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TRAVEL B5



TINA GILLIES

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The NY film fest begins April 23

ENTERTAINMENT B1

Reflections on a Virtuoso Violinist

Eric Shumsky on his father, Oscar Shumsky

ARTS B2

COURTESY OF ERIC SHUMSKY



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In India, 'Friends' Speak Up for Tibetans

By SUMAN SRINIVASAN
Epoch Times New York Staff

When Sethu Das reached Dharamsala on the way to Srinagar for a casual visit, he hadn't even planned on visiting Dharamsala—an accident of nature got him there. In fact, he had no idea that he would be so moved by the scenes of Tibetan suffering he saw in front of him that he would take action on their behalf.

Mr. Das, who graduated from the MS University in Baroda with a fine arts degree, says he was "moved by the stories of Chinese atrocities in Tibet related to him by Tibetan political prisoners." He founded the Friends of Tibet organization a few months later in 1999. Friends of Tibet "now has 21 national and six international chapters," according to Mr. Das.

In addition to founding Friends of Tibet and serving as director of the World Tibet Day Foundation, Mr. Das has worked with The Economic Times—India's premier business newspaper—as well as Netscribes (India) Limited, a consulting firm.

In 2003, Sethu Das co-founded Design & People, a design company that is focused on helping non-profit organizations, NGOs, and human rights organizations get their message to the public.

The Epoch Times reached Sethu Das by e-mail when he was in Cochin, India, traveling across the country with Friends of Tibet, following is the interview.

PLEASE SEE TIBET ON A5



The Dalai Lama
INDRANIL MUKHERJEE/GETTY IMAGES

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INDONESIA FACING CRISIS: An elderly woman holds her granddaughter and a coupon as she lines up to get a rice donation in Jakarta last week. High food prices have helped drive Indonesia's March inflation rate to 8.17 percent over the year before, an official said early this month. ADEK BERRY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Food Prices Skyrocket

Impact of growing shortages felt globally

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Canada Staff

With the first symptoms of a global food shortage being felt, some experts are sounding the alarm, saying changes need to be made now if the world is to avoid potential disaster. And the day-to-day choices of Canadians and other people in developed countries could play a deciding role.

The growing food crisis is not hard to spot. A quick look at West Africa shows skyrocketing prices for corn and soy—despite a good harvest last year. Around the world the price of corn has doubled since 2007.

In wealthier countries the problem is less severe. However, Canada has seen a jump in bread prices, with flour almost doubling in value from a summer ago. The price of rice also doubled in the last year in Canada, and pasta jumped 25 percent.

In Italy rising pasta prices brought angry Italians to the streets to demonstrate. Nearly 70,000 people took to the streets in Mexico to protest the price of tortillas which skyrocketed in the month of January.

In some poorer countries, food shortages and rising

prices have led to riots. The United Nations World Food Program recently called on donor countries to increase their contributions, warning that a global surge in food prices could lead to unrest.

'The specter looming on the horizon ... is climate change.'

—LAURA CARLSEN, Americas Program Center for International Policy

Food riots in Haiti killed four people in early April, said the U.N. In recent weeks unrest was also seen in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Indonesia, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Mozambique, and Senegal.

The world's supply of grain has now fallen to 40-year lows. World grain stocks are down to an estimated 53 days, meaning if grain production stopped today, there wouldn't be enough to last even two months.

"In North America the first thing that is being felt is [higher] food prices," said Laura Carlsen, currently based in Mexico City for the Americas Program Center for International Policy.

PLEASE SEE SHORTAGES ON A4

Duke Student Targeted After Attending Rally

By THAI TON
Epoch Times North Carolina Staff

A Tibet demonstration on the campus of Duke University in Durham, N.C., turned intense on April 9 as pro-Tibet and pro-China participants faced off.

For one Chinese student who seemingly was a bystander, the event became ugly and the consequences reached her home and parents in China.

The female Chinese student, who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation, apparently chose not to take sides in the demonstration. Afterwards, she was labeled pro-Tibet and became the target of threatening messages.

Her name, phone number, and other personal details were posted on the Duke Chinese Students and Scholars Association (DCSSA) Web site. Pictures and videos of her

were also posted online. The messages have since been deleted from the Web site.

Personal information of the student's parents in China was also posted on popular Chinese Internet forums. There have been unconfirmed reports that their home was attacked.

Adam Weiss, a Duke student and active member of the Duke Human Rights Coalition, spoke to the student a few times. Weiss said the student "seems to be doing OK," but is concerned with the welfare of her parents in China. Weiss said he personally read one of the death threats that was in English and saw many in Chinese (his Chinese colleague explained them to him).

Weiss, who was also at the demonstration, said, "She never said or did anything. She was not involved on either side."

PLEASE SEE STUDENT ON A2

Coral Flourishing at Bikini Atoll Atomic Testing Site

CANBERRA (Reuters)—Coral is again flourishing in the crater left by the largest nuclear weapon ever detonated by the United States, 54 years after the blast on Bikini Atoll, marine scientists said on Tuesday.

A team of research divers visited Bravo crater, ground zero for the test of a thermonuclear weapon in the remote Marshall Islands on March 1, 1954, and found large numbers of fish and coral growing. "I didn't know what to expect, some kind of moonscape perhaps. But it was incredible," Zoe Richards, from Australia's James Cook University, told Reuters about the team's trip to the atoll in the south Pacific.

The 15 megaton hydrogen bomb was 1,000 times more powerful than the blast which destroyed Hiroshima, vaporizing islands with temperatures hitting 99,000 Fahrenheit.

The resulting 4 mile-wide fireball left a crater 1 mile across and 80 yards deep, while the mushroom cloud rose 62 miles over the South Pacific and radioactive fallout reached Australia and Japan.

'It was incredible.'

—ZOE RICHARDS, researcher

Richards said the research team from Germany, Italy, Hawaii, Australia, and the Marshall Islands found corals up to 9 yards high and some with 12 inch-thick trunks.

Compared with a study made before the atomic tests, the team established that 42 species were missing compared to the early 1950s, with at least 28 of those locally extinct.

The team was asked by Marshall Islands authorities to investigate Bikini for the first time since the tests, in part to see if a small diving industry could safely be expanded.

The waters around Bikini are littered with wrecks of old, decommissioned ships sunk during the atomic tests, including the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga and the former Japanese flagship HIJMS Nagato, from which Admiral Yamoto gave the order to attack Pearl Harbor.

'Spectacular' Touring Australia and New Zealand

By CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON & SARAH MATHESON
Epoch Times New Zealand Staff

Divine Performing Arts' (DPA) grand "Chinese Spectacular" theater production has been enthusiastically received by audiences throughout Australia over the last three weeks, and will conclude its 18-performance, five-city Oceania tour this Saturday in Auckland, New Zealand.

Divine Performing Arts Global Tour Update

Zealand. Thus far the audience feedback from Down Under has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Absolutely beautiful, I recommend it to everybody. It was worthwhile coming just for the colors, costumes and dancing ... They are first class performers, all of them," said Konstantin Kourteff, a professor of international studies at Adelaide University.

Ms. Susan Head, a pianist, composer, and music teacher from Sydney said, "I'm having the best night—I'm thoroughly entertained! I'm totally enjoying it."

While the response to the 2007–2008 DPA global tour has been consistently enthusiastic based on

extensive interviews in Australia, North America, Europe, Taiwan, and South Korea, a potentially libelous story was published in the New Zealand Herald prior to the show's arrival in Auckland. The article is written in a tone that suggests an agenda to discredit the Spectacular and deter people from attending.

Spokesman for the show's co-host New Tang Dynasty Culture & Arts Exchange, Jay Zelaya, said the article not only defames the show but also gives the reader the impression that top people in New Zealand are staying away from the show, "Which they are not."

He said the article in the New Zealand Herald was so wrought with errors that it amounts to an "outright attack" on the show, and legal options are being weighed. "In fact, we had over forty VIPs attend last year's performance and even more will be entertained this year."

Throughout the 2007–2008 Divine Performing Arts tour, the overseas consulates and embassies of the Chinese Communist Party have exerted heavy pressure on elected officials, media outlets, and hosting theaters in apparent attempts to interfere with the



OVATION: The audience at the Adelaide Festival Centre Theatre, applauds the opening of the premiere of the Divine Performing Arts "Chinese Spectacular" in Adelaide on April 14. QINGQING LIU/THE EPOCH TIMES

shows.

Following the unusual and overly critical article in the New Zealand Herald, Auckland City Councillor Dr. Cathy Casey was compelled to

write a letter of response.

"I corrected them for saying that not a single politician went [last year], I told them that not only did I go but I am going again this year

with my family ... It is a high quality performance, that's why we are taking the kids—because Anna does dance and she loves the color and the pageantry."

Australia's PM Wants 'Straightforward Discussion' With China

By **SONYA BRYSKINE**
Epoch Times Australia Staff

SYDNEY—Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's "frank and friendly" approach toward China is unlikely to cause a major rupture in the Australia-Sino relations, but any concrete changes will be gradual, say China experts.

Dr. Paul Monk, managing director of Australia's think-tank Austhink Consulting, believes the economic and political connections between Australia and China are strong enough to withstand the new tone. It may also serve as an encouragement to other politicians to become more vocal.

"I would say very little [will change] in the short term, but if more people start being... 'frank and friendly'—where friendly means honest and straight rather than just buttering people up, it may have an impact and I would give it some time," said Dr. Monk in a phone interview.

Last week, Kevin Rudd made his first visit to China since being elected as Australia's 26th prime minister. He showed off his fluent Mandarin, mingled with the top communist officials, but he also made significant political statements.

Mr. Rudd was not shy to confront sensitive topics like human rights in a public arena. He also spoke critically of poverty, problems of uneven development, and problems of pollution faced by China today.

Hidden Words

But those who heard or read Kevin Rudd's infamous speech, delivered before thousands of students from Peking University on April 9, may have missed the key issues.

This is not surprising because the speech was in Mandarin and its main points are hidden in between the lines, says Geremie Barme, who has studied China for more than 30 years. Barme is currently with the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian Na-

tional University. He has also known Mr. Rudd since 1976.

"Kevin did do something fascinating during his speech—he used a word, a very ancient Chinese word, *zhengyou*, and he said, 'I want to be, or we want to be a *zhengyou* of China,'" said Geremie Barme to ABC's "Lateline." *Zhengyou* is "a friend who can, on the basis of their principles and their beliefs, disagree with you and disagree directly and frankly," explained professor Barme.

Although subtle, the point made is significant and "refreshing," says Dr. Monk, who is also the former head of China analysis for Australia's Defense Intelligence Organization.

Yet the between-the-lines messages also hinted at the need for greater political reform, says professor Barme. What some may view as simply "smart talk"—the prime minister spoke of highly regarded 20th-century intellectuals from Peking University during his speech—was in fact a hint to the Chinese regime.

"He mentioned Kang Youwie, Hu Shi, Lu Xun, none of whom were communists, all of whom said China needed constitutional reform, liberalization, human rights—who stood up in the face of monarchy and dictatorship," Barme said in the "Late-line" interview.

Human Rights on the Table

No less telling was Mr. Rudd's open mention of the Tibet situation—a stark contrast to the previous Howard government's "closed door" approach when it came to human rights.

"The current situation in Tibet is of concern to Australians. We recognize the need for all parties to avoid violence and find a solution through dialogue," said the prime minister to a Peking University hall packed with academics and students.

"As a long-standing friend of China, I intend to have a straightforward discussion with China's



CHINA STOP: Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd (2nd R) speaks during his meeting with Chinese Communist Party leaders at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on April 10, 2008. Mr. Rudd visited China as part of a 17-day world trip. TAKANORI SEKINE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

leaders on this. We wish to see the year 2008 as one of harmony and celebration—not one of conflict and contention."

However, human rights activists say Mr. Rudd should have been less selective about what human rights issues he raised in Beijing.

John Deller, from the New South Wales Falun Dafa Association, says Mr. Rudd's mention of the Tibet situation was a "good first step," but believes the prime minister should have gone further. "We need to support him and help him see why it's so important for Western leaders to speak up publicly and condemn the persecution of Falun Gong," said Mr. Deller.

He notes that over 100 million people are currently affected by the persecution of the spiritual discipline, which has been under repression since 1999. This, Deller says, by far surpasses the crackdown in Tibet, which has a population of just over 2 million.

Dr. Michael Pearson-Smith, from the Victorian Falun Dafa Association, went a step further to say that he is "disappointed" that Falun Gong was not raised. He cites evidence of over 1,800 practitioners being rounded up in the last few weeks, which he says is part of China's crackdown before the Olympics.

"We are also getting reports that many of these practitioners die

in custody relatively quickly," he said.

He also notes that Tibet is just "one small part of the human rights abuses that the Chinese government is responsible for." "It's not just Falun Gong practitioners; dissidents of any kind are being put away so that they can't cause any trouble in the lead-up to the Olympics," said Dr. Pearson-Smith.

His views were echoed by Sophie Peer, Australian Amnesty International China Campaign coordinator. "We certainly see [that] a situation of publicly addressing human rights and agreeing to disagree is a positive step [that] we have not seen for many years and we hope this is a

start of a robust relationship," said Ms. Peer.

Australia has engaged in the annual bilateral, closed-door human rights dialogue with China since 1997—discussions that Ms. Peer says have been "not transparent enough." Journalists and human rights organizations have never been admitted to the meetings, and discussions are believed to be merely for show.

China has the highest execution rate in the world with at least 1,500 believed to be killed annually. At least 250,000 remain detained in re-education-through-labor camps across China's 1,100 labor camps.

Rudd's Speech Censored

Although Mr. Rudd's forthright, albeit subtle, approach was welcomed in the West, it was all but ignored in China itself.

Mr. Rudd's speech has been effectively censored in the Chinese media, says professor Barme. All mention of Tibet has been removed, and only sections that acknowledge China's "sovereignty" over the region, together with the prime minister's support for the Olympics, have been widely publicized.

"I hope that the full text of Kevin's speech would be published in Chinese and available to Chinese readers, not just selected highlights, which is all I have seen so far," said Barme said.

Last week, a book was released in China called "Lies and Truth," which attacks Western press for misrepresenting the Tibet crisis. It accuses the media of being misinformed and also claims "undisputable" proof that the Dalai Lama orchestrated the March 14 demonstrations in Lhasa.

"Their greatest difficulty is that they... can't do it in dialogue with the Dalai Lama. They can't simply have a straight, honest dialogue about real problems," commented Dr. Monk.

Additional reporting by Shar Adams, Australia Staff

Holistic-Phenomenological Architect

By **MARLENE AVIVA GREENPETER**
Epoch Times Israel Staff

In this age of alienation and detachment in which people in increasing numbers work on computers, Portugali still plans her projects in the field. During the first stages of planning, she is on site.

With physical tools like ropes for delineation, she goes about the spot, discovering its terrain and character and how the construction will blend with the environment.

When Portugali plans a window, for instance, she does it in the field because it's very important to understand what the subject will see from the building through that window, and what passers-by will see when they look at the building from outside.

When the terrain where the building will stand is not uniform, it's necessary to take into account its peculiarities and to plan every part of the building accordingly. Thus, the planning of a building is a chain of details ranging from the shape and colors of the outside walls to the stairwell inside. Portugali plans the building in its entirety, from its face to the last detail.

Portugali respects the environment as well. For example, she doesn't destroy trees. She tells of

two instances in which there were trees on the development site. In the first case, an elderly care facility in Tel-Aviv, she used two ancient eucalyptus trees to mark the entrance.

In the other case, in which there was a row of trees in the area to be built, she planned the building in the center of the row of trees and placed the windows facing out to the trees, creating the sensation, when looking out, of being across from a forest.

Portugali tells us that in the 1970s, a research group proposed that in those historical places where we feel comfortable despite our not having a connection to the culture, there's a common element that reflects something deep inside us.

"If we can identify those design patterns which reflect that feeling," she adds, "we could recreate those places in this age as well. It's not about nostalgia, but rather about things that can be created if we return to a right appreciation of the world and right design pattern."

Portugali relates this issue to tradition: "In the past there were traditions for every aspect of life. Things were clear. There were points of reference that dictated a language. Now there's no clear culture and therefore no language."

That same research group from the 1970s said that in order to create an environment where all its

members would understand each other, it would be necessary to redefine those design patterns. "It is necessary to find strong design patterns which can recover the lost entrance."

Portugali understands the traditions of place profoundly. Her family has been in the city of Safed for seven generations. As a child she rambled around in the city's streets and synagogues.

The shapes and forms she experienced left their mark on her. According to her, those patterns are related to the physical place of Israel that comes as a result of living as Jews there.

Those are values that can be recreated today as well.

The condition to create them would be understanding that those notions related to beauty and aesthetics are not subjective but rather objective.

Thus, "in those places where tradition is strong, like in the Far East, Paris, London, or Italy," Portugali explains, "modern architecture is very good as well."

"Act of Creation and the Spirit of a Place: A Holistic-Phenomenological Approach to Architecture" won the Royal Institute of British Architects prize, one of 20 chosen by the British Architects Association in the category Architecture Books in the world.

TIBET CONTINUED FROM A1

The Epoch Times (ET): What do you believe is the background for the protests in March?

Sethu Das: There seem to be a lot of conspiracy theories around about the origin of the recent protests in Tibet. The Chinese government blames His Holiness the Dalai Lama and his Tibetan government-in-exile in India for "masterminding" the Lhasa protests.

However hard the Chinese government tries, I do not think they can influence the minds of the thinking people in this world. The protests in Tibet are only a sign of a larger issue China is facing today, not only from occupied Tibet, but also from Taiwan, East Turkestan, Inner Mongolia, and other minority areas. The suppression of Falun Dafa practitioners is another serious concern.

Most human rights violations in China go unnoticed as most people and governments are comfortable doing business with one of the most brutal governments in the world, rather than exposing its crimes against humanity.

ET: What do you think happened on March 14? Do you think there were actually "riots" as the Chinese government says?

Das: I have strong objection to the usage of the word "riots" to describe the recent happenings in Tibet. There was a deliberate attempt from China to reduce the Tibetan people's uprising to mere "riots." The uprising of a people cannot be seen as a riot.

And what has happened and continues to happen in Lhasa and other areas of occupied Tibet is not a riot between two communities.

The Tibetan protesters in Tibet are not fighting the ordinary Chinese people on the streets of Lhasa. Instead they are rising up against a regime which illegally occupied their country and has ruled for the last five decades.

ET: Why is the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) cracking down on the Tibetans now?

Das: We have only seen the CCP cracking down on the Tibetans. In the days to come, we'll witness the CCP hunting the dissidents in Xinjiang. The Uighurs have already started an armed uprising following the death of Mutallip Hajim, a prominent Uighur philanthropist who died in police custody.

The Chinese government will crack down on everyone, including the Falun Dafa practitioners, before the Olympics on the pretext of national security. The CCP has already branded Muslims and Tibetans as terrorists. The coming days will be crucial for both China and all those freedom-loving people inside and outside China.

ET: Do you have any comments about the Indian government's attitude toward the Tibetan issue? Do you believe that the Indian Left is being influenced by the Chinese communist regime and putting pressure on the government?

Das: I feel proud of what a developing country like India has done for refugee communities in general. Although legally we do not recognize the term "refugee," we have done more than refugee status can for all those who were seeking asylum in this country. We have refugees from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tibet, China, Sudan, Iran, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and many other countries. And we have our own people from Kashmir and Sri Lanka living here as refugees.

This support of the Indian government is only at a monetary level, not at a political level. Our foreign policy is only to appease brutal governments. Our government spends millions to maintain good relations with the military junta in Burma, military regimes in China, and Musharaff-led Pakistan.

Once democratic governments come into existence, naturally the Indian government will change its stand. This is the double standard most governments follow. Most governments prefer to be with the rul-

In India, 'Friends' Speak Up for Tibetans



This drawing, published on Nov. 8, 1987, references September 1987, when hundreds of visitors and media professionals were present in Lhasa and protests, led by Tibetan monks, erupted against Chinese rule. Reports of the repression that followed were transmitted worldwide. A year later, Hu Jintao (current leader of the Chinese Communist Party) took over as general secretary of the region and clamped down martial law for a year. Hundreds of Tibetans reportedly died during that time. YESUDASAN/COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF TIBET (INDIA)

ers than with the people—regardless of whether it's a military regime or a democratically elected government.

The Left in India is bankrupt and influenced by China. Their relationship is of mutual benefit as they see each other as the last communists in the world.

But things are changing. Just two days ago, in a discussion on Tibet organized by Friends of Tibet in South India, a very prominent communist member of the Indian Parliament openly criticized China's recent aggression in Tibet. He even stated that the ongoing violence in Tibet has nothing to do with the upcoming Olympics but is a genuine people's movement for freedom. So there is hope. There is a Web page on Friends of Tibet with more about the discussion.

ET: Given your recent travel across the country for the Tibetans, what reactions have you seen to the Tibetan issue and the Olympic Torch?

Das: First of all, we should not underestimate the willingness and power of the ordinary people in Tibet country. This is one of the reasons why Friends of Tibet spends more time speaking to ordinary people in India about the issue of Tibet than to decision-makers. The Indian public and the media were always sympathetic to the Tibetan cause, except in the case of a few communist mouthpieces published from Kerala and West Bengal and with The Hindu Daily. Perhaps The Hindu is the only national newspaper that uses the language of the Chinese Communist Party.

Fortunately, in spite of all these attempts by... leftists, the people in this country remain untouched by the communist propaganda.

India has a history of boycotting Japanese goods during Japan's aggression on China, and today there are thousands of Indians boycotting Chinese goods to protest China's Tibet occupation. What I am trying to say is that the people in this country have always responded to political situations in a responsible manner. And they will continue to do so.

Regarding the Olympic Torch, I must admit that there is a mixed feeling. A parallel torch is being viewed as anti-sports by sports personalities and sports lovers. At the same time, most thinking people look at the event as a repetition of the 1936 Berlin Olympics, which was used by the Nazis for their propaganda.

For the host country, the Beijing 2008 Olympics has nothing to do with sports, but with their propaganda—the one and only chance to show a united China to the international community.

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