

FROM THE COVER

THE BEIJING SUMMER OLYMPICS... The New Face in an Old Nation

By Bill Finley

When an ancient culture, ruled by a totalitarian government, decides to show off its giant leap to modernity, they can put on quite a show! With an open checkbook and a cooperative population, China can exercise its massive intellectual resources, its dedication to order as well as its deep desire to be respected in the developed world.

(If only Mayor Bloomberg had his way?)

Much of the international attention has been focused on the sparkling array of fantastic structures being erected or remodeled for the two-week gala.

The centerpiece of the magnificent menu is the National Stadium, truly a wonder of design and technology.

With almost three million square feet, seating over 90,000, it will provide a magnificent venue for track and field events and international football.

The Chinese government is claiming that all their new structures are going “green” and that this multi-strapped monster will make a contribution to sustainability by collecting and using rainwater (a new idea?), employing natural ventilation (a good idea), and is insulated with huge inflatable cushions of a kind of plastic that increases heat and light penetration (it gets cold and dark there!).

Being second in the world (after the U.S.) in releasing carbon into the air, the Olympic development officials proudly announce that many major facilities will be served by solar and wind-driven power systems. It could be a wonderful step forward for a country viewed backward by much of the world.



National Stadium, China

Literally, millions of engineers, managers and craftsmen have worked around the 100 hour weeks for five years to pull off “their greatest show on earth!” Their opening ceremonies will be the spectacle of a lifetime. Don’t miss it!! With the absolute power of national unity, and to try to dissipate the usually smoggy skies around their capital, they are temporarily closing 1,000 coal mines and banning 1,000,000 cars to make traffic bearable and healthy breathing possible.