CHINESE SATIRE AND HUMOUR

Selected Cartoons of Hua Junwu (1955 ~ 1982)
Translated by W.J.F. Jenner

New World Press, Beijing
CHINESE SATIRE AND HUMOUR
Selected Cartoons of Hua Junwu (1955-1982)
Translated by W.J.F. Jenner
With comments written especially for this bilingual edition by Hua Junwu
New World Press • Beijing

华君武漫画选（1955年至1982年）
英译者 詹纳尔
新世界出版社 • 北京
I was born in 1913. Because of financial difficulties, I was neither able to attend art school nor complete my college education. In 1936, I began a two-year stint at a Shanghai bank working as a clerk. Though I grew up in China’s famous “paradise” cities of Suzhou and Hangzhou, this “paradise” conferred very little happiness on me. In 1934 while still a student in Shanghai, I began drawing cartoons, a number of which were published in local periodicals.

In 1938, a year after the outbreak of the War of Resistance Against Japan, I said farewell to the miseries of the old society and like many other young people at that time set out for the anti-Japanese base at Yan’an. For eight years I worked in the Lu Xun Academy of Literature and Art, and it was through my experience of life in Yan’an that I gradually came to realize the correct path in both life and art.

The victory of the anti-Japanese war in 1945 was followed by the start of the Third Revolutionary Civil War, whereupon I went to the liberated areas in the northeast to work as a reporter and regular cartoonist for the Northeast Daily. I continued in that capacity for four years.

After the founding of the People’s Republic in 1949, I was in charge of the art department of the People’s Daily, and since 1955 have served in the leadership of the Chinese Artists’ Association. In my spare time, however, I continue to draw cartoons.
Writing the preface to your own book isn’t easy. As the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Zi said, self-knowledge is something very highly valued. This is because so few people have it, and I am certainly not one of that minority. Besides, when you have to write about yourself in a preface, if you blow your own trumpet, you become like Old Wang the melon-seller in the Chinese proverb, who was always singing his own praises.

I never went to art school. I say this not to present myself as some kind of genius but because readers will have no difficulty in spotting evidence of my lack of specialist training in my cartoons. Actually, I regard myself as a folk-artist. Folk-artists have many strengths. They are close to the common people from whom they spring; their art is freer because it is not shackled by academic conventions; and although they learn much from their masters they also borrow widely. Chinese people disapprove of unbalanced diets and feel that one needs to eat a bit of everything to be properly nourished. I never had a teacher, but at the same time I’ve also had a lot of teachers: any picture from which I can learn something, whether it be Chinese, foreign, or even by a child, serves as my teacher.

When I started learning how to draw cartoons in the 1930s, I learned some “lessons” from two foreign teachers. One was the German E. O. Plauen, whose strip cartoon Vater und Sohn (Father and Son) was widely appreciated by Chinese cartoonists. I greatly admired his humour and the simplicity of his line and composition. The other was Sapajou, a White Russian I believe, who worked for the British-owned Shanghai newspaper *The North China Daily News* and specialized in cartoons on international affairs. His line was very fluent, and I was captivated by the way he caught and exaggerated the features of his “victims”. In those days, I even imitated the way he wrote his signature. Looking back now, it may seem a bit childish, but at the time I was rather pleased with myself for being able to do so.

Any art must strike roots in its own nation and people. China’s soybeans are world-famous, but during a visit to Czechoslovakia in the 1930s I was told that Chinese soybeans would not form pods properly there. Chinese painting has always been drawn on foreign influence but has always remained distinctly Chinese. Grafted or transplanted plants and trees have to draw nourishment from the new soil in which they grow if they are not to share the fate of the Chinese soybeans in Czechoslovakia.

Shanghai in the 1930s was a cross between a colonial and feudal society, a special
territory where Chinese and foreigners lived cheek by jowl. As I had learned so much from foreigners' cartoons, my own cartoons were inevitably rather foreign in flavour. Fortunately, the only people who paid any attention to cartoons in the Shanghai of those days were, I suppose, a few intellectuals who were also foreign influenced, so I was able to get by.

After the outbreak of the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-1945), I went to Yan'an with its thoroughly Chinese rural atmosphere. Nearly all of the local people were peasants. The soldiers of the Eighth Route Army — the anti-Japanese forces led by the Communist Party of China — were peasants in uniform, and many of the cadres were of peasant origin as well. Peasants found it hard to understand the sort of foreign-style cartoons which I used to draw in Shanghai, and I found myself feeling more and more like a round peg in a square hole. As it happened, the Yan'an newspaper, The Liberation Daily, which was printed on locally-made paper, carried cartoons that were printed from woodblocks. As there were so few chances to publish my cartoons there, the contradictions between my work and the local audience were not very striking. At that time I read Mao Zedong's writings on literature and art and gradually came to realize that all literature and art had to be firmly grounded in a national style, or what Mao Zedong called the "Chinese style and spirit which the common people of China love". For the last 40 years I have been exploring this principle and putting it into practice. I do not reject foreign cartoons. Although the political views they express differ from my own, many foreign cartoonists are fine artists and I continue to draw much nourishment from their work.

The cartoons in this collection date from 1935 to the present. Because of war and other reasons, all of my work from the 1930s and 1940s has been lost.

In 1938 I met the famous British cartoonist David Low in London. He asked me a question that was not entirely friendly: "Is there any satire in China?" Many years later I met some other foreign cartoonists. Whether because of their ignorance of China or because of their prejudice they seemed to imagine that the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government had banned or were afraid of satire. But, with the exception of the decade of the "Cultural Revolution" (1966-1976), I have been drawing satirical cartoons ever since I joined the revolution over 40 years ago. The only time during those 40 years I have ever tasted repression was during that
decade. Many people who were not cartoonists also suffered oppression then, which suggests what was at issue was not satire as such.

Foreign readers may perhaps not understand that in new China satire is necessary. Our society was born of the old one, and the ideas, philosophical views and ways of thought that developed over thousands of years of feudalism and over a century of capitalism did not disappear from people's minds with the end of the old order and the inception of the new social system. Under the new order, corrupting ideas are also constantly assailing us from the outside. The main themes of contemporary Chinese cartoons are the contradictions and clashes between new and old thinking and ideologies. The point of satirizing old thinking is to strengthen new ways of thinking and the new social system itself.

When abroad I have been asked by concerned parents whether China publishes the kind of obscene and pornographic cartoons that damage the souls of the young. My answer to them is that the emphasis in our cartoons is on education, and our government and people do not permit the existence of pornographic and violent art. It may be that some people will find in this grounds for saying that there is no freedom of creation in China. They are right in that we do not have the freedom to create that sort of thing or to oppose the Communist Party and socialism.

For this bilingual edition I have written some additional — perhaps superfluous — comments for the majority of the cartoons, which appear beneath the captions (or verses) in italics. I hope that they will provide readers abroad with a better understanding of what my cartoons are all about. Readers may also notice that the English lettering in the cartoons has a particularly Chinese flavour. This should cause no surprise since I wrote the English words myself with a Chinese brush.

Finally, I would like to thank Bill Jenner and the staff of New World Press for their help and support in bringing this book into being.

Hua Junwu
December 1982
Beijing
Cartoons
1. "Who said you could get in there?"
   "Who told you not to give us more books?"

There are too few children's books.
2. The weathervane

Some people too lazy to think for themselves face whichever way the wind is blowing.

We despise people who change with the wind.
3. "Will anyone give me a shave?"
4. Listening to comedians on the radio

Comedians are supposed to make you laugh...
5. My bookcase

How can the country become strong without culture?
In Praise of the snail

crawling, tarrying
Dilly ing, dally ing
I inch al ong at my ow n
stately pace,
And I'm the only runner
in the race.
sept. 1959

6. The snail
7. Milking the bull
   — for those who don't make proper investigations, and as a warning to myself.
8. Wasting their youth
   — for speakers who wander miles from their subjects.

I can feel my colleagues ageing during some meetings with endless speeches.
9. Pointless effort
10. "I'll damn well make you laugh."
Poor comedians might be more entertaining if they tickled members of the audience under the arms.

Comedians are supposed to be funny, but some are far from it.
11. An endless flow

*Alas, there are still those in our society who do not respect the labour of others.*
The great poet Du Fu (712-770) wrote "Army Carts" about the misery of war.
13. Taking the blame for others

The sorrows that shoddy toys inflict on children.
14. Losing the flavour of both

*It's good idea to learn from others, but you should never lose your own strengths.*
16. Enjoying the fruits of one's "own" labour
17. Learning to swim in the washbasin

Nobody ever learnt to swim in a washbasin, but in real life there are still some people who try.
According to the Chinese saying, when you lose your temper "flames leap up thirty feet high". Some Chinese products are of such poor quality as to drive one into a blazing fury.
Breathing exercises (not an attack on breathing exercises)

A jibe at impatience.
20. The season for watching exercises

There is a Chinese saying that refers to exercising even in the depth of winter and the height of summer. Some people, alas, don't have this sort of sticking power in whatever they do.
The silverfish's motto:
Whoever's books aren't read we eat.

A comment on those who buy books for appearance's sake only.
22. Untitled

*We still have some big "babies" like this around.*
23. The safe way to walk

A criticism of doing things without creativity.
24. Prairie fire
25. Mindless alterations

The Chinese saying "painting a snake and putting feet on it" aptly describes the over-ornate style of some of our handicrafts.
26. Near enough

"Near enough" is responsible for many failures.
"Comrade, the spray is the only part of the job I've been taught."

27. Excessive praise

Certain literary critics indiscriminately lavish praise on all literary works regardless of their quality.
28. Scientific division of labour?

The scientific division of labour means that two people are not needed to do one person's work. Some people have said that this is a jibe at lack of freedom in the arts. They are wrong.
29. The Laughing Buddha looking at cartoons
30. Over-zealous kibitzers

This is what is meant by the old Chinese saying “Jumping over the chopping board and taking the cook’s place”.
31. A big "little family"
   — worrying about overpopulation
32. "What's in them?"
   "Gas."

We have always been against empty articles.
33. Play the ball!

A dig at quarrels that have nothing to do with the issue in question.
 Blocked nose  coughing up phlegm  feeling rather unwell after a good meal

 one of my teeth is bad.  a new spot on my face not sleeping well

 climbing mountains leaves me out of breath.

 I've still got a touch of athlete's foot.

 34. Why I can't leave the sanatorium
 (not an attack on people who really need to recuperate)

 May 1962

 Life in the sanatorium is rather a cusby affair for state employees.
35. The eyes which do not see
36. It's time for you to retire!
37. Buying a needle

There is an old Chinese saying that goes “If you want to perfect your skill, grind an iron pestle down to a needle”. My aim was to mock an over-fondness for shortcuts. But some readers think that as needles can be bought the great effort involved in grinding down a pestle is a waste of time.
38. **Determination**

*It hardly needs saying that this does not only refer to giving up smoking.*
39. Waiting for another hare?

There is a Chinese story about a man who once saw a hare kill itself by running into a tree and from then on stayed there every day waiting for another hare to kill itself. This is what we now call “opportunism”.
40. Practising swordsmanship at cock-crow

To strengthen their will-power the ancients used to rise at cock-crow to practise swordsmanship. But some people now resent the cock crowing and disturbing their sweet dreams.
40. Practising swordsmanship at cock-crow

To strengthen their will-power the ancients used to rise at cock-crow to practise swordsmanship. But some people now resent the cock crowing and disturbing their sweet dreams.
I'm ... sure ... the hare will ... go ... to ... ... sleep!!

41. Turning the tables

sept. 1962
42. How to reserve places
43. "Don't worry: he never does any target practice."

There's no need to be afraid of people who aren't serious about what they do.
44. An old song about pretty girls: "She's got two long plaits, dark eyes as well, and when she laughs, it's like a silvery bell..."

A comment on how stereotyped descriptions crop up over and over again in literature.
Huang Zhong loses his temper

Huang Zhong was a legendary general in the period of the Three Kingdoms (220-280) who carried on fighting in his old age. Some of our older cadres despise the young, but sooner or later the young will replace them.
46. When the show's over
47. Not a picture of a tree, but a picture of the way some people talk

The longer they go on the further they get from the point.
48. $2 + 3$ does not equal 5

In the 1950s and 1960s Chinese schools and colleges used a marking system in which 5 was full marks. Here I was urging students to put their studies first and alluding to the ancient Chinese couplet “When the moon is over the willows, the couple meets in the dusk.”
49. A scene in the park
50. "What are you doing?"
   "Waiting till I can sit in its shade."

There is a Chinese saying "One generation plants trees, a later generation enjoys the shade". Some of us want the shade but won't plant the trees.
51. Taking root

Most public telephones in China are not equipped with timing devices. What I'm attacking here is selfishness.
52. "Mum, are there really ghosts?"
    "No."
    "Then why are there ghosts in operas?"
    "?"

I think that fewer operas which feature the supernatural should be performed.
53. Shortcut

Aimed at those who only seek advantages for themselves.
54. Waiting for gravity to do its job
There is a Chinese saying that nobody minds too many presents, but because such a limited range of products is made, couples get too many identical gifts. 福 is the "double happiness" symbol displayed at weddings and on wedding gifts.
56. Untitled
   — for a certain musician

*We're not against learning from the West, but we don't like seeing our own culture run down.*
57. What a terrific spittoon!
(Seen by the swimming pool)

This cartoon was drawn nearly 20 years ago, but we still need to make people more hygiene-conscious.
56. Reading medical books
59. Dry-cleaning
... when you're grown-up you will ...  
... in a few years' time you will ...  

... in another couple of years you will ...  

Sept. 1963

60. You won't be able to understand my book right now, but ...
61. Wu Song's last bow

— for audiences who go on and on clapping
although the performers are exhausted

Wu Song was one of the heroes of the classical Chinese novel “Outlaws of the Marsh”; he also features in many Chinese operas. Even a hero such as he could not have endured the endless applause of our inconsiderate audiences.
62. Cat's eyes
"Why don’t you get up and walk?"
"Never. My teacher always lay like this."

63. The cake-mould

This is about the way some people stick rigidly to the set rules and “devour the ancient ways without being able to digest them".
64. Faker in the band
(not only a dig at some people's exercises)

In ancient China, a Master Nanguo sat in the orchestra although he could play no instrument. Some people still keep his tradition alive today.
65. Learning from dad how to be short-sighted

Parents should set a good example.
66. Killing time by watching ants fighting
67. Not thinking who you're aiming at
Some films have a big influence on the young. One such in the early 1960s was "Flying Knives", a film about circus knife-throwers.
69. Treating yourself as a commodity

In our society people are encouraged not to haggle over their pay.
Too much flour... more water... too wet

...more flour. Too much again... more water.

Too wet again... more flour... March 1964

70. A lack of planning
71. Bringing forth the old

What our culture needs is to weed through the old to bring forth the new. Some conservatives try to do the exact opposite.
72. What can be gained from listening to a speech

Such things happen in China. Whether they also do abroad I don't know for sure.
73. Schoolteacher father: "Why haven't you gone to bed yet?"
Schoolboy son: "Why haven't you?"

The result of the one-sided pursuit of a high pass rate in examinations for further schooling.
74. "Hello. Sorry, the office isn't open today. We're busy cleaning."

Hygiene is all very well, but...
For those who don't want to
Serve the peasants

AUG 1965

75. The emotional gap
76. Baromania
   — a morbid love of being crushed.

A dig at people who can't digest ancient things.
77. Individualism on the clothes-line
78. "What are you looking at?"
    "The bookshelves."

Some Chinese bookshops don't do enough to help customers.
79. Eating from the same pot
"Have you found out what the author's views are yet?"

"No, and I've already got to page 15."

A jibe at articles that stray many miles from the subject.
Long is the journey for government files,
Many the pass to cross once they begin.
Work it all out and it's thousands of miles,
From when they first wait to be stamped and signed in.
They get used to queuing and living in piles,
As they wait to be marked with a bureaucrat's ring.

Verses by Chi Bei'ou
Just see how everything's ordered and neat;
Following procedures is really a treat.
They move up and down from layer to layer,
Any one in a hurry will meet a delay.
All they can do is to sigh and to sob,
How will they ever get on with the job?

This is part of the bureaucracy that has been handed down
to us from the past.
Unanimously agreed: "We are afraid of the daylight, we steal melons, we don't fight against poisonous snakes, we don't embrace each other, and we are prickly. But we aren't cartoonists."

April 1979

82. The hedgehogs' conference

Satirizing certain satirical writers and cartoonists.
83. One against a hundred

Satirizing the tendency of musicians to use orchestras that are too big.
(1) Dad says he'll buy me two ice-lollies if I get full marks again.
(2) Mum said I could have an ice-lolly if I had a rest in the afternoon.
(3) Granny said there'd be no more ice-lollies if I told any more lies.
(4) Grandpa said he'd buy me a lolly if I didn't tell Granny he'd been drinking.
(5) Uncle's buying me a lolly for not fighting today.
(6) Grandma said she picked up five cents by the door today, and she'll.......

84. Education through ice-lollies
— drawn on the eve of Children's Day (June 1), 1979

There are two traditions of education: the rod and the "sweets bribe". From childhood we teach children the meaning of the carrot and the stick.
85. The barber who is not doing his job

A comment on the bureaucrats among us.
There is a Chinese saying: "You can't touch a tiger's backside". We believe in democracy, not in one man's word being law.
87. Adding salt

"Comrade, why are you putting salt on your paper?"
"This article's got no flavour."

*It goes without saying that this is not an exclusively Chinese phenomenon.*
88. Slowness race
89. On a trial basis

It is sometimes the practice in China for certain companies and individuals to give away state-owned merchandise on a "trial" basis in order to obtain illicit favours in return. This is actually nothing more than a poorly disguised form of graft.
It was a dig at some of our comrades who are so afraid of making mistakes and getting themselves into trouble that they do as little work as possible or even none at all. They don't seem to realize that not working means eating nothing in return, which is worst possible.

If a child is scared when he walks that he swears never to walk again, he may spend the rest of his life in clothes, he may be seventy or eighty but he'll certainly be regarded as a freak.

90. If you never walk you'll never fall over
91. Cooking Jiaozis

Verses by Chi Bei'ou

Crowded with people who’ve little to do,
The young and the old and the middle-aged too,
Some of them senior, some of them not.
Those connoisseurs like to drink their tea hot.
Some tell their jokes and some read the news;
Some play chess or knitted; some take a long snooze;
Some drink their medicine; some have a good moan.
It fills in the hours till its time to go home.

Within a 20-metre lap the baton’s often passed;
Each document is copied out by at least five separate hands.
The privies are all occupied by squatters who won’t piss;
Those who really want to work can only idle stand.
Modernization will have to wait,
Till overmanning has been put straight.

We compare an overcrowded swimming-pool to “cooking jiaozis”. Jiaozis are Chinese-style ravioli, which we boil in a pot. It’s a very accurate comparison. Here we’ve borrowed it as a metaphor for the overmanning of some government offices.
92. Automatic escalator

To save electricity, most escalators in China go up only.
Stopped
During the 8 working hours, outside the 8 working hours, it's all the same.
94. "Where's the fire?"

Criticizing the attitude of only caring about the interests of one's own work unit.
"This is supposed to be the year of the monkey, but all the calendars have are pin-ups."

1980 was the Year of the Monkey.
96. The Emperor's New Clothes

If you have read the Hans Christian Andersen story you will get the point.
97. "Whatever style of boxing is that?"
   "'Feeling the mood of the leadership' boxing."
98. The mincing machine

State secrets go in at one end and come out at the other.
"Why the hell are you counting my white hairs?"

June 1980

99. Cao Xueqin's protest

An objection to some scholars who engage in trivial pedantry over the 18th-century writer Cao Xueqin and his great novel "A Dream of Red Mansions."
100. "Take it easy"; "Take it easy" to the point of exhaustion.

_The motives are good, and the results appalling._
Hello! Is that you, Section Head Xu? We flew into Shanghai yesterday. It's bloody hot. Much hotter than your place. Loads of stuff in the free market—carp, turtles, the lot. We're staying in the XX Hotel. Food's O.K., but it's damn hot. Just had a bath... Not a breath of wind. Hello! Are you there? When I was at your place for a meeting in Room 108, "Hey, can you hear me? 108, the room facing north. I left a ball-point pen. The maker was XX. It's black, cracked, and taped up. Could you find it for me and let me have it back some time... June 1980

101. A long-distance call at public expense
"I don't need to race with you any more."

Bureaucratic business style

JUNE 1980

102. The race between the hare and the tortoise

— latest version

We oppose the bureaucratic way of running state-owned business, which avoids competition and crawls along at tortoise speed.
103. The Foolish Old Man decides to dig up the foothills of feudalism

"My word is law" is a style of leadership that survives from feudal society. Although the Foolish Old Man dug up the mountain of feudalism (see Mao Zedong's "How the Foolish Old Man Moved the Mountain") he also has to dig up its foothills.
A criticism of some young writers who won't accept criticism. The saying has it that you can't touch the tiger's backside. These days the same goes for cats.
105. A summer thought

*The ecological balance?*
106. Market psychology
Prompted by some illegible signatures

107. A test for Wang Xizhi

Wang Xizhi was a great Chinese calligrapher of the 4th century A.D. A jibe at those people who sien their names in an unrecognisable manner.
108. Can you drag it out any further?

Another manifestation of bureaucracy.
JULY 1980

109. Climbing the pole

Leads high and low must watch out for this type.
110. "How did you get those low-heeled sandals?"
    "By paying the cobbler 20 cents to remove the high heels."

Old ladies in China are not used to wearing high heels like old ladies in the West. But at one time all women's shoes were produced with high heels.
111. "I don't want them cut. There was someone on television the other day with fingernails several feet long."

We really have to be careful about television's influence on the young.
112. Revolving round the sun?

Family planning in China is essential; but bringing up only children presents new problems.
"Keep on painting my dear, and when you're good at it you can go on TV. Then they'll make films about you, and when you win first prize in an international competition, you'll get your dad abroad for a look round."

113. Coaching in the "fine" arts.
114. Watermelon tyranny

We oppose bureaucratic ways of running businesses.
115. If you're carrying too much you can't give up your seat

China is now tackling the problem of an ageing leadership. At present, however, some cadres still place an unreasonable emphasis on seniority.
116. Suspicion
117. The Stolen Dress Dance

Stealing other people's creations only makes one look even more of a fool.
When your feet are too small, blaming the shoes for being too big.

Taking out insomnia on a pillow for being too hard.

Resenting the buffalo's failure to appreciate one's elevated music.

Blaming the brick wall for obstructing the way.

118. Objective reasons (1)
If you trip over it's the fault of the stone in the road.

If you scald your tongue it's because the water's too hot.

If you're ill it's because the medicine's too bitter.

Good advice is too unpleasant to listen to.

119. Objective reasons (2)
Blaming a dirty face on a filthy face-cloth.

I don't know my subject because the books on it are too difficult.

The light of the torch shines only on others.

1980
121. The new-style Red Ribbon Dance

It is a bureaucratic practice to draw non-committal red circles on documents in order to put off making decisions.
122. Go up there if you like; I'm staying here. (not a dig at athletes)

A dig at the bureaucratic way in which some of us argue over trivialities instead of cooperating.
123. The volunteer accompanist at the concert
124. Strength but not beauty
125. Unemployed woodpeckers

There has been too much reckless felling of trees.
126. The Laughing Buddha learns bureaucratic business methods

Maitreya Buddha, the Laughing Buddha, was loved because he always looked so cheerful. But today he shows a grim face to the old pilgrims who come to burn incense.
127. The modest fishermen

A comment on how some scholars like to keep the goodies to themselves.
There is a Chinese story about some blind men who were going to make fish soup. The fish all leapt out of the pot, but the cooks still thought the soup delicious.
129. A detective cartoon

"I expect he hit the roof when someone criticized him."

"Why's there a hole up here?"
130. Only the magazine editor knows how much water some articles contain

I wish some of the articles that are full of water and say little would be wrong dry.
131. From the sound of trains at night you can tell the number of meetings.
"Donkey turd" is a nickname Chinese people give to someone who's shiny on the outside and dirty inside.
USE A SELF-INFLATION BRAND PUMP

HIGHLY EFFECTIVE WORLD FAMOUS

133. Not an advertisement
"But didn't our leaders say that drastic surgery doesn't apply in every case?"

Feb. 1982

34. I think I'm perfectly all right

For those officials who don't want to streamline their own organizations.
Some organizations migrate to the warm south in winter and the cool north in summer for their conferences.
According to a reader's letter published in the Guangming Daily on 4 February, someone had to collect 13 official stamps to get her baby registered.

Feb. 1982

136. This is not an educational game!
Mosquito: Things look bad. I hear that when this civic virtues month is over, they're going to go on with them.

Cockroach: The people where I live say that they'll just have to muddle through this month and then it'll all be over. mar. 1982

137. Plotting in the corner

A dig at those who want to muddle through.
138. Barbarism in a civilized place

During Civic Virtues Month, I saw this "advertisement" with my own eyes.
139. Spoiling the view

spoiling the view: drawn in the chinese traditional style, march 1982
People have done some stupid things in the course of developing tourism in China.
Modern foreign architecture as seen in a magazine

March 1982

141. Drunken architectural design
142. Cut-price laurels
(a reaction to certain articles and reports about people)

I'm against cheap and vulgar flattery.
143. "I'm not taking this picture for a pin-up. I'm using it to illustrate the Tree-Planting Movement.

Some magazines and newspapers will use anything as an excuse to print a picture of a pretty girl.
144. "Tell me, stranger, where are you from?"
145. A Horse's Mouth on A Cow's Head

Verses by Chi Bai'ou

Fix up an old cow with the mouth of a horse;
Let all the hares run after the hounds;
Take a boy and a girl from different tales,
And soon their great passion will grow without bounds.
Write utter nonsense; say just what you like;
Make sopranos sing bass and act like low clowns.

The Americas are where it's set,
The Middle Ages are the time,
The heroine's a Buddhist nun,
Revenge provides the story line.

Say that his plot is a load of old rubbish;
He'll say, "Conservative damned ignoramus!"
For such a great author whose writing is trash,
It's cheek he must use to make a big splash.
146. A TV fable

Son: “Dad, why’s the TV tower leaning over?”
Father: “It’s bowing to apologize for this evening’s lousy programmes.”
Suggested by the People's Daily article "Tourism on Taishan Mountain urgently needs to be properly organized."
June 1982.

147. On not seeing Mt. Taishan
A view of a certain office

July 1982

148. Flexible knocking-off time
Who needs any life? Who needs any feeling?
A wave of the brush and the picture's unreeling.
Landscapes with mountains? Orchids? Bamboo?
Whatever you want the robot will do.
They'll all be the same, like woodblock reproductions.
So what if it's crude? It's fast mass-production.
Have as much as you like: I get profit and fame.
Tang Yie* would be furious, and Rodin the same.

* Tang Yin (1470-1525) was a noted Chinese painter.
150. A profound melody that can be sung by all
(not a dig at "The Athletes' March", but ...)

Since there are too few good marches, the same tune is used
on all occasions.
151. Case history:

Since he became famous his eyes have gradually upward...

A slight success makes some people so proud that they pay attention only to high-ranking and influential people. In Chinese, a boastful person is described as one whose eyes have gone to the top of his head.
152. A case of plagiarism
153. Discussions on the Elimination of Rats

Verses by Chi Bei'ou

Gentlemen work with their mouths, not their hands;
All they wear out are their lips and their tongues.
There's much too much planning about killing rats,
And endless discussions about rights and wrongs.

Some people advocate keeping more cats,
Others say dogs will destroy rats for sure.
"Fill up the rat-holes." "Build new tower-blocks."
"Put down more poison." "Use bait as a lure."

They all talk at once; everyone has a say;
With their high-flown debates they can never be done.
They take the long view and avoid undue haste,
While all over our house the rats freely run.

This heaven and earth will not always endure,
But hot air without deeds will go on evermore.
Mice Talking Big

There used to be a saying that nobody dares touch a tiger's backside. Now some people say that the same goes for cats. Mr. Mouse was so delighted when he heard this that he went back to his hole to tell his wife that it must be even more true for mice.

This can be taken as a portrait of one who lies and boasts.

November 1982

154. Mice talking big
155. Too much added flavour

A Chinese saying describes exaggeration as "adding vinegar and oil".