

On Halloween, be afraid, be very afraid ... but not really

Halloween hasn't truly arrived in China — not yet, anyway. Chinese people shy away from ghosts, which is unfortunate, because they're missing out on a lot of fun.

While the holiday traces its roots to pagan and Christian rituals honoring ancestors or cheering up departed spirits, it has long since lost those connotations — in the United States, at least.

It has become a playful excuse for turning the imagination loose and laughing at

the macabre. Kids love it, and adults never seem to outgrow it. It's common in the US to find business offices decorated with cobwebs and graveyard headstones. Staff members dress up as witches, sorcerers or ghoulish creatures from the grave. And costumers play along.

Costume parties are common at Halloween, complete with dry ice smoking from "poison" punchbowls. Hollywood's latest horror movies are released.

Children roam the streets at night on Oct 31 dressed as pirates, princesses, robots, superheroes, clowns, skeletons and headless horsemen. Inevitably, you'll run across a Richard Nixon or Winnie the

Candid camera: Costume drama

Actors dressed in traditional costume celebrate the traditional mask festival of Dixi, classified as a national intangible cultural heritage. The performance took place recently in Anshun, Guizhou province.

LU WEI / XINHUA



This Day, That Year



Editor's note: This year marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up policy.

On Oct 30, 1989, the Project Hope charity was launched by the China Youth Development Foundation. A photo from China Daily showed students cheering outside their newly built classroom in Yan'an, Shaanxi province, in 1990.

Within decades, Project Hope has become one of the country's most successful charities dedicated to helping

poor children access education. It has made a difference to the lives of students from impoverished families nationwide. By the end of last year, the charity had raised more than 14 billion yuan (\$2 billion). The money went to financing the education of more than 5.7 million students. It also helped build about

19,800 primary schools as well as more than 29,000 reading rooms and libraries nationwide. The charity also offers financial assistance to high school and college students. Thanks to Project Hope, the country's primary school dropout rate has decreased dramatically, according to the Ministry of Education. By 2020, the percentage of students who drop out of school during China's nine years compulsory education is expected to fall below 5 percent, according to the

State Council, China's Cabinet. Besides Project Hope, various measures have been taken to improve rural education. China plans to get 45,000 university graduates teaching in rural areas this year in an initiative to boost education standards in poverty-stricken areas, according to the Ministry of Education. China requires children to receive nine years of compul-



sory education, normally from the age of 6 to 15. In 2010, the China Youth Development Foundation decided to bring Project Hope to Africa, launching China-Africa Project Hope. It plans to build 1,000 primary schools in Africa in 10 years.

The newspaper and beyond

On our Sina Weibo

Ma gives keynote South Africa address

Tech supremo Jack Ma delivered the keynote speech at a dinner hosted by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Friday as part of the inaugural South Africa Investment Conference. Ramaphosa said Ma's comments and experience regarding education, entrepreneurship and efficient government were important. "What I particularly liked is that we should treat our entrepreneurs as heroes," he said.



Reasons why sleep is important

Research indicates that people can live much longer without food than they can without sleep. While the precise reasons why sleep is important continue to be a mystery, it is known that the body's major organs and regulatory systems can be rejuvenated by sleep. In fact, certain parts of the brain increase their activity significantly and the body produces more hormones during a good sleep. Heart and lung capacity also improves. A good sleep can also reduce high blood pressure.

Pupils learn sign language for deaf janitor

A kindergarten class in Tennessee learned sign language so they could surprise their deaf janitor, James Anthony, on his 60th birthday and sing him *Happy Birthday*. "Our kindergarten classes learned how to sing *Happy Birthday* for James today. He was so surprised," the school authorities said. A video shows the janitor walking into a classroom as the children begin to sing. "James teaches the kids sign language and shows them good manners and how to treat other people," school principal Jimmy Anderson said.



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On chinadaily.com.cn

Biz: Global companies set for Shanghai expo

More than 2,800 companies from over 130 countries and regions, including 200 businesses on the Fortune Global 500 list, have confirmed participation at the China International Import Expo, to be held in Shanghai from Nov 5 to 10. Visit our website to take a look at some of them, and get to know their connections to China.

Forum: Visitors face panda photo ban

Forestry authorities in Sichuan province have issued a notice banning visitors from getting too close to giant pandas, including paying to have their pictures taken with them. The notice, issued by the Sichuan Provincial Forestry Bureau, said that facilities that keep captive pandas in the province should not organize activities that allow people to get close to pandas for commercial purposes, such as feeding them or taking pictures with them. In early January, pictures posted online showing visitors posing for pictures with pandas at the Chengdu panda base sparked heated

discussion online. The central government issued a notice in 2015 stipulating that tourists are forbidden from having close contact with endangered animals.



Society: Buildings in Guizhou win top prizes

Two buildings in Guizhou province — the Guian New Area Fire Station and the Shui Cultural Center — have won prizes at the LEAF Awards 2018 in Frankfurt, Germany. Designed by the West-line Studio in Guizhou, the fire station and cultural center scooped the awards for the best mixed-use building and public building respectively. The awards, founded in 2001, are an annual international architectural prize for innovative designs that set the benchmark for the next generation.

Video: 'Green wall' fights expanding desert

More than 30 years ago, a war against desertification was waged in Kekeya in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. Locals won the battle and passed on the spirit of fighting mother nature's forces to those who will continue striving for a better environment. Located at the northwestern edge of the Taklimakan, the largest desert in China, Kekeya was once notorious for its erratic weather and constant sandstorms. The desert covers 337,000 square kilometers, slightly smaller than the size of Germany. A tree-planting project to prevent the desert from expanding and to reduce the impact of sand and dust storms on residents was launched in Kekeya in 1986 and completed in 2015. Over the past 30 years, a great "green wall" encompassing 77,000 hectares has been gradually erected between the desert and nearby towns.

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Bilingual: Ai Fukuhara's retirement

福原爱宣布退役

中国日报双语新闻

近日，29岁的日本乒乓球运动员福原爱宣布退役。她在新浪微博写道：“我福原爱，要退役乒乓球选手了。”消息发出后很多球迷纷纷留言祝福“你永远是在中国最受喜爱的日本球员”。下面，请跟随双语君一起来看看福原爱与中国的渊源吧！

Japanese table tennis star Ai Fukuhara announced her retirement on Oct 21 in a blog posted on Sina Weibo. Consequently, she will not compete for Japan at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

10月21日，日本乒乓球运动明星福原爱通过新浪官方微博宣布了自己的退役消息——“我福原爱，要退役了。”这也意味着她将不再替日本队参加2020年的东京奥运会了。

"I've been considering retirement since the Rio Olympics," Fukuhara said in the post.

她在微博长文中说：“从里约奥运结束之后，想了很久很久几乎每天在想这个问题。”

"I want to thank all the fans who supported me until today. Without your support, I would never have made it."

“谢谢大家到今天的支持。没有你们的支持，我今天绝对没有办法取得这样的成就。”

"I first started training in China at the age of 5. After each game, I was exhausted and felt the fatigue in my sore legs," she recalled.

她回忆道：“第一次去中国练球是五岁的时候。打完球会腰酸到睡不着。”

"I feel grateful for what table tennis has given me and will continue promoting the sport in the future."

“我想做一些帮助乒乓球界变好的事情，向更多人推广乒乓球，让更多人知道乒乓球的美好。”

Global Times reported that the hashtag #Ai Fukuhara announced retirement# received over 160 million views and 70,000 comments.

据《环球时报》报道，“福原爱退役”的话题获得了超过1.6亿的关注度和7万条评论。

A netizen commented that: "I have been saving money since 2016, hoping to watch you play in Tokyo. Now I feel I have lost something important. Never mind, I just wish the best for you."

一位网友留言说：“从2016年开始攒了一笔去东京看你的钱，突然感觉失去了一件很重要的事，很难过，不过希望你以后都要开心。”

Another said: "The friendship between China and Japan needs you."

“中日友谊还是一如既往的需要你。”

Her retirement announcement went viral on Chinese social media, because she symbolizes hard work and

Day of the Dead is a major tradition.

Two weeks ago, I traveled to the US and found Halloween in full swing. Since my wife, who is Chinese, had never carved a jack-o-lantern, I set about introducing her to the art. You zigzag a knife around the top of a yellow squash and lift the "lid". Using a spoon, you scrape the inner shell and pull out the slimy "brains". Last, you carve a face and put a candle inside to make it glow. My wife was delighted.

And then, in true Chinese style ("Don't waste food"), she collected the pumpkin seeds and fried them to eat later.

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talent, and the connection between her and China is heartfelt and sincere.

之所以她的这则退役新闻在中国社交媒体平台引起如此大的反响，是因为她努力练习乒乓球的劲头让人佩服，她的天赋让人羡慕，也是因为她与中国的关系是诚挚的、真诚的。

She started playing table tennis in Japan when she was 3. She started playing table tennis in Japan when she was 3. She started playing table tennis in Japan when she was 3.

At 5, she won her first national competition and turned pro at the age of 10 in 1999.

五岁那年，福原爱获得了她人生的第一个全国大赛冠军。在1999年，10岁的福原爱成为了一名职业选手。

Four years later, she represented her country at the world championships in Paris where she reached the quarterfinals, before making history at the 2004 Olympics in Athens when, aged 15 years, 287 days, she became the youngest-ever female table tennis player to appear at the Games.

四年后，福原爱代表日本队杀入巴黎世乒赛四分之一决赛。2004年雅典奥运会，15岁零287天的福原爱成为奥运会历史上最年轻的乒乓球女运动员。

A silver medal in the team event in London in 2012 earned her and Japan their first medal in table tennis.

她和团队成员在2012年伦敦奥运会上杀出重围，带领日本队拿下银牌。

As a 5-year-old she started training in Liaoning province where she learnt Chinese, which also added to her popularity across the nation.

五岁那年，她来到辽宁参加乒乓球训练，也是在这里学会了流利的中文。语言也帮助她收获了众多中国粉丝。

Years of living and working in China has also fostered close friendships between Fukuhara and various members of China's national table tennis team.

常年在中国居住、练球让福原爱也与中国国乒球队结下了深厚的友谊。

She was named a goodwill ambassador in 2007, the Japan-China Cultural and Sports Exchange Year.

她还曾担任2007年日中文化交流年活动的亲善大使。



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