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Earth-shaking problems turn on what Chou En-lai and President Nixon will discuss when the two men meet next year. Still it seems safe to state that at least one aspect of American life will not be affected by that summit conference: our love affair with Chinese food. There is hardly a town in the country that does not have at least one Chinese restaurant. Chinese food buffets in New York City can choose among hundreds of restaurants.

Now it is possible to move that love affair out of the restaurant and into your own home with a useful little book we have just published. The title is THE CHINESE MENU COOKBOOK. The author, Constance D. Chang, who has been called the Julia Child of Chinese cookery, has conducted her own Chinese cooking classes on TV and knows how to show the average cook how to make great Chinese dishes out of ingredients to be found in the local supermarket and with utensils in your own kitchen. The book is easy to follow: step-by-step instructions (illustrated with drawings) are climaxed with the finished dish photographed in mouthwatering, living color. Furthermore, Ms. Chang presents the reader with suggestions for full course meals, not just random dishes.

For example, a Lucullan dinner for six might include: tomato-clam soup, deep fried walnut chicken, sweet-sour pork, cucumber salad, egg fried rice. Preparation time is about as long as it would take to fry up a couple of pork chops and boil up a pot of noodles. The results are beautifully satisfying to the palate, to the eye, and to the guests. I know because I tested the recipes for this meal myself about two weeks ago and with the exception of one tiny disaster with the chopped walnuts, the dinner was right on.

One final note: in these days of wage and price freezes, it is a pleasure to offer a genuine bargain. THE CHINESE MENU COOKBOOK contains dozens of recipes illustrated in full color for only \$3.95. And it even tells you how to use chopsticks.

L.L. Day
Editor-at-Large

THE CHINESE MENU COOKBOOK (\$3.95), by Constance D. Chang, is published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., 277 Park Avenue. Copies may be obtained from your own bookseller or any Doubleday Book Shop, one of which is located at 14 Wall Street, New York 10005.

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by James A. Mecklenburger and John A. Wilson

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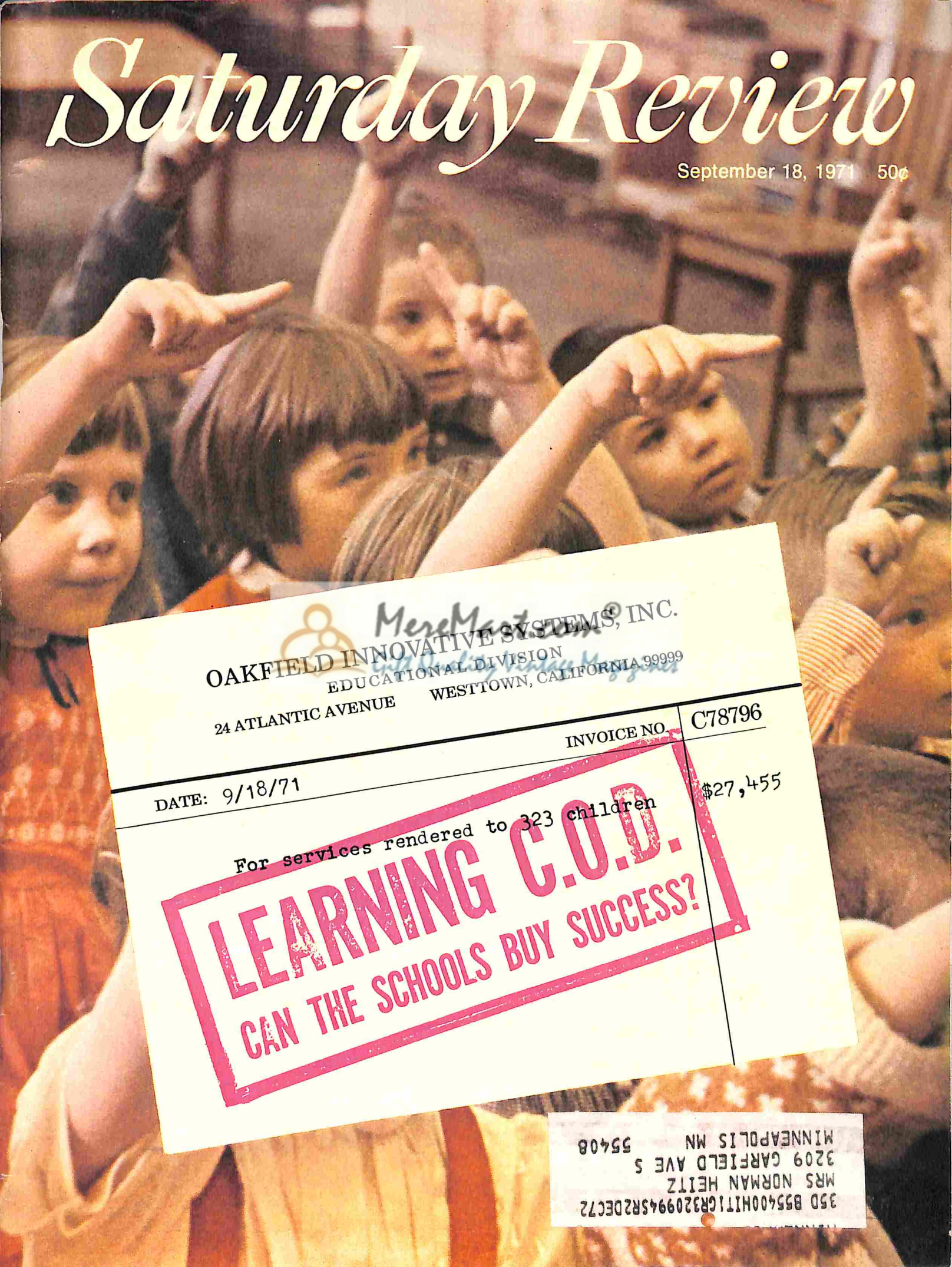
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