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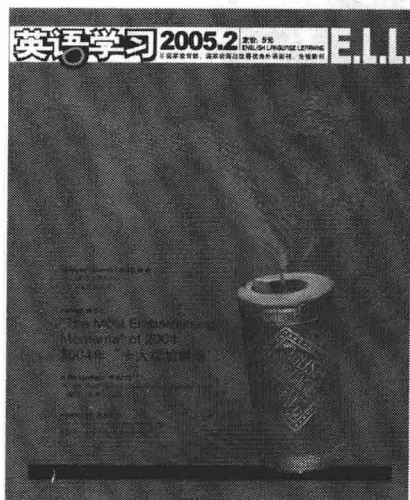
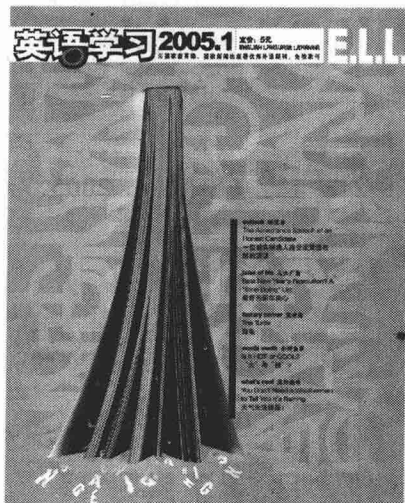
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*Always put your best foot forward.

总要把自己最好的那只脚伸到前面来。

这句谚语所喻指的意思是：扬己所长(capitalize on your strengths)。

从大约 15 世纪末(1495 年)开始，这一谚语就已被广泛地使用了。在美国则首见于 1744 年。此语常简略为 Best foot forward.

eg. "Put your best foot forward," says Robert Nowaczyk, the human relations executive. "People tend to read what is at the top of the page, so put something great up there — be it education or training or good work experience." —Daniel Moreau, *Take Charge of*

your career (1990)

“要展示你的强项，”人事主管罗伯特·诺瓦茨克说，“人们总是倾向于去看一页纸最靠上的部分，所以呢，就把一些好的东西写在那儿——像教育程度、受过的培训，或是不错的工作经历什么的。”

——丹尼尔·莫里奥，
《掌握你的职业》(1990)



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笔者本人近两、三年来养成了这样一个习惯,即凡领到《英语学习》,必先读由冰尘编译的the brave new world,即“缤纷世界”栏目,原因很简单:每篇短文后面均附上了一个十分简洁明了且不乏幽默睿智的Remarks,而这种调侃的笔调正是笔者非常喜欢的。

然而,爱幽默的人偶尔也有被人“幽默”的时候,美国伟大作家兼幽默大师马克·吐温先生使出浑身解数,终无法逗笑朋友那耳背的叔叔,这个故事想必不少人已经读过。

让我们回到正题:近日拜读贵刊2004年6期,p.9上对This Is No Yolk(无黄之蛋)的注释(No Yolk:可能是对New York的戏拟)引起了笔者的注意。经认真阅读和思考,笔者认为其注释不当,试解释如下:

No Yolk和New York确有几分相似,这可能是注释者受其影响的最主要也是最直接的原因,但笔者认为仅凭这一点理由并不充分,甚至十分牵强:

1. 从语音或发音上看, No和New以及Yolk和York的元音均不一样,靠推测得出结论无论如何也是不可靠的,其结果也只会误导读者;

2. 从短文的内容上看, 我们已明确地了解了“没有蛋黄的鸡蛋越来越多”这一不争事实,而产生这种现象的地方也仅限于Albanian capital Tirana, Italy两处,这与美国的New York丝毫不沾边;

3. 从语义上看, 笔者认为标题是对常见于口语的This Is No Joke的仿拟(当然,我等非英语人士可能一时未必反应得过来);前面提到了“无蛋黄”这一事实,而标题中旨在反映全文主要的(No)Yolk也欲表明这一点,只不过表达方式不一(No Joke/这可不是开玩笑)罢了!不知读者以为然否?

此外,我还想借此机会再说两点:

1. 在语言学习过程中,遇上类似“变异语言”是司空见惯的事,一时半会拿不准也是正常的,但若问一问自己身边的“老外”,相信问题更容易解决;

2. 原文Friends of ours told us the same had happened to them and in restaurants as well的汉译(朋友告诉我们,他们在餐馆里也碰到了同样的事情)欠琢磨,改为“……类似情况在他们身上和餐馆里也发生过”似更好些;

最后,面对这一特别的标题,若从翻译的角度上看,一般情况下会被视为“不可译”现象,我们对此亦无良策,只好将其大致处理为:“蛋无黄:真的!”,并以此引起养鸡户们的高度警觉,务必遵守客观规律,万万不可overdrive chickens to produce more eggs!以上看法仅为一孔之见,难免有误,请读者指正!

重庆交通学院外国语学院 曹顺发

感谢您对“缤纷世界”栏目的关注和喜爱,更感谢您提出的中肯意见。我们再一次意识到,在编辑杂志的过程中无论如何殚精竭虑、咬文嚼字都是不过分的。正是因为有您这样的读者的支持和关爱,我们的杂志才能越办越好。再一次谢谢您的来信!

冰尘

留言板

Romans Fear for Colosseum as Backdrop for MTV Gig

摇滚危及大剧场



Rome's mighty Colosseum risks being damaged and diminished by a major MTV rock concert, traditionalists and conservationists warned. As a prelude to the MTV Europe Music Awards taking place on the outskirts of Rome in the late evening, an array of pop and rock artists were set to play in front of the huge 2000-year-old arena where gladiators fought in ancient times. The venue was used twice in recent times for rock concerts, by Paul McCartney in 2003 and Simon and Garfunkel in July 2004, with thousands of fans packed into a street which cuts through the ruins of the Roman Forum. But some people fear the noise of amplified rock music could harm the architecture. "Has anyone considered the impact of rock on the Colosseum?" politician Teodoro Buontempo asked in Italy's parliament. "Have the authorities ... considered the inevitable damage that will be caused to the monument by the huge noise?" The head of the government's archaeological heritage department, Adriano La Regina, said even worse than the physical damage would be what he saw as the cheapening of the Colosseum's image as it is used to promote commercial pop music. "What kind of image is this?" La Regina said in an interview in Corriere della Sera newspaper in which he said the authorities should not have allowed the MTV show. "It's debased, exploited, commercialized. An image (of Rome) that in the end will have less value because it will have lost its fascination, its integrity, its beauty."

传统主义者及环保主义者警告，MTV举办的一次大型摇滚音乐会可能会使罗马的圆形大剧场遭到损害和贬低。MTV欧洲音乐奖的颁奖典礼将于深夜在罗马郊区举行，作为典礼的序幕，一些流行乐手及摇滚乐手将在圆形大剧场前演出。这座巨型竞技场已有2,000年历史，在古代是角斗士们搏杀的地方。近年来这里曾举办过两次摇滚音乐会，一次是2003年保罗·麦卡特尼的演唱会，一次是2004年7月西蒙与加芬克尔的演唱会，当时都有成千上万的歌迷挤在穿过罗马广场废墟（在圆形大剧场附近——译者注）的一条街道上。不过，有些人担心摇滚音乐的巨大噪声会损及剧场的建筑。“有没有人想过摇滚乐对圆形大剧场的影响？”政界人士提奥多·布翁滕坡质问意大利议会，“有关当局想过……巨大的噪声必定会对这座历史建筑造成损害？”意大利政府考古遗产部门主管阿德里亚诺·拉·雷金纳则认为，用圆形大剧场给商业流行乐捧场将会损害它的形象，这比物质上的损坏还要严重。他在接受《晚邮报》采访时说，当局不应该同意MTV在那里搞演出：“这算是什么形象？是个堕落、惟利是图的商业化形象。（罗马的）这个象征到头来只会贬值，因为它丧失了自己的魅力、完整性和美感。”

Remarks:

注意，这只是在圆形大剧场“前”（不是“里”）。想想紫禁城音乐会，想想故宫里的星巴克，想想长城下的别墅群，悲哉！

Scientists Teach Baffled Diners Chopstick Tricks

科学的用筷方法



Britons' enthusiasm for chow mein and Peking duck is often dampened when poor chopstick skills leave more food on their shirts than in their mouths. But scientists have come to their aid with a

mathematical formula for successful chopstick use, just in time for Chinese New Year celebrations. Researchers from the University of Surrey took into account the number of Chinese meals eaten, how many seconds it takes to get food from bowl to mouth and food slipperiness to calculate the key to chopstick proficiency. Diners can use the formula to calculate how much practice they need, how long their chopsticks should be and how quickly they should eat. "The formula will come as a welcome answer for those terrified by chopsticks," said a spokeswoman for food firm Uncle Ben's, which found that over half of Britons have to down chopsticks and use a knife and fork to finish their food.

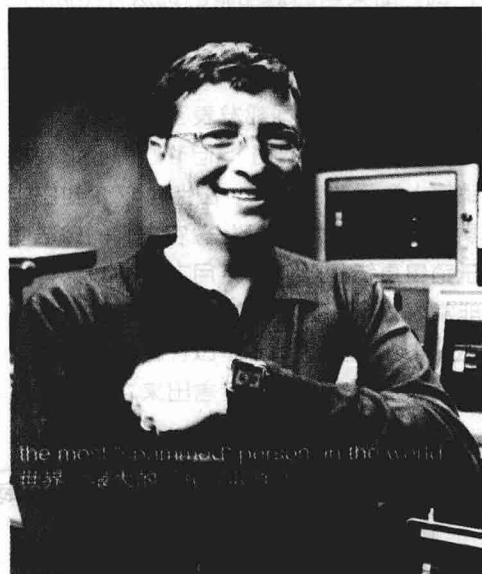
不擅长用筷子的英国人掉在衬衫上的食物往往比吃到嘴里的还多，他们对炒面和北京烤鸭的热情也常常因此受到打击。好在科学家们伸出了援手，赶在春节庆典之前推出了一个教人用好筷子的数学公式。萨里大学的研究人员综合以往吃中餐的次数、把食物从碗里送到嘴里所需的秒数以及食物的滑溜程度等因素设计出了改善用筷技巧的方法。食客们可以通过这个公式计算出自己还需要多少练习，以及适合自己的筷子长度和进食速度。“本大叔”食品公司的一位女发言人说：“这一公式为那些对筷子心存恐惧的人提供了一个令人满意的解决方法。”根据“本大叔”的发现，有一多半英国人（在吃中餐的时候）不得不弃筷子而取刀叉，如此才能把食物吃光。

Remarks:

要是靠公式就能用好筷子，那些拿着精确到克的食谱的人就都可以当大厨了——西方人的思维方式的确跟我们不大一样。

Microsoft's Gates Is World's Most "Spammed" Person

世界上最大的“垃圾收件人”



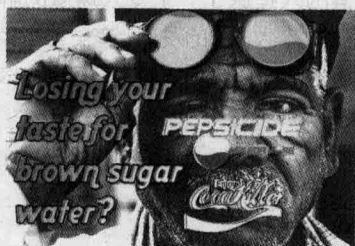
E-mail users inundated with unsolicited "spam" messages have reason to hope Microsoft Corp. will develop better tools for tackling the problem: Bill Gates is suffering more than anyone. Gates, Microsoft's chairman, gets 4 million e-mails a day and is probably the most "spammed" person in the world, his Chief Executive Officer Steve Ballmer said. However, only a few junk e-mails gets through to Gates's inbox thanks to anti-spam technology that filters his messages, Ballmer said at a Microsoft event in Singapore. Spam e-mails touting everything from aphrodisiacs to home loans are believed to account for over 80 percent of Internet traffic.

the most "spammed" person in the world
世界上最“垃圾收件人”

淹没在不清自来的垃圾邮件之中的电子邮件用户有理由期待微软公司开发更好的软件来解决这一问题，因为最大的受害者是比尔·盖茨。在微软公司于新加坡举办的一次活动当中，公司首席执行官史蒂夫·巴尔默说，身为公司主席的盖茨每天要收到400万封垃圾邮件，而他可能是世界上最大的“垃圾收件人”。不过，由于盖茨采用了反垃圾邮件技术来过滤讯息，能够进入盖茨邮箱的垃圾邮件不过寥寥几封。据信，垃圾邮件占到了网络交通量的80%以上，它们兜售各式各样的物事，从春药到家庭贷款应有尽有。

Indian Farmers Turn to Cola to Kill Pests

可乐的恐怖用途



Cotton farmers in some Indian villages are flocking to buy Coca-Cola and Pepsi, believing that the sugar in the fizzy drinks kills pests. Farmers say scientists advised them to mix pesticides with a sugary syrup to control pests, and they found the mixture cheaper and more effective than pure chemicals — although soft drink makers and scientists dismissed the claims. N. Hamunayya, who has become a celebrity in his village in the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh, said his crop survived an attack of pests which had resisted other remedies. "We found that all the colas had uniform effect on pests. The pests became numb and fell to ground," he said. He said the drinks had all the elements they needed: they were cheaper, sticky, fizzy, and attracted ants, which devoured the larvae of the pests. But Thirupathi Reddy, assistant director of the Regional Agri Research station, Guntur, says tests had refuted such claims. "We conducted some field trials on cotton crop at our research station. There was no boosting of productivity or eradication of pests," he says. Statements from Pepsi and Coca-Cola said there was "no scientific basis" for this practice. But their vendors are enjoying booming sales. Mantan Wali, who sells soft drinks in 17 villages in the region, said sales fizzed up, thanks to the farmers. "For

Remarks:

每天400万！这些“垃圾”都是什么内容呢？估计也包括世界各地的“盖茨迷”们向偶像发出的肺腑之言吧。

印度一些村庄的棉农正在成群结队地购买可口可乐和百事可乐，因为他们相信这些发泡饮料里的糖可以杀死害虫。农夫们说，科学家们叫他们往农药里加糖浆以便对付害虫，而他们也发现农药和糖浆的混合物不但比纯农药便宜，而且更加有效——不过软饮料制造商和科学家都否定了他们的说法。居住在东南部安得拉邦的N. 哈慕那雅已经成了村里的名人，他说，自己的庄稼抗过了一次虫灾，而（可乐之外的）其他农药对那些害虫都没有用。哈慕那雅说：“我们发现，所有的可乐对害虫都有同样的效果。害虫会开始麻痹，然后就掉到地上。”他还说，可乐能满足他们的所有要求：它们便宜、发粘、起泡，还能引来蚂蚁，后者会吃掉害虫的幼虫。不过，贡都尔县地区农业研究站的助理站长斯鲁帕西·雷蒂说，试验结果与哈慕那雅的说法并不吻合：“我们在站里的棉田里做了一些试验，发现可乐既不能提高产量，也不能杀灭害虫。”可口可乐公司和百事公司都发表了声明，宣称这种做法“没有科学依据”，但他们的经销商却因销量上涨而欢欣不已。在当地17个村庄中售卖软饮料的曼坦·瓦利说，农夫们的做法使可乐销量直线上升：“八九月之交的10天里生意非常好，我现在可以卖到200箱可乐（每箱12瓶1升装可乐），而不是以往的30箱。在可乐里有农药残留的不利传言出来之后，我们

the 10 days between August and September I had booming business. Instead of just 30 cases (each containing a dozen one-litre bottles) of cola I started selling almost 200 cases," he said. "We expected the sales to nosedive after the cacophony over pesticide residues in the cola drinks. Now I have to keep extra stock for the cotton farmers," he said. In February, an Indian parliamentary panel upheld a report by an environment group that said beverages made by Coca-Cola and PepsiCo contained pesticides and called for tougher safety standards. The U.S. firms strongly rejected the findings of the New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment and said their products were safe.

beverage

本以为销量会急剧下降，可是现在我却必须为棉农准备额外的存货。”(2004年)2月，印度国会的一个小组批准了一个环保组织的报告，其中指出可口可乐公司和百事公司生产的饮料里含有农药，要求制订更为严格的饮料安全标准。这两家美国公司对新德里科学与环境中心的这一发现提出了强烈抗议，并声称自己的产品没有安全问题。

Remarks:

为正视听，我建议这两家公司在下一季投放如下广告——田野之中，各式各样的昆虫一边摇滚，一边畅饮可乐，还不时停下来喊一嗓子：“永远的可口可乐！”(或者是“新一代的选择！”)

Tabasco* Crops Too Hot for Bunnies

火辣辣的庄稼



Tabasco — the material for Tabasco sauce
塔巴斯科辣酱的原料——塔巴斯科辣椒

Dutch farmers have devised a hot and spicy way to stop rabbits and rodents from munching their lettuce, carrots and wheat. Spraying fields with the American sauce Tabasco

munching

为了防止兔子和啮齿动物偷吃莴苣、胡萝卜和小麦，荷兰的农夫们发明了一种“火辣辣”的手段。据当地一家农业合作组织的发言人说，喷在田里的美国塔巴斯科辣酱让兔子们辣得“一蹦三尺高”，赶紧找地方躲了起来。荷兰的动物保护组织对这种辛辣的驱赶方法颇为满意，并不担心兔子们的嘴巴可能会因此灼伤。动物福利发言人尼尔斯·多尔兰特说：“我们主张的正是这样的预防性措施，这比拿着猎枪下田要好得多。”农夫们正在申请将塔巴斯科辣酱列为官定农药，以便拿到政府津贴，在更大范围内使用辣酱。喷洒1公顷(2.5英亩)庄稼地至少需要5小瓶超市装塔巴斯科辣酱。虽然辣酱会被雨水冲掉，但农夫们也只在作物生长的第一个阶段进行喷洒，免得人类消费者的味蕾因此而遭无妄之灾。

Remarks:

饿死就不是死吗？(再夸张一点，辣死就不是死吗？)荷兰的动物保护组织也更容易满足了吧。

sends the rabbits "three feet in the air" with shock and running for cover, said a spokesman for a local agriculture cooperative. The Dutch animal protection society is happy with the spicy repellent, unworried by the possibility of burned bunny mouths. "Preventive measures are exactly what we want. It's better than going into the fields with a shotgun," said animal welfare spokesman Niels Doorlandt. The farmers will now try to make Tabasco an officially recognized pesticide for subsidized use on a larger scale. At least five small supermarket-sized bottles of the spicy sauce are needed for spraying 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of crops. Although rain washes the Tabasco off, the crops are only sprayed in the first phases of growth to spare the taste buds of human consumers.

* Tabasco为美国McIlhenny Company的著名商标，该公司以生产辣酱闻名。

subsidy

If You Can't Beat Them, Eat Them

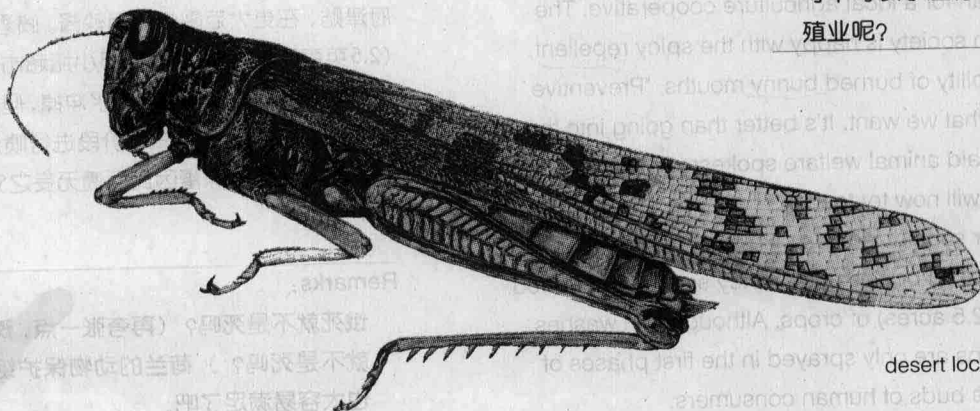
动手不行就动口

In their struggle to cope with an invasion of desert locusts, Cypriot farmers may do well to turn to a U.N. site that counsels if you can't beat them eat them. Locusts are rich in protein and can be stir-fried, boiled or roasted, is one nugget of information provided by the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization in a drive to help deal with locust swarms that have landed in Cyprus from Africa. "Here are a few local recipes from locust-affected countries," a page on the FAO Web site says. "Please send us yours!" One recipe from a tribe in southern Africa advises grinding roast locust to a fine powder to eat on a journey. "The legs, when dried, are especially relished for their pleasant taste." "Take several dozen locust adults, preferably females, slit the abdomen lengthwise and stuff a peanut inside," a Cambodian recipe suggested. "Then lightly cook the locusts in a wok or hot frying pan, adding a little oil and salt to taste. Be careful not to overcook or burn them." Eating locusts has been documented from Biblical times. According to the *Christian New Testament*, John the Baptist survived on locusts and honey when he was in the desert — even though some question whether it was locusts he actually ate as the Greek name "acridae" can also mean the tips of plants. The locusts reached eastern Mediterranean countries in early November after the worst infestation recorded in Africa for more than a decade.

正在与入侵的沙漠蝗虫做斗争的塞浦路斯农夫们不妨去听一听一个联合国网站的见解：要是打不赢它们的话，就吃了它们。为了帮助农夫们对付从非洲登陆塞浦路斯的大群蝗虫，总部位于罗马的联合国粮农组织（FAO）奉献了如下金玉良言：蝗虫富含蛋白，既宜煎炸，又宜烤煮。“这里有来自蝗灾国家的一些特色食谱，”FAO网站的一个网页如是说，“请把你的食谱发给我们！”南部非洲某部落的一张食谱建议将烤熟的蝗虫磨成细粉作为干粮：“干制的蝗虫腿风味绝佳，尤其得人青睐。”一张柬埔寨食谱中则有如下烹制方法：“取数十只蝗虫成虫，雌虫更佳，将其腹部纵向切开，塞入一粒花生。然后置于铁锅或烧热的煎锅中略炒，加油盐少许即可。注意不要炒过或炒焦。”吃蝗虫的做法在《圣经》时代即已见诸记载。据基督教《新约》所说，施洗者约翰在沙漠中就是靠蝗虫和蜂蜜活下来的——不过他吃的究竟是不是蝗虫尚存疑义，因为希腊名词“acridae”也有植物尖梢之意。非洲此前发生了十余年来最严重的蝗灾，（2004年）11月初，蝗虫又来到了地中海东部的一些国家。

Remarks:

既然蝗虫如此美味、如此众多，不知道可不可以拿庄稼当饲料、改农业为养殖业呢？



desert locust 沙漠蝗虫

Dog Beats Man in Breath Freshness Test

比狗嘴还臭

More than half of Britons could have breath that smells worse than their pet's, according to a survey by toothpaste manufacturer Aquafresh. And women are the worst offenders, with three out of five failing a sulfur emissions test*. "Some mouths may be dirtier than cat litter," dentist Brian Grieveson said in a statement that accompanied the research. "Most people in the UK do not realize that cleaning your tongue is as important as cleaning your teeth." Scots had the best oral hygiene, with only 10 percent suffering bad breath, compared to 27 percent in London. Throughout the nation, 52 percent were rated at a level that could be worse than that of a pet animal. "We are one of the last countries to understand the need to clean our tongue, with people in America and parts of Europe practicing tongue cleaning routinely," said Grieveson. Secretaries were the freshest profession, achieving 100 percent freshness in the survey of 1,000 people, while retail staff fared worst and received the warning: "You could be losing sales."

*口臭的主要来源是口腔中厌氧菌分解释放出的硫化物，因此可以通过硫化物逸出测试来确定口气是否清新。

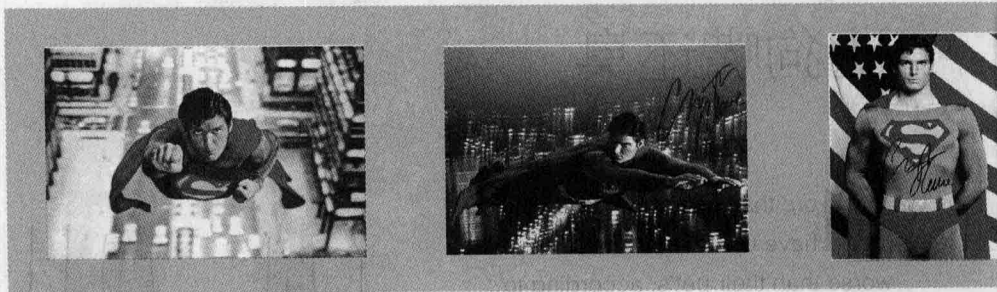
牙膏生产商“家护”公司的一项调查表明，一多半英国人的口气比自己的宠物还要难闻，而妇女在这方面尤其差劲，她们中有3/5都通过硫化物逸出测试。“有些人的嘴比猫沙还要脏，”牙科医师布赖恩·格莱夫森在与研究结果同时发表的声明中说，“大多数英国人没有意识到，清洁舌头与清洁牙齿同样重要。”（研究发现）苏格兰人的口腔卫生最好，其中只有10%口气不佳，而伦敦人里有27%口有异味。纵观全国，52%



的人的口气被判定为比宠物的还要难闻。格莱夫森说：“在清洁舌头方面，我们是最后知后觉的国家之一。美国和其他欧洲一些地方的人都会定期进行舌头清洗。”秘书是口气最清新的行业，在这次千人调查中取得了清新率100%的佳绩。零售业员工表现最为糟糕，他们得到了这样的警告：“你会因此丢掉生意。”

Remarks:

既然多数人如此，说明这是时尚，所以不用洗什么舌头，只要把形容口气清新的词从“气若幽兰”改为“气若H₂S”就行了。



★ Christopher Reeve, Another Kind of Superhero

从银幕英雄到生活斗士

By Chip Crews
叶姿 选注

1. 这两个相冲突的形象——它们既互相否定又互为补充——将永久地交织在一起：一个克里斯托弗·里夫，穿着“超人”装，体态健美，英气勃勃，无往不胜地冲向高空；另一个他疲倦而憔悴，戴着呼吸器，一动不动地在轮椅上度过每一天。warring: 冲突的；built: 体形好的，体态性感的；stratosphere: 最上层，最高位；ventilator: 呼吸器。
2. 在某些报道中，他有一个骇人的头衔——历史上有名的四肢瘫痪者。quarter: (消息、供应、帮助等的) 来源，方面；lurid: 可怕的，骇人听闻的，quadriplegic /kwɒdrɪˈpledʒɪk/: 四肢瘫痪者。
3. well-off and well-connected: 富有的、社交广泛的。

The two warring images will be linked forever, each denying—and completing—the other: Christopher Reeve, built and beautiful in his Superman suit, roaring invincibly into the stratosphere; and Christopher Reeve, strained and drawn, hooked to a ventilator and living another motionless day in his wheelchair.¹ The cartoon hero had suffered a horrible fall and emerged as a real-life hero.

And yet Reeve, who died of heart failure lately at 52, always sounded a little appalled at the thought that people might consider him heroic. A

devastating May 1995 riding injury had left him paralyzed, to be sure; in some quarters he bore the lurid title of the most famous quadriplegic in history.² But he always pointed out that when the accident happened, he was a famous, well-off and well-connected³ movie actor who had advantages that were unavailable to most. “I haven’t had to sell my house and end up in a nursing home,” he said in a 1998 interview marking the publication of his memoir, *Still Me*. “So that sets me apart from the people I regard as heroes. I truly mean that.”

On that afternoon six years ago

一生中，演员克里斯托弗·里夫扮演的最著名的角色是脊椎损伤患者中的斗士和干细胞研究的支持者。



he was doing what he could to stimulate book sales, certainly, but what kept him speaking for 3.5 hours was a higher and broader purpose: Reeve was by then the nation's most visible advocate for paralysis research. (He retained that mantle for the rest of his life and was an ardent advocate of stem-cell research.)⁴ It had become nearly a full-time job, and he saw every interview, every camera setup as an opportunity to promote the cause.

"The cure," he said, "is just around the corner⁵."

Toward that end he was forever in training—legs one day, arms the next, abs the next. "All the scientists who are working on solving the problem of curing paralysis say that it won't do you any good if you don't keep your body in shape," he noted.

In his book but also in person, Reeve was forthright about the hardships and indignities of

paralysis: the getting-up and getting-to-bed rituals that could run to five hours on a bad day, the utter lack of spontaneity, the daily manipulation of his bowel.⁶ ("I'm turned on my side, and the aide pushes on my stomach with his fist in order to force stool down through the intestines.⁷... Sometimes it can take nearly an hour.")

But his wheezy, labored speech and a certain reticence tended to keep his emotions hidden from outsiders.⁸ Though at one point he did calmly murmur, "It saddens me sometimes that just when everything had come together I went out and ruined it." (His "everything" had much to do with his 1992 marriage to his wife, Dana, whose devotion to him has been quite visible through the years.)

Still, tearing through the Virginia countryside on horseback—he fell during a cross-country race in Culpeper—was utterly in character.⁹ Though he insisted he was never

4. 那时里夫是全国最引人瞩目的瘫痪研究的支持者。(他将余生都献给了此事业，是干细胞研究的热心支持者。) mantle: (作为权力标志的) 衣钵。
5. around the corner: 行将发生的，即将来到的。
6. 无论在书里还是在言谈中，里夫对于瘫痪带来的艰难和有伤尊严都很坦率：不顺的时候，起床和上床这样的例行公事都要花上5个小时；生活完全不能自理，每天还要推拿肠部。
7. stool: 大便；intestine: 肠。
8. 但他那气喘吁吁的、吃力的讲话和某种缄默往往对外界隐藏了他的情感。reticence: 沉默寡言。
9. 在弗吉尼亚州乡村纵马飞奔——他在库尔派珀市举行的越野赛马比赛中摔了下来——与他本人的性格完全相符。tear: <口> 飞跑，狂奔；in character: 与自身特性相符。

With Wife,
Dana



Either you decide to
—Christopher Reeve

10. 尽管里夫坚称自己从不鲁莽行事，但他的消遣活动却往往都带有一点儿冒险色彩：驾滑翔机飞行、滑雪、两次单人驾机飞越大西洋。
foolhardy: 鲁莽的，有勇无谋的。
11. solid: 认真的，扎扎实实的；
underrated: 被低估的。
12. “在屏幕上，范尼莎·雷德格雷夫、凯瑟琳·赫本、吉恩·哈克曼、摩根·弗里曼和安东尼·霍普金斯这些人都能轻而易举地让我显得微不足道，”他列出了一些与他合作过的明星的名字。tick off: 列举，快速报出。
13. 在朱丽亚学院求学时，22岁的里夫获得了肥皂剧《生命之爱》中一个坏小子的角色，他的参演使该片的收视率一路飙升。land: 赢得，得到；jack up: 提高，增加。
14. 尽管如此，里夫轮廓分明的完美长相在好莱坞不合时宜，达斯汀·霍夫曼、艾尔·帕西诺、罗伯特·德尼罗成为新一代的主流明星。
chiseled: 轮廓鲜明的，清晰的；out of sync: 不同步的，不协调的。
15. 20世纪80年代后期上映的第四部和最后一部“超人”遭遇“滑铁卢”，而他与凯瑟琳·特纳合作的《头条大新闻》同样反应惨淡。
installment: (戏剧的)分本演出(或播送)；bomb: 大败，惨败。

foolhardy, Reeve's recreational pursuits were always marked by a touch of daring—sailplanes, skiing, two solo flights across the Atlantic.¹⁰ The same streak showed up in his career: He was a solid, somewhat underrated actor who was not at all afraid to be shown up by the best.¹¹

“Vanessa Redgrave, Katharine Hepburn, Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins are all people who can easily blow me off the screen,” he said, ticking off a list of his co-stars.¹² “But I’d rather enjoy the challenge of working with them... You learn more and you do better.”

From the start, it appears, Reeve was self-assured and composed, the rather uncommon sort of person who simply decides what he wants to do and then makes it happen. His parents divorced early in his life and he grew up in Princeton, N.J., living with his mother. He was called Tophy in those days, and when his parents remarried, bringing an assortment of half-brothers and stepbrothers into the picture, he vowed to maintain his place in the family by being “as perfect as possible.”

Certainly he always looked about as perfect as possible, which was no small help in attracting early attention. At 22, while studying at Juilliard, he landed the role of a bad boy on the soap opera *Love of Life*, jacking up the show's ratings in the process.¹³ A couple of years later, in 1976, he made his Broadway debut in *A Matter of Gravity*, with Katharine Hepburn starring his “grandmother”.

Still, Reeve's chiseled flawlessness was out of sync in Hollywood, where Hoffman, Al Pacino, and Robert De Niro made up the new ruling class.¹⁴ But *Superman* (1978) called for a change; nobody was thinking of Dustin Hoffman to play that part. Over the next decade or so, Reeve sustained a kind of medium-level movie stardom. In the late '80s, however, the fourth and final *Superman* installment bombed, and *Switching Channels*, with Kathleen Turner, did no better.¹⁵ It took several years of careful choices to set his course right.

You have to be tough to make it as an actor, and Reeve insisted that his theatrical background was good preparation for his later catastrophe. Remembering his days of