

000613 Rock you like a hurricane

The good, the bad and the ugly (not in that order)

I forgot to mention in my last email about a new delicacy that has appeared lately in the market by my school. I have seen several people selling wash basins full of little scorpions. The scorpions are about an inch and a half long and pale gray in color. What I shudder to think about is that if they have basins full of the buggers, that they must be crawling around all over the place. I have been told that the scorpions are cooked in a salt solution to neutralize the poison in the stinger. They are then cooked and eaten whole. I believe that scorpions are going to have to go onto my list of must eat foods while I am here in China.

Last Saturday, I stopped by my Mantou woman's booth to chat. She gets very excited when I tell her that I have come to visit her rather than just passing by on the way to someplace. She pulled up a seat behind her booth and we probably chatted for close to an hour as the market buzzed about us. At one point, a woman and her very cute daughter came to the booth to buy mantou. After they left I turned to the mantou woman to say that the girl was so cute. As I did she said the same exact thing.

So, here I was, sitting behind a mantou booth chatting with a woman and her friends in China. It was one of those moments that I would never have had if I were just a tourist in China and it is one of the reasons that I am here. I relish the opportunities that I have had so far to just hang out with the local people at their booth, at a restaurant or at their home. I also love that I have run into a lot of my students on the street this weekend and it always turns heads in the crowd to have the foreigner's name called out.

However, my mantou friend told me some bad news. The Yantai government has decided that my favorite market where she works is to be closed. The city has decided that the market is a nuisance to traffic and that the sanitation of the food is below set levels (there are regulations?) Not only will a lot of the people of the market lose their jobs, but also their homes. Many of the workers live in their stands, which are to be torn down. It is really sad for them and I hope that they are able to set up stands somewhere else. I am also bummed because it is my favorite market in town and I have great relationship with several of the vendors who I buy food from all of the time. It is sad to see the little houses that I mentioned in the last email be torn down in this neighborhood and the market to disappear. I am sure that new, drab buildings will not be far behind.

Have a great day,

Jeff

 [Previous](#) | [Next](#)  | [Return to Main Page](#)
