

# 英语学习 ELL

2009 年 7-12 期

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“奥巴马”成形容词

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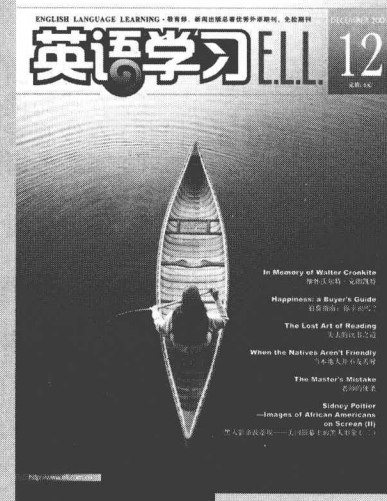
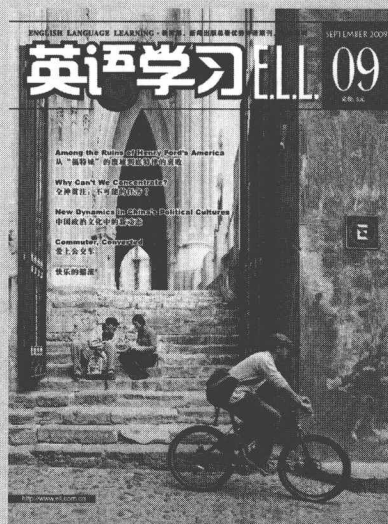
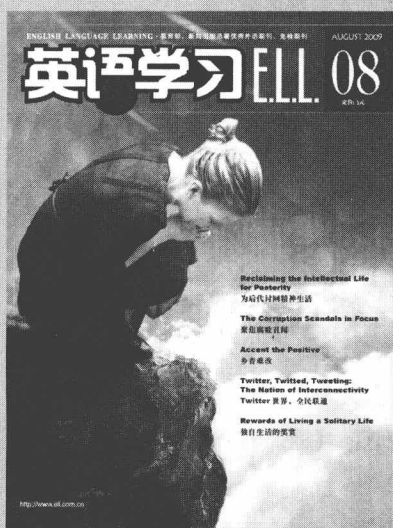
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Trash Talk  
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When the Natives Aren't Friendly  
当本地人并不友善时







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# There's no place like home.

哪儿也不如家好。

家是我们感到最安适的地方。这句谚语的含义首先出现于英国诗人、农场主托马斯·塔瑟 (Thomas Tusser, 约1524—1580) 的《治家百诫》(A Hundredth Good Pointes of Husbandry, 1570) 中, 但后来美国演员、剧作家约翰·霍华德·佩恩 (John Howard Payne, 1791—1852) 所写的歌曲《家, 甜蜜的家》("Home, Sweet Home", 1923) 使此语广泛传诵。歌中的全句是Be it ever so humble, there is (there's) no place like home, 同时这也是本谚语的一个变体。

e.g. FOR SOME RUSSIAN JEWS, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

—Headline, *Manhattan Jewish Sentinel* (1994)

“对一些俄裔犹太人来说, 哪儿也不如家好”

——《曼哈顿犹太哨兵报》一文章标题 (1994)





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— Alice



《英语学习》在五六月份开展了“与ELL有约——《英语学习》2009年度读者问卷”活动,得到了读者朋友们的热烈反馈。

调查之一是就中文文化栏目征求读者们的想法。刊登“西洋镜”、“名校流韵”和“人文教育”等栏目是ELL推介英语国家乃至世界优秀思想与多种文明的一种尝试。我们认为一本好的英语杂志,不仅应帮助读者提高语言认知和应用能力,还应帮助读者了解西方文化,拓展人文视野。

从读者朋友们的反馈来看,我们的努力得到了大多数读者的认可,有读者表示阅读此类文章“收获很大,在一般的刊物上读不到”,“能丰富思想内涵,以前只在大部头书中看到,在杂志中读来感觉更精辟”,也有读者说此类文章“对于自己所欠缺的知识层面有很好的提高”。

就文章难度来说,有不少读者表示英文引文“比较难,看不大懂”。这的确是阅读经典的一个难题。语言难度往往与思想深度成正比,经典之为经典,是耐得住琢磨的,其语言亦同。加上经典背后的历史、思想背景,对绝大多数人来说,直接读经典怕是不可能。此类文章以中文为主,夹叙夹议介绍英文经典,目的就是帮助读者品味到原汁原味的经典,却又不那么费气力。其实,一些经典引文的译文本身已足够精彩。

本期我们推出一个新栏目“对话雅典娜——西方哲学漫步系列”,也是出于相同的目的。哲学是西方人文历史中的一部重头戏,要谈人文,可少不了它。对“哲学”尚存疑虑的朋友们请读一读作者的开栏语,作者对哲学的看法可谓别开生面,而其行文更是别有洞天。

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## Sleeping and Eating— Who Does It Best?

### 吃饱睡足，谁最享福？

True to their reputation as leisure-loving gourmets<sup>1</sup>, the French spend more time sleeping and eating than anyone else among the world's wealthy nations, according to a study published recently. The average French person sleeps almost nine hours every night, more than an hour longer than the average Japanese and Korean, who sleep the least in a survey of 18 members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Despite their siesta habit, Spaniards rank only third in the poll after Americans,<sup>2</sup> who sleep more than 8.5 hours.

And while more and more French people grab a bite at fast-food chains these days or wolf down<sup>3</sup> a sandwich at their desk, they still spend more than two hours a day eating.

That means their meals are twice as long as those of the average Mexican, who dedicates just over an hour a day to food, the OECD's "Society at a Glance" report on work, health and leisure in Asia, Europe and North and South America found.

The survey showed that the split between work and leisure time within certain countries is striking. "Italian men have nearly 80 minutes a day of leisure more than women. Much of the additional work of Italian women is apparently spent cleaning the house," the OECD said in a statement.



1. gourmet: 美食家。
2. siesta: 午睡; Spaniard: 西班牙人。
3. wolf down: 狼吞虎咽地吃。

#### Remarks:

浪漫的法兰西人吃得最饱睡得最久，这倒符合我们的“期待视野”，据说餐厅、卧室是最浪漫的所在。然而，在当今快节奏的发达社会里，这些公民平均竟有八九个小时的夜晚睡眠时间，这个结果着实令人惊讶。

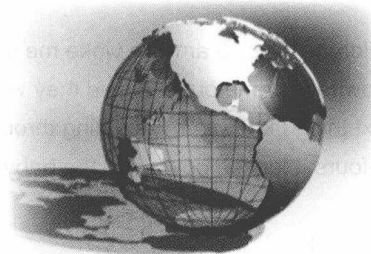
## Smallest Exoplanet<sup>1</sup> Found in Search for Earth's Twin

### 地球的孪生兄弟

Scientists searching for a planet like Earth said they have found the smallest planet ever detected outside the solar system, less than twice the size of our own. The exoplanet, a planet that orbits a star beyond the solar system, is called Gliese 581e after the star it circles. Because of its relatively small size it is likely rocky, like Earth, as opposed to gas giants such as Jupiter or Saturn,<sup>2</sup> the astronomers said.

"It is the lightest planet detected outside the solar system so far," Dr. Gaspare Lo Curto, an astronomer at the European Organization for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, told a news conference. "We are not too far away from finding a planet like Earth," he added.

Gliese 581e orbits its star in just 3.15 days, but lies outside a so-called "habitable zone" and could not sustain life, Lo Curto said. Its mass<sup>3</sup> is just 1.9 times that of Earth, and it is 20.5 light years away. But while the small planet is outside the habitable zone, the biggest of three other previously discovered planets in the same system appears to be inside this just-right zone. Around 340 exoplanets have so far been found orbiting other stars besides the Earth's sun, most of them gas giants with characteristics similar to Jupiter and Neptune.

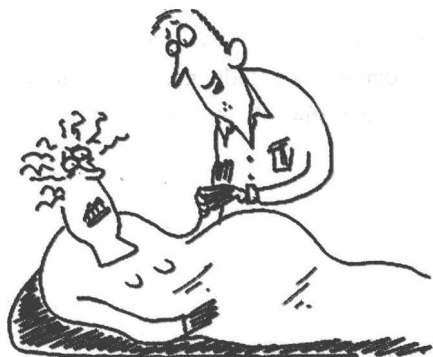


1. exoplanet: 太阳系之外的行星。
2. Jupiter: 木星; Saturn: 土星, 下文的Neptune为海王星。
3. mass: 质量。

### Remarks:

自古以来,人类就在设想天外有人。到了现代,由于航天与观测技术的进步,人类更迫不及待地探询地外文明。几十年来,UFO吊着人们的胃口,影视及文学作品还塑造出了各种外星人形象。然而,到目前为止,种种努力不是“捕风捉影”就是根本以失败告终。

## Briton Helps Wife Give Birth— with YouTube<sup>1</sup> as Midwife 看视频,当接生婆



"Don't worry! We have Youtube."

A British man helped deliver his baby son by following clips on YouTube,<sup>2</sup> after his wife went into labour early.<sup>2</sup> Marc Stephens, a 28-year-old engineer with the Royal Navy, was caught out<sup>3</sup> when his wife Jo went into labour early three weeks prematurely at their home in Redruth, southwest England. He typed "how to deliver a baby" into the Google search engine.

"I didn't even have time to panic. She started complaining of pain around 10.30 pm. I went on Google and watched a couple of clips on YouTube," he said, adding that his wife had given birth quickly with their three older

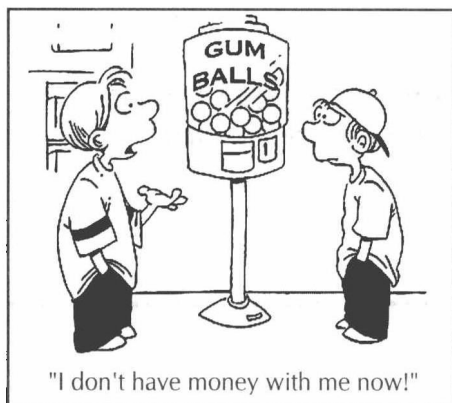


children. "At 2.30 am she woke me up, but when I rang the midwife to come out she said they were busy at the hospital. The next thing I know she is coming through the bedroom doorway on all-fours. I looked down and the baby's head was showing."

1. YouTube: 知名视频网站。
2. deliver: 接生; clip: 视频片段; labour: 分娩。
3. be caught out: 被……难住。

### Remarks:

互联网配上搜索引擎, 似乎能找到天底下所有的信息。然而, 找到信息若不能去伪存真, 那还是解决不了问题。



## Chewing Gum May Raise Maths Grades in Teens

### 口香糖, 数学考试好帮手

In a study likely to make school janitors cringe,<sup>1</sup> U.S. researchers said that chewing gum may boost academic performance in teenagers. Many U.S. schools ban chewing gum because children often dispose of the sticky chew under chairs or tables.<sup>2</sup> But a team led by Craig Johnston at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston found that students who chewed gum during math class had higher scores on a standardized math test after 14 weeks and better grades at the end of the term than students in the class who did not chew gum. The study was funded by chewing gum maker Wrigley.

Leveille, executive director of the Wrigley Science Institute, said he thinks chewing gum helps reduce stress so students can do their best work. And while he is aware that many schools have a dim view of students chewing gum in class, he hopes the findings may change that a bit. "It's not a matter of chewing. It's a matter of gum disposal," Leveille said, adding that that can be overcome by teaching proper disposal behaviours.

If that fails, he quipped, "We'll have to provide the janitors with scrapers."<sup>3</sup>

1. janitor: 门房, 看门人; cringe: 憎恶。

2. dispose of: 抛弃; chew: 咀嚼物。

3. quip: 说俏皮话; scraper: 刮刀。

## Remarks:

一项关于泡泡糖的科学调查的资助方竟然就是泡泡糖公司，吃了人家的嘴短，其言论的公正性是要被大打折扣的。数学成绩的好坏与常咬泡泡糖，这本来就是风牛马不相及的两件事，因“减压”便发生了因果关系。最近还有报道称柑橘也有“减压”作用，但愿这与水果商无关。



盖茨夫妇

## 81 Unusual Projects Get \$100K in Gates Grants

### 盖茨基金：10万美元“悬赏”不寻常研究

Can tomatoes be taught to make antiviral drugs<sup>1</sup> for people who eat them? Would zapping your skin with a laser make your vaccination work better?<sup>2</sup> Could malaria-carrying mosquitoes be given a head cold that would prevent them from sniffing out a human snack bar?<sup>3</sup> These are among 81 projects awarded \$100,000 grants by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in a bid to support innovative, unconventional global health research.

The five-year health research grants are designed to encourage scientists to pursue bold ideas that could lead to breakthroughs, focusing on ways to prevent and treat infectious diseases, such as HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia and diarrhea.<sup>4</sup> The foundation also announced plans to spend \$73 million over the next five years to help small farmers in impoverished countries.

The largest philanthropic<sup>5</sup> foundation in the world, the Gates Foundation gave out \$2.8 billion last year. The foundation was started in 1994 by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and his wife and has the international goals of overcoming hunger, poverty and disease.

1. antiviral drug: 抗病毒药物。
2. zap: (用X光、激光等) 辐射; vaccination: 疫苗。
3. malaria: 疟疾; head cold: 头痛, 伤风; sniff out: 寻找; a human snack bar: 人肉“小吃店”, 为比喻用法。
4. infectious: 传染的; tuberculosis: 肺结核; pneumonia: 肺炎; diarrhea: 痢疾。
5. philanthropic: 慈善的。

## Remarks:

比尔·盖茨用大笔资金去资助一些天方夜谭般的医学卫生研究项目，尤其对传染病的防控情有独钟，可谓独辟慈善事业之蹊径。当前的疫情说明现代医学的攻关尚任重道远，我们愿盖茨的慈善事业能有所作为！



# 【C】 Michelle Obama and the Covert Influence of First Ladies

## 米歇尔·奥巴马与第一夫人的隐性影响

By Carl Sferrazza Anthony

::刘素梅 选注

1. Inauguration Day: (美国)总统就职日; ensue: 接着发生。
2. unequivocally: 明确地, 直率地; rock: 可靠的人。
3. predominant: 显著的; executive: 行政的。
4. 米歇尔曾任芝加哥计划与发展办公室助理总监和芝加哥交通局顾问委员会主任。
5. Public Allies: 公众联盟, 美国公益机构, 致力于培养年轻的社区领导人; enlist: 招募。
6. arena: 活动领域。
7. well-documented: 有充分证据证明的; certitude: 自信; bear on: 对……施加影响。

As memories of Inauguration Day 2009 begin to fade in and the new Administration ensues,<sup>1</sup> speculation will only increase about how politically influential Michelle Obama will be as First Lady. She has stated unequivocally that she won't be a "senior advisor" but Barack Obama has far more frequently termed her his "rock."<sup>2</sup> As time goes on, it's likely there'll be little difference.

Predominant in Michelle Obama's resume are executive roles.<sup>3</sup> She was an assistant commissioner of Planning and Development for the city of Chicago, and headed Chicago Transit Authority advisory board.<sup>4</sup> As the first head of the Chicago branch of Public Allies, the non-profit which enlists young people as community leaders,<sup>5</sup> she built the organization from the ground up, hiring and managing staff, seeking candidates with widely diverse educational and practical experiences for the program, aggressively and successfully fundraising, planning budgets. In her initial job at the University of Chicago, she worked in student services, forging alliances between university students and neighborhood residents and achieving her intentions of getting each group to volunteer in the other's arena<sup>6</sup>.

Such executive sensibilities—and her well-documented certitude in her jobs, could come to bear on her husband's thinking process as he weighs options before making final decisions.<sup>7</sup> In interviews with, and profiles of Mrs. Obama over the last year, there's ample suggestion it's already a role she's played at crucial moments in the campaign.

It doesn't mean Obama lacks judgment of his advisors, but a President does become absorbed in the stream of daily decisions—let alone the unexpected crises that arise. A First Lady hears more unvarnished talk,



诚然，因为丈夫是总统，她们才成为第一夫人。不过别忘了，在嫁给他们的时候，他们还不是总统。论人生阅历、品格学识、胆识魄力，第一夫人们往往不逊色于她们的丈夫，而新任第一夫人米歇尔·奥巴马堪称个中翘楚。这位将事业、家庭和时尚结合得堪称完美的第一夫人又将对总统丈夫有何影响，且听作者一一道来。

.....

米歇尔在白宫会客室“蓝厅”

whether channeled to her own East Wing from the West Wing or directly from aides there hesitant to tell him.<sup>8</sup> Much as Nancy Reagan had a West Wing liaison in her old and trusted friend Mike Deaver, Michelle Obama already has a long and deep personal bond with a woman who was first her boss at the Chicago mayor's office, Valerie Jarrett, now White House Senior Advisor.<sup>9</sup> And First Ladies also have more frequent and easier contact with the outside world. They can linger and listen longer to citizens on the rope line and have the little notes and pleas written to them scooped<sup>10</sup> up by staff along the way.

In yet one other subtle way, the First Lady will likely influence the President's perspective. She's been adept at creating advisory boards and committees for the organizations she's headed, gathering disparate<sup>11</sup> but collectively important voices. The President is already genius at this himself but as the cocoon will inevitably tightens around him, Michelle Obama might well continue to widen their private sector network—especially at times he may be consumed with crises.<sup>12</sup> Eleanor Roosevelt was famous for bringing in differing voices to FDR, though it frequently exasperated him.<sup>13</sup>

Beyond their love and children, if it's not politics that binds the Obamas, there is a fluid mutual influence in their harkening<sup>14</sup> a call to community service. It's already legendary how she first recognized Obama as different and gifted when she first witnessed his passion at a community meeting he asked her to join him in attending. But it was a similar impulse which drove her from Harvard back to her community and from a Chicago law firm to Public Allies.

8. unvarnished: 不加修饰的; East Wing, West Wing: 白宫的东翼和西翼, 白宫由主楼、东翼、西翼三个彼此独立的建筑物组成。西翼为总统和幕僚的日常工作区域; 东翼为第一夫人办公室等处所在地, 由第一夫人管理。

9. 背景: 在里根总统任期, 第一夫人南希常与其老友、白宫副幕僚长迈克·迪福探讨事务。米歇尔和瓦莱丽·贾勒特的关系与此类似。贾勒特为米歇尔在芝加哥市市长办公室任职时的上司, 现为白宫高级顾问。

10. scoop: 急速地捡起, 抬起。

11. disparate: 互不相同的。

12. cocoon: 茧, 此处用比喻义; be consumed with: 全神贯注于。

13. Eleanor Roosevelt: 埃莉诺·罗斯福, 美国第32任总统富兰克林·D.罗斯福的夫人; exasperate: 激怒。

14. harken: 倾听。本句指奥巴马夫妇二人都热心于公益事业, 并相互影响。



埃丽诺·罗斯福



玛丽·林肯

If, as fellow actors, the Reagans were bound by that profession's training to help a fellow cast member if they lose focus while performing, and as law students the Clintons relished the intellectual process of arguing a case, and the Stanford geology students Herbert and Lou Hoover together translated an ancient mineralogy text, then community service is the core commitment which binds the Obamas.<sup>15</sup> It was the impulse which led them to jointly volunteer in

15. cast: 全体演员; relish: 享受; mineralogy: 矿物学。背景: 里根夫妇曾同为好莱坞电影演员; 克林顿夫妇则为耶鲁大学法学院同学; 美国第31任总统赫伯特·胡佛与其夫人卢·胡佛则为斯坦福大学地质学系同学。

16. National Day of Service: (美国) 国家服务日, 为每年的1月19日, 倡导公益服务。

17. alchemy: 魔力。

18. trite: 老生常谈的; derivative: 衍生的。

19. 下文的背景: 玛莎·华盛顿是美国首任总统乔治·华盛顿的夫人, 她从早逝的第一任丈夫那里继承了大笔财产, 在嫁给第二任丈夫乔治后, 为其事业提供了强有力的经济支持。玛丽·托德是亚伯拉罕·林肯的妻子, 其父与当时辉格党 (Whig Party, 美国早期一政党) 的领袖关系密切, 林肯在政治生涯早期为辉格党党员, 后转入共和党。美国第27任总统威廉·塔夫脱的妻子内莉出身于政治世家, 对其夫的早期政治活动有重要影响。

20. entrée: 入场许可。

21. savvy: 机智的。

22. riches: 财富, 财产。

23. Margaret Taylor: 玛格丽特·泰勒, 美国第12任总统扎卡里·泰勒的夫人; obscure: 不知名的。

Washington the day before the Inaugural on a "National Day of Service"<sup>16</sup> instead of approving the traditional, official event honoring the new First Lady.

The most powerful of all the ways Michelle Obama can politically impact the Administration and influence the President, however, is the simple but mysterious alchemy<sup>17</sup> of love and support. It seems almost trite to address it—after all, the whole concept of First Lady is derivative,<sup>18</sup> based solely on the fact that these women happened to be married to men who are President.

The rest of that reality, however, is one rarely comprehended in full: most of these men would never have been elected President had they not been married to these particular women. Many know the facts of how First Ladies helped make their husbands Presidents:<sup>19</sup> Martha Washington provided enormous wealth that let George enter and remain in public service. Mary Todd's powerful Whig Party family connections gave social and political entrée<sup>20</sup> to Abe. Taft never would have run for and won the presidency without the career management of his savvy<sup>21</sup> and organized wife Nellie. But it is less the practical and more the emotional where the ultimate sacrifice is made, however much the riches<sup>22</sup> might pour in.

Even though the majority of First Ladies before Hillary Clinton didn't have professional careers to give up so they could help their husbands pursue their ambitions, they sacrificed all claims to privacy and routine, often even better mental and physical health. All of them realized they might even sacrifice the idea of retiring with a husband. The only known remark attributed to Margaret Taylor, one of the most obscure First Ladies,<sup>23</sup> was her protesting the nomination of her



husband: "It is a plot to deprive me of his society and shorten his life." She was, of course, overruled<sup>24</sup>—but she was right: he did after just sixteen months.

Sure, getting to the White House means they make history, live in luxury and secure greater advantages for themselves and their family's future—but it can deaden any enjoyment of living in the moment.

By now, the tens of thousands of still and moving images of Barack and Michelle Obama holding hands, touching foreheads, kissing, hugging—along with the frequently quoted excerpts from his book about the strains that politics created in their marriage, evidence a solid union that has survived with open communication and commitment. They will need it.

Just after his ceremonial oath as Senator in 2005, as the press buzzed around him like a rock star, Michelle Obama raised a quizzical brow: shouldn't they wait and see what he does before lavishing so much attention on him?<sup>25</sup> Beyond the value of keeping expectations realistic by reminding the people that he's only human, Michelle Obama's earlier habit of teasing his shortcomings in her speeches might also have helped him. Before taking the stage of the 2004 Democratic Convention<sup>26</sup>, Obama turned to his wife and admitted he was nervous. She looked him dead in the eye, he later wrote, quipped "Just don't screw it up, Buddy!" and hugged him.<sup>27</sup> There was no turning back. Unspoken, perhaps, but both knew it.

The conventional wisdom is that Obama is almost unusually calm, seemingly cool under all pressure. But he did confess that his promise to Michelle that he would break his dependency on cigarette smoking forever hasn't gone well. It was all his wife has asked for, personally, when he sought her support in making the run for the presidency.

However different the personalities and circumstances, at a certain primal level, the same chords<sup>28</sup> sound through all these presidential marriages and most share a certain truth: First Ladies have been the emotional concrete for the Presidents—even when promises to the wives are broken and it takes awhile for the depth of their strength and sacrifices to be appreciated by their husbands.

Fifteen years later, in 2008, it was about six minutes into his election victory speech that Barack Obama acknowledged the "unyielding<sup>29</sup> support of my best friend for the last sixteen years, the rock of our family and the love of my life."❖

24. overrule: 驳回, 否决。

25. quizzical: 揶揄的; lavish: 过度给予。

26. Democratic Convention: 民主党大会, 美国民主党四年一届的推选该党总统候选人的大会。

27. 奥巴马后来写道, 她直视着他, 打趣说“小子, 别搞砸了就行!”, 接着给了他一个拥抱。

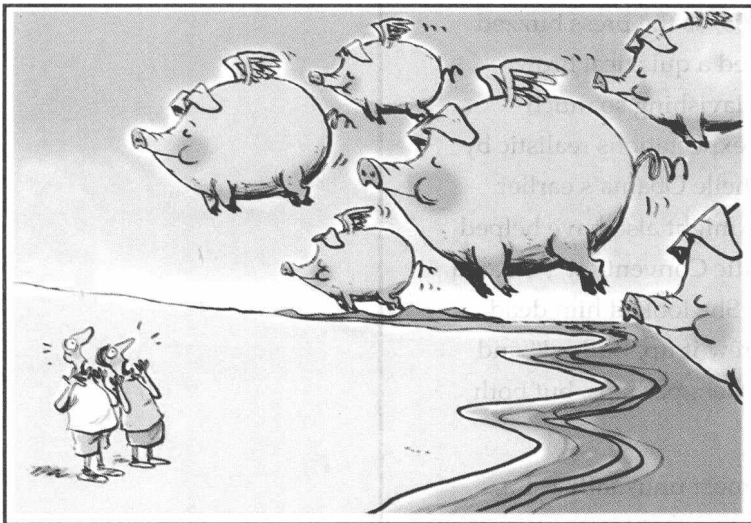
28. chord: 音乐的和弦、和音。

29. unyielding: 坚挺的, 顽强的。



克林顿夫妇——嬉皮年代

# 【C】 And After Much Effort, Man Created Swine Flu<sup>1</sup>



I once worked on a chicken farm. Actually “farm” is far too gentle a word for the way these chickens were raised, and “factory” sounds too clinical<sup>2</sup>. This was the seventh circle of chicken hell, a clucking, stinking, filthy production line with just one aim: to produce the maximum quantity of edible meat, as fast and as cheaply as possible, regardless of quality, cruelty or hygiene.<sup>3</sup>

The creatures were raised in vast hangars, living on a diet of hormones, antibiotics and cheap grain, thousands crushed together in their own dirt under artificial light, growing from chick to slaughter size in a few grim

weeks.<sup>4</sup> (The most accelerated lifespan is now just 40 days.)

That was on a kibbutz farm more than 20 years ago, in the midst of what we can now see as a revolution in livestock production,<sup>5</sup> when science, economics and human appetite combined to forge intensive animal farming on an industrial and global scale.

Those mass-produced chickens were evidently ill. Air had to be pumped into the foetid shed to stop them suffocating.<sup>6</sup> They still died at a pitiful rate, from heart attacks and stress, their bones often too weak to carry the weight of their artificially enlarged bodies. These were “wastage”<sup>7</sup>. The carcasses were kicked into a pile, and eventually removed by diggers.<sup>8</sup>

1. swine flu: 猪流感, 2009年4月30日, 世界卫生组织将其更名为H1N1甲型流感。

2. clinical: 客观的。

3. seventh circle of chicken hell: 根据但丁的《神曲》, 地狱由同心的9环构成, 每环为一层, 越向圆心, 所受罪责越重, 此处为比喻用法; cluck: (鸡) 咯咯叫; stink: 散发臭味; hygiene: 卫生。

4. hangar: 棚; hormone: 荷尔蒙; antibiotic: 抗生素; dirt: 排泄物; slaughter size: (禽畜等) 可宰杀的体积。

5. kibbutz farm: (以色列的) 集体农场; livestock: 牲畜。

6. foetid: 恶臭的; shed: 棚; suffocate: 窒息。

7. wastage: 废物。

8. carcass: (动物的) 尸体; digger: 挖掘机。