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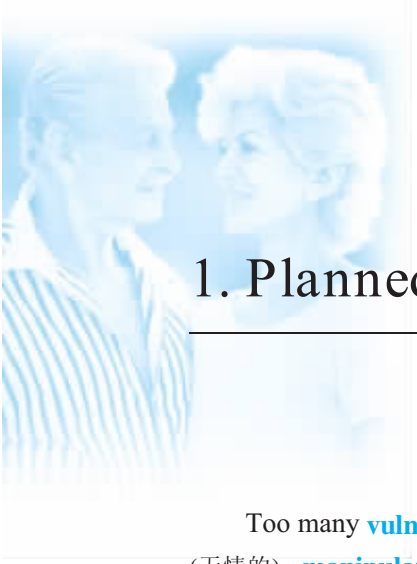

1. Planned-Grandparenthood

祖父母计划组织

Too many **vulnerable** child-free adults are being ruthlessly (无情的) **manipulated** into parent-hood by their parents, who think that happiness among older people depends on having a grand-child to **spoil**. We need an organization to help **beat down** the **persistent campaigns** of grandchildless parents. It's time to establish Planned Grandparenthood, which would have many global and local benefits.

Part of its mission would be to promote the risks and realities **associated with** being a grandparent. The staff would include depressed grandparents who would explain how grandkids break lamps, bite, scream and kick. Others would **detail** how an hour of baby-sitting often turns into a crying marathon. More grandparents would **testify** that they had to pay for their grandchild's expensive college education.

Planned Grandparenthood's carefully written literature would detail all the joys of grand-child-free life: a calm living room, extra money for luxuries during the golden years, etc. Potential grandparents would be reminded that, without grandchildren around, it's possible to have a conversation with your kids, who—incidentally—would have more time for their own parents.

Meanwhile, most children are vulnerable to the enormous influence **exerted** by grandchildless parents aiming to persuade

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their kids to produce children. They will take a call from a **persistent** parent, even if they're **loaded with** works. In addition, some parents make handsome money offers payable upon the grandchild's birth. Sometimes these gifts not only cover expenses associated with the infant's birth, but extras, too, like a vacation. In any case, cash gifts can weaken the **resolve** of even the noblest person.

At Planned Grandparenthood, children targeted by their parents to reproduce could obtain non-biased information about the insanity of having their own kids. The **catastrophic** psychological and economic costs of childbearing would be emphasized. The symptoms of morning sickness would be listed and horrors of childbirth pictured. A monthly newsletter would contain stories about overwhelmed parents and offer guidance on how childless adults can **respond to** the different lobbying tactics that would-be grandparents employ.

When I think about all the problems of our overpopulated world and look at our boy grabbing at the lamp by the sofa, I wish I could have turned to Planned Grandparenthood when my parents were putting the grandchild squeeze on me.

If I could have, I might not be in this parenthood predicament (窘境). But here's the crazy **irony**, I don't want my childfree life back. Dylan's too much fun.

美文大意

作者用戏谑的口吻撰写本文。太多易受影响的没有孩子的成年人在其父母的操纵下当上了爸爸妈妈，他们的父母认为老年人的身边应该有一个孙子或孙女才幸福。现在已经到了该建立一个“祖父母计划组织”的时候了，它将会带来许多全球性和地方性的好处。随后作者详述了这一假想的组织的使命以及它的组织和活

动。但在文章结尾，作者笔锋一转，说自己虽然正在受当祖父母的苦，但是却不愿意重新回到没有孩子的日子。

美文精译

太多易受影响的没有孩子的成年人在其父母的操纵下当上了爸爸妈妈，他们的父母认为老年人的幸福要靠有一个孙子或孙女来溺爱。我们需要一个组织来帮助摧毁没有孙辈的爷爷奶奶们坚持不懈的说服活动。现在已经到了该建立一个“祖父母计划组织”的时候了，它将会带来许多全球性和地方性的好处。

它的部分使命是宣传与当祖父母相关的风险和事实。它的员工中会包括沮丧的祖父母，他们会向人们解释孙子们是怎样把灯打破的，怎样咬人，尖叫和踢人的。其他的人将会详述临时替人照看一小时的孩子是怎样变成一场哭喊马拉松的。更多的祖父母将会作证他们是怎样不得不为他们的孙子或孙女支付高昂的大学学费。

“祖父母计划组织”精心写出的文章将会详细描述没有孙子或孙女的生活里的所有的快乐：一个宁静的起居室，在人生的黄金年代有买奢侈品的余钱，等等。有可能成为祖父母的人将会被提醒，没有孙子孙女们围绕在身边，就可能有时间和自己的孩子们交谈，而孩子们——顺便提一句——也将会有更多的时间和自己的父母在一起。

与此同时，大部分的孩子们在没有孙子的父母旨在劝说自己的孩子生小孩的巨大影响下不堪一击。他们可能会接到固执的父母打来的电话，即使他们工作很忙。此外，一些父母主动提出只要孙子或孙女出生，就支付一笔数目可观的钱。有时这些礼物不仅可以支付与婴儿出生相关的费用，还可以支付额外的东西，比如去度一次假。不管在哪种情况下，礼金可能动摇最高尚的人的决心。

在“祖父母计划组织”中，被父母缠着生小孩的孩子们将获得不带偏见的关于生自己的孩子是多么愚蠢的信息。养孩子的心理上和经济上灾难性的费用将会被强调。孕妇晨吐的症状会被列出来，生孩子时的恐怖也会被生动地描述出来。按月寄出的通讯将包含被困扰不堪的父母们的故事，还指导没有孩子的成年人怎样回

应期望当爷爷奶奶的父母所采取的不同的动员策略。

当我想到我们人口过剩的世界里的所有问题，看着我们的孩子抢夺沙发旁边的台灯的时候，我希望当我的父母逼我生孩子的时候我能向“祖父母计划组织”求助。

如果我能那样做，我将不会身陷这一祖父母的窘境。但具有讽刺意味的是，我不想重新回到没有孩子的日子，迪伦真是太有趣了。

美文难句精译

(1) ［文章难句］The symptoms of morning sickness would be listed and horrors of childbirth pictured.

［结构分析］ 句中 and 连接两个并列句，and 后面的句子省略了 would be。

［参考译文］孕妇晨吐的症状会被列出来，生孩子时的恐怖也会被生动地描述出来。

(2) ［文章难句］If I could have, I might not be in this parenthood predicament. But here's the crazy irony, I don't want my child free life back. Dylan's too much fun.

［结构分析］① 作者使用了虚拟语气；② irony=“讽刺意味，指可能期望的与实际发生的情况不一致”。

［参考译文］如果我当时能那样做，我将不会身陷这一祖父母窘境。但具有讽刺意味的是，我不想重新回到没有孩子的日子，迪伦真是太有趣了。

大纲核心词汇回顾

vulnerable / ˈvʌlnərəbl /*adj.* 易受攻击的，易受影响的

manipulate / məˈnɪpjuleɪt /*v.* 操纵(人或市价、市场)

spoil / spɔɪl /*v.* 溺爱，宠坏

testify / ˈtestɪfaɪ /*v.* 证明，作证

detail / ˈdiːteɪl /*v.* 详述

exert / ɪgˈzɜːt /*v.* 运用，施加(压力等)

persistent / pə'sɪstənt /*v*. 坚持不懈的，持续的
resolve / rɪ'zɒlv /*v*. 决心
catastrophic / kə'tæstrəfɪk /*adj*. 灾难性的
irony / 'aɪərənɪ /*n*. 具有讽刺意义的事，反话，讽刺

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2. American Dream and "Success"

美国梦与成功

Ask most people how they define the American Dream and chances are they'll say, "Success". The dream of individual opportunity has been home in American since Europeans discovered a "new world" in the Western Hemisphere. Early immigrants like Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur praised highly the freedom and opportunity to be found in this new land. His glowing descriptions of a classless society where anyone could attain success through honesty and hard work fired the imaginations of many European readers: in *Letters from an American Farmer* (1782) he wrote. "We are all excited at the spirit of an industry which is unfettered (无拘无束的) and **unrestrained**, because each person works for himself... We have no princes, for whom we toil (干苦力活), **starve**, and bleed: we are the most perfect society now existing in the world." The promise of a land where "the rewards of a man's industry follow with equal steps the progress of his labor" drew poor immigrants from Europe and **fueled** national expansion into the western **territories**.

Our national mythology (神化) is full of **illustration** the American success story. There's Benjamin Franklin, the very model of the self-educated, self-made man, who rose from modest origins to become a well-known scientist, philosopher, and statesman. In the nineteenth century, Horatio Alger, a writer of fiction for young boys, became American's best-selling author

with **rags-to-riches** tales. The notion of success **haunts** us: we spend million every year reading about the rich and famous, learning how to "make a fortune in real estate with no money down," and "dressing for success." The myth of success has even invaded our personal relationships: today it's as important to be "successful" in marriage or parenthoods as it is to come out on top in business.

But dreams easily turn into nightmares. Every American who hopes to "make it" also knows the fear of failure, because the myth of success inevitably implies comparison between the **haves** and the have-nots, the stars and the **anonymous** crowd. Under pressure of the myth, we become **indulged** in status symbols: we try to live in the "right" neighborhoods, wear the "right" clothes, eat the "right" foods. These symbols of **distinction** assure us and others that we believe strongly in the fundamental equality of all, yet strive as hard as we can to separate ourselves from our fellow citizens.

美文大意

"美国梦"的含义和"成功"紧紧相连。美国的自由和机会吸引了早期的移民，他们相信自己的勤劳会带来相应的回报。"美国梦"深入到了美国人生活的任何角落，就连婚姻和做父母也要重视"成功"。但美梦很容易变成噩梦。美国人沉溺于身份的象征符号中。虽然所有的美国人都坚信人人平等，但却尽一切可能通过身份符号把自己和他们的同胞区分开来。

美文精译

当大多数人被问到怎样定义"美国梦"的时候，很可能他们会说"成功"。自从欧洲人在西半球发现"新世界"的时候起，美国就成了追求个人机会所梦想的家园。早期的移民像赫克托•圣约翰•

克雷夫科尔曾高度赞扬将在那片新土地上找到的自由和机会。他热情洋溢地描述了一个没有阶级，任何人都可以通过诚实和辛勤劳动获得成功的社会，激发了许多欧洲读者的想象力：在《来自美国农夫的信中》(1782) 他写到："我们都对毫无羁绊和抑制的辛勤努力的精神感到激动不已，因为每个人都为自己工作……我们没有王子，也不需要为王子受苦、挨饿和流血，我们是世界上现存的最完美的社会。"一块有着"每个人的勤劳都会根据他的劳动量得到平等回报" 的希望的土地吸引着来自欧洲的贫苦移民并且激发了国家性的向西部地区的扩张。

我们国家的神话中充满美国式成功故事的例证。其中有本杰明•弗兰克林，他是一个自学和自我奋斗的典范，他生在普通人家，后来成为著名的科学家、哲学家和政治家。在十九世纪，赫理希尔•阿尔杰，一个为年轻的男孩子们写小说的作家，通过写从破衣烂衫到发财致富的故事成为美国最畅销书的作者。关于成功的想法萦绕在我们的心头：我们每年花上百万元读那些富人和名人的故事，学怎样"不用投入本钱就能在房地产业赚大钱"及"如何着装才能成功"。成功的神话甚至侵袭至个人关系方面：今天，婚姻成功、做父母成功和在生意中成功一样重要。

但美梦很容易变成噩梦。每个希望成功的美国人也都知道失败的恐怖，因为成功的神话不可避免地意味着富人和穷人、明星和芸芸众生的比较。在这种神话的压力下，我们沉溺于身份的象征符号中：我们尽量住在"正确的"小区，穿着"正确的"服装，吃着"正确的"食物。这些区别性的象征符号使我们和其他人确信我们坚信人人平等，却尽一切可能把自己和我们的同胞区分开来。

美文难句精译

(1) ［文章难句］Ask most people how they define the American Dream and chances are they'll say, "Success."

［结构分析］①句子其实是一个 if 条件句，省略 if you, 在从句和主句之间加 and 连接；② chances are...＝"很有可能发生的情况是……"。

［参考译文］当大多数人被问到怎样定义"美国梦"的时候，很

可能他们会说“成功”。

(2) ［文章难句］His glowing descriptions of a classless society where anyone could attain success through honesty and hard work fired the imaginations of many European readers.

［结构分析］句子的结构如下：主语是 description，where 引导的地点状语从句修饰 society，句子的谓语是 fire the imagination。

［参考译文］他热情洋溢地描述了一个没有阶级、任何人都可以通过诚实和辛勤劳动获得成功的社会，激发了许多欧洲读者的想象力。

大纲核心词汇回顾

unrestrained / ˌʌnrɪ'streɪnd /*adj.* 不受控制的，不受抑制的

starve / stɑːv /*v.* 使饿死，挨饿

fuel / fjuəl /*v.* 激起，刺激；加燃料

territory / 'terɪtərɪ /*n.* 领土，领域，范围

illustration /ˌɪləs'treɪʃən /*n.* 说明，例证；图解，插图

haunt / hɔːnt /*v.* (思想等)萦系心头；使苦恼；(鬼魂等)常出没于

have / hæv /*n.* 有钱人，富人

anonymous / ə'nɒnɪməs /*adj.* 匿名的；无特色的，无个性特征的

indulge / ɪn'dʌldʒ /*v.* 使(自己)沉溺于；纵容

distinction / dɪs'tɪŋkʃən /*n.* 差别，区别，荣誉

3. Public Distrust of Scientists

公众对科学家的不信任

Public distrust of scientists **stems** in part **from** the **blurring** of **boundaries** between science and technology, between discovery and manufacture. Most government, perhaps all governments, **justify** public **expenditure** on scientific research **in terms of** the economic benefits the scientific enterprise has brought in the past and will bring in the future. Politicians **remind** their voters **of** the splendid machines "our scientists" have invented, the new drugs to relieve old ailments (病痛), and the new surgical equipment and techniques by which previously intractable (难治疗的) conditions may now be treated and lives saved. At the same time, the politicians demand of scientists that they **tailor** their research to "economics needs", that they award a higher priority to research proposals that are "near the market" and can be translated into the greatest return on investment in the shortest time. Dependent, as they are, on politicians for much of their funding, scientists have little choice but to **comply**. Like the rest of us, they are members of a society that rates the creation of wealth as the greatest possible good. Many have reservations, but keep them to themselves in what they perceive as a climate **hostile** to the pursuit of understanding for its own sake and the idea of an inquiring, creative spirit.

In such circumstances no one should be too hard on people who **are suspicious of** conflicts of interest. When we learn that

the distinguished professor assuring us of the safety of a particular product holds a consultancy with the company making it, we cannot **be blamed for** wondering whether his fee might conceivably cloud his professional judgment. Even if the professor holds no consultancy with any firm, some people may still distrust him because of his association with those who do, or at least wonder about the source of some his research funding.

This attitude can have damaging effects. It questions the **integrity of** individuals working in a profession that prizes **intellectual** honesty as the supreme virtue, and plays into the hands of those who would like to discredit scientists by representing then a venal (可以收买的). This makes it easier to dismiss all scientific pronouncements, but especially those made by the scientists who present themselves as "experts". The scientist most likely to understand the safety of a nuclear reactor, for example, is a nuclear engineer declares that a reactor is unsafe, we believe him, because clearly it is not to his advantage to lie about it. If he tells us it is safe, on the other hand, we distrust him, because he may well be protecting the employer who pays his salary.

美文大意

本文探讨的是公众对科学家的不信任。政客们要求科学家要根据"经济需要"来调整他们的研究，要对"靠近市场"和能在最短期限带来最大投资回报的科技计划优先考虑。而科学家们依赖于政客们来得到他们的大部分资金，没有办法只好顺从。除此之外，人们不信任科学家的另外一个原因是，科学家自身的经济利益也与其研究有或多或少的关系。但是这种不信任可以产生有害的影响：使人们对科学家的话都习惯性的怀疑。

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