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English Digest

英语活页文选

English Digest

22

Fifty Years

Microsoft: Busted

Conversation Piece

Fashion's Frat Boy

★建国50周年系列报道：新中国50年

★微软公司垄断案：战爆比尔

★会说话的计算机

★服饰掠影：流行时尚

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2

北京大学出版社

The Mind Will Be Immortal

我们难以展望今后的 1000 年,但敢于正视未来 100 年的事情,想像一下看似缥缈虚幻的未来,如同尼尔·阿姆斯特朗首次登上月球那样。

科技的发展将使记录人一生的全部活动成为可能,我们的后代可通过这些记录得到一个虚拟的我们。

So you'd like to live forever? By the year 2050, you might actually get your wish—providing you are willing to evacuate^① your biological body and take up residence^② in silicon circuits. But long before then, perhaps as early as 2005, less radical measures will begin offering a semblance^③ of immortality.

Researchers are confident that technology will soon be able to track every waking moment of your life. Whatever you see and hear, plus all that you say and write, can be recorded, analyzed and automatically indexed^④, and added to your personal chronicles^⑤. By the 2030s, it may be possible to capture your nervous system's electrical activity, which would also preserve your thoughts and emotions. Researchers at the BT Laboratories of British

① evacuate: 离开, 撤离

② take up residence: 居住(定居下来)

③ semblance: 类似

④ index: 索引

⑤ chronicle: 大事记



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Telecommunications PLC have dubbed^⑥ this concept the Soul Catcher.

In a preview^⑦ of what the near term holds, Carnegie Mellon University two years ago unveiled^⑧ a system called Synthetic Interviews, with Albert Einstein as its first subject. To learn about the theory of relativity or the physicist's private life, you engage in what almost seems to be a live videoconference^⑨ with an ersatz^⑩ Einstein. The system quickly parses^⑪ each question and selects the best-match^⑫ response from a bank^⑬ of 500 video recordings. So it's easy to forget what's going on under the hood—speech recognition^⑭ to digitize your words, natural-language processing to understand the question, and a rating scheme similar to that used by Lycos Inc. to rank the results of Web searches.

The hardware for early versions^⑮ of virtual immortality exists now. You could document^⑯ your daily life using tiny video cameras embedded in eyeglass frames. They could be linked to IBM's latest hard disk—it's the size of a quarter and could be housed in a pendant^⑰. It stores 300 megabytes^⑱ of data, enough to hold 30 days of your life. But by 2005, says David A. Thompson, a fellow at IBM Almaden Research Center, a full year should easily fit on such Lilliputian^⑲ disks.

MAINFRAMED MEMORIES. Software, though, is another matter. Techniques for an-

⑥ dub: 起绰号

⑦ preview: 预览, 预展

⑧ unveil: 使公诸于众

⑨ videoconference: 视频会议

⑩ ersatz: 代用的, 人造的

⑪ parse: 分析, 解析

⑫ best-match: 最匹配的

⑬ bank: (数据)库

⑭ speech recognition: 语言识别

⑮ version: 版本

⑯ document: 使文档化

⑰ pendant: 垂饰

⑱ megabyte: 兆字节 (信息量单位)

⑲ Lilliputian: 很小的 (小人国的)

alyzing and indexing streams of images are pretty primitive. If your personal history of 2005 were like one gigantic^{②①} videocassette^{②②} tape, searching for a specific incident^{②③} could take hours. So several laboratories are working on ways to catalog video content automatically. IBM Almaden's CueVideo team, led by Dragutin Petkovic, head of visual media management, is using artificial intelligence^{②④} tools to sift^{②⑤} video recordings for important scene shifts. The resulting index is an interactive^{②⑥} storyboard^{②⑦} with key frames from your life.

Eventually, these efforts will coalesce^{②⑧} into "organized, online archives^{②⑨} of everything that happens," predicts D. Raj Reddy, a professor of computer science at CMU. Then all kinds of fanciful^{③①} possibilities will become practical. For instance, someone can talk to "you" from the distant future via the Web. In 2099, your great-great-great grandchildren will be able to quiz^{③②} a reconstituted you about what it was like to work with computers so big and clunky^{③③} they had to be held on your lap. And what "you" reply won't be restricted to canned^{③④} statements, as with Synthetic Interviews. Smart mind-mime^{③⑤} software will extrapolate^{③⑥} from the hard data to infer how the real you would have responded.

The same online infrastructure^{③⑦} will transform the earth into a huge Starship Enterprise with virtual teleportation at your beck

- ②① gigantic: 巨大的, 庞大的
- ②② videocassette: 录像带
- ②③ incident: 事情, 小事件
- ②④ artificial intelligence: 人工智能
- ②⑤ sift: 筛出
- ②⑥ interactive: 交互式的
- ②⑦ storyboard: (电影、电视节目等的)情节串连图板
- ②⑧ coalesce: 接合, 结合, 合并
- ②⑨ archive: 大容量外存储器
- ③① fanciful: 想象的, 幻想的
- ③② quiz: 提问
- ③③ clunky: 笨重的
- ③④ canned: 预先录制好的
- ③⑤ mime: 模仿
- ③⑥ extrapolate: 推断, 推知
- ③⑦ infrastructure: 基本设施

and call^{③⑥}. But instead of “Beam me up, Scotty,” Reddy predicts, “you’ll say, ‘Beam me there,’” and bam! you—or at least a holographic^{③⑦} image of you—will be at a meeting of the elders of a New Guinea tribe. The network would provide instantaneous translation^{③⑧} so you can understand the local lingo^{③⑨}.

Far-fetched^{④⑩}? “We have the technology to do most of this now,” says Reddy. The real obstacle, he says, is lack of bandwidth^{④⑪}.

There’s also the issue of capital^{④⑫}: These systems will be expensive at first. But the money will come quickly once the bandwidth is available. Competition will see to^{④⑬} that. When engineering teams can collaborate^{④⑭} through so-called telepresence^{④⑮}, managers can call instant meetings in virtual reality, and everyone in the organization has infallible^{④⑯} memories and shared access to the group’s knowledge, “you’ve got a huge competitive advantage,” says Reddy. Internet time will be pokey^{④⑰} by comparison. “Today’s yearlong projects will get done in a month, maybe a week,” he predicts. So the companies that get there first “will clean everyone else’s plates.”

SMALL WONDERS. This will pave the way for BT Labs’ Soul Catcher. It would use a wearable^{④⑱} supercomputer, perhaps in a wristwatch, with wireless links to microsensors under your scalp^{④⑲} and in the nerves that carry all five sensory signals. So wearing a

③⑥ at sb.’s beck and call: 听人命令,受人指挥

③⑦ holographic: 全息的,全息摄影的

③⑧ instantaneous translation: 即时翻译

③⑨ lingo: 方言

④⑩ far-fetched: 牵强的,不自然的

④⑪ bandwidth: 带宽

④⑫ capital: 资金

④⑬ see to: 负责,注意

④⑭ collaborate: 协作,合作

④⑮ telepresence: 远程出席

④⑯ infallible: 不会错的,可靠的

④⑰ pokey: 破旧的,无趣的

④⑱ wearable: 可穿戴的

④⑲ scalp: 头皮

video camera would no longer be required.

At first, the Soul Catcher's companion system—the Soul Emancipator?—might have trouble replicating you in complete detail. Even in 2030, we may still be struggling to understand the brain's internal workings, so reading your thoughts and interpreting your emotions might not be possible. But these signals could be conserved^{⑤⑩} for the day when they can be transferred to silicon circuits to rejuvenate^{⑤⑪} minds as immortal entities^{⑤⑫}. Researchers can only wonder what it will be like to wake up one day and find yourself alive inside a machine.

For people who chose not to inhabit^{⑤⑬} silicon, virtual immortality could still ease the sense of futility^{⑤⑭} that now haunts^{⑤⑮} many people. Individuals would know their lives would not be forgotten, but would be preserved as a thread in a multimedia quilt that keeps a permanent record of the human race. And future generations would have a much fuller understanding of the past. History would not be dominated by just the rich and powerful, the Hollywood icons^{⑤⑯}, and a few elite thinkers.

[Selected from *Business Week*, August 30,
1999, written by Otis Port]

⑤⑩ conserve: 保存

⑤⑪ rejuvenate: 使
变年轻

⑤⑫ entity: 实体

⑤⑬ inhabit: 居住
于, 存在于, 栖息

⑤⑭ futility: 无益的
事

⑤⑮ haunt: 萦绕心
头

⑤⑯ icon: 偶像

The Empire Strikes Back

总统竞选开始以来,一直时运不佳的副总统戈尔在其民主党候选人之一的布莱德利的强力冲击下,反倒逐渐焕发出勃勃生机。他究竟做了些什么,又是如何做到的?

It was about time Al Gore caught a break^①. For months his presidential campaign has seen nothing hut bad luck and trouble, much of it brought on by the Vice President himself. He ignored his only Democratic rival until Bill Bradley's minivan^② pulled up right alongside Air Force Two. He turned his campaign into a jobs program for consultants and seemed congenitally^③ unable to connect with voters. Things were so dismal for so long, in fact, that after Gore fired his pollster^④, slashed^⑤ his staff, declared himself the underdog^⑥ and moved his headquarters to Nashville, Tenn., it was probably inevitable^⑦ that his luck would change, at least for a little while.

If a high point came in Los Angeles on Wednesday, when Gore landed the endorsement^⑧ of the 13 million-member AFL-CIO—a labor machine that can give his campaign soft money, vote-pulling muscle and 200 organiz-

① break: 突变,机会

② minivan: 小型货车

③ congenitally: 天生地,先天地

④ pollster: 民意测验专家,整理民意测验结果的人

⑤ slash: 削减

⑥ underdog: 失败者,受压迫者

⑦ inevitable: 不可避免的,必定的

⑧ endorsement: 背书,签注(文件),认可

ers in Iowa alone—it wasn't the only one. That night in Seattle, after the Senate^⑨ shot down^⑩ the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty^⑪, Gore tried to build momentum^⑫ by staying up late to write, edit and star in a TV spot in which he pledged that his first act as President would be to send the treaty back to the Senate. That may not get voters dancing in the streets of Nashua, N. H., but at least it proved he was capable of making a spontaneous^⑬ move. "It was probably the least calculated^⑭ moment of the campaign," says an adviser. Gore didn't even have time to poll^⑮, though he knew in his bones that the nonukes^⑯ message would play well among liberals leaning toward Bradley. Flying from Seattle to Washington on Thursday, Gore told reporters how he had written the spot on hotel stationery; he even handed out copies of a penciled-up draft. He was pleased to have done something brave and impulsive. On Friday he was still being that way. He told the *Washington Post* he was thinking about flying solo^⑰—asking Bill Clinton to stand aside and let him win or lose by himself.

Gore, who can seem phony^⑱ even when he's totally sincere^⑲, has always tried to make up with hard work what he lacks in instinct and inspiration. Right now he's working so feverishly to connect that he makes you want to give him a hug^⑳. "I don't want to tell you

⑨ the Senate: 参议院

⑩ shut down: 否决

⑪ the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty: 全面核禁试条约

⑫ momentum: 推进力, 势头

⑬ spontaneous: 自发的

⑭ calculated: 精心计划的, 蓄意的

⑮ poll: (民意测验中的)调查

⑯ nuke: 核武器

⑰ fly solo: 单飞 (即单干)

⑱ phony: 骗子

⑲ sincere: 诚挚的, 真诚的

⑳ hug: 紧抱, 搂抱

what's on my mind," he says constantly. "I want to show you what's in my heart"—and you get the idea he'd like to rip^{②①} the thing clean out of his breast, just to prove he has one. What's fascinating^{②②} is that this all shows signs of working. He sometimes manages to find what performers call the Zone—the elusive place where everything they try works. In Seattle an audience of Boeing aerospace machinists went wild^{②③} for Gore—*repeat, went wild for Gore*. People laughed at his jokes. They nodded at his confession^{②④} that after Vietnam and Watergate, "I was as disillusioned^{②⑤} as anyone you've ever met." They cheered when he promised he would "stay and fight" for them. And they were mindful^{②⑥} that unlike Bradley, he supports building the F-22 Raptor jet fighter, a program that helps keep Boeing humming^{②⑦}.

Though two of the AFL-CIO's biggest unions, the Teamsters and United Auto Workers, withheld their endorsements last week in hopes of extracting trade protections from the Clinton Administration, the good news for Gore is that he managed to reel^{②⑧} in the AFL without making those kinds of concessions.

Gore first drew blood^{②⑨} with "stay and fight" two weeks ago, when he and Bradley made a joint appearance in Iowa. Bradley spoke first, bemoaning^{③⑩} the state of politics and wondering why he and Gore couldn't be

②① rip: 剥开, 劈开, 锯开

②② fascinating: 迷人的, 醉人的

②③ go wild: 兴奋, 高兴得疯了似地

②④ confession: 供认, 承认

②⑤ disillusion: 使醒悟, 使幻想破灭

②⑥ mindful: 留心的, 不忘的

②⑦ humming: 嗡嗡叫

②⑧ reel: 赢得

②⑨ draw blood: 伤人感情, 惹人生气

③⑩ bemoan: 惋惜, 感叹

more like home-run rivals Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa, “pushing [each other] to be the best we could be.” When it was Gore’s turn he said, “I listened carefully to what you had to say about making this campaign a different kind of experience. I really agree.” He proposed a debate a week, each devoted to a different issue. “What about it, Bill? If the answer is yes, stand up.”

Bradley didn’t and hasn’t. Ever since, Gore has been filching^{③①} Bradley rhetoric^{③②}, talking about “having a different kind of campaign,” styling himself the high-minded statesman and Bradley the conventional pol^{③③}. To anyone paying attention, it’s pretty transparent. For 10 months Gore wouldn’t come within 100 miles of Bradley; now that Bradley leads in New Hampshire and has more money in the bank than Gore, the Vice President wants weekly debates to “elevate our democracy.” Even Gore’s advisers admit the ploy^{③④}. “Sure it’s tactical,” says one, “but it’s also good for the country.” The danger for Bradley is that his counter-tactics look no nobler^{③⑤} than Gore’s tactics. If Bradley really wants to improve the process, why not just say yes to Gore? Certainly Gore watchers would enjoy seeing a less rehearsed^{③⑥} Vice President; in 1996 he was so obsessed with debate prep^{③⑦} that he made sure the temperature in his practice room matched the temperature in the de-

③① filch: 偷窃 (不贵重的东西), 窃取

③② rhetoric: 花言巧语

③③ pol: 政客

③④ ploy: 花招, 手法, 窘境策略

③⑤ nobler: 高贵的, 华丽的

③⑥ rehearse: 排练, 预演

③⑦ prep: 预演

bate hall. So far, Bradley has agreed to one debate this year, a televised town-hall forum to take place Oct. 27 in New Hampshire. But the pressure is on, and he'll soon agree to more.

Which leaves Gore supporters wondering if their man can build on his week. Those who doubt his fortitude^{③⑧} should hear Seattle mountaineer Jim Frush tell how Gore and his son Albert III, 16, climbed Mount Rainier last August. With ice picks and crampons^{③⑨}, ropes and harnesses^{④⑩}, they began the final grueling^{④⑪} ascent at 2 a.m., in white-out conditions, hail and high winds. They summited six hours later. Gore, who hasn't told that story publicly, has been closing his speeches with a generic^{④②} bit about standing on the summit—"You can see a long way, but you can't see every day that will dawn." But he chose the wrong metaphor^{④③}. He'd better hope the symbol of his campaign turns out to be that death-defying climb.

[Selected from Time, October 25, 1999,
written by Eric Pooley]

③⑧ fortitude: 刚毅, 坚忍

③⑨ crampon: 攀登用鞋底钉

④⑩ harness: 系在身上的绳子

④⑪ gruel: 使精疲力尽

④② generic: 普通的

④③ metaphor: 隐喻, 比喻

Fifty Years

1945—1949年，罗伊·若望担任《生活》杂志通讯记者时，曾经在徐州、沈阳、南京、太原4个城市见证中国的解放战争，这段经历给他留下了深刻印象。50年后旧地重游，他回忆当年的情景，体会如今时代和人的改变——这个曾被称为“中央之国”的国家显得既熟悉又陌生。

On a blustery^① October day five decades ago, Mao Zedong proclaimed, “China has stood up.” Thus began the People’s Republic of China.

From 1945 to 1949, as a transportation^② officer for the United Nations in central China and then as a correspondent^③ for *Life* magazine, I witnessed much of China’s civil war. During most of that time, the Nationalists^④, led by Chiang Kai-shek^⑤, clung^⑥ to the big population centers, while the Communists, led by Mao, infiltrated^⑦ the countryside. Mao boasted that eventually the cities would “fall like ripe melons^⑧.” Starting in late 1948, his prophecy^⑨ came true: Chiang’s four Nationalist strongholds^⑩—Shenyang (then known as Mukden), Xuzhou, Taiyuan, and Nanjing—all fell.

① blustery: 狂风大作的

② transportation: 运输

③ correspondent: (新闻) 通讯员, 记者

④ Nationalist: 国民党

⑤ Chiang Kai-shek: 蒋介石

⑥ cling: 紧握不放, 坚守

⑦ infiltrate: 渗透

⑧ melon: 甜瓜

⑨ prophecy: 预言

⑩ stronghold: 大本营

I was in the four cities while they were under siege^⑪: Few people, Chinese or foreign, saw as much as I did of this awful conflict that brought death and suffering to millions of Chinese. The war was terrible to witness. But for me that period also began a life-long connection to China in particular and to Asia in general.

China in the 1940s was an exasperating^⑫ place. Transportation and communication were primitive. Most roads were ruts^⑬ worn into existence by a 2,000-year procession of wheelbarrows^⑭ and mule^⑮ carts. With patience and shouting, you might get through on the phone to Nanjing or Beijing. But calling any other city, particularly those under siege, was like trying to telephone Mars. The only way to find out what was going on was to hitch^⑯ rides with the Civil Air Transport planes piloted by General Claire Chennault's former Flying Tigers^⑰. Their destinations and cargo^⑱ depended on the vicissitudes^⑲ of the war. On one flight it was 63 Trappist^⑳ monks accompanied by eight cows. On another it was 200 orphans being flown out of harm's way.

Landing on the hacked-out^㉑ dirt runways, sometimes with the fat-bellied^㉒ C-46s loaded to the ceiling with high explosives, was more than a little unnerving. It was on one such flight that I happened to land in Shenyang just as it was falling to the Commu-

⑪ siege: 包围

⑫ exasperating: 气死人的

⑬ rut: 车辙

⑭ wheelbarrow: 独轮车

⑮ mule: 骡

⑯ hitch: 搭便车

⑰ Flying Tiger: (陈纳德将军组织的)飞虎队

⑱ cargo: 货物

⑲ vicissitude: 变迁兴衰

⑳ Trappist: 罗马天主教特拉普派修道士

㉑ hacked-out: 辟出的

㉒ fat-bellied: 大腹便便的

nists—and so was the only foreign correspondent present to report on that turning point.

Over the past 50 years I've often wondered how Shenyang and the other three cities fared^{②③} under Mao and his successors. This summer, accompanied by photographer Fritz Hoffmann, I set out to revisit the four cities. Here is what I found.

SHENYANG

Shenyang has not stood still^{②④}. After the civil war it became a center of state-run^{②⑤} heavy industries. The city continues to rely on these industries, and the air is heavy with smog, but they are no longer the only economic game in town. Since 1988, with the establishment of the Economic and Technological Development Zone, Shenyang has been trying to replace its dirty old industries with clean new companies. The zone's pristine^{②⑥} glass-and-cement plants represent some \$4 billion in foreign capital, says Li Yuping of the city's investment office. Most of the money comes from Japanese, Korean, and Taiwanese technology companies; there are also a number of American firms, including Hewlett-Packard, IBM, and PE Corp. The city is beginning to sprawl^{②⑦}, with its old downtown^{②⑧} lost amid the development; skyscrapers^{②⑨} sprout^{③⑩} everywhere. More surprising to me than the influx^{③⑪} of big Asian

②③ fared: 进展, 成功

②④ still: 停滞不前的

②⑤ state-run: 国营的

②⑥ pristine: 质朴的

②⑦ sprawl: 不规则的伸展, 蔓延

②⑧ downtown: 市中心

②⑨ skyscraper: 摩天大楼

③⑩ sprout: 冒出, 萌芽

③⑪ influx: 流入

corporations is the number of pioneering Americans. In the 1940s only a few American fur traders trekked^{③②} up here.

XUZHOU

City officials have big plans, speaking grandly^{③③} of a “Euro-Asia land bridge,” a proposed highway stretching from Xuzhou through Siberia^{③④} to Amsterdam^{③⑤}. Giving the city its biggest economic boost^{③⑥} is the new Jin Shan Qiao (Golden Garden Bridge) Development Zone. In it are Japanese, German, and American (Kodak, Rockwell, and Caterpillar) factories. An entire village, called Long Tan Gardens, has been built for foreign executives; it looks like a new housing development in Anywhere, U. S. A.

Prosperity is inching in^{③⑦}. The city's new supermarkets, air-conditioned just short of frostbite^{③⑧}, bulge^{③⑨} with packaged fruits, vegetables, and meat, some of it from as far away as New Zealand. There's a 15-minute wait for a seat in the Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise^{④①}. And oddly, Xuzhou claims Newark, N. J., as its sister city. This is clearly a place in a rush to modernize.

TAIYUAN

As I walk through the glitzy^{④①} Shanxi Grand Hotel lobby^{④②}, a child eager to practice English stops me. “My name is Simon. I'm 8

③② trek: 艰苦跋涉

③③ grandly: 宏伟地, 堂皇地

③④ Siberia: 西伯利亚

③⑤ Amsterdam: 阿姆斯特丹 (荷兰首都)

③⑥ boost: 帮助

③⑦ inch in: 慢慢地进入

③⑧ frostbite: 霜寒, 冻伤

③⑨ bulge: 凸出, 鼓起

④① franchise: 特许经营店

④① glitzy: 闪光的, 耀眼的, 眩目的

④② lobby: 大厅, 休息室

years old," says the crew-cut^{④③} boy. Then he hands me his printed calling card—including his e-mail address.

What a difference half a century makes! When I was last here, this old walled^{④④} capital of Shanxi province had been under siege for five months. Children were starving, not chatting up foreigners in a second language. Food was so scarce that when a man dropped dead, two women, I was told, claimed him as their husband. They both wanted his body to eat.

Taiyuan is joining the long march to the market. Most of the billboards^{④⑤} on Welcome Chairman Mao Street now advertise consumer products. The twin towers of the almost completed Shanxi International Trade Center will top out at 42 stories, dwarfing^{④⑥} the twin pagodas^{④⑦} of the Monastery of Endless Happiness, which dominated the skyline^{④⑧} in 1948. A shiny^{④⑨} new \$ 25 million joint venture Coca-Cola bottling plant is producing 400,000 24-bottle cases a month for local consumption. Street-level capitalism is thriving, with flimsy vendor^{⑤⑩} stalls^{⑤⑪} wedged between all the new steel and brick structures.

NANJING

The capital of Jiangsu province, Nanjing now has five million people, more than four times its population during the civil war. Jin

④③ crew-cut: 平头
(发型)

④④ walled: 筑起围墙的

④⑤ billboard: 广告牌

④⑥ dwarf: 相形之下使显得矮小

④⑦ pagodas: 宝塔

④⑧ skyline: 以天空为背景映出的轮廓或图像(特别指高大城市建筑物)

④⑨ shiny: 闪闪发亮的

⑤⑩ vendor: 小贩

⑤⑪ stall: 货摊

Zhong Qing, the vice governor, says Jiangsu has attracted 125 FORTUNE 500^{⑤②} companies. The city is not on the conventional^{⑤③} foreign tourist route, but busloads^{⑤④} of schoolchildren come from all over China to climb the 300 gleaming^{⑤⑤} white stone steps up Purple Mountain. At the top they gaze at the crypt^{⑤⑥} holding the remains of Sun Yat-sen—the man who overthrew^{⑤⑦} the Manchu dynasty^{⑤⑧} in 1911 and founded the Republic of China.

Today Nanjing is one of the most livable cities in China, with many parks, tree-shaded streets, and terraced^{⑤⑨} apartments. It is also booming. Vast quantities of goods move in and out of the same Yangtze River docks where fearful citizens tried to escape 50 years ago. “You get unloaded here too quick to have any fun,” complains Constance Xyristakis, chief engineer of the Greek freighter Aris, “There’s always another ship waiting for your berth^{⑥⑩}.”

[Selected from Fortune, October 11, 1999, written by Roy Rowan]

⑤② FORTUNE

500: 财富 500 强

⑤③ conventional:

惯例的, 传统的

⑤④ busload: 公共

汽车运载量

⑤⑤ gleaming: 发光的, 闪光的

⑤⑥ crypt: (作墓穴用的) 地下室

⑤⑦ overthrow: 推翻

⑤⑧ Manchu dynasty: 满清王朝

⑤⑨ terraced: 一排并列的

⑥⑩ berth: (船舶的) 停泊地, 泊位