

Engels

MAVO-C & VBO

teksten

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China girl in a billion

- 1 1 She is the face of change in a country with more than a thousand million people. Millions
2 of girls idolise her and see her as their role model as they throw away their dull dresses
3 and take the great leap forward into Western fashion.
- 2 4 Jeni Chen has become China's supermodel and a symbol of the youthquake shaking the
5 country. Everywhere young people are getting rid of boring Cultural Revolution-style
6 uniforms and buying Western-style clothes. Before, they wore clothes in just three basic
7 colours: peasant black, army green and Mao blue. Now, in a fashion revolution, there are
8 splashes of colour everywhere. Office girls wearing bright blouses, mini-skirts and high
9 heels ride bicycles to and from work.
- 3 10 In the past, China's fashions were out of date and the clothes poorly made. But by
11 bringing in foreign designers and quality control, China is creating a worldwide demand
12 for its clothes.
- 4 13 It has one huge advantage: the cheapest mass labour force of any industrialised nation
14 on earth. Factory workers earn just over £3 a day — compared with about £10 a day in
15 neighbouring Hong Kong.
- 5 16 One of the main reasons for the rapid development is that thousands of Chinese who
17 have become multi-millionaires in places like Taiwan, Hong Kong, the United States,
18 Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Canada and Britain are now investing billions
19 in their 'homeland'.
- 6 20 The people do not seem to care that there is little or no democracy. They simply want
21 more pay and a higher standard of living — and they are willing to work hard. In the
22 shops of Shanghai and Peking they can now buy anything: TV sets, washing machines,
23 cameras, videos, an abundance of food — and Western-style clothes.
- 7 24 It was in this atmosphere that Jeni, 24, shot to stardom. China, wanting a supermodel to
25 display the nation's new fashions to the world, launched a contest — and tens of thousands
26 of girls from cities, towns and villages entered.
- 8 27 The winner of the contest was a sewing-machine worker earning £12 a week at the No. 7
28 Wool and Textile factory in Gongsheng, a country town. She changed her name from
29 the easily-forgotten Chen luan-Hong to the more stylish Jeni Chen — and is quickly
30 becoming the most-recognised face in China.
- 9 31 "I used to work 12 hours a day, six days a week in the factory," Jeni told me in the luxury
32 of the Palace Hotel, Peking. "Two years ago I had never ridden in a car. I used to ride my
33 bicycle to work and the only clothes I had were badly-fitting denims." Now Jeni works
34 in glamorous surroundings, often going from one modelling assignment to another in a
35 Rolls-Royce.
- 10 36 According to Sophie Wood of top model agency Elite Premier, Jeni could make an equal
37 impact in the West. Sophie said: "She obviously moves very well and has a great body
38 for haute couture."
- 11 39 Jeni's pay from the State-run International Exhibition Centre, which looks after foreign
40 clothes buyers, has 'shot up' to £52 a week. That is more than many of China's managers,
41 professors and politicians earn but still a fraction of what the West's supermodels can make

42 in a day — some £10,000 in the case of Linda Evangelista, Cindy Crawford or Christy
43 Turlington.

12 44 Jeni has just returned from a fashion show in Moscow — but dreams of modelling in
45 London, Paris, Rome and New York with Western supermodels.

from the 'Sunday Express', May 23 1993

Radio phone-ins

In the following text two presenters of radio phone-in shows talk about their experiences.

1 1 *Alan Robson*, 36, presents the 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. *Night Owls* slot on Newcastle's Metro
2 Radio. After stints as a dustman, electrician, comedian and disc jockey in clubs, he 21
3 a local phone-in radio show.

2 4 "We try and change people's lives. It sounds pompous but really it's social common sense.
5 Last Thursday we had a businessman from the Midlands whose Citroën had developed
6 a mechanical fault and he couldn't get it repaired until the next morning. One of the
7 listeners who owns a 22 picked up his tools and sent the guy on his way.

3 8 We spend about 70 per cent of the programme laughing but the other 30 per cent helping
9 people, talking about 23. One woman said that I had a plaster for every injury —
10 a terrible phrase but if you have the numbers listening it's surprising the powers you've
11 got. 24 one girl phoned in, said she'd taken an overdose and she was there in a phone
12 box with her two children. She refused to tell me where she was. So I said, on air: "Have
13 a look out your windows and if you can spot this girl in a phone box near you, contact
14 the police at once." The police were there within four minutes and she was 25.

4 15 This sort of show wouldn't work in the day, partly because we discuss subjects that
16 might not be suitable at other times. During the day, radio is wallpaper: people are just
17 dipping in. At night they're 26. If I get a historical fact wrong, the switchboard
18 jams with people ringing in to correct me. That couldn't happen except at night when
19 the television's rubbish, it's quiet and there's not a lot of people around. Daytime radio
20 you're talking at people. 27 you're talking to them."

5 21 *Stewart McFarlane*, 52, presents *The Late Night Phone-In*, broadcast between 10 p.m.
22 and 2 a.m. on Cleveland's TFM. Thirty per cent of local listeners tune into his programme,
23 which runs for six nights a week. He is a trained counsellor and works with young prisoners.

6 24 "People can 28 with anything. It could be a joke, it could be a question about their
25 unemployment benefit, it could be the fact that their wife's just had a baby, or that their
26 wife's just left them. Why they want to talk to me on a night-time with thousands of
27 people to hear them, I just don't know. But I understand the people who 29. How
28 many times have *you* sat on a bus and heard a little piece of information, and you've tried
29 to overhear what was being said?

7 30 Very often I don't know what callers want or what mood they're in. If they come on dead
31 bright, I'll react accordingly. If they sound sad, I'll say: "It sounds as if you've got a few
32 problems, anything we can help with?"

8 33 I absolutely 30 regular callers. They get possessive about you, they feel they own you
34 and they own the programme. Sometimes callers say: "You're going back home tonight,

35 why don't you come in for coffee?" Well, I 31 things like that. They know roughly
 36 how old I am, that I was married, that I've got a beard and some grandchildren. But
 37 that's as far as it goes."

from 'The Independent', June 19, 1992

Shannen Doherty, a star at 20

1 1 The pressure of being one of television's most recognisable faces is beginning to tell on
 2 actress Shannen Doherty, star of *Beverly Hills 90210*. In the programme she's typical all-
 3 American teenager Brenda Walsh, with few visible shortcomings. But off-screen she is
 4 different. She's been known to be difficult on the film set and even been called a 'spoilt
 5 brat' by one U.S. popular newspaper.

2 6 Does the pretty 20-year-old deserve that unflattering description? There's talk among
 7 the other actors about her sudden mood swings, and her anti-social habit of slamming
 8 her dressing-room door between scenes and playing rock music at a deafening level. Even
 9 the show's producer has to admit: "She does some strange things."

3 10 Shannen denies it loud and clear. "Everybody gets in a bad mood sometimes," she
 11 explains. "You don't work 16 hours a day without starting to feel it. I have got upset on
 12 the set, but it's never been just to annoy people. You have to stand up for yourself in
 13 this business," she says firmly.

4 14 The most recent example of such an upset had happened just 24 hours earlier. Shannen
 15 had fled off the set after saying the same lines wrong six times. "When I mess things up
 16 I get really mad at myself I worry about my work — I feel a lot of pressure every day to
 17 put out really quality stuff."

5 18 The surprise success of *Beverly Hills 90210* has brought Shannen fame. But with it has
 19 also come more stress — in the form of fan worship. "I can't go out anywhere now without
 20 somebody recognising me," she complains.

6 21 Then there are the letters — up to 800 a week —, some praising her performance, but
 22 others asking her for advice on every aspect of teenage life. "My fans don't separate me
 23 from the character I play, so I feel a special responsibility as Brenda," she says.

7 24 Because she's constantly reminded of Brenda's influence on millions of teenagers, Shannen
 25 has had several quarrels with the writers of the show. She explains: "There was once a
 26 scene where Brenda kept saying: "I've got to lose five pounds." But I'm a very thin
 27 person. So if girls hear Brenda say she can't go to the beach unless she loses weight,
 28 they're going to try and get unhealthily skinny."

8 29 The success of *Beverly Hills 90210* took everyone by surprise. When it was first launched
 30 in America, in September 1990, it was criticised as being a superficial teenage series.
 31 But by June 1991 it was in the US Top 20. Although the pressures hit Shannen hard,
 32 she's escaped some of the problems of sudden stardom. "I've been very lucky", she says
 33 modestly. "I have great parents and I've enjoyed a balanced family life away from the
 34 many superficial people in Hollywood."

9 35 As she leaves for home, Shannen says: “I know I can’t just go out and do anything I want
36 now because I’m a bit famous. I just hope the show’s popularity doesn’t change me in
37 any way.”

from ‘Woman’, February 24, 1992

Leaving school

1 1 Most of us leave school like a bullet out of a gun. No more teachers breathing down your
2 neck, and ultimately, total freedom. But as Yasmin Boland discovered when talking to
3 two girls that left school one year ago, your choices are basically another school, work or
4 unemployment. Whichever you choose, it’s time to prepare for the rest of your life.

2 5 All through school Keely McLaren, 17, of London, had her heart set on a career in travel.
6 Now, in her first year out, she’s working in a travel agent’s in London’s West End.

3 7 “I’m doing this job as part of a travel agents’ training scheme, and so I also go to college.
8 It’s only 22 days a year but I have self-study packs which I have to work on for an hour
9 at work every day. My final exams are in December and hopefully I’ll do OK. When I
10 complete the course, I’ll basically be trained to do exactly what I’m doing now — but the
11 difference is that I’ll have the piece of paper which says I’m qualified.

4 12 The biggest difference between school and work was that I ran out of energy. My school
13 was just across the road from my house but for work I have to get up at 5.30 a.m. and
14 get the train into London. Then it’s a full day in the office and home again. I’m getting
15 used to it now, but it’s taken all year.

5 16 The hardest thing to get used to was being nervous. When I started, I thought “Oh
17 Lord! What if I can’t do it?” It’s amazing to think I’m actually organising people’s
18 annual holidays and it’s up to me if they have a good time or not, at least as far as the
19 organisation is concerned. I’ve taken it slowly and I still check everything over and over
20 before finishing it.

6 21 In the past year I’ve enjoyed everything a lot more than I thought I would. One of the
22 best things overall, though, has been learning to talk to older people on their level. At
23 school, I never would have had the confidence to talk to businessmen or other people much
24 older than me. But in my work I’ve learned that at last.”

7 25 Sarah Blunt, 17, of North London, left school last year. The past 12 months haven’t
26 exactly gone to plan, and for a large part of this period she’s been unemployed. “When
27 I left school I enrolled at college to do journalism. I really thought it was what I wanted
28 to do — the course was excellent, with radio, TV, print and so on. I started, but the
29 same thing happened to me that had happened at school. I just didn’t want to be there,
30 I couldn’t concentrate, I didn’t want to know anyone there.

8 31 I didn’t find work straight away. Throughout, Mum was great in helping me. She didn’t
32 charge me for food or board or anything. I couldn’t afford to go out after a while, though,
33 and when the money ran out, she put her foot down. She said she’d be happy to give me
34 money if I was studying but she didn’t think it was right for me to get it when I wasn’t
35 even working. Eventually, I got a job as a telephone researcher.

9 36 In some ways, I guess my first year out of school has been a waste. I’ve wasted myself
37 emotionally and physically. But I think I needed the year off to clear my mind. Next

38 year I'm determined to make a go of things. I still don't know what I want to do — but
39 whatever it is, I'll be qualified for it. I've realised I need an education if I'm going to get
40 anywhere in life.”

from 'Just Seventeen', July 10, 1991