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The Best from The 21st Century
— Our Kaleidoscopic World

何兆熊 选编

上海外语教育出版社



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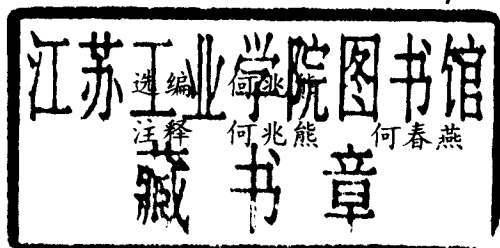
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编者前言

《21 世纪报》是颇受广大读者,尤其是青少年读者欢迎的一份国内出版的英文报纸。这份报纸之所以能拥有较大的读者群,无疑是因为它具有较高的可读性。所谓可读性体现在内容和文字两个方面。就内容而言,除了重大的国内外时事新闻外,这份报纸刊登的许多文章的内容都是广大青少年读者感兴趣的,和他们的生活十分贴近的;就文字而言,这份报纸的英语比较浅近,具有高中以上英语水平的人大体都能阅读。

尽快、尽好地掌握英语,是广大青少年的迫切愿望。大量阅读是学习外语的一种重要方法。但总的来说,目前适合青少年阅读的英语出版物还不够多。于是我们便萌发了从《21 世纪报》中挑选一些精粹文章汇编成册,以飨读者的想法。我们翻阅了 1995 年以来的《21 世纪报》,根据内容分别汇编成《文化篇》、《语言篇》、《科技篇》和《思考篇》四种,为减少阅读过程中的阻力,我们对文集中的部分生词、难点和难句作了一些注释。这样的读物具有很强的知识性和趣味性。读者不仅能获得大量有关世界各国的社会文化知识、有关英语语言的知识、最新的科技发展信息,学会不少做人的道理,同时也必将提高自己的英语水平。可以说是“轻轻松松学英语”的一种好方式。

迄今为止,这套丛书已陆续出版了六册。其精彩纷呈的内容和多姿多彩的语言,吸引了广大英语爱好者和学习者。在他们的支持和鼓励下,我们又继续从《21 世纪报》上挑选出了更多精彩内容,相信即将出版的《〈21 世纪报〉英语读物精粹》系列会给读者带来更新、更广阔的阅读体验。

对于这项选编工作,《21 世纪报》编辑部和外教社一直给予大力的支持,我们在此再次表示衷心的感谢。

2005 年 9 月

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US universities say “no cheating”

A POLICY that the University of Maryland rolled out with little fanfare^① this spring requires all students to sign an oath — for every paper and every exam — swearing that they did not cheat.

The pledge^② was the idea of student leaders who wanted to give some weight to the US university's 12-year-old honour system at a time when cheating — including Internet-aided plagiarism^③ — is said to be on the rise on campuses across the country.

The standard pledge says: “I pledge on my honour that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination.”

So far the pledge has been given a lukewarm^④ welcome, with some students saying professors regularly ask for it, while others seem to forget.

① rolled out with little fanfare 悄悄地执行 (roll out 本意为“展开”; fanfare 意即“炫耀”)

② pledge 诺言, 誓约

③ plagiarism 抄袭, 剽窃

④ lukewarm 不冷不热的

Some question what exactly it means to sign the pledge. For example, professors cannot refuse papers that have not been signed.

And, unlike oaths that are taken in court or appear on legal documents, there is no penalty for violating the pledge other than^① those already imposed on people caught cheating.

“It’s never been clear to me whether it’s mandatory^②,” said Josh Korr, a graduating senior from College Park, Maryland, and a columnist for the student newspaper. “You’ve never been allowed to cheat before. I don’t know how the pledge would add to that.”

Others said the only deterrent^③ to cheating was the one that already existed — the fear of getting caught.

However, many faculty members say the pledge gives them peace of mind.

“I’m under no delusion this will stop everyone from cheating, but it places a higher hurdle on the students,” said professor Kate Campbell who required students to sign a pledge even before the campus adopted one. “They can’t claim they were never confronted with this.”

Some note, in fact, that there has been an increase in the number of reports of cheating since the pledge took effect — 39 more charges than last year. Pledge advocates attribute the rise to^④ growing awareness and concern for academic integrity on campus.

The notion of academic honour is hardly new to Maryland. In 1990, the university adopted a student-run

① other than 除了

② mandatory 强制的

③ deterrent 威慑力量, 威慑因素

④ attribute ... to 把……归因于

honour system, joining 100 other US colleges with similar measures.

The administration gave students the power to investigate and judge alleged^① cheaters, a show of trust they hoped students would respond to by respecting the honour code.

① alleged 有嫌疑的,尚未证实的,受到指控的

Schools wise up to ways of high-tech cheats

WASHINGTON — George Mason University instructor Anne Marchant calls them “patchwork plagiarists” — the students who copy and paste together passages from articles they’ve found on the Internet, and then turn in the work as their own.

She catches at least one such student every semester in her computer-science class, she said. She even discovers such plagiarism in her computer ethics course.

“Certainly, cheating is pervasive^①,” Marchant said. “It’s usually deadly obvious. The introduction will be written in broken English; then it will have this flawlessly written, almost doctoral-quality body; then a conclusion that goes back to broken English.”

Teachers and administrators at several Washington-area colleges agree that cheating is on the rise — because the computer has made cheating so easy.

High-tech offenses include using information from the

① pervasive 普遍的

Internet without proper attribution, buying term papers from online paper mills, and sharing answers and course work via email or diskette. Dozens of web sites are dedicated to helping students cheat more easily and successfully.

Professors are using the computer to fight back — launching Internet searches to find the source of purloined^① material and installing software that detects similarities in students' papers.

The computer has made cheats out of students^② who otherwise would never have considered such trickery, some educators say.

At Virginia Tech, the number of cheating complaints made to the school's Honor Court rose from 136 during the 1996 - 1997 school year to 280 last year. Most of the cases involved computer-aided cheating, said Leon Geyer, a Virginia Tech professor and an adviser to the school's student-run undergraduate honor system.

Last spring, for example, dozens of students in different sections of one computer-science course were caught electronically sharing work on an end-of-year assignment. In another case, four students in one science class turned in the same paper. The students hadn't copied off each other or shared their work — they'd all surfed the web looking for a research paper to steal and, coincidentally, had chosen the same one.

Penalties^③ for offenses such as plagiarism and sharing answers tend to be harsh. And they should be, said Virginia Tech's Geyer. "It matters whether the guy who

① purloin 偷

② has made cheats out of students 把学生变成了骗子

③ penalty 处罚

built the bridge cheated his way through engineering school," he said. "I'd worry about that."

But Geyer said he does believe in giving cheats a second chance. At Virginia Tech, the typical punishment for a first-time offender is a double-weighted zero — which often results in a failing grade for the course — enrollment in an ethics class and 50 hours of on-campus community service. A student who completes his punishment can have the offense removed from his record.

Sam Miller, an assistant to the vice president for student affairs at the University of Virginia, where the mandatory penalty for cheating is expulsion^①, acknowledges that school officials might be getting relatively few cheating complaints from teachers because they are reluctant to subject students to such a strong punishment.

Miller serves on an Internet abuse response team that looks into computer-related misbehavior at the university. The team handles about three cases a day, compared with about five cases a month three years ago, he said. But most of them involve floods of junk e-mail harassment, rather than students copying from the Internet or from each other.

The Internet offers a wealth of resources for prospective cheats. In addition to the web sites that offer thousands of research papers and book reports, there are sites where students can submit math homework problems to a resident math whiz^② and online message boards where students with very specific needs can help each other.

Among the recent messages posted at one such site was

① expulsion 开除

② whiz (口语) 极其聪明的人, 有特长的人

a student's plea for a three-paragraph description of a favorite animal — "Using lots of adjectives, please." Another student asked for help in interpreting "The Second Coming" by Yeats, which brought this reply: "I just completed an essay for English 102 on it. Nailed the meaning quite well. If interested, I can email you the whole thing."

Ironically, the same technology that is making it easier for students to cheat is making it easier for professors to catch them.

Cheating rises in UK colleges

LONDON — Britain's universities watchdog, Universities UK, has warned of increasing plagiarism and cheating on degree courses.

This follows fresh revelations^① of an Internet service charging for pre-written essays and assignments for academic degrees.

The warnings came as new evidence emerged of the activities of Elizabeth Hall.^② The retired senior lecturer from the University of Central England, Birmingham, sells essays to students over the Internet.

A web site promoting Elizabeth Hall Associates boasts: "The earlier you contact us, the more help we can give you and the better the grades you will receive."

Academic quality watchdog, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education UK, warned that the service signalled a worrying trend.

① revelation 揭露, 暴露

② 这句话中的 of 短语修饰从句主语 new evidence, 被从句谓语动词 emerged 隔开; Elizabeth Hall 即下面一句中讲到的 retired senior lecturer