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Prime time for eyeful of Hudson River Valley. **N3**

This small printer can handle full-size paper. **N3**

SIZING UP SHANGHAI

What's biggest today may be dwarfed tomorrow as this already enormous Chinese city adds skyscrapers and people at a breathtaking pace.

Shanghai is a city of unrelenting growth. A taxi ride from the airport reveals hundreds of bright yellow and red construction cranes whirling about its skyline. The parade of skyscrapers is measured not in blocks but in miles. All of Manhattan could fit in Shanghai's back pocket.

The current population of Shanghai is estimated to be 23 million — up from 18 million only five years ago. This is a city that has more people than the entire continent of Australia. How does a visitor even begin to get a grip on this vast region?

The Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center is an excellent place to start. Located in the cultural hub of town at People's Square, the center is part museum and part urban planning resource, all of it related to the city of Shanghai.

An interesting way to appreciate how far Shanghai has come in a short time is to enter the center via the past. The People's Square subway station (the busiest in Shanghai) empties directly beneath the museum into a concourse that has been redone to look like a

See **SHANGHAI** on N4

A Year and A World
By Larissa and Michael Milne

Shanghai Pacific Institute for International Strategy

Tall buildings march for miles in Shanghai, which sprawls on both sides of the Huangpu River. Construction cranes are omnipresent, and the population is estimated at 23 million.

BILL STEPHENS

The Mellqvist Coffee Bar, where author Stieg Larsson is said to have written his first novel, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo."

Following Stieg Larsson's footsteps through Stockholm

By Bill Stephens
FOR THE INQUIRER

On a dark, soundless side street in the bohemian Sodermalm section of Stockholm, our Stieg Larsson tour group members began arriving.

"I've read all three Larsson novels and seen all three Swedish movies," a New York woman volunteered.

"I've just read *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*," I said.

"Oh, if you've only read the first book you won't get much out of this tour," she said. "That novel takes place mostly in the Swedish countryside."

Despite the lack of enrichment my tour mate warned me about, I was, at least, the first tour group member to arrive, which gave me a chance to chat with tour leader Karen, a sturdy, affable woman wearing a red scarf and warm layers. She works for the Stockholm City Museum, which since 2008 has run these Stieg Larsson Mil-

See **STOCKHOLM** on N2

Step back, jack-o'-lanterns: It's Peruvian gourd carving

By Aimee Hansen
FOR THE INQUIRER

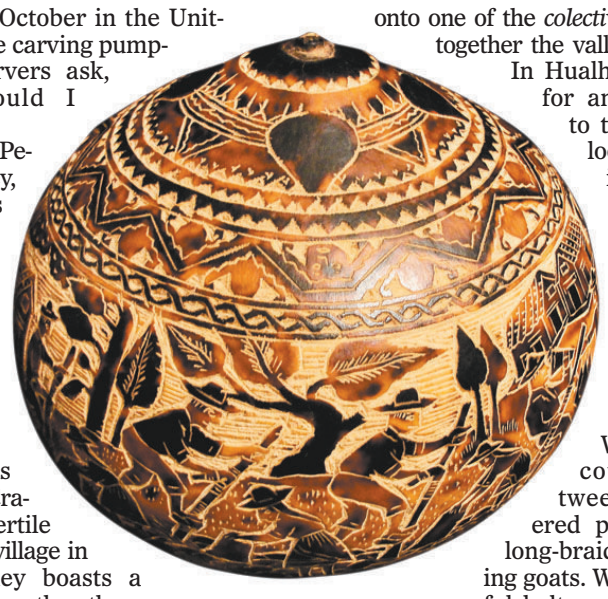
Nothing says October in the United States like carving pumpkins, as carvers ask, "What face should I make?"

Among people in Peru's Mantaro Valley, carving gourds isn't an annual tradition. It's an ancient art. And the question they ask is "What story should I tell?"

For those seeking the Peruvian Andean soul, the Central Highlands is the place to look. Cradled by green, fertile hills, each vibrant village in the Mantaro Valley boasts a unique craft, and together they preserve a local lifestyle caught in time. Equipped with hand-drawn maps, a mouthful of Spanish, and a wish to rub knees with the locals, we hopped onto one of the *colectivo* buses that sew together the valley's villages.

In Hualhuas, we haggled for an alpaca blanket to the clatter of the loom. In San Jerónimo, we watched silver being tamed into rings. In Quichuay, our mouths sang the praises of garlic trout and *papas a la huancaina*, potatoes. We strolled in the countryside between purple-flowered potato fields and long-braided women herding goats. We wrapped colorful belts around our waists

See **PERU** on N5



AIMEE HANSEN

This story gourd, purchased by the writer for $20, tells of the autumn harvest. Mates burilados, engraved gourds, are made by craftsmen in the Central Highlands' Cochas community.

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