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听美国之音

学英文

生活·时事

Life and
Current Events

Great Voice from VOA

朱英 编译

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目
Contents
录

-
- 1** *Former Teacher Keeps at-Risk Kids on Right Track*
退休教师使问题孩子走上正轨. /8

-
- 2** *Hong Kong Undertakes First Mental Health Survey in Wake of Violent Cases*
层出不穷的暴力事件促使香港政府进行第一次精神健康调查..... /16

-
- 3** *High Cost of Medicine Pushes More People into Poverty*
高昂的医药费让更多的人陷入贫困.. /24

-
- 4** *Forest Burials Gain Ground*
安葬于山林,留土地与后代..... /30

-
- 5** *Huge Quake Rescue Effort Under Way in New Zealand*
新西兰大地震的营救工作正在有条不紊地进行..... /38
-

-
- 6** *'The Last Lions' Documentary Traces Botswana Lioness, Her Cubs*
纪录片《最后的狮子》追踪了博茨瓦纳的母狮及其幼狮..... /44

-
- 7** *Man Leads 13-Country Trek to Combat Poverty*
男子为反贫困,率队步行穿越 13 国... /52

-
- 8** *Obama: Education Key to US Competitiveness*
奥巴马:教育对美国的竞争力至关重要
..... /60

-
- 9** *US Budget Battle Reflects Sharp Divide Over Government's Role*
美国的预算之争反映了两党对政府职能的认识存在巨大分歧..... /66

-
- 10** *Americans Prepare to Celebrate Valentine's Day*
美国人准备欢庆情人节..... /74

-
- 11** *African-American Surgeon Calls for Equality in US Medical System*
非裔美国外科医生呼吁在美国的医疗体制中实现平等..... /80

-
- 12** *Couple Helps Preserve Hawaiian Culture Through Music*
一对夫妇通过音乐来保存夏威夷文化
..... /88

-
- 13** *Embassies' Diplomatic Efforts Extend into US Schools*
大使馆的外交努力已经延伸到美国的中小学校..... /96

14	<i>Tiger Mom Triggers Parenting Debate</i> 虎妈引发关于孩子教育方式的争论/104
-----------	--

15	<i>Photos Explore Life of Immigrant Nannies</i> 照片揭示了外来保姆的生活...../112
-----------	--

16	<i>'Boys, Girls and Other Hazardous Materials' Explores Teen Bullying</i> 《街头小霸王》一书探讨那些横行霸道的青少年的问题...../122
-----------	--

17	<i>Indian Aviation Recovers After Global Economic Downturn</i> 全球经济低迷之后印度航空业开始复苏/130
-----------	--

18	<i>Beijing Helps US Students Learn Chinese</i> 北京帮助美国学生学汉语...../136
-----------	--

19	<i>Young Musicians Try to Make it in Real World</i> 年轻音乐家们努力在现实世界实现自身的价值...../144
-----------	--

20	<i>Experts Say Violence Not Necessarily Linked to Mental Illness</i> 专家称暴力行为并不一定与精神疾病联系在一起...../152
-----------	--

21	<i>Arizona Shooting Sparks Security Concerns</i> 亚利桑那州的枪击事件引发了人们对治安状况的忧虑...../160
-----------	--

22 *Living Life Fueled by Power of Courage*
勇气点燃人生..... /168

23 *New Book Explores Secret Ancient History of Rock 'n' Roll*
新书探寻了摇滚乐隐秘的悠久历史... /176

24 *Meals on Wheels Delivers Food Companionship*
“送餐上门”不仅输送了食物,还传递了友谊 /184

25 *Harsh Life of Washington's Slaves Revisited*
重访华盛顿总统的奴隶的艰难生活... /190

26 *Artists are America's Newest Ambassadors*
艺术家是美国最新的大使..... /198

27 *World AIDS Day: Saving Mothers, Saving Babies*
世界艾滋病日主题:拯救母亲、挽救孩子
..... /206

28 *Pulitzer Prize Winner Looks at Life of Cleopatra*
普利策奖得主探究埃及艳后的生活... /212

29 *Citizen Diplomats Sought for Worldwide Outreach*
民间外交家希望在世界范围内开展活动
..... /218

30 *Is This the End of the Television Age?*
电视时代是否就此终结? /226

31 *UN Summit Planned on Noncommunicable Diseases*

联合国峰会针对非传染性疾病制订行动计划..... /234

32 *15 Years After Rabin Assassination, Eagerness to Negotiate Peace Wanes in Israel*

拉宾被暗杀 15 年后, 通过谈判达成和平的愿望在以色列变得越来越弱..... /240

33 *Hungary Threatened by New Chemical Disaster, Experts Warn*

专家警告: 匈牙利面临新的化学灾难的威胁..... /248

34 *Chinese Demand Boosts Luxury Brand Profits*

来自中国的需求让世界奢侈品牌利润增长..... /256

35 *Tutu, 79, Retires from High-Profile Public Life*

79 岁的图图从引人注目的公共生活中退隐..... /262

36 *Relic of Modern Air Travel Gets a Facelift*

当代航空飞行的遗迹得到修缮和恢复..... /268

37 *Link Between Heart Health and Education Doesn't Always Apply*

心脏健康与教育程度之间并不总是有关联..... /274

38 *UN Summit Ends with Continuing Debate
Over Millennium Development Goals*

联合国峰会以关于新千年发展目标的持续争论落幕..... /280

39 *New York Music Conservatory Plays
Entrepreneurial Song*

纽约音乐学院奏响了企业家之歌..... /288

40 *For Palestinian Refugees at Shatila, 'Going
Home' Holds Different Meanings*

对沙提拉的巴勒斯坦难民来说,“回家”拥有不同的含义..... /296

41 *US Marks 9-11 Anniversary*

美国举行“9·11”事件周年纪念活动... /304

**听美国之音学英文：
生活·时事**

**Great Voice from VOA:
Life and Current Events**

1. Former Teacher Keeps at-Risk Kids on Right Track

When too many of his students ended up dead or in prison, Joe Marshall set out to give them a better future

Joann Mar | San Francisco, California

23 August 2010

“Stop the Violence” and “don’t do drugs” are the basic messages Joe Marshall imparts to his young students every week at Omega Boys Club. He didn’t start out as a **mentor** for troubled youth.

Marshall earned his doctorate in psychology, and spent 25 years as a teacher and **administrator** in San Francisco. He taught math in middle school and expected to see his best students **make it** to college.

“But I got a lot of horror stories and a lot of my former students ended up dead or in prison for selling drugs, being involved in gangs, girls ended up getting pregnant,” he recalls. “So it didn’t quite work out the way I had envisioned it and I’m sure they had wanted to. And I was really, really hurt. I got into this business to have young people succeed. I knew their potential, and they were not only not **living up to** their potential. They were not living.”

[The statistics do suggest young African-American men face a **grim** future. Many grow up in neighborhoods that are plagued by **gangs**, drugs, and violence. More than half of them don’t finish high school. And by the time those drop-outs are in their mid-30s, six out of 10 have spent time in jail.

Those facts, and his own experience, prompted Marshall to leave the classroom to set up an internationally-recognized program that gives at risk young people a safe haven and the chance of a better future.]^①

A ‘**prescription**’ for staying alive and free

Marshall co-founded the Omega Boys Club 23 years ago with the goal of keeping kids alive and free.

The club is located in a violence-free area of San Francisco and serves more than 400 young people every year. It offers after-school classes twice a

mentor /ˈmentə/ n. 导师, 指导者 **administrator** /ədˈmɪnɪstreɪtə/ n. 管理者; 行政人员 **make it** 达到目的, 获得成功 **live up to** 遵守; 实践 **grim** /ɡrɪm/ a. 严酷的, 无情的 **gang** /ɡæŋ/ n. (罪犯有组织

退休教师使问题孩子走上正轨

当自己太多的学生最终走向死亡或被投入监狱时，乔·马歇尔开始决定给他们一个更好的未来。

乔·马歇尔，发自加利福尼亚州旧金山

2010年8月23日

“停止暴力”和“远离毒品”是乔·马歇尔在欧米茄俱乐部每周向年轻学生们传递的信息。他并不是从一开始就担当那些问题少年的导师。

马歇尔以心理学博士毕业之后，在旧金山当了 25 年的教师和行政人员。马歇尔在中学教数学，希望能看到自己最好的学生考上大学。

“但是我听到了不少可怕的消息，说我曾经的学生因为贩毒或参与流氓团伙而最终失去了生命或被投入监狱，还有很多女孩都怀孕了。”他回忆说。“这和我预想完全背道而驰，我确信，他们曾想走我所预想的路。我感到非常、非常心痛。我参与到这项事业中就是为了让年轻人能获得成功。我知道他们有很大的潜力，然而他们非但没有在自己的人生中让这些潜力变成现实，甚至连自己的人生都没能走完。”

统计数据的确表明，年轻的非洲裔美国人前途暗淡。其中很多人在成长过程中，周围充斥着黑帮、毒品和暴力。他们当中有超过一半的人没有读完中学。当这些辍学者到三十五六岁的时候，有 60% 的人进了监狱。

以上这些事实，再加上自己的亲身经历，促使马歇尔离开了课堂，筹划了一个项目。该项目旨在为那些问题少年提供一个安全的港湾，使他们有更好的未来。这一计划已经获得了国际范围内的认可。

一副保持活力和自由的“药方”

23 年前，马歇尔参与创建了欧米茄男孩俱乐部，目标是帮助孩子们始终保持活力与自由。

这家位于旧金山的俱乐部坐落在一片远离暴力的地区，每年能为四百多名年轻人提供帮助。每两周，该俱乐部都会开办些课程，供孩子们课

week in math, **literacy**, family and life-skills and college preparation.

In many ways, the club serves as a **substitute** family by providing the teens with structure, support, and protection.

Joe Marshall sees gangs and violence as a disease that needs to be addressed as a public health problem.

“That’s what these young people get. They get a street-mentality, a mind-set that sends them straight to six feet under or the penitentiary,” he says. “The big part is dealing with the emotional residue of anger, fear, and pain that they develop because they got invested in this in the first place. Then we tell them to follow some new rules for living that will decrease their chances of ending up dead or in prison and increase their chances **dramatically** of staying alive and free. So, we follow this prescription religiously, just as your doctor would give you a prescription. We know it works. It’s up to them to take it.”

Play music, save lives

Radio has been the Omega Boys Club’s most effective way of getting its anti-violence message out to thousands of young people. In 1991, Joe Marshall started “Street Soldiers,” a weekly radio call-in show on KMEL, San Francisco’s number one hip-hop® station.

He talks of the day one of the club’s graduates, Marlena, called in.

“Marlena just happened to call. She’s at Southern University right now, going into her third year. She talked about what she had learned the hard way and how we helped her learn that by coming to Omega, by listening to “Street Soldiers,” and she said she had learned how to love herself. I thought that was so powerful. Because it’s a story you’ve heard many times - about being abused, **molested**, all that kind of stuff. And the folks who can help you are right on the other end of this phone line.”

Joe Marshall’s Omega Boys Club was instrumental in helping Marlena and many other students attend college.

It provides counseling and financial assistance to help them stay in school. Since the Omega Boys Club started, almost all the young people who joined remain alive and out of prison. Over 90 percent of its members who were accepted into college have now graduated.

外学习用,比如数学、识字、家庭和生活技能,以及大学的预备课程。

该俱乐部以各种方式为青少年提供成长规划、支持和保护,实际上担当了家庭的角色。

马歇尔认为流氓团伙和暴力行为就像是威胁公众健康的疾病,需要治疗。

“这些年轻人身陷其中而不能自拔。他们的思想还停留在那些街头混混的水平,这样的思维方式将他们直接送入了墓穴或扔进了监狱。”马歇尔说道。“我们的主要工作是纠正他们所形成的愤怒、恐惧和痛苦等等这些不健康的情绪,因为这些残渣余孽首先会吞噬年轻人的精力。然后告诉他们必须遵循一些对他们来说是全新的生活规范,这些规范能降低他们最后暴死街头或身陷囹圄的概率,而且,能让他们有很大的机会保持健康,生活自由。我们严格遵循这条准则,就好像医生给你开药方一样。我们知道这很有用。但能否遵守则取决于他们自身”。

用音乐拯救生命

对欧米茄俱乐部来说,向成千上万名年轻人传递反暴力信息的最有效方式一直是通过广播节目。1991年,马歇尔在旧金山最火爆的KMEL街舞电台开办了《街头斗士》节目,这是每周一次的电话热线节目。

马歇尔提到了俱乐部的一个毕业生马利娜那天打电话进来的情景。

“她现在是南方大学3年级的学生。她谈到自己所认识到的生活的艰难,以及我们如何通过让她加入欧米茄俱乐部、收听《街头斗士》节目,帮助她认识到这一点。她说自己已经学会了自爱。我觉得这个故事很有说服力。因为这个故事你已经听了很多遍——关于被虐待,被性侵犯,各种诸如此类的故事。位于电话线那头的正是能帮助你的人。”

马歇尔的欧米茄俱乐部对马利娜和很多其他学生来说,起到了很大的帮助作用,让他们读上了大学。

为了让年轻人安心上学,欧米茄俱乐部为他们提供咨询服务,并给予经济上的支持。自该俱乐部建立以来,几乎所有参加俱乐部的年轻人都还安然无恙,并且都远离牢狱之灾。俱乐部成员中考入大学的超过90%现在已毕业。

A national model

The Omega Boys Club has become a model program that has been replicated in twelve other U.S. cities.

Marshall is in-demand as an anti-violence expert and has been invited to address community groups in Nigeria, Canada, South Africa, and Thailand to spread his alive and free prescription.

Although he turned 63 this year, Joe Marshall has no thoughts of retiring any time soon.

“I want to build an institution,” he explains. “I’m not going to be here forever, so you know my big thing is to make sure this goes on. So we put a lot of work into institutionalizing what we do as the headquarters of the alive-and-free movement[®]. All this has worked to further my goal of keeping young people alive and free and helping communities in the Bay Area[®], around the country and around the world. So I’m not stopping. That’s why retiring is hard for me to talk about.”

Joe Marshall says he’s so busy these days that he can’t remember the last time he took a vacation. But there are still a lot more young people to save and he hopes they keep coming to him.

国家楷模

欧米茄俱乐部已经成为一种值得效仿的模式,在美国又有 12 个城市复制了这种俱乐部形式。

作为一名反暴力专家,马歇尔现在非常受欢迎,已经被邀请去尼日利亚、加拿大、南非和泰国,为那里的社区做报告,传播他那保持活力和自由的理念。

尽管乔·马歇尔今年已经 63 岁了,但他还没有考虑在最近退休。

“我想建立一个机构,”他解释说,“我不可能在这里一直干下去,所以我现在的最大愿望就是让这项工作能继续下去。为此,作为‘保持活力和自由运动’的发起者,我们付出了很大的努力,使目前的工作能够制度化。以上的这些努力都进一步实现了我的目标,那就是让年轻人能够保持活力和自由,并为加州湾区、全国甚至世界范围内的社区提供帮助。我不能停滞不前。这就是为什么退休对我来说是个艰难的话题。”

马歇尔说这些日子他太忙了,已经记不起上次度假是在什么时候了。但还是不断有年轻人需要他来解救,他也希望他们能向他寻求帮助。

导读

作为一个心理学博士，马歇尔完全可以在学术上取得更大的成就。但他始终把一名教师的社会职责放在第一位，帮助那些问题少年走出困境；尽管这项工作很琐碎，也不容易造成社会的巨大反响，但确实实能为社会消除不安定因素。这样的人值得尊重。难怪他的工作得到了国际社会的认可。

注释

- ① 括号内文字无录音。后同。
- ② hip-hop: 街舞。从字面上来看,hip是臀部,hop是摇摆,加在一起就是摇摆臀部,原先指的是雏形阶段的街舞(也就是我们以前说的霹雳舞),后来才逐渐发展成一种巨大的概念。我们现在说的hip-hop文化,还包括了那些宽大的衣服、沉甸甸的纯金饰品、特定的口语习惯——总之就是那种美国贫民街区里黑人的生活方式和行为特征。
- ③ alive-and-free movement: 保持活力和自由运动。该运动创立于2006年,创立的社会背景是美国城市中心城区越来越多的青少年辍学,并被关进监狱或遭到杀害。“保持活力与自由运动”所持的观点是:暴力是一种社会疾病,治疗过程极为复杂。此病通过不良信息、不良教唆、不良建议以及不良示范得以传播,在青少年看来,这些信息、教唆、建议和示范都是好的。这种社会疾病看似一种生存策略,事实上却正好相反。受到感染的青少年无法生存,他们只会死亡或走进监狱。