



**SE** China  
**HD** **Taiwan plastic surgeon performs self-vasectomy as 'gift for wife', sparks heated debate**  
**BY** Zoey Zhang  
**WC** 549 words  
**PD** 29 January 2025  
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**LP**

Breast augmentation expert crosses his legs and snips his sperm duct on video, 'weird' procedure gets more than 4 million views online

A plastic surgeon in Taiwan who performed a vasectomy on himself has called it a "gift" to his wife.

**TD**

Online sources indicate that the doctor, Chen Weinong, specialises in eyelid, nose, and breast augmentation procedures.

Chen previously helped burn patients in a professional medical group and later established his own plastic surgery clinic in the island's capital Taipei.

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On January 9, he shared a video of himself performing his own vasectomy on a social media platform. It attracted more than 4 million views.

Father of three Chen said he chose a vasectomy because of the respective ages of himself and his wife.

Trusting his own skills, he performed the procedure himself, calling it "a gift to my wife".

"Female sterilisation is more complex, but male procedures are simpler. We just locate the duct which carries the sperm externally and tie it off," he said.

In the video, Chen walks viewers through the procedure's 11 steps of the procedure, including locating the sperm duct, administering anaesthesia, cutting, tying off, and suturing the wound.

Sitting cross-legged, he performed the surgery on himself while sharing his thoughts.

When Chen touched his sperm duct, he exclaimed: "Oh, this is super sore!"

Later, he sutured his wound and said: "This feels so weird."

While male sterilisation typically takes 15 minutes, Chen's solo operation lasted more than an hour. Afterwards, he admitted: "I am exhausted."

He also said that the night after the surgery was painful, but the discomfort had eased by the next morning.

Some netizens questioned Chen's qualifications for performing a vasectomy as a plastic surgeon.

Chen hit back saying that he holds a surgical license and noted that a nurse and three doctors, including a supervising urologist, were present to ensure safety.

"The procedure was fully self-funded and conducted at a legally authorised location," he added.

As of writing, Chen's wife has not commented.

The Taipei City Health Department confirmed Chen's surgical qualifications, saying there were no legal issues with the procedure, according to Taiwanese media outlet FTV News.

A local official also noted that it is common for male doctors to perform their own vasectomies.

However, Chen urged the public not to imitate him.

"Performing a vasectomy at home is extremely dangerous. I strongly recommend consulting a professional urologist," he said.

The self-vasectomy sparked much attention on social media, with the video getting more than 100,000 shares.

One online observer said Chen was a responsible husband: "You are very thoughtful. Recovery from male sterilisation is much quicker than for females."

Another expressed concern about potentially dangerous imitations: "Please consult a professional doctor, the surgery is not expensive and really quick."

In Taiwan, painless male vasectomies normally cost 18,000 to 25,000 TWD (US\$550 to US\$750) and allow same-day discharge.

<b>NS</b>	gcat : Political/General News   ghea : Health   gtrea : Medical Treatments/Procedures
<b>RE</b>	apacz : Asia Pacific   asiaz : Asia   chinaz : Greater China   devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries   easiaz : East Asia   taipei : Taipei   taiwan : Taiwan
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SE News  
HD **Young men in China share vasectomy experiences online, foster 'new good man' image**  
BY Zoey Zhang  
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LP

As gender equality gains traction, younger generation of men proud to share family, contraceptive responsibilities long endured by women

Young men in China are sharing their vasectomy experiences on social media platforms, as a symbol of being a “new good man” and advocating that contraception should not solely be a woman’s responsibility.

TD

Traditionally, women have borne most of the contraceptive burden, using methods such as intrauterine devices (IUDs) and birth control pills.

About two-thirds of IUD users worldwide are in China, according to the World Health Organization.

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Experts warn that the method has potential health risks such as irregular periods, uterine bleeding, and abdominal pain.

For men, a vasectomy is a minor surgical procedure that cuts or seals the tube that carries sperm from the testes and stops it from mixing with semen.

It is an effective form of contraception that affects neither sexual nor other physiological functions.

However, it is often perceived as detrimental to masculinity, with some believing that a vasectomy will reduce a man’s strength, despite the notion having no scientific basis.

In China, very few men choose sterilisation.

According to the China Health and Family Planning Statistical Yearbook, in 2020, there were a total of 14.7 million contraceptive surgeries nationwide, of which only 2,626 were male vasectomies.

Zhao Shanchao, a urologist at China’s Nanfang Hospital, said that a vasectomy can sometimes cause side effects, including incision infections and mild testicular pain.

Nevertheless, among all contraceptive methods, vasectomy is still considered one of the safest and most effective birth control methods.

As gender equality gains traction, more young Chinese men are opting for vasectomies and sharing their stories on social media platforms such as Xiaohongshu, Baidu, and Zhihu to support others considering the same.

Mainland media reported that vasectomy is now seen as a sign of the “new good man”.

This refers to someone who shares family responsibilities, cares about his partner, respects women, and values equality in relationships.

Chen, a 29-year-old who underwent a vasectomy in a hospital in Shanghai, told News Weekly that the procedure costs about 1,900 yuan (US\$270), and after insurance coverage, he paid just 48 yuan (US\$7).

Another 26-year-old man who underwent a vasectomy in March wrote on Xiaohongshu. “I love my girlfriend. The recovery time for male sterilisation is shorter and less harmful to the body compared to females.”

Wang, a 30-year-old from central China said that he plans to have the procedure by the end of the year.

Wang told the Post that both his parents and girlfriend fully support his decision.

“Having a child is a huge burden on women. I also do not have the confidence to be a good father. If our financial situation permits in the future, we may consider adopting a child,” he said.

The topic sparked a discussion on mainland social media.

One online observer wrote: “Thumbs up for the boyfriends and husbands who undergo vasectomy. They are brave and show respect for women.”

Another had a different view: “At the very least, sperm should be stored before vasectomy, just in case they regret it later in life and want children.”

<b>NS</b>	gbirtc : Family Planning   gcat : Political/General News   gcom : Society/Community   ghea : Health   ghum : Human Rights/Civil Liberties   gsoc : Social Issues   gtrea : Medical Treatments/Procedures   gwori : Gender Equality
<b>RE</b>	apacz : Asia Pacific   asiaz : Asia   china : China   chinaz : Greater China   devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries   dvpcoz : Developing Economies   easiaz : East Asia
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**SE** Nation

**HD** **Born equal**

**BY** Oriental Outlook – Global Times

**WC** 956 words

**PD** 12 September 2014

**SN** Global Times

**SC** GLOTNE

**PG** P06

**LA** English

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**LP**

A man takes a free condom from a dispenser in Tianshui, Gansu Province. Photo:CFP

Men in Tianshui are recognized by their local government for undergoing No-Scalpel Vasectomy surgery.  
Photo: CFP

**TD**

For a populous country like China, family planning is a fundamental State policy. Contraception in the Chinese mainland is not just a choice among couples to prevent unplanned pregnancies, but part of a nationwide family planning policy.

For decades, the policy strictly stipulated families can only have one child unless they lived in rural areas and their first child is a girl. However since March 2014, many regions relaxed restrictions, allowing couples to have two children if either parent is an only child.

For many families, contraception is key, as a policy violation can result in fines or even loss of employment.

But such responsibilities seem to have fallen on the shoulders of women, as 85 percent of all forms of contraceptives used in 2012 were designed for females, according to statistics by the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

Some attribute this trend to the advanced development of female contraceptive devices, while others believe the divide reflects gender discrimination in Chinese society.

Unbalanced numbers

Male sterilization in China has dropped to 5.5 percent, a record-low despite the country pioneering the world's most advanced vasectomy procedure, which is cheaper, safer and simpler than female ones, according to a 2013 report by the National Health and Family Planning Commission.

Meanwhile, intra-uterine devices accounted for 53.7 percent of all contraceptive methods used in China in 2012, said the report.

According to a research conducted by the US-based Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, other factors should be taken into consideration when a single method accounts for over half of all contraceptive methods, while many Chinese experts argued the popularity of intra-uterine devices cannot be explained by simply stating that Chinese women like it.

"Vasectomies are a better choice if the both partners are comfortable with the procedures," Liu Xiaozhang, a professor with the Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, said.

According to Liu, vasectomies are the only internationally recognized form of birth control. No-Scalpel Vasectomy, invented in 1976 by Chongqing-based andrology expert Li Shunqiang, boasts a lower chance for complications, less pain and a faster recovery than the conventional vasectomy.

Vasectomies are also more effective with a failure rate of 0.1 percent, compared to 0.5 percent for tubal ligation, which also carries the risk of extra-uterine pregnancy.

China's family planning policy was first listed in the Constitution in 1978.

According to the Constitution, both husband and wife are jointly responsible for practicing birth control.

Before official family planning efforts were introduced, a lot of men voluntarily went through vasectomies after having four or five children. After birth control became compulsory, there was a burst of demand for surgeries. Quality, however, plummeted, leaving male sterilization with a decreased reputation.

Perceived gender roles in Chinese society is the main reason for men to dodge contraceptive responsibility, Wang Xiangxian, a sociology professor with the Tianjin Normal University opined in an article. "Sexual power has always been a core part of the male identity. Male sterilization has been mistaken as an emasculation that will make men less of a man."

Vasectomy rates have dropped to less than 2 percent among male populations in Asian countries such as India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines, according to the United Nations Population Division.

Call for equality

"Gender equality should be promoted in birth control," said Wang.

The National Health and Family Planning Commission argued that the female physiology is more suited for contraceptive methods, and the majority of recent medical advances have focused on female contraceptive methods.

But Wang's research shows that male sterilization is the main form of birth control used in the western countries, such as the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand since its emergence in the 1960s.

Insufficient knowledge of birth control is also an issue as China witnesses an increasing prevalence of pre-marital sex and a younger sexually active population.

According to a research done by China Population Communication Center and the School of Sociology and Population Studies of the Renmin University of China in 2013, 69 percent of all teenagers have had unprotected sex, while 75 percent of them had resorted to birth control methods such as emergency contraception and external ejaculation.

This lack of awareness has left women less protected, as only 23 percent of those who participated in the study claimed to know the risks of emergency contraception, while 81 percent said they had used the method.

Another risk is unexpected pregnancy. Around 65 percent of women who underwent an abortion were unmarried and aged 20 to 29, while 63 percent of them had their first abortion under the age of 19.

Promising signs

Awareness of gender equality in birth control is increasing. According to a 2011 poll done by Wang and his colleagues in Southern China, 79 percent of the adult men believe birth control is a shared responsibility.

Government statistics also show that the use of condoms has increased by 228.6 percent between 2002 and 2012, while the use of birth control pills has dropped 54 percent.

The future of birth control in China depends on the development of medical technology and on individual choice, said a National Health and Family Planning Commission official.

"As more married couples seek to avoid pregnancy, the use of short-term measures such as condoms, contraceptive pills and intra-uterine devices will rise," said the official.

"Birth control should be based on informed and voluntary decisions based in gender equality," said Wang.

**NS** gwhea : Women's Health | greg : Regional Politics | gtrea : Medical Treatments/Procedures | gcat : Political/General News | ggrou : Demographic Health | ghea : Health | gpir : Politics/International Relations | gpol : Domestic Politics

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Global Times

**AN** Document GLOTNE0020140912ea9c00007

**HD** **Cabinet to vote on revised changes to Abortion Law; ADVISE, NOT CONSENT: Under the amendments, married people will no longer have to get permission from their spouse before various surgical procedures**

**BY** By Ko Shu-ling

**CR** STAFF REPORTER

**WC** 572 words

**PD** 30 September 2003

**SN** Taipei Times

**SC** TAIIP

**LA** English

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**LP**

Married persons will only have to notify their spouse if they decide to get an abortion, tubal ligation or vasectomy, instead of having to obtain their consent, if the Legislative Yuan passes draft amendments to the Abortion Law .

The stipulations that women seeking an abortion should consult their doctors and undergo a three-day "reflection period," however, would be retained.

**TD**

"After carefully discussing the controversial topic with experts and religious groups, we thought it was a better idea for married [women] to notify their spouse of their decision instead of making the decision on their own," a Cabinet official who asked not to be named told the Taipei Times

yesterday.

The official said the Department of Health reached the conclusion on Sept. 8 and is scheduled to hold a press conference tomorrow to make public details of the revised draft amendments.

The Executive Yuan had originally been scheduled to approve the amendments on Aug. 27, including one which would annul the article requiring married persons to obtain the consent of their spouse before getting an abortion, tubal ligation or vasectomy.

In a bid to stave off controversy, the Cabinet delayed the plan in response to the request filed by Department of Health Director General Chen Chien-jen during the weekly closed-door Cabinet meeting that day.

Chen said that he had requested the draft be withdrawn because of the controversy surrounding it, even though some of the articles have become obsolete since the law took effect in 1985.

After the Chinese-language media revealed details of the proposed amendments on Aug. 25, religious groups were quick to voice vehement opposition to the proposals while women's groups were equally vocal in welcoming the changes.

"We still thought there was time to solicit opinions from the public, especially from religious groups, regarding this topic," Chen said after requesting the delay.

Under the revised amendments, women seeking an abortion would have to prove that they or their spouse, or members of their immediate family suffered from a genetic disorder or that they or their spouse suffered from a communicable disease, a rare illness or a mental disorder.



The proposed amendments also state that any woman seeking to have an abortion would have to prove that the pregnancy would endanger her life, her mental or physical health, or that her baby would be born with a deformity.

Abortions would be allowed for women whose pregnancies resulted from forced sexual intercourse, sexual assault or intercourse between those people legally banned from marriage.

The amendments would raise the maximum fine for an unauthorized doctor who performed abortions, tubal ligations or vasectomies from NT\$30,000 to NT\$500,000.

A physician who performs an abortion on a woman who did not notify her spouse or go through the three-day waiting period would face a fine of between NT\$10,000 and NT\$50,000.

A doctor who performs an abortion or vasectomy on an under-age spouse without the consent of their legal guardian would also face the same fines.

The amendments include an article to penalize medical personnel who leak information about patients suffering from genetic disorders with fines ranging from NT\$20,000 to NT\$100,000.

<b>NS</b>	ghea : Health   gcat : Political/General News
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SE LIF

HD **Male contraceptive pill comes a step closer with vitamin A blockers**

BY Jeanette Wang [jeanette.wang@scmp.com](mailto:jeanette.wang@scmp.com)

WC 1,313 words

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LP

The 20th century saw great strides in the development of birth control methods for women, but no new contraceptive for men has been approved since the introduction of the condom (first recorded descriptions in the 16th century) and vasectomy (in clinical practice since the late 19th century).

Could a male pill now be around the corner, however?

TD

Researchers from the University of Minnesota in the United States suggest they've taken a step closer to formulating one by tweaking some experimental compounds that show promise. On March 13, the researchers presented their findings at the 251st National Meeting & Exposition of the American Chemical Society in San Diego, California.

There are many different experimental contraception methods being studied, but the Minnesota researchers' focus is on inhibiting retinoic acid - commonly known as vitamin A - in the testes. Without vitamin A, testicles cannot make sperm.

Jillian Kyzer, a graduate student working on the topic, says the researchers are gaining a better understanding of how tweaks to the chemical structure of their test compounds (experimental male contraceptives developed by drug company Bristol-Myers Squibb) affect the substances' cellular interactions in the body.

For instance, one of the test compounds is good at inhibiting fertility but isn't very soluble, so it can't be taken by mouth. "No one wants to inject themselves with a needle once a day or once a week for most of their lives," notes Kyzer, whose colleagues have managed to refine the chemical structure of the test compound to make it more soluble. [?utm\\_source=wisers&utm\\_medium=intranet&utm\\_campaign=syndication\\_campaign](#)

Bringing any male contraceptive to market requires it to satisfy several requirements, explains Kyzer's team leader, Professor Gunda Georg, head of Minnesota's department of medicinal chemistry. It would have to be soluble so it could be taken by mouth. It would start working fairly quickly, and it wouldn't diminish libido. It would be safe even if taken for decades. And because some users would eventually want to have children, its impact on fertility would be reversible, with no lingering ill effects on sperm or embryos.

"That's a very high bar for bringing a male contraceptive to market," Georg says.

According to Dr Paul Kogan and Dr Moshe Wald of the University of Iowa's department of urology, research shows that condoms and vasectomies account for only 8.9 per cent of global contraceptive use.

"Surveys have demonstrated that nearly 80 per cent of men believe contraception is a shared responsibility and globally more than 50 per cent of men endorsed interest in an alternative male contraceptive," write Kogan and Wald in a 2014 report in the journal *Urologic Clinics of North America*. "These studies demonstrate an unmet need for alternative male contraception."

Georg started working on developing a viable male birth control pill in 2001. In 2013, her team received a US\$8.3 million, five-year contract from the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health to develop new male and female non-hormonal birth control targets and expand on current targets.

With female birth control you only have to control one egg. In males you have to control millions of sperm - about 1,500 sperm are produced every second. Georg thinks that may be part of the reason why a male pill has been so difficult to develop.

Significant developments, however, have been made with regard to hormonal and non-hormonal contraception, and minor, reversible, procedural contraception. Here's a look at some alternative methods of birth control for men. [?utm\\_source=wisers&utm\\_medium=intranet&utm\\_campaign=syndication\\_campaign](#)

**How it works:** similar to a no-scalpel vasectomy, except a gel is injected into the vas deferens (the tube sperm swim through after being produced in the testes), rather than cutting the vas deferens as is done in a vasectomy. Vasalgel fills the interior of the vas deferens, forming a soft, semi-permeable barrier for the sperm. The sperm end up being reabsorbed by the body.

**Effectiveness and safety:** Twelve months of rabbit studies have shown no sperm from the second semen sample onwards. Sperm flow quickly returned in rabbits that had the polymer flushed out with another injection. Clinical trials are expected to begin this year. Vasalgel was inspired by the work on a polymer contraceptive called RISUG, which is in advanced clinical trials in India; some of the men have been using RISUG for more than 15 years.

**Reversible?** Possibly.

**How it works:** this method is so named because it inhibits the release of any semen, while allowing the sensation of orgasm. It acts by relaxing the longitudinal muscles in the vas deferens while still allowing contraction of the circular muscles, which squeeze the tubes carrying the sperm and semen - effectively cutting off the flow. The fluids remain where they are and are reabsorbed by the body naturally. This method is extremely fast-acting, with the pill needing to be taken only two to three hours before intercourse. Its effects would then last 16-24 hours.

**Effectiveness and safety:** the drug the pill is based on, phenoxybenzamine, has some side effects. But the prototype contraceptive pills have been designed to avoid these effects and isolate its muscle-relaxing function. However, the research is still in its early stages.

**Reversible?** Unknown.

**How it works:** using the same painless ultrasound waves commonly used by physical therapists on injured joints, applying ultrasound for 15 minutes to the testes results in about six months of contraception in animals (dogs and rats) due to decreased sperm count.

**Effectiveness and safety:** while ultrasound works in dogs and rats under the right conditions and protocol, scientists have yet to find a way to get long-lasting effects in large adult monkeys and humans. In 2013, a man tried ultrasound on himself and found the effect wearing off within a few months, despite completing at least 10 treatments of 20-30 minutes on a Monday-Wednesday-Friday schedule.

**Reversible?** Possibly.

**How it works:** derived from the *Justicia gendarussa* plant, a three-metre high shrub that is native to Indonesia, this herbal contraceptive is said to disrupt an enzyme in the sperm head, which weakens the ability of the sperm to penetrate the ovum.

**Effectiveness and safety:** phase 2 clinical trials provide convincing evidence of its effectiveness. For example, a 2010 study had 80 of 120 married men take the extract for 102 days. In 2012, another study had 186 of 350 married men take the pill for 30 days. Only one pregnancy occurred during the trials. Preliminary findings have not shown any side effects; more research is needed to determine the pill's duration of action and dosage.

**Reversible?** Yes.

**How it works:** heat's action on fertility is not completely understood, but part of the effect seems to be due to a heat shock factor that initiates cell death in sperm above about 35 degrees Celsius. The testes must be

several degrees cooler than normal body temperature in order to maintain proper sperm production. A simple wet heat method was reported in 1946 by Dr M. Voegeli, a Swiss doctor practising in India. She suggested: "A man sits in a [shallow or testes-only] bath of 46.7 deg Celsius for 45 minutes daily for three weeks. Six months of sterility results, after which normal fertility returns. For longer sterility, the treatment is repeated."

Effectiveness and safety: Water at 46.7 Celsius was found to reliably produce at least six months of sterility. Water at lower temperatures produced shorter periods of infertility; for example, water at 43.3 Celsius produced at least four months of infertility.

Reversible? May not be possible after long-term use.

**CO** amchso : American Chemical Society

**IN** ihormp : Hormone Products | i951 : Health Care/Life Sciences | i257 : Pharmaceuticals | idrugty : Specialized Drugs/Medications

**NS** gwhea : Women's Health | gbirtc : Birth Control | gtrea : Medical Treatments/Procedures | reqrhc : Suggested Reading Health Care | gcat : Political/General News | ggrou : Demographic Health | ghea : Health | redit : Selection of Top Stories/Trends/Analysis | reqr : Suggested Reading Industry News

**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcos : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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HD **Gun perk spurs more Indians to get the snip**  
BY Shaikh Azizur Rahman in New Delhi  
WC 497 words  
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LP

Government officials in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh have begun offering fast-tracked gun licences to men who agree to undergo sterilisation, so they will not feel less manly.

The region is plagued by problems with robbers and bandits, and many villagers desperately want to possess firearms.

TD

Vasectomy camps - regularly set up in many parts of the country as part of a solution to India's population explosion - often fail to meet their targets. Most men refuse to be sterilised, believing that the process strips them of their manliness.

But Madhya Pradesh government's unique "guns for sterilisation" scheme has been popular in the region where gangs of bandits often attack villages, loot them and kidnap people for huge ransoms, officials said.

"In our past family planning programmes we routinely failed to attract villagers to our camps," said Maneesh Srivastava, chief administrator of the district of Shivpuri.

"In fact, we never managed to meet even a quarter of the annual sterilisation target. But following a recent survey in which we found that most men did not want to undergo a vasectomy because they did not want to 'lose their manliness', we adopted this new strategy. We decided to match it with a bigger symbol of manliness - a gun licence - and it has worked wonders."

He said that last year only eight men came for sterilisation in the district. But since the scheme was announced, more than 200 men have undergone vasectomy in the first 2 1/2 months of this year, and many others were waiting.

One official said: "We explained that sterilisation did not affect male virility and many men were living happily after vasectomy, but nothing worked. But as soon as the offer of a gun licence was announced, people {hellip} began responding enthusiastically.

"It seems this year we shall get more men for vasectomy than in the past 20 years."

Madhya Pradesh's family planning scheme has also worked well because of the local culture in which the gun is the ultimate status symbol. Many villagers in worn-out sandals and riding old bicycles proudly show off their guns slung over their shoulders or revolvers hung from their waist.

"Many peasants are even selling off their last piece of land try to buy guns because of necessity and also to flaunt the prized status symbol," Mr Srivastava said. "Our scheme has struck such an appeal that even

a good number of Muslims - who are traditionally against sterilisation - have come forward to undergo a vasectomy."

The scheme follows a similar programme launched four years ago in Uttar Pradesh to the north. However, critics of the scheme in Madhya Pradesh say it encourages gun culture in a region where firearm violence is already alarmingly high.

"Where there are guns, even minor feuds often escalate into events that claim lives," said former senior police officer Shiv Shankar Shukla.

**IN** i329 : Firearms | iaer : Aerospace/Defense | idef : Defense Equipment/Products

**NS** gcrim : Crime/Courts | grobb : Robbery | nedc : Commentary/Opinion | gcat : Political/General News | gcns : National Security | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : FC&E Executive News Filter

**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcos : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited

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# THE STRAITS TIMES

SE trending  
HD **HK singer Steven Cheung to go for vasectomy after birth of fourth son**  
BY , HK singer Steven Cheung to go for vasectomy after birth of fourth son  
WC 604 words  
PD 15 September 2023  
SN The Straits Times  
SC STIMES  
LA English  
CY © 2023 SPH Media Limited  
LP

HONG KONG -- Controversial Hong Kong singer Steven Cheung will undergo a vasectomy now that he is a father of four, he announced on social media on Wednesday.

The member of Cantopop duo Boyz posted a photo of his family on Instagram and wrote in Chinese: "I am honoured to be the father of four children. For the livelihood of my family of six in the future and after careful consideration, I have decided to get a vasectomy to take the greatest responsibility as head of the family."

TD

The 38-year-old said he has contacted a day surgery centre to arrange for the birth control procedure and will share details after its completion.

Cheung -- who has been married to Ms Au Yin Man, 32, for four years -- announced on Instagram on Sept 7 that his fourth son was born and back home from the hospital. The couple have three other sons aged one, three and four.

According to Hong Kong's Ming Pao Daily News, Cheung is reportedly in debt and having trouble making ends meet.

Ms Au also owns three dogs, and the Hong Kong media estimated that his monthly expenses are likely to be more than the HK\$30,000 (S\$5,200) he told Hong Kong media outlet HK01 in July.

He said then that he had a stable job running a small eatery (which he has since left), and had also taken on other work like dishwashing in the last five years, slogging away for as long as 12 hours a day.

He added he would do anything to earn money as long as it was not illegal. He disclosed on Instagram in late August that he was distributing condoms and fliers, with the promotion said to be paid for by a local hotel booking app.

Cheung and Ms Au's marriage had previously been in the spotlight for their bickering and her threats of divorce. She also accused Cheung in January of not doing his part as a father and helping to take care of the children.

He whipped up controversy in 2019 when he announced that he was marrying Ms Au, a long-time fan of his, while still in a relationship with Hong Kong model- actress April Leung.

He shocked both his fans and Leung then when he also posted a picture of himself and Ms Au at their first son's 100-day celebration. The baby was born before they officially wed.

The cheating scandal got even messier when at least two additional women came forward to the Hong Kong media and claimed Cheung was dating all of them at the same time, leading to the cancellation of Boyz's concert at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Cheung's entertainment career has been in limbo ever since, although he told HK01 that he would not give up on singing and has received job offers arranged by an agency in China.

He added that he has not been in contact with Boyz's other member Kenny Kwan, and regretted leaving the 42-year-old Hong Kong singer-actor in the lurch.

Cheung explained that the duo were filming a music video in Thailand when the scandal broke. Cheung and his assistant then left the country in the middle of the night to fly back to Hong Kong, leaving Kwan and the crew behind.

**ART** Hong Kong singer Steven Cheung posted a photo of his family on Instagram on Wednesday. PHOTO: STEVENCHEUNG/INSTAGRAM

**NS** glife : Living/Lifestyle | gbirtc : Family Planning | gcat : Political/General News | ghea : Health

**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : East Asia

**PUB** SPH Media Limited

**AN** Document STIMES0020230914ej9f003da





CLM by Jerome Watson

SE FF Features

HD **Spinal zap may help Parkinson's**

BY jerome.d.watson@gmail.com

WC 522 words

PD 30 March 2009

SN South China Morning Post

SC SCMP

PG 6

LA English

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LP

Spinal zap may help Parkinson's

A "spinal zap" may prove to be an effective way of treating Parkinson's sufferers, say US researchers who report radically improved movement in rats and mice within four seconds of applying electrical stimulation to their dorsal column. The treatment, devised by a Duke University team, is based on a technique used for people suffering chronic pain that entails a small implanted spinal-cord stimulator. The drug L-Dopa is the main treatment for Parkinson's symptoms but it becomes less effective over time, AP reports.

TD

Mushrooms 'lower cancer risk'

Chinese women who eat mushrooms and drink green tea appear to have a significantly lower risk of developing breast cancer, and for it to be less severe forms if they do, says an Australian researcher, based on a study of more than 2,000 women from Hangzhou, half of whom had breast cancer. Eating as little as 10 grams a day, or less than one button mushroom, appears to have a beneficial effect, says Min Zhang, of the University of Western Australia. "An additional decreased risk from the joint effect of mushrooms and green tea was observed," she says. Those who ate the most fresh mushrooms were two-thirds less likely to develop breast cancer than those who ate none, AFP reports.

Green tea might foil gum disease

Meanwhile, a daily cup of green tea may also protect against gum disease, say Japanese researchers, based on a study of more than 900 men aged 49 to 59 - and the more you drink, the lower the risk appears to be, but team leader Yoshihiro Shimazaki of Kyushu University says the relationship is not strong and needs more study. It's likely that antioxidants in green tea called polyphenols inhibit bacteria that lead to gum disease, Reuters reports. Little surprise, perhaps, that imports of tea into the US were up 7 per cent last year, to 117 million kilograms, with much of the increase attributed to teas such as green and oolong.

Oxygen therapy aids autistic kids

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy, similar to that used for divers suffering from the bends, appears to significantly benefit autistic children, say US researchers, based on a study of 60 two- to seven-year-olds. Those who were randomly assigned to 40 one-hour sessions in a low-level therapy room showed improved grasp of language, social interaction and eye contact, and less irritability, hyperactivity and repetitive behaviour, Reuters reports of the International Child Development Resource Centre study.

Vasectomies rise due to downturn

As the economy wanes, vasectomies are reportedly rising sharply, reports healthday.com, based on a sample of specialists. Increasing job uncertainty may be a deciding factor; not only because of the cost of having children but due to concerns their health insurance will disappear if they're laid off. One New York specialist says he's performing twice as many vasectomies compared with last year. And a centre in Cleveland, Ohio, says procedures are up 75 per cent during the past few months.

**IN** i257 : Pharmaceuticals | ihormp : Hormone Products | idrugty : Drugs/Medication

**NS** ghea : Health | gwhea : Women's Health | ggroupp : Demographic Health | nedc : Commentary/Opinion | gcat : Political/General News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : FC&E Executive News Filter

**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020090329e53u0002s



SE CHN  
HD **Chinese man with four children forced to have vasectomy**  
BY Zhuang Pinghui pinghui.zhuang@scmp.com  
WC 331 words  
PD 15 February 2017  
SN scmp.com  
SC SCMCOM  
LA English  
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LP

A health authority in southwest China is investigating claims that a man was forced to have a vasectomy when he was visiting his home town during the Lunar New Year holiday, a newspaper reported.

The man, who had three children from his first marriage and another from his second, was taken away by about a dozen people in charge of family planning when he was visiting friends in Zhenxiong county in Yunnan province on February 8, the Beijing Youth Daily said.

TD

He said he was taken to a government clinic and the operation was forcibly performed. He struggled, but was assaulted by staff, he was quoted as saying.

Chinese woman ordered to have abortion after moving province is allowed to keep child

His family called the police after he was taken away, but officers detained his wife and son instead, according to the article.

His family quoted police as saying that the man would have been placed in detention for 15 days for disturbing public order if he did not have the vasectomy.

The man produced an invoice for carrying out the surgery issued by a family planning clinic in Luokan township in Zhenxiong county.

An official at the county publicity department told the newspaper the man broke the local birth control regulations by having three children in his first marriage and the need for the operation was supported by law.

Hubei woman dies after forced sterilisation

The newspaper quoted an expert as saying local regulations required couples who broke family regulations to use a proper birth control method, but this should be done with the consent of the couple.

Yunnan Health and Family Planning Commission have requested its Zhaotong division, which governs the county, to investigate the case, the report said.

The man comes from Zhenxiong county, but now lives in Sichuan province.

To read more content from SCMP.com, please click [here](#)

NS gbirtc : Birth Control | gcat : Political/General News | ghea : Health

RE china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

<b>PUB</b>	South China Morning Post Publishers Limited
<b>AN</b>	Document SCMCOM0020170215ed2f0000f

SE world  
HD **With marriages declining, birth rates in China lowest ever**  
WC 366 words  
PD 1 March 2022  
SN The Statesman  
SC AIWTHS  
LA English  
CY © 2022 The Statesman Ltd. All rights reserved  
LP

ANI, Mar-01 A sharp decline in the number of marriage registrations, accompanied by the aging of married couples has led to birth rates in China hitting the lowest ever levels, according to a media report.

The number of wedding registrations in China fell by 17.5 percent in the first three quarters of 2020, compared to the same period in 2019.

TD

The number of marriages in Jiangsu Province has declined for five consecutive years while in the city of Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang Province, the number of marriages registered in 2021 was less than 80 percent of those registered in 2011.

At the same time, 46.5 percent of married Chinese people are over 30 years old. A combination of these factors, combined with the implementation of the draconian one-child policy for the last few decades led to China's birth rate declining to an all-time low of 7.52 per 1000 people in 2021 as per the National Bureau of Statistics of China data.

The Chinese government in recent years has tried to boost its birth rate by taking measures that are said to undermine some of the women's basic rights, like bodily autonomy.

A recent law titled 'China's law on the protection of women's rights and interests' treats women as entities other than men requiring "special considerations and protections" according to China Law Translate (CLT). CLT is a translation project run by Jeremy Daum, Yale Law Tsai Center Fellow.

Another law called, 'Family Education Promotion Law' calls for women to play their "special role" in promoting the family values of the Chinese people, to establish what the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) considers a "positive family situation."

The CCP officials are also taking other measures like discouraging abortions and vasectomies, trying to reverse the consequences of the one-child policy.

A Washington Post investigation in December discovered that 12 hospitals in Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou were no longer performing vasectomies, much to the dismay of many young couples contacted.

The measures being taken hardly have any tangible impact on boosting birth rates as is evident from the government data.

CO nlbuch : National Bureau of Statistics of China  
NS gwedd : Marriage/Divorce | gdemog : Demographics | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community  
RE china : China | easiaz : Eastern Asia | chinaz : Greater China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies

<b>IPD</b>	world
<b>PUB</b>	The Statesman Ltd.
<b>AN</b>	Document AIWTHS0020220301ei310005I

**HD**      **Cabinet delays abortion draft; HOLD UP: In response to criticism from religious groups, the Executive Yuan will have a rethink on regulations covering pregnancy terminations by married couples**

**BY**      By Ko Shu-ling

**CR**      STAFF REPORTER

**WC**      440 words

**PD**      28 August 2003

**SN**      Taipei Times

**SC**      TAIIP

**LA**      English

**CY**      © Copyright 2003 The Taipei Times. All rights reserved.

**LP**

In a bid to stave off controversy, the Executive Yuan yesterday delayed its approval of contentious draft amendments to the Abortion Law, which would annul an article requiring married couples to obtain the consent of their spouse before getting an abortion, tubal ligation or vasectomy.

"Since there's still room for further debate over the controversial issue, we have decided to put it on hold for the time being," Cabinet Spokesman Lin Chia-lung quoted Premier Yu Shyi-kun as saying.

**TD**

Yu made the remark yesterday morning in response to the request filed by Department of Health Director General Chen Chien-jen during the weekly closed-door Cabinet meeting.

While participants were scheduled to discuss the draft amendments to the Abortion Law during the meeting, Chen requested the draft be withdrawn because of the controversy surrounding it.

"Although some of the articles have become obsolete since the law took effect in 1985, we still thought there was much time and room to solicit opinions from the public, especially from religious groups, regarding this disputed topic," Lin quoted Chen as saying.

Since Chinese-language media revealed on Monday that the Cabinet was expected to approve the draft amendments to the law during yesterday's Cabinet meeting, religious groups have voiced vehement opposition while women's groups welcomed the move.

Under the draft, the Cabinet had originally planned to allow a married person to get an abortion, tubal ligation or vasectomy without the consent of their spouse.

The draft also stipulated that married women who needed an abortion should consult their doctors and consider the decision for three days before taking any action.

Married women allowed to have an abortion would have to prove that they or their spouse suffered from a genetic disorder, communicable disease or a mental or rare illness.

They would also have to prove that their immediate family members or those of their spouse suffered from a genetic disease.

Married women allowed to have an abortion also had to prove that their pregnancy would endanger their life, mental or physical health, or that the baby would be born with a deformity.

Abortions would also be allowed for married women whose pregnancies resulted from forced sexual intercourse, sexual assault or intercourse with those legally banned from marriage.

The maximum fine for an unauthorized medical doctor performing an abortion, tubal ligation or vasectomy would also increase from the original NT\$30,000 to NT\$500,000.

**NS** ghea : Health | gcat : Political/General News

**RE** taiwan : Taiwan | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Liberty Times Ltd

**AN** Document TAIP000020030828dz8s00003





SE China  
HD **China couple's pledge to 'go Dutch' on everything years ago ends in bitter court battle**

BY Fran Lu  
WC 457 words  
PD 1 July 2024  
SN scmp.com  
SC SCMCOM  
LA English  
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\* Husband's 'ridiculous' claims for likes of 'doing extra dishes during festivals' rejected by court

A lawsuit involving a Chinese couple who decided to "go Dutch" on every little thing in their 21 years of marriage has stunned mainland social media.

TD

The couple from southern China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region tied the knot in 1985, and signed a contract to split all costs in half in 2006.

In 2015, they chose to live separately but stay married.

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The husband, surnamed Zhang, took his wife, Li, to court in January saying she owed him 110,000 yuan (US\$15,000).

Zhang had been listing all the bills he thought Li should share during their 30 years living together, after they separated in 2015.

The expenses included the "thank you fee and nutrition fee" for his vasectomy in 1990.

Zhang also listed the cost of labour when he helped Li repay a loan with her own money, "television and furniture costs" from 1986 to 2015, and "doing extra dishes during festivals".

Dismissing the husband's claim, a court in Guangxi acknowledged that the couple had signed a contract in 2006 but said that Zhang could not provide proof that he was owed for the items he listed.

It was also decided that Zhang was being petty and that his behaviour was "against the public order and good morals" and therefore not legally protected.

The court added that couples should help and love each other while building a harmonious family together.

Many people expressed disbelief on mainland social media.

"Why did they not just divorce each other?" one person said on Weibo.

"If he was a tiny bit more of a man, he would not ask his wife to contribute to his vasectomy," said another.

"It seems they did not love each other at all. I wonder what they would do if one of them became ill or hospitalised?" someone else chimed in.

Another person thought it was "unfair to ask the wife to split the bills, because it was she who gave birth to children."

"Going Dutch", or splitting costs evenly, in marriage has become increasingly common in China, as most mainland women continue working after marriage and prefer to stay financially independent.

However, despite many couples working the same hours, women spend more than twice as much time doing housework, according to a Peking University study in 2010.

<b>NS</b>	gcat : Political/General News   gcom : Society/Community   gwedd : Marriage/Divorce
<b>RE</b>	apacz : Asia Pacific   asiaz : Asia   china : China   chinaz : Greater China   devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries   dvpcoz : Developing Economies   easiaz : East Asia   guanx : Guangxi
<b>PUB</b>	South China Morning Post Publishers Limited
<b>AN</b>	Document SCMCOM0020240701ek71000b9

**HD** Forcing surgery 'not true'

**BY** Zheng Caixiong

**WC** 257 words

**PD** 22 May 2014

**SN** China Daily

**SC** CHNDLY

**PG** 5

**LA** English

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**LP**

Family planning officials in Guangdong province are disputing reports that they force local women to have their fallopian tubes tied or their husbands to have a vasectomy after the couples' second child is born.

"We encourage couples to have their oviducts or spermatic ducts ligated after they have delivered two children, but it is only one of the choices for the couples to prevent another pregnancy," the Guangdong Provincial Health and Family Planning Commission said in a statement on its website.

**TD**

The commission's statement follows complaints by some women that local neighborhood committees won't issue a certificate for a second child unless the couple sign a contract promising that after the birth, the wife will have her oviducts ligated or that the husband will have a vasectomy.

A Guangzhou woman surnamed Liu said she was asked to sign a letter of commitment to ligate after she delivered her second child when she applied for the approval for a second childbirth in Guangzhou's Baiyun district early this month.

He Youlin, a deputy to the Guangdong provincial people's congress, urged health and family planning departments across the province to introduce measures to ensure that the national and provincial policy that allows local qualified couples to have two children will not be interfered with.

Health and family planning commissions in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan, Jiangmen, Zhuhai and other Pearl River Delta cities have also denied forcing locals to promise to be sterilized when they apply to have a second child.

**RE** china : China | guang : Guangdong | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcos : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** China Daily Information Company

**AN** Document CHNDLY0020140521ea5m0000u



**SE** Mosaic  
**HD** Docs say no vasectomy, wife livid  
**BY** Global Times  
**WC** 182 words  
**PD** 25 July 2018  
**SN** Global Times  
**SC** GLOTNE  
**PG** P11  
**LA** English  
**CY** Copyright 2018. Global Times. All rights reserved.

**LP**

A woman in East China said doctors had refused to give her 32-year-old husband a vasectomy. The physicians claimed it would lead to complications, with one calling the procedure "inhumane."

The soon to be mother of two, surnamed Zhang, reached out to reporters after two Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province physicians turned the couple away.

**TD**

"Our second child is coming at the end of this month and we don't want more babies," Zhang said.

Zhang said she had to convince her husband to pursue the procedure, only to have a doctor flat-out refuse to do it.

"The doctor said it is inhumane. He also criticized my husband," she said.

The couple was refused at a second hospital. "Instead, the doctor talked about all the possible complications," Zhang said.

"As long as the surgery is quick, simple and minimally invasive, why can't we do it?"

Zhang said the whole experience has resulted in family discord. Her husband is unwilling to get the surgery and now her mother is involved.

thecover.cn

**NS** gbirtc : Birth Control | gcat : Political/General News | ghea : Health

**RE** china : China | hangzh : Hangzhou | zheji : Zhejiang | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Global Times

**AN** Document GLOTNE0020180725ee7p0000r



**HD China allows township hospitals to do birth control operations**

**WC** 394 words

**PD** 27 December 2004

**SN** Xinhua's China Economic Information Service

**SC** XNHA

**LA** English

**CY** (c) 2004 Xinhua News Agency. All Rights Reserved

**LP**

BEIJING, December 27 (CEIS) -- China allows township hospitals to give clinical services of birth control, which was provided at hospitals of county level or higher, if they have qualified personnel and facilities.

Township hospitals are allowed to do birth control operations, including inserting and taking out Intrauterine Device (IUD), vasectomy, tubectomy and induced abortion within 12 weeks of pregnancy, according to a newly-amended government regulation on birth control techniques, released by the State Council on December 26.

**TD**

The regulation also required hospitals to hire at least one practicing doctor and equip themselves with relevant facilities, medicines and management if they want to do vasectomy, tubectomy and induced abortion. Those that only conduct IUD operations must hire at least one assistant practicing doctor.

The country only allowed hospitals of county and higher levels to do birth control surgeries and consultation before the regulation was amended.

In many places of China township hospitals are grass roots medical service institutions while villages have individual doctors.

Couples in rural areas will enjoy free birth control operations funded by the government and the central government will give subsidies to less developed regions in west China, according to the regulation.

Hospitals that violate this rule will be fined twice to five times that of the charge and hospital directors will be demoted or dismissed for a serious violation.

The health authorities across the country are asked to check up all township hospitals in their districts for their qualification to do birth control surgeries in the six months after the amendment was issued.

Individual doctors are banned from doing any birth control operation, the regulation said. They will be fined 5,000 to 20,000 yuan (604 to 2,418 US dollars), if earning less than 5,000 yuan from the illegal operation, and twice to five times if the illegal income is more than 5,000 yuan.

The hospitals are also forbidden to hire unqualified workers in birth control operations and those treating sterility must have licenses granted by provincial health authorities.

The regulation also banned any operation to identify the gender of unborn babies without clinical needs.

China has adopted birth control policies for more than 20 years encouraging one couple to have one child in a bid to slow down the growth of its population, which now topped 1.3 billion. (?)

**NS** gmed : Medical Conditions | gcat : Political/General News | ghea : Health

**RE** china : China | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** China Economic Information Service of Xinhua News Agency

**AN** Document XNHA000020041227e0cr001uq



SE FF Features

HD **You've come along way, baby Family planning has evolved with the changing needs of the city thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of women, writes Elaine Yau**

BY Elaine Yau elaine.yau@scmp.com

WC 1,523 words

PD 25 November 2012

SN South China Morning Post

SC SCMP

PG 6

LA English

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LP

When Peggy Lam Pei Yu-dja joined the Family Planning Association as its first full-time executive director in 1961, large broods were the norm, especially in poorer households. Many were refugees from the mainland who crowded into hilltop squatter settlements.

"A family of eight would sleep on the same bed," Lam says. "People coming from the mainland before 1949 were rich investors. But those who came in the 1950s and '60s were destitute. Having children was their only form of entertainment. A big family was viewed by traditional Chinese as being propitious.

TD

"The Tanka [boat dwellers], who made up a large chunk of the population, regarded having another baby as nothing more than adding a pair of chopsticks [to the dinner table]. They saw children as free labour who could help them catch fish."

There was no concept of family planning then and the result was a population explosion that put a severe burden on society, Lam says. By the time she left the association in 1988, not only was birth control widely practised, once-discomfiting notions like pre-marriage check-ups had become routine.

Demographic forces have since swung to the other extreme, with Hong Kong now recording the world's lowest birth rate of 0.94 (Singapore's is 1.3). And as the post-80s and post-90s generations begin to start families now, the association has evolved from being a promoter of birth control to become a promoter of sexual health, sex education - and provider of fertility services.

The association really began in 1936, when a visit by American birth control activist Margaret Sanger, inspired local philanthropist Ellen Li Tso Sau-kwan and obstetrician and gynaecologist William Charles Wallace to set up the Hong Kong Eugenics League. (While eugenics evokes images of controversial social engineering, successors did not know why the name was chosen and the leagues' files were destroyed during the Japanese invasion.)

The league was renamed the Family Planning Association in 1950, and Lam took up the reins about a decade later at Li's invitation. The only full-time staffer aside from doctors and nurses manning its clinic, she had her work cut out for her.

"Many households did not have televisions and radios in the '60s, so I went door to door to urge people not to keep having babies. [Older folks] would berate me for asking their daughters-in-law not to have so many children," she recalls.

"We introduced sex education in the '70s, but principals refused to let us into the schools. Education officials didn't help. They equated sex education with promoting promiscuity. Back then we called it family life instead of sex education."

Lam, who studied sociology at the University of Shanghai, had to rely on volunteers and think of creative ways to get their messages across. She introduced the concept of promoting family planning through the mass media, broadcasting television jingles which made the association a household name. The "two is enough" slogan, launched in 1975, was also her brainchild.

"I asked the late Canto-pop lyricist [James] Wong Jim to pen a song and lyrics to go with it as part of our silver jubilee celebrations. He did it in a couple of days, gratis."

"I tried to couch embarrassing concepts like men having a responsibility to wear condoms in pithy slogans with covert sex references. Every child sang them, and their parents picked up the messages by osmosis.

"When they saw the slogans on the street, they smiled as they understood the tacit sex messages behind them," adds Lam, chairwoman of the Hong Kong Federation of Women.

Josephine Lau Yuen-wah was a frontline witness to the FPA's evolution. When she joined the association in 1984 as a field worker, her job was to cajole women to get out from under their husbands' shadows to inform themselves about sexual health and birth control.

"Women were passive then," Lau says. "We had to provide yoga, ping-pong and tutorial classes to lure them out [of the home]."

Her proudest achievement was the establishment of the FPA Women's Club, which whose mission was to identify potential leaders in the community and nurture them to become ambassadors spreading the message of female empowerment, she says.

The first club was formed in 1981 in Tai Po; and it has since grown to a network of seven clubs with more than 10,000 members.

Lau, who took early retirement three years ago, is gratified that women are not only more vocal, they are able to band together to improve their rights. The club set up a drama troupe in 2003 to stage plays as a way to communicate information; for example, on the importance of regular uterine tests or Pap smears.

"The women I came across over the years have transformed from subservient homemakers into intrepid torch-bearers who think nothing of talking about sex, female genitalia and reproductive health," Lau says. "They not only spread ideas around the community, they influence their families. Their children pick up their messages and their husbands come along to support them in their drama performances."

With population growth reined in, Lam initiated fertility services such as a sperm bank and artificial insemination in the '80s to help people who had trouble conceiving. But these were scrapped four years ago as advances in reproductive technology reduced demand (there were only 13 couples seeking artificial insemination at its clinic in 2007).

Moreover, better services became available after the Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance took effect in 2007, as many private clinics with hi-tech equipment were licensed to provide artificial insemination, gynaecologist Susan Fan Sun-yun, who became FPA executive director in 1995, explains.

"Our artificial insemination service required a lot of sperm from donors as we did not tinker with the ovary at all. We did not have the facilities to do invasive surgery to extract eggs. We did not make test-tube babies. So [men] with a low sperm count had to rely on donors whose sperm was used to fertilise the egg. Our success rate was just 7 per cent, compared to 40 per cent in outside organisations," Fan says.

After investigating, the association decided it was not cost-effective to upgrade its artificial insemination facilities. They have also stopped providing procedures such as tubal ligation as modern contraception is now convenient, effective and safe, she says. And while its clinic still conducts vasectomies, demand is falling.

"Fewer people go for permanent contraception now," Fan says. "One reason has to do with the high divorce rate. People might want to have babies again after divorce and remarriage. Some want to have the option if they change their mind."

Although the FPA now offers new services such as Pap smear tests, community education and research continues to be a major focus of its work.



Misconceptions about sex are still prevalent, Fan says, so a lot of effort goes in education for young people (mainly how to protect themselves), couples counselling and homosexuality awareness. They also conduct a major survey every five years, the Youth Sexuality Study, which tracks changes in attitude, behaviour and sexual knowledge among young people.

Government figures show the number of pregnancy terminations performed has dropped from 18,651 in 2002 to 11,231 in 2010, and Fan attributes this fall to the success of their family planning education work.

As couples are marrying later, infertility is a growing problem because of poorer ovulation in older women or low sperm quality in men (the infertility rate has risen over the past two decades from one in 10 to one in six).

Despite the birth rate declining to a worryingly 0.93 (a rate of 2.1 is needed to sustain a population), Fan says the FPA won't get into the business of promoting bigger families.

However, it plans to resume artificial insemination services, but this time round use technological advances to make the most of the husband's sperm.

"Sperm concentration technology now allows us to use less to conceive. People always prefer to use their own sperm for the continuation of their family line.

"Now that people are getting married later, there are long queues for private reproductive companies. So we want to continue serving infertile couples," Fan says.

Their mission has always been to give people the chance to make an informed choice, she says.

"Sex and reproduction are issues that concern everybody from the cradle to the grave. Everybody has the right to a choice. They can choose whether to have babies, or to get married."

These days, for instance, women might consider freezing their eggs when they are younger.

"While our focus in the past was to encourage people not to have too many babies, our aim now is to urge people to plan early. Otherwise, it will be too late."

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**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcos : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020121124e8bp00040



**SE** PostMagazine  
**HD** **Silver linings; What would you do if you could take 12 months out to explore the world? Here are shows to inspire and inform anyone mulling a gap year late in life.**  
**BY** By Suji Owen  
**WC** 1,240 words  
**PD** 28 July 2024  
**SN** South China Morning Post  
**SC** SCMP  
**ED** E1  
**PG** 38  
**LA** English  
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**LP**

My daughter has just returned from her gap-year travels, sunburned and unkempt, and bursting with tales of adventure. A mixture of volunteering and solo travel, plus six months of physically demanding paid work to fund the year, has led to staggering personal growth. I hardly recognise the independent, financially prudent, culturally aware and helpful adult who has come back to replace the schoolgirl who left.

**TD**

Then again, it has been a year and a lot can happen in 12 months. Who can say that they knew a year ago exactly what their life would look like today? And more to the point, what could you accomplish if you dedicated this next year to something completely different? Proficiency in a new language or musical instrument perhaps or something painstakingly assembled from a million tiny laser-cut pieces of balsa wood? Whatever you might choose, the cultural significance of the year, our go-to unit for "a long time", adds weight and often a sense of completeness to projects, which makes it a useful framing device for many excellent limited-run serial podcasts. This week's selections offer a glimpse into a Martian reality show and a year in the life of a likeable cricketer, as well as exploration down clearly marked rabbit-hole territory.

The one I will be listening to for a while yet, however, is the show inspiring me to plan my own gap year. While I have been quietly getting old, apparently a whole industry has sprung up to accommodate the growing number of those on "silver" gap years, with over-60 travellers sometimes referred to as "golden gappers". Also gaining popularity is the family gap year, which is somehow enhanced rather than encumbered by the addition of small children. That sounds like a very long year.

My Year in Mensa sees comedian and serial deep-dive podcaster Jamie Loftus joining the high IQ society after taking the test as a joke and scoring in the 98th percentile. There is definitely an element of walking into a bar intent on starting a fight and those with sensitive hearing should be warned that an airhorn features as punctuation. Often. But what ensues over the four-part series is a highly entertaining story beginning with the founding history and ethos of the group and the discovery of and public engagement with an aggressively far-right contingent who operate in a Facebook group called Firehouse. Loftus does ask pertinent questions about intelligence, elitism and toxic masculinity.

If you are a cricket fan, you might be well-disposed to the provocatively misleading title Hitman for Hire. It is not a true-crime pod but a chance to keep company with 39-year-old South African and Namibian pro cricketer David Wiese over 12 episodes as he jets about the world taking part in short-form competitions. In 2017, he signed a three-year contract with British county team Sussex as a local player but in the fallout of Brexit in 2020, rule changes meant he was forced into his current role, as a franchise cricketer. Sometimes glamorous, often challenging, especially with his wife and two young daughters in tow, Wiese documents the ups and downs of life on the road with detailed insight.

A Year to Change Your Mind is a 12-part abridged podcast version of Dr Lucy Maddox's insightful and refreshingly unpatronising 2022 self-help book of the same name. Drawing on her experience as a clinical psychologist, Maddox offers practical and evidence-based tips structured around a calendar year to help us lead a more thoughtful, positive life. January is about decision-making, March tackles spring cleaning, the heat of August inspires an episode on anger management. September deals with the dreaded Sunday night feeling of going back to work after a break and in the November episode, Maddox extols the Joy of Missing Out, something that I felt I knew but was glad to be reminded of. The host's soothing manner might remind you of your wisest, calmest friend but the ideas could make this year feel very different.

Nasa's year-long mock Mars habitat experiment came to a close on July 6, which reminded me of The Habitat, Gimlet Media's seven-episode show of another fake Mars experiment, conducted in Hawaii by HI-SEAS (Hawaii Space Exploration Analog and Simulation) in 2016. What possesses people to volunteer for such an experiment, and is every Mars mission in our future destined to become a reality television drama? The main purpose of the experiment was to document social interactions and emotional states but the series is quite light on the science and more focused on the romantic relationships that bloomed and decayed over a fraught year spent trapped in the 1,200 sq ft habitat. Still fascinating.

Until recently, the idea of an adult gap year sounded to me like a precursor to some kind of breakdown. But I am hearing more and more about people bang in the middle of their career taking sabbaticals to wander around the world with a backpack – with the full support of their employer. In one episode of long-running wanderlust pod Zero to Travel, host Jason Moore interviews Brooke Thayer, who quit her six-figure job in San Francisco at the age of 34 to take in unique cultural experiences in more than 20 countries. Her initial hang-ups about "obstacles", such as not wanting to travel alone or dealing with the need to pre-plan, are very relatable. Other episodes talk about the importance of gap years at any age.

#### HALL OF FAME

If you are still wondering what a gap year actually is, you can do worse than take the conversational route with Josh Clark and Chuck Bryant of Stuff You Should Know. Launched in 2008, this venerable OG of trivia pods recently released its 2,000th episode, one of which outlines everything you ought to know about the traditional gap-year experience between high school and university. They raise the point that it is predominantly a British practice, the value of which hangs on a number of factors.

Unscripted and unrehearsed, the two journalists research each episode's topic individually before coming together to chat about it in a way that manages to be interesting and entertaining but casual and relaxing as well. They tackle subjects such as Spam and vasectomies – not in the same episode, thank goodness – and look at the science behind break-ups or if smiling makes you happy.

True-crime fans love their treatment of unsolved mysteries, such as the case of the nine Russian hikers found dead and half naked at Dyatlov Pass. Even if you already know the general outlines of the events, Clark and Bryant's compelling presentation of what they have researched, coupled with their obvious enjoyment of what they learn from each other, makes this an easy listen, even after hundreds of episodes.

My favourite episode for today (it changes all the time, so shoot me) is a piece of World War II trivia that I had never heard about. The subtitle tells you everything you need to know.

RECOMMENDED EPISODE: Operation Mincemeat – How a Corpse Fooled the Nazis

**RE** apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | china : China | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : East Asia | hkong : Hong Kong

**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020240728ek7s0003g

**CLM** Bookshelf  
**HD** **The Birthing of a Nation**  
**BY** By Peter Neville-Hadley  
**WC** 933 words  
**PD** 20 March 2015  
**SN** The Wall Street Journal Asia  
**SC** AWSJ  
**PG** 10  
**LA** English  
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**LP**

Frog

By Mo Yan

**TD**

Viking, 400 pages, \$27.95

Mo Yan, a Nobel laureate for literature and one of China's most popular and prolific authors, is possibly still best known overseas for his 1987 novel, "Red Sorghum." And even then mostly thanks to the lavish film adaptation that launched the careers of director Zhang Yimou and actress Gong Li.

Authors often see their marginalia reach publication in multiple languages after being awarded the Nobel. But even though "Frog" first appeared in Chinese three years before Mr. Mo's 2012 award, its recent arrival in English is no mere exploitation of international marketability. The novel is a major full-length work with big ideas on a highly sensitive topic.

Mo Yan (literally, "no words" or "don't speak") is the pen name of Guan Moye, and "Frog" is set in his favourite location -- a fictionalized version of his birthplace in rural Shandong province. The narrator's aunt, Gugu, the politically perfect daughter of a communist doctor who died in World War II, trains to be her area's first modern midwife, earns respect and admiration for her no-nonsense delivery skills, and is glamorously affianced to a fighter pilot.

The fiance defects to Taiwan, however, taking his plane and all Gugu's political capital with him. As a result, Gugu suffers persecution and physical abuse during the Cultural Revolution for her inadvertent connection with the Communist Party's enemies. Yet her faith in the Party never wavers. She becomes a tough enforcer of its authority, and in particular of its one-child policy.

China's successful modern literature is rarely short on blood, bile and sudden death, featuring the whiff of the public toilet, the blare of the truck horn and the brilliance of blood in the gutter after unexpected violence. Mr. Mo also gives the reader no quarter. Young mothers die undergoing last-minute abortions at Gugu's hands. Serial fathers are rounded up for compulsory vasectomies. The neighbors of recalcitrant repeat parents are threatened with the destruction of their property unless they join in persuading heavily pregnant women out of hiding.

There's no room for subtle debate on when life begins or on the boundaries of fetus viability in Gugu's crude practicalities and the system she enforces. If it's unborn and excess to quota, it's fair game. Only after it has passed through the birth canal does an infant gain the protection of the state.

By the end of the novel, we learn that among officials it's only those with little money and less courage who restrict themselves to one child, and among the nouveau riche, who can afford the fines, almost no one at

all. Despite the purity of Gugu's intent, the one-child policy is generally favored by local officials simply because it's a reliable source of income from fines and confiscations, which can be almost unlimited.

How, the reader may wonder, does Mr. Mo get away with writing so honestly? Previously he set stories in the feudal past or, as in "Frog," used what the Nobel committee aptly calls his "hallucinatory realism" to divorce the narrative from specific accusations about the real world.

This hasn't always saved him. The hugely successful "The Garlic Ballads" (1988), with its portrayal of a rural uprising against abusive officials, and "The Republic of Wine" (1992), with its baby-eating gourmets and satire of post-Mao politics, were both initially forced to find publication in Taiwan, beyond the mainland censor's reach. But as critics inside and outside China point out, Mr. Mo is now much closer to the government. He is vice president of the officially approved Chinese Writers Association and has publicly spoken out in favor of censorship.

In 2012 -- the year he won his Nobel -- he contributed his own calligraphy to a commemorative edition of Mao Zedong's "Yan'an Talks on Literature and Art" (1942), in which Mao promoted the Leninist line that authors should write in the language of the working class and solely to promote the aims of the revolution. There are few documents more reviled by Chinese artists, especially at a time when the country's current leader, Xi Jinping, is reviving the same approach.

Gugu certainly expresses strident support for the Party, and the earthy language of the proletariat is also present. The novel is laden with pithy Chinese idioms, and although these are mixed with new coinages, linguistic games and references to Shakespeare and Cervantes, the language is sometimes self-consciously crass and repetitive. Mandarin thrives on puns, and these litter the text as well as featuring in the title. "Wa" is certainly "frog," but it is also onomatopoeia for a baby's cry and a near-homophone for "infant." All this trickery is deftly translated by frequent Mo collaborator Howard Goldblatt.

Raw, vivid and chaotic, the narrative sprawls from 1950s collectivization, during which starvation prevented pregnancies, to modern private enterprises with well-fed surrogate mothers like battery chickens in a facility disguised as a frog-breeding farm. Frog references run throughout the narrative. Semen is likened to tadpoles and the competitive race to fertilize compared to the struggles of everyday life in China.

Readers may at times flinch and wish to look away. But regardless of his politics, admirers of Mr. Mo's earlier literary offspring are likely to be equally joyful that he brought this one to term.

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Mr. Neville-Hadley is a Vancouver-based writer.

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<b>NS</b>	nborvw : Book Reviews   ncolu : Columns   nrwv : Reviews   gbook : Books   gcat : Political/General News   gent : Arts/Entertainment   ncat : Content Types   nfact : Factiva Filters   nfce : C&E Exclusion Filter
<b>RE</b>	china : China   apacz : Asia Pacific   asiaz : Asia   bric : BRICS Countries   chinaz : Greater China   devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries   dvpcoz : Developing Economies   easiaz : Eastern Asia
<b>IPC</b>	NND
<b>PUB</b>	Dow Jones & Company, Inc.
<b>AN</b>	Document AWSJ000020150319eb3k0000r

**HD** **Neutered**

**WC** 1,167 words

**PD** 14 February 2012

**SN** Philippine Daily Inquirer

**SC** AIWPHI

**LA** English

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**LP**

I'm feeling word-weary with the impeachment trial in the Senate, which is unfortunate because words should be enlightening, even entertaining. Let's take a break and look at just one word that made the headlines recently. It wasn't a local event but I thought I'd feature it anyway because there's some relevance to what's going on here. The word that caught my attention is "neutered," which was used by US State Secretary Hillary Clinton last week when she condemned China and Russia's veto of a UN Security Council proposal to impose sanctions on the Syrian government for its numerous human rights violations. Specifically, Clinton said that with UN Security Council now "neutered," it was time for other friends of Syria to unite and take action.

**TD**

When I first heard Clinton on television I wasn't quite sure if she had actually used that word. It's not a term that's known to many Filipino speakers of English but veterinarians know it all too well. When an animal is surgically sterilized it is considered to have been "neutered," neither male nor female. In the context of Clinton's speech, it meant the UN Security Council had been rendered powerless. Another term for "neutered" is "fixed." With female animals, there is a specific term, "spayed," when the ovaries and uterus are removed. When a male is sterilized, the term that's sometimes used is "to castrate" or, in Filipino, kinapon from the Spanish capon, which is the removal of the testicles or scrotum (bayag in Filipino). Cannonballs If Clinton wanted to be blunt and crude, she would have declared that the male-dominated Security Council had been castrated or, in playful Filipino-English, kaponized. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, once described as the only senator with balls because she was so feisty, would probably have dared to call the Security Council a bunch of eunuchs, which is the term used to refer to people who have been castrated. I should warn readers feminists don't like expressions like "with balls" to refer to courage because it equates bravery with masculinity. Nevertheless, in the past, removal of the balls meant a stop to the production of testosterone, responsible for the male libido, aggressiveness and other "male" traits. (Females, incidentally, also produce testosterone, but in smaller amounts.) All through history, many societies castrated slaves and prisoners of war to create a docile work force. In other societies, particularly China, young boys, usually from impoverished families, were castrated so they could be offered to imperial households to guard harems. Castration for the Chinese was particularly mutilating, removing both the balls and, well, the cannon. The aristocracy, especially the emperors, had to have their many wives and concubines guarded and to entrust this role to "whole" men would have been insane. The eunuchs were emasculated, literally meaning "masculinity removed," which is another term Clinton (and Senator Santiago) could use. The term eunuch is itself derived from the Greek eune ("bed") and ekhein ("to keep"), so a eunuch is a bedkeeper. But Clinton's use of the term "neutered" did remind me that in a way, the eunuchs were the original Security Councils, at least in relation to harems. The eunuchs were, however, far from being neutered in Clinton's metaphorical use of the term. Eunuchs often became very powerful because they had direct access to the centers of power, including favored wives and concubines. Many even ended up as military commanders, which makes sense because without sexual distractions, they could concentrate on matters of war, and maybe peace as well. Perhaps the best known example of such a powerful eunuch was the 16th century Admiral Zheng He, who had fleets of ships that reached as far as Africa (and, according to one historian, even North America). Religion Castration also ties in with religion. From the 17th to the late 19th century, young Italian boys were castrated to preserve their falsetto voices. In a rather perverse twist, because women were not allowed to sing in Catholic churches, the castrati, whose voices were described as angelic, were used. The castrati would continue to perform both religious and secular music well into adulthood, and many were considered celebrities with many fans. It was not until 1861 that the Italian government made castration for musical purposes a crime. Besides being used

as choir singers in the Catholic Church, eunuchs ended up as religious practitioners in many societies. It wasn't so much an imposed celibacy as with Catholic priests (who are far from being neutered, biologically or politically) than the creation of a liminal category, a male-female who was perceived as being more powerful than men or women. An example would be the hijras of the Indian subcontinent, who go around offering to bless newborn children with song and dance. Households rarely turn them away, fearful that if they do so, the child would end up cursed. In a novel use of an old institution, the Indian state of Bihar began to use hijras in 2006 to collect taxes. The hijras would be sent to the homes of delinquent taxpayers and would post themselves outside the houses, singing out loud about the resident's tax debts until they paid up. If we had hijras they could easily take over the Bureau of Internal Revenue, maybe even testifying, or singing, in the Senate, to shame the shameless. Seriously, castration reflects a shameful and cruel side of humanity, still done sometimes in the heat of war to punish enemies. To be castrated is to be de-humanized. The hijras of India, said to number more than 200,000, live difficult lives, feared but ridiculed. Castration was also horribly cruel, done way before anesthetics were available. I show portions of a BBC documentary film about the castrati to medical students when I lecture on gender and sexuality and I notice male students squirming in discomfort when it gets to a description of the surgery, including the tools used to cut, and to apply heat to stop the bleeding. Those who were castrated as children had many problems with their physical development. And while castration meant an absence of libido, the eunuchs could still fall in love but were largely doomed never to have that love reciprocated. One important clarification is in order. Surgical sterilization in humans is not the same as in animals. With women, the surgery is called a tubal ligation, where the fallopian tubes are clamped or severed to prevent ova (or eggs) from reaching the uterus for fertilization. In males, the procedure is a vasectomy, with both the penis and testicles retained. A vasectomy only cuts the vas deferens, which is the passageway for sperm. Testosterone is still produced so there is a libido and sex proceeds as usual, but without sperm, there is no fertilization. Vasectomized males are not neutered in the literal or figurative sense; in fact, many consider themselves quite empowered, and empowering.

**CO** unscou : United Nations Security Council | utdnat : United Nations

**NS** gmhea : Men's Health | unsc : UN Security Council | utdnat : United Nations | gcat : Political/General News | gggroup : Demographic Health | ghea : Health | ocat : International Pol-Econ Organizations

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcosz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**IPC** opinion, Language, Michael tan, Pinoy Kasi, Neutered

**PUB** Inquirer Interactive, Inc.

**AN** Document AIWPHI0020120215e82e0000d

SE Chandigarh  
HD **Punjab to train more docs in NSV**  
BY Varun Chadha  
WC 280 words  
PD 14 February 2006  
SN The Times of India  
SC TOI  
LA English  
CY (c) 2006 The Times of India Group  
LP

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab health department is all set to follow in China's footsteps to increase men's participation in curtailing population growth.

It is going to train 129 more doctors across the state in "no-scalpel vasectomy" (NSV). Health Secretary DS Guru said, "Today in China NSV outnumbers the traditional method of male sterilisation by five to one. More than 10 million Chinese men have already undergone NSV."

TD

We are seeking Indian men's participation in family planning as the surgery is easy to conduct and most effective."

NSV does not require surgery and involves only a tiny puncture in the abdomen of the male. The cost of an NSV is just around Rs 100 and is gaining ground in the state.

Punjab already has 69 doctors, who have specialised in NSV. These doctors will train another batch of 129 doctors during the "NSV week" starting from Tuesday, a first of its kind in the country. The week will comprise awareness campaigns as well as NSV services to the masses in the entire state.

Until now the onus of controlling population remained with women, and a majority of prevalent contraceptives were also meant for them...

...

"Punjab is coming forward in a big way for NSV promotion on the lines of pulse polio campaign. We are reaching the masses through our administrative set-up to promote NSV," Guru added.

"There is considerable change in the mindset of men and male chauvinism is giving way to a rational attitude. This has led to acceptance of NSV as a family planning method," said Rana Harinder, the director health services and family welfare.

NS ghea : Health | gmhea : Men's Health | ggroup : Demographic Health | gcat : Political/General News  
RE china : China | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia  
PUB Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.  
AN Document TOI0000020060213e22e0001t





**SE** FF Features

**HD** "Your parents ruin the first half of your life, and your children ruin the..."

**BY** The Family Way by Tony Parsons HarperCollins \$108

**WC** 139 words

**PD** 17 April 2005

**SN** South China Morning Post

**SC** SCMP

**PG** 7

**LA** English

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**LP**

"Your parents ruin the first half of your life, and your children ruin the second half," says the mother of three women, all of whom are about to embark on motherhood for the first time. The oldest, Cat, wants to give her boyfriend a baby. The trouble is he's had a vasectomy. Married Jessica can't conceive. Megan gets pregnant after a one-night stand and she's considering an abortion. Every possible dimension of conception is explored, including IVF procedures, miscarriage, post-natal depression and adoption. Somewhat irritating, though, is the implication that all females are at the mercy of their hormones and will never experience true happiness until they have a baby.

**IN** ihormp : Hormone Products | i257 : Pharmaceuticals | idrugty : Drugs/Medication

**NS** ghea : Health | gsoc : Social Issues | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community/Work

**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** SCMP.com Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020050416e14h0000h



**SE** Features  
**HD** **A brief history of male contraceptives, and what's in store in the future**  
**BY** Anthea Rowan [life@scmp.com](mailto:life@scmp.com)  
**WC** 988 words  
**PD** 17 June 2024  
**SN** South China Morning Post  
**SC** SCMP  
**ED** E1  
**PG** 11  
**LA** English  
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**LP**

The first "condom" ever used wasn't to protect a woman from pregnancy.

In around 3000BC, King Minos of Crete's mistress died after having sex with him. He used a goat's bladder as a barrier after that – to protect himself, his wife, and future mistresses from the poison he assumed his semen must carry. The ancient Egyptians were among the first civilisations to use sheaths – again, not to prevent pregnancy. They believed they would protect everybody from diseases – including bilharzia, or schistosomiasis, a tropical infection caused by a parasitic freshwater worm.

**TD**

In Japan and China, condoms, or something like sheaths, were used before the 15th century. Some were made of tortoiseshell and later, thin leather or oiled silk.

The first known use of condoms in Europe was around 1564, as documented by anatomist Gabriele Fallopi, who gave his name to the Fallopian tubes.

In his book *De Morbo Gallico*, literally "The French Disease", Fallopi describes sheaths made of linen, lubricated with spit, and secured with a ribbon. He claimed to have tested them on over 1,000 men to prove their efficacy against syphilis.

About 100 years later, King Charles II of England used a sheath made of lamb's intestine to avoid fathering any more illegitimate children.

Some men at the time used something similar made of a fish bladder, as it was finer.

Often, butchers were tasked with fashioning these and then testing them to see how strong they were; butchers understood the high tensile strength of animals' guts.

The man who designed the sheath for the king was Colonel Quondam, an English army doctor. Many people believe this is where the word "condom" came from, although the word itself – often *condum* – first appeared in the diary of another doctor, Daniel Turner, who treated syphilis.

By the 18th century, the condom had a reputation as a reliable tool against the spread of disease and fathering of illegitimate children. The fertility rate in England experienced a decline at the time, although condoms weren't available to the masses until the 19th century, and then only thanks to American inventor Charles Goodyear – of tyre fame – and the discovery of vulcanised rubber.

Using heat and sulphur – vulcanising – renders the rubber more malleable and much stronger. At last condoms could be produced in bulk, and many more people could afford them.

In the 1920s latex was invented, a product of the rubber tree. Lots of people are allergic to it, but today synthetic latex is available. A flexible and strong material, it can stretch 800 per cent before breaking. That elasticity is what makes condoms safe.

Although the condom's history is colourful and varied, it has been the only contraceptive form available to men – apart from abstinence from sex, non-vaginal ejaculation, or a vasectomy, usually seen as a permanent method.

Women have had more options, including the birth control pill or injections, a coil, diaphragm or female condom.

Now scientists are discovering new ways to pause male fertility temporarily, without unwanted side effects. If tests are successful, new drugs could broaden shared responsibility for contraception between the sexes.

Recent initial experiments on lab mice found the right dose of a particular drug – CDD-2807 – at the right time made male mice infertile.

Martin Matzuk, a reproductive biologist, clinical pathologist, and director of the Centre for Drug Discovery at Baylor College of Medicine in the US state of Texas, was lead author of the study.

He says the drug works by inhibiting the activity of an enzyme in sperm called serine/threonine kinase 33 (STK33). This makes the affected sperm move slowly and less efficiently through the female reproductive tract, preventing them from being able to fertilise eggs.

The mice did not appear to suffer any side effects; the drug did not accumulate in the brain, and as soon as it was stopped, the male mice were able to sire litters again.

Matzuk likes the use of CDD-2807 for several reasons, especially because it easily enters the testes and has no toxic side effects.

"Since 1960, there has been a birth control pill for women but not one for men. If men [or mice] are infertile due to a particular gene mutation, that would suggest that chemical inhibition of that same gene would induce a contraceptive effect," he says.

With more than 1,000 genes expressed during sperm cell production, Matzuk adds, there could be many more options for male contraception.

Matzuk's group is just one of many working on the science to develop a male contraceptive.

A review of research into male contraception from a team at the University of South Dakota in the US highlights some promising forms being tested on men.

One is a gel containing the male sex hormone testosterone and sequesterone acetate (Nestorone) that aids in birth control.

After 12 weeks of applying the gel to their shoulders daily, 86 per cent of the men taking part showed a much lower sperm count, around one million sperm/ml of semen, which is deemed so low as to be effective contraception.

A healthy sperm count is up to 200 million sperm/ml, and a man is considered to have a low sperm count if there are less than 15 million.

The review, published in the medical journal Basic and Clinical Andrology in November 2023, noted that other clinical trials are testing the drug DMAU, for dimethandrolone undecanoate, in oral and injectable form.

Early results suggest it is well tolerated and shows promise as a male contraceptive.

"It is long overdue that male partners share the burden of family planning," the researchers say.

"It is our hope that there will soon be several safe, effective, and reversible contraceptive options available to male patients."

**ART** Japanese-made tortoise shell condoms. Photo: Getty Images

**IN** i372 : Medical Equipment/Supplies | i951 : Healthcare/Life Sciences | iphmed : Medical Devices/Apparatus

**NS** gahea : Animal Health | gbirtc : Family Planning | gcat : Political/General News | ghea : Health | redit : Selection of Top Stories/Trends/Analysis | reqr : Suggested Reading – Industry News | reqrhc : Suggested Reading – Healthcare

**RE** apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | china : China | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : East Asia | hkong : Hong Kong

**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020240617ek6h00039

**HD**     **Around China**

**WC**     1,286 words

**PD**     16 April 2014

**SN**     China Daily

**SC**     CHNDLY

**PG**     2

**LA**     English

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**LP**

Beijing 100 violations issued for air pollution in March

Law enforcement authorities fined 100 violators of Beijing's Air Pollution Prevention Regulation, which took effect on March 1, last month, People's Daily reported on Tuesday. According to law enforcement officers from the capital's environmental protection bureau, fines totaled more than 3 million yuan (\$482,100). Another 64 cases are still being processed, the report said.

**TD**

Top procuratorate opens account on WeChat

The Supreme People's Procuratorate launched an official account on WeChat, the mobile messaging application, on Tuesday in an effort to boost transparency. It launched its mobile news portal run by sohu.com, after opening official micro blog accounts on three platforms - sina.com, qq.com and jcrb.com in March. The procuratorate said its WeChat account will disclose information about proceedings in major cases, important judicial interpretations and its work.

Captain America II tops at box office

Marvel Entertainment's Captain America: The Winter Soldier topped China's box office in the week ending April 13 with a weekly take of 260 million yuan (\$42 million), according to a film industry publication.

Starring Chris Evans as the shield-bearing superhero and Scarlett Johansson as the Black Widow, the film has earned about 495 million yuan (\$80 million) since its debut on April 4, figures released by China Film News showed on Tuesday.

Guangdong

Cancer now most deadly disease in Guangzhou

Cancer has become the most lethal disease in Guangzhou, according to Guangzhou Daily. Of every 100,000 residents, 248 had some form of cancer in 2013, and it killed 144 of every 100,000 residents. In urban areas, 313 of every 100,000 residents have cancer, according to statistics from the Guangzhou Center of Disease Control quoted by the newspaper on Monday.

Man with large tumor released from hospital

A man who had a large tumor on his esophagus was released from the hospital on Monday after a month of treatment in Guangzhou, Southern Metropolis Daily reported. The 53-year-old man surnamed Luo, who was a heavy drinker of alcohol and coffee for 25 years, had a tumor that measured 18.3 centimeters long when it was discovered in early March.

Divorce rejected after husband's regrets

A woman in Guangzhou sued for divorce after her husband found she was taking contraceptive pills and thought she had a relationship with another man, Guangzhou Daily reported. The woman said she took the pills to cure menstruation problems, but the husband, who had received a vasectomy, thought she was cheating. The court ruled that the marriage still existed because the husband showed regret and said they still have feelings for each other.

Jiangsu

GPS navigator guides taxi driver into river

A taxi driver in Haimen drove his cab into a river amid foggy conditions on Monday because his GPS navigator gave him the wrong directions, Modern Express reported. The driver, surnamed Xu, managed to open a rear door while the back of the taxi was still above water and escaped with his female passenger. Xu had recently bought the navigator for 200 yuan (\$32.13) from an online store.

Boy, 9, asks parents to stop cancer treatments

A 9-year-old boy recently diagnosed with T-lymphoblastic lymphoma, a form of blood cancer, tried to persuade his parents to stop his medical care after he researched his illness online and discovered the cost of the treatments, Yangtze Evening News reported on Tuesday. Liang Liang's parents tried to convince him that he had a respiratory disease, but he learned of his condition after an online search. The parents said they would not stop the treatments. They earn only 1,000 yuan (\$160) a month and have already spent more than 150,000 yuan on the boy's medical bills.

Debtors identified on public LED display

The court of Liuhe district in Nanjing used a large LED display in the city's downtown area to show the pictures of debtors who wouldn't pay. The display included names, ID numbers and amounts of money owed, China News Service reported on Tuesday.

The announcements began on Monday, with 27 people displayed.

Authorities confirm new bird flu case

A human case of H7N9 has been confirmed, the provincial health department said on Monday.

The infection of a 52-year-old man, surnamed Chuan, was confirmed on Sunday. He is in critical condition, according to the department.

China has reported more than 120 human H7N9 cases this year, including at least 39 deaths. Zhejiang

Security guard fired for love letter to resident

A security guard named Ruan at a residential community in Hangzhou was fired after writing a love letter to a resident of the community, Qianjiang Evening News reported. The woman called Ruan's boss and complained she was being harassed. After being fired, Ruan complained to the local labor supervision department, saying he had a right to pursue his love interest. The department intervened, asking for Ruan's employer to compensate him.

Five alleged drug traffickers arrested

Police in Xiaoshan say they have arrested five armed drug trafficking suspects and seized more than 3,000 grams of drugs, Zhejiang Daily reported on Tuesday. The authorities received a report about the case on April 13 and rounded up the five suspects by the next morning. The case is under investigation.

Anhui

Wrongly convicted men trying to adapt to life

Zhang Hui and his uncle Zhang Gaoping, who were acquitted in March 2013 after serving 10 years in prison on a wrongful rape and murder conviction, said they are trying to lead normal lives. Zhang Hui said he sometimes has nightmares and cravings for meat, which was seldom served in prison. Both men have bought BMW sedans and Zhang Gaoping bought a 130-square-meter apartment. He said he goes on blind dates to find a wife.

Sichuan

Pilot, maker of plane fined after landing

Authorities fined a pilot 100,000 yuan (\$16,100) and the manufacturer of the pilot's plane 500,000 yuan after the pilot landed the small aircraft on a road in Beichuan county to refuel at a gas station, China News Service reported on Tuesday. The southwest regional administration of the Civil Aviation Administration of China said the pilot did not have a civil aviation pilot license and the plane manufacturer did not have a production license.

Henan

Elderly man tracks down good Samaritan

Dengfeng resident Chen Huaijun, 74, traveled more than 10,000 kilometers to find and thank a kindhearted woman who helped him 52 years ago, Zhengzhou Evening News reported on Tuesday. Chen said he was given three bowls of soybeans by Xia Shumei in Dangshan county, Anhui province, one day in 1962 when his hometown was experiencing a severe famine. He never forgot her help, he said.

Yunnan

More than 4,500 still battling forest fire

More than 4,500 people, including firefighters and soldiers, are battling a forest fire that broke out four days ago in the province, authorities said on Tuesday. As of 2 pm on Tuesday, the fire had ripped through an area of 1,350 mu (90 hectares), said a spokesman with the Longyang District Committee of the Communist Party of China.

Qinghai

World's longest plateau rail tunnel completed

The 32.645-km Xinguanjiao Tunnel, the world's longest plateau rail tunnel on the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, was completed on Tuesday, local authorities said. The tunnel is also the longest rail tunnel in China, according to Zhi Changying, an official with the China Railway Tunnel Co Ltd. It is part of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway's second trunk that links Golmud in northwestern Qinghai with Xining, the provincial capital.

Xinhua - China Daily

**CO** toybz : Marvel Entertainment Inc | dsnyw : The Walt Disney Company

**IN** i4941 : Dolls/Toys/Games | icnp : Consumer Goods | ilgood : Leisure/Travel Goods

**NS** gmovie : Movies | gnatch : Nature Conservation | gqual : Air/Water/Land Quality | nsum : News Digests | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment | genv : Environmental News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfce : FC&E Exclusion Filter | niwe : IWE Filter

**RE** china : China | guang : Guangdong | qingh : Qinghai | zheji : Zhejiang | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** China Daily Information Company

**AN** Document CHNDLY0020140415ea4g00004



**SE** FF  
**HD** **You'd have thought there was enough chick lit on the shelves without a man...**  
**BY** The Family Way by Tony Parsons HarperCollins \$150 Kerys Haines REVIEW  
**WC** 563 words  
**PD** 8 August 2004  
**SN** South China Morning Post  
**SC** SCMP  
**PG** 9  
**LA** English  
**CY** (c) 2004 South China Morning Post Publishers Limited, Hong Kong. All rights reserved.

**LP**

You'd have thought there was enough chick lit on the shelves without a man getting in on the act. But that's what Tony Parsons has produced with *The Family Way* - a saga about babies and motherhood.

The story follows three sisters: Jessica, Megan and Cat. Jessica has the husband, the house, the car and the Prada handbag. All she needs is a baby to complete the picture. But this is easier said than done. Megan, a trainee doctor, has a one-night stand with an Aussie beach bum and finds herself pregnant. She doesn't love - or even like - the father, and with her final exams on the way, abortion seems the best option. Cat, the independent oldest sister, has never wanted children. So, why does it upset her so much that her boyfriend has had a vasectomy?

**TD**

The sisters provide Parsons with three different angles on pregnancy, and there's not much he overlooks: infertility, pre-eclampsia, premature babies, abortion, adoption and postnatal depression. There isn't a chapter from *What to Expect When You're Expecting* that he hasn't touched on. Even the names of the characters are mostly taken from last year's top 10 baby names list. When Parsons chooses a theme he doesn't do it by halves. Everyone is defined in terms of how far along the path to parenthood they stand. Even Cat, who doesn't want a baby, goes on and on (and on) about it.

Propping up the whole plot is the sisters' miserable childhood. Their mother, an ageing actress, upped and left when they were still in pigtails. The girls are driven by their desire for stable, loving families of their own. This is as deep as Parsons gets with his insight into the female psyche. His slant on women and pregnancy is about as philosophical as a fertility manual called *How to Get Up the Duff*. Perhaps that's because his characters are so implausible. Other than hair colour and baby hunger (or lack of it), we know little about them. But luckily this is a novel about pregnancy. When a character behaves strangely, there's an easy explanation. It's hormones, isn't it?

This reads like a novel written in a hurry. Parsons tends to repeat himself and fall back on clichés. All babies are fat, rosy Buddhas - unless they're sleeping. Then, they're mini weightlifters with hands raised over their heads. Toddlers have fingers like matchsticks. Poor people take drugs and don't wash. And old women have smiles as sweet as a child's face on Christmas day. The most hastily cobbled-together character is Ginger. All we know about her is that she has red hair, no knickers, and when she spies a baby her "breasts seemed to rise and fall in slow motion as she sighed with longing".

According to the publisher's blurb, *The Family Way* is "one more bitter-sweet bestseller from the author of *Man and Boy*". It's easy reading and undeniably entertaining. But bitter-sweet? The sugar-frosted ending is so sickly it should come with a dental-health warning.

Kerys Haines is the mother of five-month-old Dylan

**NS** gcat : Political/General News | gbook : Books | gent : Arts/Entertainment



**RE** hkong : Hong Kong | asiaz : Asia | china : China | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market  
Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** SCMP.com Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020040807e0880000w

# THE STRAITS TIMES

CLM Straits Times Breaking News  
SE Entertainment  
HD **Pop star Edison Chen to return to Hong Kong music 16 years after nude photo scandal**  
BY Lim Ruey Yan  
WC 398 words  
PD 28 January 2024  
SN The Straits Times  
SC STIMES  
LA English  
CY © 2024 SPH Media Limited

LP

Hong Kong pop star Edison Chen, who was embroiled in a nude photo scandal in 2008, is returning to the Hong Kong music scene after 16 years.

The 43-year-old will perform as part of the music group 3Cornerz at pop culture carnival ComplexCon Hong Kong, which will be held from March 22 to 24.

TD

"Another key component of ComplexCon Hong Kong is the live music performance," the event said on social media on Jan 27. "The headliner for Friday, March 22, is a group that has not appeared on the same stage for a long time, and we're ready to welcome their energy again - 3Cornerz."

3Cornerz comprised of Chen, MC Yan and Chef, who released their hip-hop albums 3 Corners in 2012 and 3 Corners II in 2015. The group, which combines hip-hop with other genres such as jazz and funk, most recently released new songs Godzilla and Long in 2023.

Chen, who starred in several successful movies such as the Infernal Affairs trilogy (2002 to 2003) and Initial D (2005), left the entertainment industry and focused on his fashion business after he was implicated in the photo scandal in 2008.

That year, photos of him engaging in intimate acts with Hong Kong starlets such as singer-actresses Gillian Chung and Cecilia Cheung were published online, leading to a months-long saga that culminated in Chen, then 27, announcing his departure from the Hong Kong entertainment scene.

The singer-actor married Chinese supermodel Qin Shupei, 34, in 2017 and they have a six-year-old daughter, Alaia.

Chen performed at a music festival in Chengdu city in China's Sichuan province in October 2023, with Qin and Alaia in the audience to support him.

He brought up the photo scandal, something which he rarely talks about in public, during a visit in Taiwan in November 2023. He told the media he did not give up on himself when almost everyone thought it was over for him in 2008. View this post on Instagram

A post shared by COMPLEX 中文 (@complexchinese) More On This Topic Singer Wang Leehom kneels and thanks his fans at Taipei concert Controversial Hong Kong singer Steven Cheung to go for vasectomy after birth of fourth son iFrameResize();

NS

gcat : Political/General News | gcele : Celebrities | gent : Arts/Entertainment | glife : Living/Lifestyle | gmusic : Music | ncat : Content Types | ncolu : Columns

**RE** apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | china : China | chinaz : Greater China |  
devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : East Asia | hkong :  
Hong Kong

**PUB** SPH Media Limited

**AN** Document STIMES0020240128ek1s001e2

**SE** LIFE  
**HD** **China's one-child norm**  
**BY** Taru Bahl  
**WC** 961 words  
**PD** 7 October 2005  
**SN** Business Line (The Hindu)  
**SC** BSNLNE  
**PG** 02  
**LA** English  
**CY** (c) 2005 The Hindu Business Line

**LP**

With steely resolve the Chinese government has implemented the single-child norm and brought down fertility rates in the country.

It was a mammoth task for the Chinese government to implement the one-child norm in rural China, where literacy was low, and superstitions high. The urban couple preferred having a single child, for it fitted in well with their double income, nuclear family establishment. However, the rural family unit, which would have preferred having more working hands, reconciled to the guideline, largely because of stringent checks, punishment to those violating the norm and, more importantly, added financial benefits and other allowances for those adhering to it.

**TD**

There was also a general reluctance to tamper with 'nature' among the rural population. The women considered talking freely of sex or protection as "dirty" or "filthy". Many resisted insertion of foreign bodies such as IUDs and abortions were considered a sure way of getting "weak".

Chinese women are vulnerable to several health problems with women in rural areas facing a far higher risk of HIV infection and genital infections. For women residing in outlying mountainous and poor regions, the incidence and vulnerability to reproductive ailments are alarmingly high.

Says Chen Zheojun, Director of the Family Planning Association of China "It was common practice for most women to conceal disease for fear of being mocked at." But official intervention and sustained awareness campaigns made it clear that there was no way out. This steely approach was balanced with financial aid counselling and free medication which addressed every single issue of the target audience.

Provincial governments set up city-specific helplines on toll-free numbers which allowed women to seek professional advice on private matters, even while retaining their anonymity. Women started feeling comfortable about discussing issues with their doctors, and also realised that multiple pregnancies and lack of protection was causing infections and related problems, and hence started co-operating.

The results of this saw fertility in China declining dramatically over the last three decades. In 1979, China implemented a policy advocating one child per couple, with some exceptions in rural areas for couples having only a daughter.

A comprehensive action plan

In 1994, an action programme was approved by the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo elaborating the vital importance of health services for women and linking this to women's contribution to the sustained development of any society. Since then China has redoubled its efforts and launched pilot service centres in more than 800 counties across the country covering approximately 33 per cent of the country's total population. A range of technical services are provided to help women choose contraceptive methods take prompt measures to guard against disease and offer better

care for babies. Thanks to guidance from experts and more open discussions on reproductive healthcare many women have changed their attitude towards sex.

In Shangrao City, Jiangxi hospitals offer preferential care to rural women including free infrared treatment and a 50 per cent discount on service charges. The Chinese government made every effort to popularise knowledge on women's reproductive health contraception and baby care since its adoption of a family planning policy about 20 years ago. The response has been overwhelming. What the government has succeeded in doing is to gain the trust of women.

A study, conducted by the China Population Information and Research Centre (CPIRC) in collaboration with the Women's Studies Project at Family Health International examined the effects of family planning on different generations of Chinese women. South Jiangsu which is an east coast province with a booming economy and a strong family planning programme experienced a rapid fertility decline. North Anhui a province in middle China has an agrarian economy where the family planning programme was relatively less effective.

The common features in both provinces were similar to our own Indian rural mindset where sons were preferred and once preliminary examination revealed a girl child, abortion was resorted to.

However, in some cases couples wanted daughters because they were easier to raise less expensive to provide for and far nicer to their parents in old age. Some South Jiangsu couples also saw them as an economic benefit since their embroidery skills added to the family income.

Chinese health officials went beyond just providing condoms to different segments and insisting that women enforce family planning interventions once the first child was born. They expanded the range of reproductive health services for women who were beyond childbearing age to include young adults, older women and men. They promoted non-economic benefits of family planning such as improved quality of life for families. They made available contraceptive methods, which included not just IUDs and female sterilisation but also newer, more effective IUDs, more short-term methods and vasectomy.

Providing family planning counselling to post-abortion women on how to prevent contraceptive failures in the future was also well received. They updated training on reproductive health services for service providers in addition to promoting the value of daughters, through collaborative efforts by policy-makers, providers and community members.

A CPIRC representative cited the need to implement service-oriented approaches and improve women's status. The link between women's economic and educational opportunities and a reduced birth rate was acknowledged.

This is not to say that the aggressive and sustained family planning initiatives of the Chinese government did not have their share of negative fallout, though in the long term these are negligible and can be addressed. Repeated abortions led to complications in women's reproductive health; another disturbing urban trend in China has been the preference of a Caesarean section. But over the years, the single child norm has become a way of life for the Chinese.

<b>IN</b>	iphhes : Health Education/Information Services   i951 : Health Care   iphss : Healthcare Support Services
<b>NS</b>	ghea : Health   glife : Living/Lifestyle   gcat : Political/General News
<b>RE</b>	china : China   asiaz : Asia   chinaz : Greater China   devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries   dvpcoz : Developing Economies   easiaz : Eastern Asia
<b>PUB</b>	Kasturi & Sons Ltd
<b>AN</b>	Document BSNLNE0020051006e1a70003y

# THE STRAITS TIMES

**SE** Life  
**HD** **Barbie Hsu has hotel named after her**  
**WC** 343 words  
**PD** 15 June 2017  
**SN** The Straits Times  
**SC** STIMES  
**LA** English  
**CY** (c) 2017 Singapore Press Holdings Limited  
**LP**

TAIPEI • It is not exactly the Taj Mahal, but S Hotel may well be a monument of love for the Weibo set.

On Tuesday, Chinese businessman Wang Xiaofei opened the Philippe Starck-designed boutique hotel in Taipei, which he has dedicated to and named after his wife, Taiwanese actress Barbie "Big S" Hsu, China Times reported.

**TD**

Converted from a rented building, S Hotel has more than 100 rooms in Starck's white modern style, with bathrobes, bed linen and other amenities chosen by Hsu.

It has a Nordic restaurant by Michelin-starred chef Mikkel Maabjerg and, in the lobby, there are photos of Hsu and her sister, television host Dee "Little S" Hsu, Apple Daily said.

In opening a hotel in Taiwan, Mr Wang's primary goal is to break even, he was quoted as saying by China Times. He also hopes that Taiwanese will one day recommend S Hotel to their foreign friends.

The couple married in 2010 and have a three-year-old girl and a one-year-old boy. At the opening ceremony, which Starck attended, Hsu, 40, quashed recent rumours that she is pregnant.

She stressed that she had fulfilled her social duty by having two children and would not have a third child. In fact, she said she and her husband had reached a consensus that he would have a vasectomy.

To which Mr Wang, 35, said: "I'm still busy with the hotel, there's no hurry."

His wife clarified: "I'm not rushing him into it. This is also a major life event. We're considering whether to have the surgery in Beijing or Taiwan."

As he spoke on tourism in China and Taiwan at the ceremony, she told a joke about S Hotel's name at her sister's expense.

"If business is good, it's Big S Hotel. If business is bad, it's Little S Hotel."

**ART** Actress Barbie Hsu and her husband, businessman Wang Xiaofei, at the opening of S Hotel in Taipei on Tuesday.  
**NS** glife : Living/Lifestyle | gcat : Political/General News  
**RE** taiwan : Taiwan | china : China | taipei : Taipei | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia  
**PUB** Singapore Press Holdings Limited

**AN**

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CLM by Jerome Watson  
 SE FF Features  
 HD **Brain drain**French neurosurgeons have successfully destroyed inoperable brain...  
 BY jerome.d.watson@gmail.com  
 WC 577 words  
 PD 8 September 2008  
 SN South China Morning Post  
 SC SCMP  
 PG 6  
 LA English  
 CY (c) 2008 South China Morning Post Publishers Limited, Hong Kong. All rights reserved.  
 LP

Brain drainFrench neurosurgeons have successfully destroyed inoperable brain tumours in eight patients, using a tiny, water-cooled, fibre-optic laser inserted through a 3mm "ultra-keyhole" in their skulls. The volunteers, who had been diagnosed with only months to live, were given only local anaesthetic so the medical team from Pitie-Salpetriere Hospital in Paris could be sure no brain functions were being damaged during surgery. Most were able to leave hospital within 14 hours. The treatment requires at least two operations, AFP reports. Five of the six who have completed the full programme have suffered no relapse after nine months.Exercise helpsWomen who exercise regularly after being diagnosed with breast cancer - even if they've never done any before - have a better chance of surviving the disease, say Yale School of Medicine researchers who studied almost 100 patients for up to nine years.

TD

Those who were active before diagnosis were 31 per cent less likely to die of the disease; those who were active two years after diagnosis had about a 65 per cent lower risk. However, those who cut back on exercise were four times more likely to die than those who were sedentary and remained so, Reuters reports.

Cell deficiencyFat cells in obese people are significantly deficient in key areas, which may help explain the link between obesity and an increased risk of diabetes, heart disease and stroke, say researchers at Temple University in Philadelphia. In particular, obese people's fat cells show stresses that trigger the production of certain proteins that lead to insulin resistance. This, in turn, plays a key role in the development of obesity-related conditions, healthday.com reports.

Walk to recoveryExercising on a treadmill may help stroke survivors better regain the ability to walk by rewiring the brain, say University of Maryland researchers. Treadmill patients performed better than those given traditional stretching therapy in terms of brain activity, walking ability and overall fitness, WebMD reports. While there was no change in the brains of the stretch patients, those in the treadmill group registered as much as 72 per cent more activity in some parts of their brains. "It's promising that treadmill exercise can stimulate new or underused brain circuits," says team leader Andreas Luft.In the hot seat Men who like the comfort of heated car seats may be at risk of vehicular vasectomy, say researchers from Germany's University of Giessen in the latest issue of New Scientist. The optimal temperature for sperm production is one or two degrees below the core body temperature of 37 degrees Celsius, AFP reports. However, the testicular temperatures of 30 volunteers who sat on heated car seats for 90 minutes was an average 37.3C - and as high as 39.7C. Previous studies have found that simply sitting in a car for more than three hours can impair a man's ability to conceive.

Social lubricant A condom lubricant designed for sex workers and gays has become popular with Cambodian women as an acne cure, AFP reports, quoting local media and several women who said they'd used the water-based Number One Plus to treat skin problems. "After I used it for three days, all of my acne went



away," a 29-year-old woman said. The product is produced by health organisation Population Services International, which was unavailable for comment.

**NS** ghea : Health | nedc : Commentary/Opinion | gcat : Political/General News | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : FC&E Executive News Filter

**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020080907e49800018



**SE** Business  
**HD** **Bloomberg humour**  
**WC** 46 words  
**PD** 25 October 2013  
**SN** South China Morning Post  
**SC** SCMP  
**ED** 1  
**LA** English  
**CY** (c) 2013 South China Morning Post Publishers Limited, Hong Kong. All rights reserved.  
**LP**  
Scrolling through headlines on Bloomberg recently we were intrigued by the following item. "Public Vasectomy With Band-Aid Promotes Family Planning: Health." This was immediately followed by, "Rubber Drops Most in Three Weeks." Was somebody at Bloomberg, as they say, "having a larf"?  
**NS** ccat : Corporate/Industrial News  
**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia  
**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited  
**AN** Document SCMP000020131205e9ap001we

**SE** Nation  
**HD** **A long way home**  
**BY** The Beijing News – Global Times  
**WC** 1,073 words  
**PD** 9 February 2015  
**SN** Global Times  
**SC** GLOTNE  
**PG** P06  
**LA** English  
**CY** Copyright 2015. Global Times. All rights reserved.

**LP**

Zou Yuhua (left) and Zhang Mingfa pose in their feed store on January 26. Photo: The Beijing News

Zou Yuhua and her husband spared no effort to look for their second baby who was taken away by local family planning officials 31 years ago.

**TD**

Knowing that the baby was adopted by a family in the same city, they searched every street in Jianyang, in Southwest China's Sichuan Province.

For nine years, the couple raised a boy they thought was their lost son but later proved otherwise.

It was not until November last year that the couple eventually found their lost son, who had been sending out flyers looking for his biological parents throughout the counties and townships in Jianyang.

'How I lost my son'

In May 1983, 27-year-old Zou gave birth to a second baby boy in Wolong village in Jianyang. At the time, Zou was already mother of a 3-year-old son.

Unfortunately, the birth violated China's one-child family planning policy.

Local officials told Zou and her husband Zhang Mingfa that they must pay a hefty fine or risk their second child being taken away.

To keep their second child, Zhang was forced to undergo a vasectomy. In addition, the land they had under contract was confiscated, and they also faced a penalty of approximately 1,600 yuan (\$256), a huge amount given that a government official in Zhang's county on average only made about 30 yuan per month at the time.

With borrowed money from relatives and friends, Zhang was eventually able to pay the fine. However, when the couple was about to register their second son under their household, more than 50 family planning officials and police officers raided their home. Without giving an explanation, the officials returned the money and took away the baby.

One of the officials confirmed the story with The Beijing News, adding that two babies were taken away in 1983 and Zhang's boy was one of them. However, no record could be found from Jianyang Family Planning Bureau.

The couple's story was uncommon even during the 1980s. Most couples were allowed to keep their second child after paying a fine.

Five days after the baby was taken away, Zhang was forced to make a self-criticism speech in front of the entire village for violation of the country's one-child policy. Later that year, the couple left the village and moved to Jiajia county where Zhang made a living by selling pig feed.

Close to home

It was about 9:30 am on November 28, 2014. Zhang and his wife were having a late breakfast.

Three old ladies hired by Yuan Ying (pseudonym), their long-lost son, were distributing flyers roughly 1 kilometer from Zhang's feed store.

Yuan's home was less than 50 kilometers from Jiajia county. Ever since he was 5, Yuan had learned from his foster parents that he was adopted from the local family planning agency.

"My foster parents had two children before me. Both of them had died. They were very kind to me," Yuan said.

After getting married and having his own child, the desire to meet his biological parents grew stronger.

"I just want to know who they are. If I don't do it now, it might be too late," Yuan said.

Since October 2013, Yuan had been looking for clues about his parents from the family planning agency. The bureau kept few records from the 1980s and Yuan couldn't find any useful information in its archives.

In March last year, Yuan received a call from the agency informing him that there might be a matching family. But after the DNA test, both Yuan and the family were disappointed.

On November 24, Yuan printed 50,000 flyers and hired three old ladies to send them out on street.

"There are 55 counties in Jianyang. If I send out enough flyers, I know I can find my biological parents," Yuan said.

Not my child

Jiajia was the 11th county where Yuan distributed flyers.

That morning, Zou's neighbor happened to pick up a flyer in front of the county's middle school. He passed that flyer to Zou.

Of all those years, Zou never stopped thinking about her lost son. "Maybe he's married. Maybe he already has kids."

After the baby was taken away, the couple received a tip that a local bachelor surnamed Wang had adopted a baby boy. Before Zhang could find the bachelor, local government approached him and warned him not to proceed further.

"They said it's illegal to look for my other son," Zhang said.

To their great surprise, Wang later came to them with a 14-year-old boy in 1997. "He said it's our son and he couldn't afford to raise him anymore."

But a DNA test showed that the boy was not Zhang's son.

The couple still tried their best to raise the boy. They sent him to schools. Later he joined the army. After the discharge, the couple bought him a shipping van with all their savings so that he can run a small transportation business. But in 2009, the boy left home without a trace. He hasn't contacted the couple since.

Zhang and Zou were heartbroken but said it was not the boy's fault. "Maybe he knows that we are not related and he is out looking for his biological parents."

The couple stopped mentioning their second son. They acted as if they have never had a second baby, until Yuan's flyer re-ignited Zou's hope.

After contacted Yuan, the couple and Yuan had a DNA test which proved Yuan was their long-lost son.

Yuan rushed to the couple's home the moment he received the test result, shouting "Dad and Mom" to Zhang and Zou.

#### China's family planning policy relaxed

The policy was introduced in the late 1970s, limiting most urban couples to one child and most rural couples to two children if the first child born was a girl.

Since late 1990s, the policy was relaxed in over 20 provinces and cities, allowing two only children to have a second child.

Then the policy was further loosened in November 2013, allowing couples to have two children if one of them is an only child.

**NS** gcat : Political/General News

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Global Times

**AN** Document GLOTNE0020150209eb2900008

**HD** Fewer monkeys around as desexing takes effect

**BY** Staff reporter

**WC** 392 words

**PD** 30 July 2012

**SN** The Standard

**SC** HKIMAL

**LA** English

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**LP**

At least 1,600 wild monkeys on Monkey Mountain and Lion Rock \_ about 80 percent of the Hong Kong population \_ have been spayed, with birth rates dropping to 60 percent, the government said.

The total wild monkey population fell 6.9 percent in 2010, and 8.6 percent last year under the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation's desexing program.

**TD**

But the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department is urging people to stop feeding the animals, or they will continue to be a nuisance.

The government estimates there are 2,000 monkeys in Hong Kong. About 80 percent of them gather at Kam Shan \_ now known as ``Monkey Mountain" \_ and Lion Rock country parks.

The large-scale desexing program was launched in 2007.

The department sets a green steel trap, about the size of a cargo container, with gates open at either end and lures the monkeys in with food.

When there are enough inside, the gates are lowered, and the contraceptive team springs into action, first sedating the animals. Male monkeys are given a chemical vasectomy.

Initially, female monkeys were given a contraceptive, but because it was effective for only three to five years, the females would have to be rounded up and trapped repeatedly.

In 2009, the department switched to using a permanent surgical method. All treated monkeys have a microchip implanted for identification as well.

Conservation officer Shek Chung- tong said the problems caused by monkeys stem from people feeding them.

``As many visitors brought food for them, frequent contact led monkeys to not fear people, and to come to expect food from them," he said on the government's website.

``People carrying food in plastic bags became targets as monkeys learned to snatch the goods from them. As more residential areas have sprung up close to the monkeys' habitat, they began frequenting nearby buildings in search of food, upending rubbish bins and disturbing residents."

A total of 53 people were convicted for feeding monkeys last year. In the first half of the year, 48 convictions were recorded. Those convicted of feeding face a fine of up to HK\$10,000.

To encourage monkeys to stay within the country park, the department has planted about 300,000 fruit trees that appeal to them, including strawberry trees and hog plums.

Source : The Standard.

**RE** hkong : Hong Kong | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | china : China | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**IPC** 1

**PUB** The Standard Newspapers Limited

**AN** Document HKIMAL0020120729e87u00003

**HD QUEST FOR WINTER WARMTH MAY GET YOU IN HOT WATER**

**BY** By Dinah Chong Watkins

**WC** 744 words

**PD** 19 January 2011

**SN** China Daily

**SC** CHNDLY

**LA** English

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**LP**

There are certain formulas that are immutable no matter the time, place or situation. 1 + 1 = 2. Boy meets Girl = Hope. Cold climate + vacation time = Beach resort.

No matter which side of the ocean, gulf or reef, when staying in a beach resort expect to encounter fruity cocktails with paper umbrellas, jockeying for the best poolside chairs, wallet numbing menu prices and enough flabby flesh to make you wonder if people at nudist colonies are legally blind.

**TD**

With the cost ratio of sun: accommodations, airfare, food and the occasional tip, it's no wonder that some people never leave the grass huts of the resort.

These are the folks that get up at the crack of dawn and scurry over to the poolside, marking chairs with Hello Kitty beach bags and second-hand copies of Stephen King paperbacks. After breakfast when the first wave of guests drift in, the pool deck looks like an abandoned garage sale with beach toys, books, and towels flung over lounge chairs; their owners nowhere in sight.

As relaxing as a day at the beach sounds, there are trials involved as well. Few words induce as much hand-wringing, fad dieting and as many sleepless nights for a woman than the three syllables: bee-kee-nee.

Even though she may look like two rubber bands strapped across an egg, opting for a one-piece swim suit at the poolside practically screams: A) I'm only here to do laps. B) I'm a member of the Lawrence Welk fan club (circa 1948). Or C) I paid a week's salary for this gut-binding, hip-disguising, diagonal striped Wondersuit that hopefully hides the double cheeseburger and fries I gobbled down at lunch.

Men have it easy. They can choose among dozens of tie-up surf shorts. Why then, given this comfortable and manly suit, do some men insist on wearing Speedos? Exposing the outline of a woman's bosom may be attractive, a man's package on the other hand, is definitely not.

Even worse is the favored proclivity of overweight, hairy men, for the G-string. I vote for the addition of emergency burkas at every lifeguard station for cases like these.

But staying within the confines of the hotel can become boring after a few days. Luckily, there are enterprising locals with endless options to part you from your money.

"Massage? Very cheapah, you try?" Why not you wonder, as she spreads a threadbare blanket over the hot, grainy sand. A few minutes pass. The scent of the ocean is quickly drowned out by the smell of the massage oil; like two parts baby oil mixed with one part Hawaiian Tropic tan lotion and leftover kitchen grease. Unexpectedly, the flyweight masseuse channels the spirit of El Diablo, the legendary Mexican pro wrestler and suddenly she's got you in a heel to elbow limb lock. Your cries of pain only egg her on to push harder. Stopping the round mid-way, you gingerly stand up, brush the sand from your mouth and other crevices, and pay her.

"Friend, I come back tomorrow. OK?" You smile and nod your head while making a mental note to stay out of her wiry reach.



The deafening roar of "I Love Rock and Roll", "Wild Thing" and "Another One Bites the Dust" draws curiosity seekers to the collection of ramshackle sheds at the water's edge. After signing a liability waiver in nonsensical legalese, the safety instructions are given - "Don't fall" - and seconds later you're 300 feet in the air, parasailing over the seas.

The initial delight is soon given way to a crushing pain in your lower regions. Noting that you didn't sign up for a bonus vasectomy, you pull up on the harness and try to be as still as possible as the wind tosses the parachute about. Your young daughter, meanwhile, bounces gleefully up and down in the reigns. With each kick she increases her chances of being an only child.

The night before you depart, you look over your mementos; coconut-husk monkeys, seashells found washed up on shore, matchbooks and plastic souvenirs made in China, a newly bought bottle of Aloe Sunburn gel. It's fortunate memories aren't weighed in gold, after all, you only have a 20-kilo bag allowance.

(Copyright 2001 by China Daily)

**NS** glife : Living/Lifestyle | gcat : Political/General News

**RE** china : China | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia | apacz : Asia Pacific

**PUB** China Daily Information Company

**AN** Document CHNDLY0020110118e71j00017



**SE** Art & Culture  
**HD** 'Stand By Her' focuses on female expression

**BY** Song Xinyi

**WC** 589 words

**PD** 4 November 2020

**ET** 20:15

**SN** Shanghai Daily Online

**SC** SHNDOL

**LA** English

**CY** Copyright Shanghai Daily

**LP**

Phrases like “domestic violence,” “cooling-off divorce,” “glass ceiling” and “body shaming” have seen unprecedented popularity on Chinese social media these days, igniting discussions about the problems some women face in this fast-paced society. Focusing on female exploration and expression, “Stand By Her,” an exhibition created by women, debuted on Sunday at M50 Innovation+ Space. Co-curated by author Zhu Yujie and Liang Yu, founder of the gender research and advocacy organization “Stand By Her,” the exhibition features 12 female artists, including Chen Xin, He Yu, Juju Wang and Yang Su. They offer paintings, sculptures, installations, photography and performances. “As women, we are eager to bring the subjectivity back in.

**TD**

And we hope that through this female-dominated exhibition, more female-related problems can be tackled for women, by women and from the perspective of women,” said Liang. At the opening ceremony, Zhang Yu, executive dean of the Gender and Culture Research Center at Shanghai University of Science and Technology, Shen Yang, a professor at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Wu Haixun, a chief editor at Sixth Tone, “CJ7” star Xu Jiao, Chinese soccer player Zhao Lina and several prominent women from the fields of industry shared their views and experiences on major issues such as sexism, gender bias, reproductive rights and female health. A narrow stairway with red-painted walls presents the first major work of the exhibit, Zhou Wenjing’s “Women Series: IUDs.” Over 300 tightly coiled stainless steel rings illustrate the risks women in China faced during the late 1970s and early 1980s from this type of embedded contraceptive device. “I was overwhelmed with mixed feelings when I saw this,” said 27-year-old Zhang Peixuan, recalling her mom’s challenging IUD removal surgery. “She suffered inflammation for over 15 years and was diagnosed with a cervical tumor. Thank God it was benign.” “I can’t say for sure if vasectomy is better, but contraception should be a multi-pronged effort and women shouldn’t have to live a life of pain,” she added. In the era of “herstory in the making,” these artists portray female issues from a more radical, expansive and women-oriented aspects. Crossover artist Song Santu captures gender bias and reexamines sexual and physical shame in her work “Breaking Infinity.” In Los Angeles-based Ilona Szwarc’s project, “The woman who presents herself to the spectator as a ‘picture’ forever arranged,” she explores her sense of self as a Polish immigrant and a woman. Sculpture master Liu Xi tells the story of hardship and sacrifice of motherhood in her series entitled “Mother,” an installation of 18 clay washboards. While appreciating the journey of women working together to eliminate the patriarchal filter, visitors are welcome to take part in forums and lectures held every weekend, delving into topics like “man-explaining,” sexual fluidity, sex education, women’s power and cyberfeminism. They can also purchase artworks and all the money will be used to help women in period poverty. “I hope this exhibition of female subjectivity will become part of our public memory,” said Zhu, “Join her journey; stand by her.” Exhibition info: Date: Through November 25 (closed on Mondays), 10am-6pm Venue: M50 Innovation+ Space Address: 2/F, 76 Moganshan Rd Forum: Men Explain Things to Me Date: November 7, 2pm-4pm Lecture: Sex Education Date: November 8, 2:30pm-5pm Forum: Artistry Creativity and Commence — Women’s Power Date: November 14, 2pm-4pm Forum: A Room of One’s Own Date: November 22, 2pm-4pm

[\\*Click Here to View Image\\*](#)

**NS** gart : Art | gsexd : Sex Discrimination | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community | gdcri : Discrimination | gent : Arts/Entertainment | gsoc : Social Issues

**RE** china : China | shahai : Shanghai | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Shanghai Daily

**AN** Document SHNDOL0020201106egb50001z

**SE** In-Depth  
**HD** **Family planners reborn**  
**BY** Thepaper.cn-Global Times  
**WC** 1,847 words  
**PD** 30 August 2016  
**SN** Global Times  
**SC** GLOTNE  
**PG** P12-13  
**LA** English  
**CY** Copyright 2016. Global Times. All rights reserved.

**LP**

As family planning policy enforcement becomes less important due to the policy loosening and the fact that people are increasingly satisfied with having smaller families, China's millions of family planning workers face budget cuts and redundancy. Some grass-roots family planning workers have been transferred to other posts, some have taken time off to have a second child and some have stayed on to ensure there are "better" births.

A woman carrying a baby walks past a slogan that reads "give birth according to the policy, raise children responsibly" in Hua county, Henan Province in August 2015. Photo: CFP

**TD**

Only after he gets up in the middle of the night, drives for two hours until he reaches a field in the countryside miles away from his home, and turns off his car can Zhang Chen (pseudonym) begin his work - waiting around until daybreak and trying to spot any farmers burning the stubble left over after harvest, part of a government initiative to clamp down on this source of air pollution.

This is one of the errands Zhang has started running since he left the local family planning branch after 10 years of service, according to a recent report by news portal thepaper.cn.

In December 2013, China took the first steps toward relaxing its family planning policy, allowing all couples to have a second child if either parent was an only child. From January 1 this year onward all couples are allowed to have two children, ending the one-child policy that was initiated in the 1980s.

Zhang, 40, was one of tens of thousands grass-roots family planning officials who were put at risk of redundancy. But early this year, he was transferred to his current post with a township government in East China's Shandong Province.

At the gate of the government building where Zhang works, a red sign exhorts locals to build a "sanitary" town. Previously, a slogan outside the building called on residents to "create excellence with good family planning policy enforcement."

Like the other grass-roots officials who did this work in past decades, Zhang has witnessed the changes of the family planning policy and what it has done.

**Changes**

In 1999 Zhang became a township family planning worker and his day-to-day duties included taking women of childbearing age to have ultrasound scans, helping keep birth rates low and fining violators.

But now his job includes preventing stubble burning, checking on the recipients of minimum living allowance and entering the personal information of disabled township residents into an online database.

At the family planning office where he previously worked, half of the workers have left. Du Lili (pseudonym), the office's director, is busy but the other desks are all empty.

"Some workers have gone home to have their second child. I'm a bit busy," Du told the [thepaper.cn](http://thepaper.cn).

Her job is no longer focused on keeping the birth rate low. She spends most of her time collecting data about the gender imbalance, administering subsidies to couples who have lost their only child, and managing prenatal and postnatal care, such as encouraging pregnant women to receive healthcare checks and providing them with health supplements.

She took her job at age of 19. The office minivan she used to drive from village to village to investigate one-child policy violations rarely moves now due to a sharp drop in field visits.

But unlike Zhang and Du, many other family planning workers are worried about being made redundant. As China loosens its family planning policy, their role has become less important and their departments have shrunk.

In late May, dozens of family planning officials in Gong'an county, Central China's Hubei Province, staged a protest in front of the county bureau of health and family planning, demanding better wages. They claimed their monthly salary had been cut to less than 2,000 yuan(\$303), half of what most grass-roots civil servants can expect to be paid.

In January, family planning workers in Xingning, South China's Guangdong Province, wrote a joint open letter titled "Please give family planning workers a way out," complaining about what they say is unfair treatment and layoffs. They said the changes which have taken place have made them feel like the proverbial "donkey which is killed the moment it leaves the millstone."

According to official figures released in 2009, besides the half a million people then working for local governments, at that time there were about 1.2 million people employed by village committees and 6 million in sub-village groups working to enforce the family planning policy.

Less pressure

A doctor spreads knowledge about contraception in a village in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, August 2003. Photo: CFP

To Ren Xianghua, an official from a development zone neighboring the township where Zhang worked, the two-child policy didn't help much in easing the tensions between family planning workers and residents. "Some villagers wrongly believe that the policy loosening means the birth restrictions have been totally lifted. The difficulty of collecting fines from violators still remains," Ren was quoted as saying.

Couples who have more children than they are allowed have to pay a fine based on their personal income and the average local annual income, with the fines often coming to three or more times the annual average.

But it's becoming more difficult to collect the fees. Du said that some couples now strongly object to paying fines for their second children born before the policy changed on January 1, 2016.

Zhang said the growing number of rural Chinese who have moved to cities but are still under the administration of their village has made tracking births more challenging.

But he added that he pities some policy violators, especially those who gave birth to their second child shortly before January 1.

"Their [the children's] fate might totally different [just because of being born a few days earlier]," he said.

As having two children is now allowed, many people who were punished for to having a second child are now demanding compensation.

On August 9, dozens of people from several provincial regions, including Guangdong, Guangxi, and Anhui, petitioned at the National Health and Family Planning Commission in Beijing, demanding their jobs back. They were fired from their posts as civil servants or teachers due to having a second child.

When these people were punished, family planning was at the top of local government agendas. Officials could face demotion or sacking if they were not able to keep births low.

"Officials would be criticized if the birth rate and gender ratio were substandard. Now we no longer mention it. It's not scientific. A number alone can't represent the official's performance," said Chen Ran (pseudonym). He became a family planning worker in 1987 in the township where Zhang later worked. This year, he was transferred to the township's petition office.

At that time, officials would try every means at their disposal to coerce women of childbearing age to take an ultrasound scan. The more checks, the better rank the township will get in the county's family planning ratings, Zhang said.

Zhang was in charge of a village with 370 women of childbearing age. Nearly every day, he visited them one by one, door-to-door, recording data about their menstrual cycles and pregnancy situation.

Sometimes, the job was rather challenging. After the department received a tip-off that a woman in his village was illicitly pregnant, Zhang had 20 days to investigate. If he couldn't prove that the woman wasn't pregnant within that period, the tip-off would be officially regarded as true and he would be assessed poorly.

The hardest job

GT

Zhang was born in a rural Shandong family with two elder sisters. After graduating from high school, he went to study demographics at the Taian Population School (which merged with Taishan Medical University in 2001), a popular major in the 1990s.

Though it was a vocational school, it had a high status.

"Because it was a higher learning institute run by the National Population and Family Planning Commission [which was merged with health ministry in 2013], its Communist Youth League chief was equal to a county-level official," Zhang told the [thepaper.cn](#).

At school, he mainly studied the theories of "the two Ma's" - Thomas Malthus (1766-1834), an English scholar and advocate of population control, and Ma Yinchu (1882-1982), known in China as the father of the family planning policy.

He thought it was important to implement family planning policies. "When [then] Premier Zhou Enlai first proposed 'one couple, one child,' many women told the premier that they didn't want to give birth to so many children, but they didn't know how to prevent the pregnancy," Zhang explained.

The school song of the Taian Population School encouraged students to devote themselves to their career.

"We must be the pioneer of the frontline to enforce the family planning policy for our country, and devote ourselves to the hardest job in the world," went the school song.

But he was never a good worker in his colleagues' eyes. "He is softhearted, not aggressive and tough enough," commented Chen Ran who used to work with Zhang.

In early times, women were made to have contraceptive devices placed in their uteruses after having their first child and men were required to have a vasectomy if they had a second child, according to Du.

"The villagers were even more scared of the arrival of the family planning workers than of the policemen," Du recalled.

These practices and high fines created a stigma about being a family planning worker that has lasted until this day.

"Why do you take such a job?" Zhang's aunt asked him to his face. Zhang has regularly lied about his job when meeting people.

In 2001, the country promulgated the Population and Family Planning Law and tried to regulate policy enforcement. Forced abortions had been part of family planning efforts for a long time.

But Zhang and his colleagues found it hard to continue their job without taking coercive measures. Using a "carrot and stick" method, they tried to persuade residents to have abortion operations.

Receiving little recognition and working a stressful job for little money, Zhang believes that they sacrificed a lot.

Zhang himself was a firm believer in the one-child policy. He has only one daughter, despite his mother's complaints about the lack of a grandson.

But he never doubted the policy. Though he is no longer responsible for enforcing it, he still defends the policy. A few days ago, he got angry when he read an article that claimed the birth control devices placed into women's uteruses harmed their health.

"I oppose judging the previous undertakings with current situation. The family planning policy was not wrong. It was a product of a special historical period," he argued.

Thepaper.cn - Global Times

**NS** npeo : People Profiles | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Global Times

**AN** Document GLOTNE0020160830ec8u0000h



SE China  
HD **Baby living in squalor fuels debate over social services**  
BY Mandy  
WC 434 words  
PD 5 November 2021  
SN South China Morning Post  
SC SCMP  
PG 9  
LA English  
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LP

A four-month-old baby girl was taken to hospital yesterday after a viral video of her living in squalor brought into question how social welfare programmes should handle poor families with children.

Tang Lu is being raised by Huang Longfei, 59, a farmer from Hunan province, and her mentally handicapped mother.

TD

The family, which includes a five-year-old girl born to a different woman, lives in an environment surrounded by filth.

The mother is bedridden, and the family survives on the father's meagre salary.

In the video, Huang lays his daughter on a jacket amid rubbish. Flies flit around the baby's face. Another video shows the father hiding her in a rotting paper box amid pigswill in a trailer behind a motorbike.

Volunteers tried to help the family and teach the man about raising children in more sanitary conditions but said their efforts were futile. "He does not get better at all," said Jelly Liu, a children's rights activist who noticed the family and reported them to the local government last month.

Liu said the family lived in unsanitary conditions, and the father refused to change or give up custody of the baby girl despite his failure to care for the children.

"We tried to persuade him to have a vasectomy, but he refused and said he wanted to have sons".

The county's women's federation said a physical check-up last month showed the baby was healthy, and the government was not considering finding her another guardian.

The township government had given Huang a job with a monthly salary of 1,000 yuan (HK\$1,200) and built a 70 square metre home for the family, it said.

Liu said cases similar to the Huang family were common as China lacked a proper system to protect disadvantaged children.

"I have intervened in at least seven such cases this year, where healthy men keep a sexual relationship with a mentally challenged woman and have children with her. In some cases, they have like nine or 10 kids," she said.

"I don't see any point in giving taxpayers' money to such men. It's the woman and children who need help," Liu said.



Huang's story generated debate on social media, with many demanding the government take over custody of the children and send the woman to a hospital.

"Poor baby. The parents are so ignorant, and the government should be blamed for their lack of education," one person on Weibo said.

**CT** Zuomandy.zuo@scmp.com

**NS** gparen : Parenting/Parenthood | gwelf : Welfare/Social Services | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community | glife : Living/Lifestyle

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020211104ehb50000u



CLM Politics  
SE Local (Hong Kong News)  
HD **Li Peng denies Zhou Enlai adopted him**  
BY Li Jing jing.li@scmp.com  
WC 499 words  
PD 1 July 2014  
SN South China Morning Post  
SC SCMP  
ED 1  
PG 3  
LA English  
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LP

Ex-premier recalls family life in memoir but refutes speculation late premier took him in

Former premier Li Peng has revealed details about his family in his official memoir, but denies he was the adopted son of Zhou Enlai , one of the People's Republic's founders.

TD

"Some people have said I am Premier Zhou's adopted son. It is not true," Li writes.

Academics and others have speculated that Li's links to Zhou partly explained his rise to power in the Communist Party.

Li's memoir covers events up to 1983 and does not mention the Tiananmen crackdown in 1989. Li was premier and declared martial law in Beijing before troops moved into the square.

In his book, Li, 85, describes his relationships with revolutionary leaders including Mao Zedong , Zhou and his wife, Deng Yingchao .

Zhou and Deng had no children of their own. Li's father, Li Shuoxun, also one of the earliest Communist Party revolutionaries, was executed by the Kuomintang in 1931 when the younger Li was only three.

"The relationship between Premier Zhou, Mother Deng and me was [no different than] the relationship between old comrades and any martyrs' descendants," Li writes. "We all call them Uncle Zhou and Mother Deng because they care about the sons and daughters of their comrade-in-arms."

Li met Deng for the first time in Chengdu in 1939 and she took him to Zhou's home in Chongqing . Zhou was already in Yanan , the party's revolutionary base in Shaanxi province.

Li did not meet Zhou in person until the autumn of 1940, according to the memoir. Zhou asked him to read and comment on an editorial in the Xinhua Daily, the first Communist Party newspaper, as a test for his studies. He also told him to correct his humpbacked posture.

Li described Zhou as a "meticulous" and "responsible" person and said those qualities played an important role in redressing some of the injustices during the Cultural Revolution.

Deng also offered Li's family help when his first son, Li Xiaopeng , now the governor of Shanxi province, was born prematurely in 1959.

Li's pregnant wife, Zhu Lin, fell on a bus at the end of May that year and it was feared she may have miscarried. Li Peng's mother sought the help of Deng, who contacted a renowned obstetrician at the Peking Union Medical College Hospital.

Zhu's condition was critical, but mother and child survived. Li Xiaopeng was born on June 7, 1959. At that time, Li was working as deputy chief engineer at a power plant in Jilin and was absent during the whole affair.

Li reveals he had a vasectomy after the birth of his daughter, Li Xiaolin, who now heads energy company China Power International Development, and his second son, Li Xiaoyong. This was before the introduction of the one-child policy.

<b>NS</b>	ncolu : Columns   ncat : Content Types
<b>RE</b>	china : China   apacz : Asia Pacific   asiaz : Asia   bric : BRIC Countries   chinaz : Greater China   devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries   dvpcoz : Developing Economies   easiaz : Eastern Asia
<b>PUB</b>	South China Morning Post Publishers Limited
<b>AN</b>	Document SCMP000020140630ea710003g



**CLM** Mortal Coil: A Short History of Living Longer

**SE** FF Features

**HD** **SCIENCE/MEDICINE**

**BY** by David Boyd Haycock Yale University Press HK\$240 3 stars James Robertson SCIENCE/MEDICINE

**WC** 727 words

**PD** 24 August 2008

**SN** South China Morning Post

**SC** SCMP

**PG** 6

**LA** English

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**LP**

"To philosophise," Montaigne wrote, "is to learn to die." He was paraphrasing Cicero and making an ancient point: only by leading examined lives can we reconcile ourselves to the inevitability of our deaths.

The legendary sanguinity of philosophers such as Socrates and Epicurus on their deathbeds seems to bear witness to the truth of the aphorism. In *Mortal Coil*, however, David Boyd Haycock has written a compelling history of man's scientific search for longer life, one that reminds us of the many enlightened minds who wanted more than the consolations of philosophy.

**TD**

Setting aside questions of the immortal soul, this brief study details the search for physical longevity and immortality in the context of western science and medicine from the 17th century to the present. These dates may loosely serve as bookends to an age of reason but this volume shows that man's ceaseless and fumbling search for long life is driven by an impulse as old as Gilgamesh.

Boyd Haycock's account begins with the "Great Instauration", a movement led by Sir Francis Bacon to overthrow the system of learning derived from the ancients with new scholarship based on empiricism. Bacon's latter work was greatly driven by the goal of achieving physical longevity and he believed the scientific revolution would continue, to test the "power and compass of mortality".

In many respects this was an early form of what we now term medical research: theories about the role of diet and mental health in determining lifespan, as well as conjecture about the curative properties of just about everything.

It is the author's great achievement, however, that throughout this wide-ranging enquiry he is able to preserve the often hazy distinction between simple medical investigation and that undertaken with longevity as its principal aim.

In fact, Boyd Haycock convincingly demonstrates how much of early scientific undertaking was governed by the desire to escape the finality of death. It was the sight of his first grey hair that sparked Descartes' interest in longevity, which dominated his later work. In 1638, at the age of 42, he was confidently telling a friend that he might yet "live a century longer".

When he eventually died at the age of 50 in Stockholm, an Antwerp newspaper reported that "in Sweden a fool has died who claimed to be able to live as long as he liked".

John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and Benjamin Franklin are here too but of all those who sought a new kind of longevity, few lived beyond their 80s.

This book could easily be read as a history of human fallibility and credulousness in the face of mortality. Boyd Haycock's intimidating bibliography reflects the admirable level of attention he gives to those once popular scientific perspectives that now seem ridiculous: piquant reminders that contemporary truths can fast become historical trivia.

At the age of 68 poet W.B. Yeats underwent a fashionable operation that promised nothing short of physical rejuvenation: a vasectomy and injections of a crude cocktail of sex hormones. Until his death eight years later in 1942 he relished the effects of this "second puberty" and, in seeming vindication of the link he saw between creativity and desire, went on to four extramarital affairs and produced some of his best work.

It was not until just before the second world war that the assumption that death began with withered reproductive glans fell out of vogue and eye-watering remedies such as testicular grafts from monkey donors disappeared off the market.

Of course, now even these assumptions no longer seem ridiculous. The benefit of a sweeping, detailed history such as this is that, with a long enough timeline, one can fully appreciate the circular march of irony. In a comprehensive chapter on the state of modern attempts at finding longevity, Boyd Haycock shows that its contemporary proponents realise they are fighting against the pull of evolution.

Ailments such as Alzheimer's disease, cancer and heart disease are the biggest obstacles to achieving longevity, precisely because they strike long after sufferers have already reproduced and passed on their flawed genetics.

For humans, as for every other species, sex may be little less than life and death.

<b>NS</b>	nedc : Commentary/Opinion   ncat : Content Types   nfact : Factiva Filters   nfcpx : FC&E Executive News Filter
<b>RE</b>	china : China   hkong : Hong Kong   asiaz : Asia   chinaz : Greater China   devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries   dvpcoz : Developing Economies   easiaz : Eastern Asia
<b>PUB</b>	South China Morning Post Publishers Limited
<b>AN</b>	Document SCMP000020080823e48o0000d

**HD** **Punjab to train more docs in NSV**

**BY** Varun Chadha

**WC** 279 words

**PD** 13 February 2006

**SN** The Times of India

**SC** TOI

**LA** English

**CY** (c) 2006 The Times of India Group

**LP**

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab health department is all set to follow in China's footsteps to increase men's participation in curtailing population growth.

It is going to train 129 more doctors across the state in "no-scalpel vasectomy" (NSV). Health Secretary DS Guru said, "Today in China NSV outnumbers the traditional method of male sterilisation by five to one. More than 10 million Chinese men have already undergone NSV."

**TD**

We are seeking Indian men's participation in family planning as the surgery is easy to conduct and most effective."

NSV does not require surgery and involves only a tiny puncture in the abdomen of the male. The cost of an NSV is just around Rs 100 and is gaining ground in the state.

Punjab already has 69 doctors, who have specialised in NSV. These doctors will train another batch of 129 doctors during the "NSV week" starting from Tuesday, a first of its kind in the country. The week will comprise awareness campaigns as well as NSV services to the masses in the entire state.

Until now the onus of controlling population remained with women, and a majority of prevalent contraceptives were also meant for them...

..."Punjab is coming forward in a big way for NSV promotion on the lines of pulse polio campaign. We are reaching the masses through our administrative set-up to promote NSV," Guru added.

"There is considerable change in the mindset of men and male chauvinism is giving way to a rational attitude. This has led to acceptance of NSV as a family planning method," said Rana Harinder, the director health services and family welfare.

**NS** ghea : Health | gmhea : Men's Health | ggroup : Demographic Health | gcat : Political/General News

**RE** china : China | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd.

**AN** Document TOI0000020060212e22d00071

**HD**      **How not to impress a woman**

**WC**      565 words

**PD**      28 April 2018

**SN**      The Jakarta Post

**SC**      JKPOST

**PG**      6

**LA**      English

**CY**      (c) 2018 The Jakarta Post

**LP**

Nury Vittachi, Hong Kong

Useful tip: Guys, end every sentence you speak to a woman with "but I could be wrong". This saves time. Example: "Good morning! But I could be wrong!"

**TD**

That thought was inspired by a news item I just read. A man robbed a bank and then threw some of the money over singer Taylor Swift's fence "to impress her".

More evidence that most men have NO IDEA how women think.

Bruce Rowley was arrested as he left her home in Rhode Island a few days ago. Bruce, you do NOT impress wealthy women by throwing cash over the fences of their mansions. You throw property deeds, credit cards and in your case, I think vasectomy papers would be essential.

It reminded me of a case in India where a young man in India stole a train for his girlfriend. Ketan Kumar, 24, thought his beloved would be pleased to be presented with the 8:20 p.m. express to Amrapali. Sadly for him, both girlfriend and police were significantly unimpressed. Ketan, buddy, you need to know more about how girls think. Big, ugly steaming lump of metal? Great for guys. But for girls? No.

A colleague, hearing about this column's topic, forwarded me a news video from Chechnya, Russia, earlier this month. It shows a 5-year-old boy walking down the street hand in hand with his girlfriend. He swiftly breaks into a car and turns on the engine to show off. The 5-year-old girl, way smarter than her companion, swiftly backs away while he drives off, pursued by adults.

This all adds to the tons of evidence that males are born thinking women are impressed by extreme stupidity and immorality, and it takes us years -- let's be honest, decades -- to realize this is not the case.

Young males should take advice from fathers of girls, who are forced to learn something about the young female brain. For example, I now know that fathering a daughter means pretending you're thrilled when they spend half your salary having an eighth of an inch cut off their hair.

The tricky thing is that they don't tell you whether they've had an invisible haircut, their eyebrows plucked or a complete head transplant, but just burst through the door saying: "Well, Dad, what do you think?" You MUST reply: "It looks great" and then leave the country before there are any follow-up questions.

In fact, when a young woman asks her father for his opinion on any matter, what she is really saying is: "I wish to hear my opinion repeated in a deeper voice."

Stop press: A colleague forwards another example. On April 24, several media reported that a man named Zach Doell decided to pick up his girlfriend from

the University of Louisiana, United States, in a different funny vehicle every day, including the Batmobile, a car that looked like a giant hot dog, and an ice cream van.

He thought this was highly impressive. His, er, thrilled girlfriend Brianna Garcia told the media it was "embarrassing".

So there you have it. It is this columnist's fervent hope that this information will help young men and young women understand each other and communicate better.

But I could be wrong.

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The author is a columnist and journalist.

**NS**      nedc : Commentaries/Opinions | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfcpx : C&E Executive News Filter

**RE**      hkong : Hong Kong | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | china : China | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**IPD**      OPINION

**PUB**      PT Bina Media Tenggara

**AN**      Document JKPOST0020180427ee4s0000y





SE China  
HD **Chinese mum pays over US\$150,000 to have 'perfect' seven kids, bucking country's declining childbirth trend**

WC 802 words

PD 25 February 2021

SN scmp.com

SC SCMCOM

LA English

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LP

\* Zhang Rongrong's family paid the 'social support fees' - effectively fines - to give birth to seven babies under China's two-child policy

\* A successful businesswoman, Zhang says the decision was not driven by gender preference, but because she hopes never to be alone

TD

More Chinese women are putting off having children or choosing not to have any at all, but a businesswoman has bucked the trend by giving birth to seven.

Despite the Chinese government's two-child policy, which fines violators of the rule, Zhang Rongrong, 34, and her 39-year-old husband were happy to pay the price for a number she says is just "perfect".

Zhang's family has paid more than 1 million yuan (US\$155,000) in "social support fees" - effectively fines - to the local government for the privilege of giving birth to more than the permitted number of children. Until six years ago, most women in China could only bear one child.

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Without paying the fines, the children - five boys and two girls, including a set of twins, aged between one and 14 - would not have received their all-important identity documents.

Zhang runs a garment factory, a jewellery company and a skincare business in Guangdong province in southern China.

She was born and raised in the Chaoshan, or Teoswa, region in eastern Guangdong where traditionally families have been large, with a preference for sons. Even so, Zhang's brood of seven is a rarity.

"There are families with three or four kids, because Teochew people usually prefer boys to girls ... if the first two kids are girls, they'll try for a third or fourth one, but seldom as many as I have," Zhang said.

Zhang's decision to give birth to such a large number of children was not driven by gender preference, she said; her first two children were a boy and a girl. She simply hopes never to be alone.

"When my husband's away on trips and the older kids are also away for study, I still have other children around me ... When I'm old, they can visit me in different batches," she said.

China's skyrocketing property prices, expensive education and increasing health-care costs make raising children an increasingly costly business, but for Zhang, having a large family is worth it.

Concern over the country's rapidly ageing population and declining birth rate saw the central government abolish the one-child policy in 2015, allowing couples to have two children. While the

impact was felt briefly in 2016 with an increase in births, the number of newborns has continued to fall since then.

In 2019, the number of babies born dropped by 580,000 from a year earlier to 14.65 million, the lowest level since 1961, official data shows.

Since Zhang began sharing happy family moments on the video-sharing platform Douyin, China's equivalent of TikTok, she has amassed 2 million followers.

Every morning, she sends the older kids to school one by one, and leaves the younger ones to a nanny at home. She usually arrives at her garment factory by noon.

Zhang said that while she had always dreamed of being a successful businesswoman, she knows future successes may be limited with so many children now.

"I know that I may not be able to make further achievements at work," she said. "If I devote all of myself to work, I won't be able to care for my family. I have to make a choice."

Zhang said it was not her who made the choice to stop having babies, but that of her husband, who underwent a vasectomy after the last child was born in 2019 because his work left him little time to spend with the family.

"He likes outdoor activities, but with so many kids it's a lot of work every time we go on a family trip," she said. "He often jokes to me, 'Why do we have so many children?'"

Internet users were also curious about the same thing.

"Some people have commented that I must be exhausted raising seven children. Others said it's the quality, not the quantity, that matters when it comes to raising kids," Zhang said.

"In fact, I don't feel so tired. It's just like dancing - if you like it, you will feel comfortable even when you're sweating.

"As for quality, my kids are all very happy. And I made sure I was financially capable before giving birth to the younger ones."

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**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China |  
devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia  
**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited  
**AN** Document SCMCOM0020210225eh2p00002

**HD DOCTORS DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE TO VASECTOMY**

**BY** By Liang Qiwen

**WC** 434 words

**PD** 15 November 2007

**SN** China Daily

**SC** CHNDLY

**LA** English

**CY** Copyright 2007 China Daily Information Company. All rights reserved.

**LP**

GUANGZHOU: Doctors in this city have developed a new birth control surgery for men that could be made available to the public starting next year.

The method involves making a small incision along the testicle. Doctors then place a tiny tube, about the size of a match, into the opening.

**TD**

The tube functions as a filter that blocks sperm, Wu Weixiong, the director of Guangzhou Family Planning Technology Center, said.

The surgery has already been patented, and the health department will promote it as soon as it is approved by the National Food and Drug Administration, Zhu Jiaming, the vice-president of the Guangzhou Sexology Association, said.

He expects approval to be granted by next year.

"The success rate for this form of birth control is 97 percent," he said.

The tube can be removed without negatively affecting a man's sexual health, he said.

Wu said the operation takes just 10 minutes. However, it is very difficult and requires highly skilled doctors.

He said only a few hospitals have the staff and facilities necessary to carry out the procedure. However, training courses will soon be made available to local doctors.

Wu said he believed enough facilities and manpower would be available to handle the demand for such operations by the time the procedure is officially approved.

"The success rate of the operation is almost 100 percent," Duan Jianhua, an official of Guangzhou population and family planning commission, said.

Research on the operation started four years ago in Beijing. It was led by the science and technology institute of the National Population and Family Planning Commission and Guangzhou family planning science and technology institute.

Wu said the technique was developed through more than 1,600 clinical trials all over the country. More than 500 men in Qingyuan, a city in Guangdong Province, have already had the operation. All the trials were successful and none of the subjects has experienced any side effects.

Zhu Jiaming said the operation costs just a few thousand yuan, which is affordable for most people in China.

"When the technique is available, couples will have one more option for birth control, and married women do not have to install an intrauterine device (IUD) anymore," Zhu said.

The public seems ready.

"I welcome this technique. It makes me feel women are more respected by society than before," Liu Jun, a woman in Guangzhou, said.

A survey by the Guangzhou-based New Express Daily found that about 60 percent of Guangzhou residents welcomed the surgery and supported its promotion.

(Copyright 2001 by China Daily)

**NS** ghea : Health | gcat : Political/General News

**RE** china : China | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** China Daily Information Company

**AN** Document CHNDLY0020071114e3bf00019



**HD** **Big hopes for China to be the world's top condom exporter.**

**BY** By Vivien Cui.

**WC** 352 words

**PD** 30 October 2003

**SN** South China Morning Post

**SC** SCMP

**PG** 8

**LA** English

**CY** (c) 2003 South China Morning Post Publishers Limited, Hong Kong. All rights reserved.

**LP**

A senior government minister has expressed the hope that China will become the world's leading exporter of contraceptive products in five to 10 years.

However, leading sex experts said domestic demand should remain the country's top priority.

**TD**

Speaking at a national conference on Monday, Minister of Population and Family Planning Zhang Weiqing said China's reproductive health industry should play a greater role in meeting the demands for contraceptive products from abroad, especially from developing countries.

China has invested heavily in the research and development of reproductive health products such as contraceptives.

The ministry has spent more than 58 million yuan (HK\$54.5 million) on 11 research projects on contraceptives and conducted extensive research on reversible vasectomy operations, Zhang Shikun, director of its science and technology department, was quoted by China Daily as saying.

But Xu Tianmin, director of the China Sexology Association, a non-governmental organisation, said the mainland still faced many domestic issues.

"(Expansion of the reproductive health product industry) is a good sign because (more products) can help prevent the spreading of diseases via sexual contact such as (HIV leading to) Aids.

"But policy-makers should pay more attention to popularising ideas about contraceptives nationally - for example, lifting bans on condoms and other health reproductive products - which will also boost sales of these products."

Although the mainland is a leading manufacturer of contraceptives and technology, public discussion of issues such as sex and birth control remains taboo with many.

"And free condom distribution at universities is still up for debate," Mr Xu added.

Last year, about 16 billion condoms were produced worldwide, 3.2 billion, or 20 per cent, of which were made on the mainland, the China Daily reported. It makes China the world's fourth largest manufacturer of condoms after Britain, the US and Japan.

China uses about 2.2 billion condoms a year, 54 per cent of which are bought by the government and distributed for free. In addition, the country imports over 30 brands from 12 countries.

**IN** ihormp : Hormone Products | i257 : Pharmaceuticals

**NS** ghea : Health | ghiv : AIDS/HIV | gcat : Political/General News

**RE** china : China | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz :  
Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**IPC** 8

**PUB** SCMP.com Limited

**AN** Document SCMP000020031029dzau0001t

# THE STRAITS TIMES

SE Lifestyle  
HD **Will love triumph over star power?**  
BY Gwendolyn Ng  
WC 1,349 words  
PD 10 August 2014  
SN Straits Times  
SC STIMES  
LA English  
CY (c) 2014 Singapore Press Holdings Limited  
LP

Fans are often sceptical about unequal romantic pairings in show business, especially if the woman is the bigger star

Chinese rocker Wang Feng, 43, faced online ridicule when he failed to propose to his internationally famous girlfriend Zhang Ziyi, 35, on Chinese Valentine's Day on Aug 2.

TD

Speculations were fuelled when Letv, the Chinese site that streamed a live webcast of the show, hinted to the media that something special would take place.

From the get-go, netizens were already sceptical about Wang's relationship with Zhang since they are separated by such a huge gulf in status.

The twice-divorced Wang, who is a father of two, may be popular in China and is also enjoying a revival of his career as a coach on the popular reality singing show The Voice Of China, but all that pales in comparison to Zhang, whom Time magazine calls "China's gift to Hollywood".

Such seemingly unequal romantic pairings where the woman is the bigger star by far, are not new to show business and always raise the questions: Can the male ego weather the jibes that could come his way or will love triumph?

Regardless of the answer in each situation, fans such as Republic Polytechnic student Samantha Nelson, 19, are all for girl power in such unions.

She says: "Looking at singer Mariah Carey and her husband Nick Cannon, it shows that women don't have to depend on men to survive financially."

nggwen@sph.com.sg

MATILDA TAO, 44 (TV host) and LI LI-REN, 40 (actor)

Tao is among Taiwanese showbiz's creme de la creme. Li is not.

He did not do anything to quell sniggers of "Mr Matilda Tao" when he became a stay-at-home dad six years ago to look after their daughter, who was then two. They also have a five-year-old son.

He has returned to work, snagging leading man roles in local Taiwanese drama Once Upon A Time In Beitou (2014) and went to China to film The Empress Of China this year. He even won the Best Supporting Actor nod at the Golden Bell Awards (2013) for war drama Home (2012).

Still, it is hard to top the accomplishments of an over-achieving wife. The motormouth Tao has won the hosting gig for the Golden Melody Awards for 12 consecutive years. This is on top of her variety show

gigs, most notably, seven seasons of reality singing contest One Million Star, for which she won a Best Variety Show Host award at the Golden Bell Awards (2007).

Staying power: Tao is the envy of women for marrying a devoted husband. Not only did he stay home to look after their kids, he also underwent a vasectomy in 2009 after seeing how tough it was for his wife during her pregnancy. No wonder the pair, who wed in 2005, have been called a model couple by the Chinese media.

ZHOU XUN, 39 (actress) and ARCHIE KAO, 44(actor)

Until he experienced a burst of fame after tying the knot with China A-list actress Zhou Xun in a surprise wedding at a charity concert last month, Chinese-American actor Kao was struggling to make a name for himself in the United States, with a small, recurring role in CSI: Crime Scene Investigation being his best-known part.

Although he is in Asian movies such as Love Speaks (2014) and Snow Flower And The Secret Fan (2011), his resume is nowhere as impressive as that of his wife, who has won multiple Best Actress awards including at the Golden Horse Awards.

Staying power: It is too early to tell how this couple would end up, but female fans of the handsome Kao, one of People magazine's hottest bachelors in 2006, say it is Zhou who has the better catch.

TINA FEY, 44 (writer-actress) and JEFF RICHMOND, 53 (musician-director)

Comic genius Fey created and starred in Emmy-winning sitcom 30 Rock and the hit movie Mean Girls (2004). Richmond, who is a head shorter than her, works for her – he produced and composed music for 30 Rock and Mean Girls.

Staying power: The couple go way back to a time when famous and fabulous Fey was a frumpy theatre actress in Chicago in the 1990s. The now svelte Fey and the still stout Richmond may appear incompatible but they seem to be on the same intellectual wavelength. Together for 14 years, including a seven-year courtship, they have two daughters, aged two and eight. Bet on this union to last.

MARIAH CAREY, 44 (singer) and NICK CANNON, 33 (actor-host)

The pop singer first locked eyes with Cannon during the music video shoot for her single Bye Bye in 2008. It did not matter that he was a lesser known actor-host while she is a household name with Grammy awards and platinum album sales.

After a one-month whirlwind romance, the May-December pair tied the knot - but not without signing a prenuptial agreement. The couple have twin children, Monroe and Moroccan, now three.

Staying power: It looks like the pre-nup may come in handy for Carey, who performs at the National Stadium on Oct 24. Divorce rumours have been plaguing the couple, fuelled by tabloids reporting of Cannon's frustration with his wife's diva attitude, not to mention his alleged romps with women. Carey's representative has reportedly denied divorce claims, though.

ADA CHOI, 40 (actress) and MAX ZHANG, 40 (actor)

Unlike many Hong Kong actresses before her, Choi did not marry a rich businessman. There was an uproar in the Chinese media over the fact that she was marrying down when she tied the knot in 2008 with Zhang, a former martial artist who started out in showbiz as a stunt double in Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000).

At the time of their nuptials, she was one of TVB's major stars whose acting credits include hit dramas such as Healing Hands (1998) and The Gem Of Life (2008). They now have two daughters, aged three and one.

Staying power: After being called Mr Ada Choi for years, Zhang is finally making a name for himself - he won the Best Supporting Male Actor at this year's Hong Kong Film Awards for his role in Wong Kar Wai's The Grandmaster (2013).

In a moving acceptance speech, he said: "My wife is Ada Choi. Some people say I have to depend on her for my whole life. That's right.



I depend on her for my lifetime of happiness." Listening to this among the audience, Choi blubbered in sheer joy. Their marriage looks set to last a lifetime.

JULIA ROBERTS, 46 (actress) and DANNY MODER, 45 (cameraman)

The couple invited unsuspecting guests to an Independence Day party at her New Mexico ranch in 2002. It turned out to be a celebration of their marital union.

The nuptials also surprised fans, who wondered if the marriage would last with their disparity in status.

She was the romcom darling of the 1990s, with hits such as Notting Hill (1999) and Pretty Woman (1990). He is a camera operator on blockbuster films such as Spider-Man 3 (2007) and Mr. & Mrs. Smith (2005).

Roberts may be seen in fewer films these days, but the odds are that she still takes home a bigger pay cheque - she made US\$11 million (S\$13.7 million) in 2013, according to Forbes.

Staying power: Many were sceptical of their union since it allegedly started as an affair when Moder was married to another woman. It has been 12 years (with three kids) and counting. It is hard to say if the couple are headed for splitsville.

There are mixed signals on the grapevine, with divorce rumours alternating with happy sightings of family outings.

**ART** Chinese rocker Wang Feng, 43, faced online ridicule when he failed to propose to his internationally famous girlfriend Zhang Ziyi (both above), 35, on Chinese Valentine's Day on Aug 2. -- PHOTO: APPLE DAILY

**NS** gtvrad : Television/Radio | gmusic : Music | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Singapore Press Holdings Limited

**AN** Document STIMES0020140809ea8a0001v



SE China  
HD **'Eunuch': sterilised young husband in China braves cruel mocking after sharing experience online**  
BY Yating Yang  
WC 621 words  
PD 15 October 2023  
SN scmp.com  
SC SCMCOM  
LA English  
CY (c) 2023 scmp.com. All rights reserved.

LP

\* Young Shanghai man undergoes vasectomy to protect health of wife has sparked fresh debate about gender bias

\* Hurtful online observers hurl abuse at him who says he expected it and has no regrets

TD

A 25-year-old man in China who was sterilised to protect the health of his wife has faced cruel online taunts by people comparing him to a eunuch.

Following the abuse, the man, surnamed Liu, from Shanghai, has been given much support online and his plight has sparked a fresh debate about gender bias on mainland social media.

Liu and his wife, who is a kindergarten teacher, have a one-year-old son, and having decided not to expand their family, Liu opted for sterilisation and took to Douyin to share his experience in a series of videos.

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"Although it's only the first week after the surgery, I can't engage in vigorous exercise. However, I can do normal housework," said Liu.

"In the second week I started running and jumping as usual," he added.

He also said that the surgery had no lasting adverse impact on his body and that he could lift heavy objects, stand for extended periods and didn't experience any back pain or abdominal discomfort.

A month after the surgery, he resumed running three times a week, preparing for the upcoming marathon season.

Liu told Jiupai News: "My narration is objective and rational, and I am not encouraging anyone to undergo this surgery. I hope everyone can consider sterilisation after a thorough understanding and preparation."

Despite his educational and informative intent, his videos were shared and re-uploaded by others with insulting titles, and some comments even mocked him as a "eunuch".

One person said: "He is no different from a eunuch; the Qing dynasty (1644 - 1912) has already fallen!"

"Eunuchs are known for their femininity, and with reduced male hormone secretion, their appearance naturally improves, and they don't even lose their hair!" said another in an attempt at humour.

Liu said that he and his wife had anticipated such reactions but chose not to dwell on them.

Historically, during more than three decades of the national "one-child policy", it was routine for women to use intrauterine devices, or IUDs, as a long-term birth control measure, which, over time, led to various health complications.

In respect of this, Liu's story has also won him significant praise and fuelled online discussions about shared responsibility for contraception.

One person commented, "He is a very brave man. This is much better than other men who risk their partner's health with the possibility of an unexpected pregnancy."

"What era is this? Do some people still think contraception is only a woman's responsibility? Moreover, sterilisation is not castration and it can be reversed. Do these people have any common sense?" said another.

A medical professional added her perspective, saying: "Why did they insult him? This neither affects his sexual nor fertility capability.

"The male sterilisation site is very superficial and the incision is small. You can leave the hospital right away and go back to work immediately," the medical professional said.

"However, for women using an IUD, it can result in displacement, uterine perforation and inflammation over 10 or 20 years. It poses significant hidden dangers.

"We can only say that society is progressing, but there is still much room for improvement," she said.

<b>NS</b>	gsexd : Sex Discrimination   gtrea : Medical Treatments/Procedures   gcat : Political/General News   gcom : Society/Community   gdcri : Discrimination   ghea : Health   ghum : Human Rights/Civil Liberties   gsoc : Social Issues
<b>RE</b>	china : China   shahai : Shanghai   apacz : Asia Pacific   asiaz : Asia   bric : BRICS Countries   chinaz : Greater China   devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries   dvpcoz : Developing Economies   easiaz : East Asia
<b>PUB</b>	South China Morning Post Publishers Limited
<b>AN</b>	Document SCMCOM0020231015ejaf000b5

**HD Offensive statements in student campaign proposals cause uproar at National Taiwan University**

**BY** Duncan DeAeth

**WC** 489 words

**PD** 21 May 2023

**SN** Taiwan News

**SC** TWNNWS

**LA** English

**CY** Copyright 2023 Taiwan News

**LP**

TAIPEI (Taiwan News) — Controversy erupted at National Taiwan University (NTU) on Saturday (May 20) after sexist and discriminatory statements were found on an online bulletin ahead of student council elections.

The election commission included a “trigger warning” for students reading the bulletin and declared that the text was discriminatory and “extremely inappropriate.” The language in question was a series of proposals by two candidates running together for president and vice president of the NTU Economics Department’s student council, reported UDN.

**TD**

The offensive remarks included calls to limit the university’s quota for “indigenous students, overseas Chinese students, and athletes.” The statement comes at a sensitive time as the NTU Student Association is hosting various events for “Free Speech Month” in May.

On Friday (May 19), protestors and counter-protestors were on campus expressing their views on enrollment policies toward indigenous Taiwanese students, reported SETN. Some claim that indigenous students get preferential treatment and face less strict standards, while others assert that indigenous students are discriminated against and deserve more support from the university.

The students running for office listed 16 sexist and discriminatory proposals for their campaign platform, such as “Girls with less than an A-cup will be required to take two credit hours of national defense training courses,” “Girls should be required to wear high school uniforms in calculus classes,” “LGBTQ students and dogs must not play Arena of Valor (a smartphone game) during student council meetings,” and “Elevators should require ID card access, and students with a BMI of 20 or higher will not be permitted to use them.”

Other inappropriate statements included “Graduating guys who are still single should receive vasectomies,” “New students will stay in mixed dorms,” and “Male students who are virgins may not attend school dances; Female students who are virgins are required to attend.”

The campaign proposals drew instant criticism on Facebook, with student groups demanding the statements be deleted. The two candidates have since apologized for their statements, which they intended to be humorous.

On Sunday, the students responsible expressed their “deepest apologies” on the NTU Student Exchange Facebook page. They said that although it is too late for them to withdraw from the elections, they accept responsibility for their immature attitude and behavior, reported UDN.

NTU released a statement clarifying that student elections are all managed by students in respective departments, with minimal oversight from the university. The university as well as the Department of Economics stated that they support the principles of student self-government and value free speech, but that the comments in question showed a disregard for human rights and gender equality.

CNA reported that an internal commission of the Department of Economics on gender equality will investigate the incident. The department is also expected to provide counseling for students to establish a space for further discussion on issues of equality and mutual respect.

**CO** natitu : National Taiwan University

**NS** guni : University/College | gsexd : Sex Discrimination | gedu : Education | gpol : Domestic Politics | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community | gdcri : Discrimination | ghum : Human Rights/Civil Liberties | gpir : Politics/International Relations | gsoc : Social Issues

**RE** taiwan : Taiwan | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | easiaz : East Asia

**PUB** Taiwan News

**AN** Document TWNNWS0020230521ej5l0005l

**HD**     **Caring vet ensures it won't rain cats and dogs**

**BY**     The China Post Staff

**WC**     856 words

**PD**     4 June 2012

**SN**     The China Post

**SC**     CHIPOS

**LA**     English

**CY**     (c) 2012 The China Post. All Rights Reserved

**LP**

The China Post--Famous male cats, such as Garfield, Felix and Tom (from "Tom and Jerry") as well as their lesser-know friends are all dream-catchers, and so are dogs. Their dream, of course, is to "catch her," maybe in the rye. Animals, like human beings, do have relationships and, perhaps, play the field, too, especially when they roam the streets in the heat of the night.

Cats and dogs, however, are not known to be users of birth-control devices, and when they sow wild oats, their population growth can get out of control. Unintended pregnancies, often the result of one-night stands, could have tragic consequences, including an unnecessary waste of lives and resources. There will be, at the very least, more mouths to feed.

**TD**

Enter Tiger Tung (董冠富), director general of Taiwan Life Caring and Animal Rescue Organization (LCO, 社團法人台灣照顧生命照生會), who works with a team of veterinary surgeons who perform vasectomies on male cats and tubal ligation on females.

Tiger is a Big Cat with a Big Heart

The use of surgery on stray animals is nothing unusual; residents living within shouting distance of National Chengchi University in Muzha also work with veterinary surgeons in an attempt to keep the stray dog population under control, which is said to be tacitly tolerated on the university campus. Tung's ace in the hole, however, is that when he deploys his ground troops, i.e. the vets, he also sends in a mobile operating theater, complete with surgical equipment, converted from a refrigerator truck.

His use of the truck to keep the populations of stray dogs and cats under control without denying them one of their few pleasures in life is motivated by a respect for life and a realization that creatures born out-of-wedlock, with a few possible exceptions including Heathcliff, have less of a chance to succeed in life. Survivors are, more often than not, left to their own devices.

"That's already the best scenario," Tiger Tung, whose first name reminds us of a famous two-timing golfer as well one of the biggest cats, told The China Post in a recent interview, saying the procedures do not pertain to outright sterilization.

"While the government deploys dog catchers, or even cat catchers, to round up stray animals, they give them a month in the pound before euthanizing them, that is, if no one is willing to adopt them," he explained, adding that he sees birth control by surgery as the only viable and humane solution to the problem of swelling stray animal populations.

"If parent animals do not go under the knife, their children will be given the needle," he added, explaining that in Taiwan, such animals are killed by an injection of lethal substances as required by law.

The Truck

According to Tung, LCO's mobile birth-control center for stray animals was converted from a refrigerator truck in 2008.

"We are the second place to have it in Asia, after Hong Kong," Tung said, adding that not even Japan, one of Asia's richest countries, has such a service.

"And we retrofitted it with the latest equipment, all of it made in Taiwan, as I insisted," he said, adding that the project cost his organization NT\$2 million on top of the cost of the truck, which was about NT\$1 million. "Retrofitting the truck took four months," he added. Tung said that "a single trip to the south and back costs as much as NT\$80,000 in fuel," explaining that a large part of the fuel is used to keep the truck's interior temperature at exactly 21 degrees Celsius, the optimum temperature for surgery.

"The vets volunteer their services, but we have to pay for the supplies, such as sutures, anesthetics and other drugs," he added.

Approved by the Council of Agriculture

Inspired by Animal Planet, Animal Cops and other animal welfare programs, Tung founded LCO at his own expense in 2005, a year after his creation of a "dog lovers' group" on Yahoo in 2004.

According to Tung, he spent all the money he earned from selling his home in Yonghe to fund the establishment of LCO, of which he is now a paid employee.

"My father did not speak to me for four years after I sold my apartment," he said, adding that the organization receives approximately NT\$300,000 in donations each month.

LCO, as an animal rescue organization, does a lot more than birth control surgeries to look after the well being of animals.

It rescues and cares for stray animals (healthy or otherwise), maltreated animals, animals severely injured by hunting traps, and those injured in road accidents. LCO runs a dog pound in Yingge, Taoyuan County, and publishes a monthly detailing its activities.

Its work has not gone unnoticed. Letters to the editor published in the LCO monthly, some from U.S. citizens, are full of praise for Tung and his organization.

**IN** iphmed : Medical/Surgical Instruments/Apparatus/Devices | i372 : Medical Equipment/Supplies | i951 : Health Care

**NS** gahea : Animal Health | gcat : Political/General News | ghea : Health

**RE** china : China | taiwan : Taiwan | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** China Post

**AN** Document CHIPOS0020120604e8640000c

SE WORLD  
 HD **Outrage at China's offer to remove IUDs after end of one-child policy**  
 BY THE NEW YORK TIMES  
 WC 1,120 words  
 PD 9 January 2017  
 SN TODAY  
 SC TDAYSG  
 ED APM  
 PG 29  
 LA English  
 CY (c) 2017. MediaCorp Press Ltd.

LP

BEIJING — A few months after Ms Lu Qiumei gave birth to her daughter in 2012, local officials visited her home and told her that she was required to be fitted with an intrauterine device (IUD).

For more than three decades, this was national policy in China. The IUD was the government's most important tool for limiting couples to one child, and almost all new mothers were required to get one.

TD

Ms Lu, a former advertising executive, considered the demand invasive, insulting and potentially harmful to her health. Still, like hundreds of millions of Chinese women before her, she made an appointment with a state gynaecologist and had one put in.

Now, a year after abandoning the "one-child" policy, the government is hoping to make it up to Ms Lu and millions of women like her — by removing their IUDs, free of charge. But the offer, made without even a hint of an apology, has provoked incredulous outrage.

"We shouldn't even have had this in the first place, and now the government wants to use it as a form of state benefit for people," Ms Lu, 36, scoffed in a phone interview from her home in the eastern city of Linyi. "It's like they are slapping themselves in the face."

While IUDs elsewhere can often be removed with the tug of their strings in a doctor's office, surgery is usually needed in China because most devices are designed or altered to be more difficult to extract, some with shortened strings and others with no strings at all.

But many Chinese women have chafed at the thought of the government getting involved, yet again, in their private lives.

And for many mothers, the offer has come too late for them to consider having a second child.

"It's the equivalent of someone injuring you and then mending the wound," said Ms Zhang Xintian, 25, who watched her mother go into surgery two years ago in the eastern province of Zhejiang to remove the IUD she had worn for more than two decades.

In China, women often have the same IUD from soon after childbirth until menopause; while popular IUDs in the United States are typically deemed effective for up to 10 years, those used in China offer birth control for much longer.

China began demanding that women be fitted with an intrauterine device after they had one child, and sterilised after they had two, in the early 1980s. Those who refused risked that their children would be



denied access to public schools and health insurance. Civil servants and state employees who refused lost their jobs.

From 1980-2014, according to official statistics, 324 million Chinese women were fitted with IUDs. And 107 million underwent tubal ligations or, as is commonly said, got their “tubes tied.” Local officials were evaluated by their ability to meet targets, leading some to order that the procedures — as well as abortions — be performed by force on women who resisted.

Then last year, confronting an ageing population and a shrinking workforce, President Xi Jinping relegated the one-child policy to the Communist Party’s scrap heap of discarded dogma. And without so much as an expression of regret or an admission that it had perhaps made a mistake, the party pivoted from punishing couples for having a second child to encouraging them to get on with reproducing.

To that end, an official said at a recent news conference that 18 million women would be eligible for the free removal of IUDs in the next three years so they could bear a second child.

“Our country provides support in terms of law, finance and service systems to ensure citizens’ access to the free removal of IUDs,” said the official, Song Li of the National Health and Family Planning Commission’s department of women and children.

But the reversal, the paternalistic attitude, the failure to accept any culpability was too much for some. Within hours of the news conference, the Internet was fuming with indignation.

The mass implantation of IUDs amounted to “involuntary, forced acts of mutilation”, Mr Han Haoyue, a popular columnist, wrote in a post shared nearly 3,000 times on Weibo, China’s version of Twitter.

“And now, to say they are offering free removal as a service to these tens of millions of women — repeatedly broadcasting this on state television as a kind of state benefit — they have no shame, second to none.”

The government’s eagerness appears to be driven in part by growing concern over the economic impact of the nation’s plummeting birthrate, now one of the lowest in the world. According to 2015 data, Chinese women had 1.05 children on average, well below the population replacement rate of more than 2.1.

With fewer young people to support larger numbers of retirees in China, scholars have warned of a looming demographic crisis. But many couples are not interested in having a second child, some because of the potential costs, others because of their age.

Ms Cao Cuihua, 35, a restaurant owner in the central province of Anhui and mother of a nine-year-old boy, said she did not plan to remove her IUD because she and her husband could not afford more children.

“I did think about having a second child, but my economic circumstances don’t allow it,” she said. “This national policy to have two children has come a bit too late.”

Dr Yi Fuxian, a scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who studies China’s demographics, said half of all Chinese women eligible to have a second child were 40 or older.

“Most people have already lost the ability to give birth,” Dr Yi said by email. “The willingness to have children is already very low, so the Chinese government’s offer of free surgeries will be of no avail. It will have little effect on the birthrate.”

Mao Qun’an, a spokesman for China’s family planning commission, defended the offer to remove IUDs and said the government would also cover the costs of surgery to reverse tubal ligations and vasectomies. Such procedures are more complicated, and critics say most Chinese hospitals are not equipped for them.

But many women want the government to acknowledge that its original policy was wrong.

“What they’ve done to women is inhumane,” said Ms Xu Dali, 35, a mother of two sons in Linyi. “Why did the government force every woman then to have an IUD? At that time, why did it not consider the physical harm that has been inflicted on every woman?”

**NS** gpol : Domestic Politics | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**IPD** Foreign Affairs

**PUB** MediaCorp Press Ltd

**AN** Document TDAYSG0020170108ed190000b

**SE** World  
**HD** Sanctuary fights tooth and claw to keep tigers  
**WC** 447 words  
**PD** 28 September 2013  
**SN** Shanghai Daily  
**SC** SHND  
**LA** English  
**CY** Copyright © 2013 Shanghai Daily Company. All Rights Reserved  
**LP**

Dan slurped desperately on his pink nursing bottle and spilled milk all over the place, while his brother Tom patiently waited to take a swim in the family pool.

It would be a typical family scene if not for the fact that Dan and Tom tip the scales at 700 pounds, have claws that could slice a man in two and were raised along with seven other tigers sleeping in the beds of Ary Borges' three daughters. The big cats still amble about his humble home in an industrial neighborhood in the southern Brazil city of Maringa.

**TD**

Borges also has two lions, a monkey, and a pet Chihuahua named Little inside his makeshift animal sanctuary, where man and beast live together in his spacious red-dirt compound, separated from the outside world by tall metal fences and wooden panels.

The Brazilian family is now locked in a legal dispute for the cats, with federal wildlife officials working to take them away. While Borges does have a license to raise the animals, Brazilian wildlife officials say he illegally bred the tigers, creating a public danger.

Borges says it all started in 2005 when he first rescued two abused tigers from a traveling circus. He defends his right to breed the animals and says he gives them a better home than they might find elsewhere.

"Sadly there are so many animals dying in zoos that have no oversight. My animals are treated extremely well ... we're preserving and conserving the species," he said. "We have a great team of veterinarians. We give them only the best, but we're being persecuted."

Ibama, Brazil's environmental protection agency, declined to comment.

The agency is working through courts to force Borges to have the male tigers undergo vasectomies. It also wants his caretaker license confiscated and to obtain the cats. Borges appealed and the matter is pending before a court.

Ary's daughter Nayara Borges, 20, who grew up with the tiger cubs sleeping in her bed until they became too big, says she thinks the big cats would be mistreated if taken away, "and our family would go into a severe depression."

Experts, however, question the Borges family's efforts.

"It's crazy," said Patty Finch, executive director of the Washington-based Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries. "It's a very dangerous situation, especially if there are young children around, they easily trigger a tiger's hunting instinct."

Finch said: "You will see people sometimes get lucky for a while, but sooner or later an accident is going to happen. You never know what's going to set these animals off."

**NS** gcat : Political/General News

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Shanghai Daily

**AN** Document SHND000020130927e99s00046



**SE** Society  
**HD** **Chinese scientists develop reversible, long-term male contraception technique**  
**WC** 257 words  
**PD** 5 April 2022  
**ET** 22:56  
**SN** Xinhua's China Economic Information Service  
**SC** XNHA  
**LA** English  
**CY** Copyright 2019. Xinhua News Agency. All Rights Reserved  
**LP**

BEIJING, April 6 (Xinhua) -- Chinese scientists have developed a potential long-term male contraception technique that is reversible and noninvasive.

The researchers from Harbin Medical University and the National Center for Nanoscience and Technology in China described in a study recently published in the journal ACS Nano a hydrogel injected into men's spermatid that can be cleared by extracorporeal ultrasound.

**TD**

Nearly half of pregnancies worldwide are unintended mainly due to a failure of contraception, resulting in negative effects on women's health. The male contraception techniques, primarily condoms and vasectomy, cannot be both highly effective and reversible at the same time.

The hydrogel is a mixture composed of titanium dioxide, calcium chloride and sodium alginate conjugated with thioketal, according to the study.

The mixture agents are injected into the vas deferens in a one-time procedure, and they can transform from liquid to hydrogel within 160 seconds, thereby significantly blocking the tubes and inhibiting the movability of sperm, the study shows.

When fertility is needed, a noninvasive remedial ultrasound can make titanium dioxide generate reactive oxygen species, which then cleaves the thioketal to destroy the network of the hydrogel.

The fertility rate is thus restored to 100 percent, according to the study.

Ultrasounds can also monitor the occlusion and recanalization process in real time.

The technique could be used in the future as a reliable, safe and reversible male contraceptive strategy that addresses an unmet need for men to control their fertility, the researchers said.

Enditem

**NS** gcrese : Medical Research | gchem : Chemistry | gwhea : Women's Health | gbirtc : Family Planning | gsci : Sciences/Humanities | gcat : Political/General News | ggrou : Demographic Health | ghea : Health  
**RE** china : China | heilon : Heilongjiang | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcos : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia  
**IPD** Chinese scientists  
**PUB** News and Information Center Xinhua News Agency  
**AN** Document XNHA000020220406ei46002mh

**HD**      **Widow finds out about her husband's 20-year cheating**

**BY**      The China Post Staff

**WC**      284 words

**PD**      16 September 2009

**SN**      The China Post

**SC**      CHIPOS

**LA**      English

**CY**      (c) 2009 The China Post. All Rights Reserved

**LP**

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- A widow who was in a half-century-long marriage that had received an award from the county magistrate for the long-lasting union discovered her husband's affair of over 20 years after his death, local news reported yesterday.

The widow surnamed Chen had been married to her late husband surnamed Liu for 51 years when he passed away in August. Upon organizing her late husband's belongings, Chen found a suitcase filled with intimate photos of Liu and a woman he had claimed was his goddaughter, said the report.

**TD**

Liu had noticed her husband's change in behavior over 20 years ago when he was reassigned to a post in Taipei but would leave their Taoyuan residence every morning heading south. When confronted, Liu answered that he was giving a co-worker a ride.

The widow also suspected nothing when she learned from Liu's co-workers that he had adopted a goddaughter 31 years his junior. She had met the woman two or three times and professed to having treated the woman like a daughter.

Moreover, she thought her husband was too old to be committing an illicit affair and placed her confidence in the fact that he had had a vasectomy after they had three children together, added the report.

The couple was even presented a plaque last year by former Taoyuan County Magistrate Eric Chu in recognition of their long union in a time of high divorce rates, the report pointed out.

The widow was heartbroken after uncovering her late husband's adulterous relationship of over two decades, according to the report.

**RE**      taiwan : Taiwan | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB**      China Post

**AN**      Document CHIPOS0020090916e59g0000h

**HD**      **Downturn forces up abortions**

**BY**      The China Post Staff

**WC**      436 words

**PD**      17 March 2009

**SN**      The China Post

**SC**      CHIPOS

**LA**      English

**CY**      (c) 2009 The China Post. All Rights Reserved

**LP**

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Abortions are on the increase again in Taiwan.

Practically every housewife in Taiwan underwent curretage in the late 1950s and early 1960s when the government was rigorously enforcing family planning.

**TD**

It was necessary then, for women in Taiwan had the world's highest fertility rate and its population was increasing by 300,000 a year.

Family planning was highly successful, and the population started growing very slowly in the last two decades, to the extent that the authorities now want more babies born.

That policy remains unchanged, but the long economic downturn has depressed the already low fertility, while more and more couples are resorting to abortions to keep their core families small.

A Ph.D. candidate, who already has a son, had cried three days and three nights before she was finally forced to agree with her high-salaried husband to end her pregnancy.

Mrs. Lin had to agreed to have her three-week fetus aborted, because her husband, who has a NT\$2 million salary per year, doesn't want another baby.

The reason: he may be laid off in the current economic crisis.

What a difference, Mrs. Lin said. She was married late and was about to give up any idea of having a baby when she prayed to a goddess and get pregnant two years ago.

î°All family members, including my parents-in-law, were really jubilant when our son was born,î¿ Mrs. Lin added. î°All of them wanted me to terminate my pregnancy, reminding me we can't afford another child.î¿

Gynecologists said abortions have increased by at least 30 percent over the past year. Most of those asking for abortions were couples who already have children.

Husbands are cooperating.

Many ask for vasectomy. Known popularly as pipe-cut, it involves an excision of the vas deferens, the duct that transports sperm to the penis, to cause sterility in men.

Of course, they may ask their wives to take pills, which have some side-effects. So they volunteer to have a pipe-cut.

Those who asked to be made sterile have almost tripled, a urologist at the National Hospital at Chungli said. î°We operate on two to three men every day,î¿ he added.

And quite a number of them were bachelors, said Dr. Chen Yung-feng. Probably they are getting ready to get married.

On the other hand, the sales of aphrodisiacs have come down. Sales of Viagra, for instance, went down by more than 20 percent, a leading pharmacy in Taipei said.

**NS** gabor : Abortion | gsoc : Social Issues | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community/Work |  
gethic : Ethical Issues | ghea : Health | gtrea : Medical Treatments/Procedures

**RE** taiwan : Taiwan | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | easiaz :  
Eastern Asia

**PUB** China Post

**AN** Document CHIPOS0020090317e53h0000b





SE Columns  
HD **Website language lets down universities**  
BY Art Bell  
WC 509 words  
PD 14 March 2011  
SN scmp.com  
SC SCMCOM  
LA English  
CY (c) 2011 scmp.com. All rights reserved.  
LP

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of trekking through Angkor Wat, the 12th-century temple centre in Cambodia built for Suryavarman II. If you have visited, you will remember the huge faces of the king staring down from every angle.

Our great universities in Hong Kong also have faces we show to the world. First, there is the admirable academic face - strong faculty, bright students and adept administrators. Next, there is the physical face - impressive facilities replete with cutting-edge laboratories and hi-tech classrooms.

TD

But I worry about the third and most visible face we show to others: our language face. After all, the great majority of potential students and faculty throughout the world learn about Hong Kong's eight major universities through our websites. The text that appears has often been prepared by writers for whom English is a second language. Understandably, they occasionally slip up in their phrasing of ideas. (I write this in all humility: God help me if I had to compose a website in perfect Putonghua or Cantonese!)

These language gaffes would matter less if millions of people worldwide did not see them - and judge us accordingly. Here's a potpourri of the kinds of errors that appear: "the number of collaborative projects mounts over 1,100"; "other facilities available shared lavatory/shower facilities"; "the University offers world-class, innovative undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research postgraduate programmes"; "a team of medical professionals and researchers has made the following achievements"; "the University had 21,652 students ... of which around 5,300 mainland Chinese and international students"; "has risen to International prominence in a remarkable short period of time"; and "subject to particular focus are the spiritual ... elements of education". The websites I perused are peppered with such errors and stylistic problems. Take 10 minutes on the internet and you will discover your own list.

So what? Thanks to courage, investment and foresight, Hong Kong's universities are now dominant academic actors on a world stage. If indeed our institutions propose to teach in English, they cannot afford to create poor impressions by public English-language errors, large or small. Potential international faculty, exchange students and our own students raise an eyebrow when one of our "top Asian universities" forgets to edit its own website.

I am not proposing that students and faculty shun any university simply because dozens of language errors occur on its website. But the story of the man who refused to return for a medical procedure to the doctor who misspelled "vasectomy" on his medical chart does come to mind.

Oxford cannot afford to misspell "English literature"; Harvard cannot write "scholers" for "scholars". To do so would be to slip noticeably from their image of themselves and their high goals for their influence in the world. We in Hong Kong now work and play in that company. Let's make sure our website language reflects our exciting academic achievements and ambitions.

Art Bell, PhD, is a management professor in Hong Kong

**NS** guni : University/College | gcat : Political/General News | gedu : Education

**RE** hkong : Hong Kong | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | china : China | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** South China Morning Post Publishers Limited

**AN** Document SCMCOM0020110314e73e0000I

**HD**      **When Chinese New Year becomes like a slasher movie**

**WC**      640 words

**PD**      17 January 2012

**SN**      China Daily - Hong Kong Edition

**SC**      CHNDHK

**PG**      18

**LA**      English

**CY**      Copyright 2012 China Daily Information Company. All rights reserved.

**LP**

To anyone else, the blob of greenish white putty with bits of dirt and a couple of loose hairs poking out looked like a prime candidate for the dust bin. To me, it was as essential to our family reunions as the dry roast turkey with glutinous rice stuffing my aunt always served.

My cousin's pre-war home had the dimly lit alcoves and creaky wood floors that directors of cheap slasher films drool over. All the more fitting for what was to come.

**TD**

As the adults were down in the living room playing mahjong, my sister, cousin and I locked ourselves in the bedroom. Carefully taking the blob from its plastic egg-shaped case, I spread it over the bedside lamp. A large shadow was cast over the room as we waited for the edges of the blob to bubble up.

The blob was passed between us like a hot potato, and then inevitably my elder sister would take charge and mold it into a shape of a little body.

"Who should it be?" she cackled, quite convincingly for a 10-year-old. I quickly shouted out names of classmates, TV stars and absent family members in an act of self-preservation.

After turning off the light, the blob glowed luminously in the dark. Mumbling made-up incantations, we gleefully jabbed the voodoo doll with needles from my aunt's sewing kit. As the years went on, this annual rite would stay the same, but the names would be changed to school rivals, teachers and finally, ex-boyfriends.

More than Thanksgiving and Christmas in the Western world, Chinese New Year means a family reunion and the sweet and sour complexity of it all. It's the only time when grandma's juicy dumplings pale in comparison to auntie's juicier gossip about the second cousin's Botox treatments.

Currently, the largest human migration in the world is testing the country's transportation system like never before. An estimated more than 2 billion passenger trips are to be taken by road, rail and air. The overwhelming majority are migrant workers, who rush back home carrying gifts and fat packets of cash to distribute among family members.

For many of them, this will be their only opportunity to see children, spouses and parents this year.

Meanwhile, in the city, construction comes to a halt, factories are closed down and laundry piles up until housekeepers return. The exodus has some benefits, as traffic drops to pre-Olympic levels and "blue-sky" days become a reality.

Reunions include unsolicited and often dubious advice passed out by well-intentioned relatives. Lack of restraint can be counted on by the elderly, as expressed by my 90-year-old-plus granny who, in lieu of congratulations, instead once advised a brother-in-law to get a vasectomy upon the birth of his fourth child.

For foreigners accompanying their Chinese friends, know that, "You're so fat", "How much money do you make?" and "26? Why aren't you married yet?" are common forms of greeting.

Besides, family reunions are the ultimate source of networking, as more than 70 percent of companies in China are family-owned.

It's annoying I know, to hear the 41st rendition of the time when your uncle won a lucky draw at a restaurant that bagged him a free meal only to have his wallet stolen while dining there. But take my advice and get to know as many relatives as possible. Even go so far as to record their names and addresses in order to check up on their well-being.

After all, you may see second cousin on your mother's side, but I see future kidney donor. Happy New Year!

Contact the writer at: [dinahchinadaily@gmail.com](mailto:dinahchinadaily@gmail.com).

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** China Daily Information Company

**AN** Document CHNDHK0020120117e81h00022

**HD** **Sixty-six years and counting Lee Tian-pei, a longtime resident of Losheng (Happy Life) Sanatorium, has led the fight to preserve and restore the compounds buildings, but time is running out as residents enter their 80s**

**BY** By Han Cheung

**CR** Staff reporter

**WC** 968 words

**PD** 18 November 2015

**SN** Taipei Times

**SC** TAIIP

**LA** English

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**LP**

Although he considers himself lucky to have been able to marry and raise two daughters, Lee Tien-pei says he has lost so much since being forcefully relocated to Losheng (Happy Life) Sanatorium 66 years ago after contracting leprosy, or Hansens disease, as a teenager.

Not only was he unable to continue his education, his fathers businesses also went bankrupt because of the stigma surrounding the disease during that time.

**TD**

I lost my freedom and dignity, he says. But I can never get all those things back. What we can do now is to try to preserve and rebuild Losheng so that our stories can be told and that people wont forget this part of history.

## FORCED EVICTIONS

For the past decade, Lee has been a key figure in the much publicized struggle against the demolition of the sanatorium and eviction of its residents to make way for an MRT maintenance depot in New Taipei Citys Sinjhuang District.

Things appear calmer of late with no more scheduled demolitions or evictions, but the elderly residents of the Losheng Self-Help Association and activists from Youth Alliance for Losheng say that the fight isnt over, as the remaining structures slowly fall apart as MRT construction continues.

There hasnt been a major protest since January, and the two groups are instead busy putting on a series of workshops and activities continuing their three major objectives: site preservation and restoration, collecting oral history and artifacts to create a museum and ensuring the residents medical and care needs are met.

Lee, who is the Self-help Associations honorary president, says he was reluctant to join the association at first, as he was busy dealing with family matters. But the first time he joined protesters at the Executive Yuan, he recalls an official saying that Losheng residents need to make a sacrifice for the six million residents of New Taipei City and Taipei.

I immediately told him he was wrong, Lee says. We are a developed country. We have rights. We lepers are not something that can be sacrificed. [The official] was speechless.

Since then, Lee has attended numerous meetings and protests and has even traveled to Japan, Malaysia and South Korea to attend Hansens disease conferences and see how patients and sanatoriums are being managed in other countries.

Lee is one of 10 residents living in a drab row of prefabricated sheds where he was relocated to about 10 years ago, while another 80-odd former residents live in the new nine-story hospital building a place he doesn't like because it's sterile and noisy due to its proximity to the construction site.

He is able to hang out with neighbors in the courtyard, grow vegetables and raise chickens. Old Taiwanese songs can be heard blaring out of one of the residences, and it feels like a community despite its shabby appearance. Many residents have little to no mobility in their fingers and toes, and once a day, a caregiver comes by to help them with activities such as cooking and cleaning.

Lee says that younger residents used to care for the older ones, but there are no more new arrivals. Forced sterilization also sentenced many to the fate of dying alone. There has been much contention regarding the resident-to-caregiver ratio, another area that the activists have been working on.

Lee married his wife, a fellow leper, when he was 36. The couple first adopted his wife's niece, and later had a daughter of their own. Lee says sanatorium officials asked his wife to leave and cut off her rations until he agreed to get a vasectomy.

Lee was able to leave the sanatorium and find work while concealing his identity and put his daughters through college. He said many children of lepers face discrimination in society and eventually resent their parents, and he's glad that his daughters understand and accept him.

#### RUNNING OUT OF TIME

On a whiteboard in Lee's residence is a copy of the Human Rights Protection and Compensation Act for People with Hansen's Disease, passed in 2008.

Article 8 mandates that the government should, within a reasonable scope, create a memorial park on sanatorium grounds to educate the public on health issues.

In September, the alliance held a workshop where students organized artifacts and interviewed residents, putting together a preliminary exhibition that they plan to turn into a museum.

Having a park and museum is Lee's biggest wish, but this project which has been proposed but not yet approved by the government cannot start until MRT construction is finished because of safety issues and uncertainty about the future.

The activists have been able to win some concessions over the years to slow the deterioration process, but Lee says time is running out as residents are now entering their 80s.

There were more than 400 residents when the self-help association started, but now only about 150 remain. Lee says that he often feels lonely and a bit helpless, as about one-third of the more proactive members have died.

There will be more generations of student activists joining the cause, but there will be nobody to replace us, he says.

Lee says the completion deadline has been delayed again and again and he's worried that they'll never see the day come when the government fulfills the requirements of Article 8.

Some residents say that they cannot die in peace until they see the place restored, Lee says.

When asked about how he felt, he gets a bit emotional.

Of course I think that way too.

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<b>PUB</b>	Liberty Times Ltd.
<b>AN</b>	Document TAIPO00020151118ebbi00006



**SE** FCL  
**HD** **Tricky race relations ; What does Top Gear's 'rock star' presenter think of Hong Kong? Well ...**  
**BY** David Ngiau in Hong Kong david@mediacorp.com.sg David Ngiau  
**CR** TODAY  
**WC** 1,221 words  
**PD** 16 March 2009  
**SN** TODAY (Singapore)  
**SC** TDAYSG  
**ED** AM & PM  
**PG** 28  
**LA** English  
**CY** (c) 2009. MediaCorp Press Ltd.  
**LP**

HOW big is the British TV programme Top Gear? Among car lovers, it's a big deal.

The programme about cars — usually the sort guys dream about and are driven at top gear — is a “top, top show”.

**TD**

The most popular show on BBC Two, Top Gear is watched by an estimated 350 million viewers in over 100 countries around the world, and has spawned franchises in Australia, which debuted last September, and the United States, reportedly due out this year. And when I got front-row tickets to the Top Gear Live show in Hong Kong recently, more than a few friends felt a sudden urge to kick me.

Lord of the radiators

Car lovers are a special lot after all. And in main presenter Jeremy Clarkson, they have their hero. Or, rather, an anti-hero.

He's a charismatic man's man with as much testosterone as the entire squad of an English Premier League club. Not today's footballers, who are a lot more professional these days, thank you very much. Think of the old school football stars who used to drink every day, training be damned.

Top Gear, which first aired in 1977, was nearly cancelled early this decade after falling ratings. But Clarkson rescued it with a new format, involving a lot more stunts and challenges, starting the new series in 2002.

One regular feature would have each of the three presenters — Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May — given £1,000 (\$2,150) to buy a car and customise it for a specific purpose — for example, to make a better, cheaper police cruiser.

In the segment “Star in a Reasonably-Priced Car”, celebrities have a go racing around Top Gear's 2.82km-long track at an abandoned aerodrome in Surrey.

But the biggest reason why Top Gear is so good — and so popular — is Clarkson's witty bad-boy image.

“We all know that small cars are good for us. But so is cod liver oil. And jogging,” he once said.

“I'd like to consider Ferrari as a scaled-down version of God,” he proclaimed another time.

Another oft-repeated quip: “I would rather have a vasectomy than buy a Ford Galaxy.”

Clarkson, who turns 49 next month, is a conservative in favour of less government and regulations, particularly road congestion charges, and is the bane of environmentalist groups. And the tall Yorkshireman, who doesn't know the meaning of political correctness, isn't afraid to shoot his mouth off.

He recently called British Prime Minister Gordon Brown a "one-eyed Scottish idiot", though he later apologised. When he reviewed Malaysia's Perodua Kelisa a few years ago, he said it was "built with no soul, no flair and no passion" and caused an uproar in Malaysia's Parliament two years ago when he said that the Kelisa was built "in jungles by people who wear leaves for shoes".

He didn't retract that last statement.

In his column in British tabloid The Sun, he once declared: "Chinese people have no souls". While in Hong Kong, I couldn't help but wonder what Clarkson thought of the former British colony. For starters, the pre-show press conference was cancelled — the only one cancelled on the entire tour.

Big top act

Hong Kong was the last stop of the seven-city world tour of the Top Gear Live show — think a live musical version of a movie — which started in London last October and swung through Ireland, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Clarkson's two co-hosts for the three shows at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre — the venue of Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997 — were Hammond and local driver Marchy Lee.

The show itself was, well, 75 minutes of cars doing donuts and other cool stunts — the highlight was a three-on-three "football match" starring Suzuki Swifts and a giant inflated ball (inset) — interspersed with Clarkson's banter with Hammond and Lee.

The latter was the de facto translator for the minority in the hall who couldn't speak English. Top-end tickets to the show were close to HK\$1,000 (\$200).

Clarkson did speak with the press on the eve of the show towards the end of the final rehearsal, but it was more of a stand-up comic's routine. It was more of the same when he fielded questions from top-ticket guests at the gala dinner after the first show.

When asked what he thought was the best thing about Hong Kong, he answered with a grin, to loud laughter: "Well, the prostitutes are great."

Hammond later added, in the same laddish vein: "The hotels are great. I walked into one and they asked me whether I wanted to stay for an hour or two ..."

More grins, more laughter.

How much of Clarkson is an act, one had to wonder. After all, a BBC personality would know better than most the importance of public image.

Chris Hughes, the managing director of Top Gear Live, told Today before the show that the journalist/columnist/TV show presenter is exactly who he is in public and on camera as he is in real life.

Hughes also said that the live show was a tremendous success and that they're thinking about a bigger world tour in 2010, with Singapore being a possible stop.

"We want to play in stadiums," he said, adding that he's already in talks with representatives from our wee isle.

Last June, Top Gear's executive producer told BBC Radio that future programmes will feature less big challenges and novelty acts. But how does Clarkson feel about the travelling car circus that is Top Gear Live? I had an opportunity to ask the man in person.

As the gala dinner wound down, I ran into Clarkson outside the hotel, where the man who passionately opposes anti-smoking laws was getting fresh air.

After waiting for Clarkson to finish what appeared to be a heated discussion with Hughes, I went over to shake his hand. Clarkson looked up but I was stopped by his minders.



“Sorry, he’s got to take a call. London time, you know,” said one. The new season of Top Gear is about to be filmed, and there’s a lot to sort out, he explained.

Clarkson moved away to make his call, some 20 minutes passed and the minders kept patient vigil. I never got to ask my question.

When I was last in Hong Kong for work in 2002, I met Angelina Jolie on the set of Tomb Raider 2, where she chatted with reporters. Later that night, I ran into her in the glass elevator of our hotel — her newly adopted Cambodian son, Maddox, couldn’t sleep from jet lag, she explained.

I wished her well on the rest of the shoot, and she smiled a big smile and said: “Hey, thanks so much!”

That’s the difference between a Hollywood star and a BBC rock star, I guess.

Catch Top Gear, Wednesdays at 7.55pm on BBC Knowledge (SingTel mio TV Ch 30).

**NS** gent : Arts/Entertainment | gcat : Political/General News

**RE** china : China | hkong : Hong Kong | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dypcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**IPD** Plus

**PUB** MediaCorp Press Ltd

**AN** Document TDAYSG0020090315e53g0000u

**HD** **Decision over abortion should be women's: study; SOVEREIGNTY: Among other proposals, a report said 18 and 19-year-old unmarried women should be allowed to get an abortion without the consent of their parents**

**BY** By Flora Wang

**CR** STAFF REPORTER

**WC** 318 words

**PD** 10 August 2009

**SN** Taipei Times

**SC** TAIP

**LA** English

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**LP**

The legislature's Organic Laws and Statutes Bureau recently completed a study suggesting that lawmakers amend the Genetic Health Act to allow married women to choose abortion without having to seek consent from their spouses.

As women have autonomy over their body, they should have the right to decide whether to have children, the report said.

**TD**

The suggestion ran counter to the regulation in the Act that states that married women must obtain spousal consent before seeking abortion unless their spouse is unconscious or mentally ill.

The bureau, which offers consultation to legislators, also suggested that married women should be allowed to obtain a tubal ligation or a vasectomy without the agreement of their spouses, as required by law.

The report said lawmakers should also consider amending the Act to allow 18 and 19-year-old unmarried teenagers to have an abortion without having to obtain approval from their parents.

The report also said unmarried women under the age of 18 should also be allowed to decide whether to go through with an abortion as long as they understand the ramifications of their act.

Under the Act, unmarried women under the age of 20 must obtain permission from their parents to have an abortion.

In related developments, the legislature's Secretariat said that the Asia-Pacific Parliamentarians Union's annual convention would take place in Taiwan and begin tomorrow as scheduled.

The two-day convention marks the first time Taiwan hosts the event.

Parliamentarians attending the convention are scheduled to sign a joint communique after the summit, the secretariat said.

Delegates from 14 countries will arrive at Taiwan despite the damage caused of Typhoon Morakot, the secretariat said.

**NS** ghea : Health | gcat : Political/General News

**RE** taiwan : Taiwan | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Liberty Times Ltd.

**AN**

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**SE** Opinion  
**HD** **Delicate art of constructive confrontation**  
**WC** 499 words  
**PD** 29 March 2008  
**SN** Shanghai Daily  
**SC** SHND  
**LA** English  
**CY** Copyright © 2008 Shanghai Daily Company. All Rights Reserved

**LP**

As a subordinate, if you find the instructions from your superior impracticable, would you question their authority?

Many would probably lean towards the latter. However, Kerry Patterson, Joseph Grenny, Ron McMillan and Al Switzler, authors of the book "Crucial Confrontations" tell you that failure to confront in crucial situations might lead to disasters large and small.

**TD**

A plane crash in 1982 which killed 74 people is a case in point.

Judging from the tapes of the cockpit conversation, the copilot intended to warn the pilot about ice buildup on the wings, but he did not have the courage to confront the pilot directly.

The book also illustrates a tragi-comic example in which a middle-aged man who wanted to have his earache treated was mistakenly given a vasectomy. Although he was awake when the staff prepared him for surgery, he did not dare to challenge their authority by asking why the operation seemed to have nothing to do with his ear.

In view of the fact that confrontation is difficult for many people, especially those who differ in rank, authors of "Crucial Confrontations" outline a method to help people handle confrontations more fruitfully.

Perhaps one piece of advice that many would find quite useful is the suggestion for people to approach confrontations in an honest and straightforward manner.

But straightforwardness does not necessarily exclude politeness.

You should meanwhile make it clear to the other party that you respect them and believe in their good will, say the authors.

Most importantly, always stick to the facts, but try not to impute motives.

To people in higher ranks, it might seem easier to require subordinates to change their unpleasant behavior simply by using their power.

However, as the authors point out, the effect of force is temporary, can disrupt friendships and inspire resistance.

So it is advised that leaders should motivate others to change their bad behavior or actions by helping change their expectations.

"Motivation, it turns out, is actually rather boring. It has little to do with clout, chutzpah or even charisma. In fact, motivation is about expectations, information and communication," observe the authors.

For example, a leader might motivate his or her people to make a change by explaining the consequences of bad practice, and pointing out how the actions conflict with the organization's values, which may well be invisible to them.

And it is no less important to help them fix and overcome the difficulties before and during their behavioral change.

With its many practical tips and thought-provoking case studies, the book is quite easy to read.

Yet in practice, the situations might appear to be much tougher than the book suggests. After all, the book's premise is that both parties are rational and understanding, which might not necessarily be the case in real life.

Still, the authors are right in insisting that crucial confrontations are essential and, if well handled, can be productive and healthy for relationships.

**NS** gcat : Political/General News

**RE** china : China | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

**PUB** Shanghai Daily

**AN** Document SHND000020080329e43t0000y

**HD** Life under quarantine; In the first of a two-part series, the Taipei Times examines the long and complex history of Losheng Sanatorium and the life inside it through the eyes of its residents

**BY** By Ho Yi

**CR** Staff reporter

**WC** 1,811 words

**PD** 10 April 2013

**SN** Taipei Times

**SC** TAIP

**LA** English

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**LP**

Tang Hsiang-ming was forcefully institutionalized when he was 19. A promising student at Taipei Municipal Chien-kuo Senior High School, the nations top educational institution for boys, hed been diagnosed with Hansens disease, also known as leprosy. Ostracized by his family and community, he was taken to the Losheng (Happy Life) Sanatorium in 1951 in what is present-day Sinjhuang District, New Taipei City.

But the sanatorium was never a place to cure those suffering from the disease. It was meant to segregate them from the rest of society.

**TD**

[We] were left to perish, Tang says.

In the early days, the main gate was guarded by a police officer. Closer to the building complex, there was another sentry standing on guard who would fire his rifle into the air if a patient walked toward him, he recalls.

Back then lepers were interred at Losheng against their will. Today they face the opposite problem: the forced eviction from many of the sanatoriums buildings because the Taipei City Government wants to construct a Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) maintenance depot on the site. This time, however, the Hansens sufferers arent taking the forced destruction of the countrys only public leprosarium without a fight.

## HOME SWEET HOME

On a summer day in 2007, a group of former patients led a 6,000-person rally organized by preservation activists, calling on the government to stop the planned construction of the maintenance depot. Almost six years on, campaigners have taken to the streets again, but now most of the sanatorium complex has already been demolished. Landslides, caused by the ongoing construction work, have also caused large cracks in the remaining buildings. Though the residents persist, they appear aged and exhausted.

Losheng is our home. As long as I breathe, I will continue to fight, says Chen Tsai-tien, who was forcefully removed from his home in 1952 at the age of 16 after he was diagnosed with Hansens disease. He has lived in Losheng ever since.

## FORCED ISOLATION

Losheng Sanatorium began operating in the winter of 1930 under the Japanese colonial government. It was designed to segregate leprosy patients from society as a way to control the disease. Under the empires leprosy prevention law, patients were subject to compulsory isolation, forced sterilization and abortion.

The Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) government continued the policy of forced isolation when it came to power following World War II. Those with leprosy were taken into custody, handcuffed and transported to

the leper colony. Those who attempted to evade authorities usually failed because neighbors were encouraged to identify and report those suspected of having the illness. Many Losheng residents, now in their 70s and 80s, remember this early period as a time of darkness, as hunger, fear and death stalked the leprosarium.

Lee Tien-pei, who was admitted to Losheng in 1949 at the age of 15, says that when he first arrived, each leper was given a food allowance amounting to little more than NT\$10 a month, hardly enough to live on. They were consequently forced to scavenge for dead farm animals to get by.

Medical treatments barely existed. Painkillers were among the few medications handed out. To make matters worse, Lee says, the clinic was staffed with unlicensed nurses and doctors who often conducted forced clinical trials resulting in permanent injuries or death.

#### BITTER PILL

Some of the doctors working here had previously served in the Japanese army. We hated the medical staff because they treated us as if our lives were worthless, says Tang, who once saw a fellow resident die of excessive bleeding after a throat operation.

Sulfone drugs were found to be effective in the 1940s, and it was proved that leprosy was not infectious once treated. The improper administration of the correct medication Dapsone, however, came with consequences.

The doctors didn't know the proper dosage of the drugs and gave us no instructions on how to use them. We were given 21 pills a week, and each pill was 100 milligrams. So we took 2,100 milligrams each week. But 25 milligrams was the correct daily dosage, Lee says. Our bodies collapsed because the drug destroyed red blood cells. It also caused severe nerve pain.

Lee recalls how many found the pain unbearable and committed suicide. Some consumed large quantities of Dapsone and slowly and painfully died of the complications. Others hung themselves in a corridor that faces the compounds main gate in the hope that their souls could leave the sanatorium after death.

Every day, people were killing themselves, Tang says.

Little by little, residents learned to administer the proper dosages and feed themselves properly. The medical situation improved when real doctors started to arrive in the 1960s, says Lee.

#### SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY

Designed for lifelong isolation, Losheng had everything needed for a self-contained community: generators, laundry facilities, a canteen, a barbershop, a communal bath house, a library and a tile factory, as well as two churches and a Buddhist shrine designed and built in 1954 by residents.

The deep-rooted fear of leprosy as a hereditary, highly contagious and incurable disease meant that even the patients' ashes were not allowed to leave the sanatorium, says Tang. Residents performed the funeral rites and the deceased were cremated in the compounds columbarium.

Life inside Losheng was closely watched by leprosarium authorities which was given the power to arrest and punish residents without court order. Those who dared to sneak out or disobey staff members were placed in solitary confinement.

#### CARING FOR EACH OTHER

Humiliated and cast out, residents turned inward and learned to take care of each other. Many like Lee worked at the understaffed clinic to help fellow residents who were disfigured, partially paralyzed or suffering from nerve pain which was so severe it caused fingers to curl overnight, explains Tang.

Extensive nerve damage meant that they lost the ability to feel pain. Inhabitants were injured repeatedly as they didn't flinch when they cut themselves or picked up a cup of boiling water. If not treated properly, injuries would leave them deformed or in need of amputation. Some went blind, another debilitating side effect of the disease, while others developed mental disorders.

Lan Tsai-yun, a former patient who has lived in Losheng for nearly 60 years, spent most of her time in the sanatorium serving as a caregiver for the blind and the elderly.

Back then, no one had money to hire caregivers, so those in better health took care of the less fortunate. It was a 24-hour task. I woke up, made a fire, boiled water, fed them, bathed them, changed their dressings, cleaned the house and put them to bed. I even had to pour some a glass of water because they couldn't see, says the 80-year-old Lan.

Lan now lives with 92-year-old Lin Chueh, who vowed to be with her caregiver and life-long friend until the day she dies.

#### DIRTY PLACE

Despite the lifting of the quarantine in 1962, throughout the 1960s and 1970s Losheng residents were prohibited from leaving the complex without permission. And, in order to go out, they had to make special deals with those in charge of the residents care.

You had to bribe them give them your food allowance and gifts, says Tang.

Though not all keepers were corrupt, most of the remaining residents tell stories of how they were taken advantage of by their supposed guardians. Chou Fu-tzu, who was sent to Losheng in 1960 when she was 17, says mistreatment and prejudice against the patients were also common among medical professionals.

It was hurtful to see the nurses afraid of touching the door knob or using pincers to pick up our prescription slips to avoid the dirty bacteria, Chou says.

Outside, a hostile world awaited the sufferers, as years of segregation and false propaganda fostered discrimination and unfounded fears. Residents were refused service in restaurants; those who sought employment outside were forced to keep their life in Losheng a secret.

Companies and businesses didn't want us. They knew we were from the dirty place once they saw [the address on] our ID cards, Tang says. We could only do manual labor, odd jobs.

Residents internalized the stigma. Lee, for example, turned down an opportunity to work at Taiwan Power Co. (Taipower), fearing that people might find out about his condition.

Chen and Chou chose to eke out a living by helping out at the sanatorium. They also earned extra money raising and selling puppies, rabbits, chickens and other animals.

#### NO KIDS ALLOWED

Though it was tough to make a living outside, returning home was never an option for residents. Many were seen as a burden on their families, while others were simply abandoned.

Fearing that others might find out that a relative had leprosy, family members would cut contact with them, Tang says. By the time the quarantine was lifted, families had moved and those infected with leprosy no longer knew where their homes were.

Residents recall how the diseases stigma brought shame and ruin to their parents and siblings. In Lees case, his parents were forced to shut down their businesses in Hualien and went bankrupt because of the familys association with leprosy.

Lee started his own family with a fellow leper, and in 1979 the couple had a baby daughter. When Losheng authorities found out they gave Lee an ultimatum: Have a vasectomy or get kicked out of the sanatorium.

Residents weren't allowed to have children during Japanese colonial rule. In the 1960s, forced abortions ceased, but we were still not allowed to raise kids, says Lee.

Infants born to infected parents were either sent away to a nearby childrens home or, if the parents decided to keep the child, hidden from Losheng officials.

Chous oldest daughter was taken away as soon as she was born. She only returned to the sanatorium to live when she reached high school.



Once in a while, the clergymans wife would bring our babies to the chapel for us to see. When the children grew older, we were allowed to visit them at the childrens home, says Chou.

The discrimination that lepers were subjected to was also felt by their children, who were forced to face insults and bullying when growing up.

Even today, there are residents who dont want others to know about their children, fearing that it may bring them trouble. There are also people who dont want friends and co-workers to know about their parents and their lives at Losheng, says Chen.

The second part of this feature will appear in tomorrows edition.

**RE** taiwan : Taiwan | taipei : Taipei | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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SE Nation  
HD **Anger at birth control privacy made public**  
WC 384 words  
PD 15 March 2013  
SN Shanghai Daily  
SC SHND  
LA English  
CY Copyright © 2013 Shanghai Daily Company. All Rights Reserved  
LP

WOMEN in south China's Dongguan City were shocked to see details of their birth control methods posted on a notice board at the entrance to their village committee office.

"Our names, ID numbers, home addresses, and our methods of birth control were all published. They don't pay respect to our privacy," a villager surnamed Xiang from Hengli Village told the Southern Metropolis Daily.

TD

The notices contain the names of the married women in the village and their husbands, their ID numbers, their addresses and how many children they have.

One column lists the villagers' birth control methods, the newspaper said.

Some were said to be using condoms, others intrauterine contraceptive devices, while it was easy to see which men had had a vasectomy and which women had been sterilized. The list was also published online.

In response to complaints, local village committee officials told the newspaper they published the details to help them carry out family planning work and make it easier for other villagers to see whether there were any violations of the country's one-child policy.

"Some birth control methods involving surgeries may charge medical expense and the villagers can apply for medical reimbursements," a committee official told the newspaper. "We published their information to ensure work transparency."

The official admitted they hadn't given much thought to the security of personal information, but promised they would not publish the villagers' ID numbers "next time."

The notices were removed on Monday afternoon after the incident attracted media attention, the newspaper said.

Dongguan family planning authorities told the newspaper the publication of birth control information had been the practice for a number of years.

Under local regulations, villagers share in an annual bonus from the local government, with the amount linked to their birth control status. "Whether there are violations against the one-child policy or whether the violators paid fines for breaking the rule are all linked to how much share the villagers would get," an official said.

"It is indeed inappropriate for some village committee to directly publish villagers' ID cards and their birth control methods," the official said.

However, the authorities told the newspaper that they were now working on new rules to regulate the publication of contraception information.

**NS** gbirtc : Birth Control | gcat : Political/General News | ghea : Health

**RE** donggu : Dongguan | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRIC Countries | china : China | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia | quang : Guangdong

**PUB** Shanghai Daily

**AN** Document SHND000020130315e93f0000j

**HD** Woman has twins using 13-year-old sperm; **TIME-TRAVELING BABIES:** Despite the fact that the father has lost the ability to produce sperm, the 36-year-old testicular cancer survivor has produced two sons

**BY** By Shelley Huang

**CR** STAFF REPORTER

**WC** 381 words

**PD** 8 November 2008

**SN** Taipei Times

**SC** TAIP

**LA** English

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**LP**

When a 36-year-old man named Chen was diagnosed with testicular cancer 13 years ago, he had some of his sperm frozen before chemotherapy made him infertile. This year, that sperm was used to successfully impregnate his wife, who last month gave birth to healthy twin boys.

**TD**

The couples newborns marked a breakthrough in the field of reproductive medicine. It also set the record in Taiwan for the oldest sperm to successfully produce healthy newborns through artificial insemination, said Tseng Chi-ruey, dean of Taipei Medical University's College of Medicine and chief of the school's Center for Reproductive Medicine and Sciences. [They] are time-traveling babies, he said. Chen was 23 years old and still at school when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Following doctors' advice, he froze a sample of his sperm at a sperm bank because there was a good chance that the chemotherapy necessary for treating his cancer would make him infertile. Chen's sperm was stored in a liquid nitrogen tank at a temperature of minus 198°C. Sperm that has been stored at extremely low temperatures have all their chromosomes intact and have the same qualities as normal sperm, Tseng said. The difference between fresh sperm and stored sperm is that the latter has reduced motility, which means that intracytoplasmic sperm injection must be performed for impregnation to take place, Tseng said. Earlier this year, Chen got married and had Tseng thaw the stored sperm to perform artificial insemination. Tseng then placed four embryos into the uterus of Chen's wife. Of the four, two successfully developed into healthy twin boys, born 37 weeks after conception. Both the mother and her children are healthy, Tseng said. Although Chen still needs to undergo regular check-ups and his testicles have lost the ability to produce sperm, he is in good health, Tseng said. Tseng recommended that men about to undergo chemotherapy, who spend most of their time away from home or who plan to have children after receiving a vasectomy store their sperm in a sperm bank.

**NS** ghea : Health | gcat : Political/General News

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**LP**

Beijing 100 violations issued for air pollution in March

Law enforcement authorities fined 100 violators of Beijing's Air Pollution Prevention Regulation, which took effect on March 1, last month, People's Daily reported on Tuesday. According to law enforcement officers from the capital's environmental protection bureau, fines totaled more than 3 million yuan (\$482,100). Another 64 cases are still being processed, the report said.

**TD**

Top procuratorate opens account on WeChat

The Supreme People's Procuratorate launched an official account on WeChat, the mobile messaging application, on Tuesday in an effort to boost transparency. It launched its mobile news portal run by sohu.com, after opening official micro blog accounts on three platforms - sina.com, qq.com and jcrb.com in March. The procuratorate said its WeChat account will disclose information about proceedings in major cases, important judicial interpretations and its work.

Captain America II tops at box office

Marvel Entertainment's Captain America: The Winter Soldier topped China's box office in the week ending April 13 with a weekly take of 260 million yuan (\$42 million), according to a film industry publication.

Starring Chris Evans as the shield-bearing superhero and Scarlett Johansson as the Black Widow, the film has earned about 495 million yuan (\$80 million) since its debut on April 4, figures released by China Film News showed on Tuesday.

Guangdong

Cancer now most deadly disease in Guangzhou

Cancer has become the most lethal disease in Guangzhou, according to Guangzhou Daily. Of every 100,000 residents, 248 had some form of cancer in 2013, and it killed 144 of every 100,000 residents. In urban areas, 313 of every 100,000 residents have cancer, according to statistics from the Guangzhou Center of Disease Control quoted by the newspaper on Monday.

Man with large tumor released from hospital

A man who had a large tumor on his esophagus was released from the hospital on Monday after a month of treatment in Guangzhou, Southern Metropolis Daily reported. The 53-year-old man surnamed Luo, who was a heavy drinker of alcohol and coffee for 25 years, had a tumor that measured 18.3 centimeters long when it was discovered in early March.

Divorce rejected after husband's regrets

A woman in Guangzhou sued for divorce after her husband found she was taking contraceptive pills and thought she had a relationship with another man, Guangzhou Daily reported. The woman said she took the pills to cure menstruation problems, but the husband, who had received a vasectomy, thought she was cheating. The court ruled that the marriage still existed because the husband showed regret and said they still have feelings for each other.

#### Jiangsu

##### GPS navigator guides taxi driver into river

A taxi driver in Haimen drove his cab into a river amid foggy conditions on Monday because his GPS navigator gave him the wrong directions, Modern Express reported. The driver, surnamed Xu, managed to open a rear door while the back of the taxi was still above water and escaped with his female passenger. Xu had recently bought the navigator for 200 yuan (\$32.13) from an online store.

##### Boy, 9, asks parents to stop cancer treatments

A 9-year-old boy recently diagnosed with T-lymphoblastic lymphoma, a form of blood cancer, tried to persuade his parents to stop his medical care after he researched his illness online and discovered the cost of the treatments, Yangtze Evening News reported on Tuesday. Liang Liang's parents tried to convince him that he had a respiratory disease, but he learned of his condition after an online search. The parents said they would not stop the treatments. They earn only 1,000 yuan (\$160) a month and have already spent more than 150,000 yuan on the boy's medical bills.

##### Debtors identified on public LED display

The court of Liuhe district in Nanjing used a large LED display in the city's downtown area to show the pictures of debtors who wouldn't pay. The display included names, ID numbers and amounts of money owed, China News Service reported on Tuesday.

The announcements began on Monday, with 27 people displayed.

##### Authorities confirm new bird flu case

A human case of H7N9 has been confirmed, the provincial health department said on Monday.

The infection of a 52-year-old man, surnamed Chuan, was confirmed on Sunday. He is in critical condition, according to the department.

China has reported more than 120 human H7N9 cases this year, including at least 39 deaths. Zhejiang

##### Security guard fired for love letter to resident

A security guard named Ruan at a residential community in Hangzhou was fired after writing a love letter to a resident of the community, Qianjiang Evening News reported. The woman called Ruan's boss and complained she was being harassed. After being fired, Ruan complained to the local labor supervision department, saying he had a right to pursue his love interest. The department intervened, asking for Ruan's employer to compensate him.

##### Five alleged drug traffickers arrested

Police in Xiaoshan say they have arrested five armed drug trafficking suspects and seized more than 3,000 grams of drugs, Zhejiang Daily reported on Tuesday. The authorities received a report about the case on April 13 and rounded up the five suspects by the next morning. The case is under investigation.

#### Anhui

##### Wrongly convicted men trying to adapt to life

Zhang Hui and his uncle Zhang Gaoping, who were acquitted in March 2013 after serving 10 years in prison on a wrongful rape and murder conviction, said they are trying to lead normal lives. Zhang Hui said he sometimes has nightmares and cravings for meat, which was seldom served in prison. Both men have bought BMW sedans and Zhang Gaoping bought a 130-square-meter apartment. He said he goes on blind dates to find a wife.

## Sichuan

### Pilot, maker of plane fined after landing

Authorities fined a pilot 100,000 yuan (\$16,100) and the manufacturer of the pilot's plane 500,000 yuan after the pilot landed the small aircraft on a road in Beichuan county to refuel at a gas station, China News Service reported on Tuesday. The southwest regional administration of the Civil Aviation Administration of China said the pilot did not have a civil aviation pilot license and the plane manufacturer did not have a production license.

## Henan

### Elderly man tracks down good Samaritan

Dengfeng resident Chen Huaijun, 74, traveled more than 10,000 kilometers to find and thank a kindhearted woman who helped him 52 years ago, Zhengzhou Evening News reported on Tuesday. Chen said he was given three bowls of soybeans by Xia Shumei in Dangshan county, Anhui province, one day in 1962 when his hometown was experiencing a severe famine. He never forgot her help, he said.

## Yunnan

### More than 4,500 still battling forest fire

More than 4,500 people, including firefighters and soldiers, are battling a forest fire that broke out four days ago in the province, authorities said on Tuesday. As of 2 pm on Tuesday, the fire had ripped through an area of 1,350 mu (90 hectares), said a spokesman with the Longyang District Committee of the Communist Party of China.

## Qinghai

### World's longest plateau rail tunnel completed

The 32.645-km Xinguanjiao Tunnel, the world's longest plateau rail tunnel on the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, was completed on Tuesday, local authorities said. The tunnel is also the longest rail tunnel in China, according to Zhi Changying, an official with the China Railway Tunnel Co Ltd. It is part of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway's second trunk that links Golmud in northwestern Qinghai with Xining, the provincial capital.

Xinhua - China Daily

<b>CO</b>	toyz : Marvel Entertainment Inc   dsnyw : The Walt Disney Company
<b>IN</b>	i4941 : Dolls/Toys/Games   icnp : Consumer Goods   ilgood : Leisure/Travel Goods
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**LP**

One Child

By Mei Fong

**TD**

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 250 pages , \$27

Chinese culture is centered on the family. The parent-child relationship is the first of the five Confucian relationships that govern society and among the most important. Families in China were traditionally large, in part because children -- particularly sons -- are needed to perform ancestor rites. Even language reflects the importance of family: Chinese contains distinctive words for paternal and maternal uncles, aunts and grandparents, as well as for older and younger brothers and sisters. And so the Chinese Communist Party's 1980 introduction of the one child policy reshaped a society once steeped in filial piety.

The grand experiment also proved grossly inhumane, yielding, to start with, countless forced abortions. Provincial officials were given birth quotas -- at times absurd ones like "no births within the next hundred days" -- and were demoted or dismissed if they didn't meet them. In "One Child," Mei Fong talks to one cigarette-puffing rural family-planning worker who recalls escorting a woman on the back of a bicycle to abort her third child. A family-planning official now in exile claims to the author that, to meet abortion quotas, some women were forced to undergo operations when they weren't in fact pregnant.

Today the one-child policy has left in its wake a ballooning population of pensioners with few workers to support them and, thanks to sex-selective abortions by couples intent on getting a son, millions of men who are likely doomed to bachelorhood. In less than a decade, Ms. Fong writes, "there will be more Chinese bachelors than Saudi Arabians, more Chinese retirees than all Europeans."

The Chinese government's decision, this past fall, to loosen family-planning regulations was late in coming and disappointingly cautious; rather than scrap limits altogether, China simply moved to a two-child policy. Yet to Chinese people who had suffered under birth limits for decades, the change was hugely significant. Ms. Fong, a fellow at the New America Foundation and a former correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, has written a timely, important work that takes stock of the one-child policy's damage.

At its adoption 35 years ago, the one-child policy was actually seen as a form of economic stimulus. Deng Xiaoping, the leader who introduced market reforms, had vowed to quadruple China's per capita GDP by 2000. Reducing the denominator -- the per capita part -- was much easier than boosting production.

Planners calculated that only a cap of one child per couple would enable China to reach Deng's goal -- even though they had only the sketchiest idea of China's actual population size at the time. (The last census had been taken in 1964.) Although China's per capita GDP skyrocketed, as planners hoped, unfettered growth brought with it numerous costs.



The Chinese government claims that the policy averted 400 million births. In fact, Ms. Fong says, that figure is "an exaggeration based on faulty math and wishful thinking." Defenders of the one-child policy often say that the policy has been at least an environmental success. Such praise seems baffling considering that China's feverish rate of industrialization has led to blackened rivers, polluted groundwater and cities thick with smog. The one-child policy had other far-reaching effects, which Ms. Fong details.

Traditionally, Chinese children are expected to revere parents and look after them in old age to repay them for their years of sacrifice -- an expectation drilled into them by television and media. A medieval collection of tales still told to children features a son who tastes his father's fecal matter to gauge how sick he is and a child who bares his skin to mosquitoes, encouraging the insects to bite him rather than his parents. Ms. Fong follows a 20-something man in a town outside Shanghai whose heroic efforts to care for his ailing mother while juggling school and work turned him into a national celebrity.

The coddling of China's "little emperor" generation has shifted the traditional balance of power toward the young, however. Chinese parents raised under the hardship of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution have devoted unparalleled resources and energy to raising their only children -- and saddled them with unparalleled expectations. There are too few children to support the elderly, and on top of this some choose not to: With an inadequate social safety net and no one to foot their bills, nearly a quarter of China's 185 million retirees live on less than a dollar a day. Rural Chinese villages are filled with senior citizens who lack sufficient medical care, and rates of elder abuse and suicide among the aging are on the rise. In 2013, Beijing even passed a law requiring children to visit their aging parents frequently.

That law is of little help to China's estimated one million parents who have lost their only child. Even nursing homes won't take them, as Ms. Fong writes, "because they have no progeny to authorize treatments or act as payment guarantors." Ms. Fong reminds us that, when we read of a shoddily constructed school collapsing in an earthquake or workers perishing in an industrial explosion, the people dying are often their parents' only children.

The author spent more than a decade reporting from Asia, and "One Child" is evocatively rendered and peppered with quirky characters, including a sex-doll salesman and a dating guru who claims that overly assertive women contract breast cancer. Ms. Fong's description of a Kunming hospice that smells like "pork bone soup and instant noodles mingled with the occasional waft of urine from the toilets and a fug of cigarette smoke" immediately transported me to the hospitals I visited while living in China.

Ms. Fong writes of a village called New Peace where families have resorted to buying wives from other provinces for their sons. She rightly observes that most of the young people of working age -- including unattached men -- are off working in cities. The men's parents arrange wives for them from afar. She also introduces us to a phosphate miner who, after losing his daughter in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake at age 50, reverses his vasectomy -- a product of an era when such procedures were implemented forcefully and often in public spaces "as an advertisement for family planning."

A staff member at the clinic that the miner visits tells Ms. Fong that she often sees female patients who have difficulty conceiving because they have scarred their tubes through multiple abortions. Yet throughout the book, everyone from villagers to scholars echo a common Chinese idiom: Ren tai duo. Too many people.

"One Child" is, like the policy's abolition, long overdue, and Ms. Fong was the perfect person to write it. Born in Malaysia to Chinese parents, the fifth of five daughters conceived in the hope of a son, the author weaves into her book the story of her own journey to motherhood. After a miscarriage, she undergoes in vitro fertilization in Beijing, learning firsthand about a fertility industry that is, ironically, booming in the land of population control. (Because "multiples" are exempt from the policy, some shrewd parents use fertility drugs to have more than one child.)

Unfortunately Ms. Fong's personal story -- that of a woman interviewing families shaped by the one-child policy as she is in the midst of her own difficult path to parenthood -- drops off for whole chapters. Her path to IVF, along with her twin sons' eventual birth in California, is overshadowed by her other reporting, producing a certain disjointedness.

But the eclipse of a personal story is forgivable in a book about a policy that has thoroughly altered the world's largest nation. By 2100, according to one demographer, China's population is projected to decline to around 500 million from 1.4 billion, and most scholars believe that the belated switch to a two-child policy is unlikely to spark a significant baby boom. "No other country has ever shed this much of its population without the aid of warfare or pestilence," writes Ms. Fong. Ren tai duo? Not for long.

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Ms. Hvistendahl is the author of "Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men."

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**CO** hmholz : Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Company

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**NS** gbook : Books | ncolu : Columns | nrw : Reviews | gcat : Political/General News | gent : Arts/Entertainment | ncat : Content Types | nfact : Factiva Filters | nfce : C&E Exclusion Filter | gabor : Abortion | gcom : Society/Community | gethic : Ethical Issues | ghea : Health | gsoc : Social Issues | gtrea : Medical Treatments/Procedures

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dvpcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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**LP**

China's one-child policy was a brutal attempt at social engineering – and its legacy may be disastrous

I was always grateful I hadn't been born in China. I am the youngest of five daughters, all conceived in the hope of a son who never was.

**TD**

My ancestors migrated from southern China to Malaysia, an advanced society, and my parents were educated urbanites.

Still, my father always regretted his lack of a son.

I did not anticipate that I would be living and working in China one day. But in 2003 The Wall Street Journal posted me there, and I came face to face with the single most significant rule that affects life in the world's most populous country: the one-child policy.

"Be glad we're not in the old country," my relatives always said. "You'd never have been born." In a sense that was my introduction, as a girl, to the Chinese culture that prizes sons over daughters and to the choices that the one-child policy - which comes to an end this year after 35 years - inflicted. As a bookish child I would come to see it as one of the most fascinating and bizarre things about the land of my ancestors, part Aldous Huxley, part King Herod.

Working in China I quickly experienced the unmissable aspects of state-ordered birth control.

There were the "little emperors" - solitary children pampered by a retinue of parents and elders.

There were marriage markets for the bachelors and spinsters starved of regular social interaction.

The newspapers printed stories about gangs who stole babies to sell. There was a jungle of paperwork, bureaucratic punishments and incentives that people had to navigate as part of their lives.

Then there was the hidden world - crude operating rooms in drab rural buildings, detention centres and hospitals where the system compelled medical staff to end pregnancies and to sterilise women against their will. China was not simply a police state. It had developed its own population police.

The woman who really explained the workings of the population police to me was a midlevel family-planning official from the coastal province of Fujian named Gao, who had fled to the United States. She laid bare a system of punishments that ranged from the detention of those who resisted the policy (and their relatives) to property destruction and late-term forced abortions.

Gao described how she once turned in a woman without a birth permit who was nine months pregnant. "In the operating room, I saw how the child's lips were moving and how its arms and legs were moving. The doctor injected poison into its skull and the child died and it was thrown into the trash can," she said.

She described a wage incentive for officials, tied to how many sterilisations and abortions they were able to achieve. These bonuses could amount to as much as half of their modest basic salaries. "That's why everyone is so keen to arrest people," she said. Of course this led to bribery and corruption, which feathered the nests of local officials, increased their petty power and made them arbiters of life and death. It was the Communist Party ruling system exemplified.

Throughout her litany of horrors, Gao reiterated that she had no choice, that she was just doing her job. She calculated that she was personally responsible for about 1500 abortions, of which about one-third were late-term. She also claimed to have performed secret acts of expiation. On three occasions, Gao said, she stepped in to save infants who were born alive after their mothers were injected with drugs to induce late abortions.

"I would secretly wrap them up and give them to their fathers. I told them to put the child in their bags as if it was a thing, not a baby, and not to open the bag when they left, so they could get away," she said, sobbing.

China's one-child policy was crafted by military scientists. They proved not to be the best judges of human behaviour. Economists, social scientists and demographers, who might have brought wisdom and balance, were left out of the decision-making. On September 25, 1980, the Communist Party unveiled its plan through an open letter to members that asked them voluntarily to limit their families to one child. The leaders believed that only by limiting its population could China achieve prosperity.

The request was, in truth, an order.

It all began there. The sad truth is that the harsh strictures were unnecessary for economic growth. China already had an effective, non-compulsory family-planning policy. It was called the Later, Longer, Fewer campaign. Even before the death of Chairman Mao in 1976, the party had moved on from his exhortations to make the revolution mighty by having many babies. By the late 1970s, women in China had gone from having six children on average to three.

Many demographers believed fertility would have continued to decline through the existing policies, as it did in South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Thailand. It is possible that, had China followed their path and invested in normal family-planning programs, the birth rate would be almost as low as it is today.

Certainly, its people would be happier.

I found the human cost at its starkest in May 2008, after a huge earthquake ripped through Sichuan, a region of mountains and farmland in southwest China. More than 70,000 people were killed, many of them children who died when their schools collapsed; they'd been so poorly built that people called them "tofu schools" - as soft as bean curd. Some 8000 families lost an only child in the disaster, a statistic that even the state-run news agency, Xinhua, reported. Many could never have another child. They had been sterilised - under coercion.

One of those was a phosphate miner called Zhu Jianming, who had his vasectomy reversed a month after the death of his teenage daughter in the quake. Zhu was 50, his wife 45. They worried it was already too late, but the thought of a childless old age was unbearable. Life in their remote village was painful, they told me; neighbours and friends avoided them, fearing the now-childless couple would be increasingly dependent, borrowing money, asking for help and generally being pathetic hangers-on, since "we can never depend on our children now".

"When we see that some of my former classmates are grandparents," said Zhu, his voice trembling, "it's really hard for us to get through."

Everything in Chinese society is geared towards marriage and family. Even if the government limits you to one child, you are still a parent, like almost everyone else you know. The unmarried and the childless are very low on the societal totem pole. Mandarin phrases such as "bare branches" speak to a vocabulary of loss.

There is now a term for parents who have lost their only child: shidu. By 2010, there were an estimated one million shidu parents, with 76,000 joining their ranks every year. They had become a loose-knit organisation, petitioning the government for higher compensation, priority in adoptions, as well as plans to cater for their

pension, medical and funeral needs. With no progeny, shidu parents have problems getting into nursing homes or buying burial plots.

In its three and a half decades, the one-child policy was not as monolithic as outsiders thought. For starters, the name was a misnomer.

About a third of Chinese households, mainly city-dwellers, were one-child families.

The rest were eligible to have more than one child, depending on a variety of conditions: if you were a farmer, fisherman or coal miner, for example, or one of China's 55 ethnic minorities, such as Tibetans. And then, of course, there was an unofficial exemption for the well-off, who could have out-of-plan children in other countries, or simply pay the fine, which ranged from a token penalty to a wildly exorbitant sum.

The laws of the one-child policy were structured in such a way that the greatest flexibility was given at opposite ends of the income spectrum.

China's middle classes were the ones to whom the rules most applied; China's poor, the ones who faced the most brutal enforcement. Yet most of the poor lived in rural areas where onechild exemptions might be more easily obtained.

For the rich, such laws became irrelevant.

So why did the Communist Party, unflinching on so many of its core policies, decide to end this one? Quite simply because of the law of unintended consequences. The fact that escaped the planners in the 1970s was that China may be the first big country to grow old before it gets rich. Its leaders also know - although they will never admit it - that the one-child policy set in motion a host of disastrous social and economic problems that will endure for decades to come.

Very soon, on current demographic trends, China's population will be too male, too old and too few for continued prosperity. The policy has so tilted gender and age imbalances that, in a little less than a decade, there will be more Chinese bachelors than Saudi Arabians on the planet. By 2050, one in three people in China will be retired, and if they were to form their own country, it would be the third largest in the world, behind only India and China itself.

This might not be a tragedy if the one-child policy had not drastically shrunk the working population that must sustain this ageing society.

Currently China has five working adults to support each retiree. In a little more than two decades, this will shrink to 1.6 workers for every retiree, thanks to all of those "averted births".

Beijing has announced that it will move to a national two-child policy this year, hoping an uptick in births will avert this disaster. But such hopes for a natural solution are misplaced. In 2013, officials had already loosened the policy, allowing couples to have a second child if one of the couple was a single offspring. No baby boom resulted. To Beijing's dismay, just under 15 per cent of eligible couples had a second child. The switch to an overall two-child policy will likely reflect a similar trend for, in poll after poll, a majority of Chinese express a preference for only one child, saying it's too expensive and too stressful to have more than one.

There are a multitude of reasons.

Material wealth is within reach for the first time in history for many families. Cities are crowded, housing is costly, education is ferociously competitive and the graduate job market is a nightmare. Women have not rushed back to embrace motherhood; the first generation of Chinese women with a choice are choosing independence, holidays and the shopping mall.

In addition to those who won't, there are those who simply can't. As in many other modern societies, Chinese couples are having children later in life, and dealing with infertility, which has risen fourfold over the past three decades to 12.5 per cent of the population.

On my quest to find the individual dramas behind the one-child policy, I met a girl of 15 called Li Xue, or "Snow", who could not get the vital document called a hukou, the household registration that is the passport to schools, hospitals, even libraries. Snow's crime was to be a second child, born without permission. She was, officially, a nonentity. Her parents, labourers who could not afford to pay the fines, had left her in limbo. She would be unable to get a job legally, or get married. When she had children, they would inherit her non-existence. She is one of an estimated 13 million undocumented children.

Snow was brave enough to stand in Tiananmen Square each morning holding up a sign that read "I want to go to school". She was never there more than five minutes before the security men dragged her away. The regime is efficient at that.

Ultimately, I came to the other end of the equation - to China's most famous hospice, the palliative department of the 3rd People's Hospital in Kunming. There I found Ma Ke, a doctor who cares for the old in their last hours. In traditional times, most people would die surrounded by their families, passing on to the honoured status of ancestors. Here they often died alone.

As for my own family story? Even growing up in Malaysia, many of the cultural values inherited from rural China persisted - particularly the strong preference for sons. My father was the 16th of 18 sons. When my mother gave birth to five daughters - I was the last - it was considered a great calamity. Until his death, my father never ceased calling his daughters "liabilities". In the new China, we would all be assets. At bedtime, I tell my two children Chinese folk tales and old chestnuts from Grimm or Andersen. One day, I will tell them of a country once so poor, an emperor ruled that each family could only have one child. Of how a great sadness came over the land, and how people gave away their children, or stole others. And how it came to pass that there were fewer babies born to the kingdom, and it became a country of the old. I don't know the ending to this story. I Edited extract from One Child: The Story of China's Most Radical Experiment, by Mei Fong (Oneworld Publications, \$29.99)

**NS** gabor : Abortion | gcat : Political/General News | gcom : Society/Community | gethic : Ethical Issues | ghea : Health | gsoc : Social Issues | gtrea : Medical Treatments/Procedures

**RE** china : China | apacz : Asia Pacific | asiaz : Asia | bric : BRICS Countries | chinaz : Greater China | devgcoz : Emerging Market Countries | dypcoz : Developing Economies | easiaz : Eastern Asia

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