

瞻 PERSPECTIVES

The University of British Columbia

卑詩大學首份中英文學生報

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DAILY

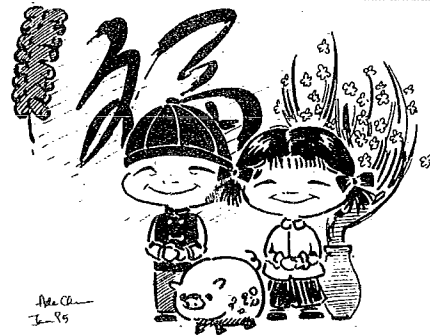
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新年之習俗及源由

*New Year's
Origins and Traditions*

Chinese
Written by
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English
Translated by
Belinda Law



一元復始，萬象更新，眨眼農曆新年將至。正當家家戶戶準備慶祝新的一年之際，又有幾人會停下來細心想想新年的源由及習俗呢？

古代相傳，從前有一怪獸名「年」，每到一個特定時候，便會出動，擇人而噬。後來人類無意間發現「年」原來懼怕紅色及響聲，於是到「年」再來之時，每戶人家便在門口貼上揮春，穿上紅色衣服，並燒爆竹把「年」趕走。到了第二天，當大家發現自己的親戚朋友並未被「年」吃去時，便會互相祝賀，贈上利是錢來慶賀平安。

撇開古老神話，新年其實是用農曆計算出來。有別於西方陽曆，農曆是用月亮的運行為計算準則，所以又可稱為陰曆。年初一便正是月亮剛完成環繞地球一圈之日。每年到了此時，以農為業的中國人便會與家人及親族一家團聚，共同享受難得的歡喜。

除了習俗相同外，各地均有其特色，就以派利是為例，廣東人但凡結了婚的，均要派兩封利是給各親戚朋友，取其「雙雙對對」之意。其餘各鄉卻大多只派一封，而潮洲人更是無論結婚否，只要是已做工的便得派利是。

姑勿論新年習俗有何分別，最終心願仍是要一家團圓，和和氣氣地迎接新的一年。在此，筆者亦敬賀各位新年進步，萬事如意！

Let's now move away from legendary tales and get back to reality. The Chinese New Year is calculated using Chinese calendars. They are different from western calendars in that Chinese calendars use the cycle of the moon as a base for calculation. Therefore, they can also be termed the "Lunar Calendar". The day that the moon completes one cycle around the earth marks the beginning of the year. Each year as this day approaches, Chinese farmers would come together with their family and relatives to enjoy this rest.

In contrast to these traditional similarities shared by people from different places, each place also has its own special traditions. For example, every Cantonese person who is married must give out two red packets to his/her friends and relatives. The giving of two red packets instead of one indicates that couples are in unity. Other people usually give out only one red packet. As for Chiuchow people, whether a person is married or not, he/she only has to be working to be obligated to give out red packets.

Even though there are certain differences in New Year traditions among the population, the ultimate purpose is for families to come together in a peaceful atmosphere to welcome the New Year. At this point, I would like to extend my warmest best wishes for the New Year!

INSIDE

Foods of the New Year p. 3

Traditional Restrictions during the Chinese New Year p. 3

The Profile of the Year of Pig p. 3

Chinese Horoscope p. 4

Do I have a right to express myself? By the way, I'm gay. p. 5

Asian Gay and Lesbian Organizations in Vancouver p. 6

Somewhere over the Rainbow p. 7

Federal Proposal to Revolutionize Funding: Facts and Impacts p. 10

University Ranking: Why do clients of one telephone company receive a bill from another? p. 11

The Expanding CCS p. 12

International Conference on Conflicts of Civilizations and Cultural China p. 14

COLUMNS

A Personal Oasis: Positively Support Mr. Li Pang's Visitation to Canada p. 13

The Noisy Room: Connie Chung's Controversial Report on Chinese Spies in U.S. p. 15

Book Review: Cyrano de Bergerac p. 16

Daily Physics: Why does Frosted Glass Become Translucent Once Wet? p. 16

The Old Double Standard: Gender Equality p. 17

Local Sports: Hunting p. 18

Big Time: A Look Back on Stock Market 1994 p. 19

From the Readers: I would like to comment on racism... p. 22

Eat, Drink, Man, Woman: The Art of Cooking Crab Chinese Style p. 21

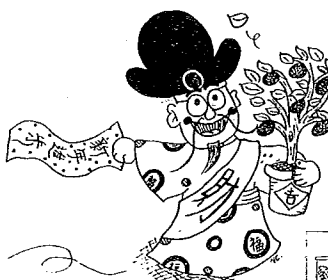
Pers-Cafe: Ice Wine (Eisweins) p. 21



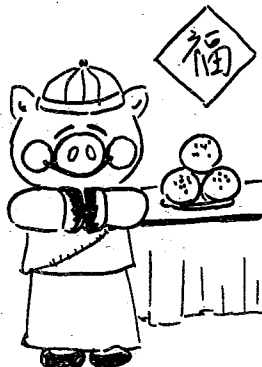
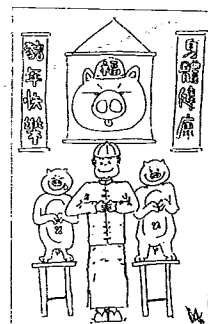
As the lunar year draws

to an end, many people are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the New Year and the celebration and promise that it brings. However, as we get caught up in the euphoria of welcoming the New Year, how many of us actually understand the customs and myths behind the "passing of the year"?

Our ancestors have passed on the following legend. Once upon a time, there was a beast called "Year". Whenever a certain time of the year comes around, it would come out and choose people to swallow. Later on, people accidentally found out that "Year" was very afraid of the color red and noise. So from then on, whenever "Year" appears, every household would put up "red signs" on their doors. Everyone wore red and continuously burnt firecrackers to scare "Year" away. On the second day, when all of the people found out that none of their relatives or friends have been eaten by "Year", they congratulated each other and gave out red packets to celebrate for peace.



Up to the present, New Year traditions have changed quite a bit. But celebrations in various places have many similarities. New Year preparations start on the 28th with mass cleaning activities. This is because it is unlucky to do cleaning and dusting from then on until the New Year, as people believe that this would sweep away good luck. On the New Year's Eve, families gather to have dinner together. Starting on New Year's day, everyone should wear new clothes and friends and relatives would greet each other with lucky sayings. The 3rd is the only day people stay away from these activities because legend has it that on this day, people would easily get into arguments with each other, making New Year celebrations unhappy for everyone.



時至今日，新年習俗已起了頗大變化；但各地慶祝亦有不少相同之處。新年準備功夫由年廿八大掃除開始，因為以後到年初一時便不得再清掃，恐把好運掃走。年三十晚除夕夜，一家人會聚首一堂吃團年飯。年初一開始，親戚朋友便會穿上一身新衣互相拜年，只會在年初三「赤口」留在家中，因為傳說那天上門拜年便會和人吵架，弄至不歡而散。



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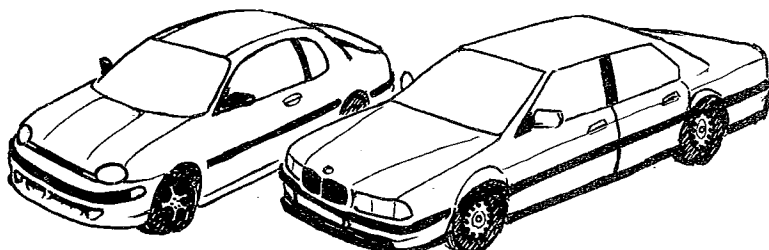
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新年食品

Foods of the New Year

Chinese Written by Kenneth Wu
English Translated by Belinda Law



相信每逢農曆新年，大家都會品嚐到意頭及味道並重的美食。現在就為大家作一個概括的介紹，看看你曾經吃過和認識多少賀年食品。

首先討論賀年的菜餚。上海人很喜歡吃蛋餃，皆因其形狀代表元寶。做法是將鴨蛋及雞蛋混合，然後放在一隻大湯匙上煮成一塊堅硬的外皮，再放入已調味肉碎，包起便成。除此之外，上海人農曆新年常吃芽菜、菠菜及豬骨粉絲冬菇湯。芽菜及菠菜分別意味著稱心和如意，而粉絲湯主要是代表長命百歲的意思，正如生日吃長壽麵。至於過年不可缺少的炒年糕，上海式的煮法是將年糕切片，再加豬肉絲、菠菜及冬菇絲一起炒。還有，平日大家總會吃光碗裏的飯，以免浪費寶貴的食糧，但是有些人會在團年飯時特意剩下一些飯在碗中，以取年年有餘之意。

賀年的甜品也十分有特色及意頭。例如笑口棗，故名思意，代表笑口常開。煎堆象徵財富，

俗語有云煎堆碌碌，金銀滿屋。春卷形為條狀，而且顏色金黃，所以便有金條的意思。糖水的種類亦繁多，上海人通常用紅棗及雪耳煲糖水；廣東人卻比較喜歡用白果及蓮子。湯丸的款式也不少，常見的有黑芝麻、豆沙、及花生，又或是肉丸；潮洲人的芋泥湯丸亦具特色。還有新年放在客廳的全盒，廣東人正式稱之為優銀，必然的配搭有紅瓜子、黑瓜子、糖蓮藕、糖冬瓜、瑞士糖及朱古力等。

新年的食品真是琳瑯滿目，不同地方各自有其特色，但在新年享受美食時，不要忘記要有節制，否則會很容易吃滯。

When Chinese New Year approaches, everyone gets to taste the delicious food, which comes along with lucky dish names related to auspicious events in the New Year. Here are a variety of such dishes.

First, let's discuss some of the New Year's most propitious dishes. The Shanghainese love to eat egg dumplings, since they are shaped like traditional gold ingots. These dumplings are made from a mix of duck eggs and chicken eggs. They are put in a big saucpan and cooked until they are hard enough to serve as an outer wrap. Marinated minced beef is then placed onto these eggs. Once they are wrapped, they are ready to be served. Other than this, Shanghainese usually eat bean sprouts, spinach, vermicelli and Chinese mushroom soup during Chinese New Year. Bean sprouts and spinach imply agreeability and accordance with one's heart's desire, respectively. And verni-

celi soup mainly represents having a long life, just as people eat long-life noodles on their birthday. The dish that cannot be missing during Chinese New Year is stir-fried New Year cake. The Shanghainese way of making this dish is by cutting the cake into slices, then stir-fried with pork slices, spinach and bamboo shoots. Also, people usually finish their bowl of rice as to not waste precious food. But at the New Year's Eve family dinner, some people purposely leave behind some rice to represent the idea of abundance for the following years.

The desserts served during the New Year are also special and imply good luck. For example, "laughing dates" suggests laughter, and *Jin Duay* represents wealth. Spring rolls are shaped like a bar and are golden brown in color, which is why they are a symbol of gold bars. There are also a variety of Chinese liquid desserts. Shanghainese usually use red dates in preparing their liquid desserts, while Cantonese prefer to use lotus seeds, but all of these ingredients must have the requisite favourable sounding name. Another delicacy consumed are different varieties of sweet dumplings. The usual ones are black sesame paste, red bean paste and peanut paste, or even meat balls. In contrast, Chichow people's speciality is taro root sweet dumplings. In addition,


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tion, people also put a food box in the living room. Cantonese call this box "special silver", which contains red and black sunflower seeds, lotus candies, sugared wintermelon, Sugus candies, and chocolates. This box is kept full to the brim, as to symbolize the hope that the family's coffers will be similarly overflowing.

The traditional foods of the Chinese New Year are a splendid variety. People from different places have specialties of their own. But when enjoying such dishes, don't forget to restrain your appetites, or else you could really get sick from stuffing yourselves.

新年忌諱

Traditional Restrictions during the Chinese New Year

Chinese Written by To Cheung
English Translated by Mina Yiu



農曆新年是中國最重要的節日，它象徵了中國人對來年的抱負和冀望，所以每個中國人都希望新年要過得平安；相對地，一切不吉利的事大家都不要在這一天發生。因此，中國人在農曆年的忌諱特別多。

(一) **忌打掃**：年初一家家戶戶都不會打掃，甚至連掃帚和地拖也不能碰，如果家中有老人家，他們更會堅持不許家人在當天洗頭或洗澡。家中一切的清潔事項都會在年廿八當天辦好。

(二) **忌爭執**：即使有任何不滿都不要在意年初一和人口角，寧願過了年後才把怨氣來算。

(三) **忌打小孩**：新年時父母會對小孩抱有新的希望，願他們平安，所以即使孩子於年初一那天犯了什麼過錯，父母都不忍在當天責備他。

(四) **忌言「死」字**：新年象徵了萬物新生的意思，一切都會有一個新的開始，因此無論在什麼情況下都不宜說「死」字，否則必遭長者責備。

(五) **忌踩門檻**：某些年老的長者相信新年踩門檻會帶來不幸，因此年初一那天切忌踩門檻。

以上提供的只是一部份的新年忌諱，而這些忌諱也會因不同地區而有所差異。以廣東人為例，他們新年時忌買鞋，宜買褲；而果打破家中的東西，也必會說：「落地開花，富貴榮華」。雖然這些忌諱大都沒有科學根據，但新年時節，為求一家平平安安，和睦共處，忌諱的存在也只是令大家較為心安理得而已。

Chinese New Year is regarded by the Chinese as the most important festival. Because it symbolizes the Chinese's expectations and ambitions towards the coming year, each Chinese would want to have a peaceful New Year's day. In other words, people do not want anything bad or unlucky to happen on that day. As a matter of fact, Chinese people are particularly deterred to do a lot of things during this festival:

1. CLEANING: On the first day of Chinese New Year, housekeeping is avoided so no one is allowed to touch the broom or the mop. All the cleaning has to be done by December 28 of the lunar calendar (two days before New Year's). If there are elderly people in the family, they prohibit others from washing their hair and showering.

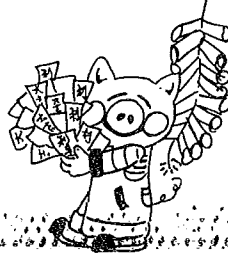
2. ARGUING: Even if you are annoyed by someone or something, you should not quarrel with them on Chinese New Year's day. You should restrain your anger until after the festival.

3. REPRIMANDING: During Chinese New Year, parents have renewed expectations of their children and wish for their well-being. Thus, even when a child makes mistakes on New Year's, parents would not scold them.

4. SAYING THE WORD "DEAD": New Year symbolizes rebirth, and so everything has a new beginning. So, nobody is allowed to say or mention anything to do with death. Otherwise, he would be reprimanded by the elders.

5. STEPPING ON THE THRESHOLD: Some elderly people believe that stepping on the threshold would bring bad luck; so on New Year's day, one should not step on the threshold.

The rules mentioned above are only part of a collection of rules for Chinese New Year, and these traditions differ from region to region. For example, the Cantonese traditionally avoid buying shoes during Chinese New Year, but, it is considered good luck to buy pants. If one happens to break anything at home, he would say "breaking is blooming, and richness will come along." Although most of these traditional rules lack scientific evidence, people still follow the traditions in hopes of bringing peace and prosperity.



乙亥運勢 The Profile of the Year of Pig

Chinese Written by Ellen Cheng
English Translated by Ivy Yung

星移斗換，轉瞬間狗年又將消逝。回望過去一年，不幸的事件可真不少。先後繼有多次空難、大形的水災和風災，以及以色列與回教派系的鬥爭，拐帶兒童案件急劇增加……等等，每每令人平添了不少悲痛。今年乙亥年，這一隻豬又將會為我們帶來怎樣的未來呢？葉榮光先生為今年作了以下的分析。

至第四頁--->

It is now nearly the end of the year of the dog, and many unfortunate incidents have occurred during this year. The incidences of aeroplane crashes, floods, heavy rain storms, conflicts between Israel and Islamic factions, and an increase in the number of child abductions have made this a year of considerable loss and mourning. Next year is the year of pig, and what future will this 'pig' bring us? According to Mr. W. K. Yip, the coming year will bring about these changes.

To Page 4--->

--->續第三頁

--->From Page 3

國際

除了少部份個別鬥爭之外，基本上都屬於和諧，亦是過去十年來最平和的一年。但因為今年的局勢水火太強，大火災將會時時發生，而運輸方面，將會有多不愉快事件發生。

中國

雖然有關最高領導人鄧小平的健康，常有不利傳聞，但事實卻粉碎了種種的謠傳。再加上亞太自由貿易會議獲得各方面重視，中英港關係緩和，及現代化經濟改革有成功的表現種種因素，使國際投資者加強了信心，提升了中國在國際上的地位。只可惜在年中，與台灣的關係會有一陣子的不愉快，使平和的日子加添了一點緊張的氣氛。農曆四月小心西南地區會有災難性的事件。

香港

表面上中方仍不斷反對香港各種提議方案。但另一方面，卻暗地默許英國在香港放寬賣地，所以今年香港樓會掀起另一次的搶購熱潮。英國固可從中獲利不少，自然會笑逐顏開。但由於英國皇室醜聞繼續增加，致使其在國際上的地位失了不少的尊嚴。各行業中除地產外，飲食及售貨業亦同時一片興盛。但相反交通運輸卻顯得有停滯不前之現象。由於警方加強防止走私，走私活動顯然受到適當的禁制。農曆三月小心西邊有巨形火災，六月西北方有嚴重罪案發生。

台灣

今年可算流年不利，國際方面處處受到制肘，內部政治未能發揮適當作用，而且在年中約五、六月期間與中方會有類似武力性衝突，情況一度緊張。所幸事情獲得解決，情況得以暫時緩和。事情發展將推動了歷年來少見的移民浪潮，引致大量資金的流失。

加拿大

由於在克里田的領導下，貿易重點放在亞洲市場，所以經濟獲得巨大的改進，整個加拿大有如打了一支強心針，尤以溫哥華和多倫多兩地表現最為突出。多市地產升幅之急，亦為近五年來少見。零售、飲食、股票業等的營業額都有顯著的上升。在溫市方面，飲食和售貨行業有上升趨勢，但地產市道反不及多市，有呆滯不前之現象。大形罪案會關注減少，但家庭暴力卻有增加趨勢。教師罷工行動因不獲大眾支持而終於放棄。而省長哈葛會為上任以來最受歡迎的一年，歸功於其手下多個部門改革成功。魁省申請獨立言論，因不獲大部份人支持，令緊張氣氛於緩。

資料提供

葉榮光博士從事風水行業達三十餘年，最近榮獲夏威夷一所大學頒發理學博士的學位，為我們作出了以上乙亥年運程的分析。

Internationally, the coming year would be the most harmonious and peaceful year in the last decade. However, extensive fires will occur from time to time, and local traffic would be quite upsetting next year.

CHINA

Investors all over the world will increase their confidence in China, because the stories about the health problems of Deng Xiaoping, the patriarch of China, would prove to be false. The Asia-Pacific Economic Summit Conference (ASPAC), the easing of tensions between China, Britain and Hong Kong, and the success of the Chinese economic revolution will be the focus of much of the world's attention. Unfortunately, a brief conflict between China and Taiwan will cause tensions to once again mount. Disasters will occur in the south-western part of China during the fourth month of the lunar year.

HONG KONG

It seems that China will continue to oppose the proposals made by the colonial government of Hong Kong. On the other hand, China will permit the government of Hong Kong to release more land for construction, and this will lead to another great hit in estate purchasing. Despite the degradation among nations caused by the scandals of the Royal family, the British government will gladly

accept the fact that they have benefited from the Hong Kong real estate market. However, not only the land market will prosper, but also the eatery and loan market as well. However, the transportation industry will remain the same as the present. Due to increasing enforcement by the police, smuggling activities will clearly be restricted. An extensive fire will occur in the Western part of Hong Kong during the third lunar month, and also serious crime will be committed in the north-western part in the sixth lunar month.

TAIWAN

The coming year will be a bad year for Taiwan. International restrictions will be imposed. Internally, there might be more political problems. In mid-year, somewhere between the fifth and the sixth lunar month, a conflict between China and Taiwan will occur. Fortunately, the problem will be solved. Consequently, all these incidents and the outflow of the people and capital will prove the New Year to be a tumultuous one.

CANADA

Under the leadership of Jean Chretien, trading with the Asian countries will become more important. As a result, there will be more vigorous economic growth and an increase in confidence in the Canadian economy. Relative to other areas, Vancouver and Toronto will have the greatest growth. Land

and property values in Toronto will experience the largest increase of the past 5 years. Retailing, eatery and stock exchange industries will make big profits too. It will also be the same for the eatery and loan industries in Vancouver, but the future for the property market will not be as bright. Although organised crime will decrease significantly, family violence will become more serious in the coming year. The teachers' strike will not continue because of the lack of public support. Mike Harcourt will maintain his popularity because of the success of various changes in his government. As for the Quebec sovereignty issue, it will not pass the provincial referendum.

REMARKS

Mr. W. K. Yip has been an expert in Fung Shui for more than 30 years, and he recently has been awarded a Doctorate Degree in Science by a university in Hawaii.



乙亥年十二生肖運程

Written by Victoria Luk

豬年朋友：是年命犯太歲，不過只是短暫問題；春天以後，又可發揮潛能，接受豬年好的運勢，可望運轉呈祥。一九七一年（辛亥年）廿四歲——工作有變動，不妨接受新的挑戰，事業能創高峰。女性小心晚上勿多出夜街，同時會有桃花運。一九五九年（己亥年）三六歲——多活動性的節目，交際應酬增多，易結交新異性朋友，可能從此改變你的獨立生活，但處理不妥，會捲入三角戀愛之中。

鼠年朋友：是年有貴人扶持，有轉職之機會。若與人合作做生意，不失為一發展機會。健康方面，留意小腸等消化系統。一九七二年（壬子年）廿三歲——一秋多以後，倍見佳境。小心因桃花運而招惹的麻煩，有患得患失之感。一九六零年（庚子年）卅五歲——多活動性的節目，交際應酬增多，易結交新異性朋友，可能從此改變你的獨立生活，但處理不妥，會捲入三角戀愛之中。

牛年朋友：今年是從事創作性或娛樂藝術性事業的好機會，有志從事娛樂藝術的青年輩，不妨作一大膽嘗試。一九七三年（癸丑年）廿二歲——投機事業略見凶危。是年進行桃花，紅鸞星動，不適當鬧情緒，影響健康，尤其注意心臟和分泌系統的疾病。一九六一年（辛丑年）卅四歲——對於新的工作不大適應，上司與下屬不太融洽。避免與人爭執，所謂一喜擋三煞，宜見喜事。

虎年朋友：今年事業穩健，有利發展。與家人相聚時間增加，倍加幸福。一九七四年（甲寅年）廿一歲——財運佳，有姻緣到，有轉工、搬遷意欲。家中長者身體欠佳。有口舌是非。健康方面，有頭痛和神經痛症。一九六二年（壬寅年）卅三歲——有異地奇緣，事業財運見有增長。有重臨學府進修的意欲，良機勿失。手腳容易受傷。

兔年朋友：最好的季節是夏季，其它季節未見有突破，可謂

好壞參半。當心家庭成員有流失之象。一九七五年（乙卯年）廿歲——學業或工作方面略見浮沉不定。暗藏桃花，需小心處理，勿貪一時之興，惹上日後麻煩。凡事要三思而行。一九六三年（癸卯年）卅二歲——一時來運到，有桃花運和升職之喜。在爭執奪奪之間，宜多忍讓，可免官非。慎防家中有離異等不幸之舉發生。

龍年朋友：有利舍水行業，例如娛樂事業、飲食行業、電腦、五金等類的行業。一九七六年（丙辰年）十九歲——對異性有互不相讓之局面出現。事業或學業略見阻滯，暗藏小人。小心有胃病。一九六四年（甲辰年）卅一歲——有置業升職之喜，夏季謀事順利，得心應手，最好能把握良機，否則追悔莫及。

蛇年朋友：今年見有刑剋之象。容易招惹小人，防有官非。宜出門碰運運氣，大概可運轉乾坤。

一九七七年（丁巳年）十八歲——考試大利，但感情不穩定，與異性常起爭執。應多向長者請教，吸收意見，切勿執迷。一九六五年（乙巳年）卅歲——有點財氣，但切記莫因財失義，損人利己。感情起波浪，有難離合合的情況出現。健康尚算良好。

馬年朋友：今年運行偏桃花，要小心處理，以免家庭不和，甚至惹上官司。一九七八年（戊午年）十七歲——事業、愛情未如人意，人緣欠佳，處事態度若能誠懇，不操之過急，可得順利平穩度過。一九六六年（丙午年）廿九歲——今年有喜事臨門，包括姻緣、開業、擴張、置業、添丁等等。已婚者恐有婚外情，則後悔莫及矣。

羊年朋友：今年是表現才華之年，去年未如願的今年可大展拳腳，盡量發揮。有收復失地之勢。一九六七年（丁未年）廿八歲——宜多出門，所謂行萬里路，勝讀萬卷書，放眼世界，改善事業，進入另一境界。雖略有波折，但不礙事。但緊記切勿擔人作保，免受牽連。一九五五年（乙未年）四十歲——人際關係突有不利，因暗藏小人，從中挑撥。事暫見不順。宜多作善事。

猴年朋友：今年事業有發展，困難皆能迎刃而解。一九六八年（戊申年）廿七歲——小心健康，不宜為財過度操勞。多吸收知識，不要心高氣傲。一九五六年（丙申年）卅九歲——有口舌是非，宜忍讓。得人欣賞才華，但宜三思而後作決定。

雞年朋友：今年運程喜怒哀樂，雖然順風可以揚帆，但不可使盡，要留餘地。一九六九年（己酉年）廿六歲——一似有桃花運，已婚者宜互相懇諒諒解；未婚者，恐防有多角戀愛出現。一九五七年（丁酉年）卅八歲——是年吉凶參半，起落頗大，有財來財去之象。工作比往年更見忙碌，出門機會多。注意體形不宜過肥。

狗年朋友：工作有突破性的變動，但要多點時間才能適應。所謂忍一時之氣，風平浪靜。一九七零年（庚戌年）廿五歲——是求變的一年，工作略有變動，壓力增加，有想結婚的衝動。情緒不穩定，脾氣變得急躁，慎防有頭痛之患。一九五八年（戊戌年）卅七歲——有利於從事選購行業的人仕，得女性欣賞，略見桃花，好壞參半。恐有得失並行，宜三思行事。

喂喂喂，我可以說話嗎？

——同性戀者的表達自由

Do I have a right to express myself?

By the way, I am gay.

Chinese and English by Venus Chan and Denise Ki

HOMOSEXUALITY

The laws of God, the laws of man, He may keep that will and can; Not I: let God and man decree Laws for themselves and not for me; And if my ways are not as theirs Let them mind their own affairs Their deeds I judge and much condemn, Yet when did I make laws for them?
A.E. Housman

In Canada, people have the freedom of conscience and expression; however, it is not always true for homosexuals. In the following two interviews, Cynthia Brook from Book Mantel and Janine Fuller from Little Sister's talk about how freedom of expression has been oppressed from gays and lesbians in this country.

BOOK MANTEL

Book Mantel is located on Commercial Drive, a neighbourhood where there is a substantial lesbian population. Book Mantel is a secondhand bookstore known for its large collection of women studies and gay and lesbian literature.

* Cynthia Brook (owner of Book Mantel)
Perspectives

What made you decide to go into the bookstore business?
* I have always loved books and I want to share my love of books with others. I always carry used books because I love making books accessible to more people and I believe books should be affordable.

I also bring in here what I love, so I did the art wall in the bookstore and we had about 30 shows over the past 3 years. I

do sell some music, but local artists only.

Why did you decide to stock a collection of gay and lesbian literature?

* Because of personal interest, I'm a lesbian. There is also a market demand. When we first took over the store 4 years ago, there wasn't a great deal of gay and lesbian stock. We got into bringing new books. We bought a great deal of women's studies, spirituality, and gay and lesbian studies. I can sell those books faster than anything else.

How do you feel about Canada Customs' seizure of most gay and lesbian literature?

* When we first started to buy new books, we did have problems with Canada Customs. They detained one of our shipments at the border and haven't returned it. It's too costly for us to go through the court to get that shipment back. The Book Mantel had a grace period because Canada Customs didn't know who we were. When they figured out Book Mantel was a gay and lesbian oriented bookstore, that was the beginning of our trouble...it was also then that we could no longer afford to order new books...it has very little to do with the contents of the books, but rather, has to do with power dynamics. They let a book like Madonna's *Sex* into Canada and it contravenes the whole list of violation guidelines that Canada Customs has set, but they seize something that doesn't contravene any of those regulations. This is a case of discrimination against gays and lesbians, and our access to gay and lesbian literature.

Has the bookstore ever received threats?

* Yes. Bomb threats, crank calls, hate messages through the mail, and someone routinely goes by and spits on the window.

...Yes, I'm afraid, on a certain level. And angry. I think my anger is based on my fear of not being able to live my life without that form of intrusion...but overtime, the anger dissipates, and I feel stronger and stronger of who I am. And I get support and care from my customers.

How can one breach the discrimination?

* Look into yourself. Everyone wants to live their lives in dignity and without judgment...extend that into the world, regardless of who and what differences you encounter.

Everybody has a difference that marks them, either it is difference of class, race or sexual orientation. Celebrate those differences instead of using them to ridicule people.

LITTLE SISTER'S BOOK AND ART EMPORIUM

Little Sister's is a gay and lesbian bookstore located in the West End. It was started up in 1983 by co-owners Bruce Smyth and Jim Deve because they feel that there is a lack of gay and

lesbian books in other bookstores and there is a strong need to provide the community a place for people to find the kind of books they need and be empowered in their own sexual orientation.

* Janine Fuller (manager of Little Sister's)

Perspectives

What types of books does Little Sister's carry?

* Lots. We have books on travel, religion, health, children, youth, and gay and lesbian fiction that you can't find in most other bookstores. For some amateur but extremely talented gay and lesbian writers, this is where they get their support, and their first step towards a bigger press. We are proud of supporting that.

If you are coming out, there is a huge coming out section. We hope to provide tools and encouragement for people coming out so they can make sensible decisions.

The bookstore also has a tiny section selling sexually explicit materials. Why do you sell this type of merchandise?

* Gay and lesbian people live in a society that oppresses their sexual images all the time. If any TV program dares to portray on-screen gay or lesbian romance, the right-wing fundamentalists will lobby for and effectively cause the cancellation of the show. We don't get to be validated as gay and lesbian people in mainstream society. We need our sexual images. We'll fight and struggle for them because it's imperative people have the ability to explore their fantasies and sexual desires without getting the feeling that there is something wrong with being a gay or a lesbian. Little Sister's is a place where you are able to come in and feel good about being a gay or lesbian person.

Women come to our store to buy condoms and lubricants because they can get information regarding the right kind of product to purchase. We want to be a place where people can come and buy sexually orientated materials in a comfortable, safe, and informed atmosphere without worrying about judgments. Most of our staff are knowledgeable and can answer any questions with a great deal of integrity. To Page 6-->

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