Not Disengage," by Husain Haqqani, former Pakistani ambassador; "Slow and Sensitive Wins the Race," by Andrew Wilder, United States Institute of Peace; "Think Globally, Act Locally," by Fiza Shah, Developments in Literacy; "Compassion for Pakistan," by Amna Buttari, doctor and former member of of Pakistani Parliament; "Define Who Is the Enemy," by Pir Zubair Shah, journalist; and "Offer Protection and Launch a Campaign," by Mark N. Katz, author, "Leaving Without Losing."

Oct 17

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: In 3 Awards, 3 Ways of Seeing China," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. NYT summary: "The nuance and **diversity of contemporary Chinese literature** can be seen by considering all three recent recipients of prestigious literary prizes: Mo Yan, Liao Yiwu and Yang Mu."

Oct 18

"Op-Ed Contributors: China's Nobels," by Larry Siems and Jeffrey Yang. NYT summary: "The Nobel honoree for literature is a Chinese novelist who has learned to keep his voice low." This is not an effective summary of this column: reflections, often moving, about **the reception and treatment of dissident writers in China.** Footnoted: "Larry Siems is the head of PEN American Center's Freedom to Write program. Jeffrey Yang is the translator of Liu Xiaobo's poetry collection 'June Fourth Elegies.' " Part of one of Mr. Liu's poems on the Tiananmen Square events of 1989 is quoted within this column.

Oct 19

"Movie Review | From China, Stephen Fung's 'Tai Chi Zero:' **Mystical Tai Chi Against a Giant Machine,**" a review by Rachel Saltz. "A village of martial arts adepts battles the forces of modernity" in the late nineteenth century, taking on "a giant, steam-belching metal machine [that] lies in wait to crush the town for the coming railroad[.] One image, though not of the terrible machine. First of a trilogy that is "fast and mostly fun, the movie also seems compulsively too much, throwing everything it can think of at you lest it fail to entertain."

Oct 26

"IHT Rendezvous | Hong Kong's Latest Space-Saving Idea: A Floating Cemetery," by Bettina Wassener in Hong Kong. Chiefly about the high price of office space in Hong Kong. Hyperlink to Ms. Wassener's NYT article: "Even for the Dead, a Struggle to Find Space in Hong Kong,," **a corporation's plan for a floating cemetery** that would "dock only during the twice-yearly festivals when Hong Kong residents descend in large family groups on the city's cemeteries to pay their respects to the departed." The "Floating Eternity" project has not advanced much beyond the drawing board.

Nov. 1

"**In Sandy's Wake, Perspective From Asia,**" by Mark McDonald in Hong Kong. The IHT columnist tells his readers what his readers in Asia tell him how they coped with natural disasters.

Nov. 3

"The Saturday Profile: Lifelong Scholar of the Japanese Becomes One of Them," by Martin Fackler in Tokyo. Photo caption: "This year, when **Donald Keene, 90, a New York native and retired professor, became a citizen of Japan, he gained what eludes many Westerners who live there: acceptance.**" Long, article.

Nov. 9

"Movie Review | 'In Another Country,' . . . **In Search of a Common Language,**" a review by A. O. Scott. "Like many other films by the sly and prolific South Korean director Hong Sang-soo, 'In Another Country' is at once a comedy of manners and an oblique commentary on the power of the cinema to expose and alter reality." Noting that the film is made up of three chapters that are film scenarios dreamed up by an aspiring young screenwriter, the movies she write, which we see enacted on the screen, "are variations of some of Mr. Hong's favorite themes: social awkwardness, sexual frustration and the selfishness of Korean men." With French actress Isabelle Huppert in each of the three vignettes. One image. In Korean and English.

Nov. 25

"**Cellphones Reshape Prostitution in India**, and Complicate Efforts to Prevent AIDS," by Gardiner Harris. NYT summary at Home/World: "One result of the spread of cellphones in India is that more prostitutes have become independent of brothels, a development that has made AIDS prevention harder." Long report, datelined Mumbai, with attention to its long-established red-light district. Photo.

"**36 Hours in Kolkata, India**," by Dan Pickel. NYT summary at Home/Travel: "Strands of old and new are woven into a vibrant pattern in this state capital, from politics to art to food." What to do, see, where to eat, stay on a whirlwind tour of this east Indian city. Map of the center of the city. Photos. Long article.

Nov. 26

"**Philippines Leads Pack in Promoting Female Academics**," by Liz Gooch. NYT summary: "With a government policy on helping women advance and a developed culture of female leadership, the country has the highest proportion] of female university administrators."

"Changing the Notion of Masculinity," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. NYT summary: "Civil activists in Asia are trying to shift the definition of what it means to be a man in society, and thus unlock a door to more effective prevention of violence against women."

Nov. 30

"Movie Review | **A Wedding Accompanied by Filipino Pop Hits: 'I Do Bidoo Bidoo'**, a Musical From the Philippines," A review by Jon Caramanica of a film written and directed by Chris Martinez. ". . . an exuberant if creaky Filipino musical that never lets story get in the way of its songs." One image.

"Movie Review | An Unlikely Hero Rises, and So Do Suspicions: 'Dragon (Wu Xia),' Directed by Peter Ho-Sun Chan," a review by A. O. Scott. A "loose remake of [David] Cronenberg's mesmerizing ["A History of Violence"]. . . **which transplants the action from picket-fence America to early-20th-century southwestern China and translates the genre from film noir to sword-and-martial-arts-based action.** . . . At its less grandiose moments, the combination of expressive acting and kinetic action pays off in ways that are likely to satisfy both novices and adepts in martial-arts fandom." One image.

Dec. 8

"**Bollywood Wows Morocco, Dreams of America**" - datelined Marrakech, where the city's International Film Festival is offering a tribute to 100 years of Indian cinema. Attention to the vast appeal in the Middle East and North Africa of Bollywood's epic melodramas and glamorous stars. Long article.

Dec. 10

"India Ink | **'Congress Party Craters in Gujarat**;' 'A Conversation With: Human Rights Activist Binayek Sen;' and 'Will Vote for Rupee.' " The latter re-runs a perspective piece about the ruling Congress Party's forthcoming plan to roll out a sweeping cash-transfer program for India's poor.

Dec. 11

"Observatory: **Genomic Study Traces Roma to Northern India**," by Sindya N. Bhanoo. "The Roma people of Europe, often called Gypsies,

are long thought to have originated in India because of similarities between Roman and India languages. But historical records are scanty. "Now a wide-ranging genomic study appears to confirm that the Roma came from a single group that left northwestern India about 1,500 years ago."

"Latest From the Opinion Blogs: **'Life After Escaping an Indian Brothel**," by Nicholas D. Kristof. Kristof, who has written extensively about sex slavery, but only briefly about the woman featured here, turns over his blog, "On the Ground," to Natalie Kitroeff who writes about Minati, 19,--not her real name--who, with Kristof's aid, escaped from a Kolkata brothel to which she had been kidnapped, probably with the collusion of a relative or family friend. Attention to Minati's life before and after her rescue.

Dec. 12

"**Ravi Shankar, Prolific Indian Sitarist, Dies at 92**," by Allan Kozinn. NYT summary: "A composer, trained in both Eastern and Western musical traditions, Mr. Shankar helped foster a worldwide appreciation of India's traditional music." Very long, informative obituary of the musician who died yesterday at a hospital near his home in Southern California. [Mr. Kozinn is a music critic for The Times.]

"India Ink | **'Ravi Shankar's Death Mourned in India**;' 'Outside India, Shankar Fascinated Generations of Fans;' and 'Sitar Maestro Ravi Shankar Dies at 92.'" The first of these related items is a compilation by Hari Kumar, an NYT correspondent in India, of tributes by prominent Indians, including PM Manmohan Singh and Nitin Gadkari, president of the Bharatiya Janata Party. The second is a compilation of extracts from NYT reviews of US performances by Ravi Shankar, beginning in 1956. The third item is similar to Allan Kozinn's obituary, substituting a more recent photo of the performer.

Dec 17

"Darjeeling Journal: Good Name Is Restored in Terrain Known for Tea," by Jim Yardley. NYT summary at Home/ World: "The European Union agreed this year to **phase out the use of 'Darjeeling'** on blended teas, making tea growers in the real Darjeeling happy." Slide show: "Preserving the Darjeeling Name." Long article.

Dec 18

"**Study Finds One in 6 Follow No Religion**," by Laurie Goodstein. "A global study of religious adherence released on Tuesday by the Pew Research Center found that about one of every six people worldwide has no religious affiliation." Some data from Asia and on world religions practiced there. Graphic: "World Religious Group."

Dec 19

"**Monks Lose Relevance as Thailand Grows Richer**," by Thomas Fuller. NYT summary at Home/World, hereafter "H/W": "The country's rapid economic rise has altered the role of the local Buddhist monk, once a moral authority, now someone whose job is often limited to presiding over ceremonies."

Dec 20

"Multimedia: **Commercial Buddhism in Thailand**." A 3:33-minute colorful video report by Thomas Fuller, Poypiti Amatatham and Vijai Singh. NYT summary: "Buddhism has been a way of life in Thailand for centuries, but inside the most popular temples is

a trend that critics call 'fast-food Buddhism.' "

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: What Saves India-- and Holds It Back," by Manu Joseph. NYT summary: "With its profusion of parties, the country's political scene is a caldron of narrowly defined interests and agendas. This **messy democracy keeps grievances from boiling over into violence, but it has its limits.**"

Dec 26

"The TV Watch: **On Indian TV, 'I Do' Means to Honor and Obey the Mother-in-Law,**" by Alessandra Stanley in Mumbai. About soap operas and marriage in India. NYT summary: "Television in India occasionally tests the boundaries, but nearly every soap opera seems to circle back to marriage and the relatives who come with the words 'I do.' " Photos. At an interactive feature, brief video segments from three Indian soaps: "Child Bride;" "Don't Come to This Land, My Daughter;" and "I Do." Very long article, one of a series by the NYT chief television critic who has spent time abroad this year to watch foreign television. This appears to be the first report with Asian television.

"India Ink | 'Sachin Was Us, and We Were Sachin' [Arnab Ray, a research scientist and adjunct professor at University of Maryland, a blogger and a novelist, celebrates with wistful admiration **the retirement of a popular Indian cricketer, Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar**]; 'On Indian TV, "I Do" Means to Honor and Obey the Mother-in-Law;' and 'Christmas Ornaments, Child Labor.' " The latter is an examination by Marjorie Elizabeth Wood of Cornell University of child labor conditions and advocacy around the world, with particular attention to India, but also China, Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines.

Dec 28

"**Japan Hints That It May Revise an Apology on Sex Slaves,**" by Martin Fackler. NYT summary at H/W: "An official hinted that the government might revise an official apology to women forced into sexual slavery during World War II, a move that would likely outrage South Korea." About the Kono Statement, a 1993 apology that PM Abe Shinzo, an outspoken nationalist, denying that that sexual activity of so-called "comfort women" was coerced, criticized aggressively during his previous term as prime minister. Link to the English text of the Kono Statement at the Web page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. [Another article on the same subject at H/W : IHT Rendezvous.]

"Guangzhou Journal | Changing of the Guard: With Focus on Unity, **China Embraces Its Pre-Communist Past,**" by Edward Wong. NYT summary at Home/ World: "The Whampoa Military Academy in Guangzhou represents an era when the Kuomintang and Communists cooperated for a greater good, one that recent exhibitions have sought to highlight."