

# The Shantou Beat

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER  
英语语言中心

English Language Center Newspaper, Shantou University, China

Shantou University  
汕头大学

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## Do You Blog Today?

Even though blogs play an important part in our life, there are still some people who don't know blogs very well. Therefore, this page introduces blogs. Also, we did a survey on how many students at STU know about the blogs. What's more, a reporter interviewed a senior at STU who told a story about him and his blog.

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## Announcement

To readers,  
When you thumb through the new issue of the Shantou Beat, you will find something different than before. We hope these changes can bring you real benefits—That's our purpose and dream in making this reform. We have tried to make more students read the only English newspaper in our university. No matter if your major is English or Mathematics, all of you are subjects of our newspaper. Our

members are not only from the Journalism School, but also from other colleges. We expect there are different voices from different perspective. In the past, we just published two issues every semester and many students suggested that they always ignored this newspaper because of the long wait between issues. The life of a newspaper depends on its readers. In order to win more readers, we have tried to reform according to their demands. Actually, we made some changes in the

last issue, but that's not enough. Thanks to Dr. Liu, we could have a trial issue this time. All the changes that we have made are designed to make this newspaper more popular—not only the stories, but also the design. Due to its growth, we still have many shortcomings. We sincerely hope students will give more suggestions. We will pay more attention to your feelings. On behalf of every member of the Shantou Beat I would like to thank

every reader. In addition, any good articles in English are welcome. The E-Mail address is shantoubeat@126.com. Please indicate your name, major and contact information attached into your contribution.

Daisy,  
Minister of Interviewing & Editing  
Department



# Listen More & Understand Better



**Dr. Jun Liu**  
ELC Executive Director

Many of you -- students at Shantou University -- show weaknesses in listening comprehension. You complain that the textbook series -- North Star -- is too difficult and too demanding. Therefore, you tend to give up listening. Faculty at the English Language Center have discussed this issue with you and among ourselves many times in order to find out possible solution to the problem and come up with better strategies in helping you improve your listening comprehension. One of our findings is that you simply do not listen enough to understand something that you don't un-

derstand. Of course, there is also a novice factor as you are seldom exposed to authentic listening materials during your previous English studies, and you are used to listening to recorded text with a very simple story line and controlled vocabulary. But in real life, you can rarely control the speed and content of the person you communicate with, nor can you request a different pronunciation and intonation to suit your ears. It is up to the person you talk with to adjust to fit your level of listening comprehension.

I understand that our listening materials are somewhat advanced, but they are all authentic. That is, these recordings are of normal conversations, from normal radio reports, and normal TV interviews. You certainly will encounter many words you don't know, many phrases you have never heard, and many sentences that take several turns before they end. This is challenging, but isn't it your purpose to understand these norms in order to build your communicative competence? If you can understand everything, you are not going to learn much, because you are not learning anything new, and you are simply consolidating the skills

you have already built.

Presenting challenging materials for listening comes with a cost. The cost is time, patience, and persistence. If you want to understand something with one listening or two in class, you probably are not going to feel challenged enough to learn. Listening comprehension starts with incomprehension, to different degrees depending on individual students. It is the incomprehension that triggers your curiosity and desire to understand. It is all right to encounter difficulties in vocabulary, phrases, idioms, collocations, or slang that might impede your understanding. But you should give yourself a chance to listen and re-listen to it several times. You can then consult dictionaries, and read listening scripts, and then go back into listening again. Familiarity takes time, and the more you listen, the better your listening skills, and the better your comprehension will be. My advice for you is to hone your listening skills by listening to something over and over again with patience. By the time you understand what you did not understand, you will have a sense of accomplishment.

## PROVERBS

*Cited from "Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs"*

Action is worry's worst enemy.

You can banish anxiety by keeping busy and active, or by taking action to solve the problem that is worrying you.

The apple never falls far from the tree.

Children resemble their parents in character and nature.

Beauty is only skin deep.

Beauty is only a superficial quality, and may conceal an unpleasant character or nature.

Caution is the parent of safety.

You must proceed with care, and take all the necessary precautions if you want to avoid harm or injury.

A fish stinks from the head.

A corrupting influence often spreads from a leader to the rest of the organization or group.

The darkest cloud has a silver lining.

Even the most unpleasant experience or depressing situation may have a consoling aspect or hopeful prospect; Used to raise somebody's spirits, or said by those who discover a hidden advantage in their misfortune.

Believe only half of what you see and nothing you hear.

Do not be too ready to believe all the evidence of your eyes and ears; Used as a warning to beware of false appearances and rumors.

The devil is in the details.

The details of something are of paramount importance, and you should always examine or pay attention to them in any proposition you are considering or any project you undertake.



## The Derivation of English

Translated by Kang Qibing  
03 English



Dear John Letter

This idiom may day back to World War II. Originally, it referred to the break-up letter which females like wives, fiancés and lovers wrote to soldiers. The affectionate form of address "Dear John" at the beginning and the cold-blooded content in the letter became self-contradictory, which made it considerably ironic. Nowadays, the idiom "Dear John Letter" is still widely used in American spoken English. Generally, it refers to break-up letters, especially ones that females write to males. Sometimes it may refer to a "letter that annuls a marriage contract" as well. "Dear John Letter" is usually abbreviated to "Dear John".

Hot Dog

Hot dog is a kind of food with hot sausage, mustard and seasoning served in a soft bread roll. Its translation in Chinese is "Hongchang Mianbao". However, it seems that people prefer to translate it directly as "Regou". Sometimes it also refers to "smoked hot sausage (served in bread roll)". The term hot dog began to show up in publication around 1900. The American critic and journalist Henry Louis Mencken, famous for his language masterpiece, *The American Language*, had once done research on the derivation of "hot dog". He found that bread roll with sausage had been sold in America for years. However, the first one to make bread with smoked hot sausage, mustard and seasoning served in a soft bread roll must be Harry Stevens, stallholder of a snack booth in the Polo Grounds of New York. According to Henry Louis Mencken, this popular food was named by T.A.Dorgan, who enjoyed his fame for a time as a caricaturist. Many

people at that time believed that sausage was made of dog meat, an idea that the caricaturist might have held as well. Hearing the stallholders hawk on cold days, "Get your red hots", T.A.Dorgan blurted out the name "hot dog". He even drew hot dogs as bread rolls with beagles sandwiched between in his caricature, which aroused the Coney Island



Chamber of Commerce's indignation. The Chamber made a decision to prohibit the stallholders from using the name "hot dog". Instead, people should only use "Coney Island", "red hots", "frankfurters" or the like. This prohibition on the contrary made "hot dog" spread widely and finally became popular in spoken English.



# The First Foreign Songs Singing Contest at STU



Candy  
03 literal Arts

The semifinal of the First Foreign Songs Singing Contest in STU was held in the Science Hall, on May 14th while

the final was held a week later. The liberal and Arts College held this contest to improve the ability of using foreign languages and enhance the students' interest. As it was said, each contestant could give a vocal solo or chorus in English,

French or Japanese. The method of scoring was quite different from other singing contests. Audiences could give grades to the contestants but not judges. It was believed that the contest was a creative and intriguing activity.

## The ELC Cross Country

Ava  
05 Journalism

Sunday April 23rd.  
2006---The ELC (English Language Center) Cross Country sponsored by English Corner, English Lounge and Creative Expression Club was held on this shining Sunday morning on campus, with 16 groups competing. This activity was mainly aimed at promoting the three sponsoring organizations.

The activity lasted more than two hours. All the groups have crossed the fixed route and passed ten obstacles on the way. The first prize winners were rewarded with 80



Yuan Anybar coupons. The second prize and the third prize were separately awarded a 60 Yuan coupon and a 40 Yuan coupon for Anybar.

"We were successful because every member of us has tried our best," said Wu Yanshan from journalism school, sweating and grinning.

## Shopping Goes Online at STU

Money  
03 Journalism

After more than one year's negotiation with Wal-Mart which is the biggest supermarket in the world, the network center in STU finally made online shopping on campus come true. E-shop, short for "Easy Shop", is the first website aiming to provide only teachers and students a platform for ordering goods in Wal-Mart at discount prices. The e-shop website, eshop.stu.edu.com, opened formally on March 17th following a two-week trial.

Similar to the regulation of normal online shopping, consumers need to register to become a member of e-shop as the first step. The e-shop members can order the goods showed on the website and pay money via smart card.

Until now, there are almost 700 kinds of goods on the website. However, it is far from meeting the needs of online shopping. Lacking of variety in goods is the biggest obstacle to boosting consumption. Xu Biyu, a junior majoring in the Journalism School felt a little disappointed in this new project. "I do want to experience online shopping, but I can't find what I want on the website. I have no other choice but to give up."

To solve this problem, the network center continually updates the goods and adds new products based on students' requirements. Considering the future devel-

opment, Zheng Yingling, the director of business developing department in the network center made a promise that "we brought the whole Wal-Mart into STU on 20th May", which means that all the goods in Wal-Mart had been available to be ordered on e-shop website now.

Besides the lack of variety in goods, low efficiency to deliver the goods is another big shortcoming. According to the agreement, Wal-Mart promises to deliver the goods to STU in one or two days as long as the order expense reaches 2000 RMB. However in the past, the total order expense is only about 700 RMB. "Even though the order expense can't reach 2000 RMB, Wal-mart still delivers the goods at least once a week," said Zhu Yi who is now in charge of e-shop project.

Different voices vary from different people. Some highly appreciate it because online shopping saves money and time, and they think that the e-shop website demonstrates the school's resolve to make itself more service-oriented. Others prefer shopping around more than online shopping. At the same time, a hot debate about whether e-shopping is profitable has begun on BBS. To respond to students' doubt, Zheng Yingling said with 100% confirmation that this new project is totally non-profit. "The school sets up eshop with the pure hope to bring convenience to teachers and students."

## Science & Technology Illuminates Future

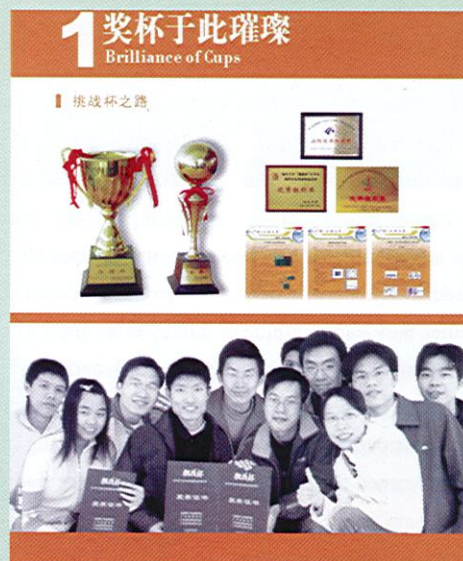
Tany  
04 Engineering

Do you know the Technology Festival of the Engineering College? Students of the Engineering College, following the organization and guide of the college,

took part in all kinds of activities, for instance, *Challenge Cup*, Electronic Competition and ACM Program Design Competition. They were pleased with their achievement.

SHANTOU UNIVERSITY has become the first member of CDIO among all the Chinese universities in the new semester. Seizing this opportunity, the Engineering College will hold the third Technology Festival to foster and test the students' abilities. It contains the Computer Comprehensive Ability Competition, the Mechanical Creativity Competition, the Construction Structure Design Competition, the Construction Material Design Competition and the Electronic Design Competition.

This festival will show us the charm of the Engineering College at the end of the July.





## Fruit Is More Dangerous When Forbidden

Jocelyn  
03 English

Though Chinese society is becoming more and more open, China has a conservative sex culture compared to the west. In most western countries, they even do not divide sex into premarital sex and after marriage sex, so of course, premarital sex is not a problem put onto the table. While in China the debate about whether premarital sex is morally accepted goes fiercely.

Before I went to college, I never dared to talk about sex in public. Whenever I saw people kissing on TV, I would cover my eyes with hands to avoid embarrassment, but at the same time I would peep through my fingers shyly. I couldn't un-

derstand my contradictory actions until now. Unconsciously I did something that followed the cultural attitudes, without judging whether it is right or wrong. Most of the Chinese youth would have the same experience as me.

In China, premarital sex is the forbidden fruit, which attracts the young generation's curiosity. The more mystery surrounds premarital sex, the more youths want to try it.

At the same time, the conservative mind results in poor sex education. With little knowledge about the health and safety of sex, many tragedies occur, such as the abortion issue. Ironically, the conservatives think it is the premarital sex that causes abortion problems. However, it is due to the lack of sex education.

Li Ao said in his speech in Beijing University, that Denmark was one of the earliest countries to open sex. In the first year when the country established the policy that people were allowed to watch pornographic movies, the rate of rape crimes had decreased by 16%.

Once the attitudes towards sex are open-minded, sex will not be divided into two parts: premarital sex and after marriage sex. The only difference between these is that marriage gives more qualifications to deal with the consequences of sexual behaviors.

What we should do is to get youths to ask this question: Do I have enough sex education? If not, please go to learn more to become more qualified before actually getting involved with sex.



Ground of our basketball court is rough.



To couples in campus: "Are you ready to be responsible for your behavior if you want to try the forbidden fruit premarital sex?"

Photo by Chava, 04 Journalism

## Make A Better World

Kitty  
04 Liberal Arts

Frankly speaking, I didn't truly understand the significance of donation until I attended the university. Before, whenever I saw asking for contributions ads on TV, either for people with serious illness or that suffered from natural disasters, I always felt indifferent, thinking such misfortune would not happen around me and hence it was none of my business. Meanwhile, I was just a student, one that did not have money for extra expenses. I kept saying to myself it was not that I lacked sympathy, but that the money I should have donated was too little to help the unfortunate.

However, my opinions changed after I entered the university. I have already seen several activities of raising

money held for the students who are seriously ill. It shocks me that we are just like each other, studying at the same college and enjoying our college lives greatly, but God chose to do something unfair to him or her. Never have I had such a strong feeling that a life can be so fragile, and the power of money can change a person's destiny. To those who can save their lives by extremely expensive operations and medicines that they cannot afford, raising money is significant. And to those students who are uncertain whether they can continue to live by an operation, money still gives them hope. From all these facts happening around me, I have learned that raising money is by no means just to show generosity and sympathy

to others. Now, whenever I see a donation box, I will willingly put money in it—not enough for the high medical expenses but the most I can offer. After all, "Many a little makes a mickle."

There is no doubt that raising money does good to both those who need and those who donate. It makes people get into the habit of helping others. Our world would be full of love if all the people had an eagerness to help. After all, "Many a little makes a mickle."

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## Improvement Is Obligatory

Pander Serena  
05 Chemistry & 05 Liberal Arts

When walking in our campus, you can find some students standing near the basketball court or football field. What are they doing? Watching others' playing? No, they are waiting for a place to do exercise. As the number of students increases year by year, the average sports facility decrease. It is time to improve our sporting equipments.

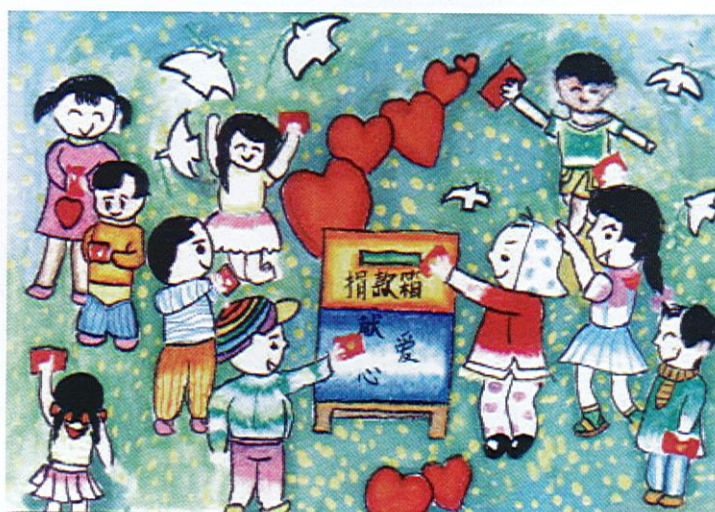
Girls complain that when they are running along the racetrack, they have to escape from the ball. Because there is no enough ground to play football and boys have to play inside the racetrack.

There are few ping-pong tables in our university. If students want to play ping-pong, they must pay 5 yuan an hour, play it in the sports building, and leave by the due time. In that case, playing ping-pong is not recreation, but consumption.

If students' demands of doing exercise can't be met, they would spending an afternoon on playing PC games or waste their

time surfing the net. Most important of all, it may cause conflicts between some sport fans. There is an example. When some football players were playing in the skating rink as they cannot find other places to do it, some members of skate association came. They had an argument and the situation became worse after someone was injured.

How can we solve all the problems mentioned above? To build more playgrounds is a good way. School administration should take improving the sporting facility serious. It is of real interest to the students at large.





# Open the Door for Hope

**Natalie**  
05 Liberal Arts

If it were not for him, a high school student suffering from a fatal disease would still be hideously tormented by pain. If it were not for him, her parents and relatives would still live in terrible dread of losing their beloved child.

Feng Yongjun, a postgraduate of Higher Education Research Institution of STU, as well as one of the founders of Shantou University Care Life Charity Foundation (short for CCF), is extremely noticeable in our university these days because of his recent project to help this girl.

## Controversial Work

Many people might be puzzled why Feng wants to help someone who lives out of our sight. While Feng Yongjun believes, "human being draw close to one another by their common nature", So he sets up the

foundation, hoping to turn people's sympathies into building up practical help. CCF's recent project is that girl's case, which helped gain a total amount of 21554 yuan for her treatment.

## Tough Work

There's always no royal way for starting and operating a thing. "A burst of passion vanishes easily," Feng said, so he aimed to establish a formal and long-lasting foundation. "I handed in the proposal on Feb 4th, 2005 and got the final response almost a year later". Additionally, CCF did an exhaustive study of the former cases of donation in STU and found some disadvantages in the previous ones. "Then we figured out our own way of doing things: for example, changing the previous station-point donation to present serve-to-dorm donation, which gained favorable commends from the students." Feng admitted that persistence is needed, and sometimes he has to handle



problems by his full intelligence and with what of his group. "Fortunately, during my time in the college debate team, I improved a lot on critical and logical thinking."

"The biggest problem is I will go for my

further study, which prevents me from seeing the CCF grow. However, I'm now training a group of successors and I deeply hope that I can continue working in it no matter where I will be."

## Life As An Emcee

**Megin**  
05 Liberal Arts

I strongly believe you were all impressed by one of the emcee who always appears in the stage of our Great Hall, the humorous and extraordinary one who gave us a satisfactory charge. He is Zhu Zhenshi who is a sophomore in journalism major.

Zhu Zhenshi had emceed many various contests and parties from the time he entered STU until now. In the opening ceremony of CUBA 2004, on the stage

Zhu has his own standard of being a successful emcee. Zhu said frankly, "I know what the audiences like to hear, and also, I'm aware of what should be spoken and what should not." Zhu prefers the "Taiwan broadcasting style", which we can see in his emceeing. He talks in a much more relaxing and humorous manner which gives more examples from our daily life, attracting audiences' attention and make them laugh. "There are a lot of people who have that kind of talent. The problem is that they don't show it." He says.



emceeing excellently he was gained high appraisal from teachers and students. He also appeared as an emcee in many other parties such as the "Si Jin She qu (四进社区)", and last semester's singing contest final. He gave outstanding emceeing. We could hear his voice resounded in the air when we were walking down the passages of our university. Zhu really drew much attention.

Some people said he is too aggressive, but some think he does well to get along with all of his responsibility. "However, I believe most of them will recognize my achievement in emceeing." He responds.

Besides being an emcee, Zhu also does well in debate and drama. When asked about his plan for future, his answer is -- he will develop his emceeing.

# Her Influence In My Gloomy Days

**Ester**  
04 Accounting

Life is long, something or someone may be easy to forget or disappear, while some can make your life different by being part of your memory. One of these memorable people in my life is my English teacher in the New Oriental School, who told me to look for the bright light in the darkness. Now I remember it as it were yesterday.

Those days were cold, dark, and dreary. It rained, and the wind was never weary. The

winter of Chengdu is always that like, and my mood is the same. That was an extremely hard time for me to face. The high goal which I made was too hard for me to reach, it really got me down.

It was my first day in the New Oriental School, and everything surrounding me was strange, I was in my worst state. However, the result of my journey there was unexpected and made me shocked. Miss Liu first appeared on the stage with a sweet smile on her face as a breeze touched my face. "Please believe that there is really an unlocked door waiting for you to open. Look for the bright light in the darkness and you will see it at the end of the tunnel. Dream is permanent patience. At last what I want to say is that happiness is determined by what you desire minus what you can get," she said. Suddenly my heart turned bright and full. That's right, someone's happiness and success needs not only patience and courage but also proper goals and planning.

Even though Miss Liu didn't recognize me, even though she was just a passing traveler in my life, her words made me clearly know who I am and what I should do. For someone the experience may be inappreciable, while for me it is a treasure which I will keep in my heart forever.





# The Girls From Romania

Vivian, Sadonna, and Germany

People may gaze at them because of their eye-catching western appearance whenever they go anywhere. Or maybe people notice the fresh perfume that floats in the air when they pass by. They go everywhere together just like a pair of twins who are the only foreign students in the Journalism School of Shantou University.

Luciana, a Romanian with western charming character and a healthy color of skin, always smiles and shows her amiable character through her eyes.

Camellia, also an easygoing Romanian girl with a slim body shape and a sweet smile, shows her maturity from her speech.

Just like normal students, they are also always striving for a degree in Shantou University. But, there's something different which is that they have already received a *Bachelor of Arts degree* in Romania. Now, they are studying and struggling for another degree in China.

## Traveling To Cities That Are Mentioned In The Book

Like many young people, they love traveling around the world. They have been to several European countries before they came to China. They have been interested in China since they learned some Chinese from their college in Romania. They love China in a more profound way than many young Romanians. They think the best way to learn its language is to be in its culture, and to know its history. They prefer traveling by train and bus rather than plane, so that they can spend more time with local people, and seen more earthy landscape. They have been to *Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Xi'an, Xiamen, Nanjing, and Shenzhen*. When asked them which one is their favorite Camellia replied, "It's hard to say which one, because they are different. They have their traits. I like all of them." Luciana nodded.



## "We Can Learn Something From Television"

Luciana and Camellia share the same hobbies. "It's easy to learn Chinese from watching Chinese television," both of them said. As a matter of fact, they love not only Chinese television, but also Chinese songs and Chinese movies. When talking about which movies they like the most, Luciana likes "Hero" most, while Camellia's favorite is "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon". They also sang popular songs of China with us. "We can learn something from these, not only the language, but the culture" Camellia added.

Camellia tells us she used to love cosmetics, clothes, and perfume in their country. After viewing various people, cultures, and places, she finds make-up indifferent. Now she doesn't care about them anymore. "Casual wear is quite OK. I usually surf the internet now. It's much more important to get information widely."



## Job Hunting & The Future

Talking about considering in China in the future, they become quiet for a moment. A serious expression appears on their faces. "We don't know," they said. "Exactly, we don't know." Although they can already speak Chinese fluently, Chinese writing is still a tough problem for them. "We found some difficulties to study in Chinese for certain subjects of journalism" said Camellia.

"We still have no idea if we will go back to Romania after we graduate" said Luciana. "We still don't have a plan for ourselves after we graduate," Camellia added. They have been here for five years, and they were smart enough to get familiar with the language and culture. "They fully understand they need jobs to feed themselves. Through their eyes, we can read that they have experienced a lot and changed a lot and forcedly or spontaneously, they are growing."

They make us think of ourselves. Youth always carries abundant hopes and curiosity. Meanwhile, society has us confront difficulties and failures. To become mature we have a great deal to learn and a long way to go. We should stick to our beliefs and get ourselves ready for barriers.

Go straight and bravely to carry our dreams. Here we wish everyone success.



- 1 Hero <英雄> directed by Yimou zhang.
- 2 Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon <卧虎藏龙> directed by An li.

## "I Can Speak Chaoshan Dialect"

We were all surprised when Camellia said Luciana could speak Chaoshan dialect. While Luciana shook her head, a few seconds later she said, "Only a little. I know, if I can speak Chaoshan dialect, it will be cheaper and more convenient to get the purchases. I learned it from surroundings. Gradually, I can speak a few words and sentences." In fact, both of them were majoring in Chinese before they came to China. The relationship between culture and language is: the more we know about the culture, the more language we will learn.



## Constellation Zone



**Libra:** As they are highly sensitive to love, it's quite natural that they take it seriously. They cannot bear their lovers' unfaithfulness because of their tremendous feeling for equilibrium. Once it happens, all that they will do is to continue with their own way without saying a word.

**Motto:** God is fair!



**Scorpio:** Success or failure in career is extremely important to them, this is what they value. Although they are as active as Taurus in material desires, to be different, they will work harder and more bravely to seek what they want after their failure. One may well say that their courage mounts as setbacks progress.

**Motto:** There is nothing I can't make!



**Sagittarius:** Their nature is to seek new things; setbacks will make them full of enthusiasm instead of deep frustration. The big hit to them is their friends' sellout. At that time they will behave in a crazy manner. It's better for them to release anger.

# Expectation From Li Lanqing to Our College Students

Kitty  
04 Liberal Arts

On March 31st, there was a lecture called Music. Art. Life at the Great Hall. Despite not being long, no more than four hours actually, the speech given by Li Lanqing, our former vice-president, was so wonderful and encouraging that it gained continually fierce applauses from the excited students again and again.

Li is such a powerful and successful giant. What he was most eager to share after retiring was not his unusual career as a politician but his passion and enthusiasm on music. Thinking highly of music, Li, throughout his whole speech, talked a lot about his understanding of music and also the important part music had played in his daily life. Not a single student at the auditorium at that time hadn't been impressed by his stirring utterance.

When speaking of the influence of music on science, Li pointed out, "Music and science are interactional." Then he laid out examples of some famous persons, like Einstein, physicist Li Zhengdao and Qian Xuesen-"father of spaceflight". All are typical scientists who are known by not only the success on their research field but also their profound understanding on music. "The charm of music is in that it can make a mind smarter, a job more efficient, a study more active, a leadership more artistic and a life more perfect.", Li concluded.

At last, Li expressed his great expectation for all our college students. He hoped that every student would know something about music, including the composers and the music background. When a student asked how to combine their life with music for those who were complete fools on music, Li answered, "I don't mean you all want to be musicians. I simply hope that you can become music lovers. As long as there is a passionate and appreciative heart to life, I believe you will find the real beauty of music through listening. Anyway, music itself is a reflection of life."

Life is more than just going after a dream or endless material enjoyment. There is something in life that makes it more valuable and significant. To Li Lanqing, that is music. To all the college students, it may be music too. After all, as modern college students, however clever and intelligent, if they do not know who Fryderyk Franciszek Chopin, they can not be identified as true qualified students.

## Constellation Zone



**Motto:** I can bear it!



**Capricorn:** The deeper they love, the more they suffer. Don't be confused by their appearances. Possibly even after they have love in their hearts, they will still work in all seriousness. Therefore, it's common that their lovers are booked by others before they express love clearly. Although they are all in a fluster, what they do is to let sadness lay buried deep in their hearts.

**Motto:** What does not belong to me is not mine after all!



**Aquarius:** It's not because they don't pay attention to develop love but it's hard for them to find time. So their love affairs are usually of the FLASH type and love won't hit them since they are numb. What really bothers them is that they cannot find a person who understands them perfectly; even if they have many friends.

**Motto:** Choose a way out of the ordinary!



**Pisces:** It's natural that the sensitive and frail group think much of sentiment and job. To them, there is nothing more important to relatives. It pains them a lot to be misunderstood by the family. However, proceeding from love, they never really quarrel with them.

**Motto:** The deeper loved, the more blamed!

Article is translated from: [http://www.6887.net/xingzuo/4ziwo\\_aw.htm](http://www.6887.net/xingzuo/4ziwo_aw.htm)

Photos are from: <http://www.51grow.com.cn/xingzuo/xxuu/as67.htm>

## My Life-Long Pursuit of Calligraphy

Cookie  
05 Business Management

When I first entered my grandfather's sanctum, I curiously gazed at the four treasures of the study-writing brushes, ink stick, ink slab and rice paper. I was fascinated to watch the deft hands of my grandfather at work. The whole afternoon, I became quiet and practised hand-writing instead of playing with children from the neighborhood. I was enchanted by the power of calligraphy, and I believe it would be my life-long pursuit.

From then on, I have devoted much time and effort to the transcription of ancient calligraphic masterpieces. Fortunately, I had a

natural aptitude for hand-writing, and was led across the threshold soon. The smooth and free ink lines flowing from my brush had begun to resemble those of my teacher. Owing to my diligence and passion, the style turned expressive and contained a certain momentum; the variations in size became also appropriate. I believe the more you know, the more you will appreciate the art of Chinese Calligraphy as every structure of a script embodies its own grace.

As art is a vital part of human life, recreating life with hand-writing gives me immense freedom and joy. I write classic poetry and compose my own works, crammed with satisfaction and happiness. On the other hand, it helps me release from displeasure. Sometimes, when I took up my brush, I would concentrate so hard that I would forget about angers and sorrows. Besides,

it's reported as a mystery that if you learn to write calligraphy and insist on practicing, you can live a longer life. To write Chinese characters, you must use the strength of your arms and shoulders, and sometimes even the waist. Through years of practice, muscles of the whole body are sure to be strengthened. Some illnesses can be reduced.

Nowadays, the calligraphy works tend to be abstract. We need to keep in mind that Chinese calligraphy is different from other kinds of art. It will be very disappointing if it is just another kind of abstract art. If such works are still called calligraphy, they must have readable words. If not, we can just call them "calligraphy images". Otherwise, there will be no difference between modern calligraphy and abstract painting. I insist on the writing of Chinese characters that have

concrete meanings and poetic flavor. The meanings of words are important inspirations for the creation of modern calligraphy."

In the world of calligraphy, I experienced the mysterious and philosophical interplay between brushes, ink, rice paper and classic Chinese literature. I will persist in it, no matter how hard it would be.





## A Brief Introduction to Blogs

★ 04 Biotechnology Tracy  
★ 05 Liberal Arts Sindy

Blogs are a fairly new Internet phenomenon, so many people are not familiar with them, despite the fact that it is particularly popular nowadays.

Blog is short for "Web Log", which emerged in 1997, so you can't find this word in any dictionary. Actually, Blogs are not similar to "Web Diary". The chief purpose of blogs is to collect and record information from other websites in one's own view in order to offer help and share information resources.

At the time that blogs came into being, there were only 30 blog-websites all over the world. Blogs came to a boom because of "9.11". After this world-shaking event happened, many people searching for information on the Internet led to the paralysis of most media websites. At that very moment, some blogs took the responsibility

of transmitting first-hand news. Since then, blogs became hotspots in the Internet, especially in the United States.

Today, it is said that Blogs are the fourth most widely used method of network communication following Email, BBS and ICQ. There are many different kinds of "Blogs", such as News blogs, Knowledge Logs, and Diary blogs. These bloggers share their ideas and feelings and take part in communication through words, pictures, sounds, and videos. Now, more and more people know and focus on them and blogs are flourishing around the world. There is no wonder that the year of 2006 is forecasted as the Nationwide Blog Year.

Translated from:  
[http://www.hinews.cn/images/20051107/hinews20051107\\_d03.jpg](http://www.hinews.cn/images/20051107/hinews20051107_d03.jpg)

## Prince Frog and His Blog

★ 04 Journalism Vivi  
★ 05 Journalism Morning

The guy who is always holding a very large umbrella in the rain or having an ice cream in the road when nobody was watching is called Prince Frog. Being a senior student in Shantou University, he said "I am lonely, but the loneliness is different from others."

One day this lonely Prince Frog heard from his friend Ken that there is a very popular and interesting thing in the Internet called blog. From then on he set up his blog. Every day when he turn on the computer, he would check his e-mail box, browse, and leave words.

You can not easily judge whose blog it is as he doesn't show his daily photo on the front-page. However, there is an abstract one—a work of art rather than a picture. A view of a guy's back taking a photo of the sea. It is not a cheerful mood when one clicks into Prince Frog's blog. He selected a dark color for his basic background. Although he set up his blog six months ago, there have been over one hundred articles on it.

There are three main categories in his

articles. He talks about his experience of "Semester at Sea", attaching lots of pictures. From American to South Africa, from Viet Nam to Kenya, he drew an attractive picture with different kinds of folk customs. If you want to look for him, you have found the wrong place. He does not mention himself a lot. In contrast, the blog provides a platform to practice his writing. As he enjoys reading, he expresses his feeling on the blog which shows his wide knowledge. Prince Frog's friends make comments on it. This feedback is the motivation.

"I never care about how many people browse my blog. I just wrote my thoughts, uploaded it and shared with my guests." He told us during an interview. "Once I started write my blog, I could not stop because updating the blog has already become a habit. It is just like the rule of the game."

Who is Prince Frog? He's name is Guy, who majors in Journalism. He will graduate soon. "I will continue writing my blog until my ID is canceled," he said.

## Do you blog today?

### —Popularity of Blogs at Shantou University

★ 03 English Sabrina  
★ 05 Journalism Morning

After reading the brief information about blogs, you've probably become more familiar with this newly born Internet product. Recently, we made a survey of 200 students from different grades and majors on our campus about their opinions on blogs. According to the statistics, blogs are not very popular with our students. Even 14% of them said they had never heard of them.

70% of students said they seldom browse blogs. Despite these figures, students can still find something interesting in blogs. When we log in to [www.blog.sina.com](http://www.blog.sina.com) which is one commonly known blog site, one fascinating part is the top twenty

blogs including stories of the famous director XuJinglei, the popular writer Han Han, and outstanding anchor YangLan. Anyway stories about famous people attract a lot of public attention and 34% of students like reading blogs of famous people.

On the other hand, not only are the shining stars' blog available, but those of ordinary people are also accessible. About 60% like to read blogs made by their friends and even strangers. A junior from Design College has her own blog. Reading her friends blog has become an important part of her daily life. "In their blogs, they are quite different from who I know in the class," she said. "It is a good way to promote our friendships when we share our feelings on the blog."

In the light of the survey, 10% of

students have their own blog. Every day, nearly half of them contribute around 30 minutes to updating their blogs. 69% of them said the main reason of having a blog was to express feelings and share opinions with other Internet enthusiasts.

Hewitt, a senior student from the journalism school posts her special opinion on blog. "Blogs can help us in finding a job," she said. In her sports journalism class, her teacher set up a new blog for the class. They are now writing articles about sports in China. As the 2008 Olympics are coming, people from all over the world are eager to know more about China, especially the sports culture. Their teacher was happy to tell them that people from America, Japan and Sweden are starting to read their blog and asking questions. The blog

is quite a useful tool to help foreigners come into the Chinese sports market and do advertising. "I can be their help in this area, which is more advantageous for me in seeking a job," Hewitt said. "Our school can be known in the world through the blog."

Amy, a junior from the Science College said, "Perhaps blogs are an easy way for some people to boost reputations. For me, an ordinary student, I'm just willing to write down my feelings in my diary and share with my friends."

According to the survey, blogs are not enjoying a high level of popularity in Shantou university, but are a new tool, gradually being accepted by students.