



姚小平

学，然后知不足

我从14岁上开始学英语，从此对外语兴致大发，几不可收：19岁学法语；22岁学西班牙语；25岁学俄语、日语；29岁学德语；32岁学古希腊语、拉丁语……每学一种外语，我的知识库里便多出一口宝箱。虽然有的装得多，有的装得少，但无一不是我的珍爱。至35岁，才忽然对外语生了“厌”，转而积蓄我最大的一口宝箱——汉语。

说不清哪一种外语是我的最爱。我只知道英语那口箱子最有用，用得又多，因此比较熟；德语用得也多，不算生疏。其余等而下之。经年不用的，钥匙生了锈，自然就难以开启。即便如此，偶尔翻出一些陈年旧学，也还可以自我赏玩一番。

常听人说，某君如何了得，精通多种语言云云。可惜我不在其列。我只是学过，仅此而已。“精通”二字，分量何等之重，就连我们的母语，谁又敢轻言“精通”啊！面对变幻万千、广无际涯的语言世界，我们惟有承认自己的无知，惟有老老实实地去学。

常有学生问，怎样学外语，才能学得好，学得快？我却答不上来。因为我自来只是学，顺其自然地学，从未想过怎样学，甚至从未想过学了有何用。我现在记起来，14岁那年先是暗暗立了一个志，要坚持学，多多地学。然后便是用功。成年后，我读到阳明先生的一段话才知道，原来学习就该如此，像种一棵树，只管用功，不宜图快：“立志用功，如种树然。方其根芽，犹未有干；及其有干，尚未有枝；枝而后叶，叶而后花实。初种根时，只管栽培、灌溉，勿作枝想，勿作花想，勿作实想。悬想何益！但不忘栽培之功，怕没有枝叶花实？”

今天重读这段话，我不禁问自己：你是否已长成一棵树？没有人不渴望成材，然而成材之余，我更希望自己继续长，长得更大些。所以还得用功，还要学。

姚小平 1953年3月生于上海。1970年赴黑龙江务农，1978年初入黑龙江大学修习俄罗斯语言文学，1982年进入中国社会科学院研究生院语言系，以论文《古汉语的单音颜色词》获硕士学位。1984年底至北京外国语大学语言研究所工作。1996年起任研究员。现为英语语言学博士生导师，《外语教学与研究》双月刊主编。著作有：《洪堡特——人文研究和语言研究》、《17—19世纪的德国语言学与中国语言学》，译作有：洪堡特《论人类语言结构的差异》、《洪堡特语言哲学文集》、赫尔德《论语言的起源》、《英语字词用法》。英文论文有 *Sixty Years of Historiography in Chinese Linguistics*、*The Origins of Language and Writing in Chinese Mythology, Legend and Folklore* 等。目前主持修订北外《汉英词典》。

适合人人学习

英语的

英语学习 陈毅 题

CONTENTS 目录

1958年创刊 总第376期 2003年第4期 本期责编:贺丹

本刊首创英语读物难度等级划分,它既有利于读者根据自己的水平循序渐进地提高英语水平,又有助于学习者把握自己的英语阅读进度,扩展有关知识。B (beginning) 级适合于掌握近2000单词的高中学生及广大英语学习者。I (intermediate) 级适合于拥有3000左右词汇的普通高校的低年级学生或同等水平的英语学习者。C (college) 级适合于大学英语专业一、二年级水平,词汇量在4000至5000上下的学习者。A (advanced) 级为大学英语专业三、四年级以上水平,词汇量超过6000的英语学习者。

主 办 北京外国语大学
承 办 北京外国语大学英语系
外语教学与研究出版社

主 编 侯毅凌
副 主 编 姜 雁 李军真
编辑部主任 陶雪薇
编 辑 沈 毅 朱 艳 丁 飞 贺丹 张薇 孟颖
封面设计 林 力
版式设计 王 军 李 研

编辑委员会 (以下按姓氏笔划排列)

中雨平 李朋义 李家真 刘润清 吴 冰 吴古华 陈国华
沈 毅 杜学增 何其莘 金 莉 张 剑 周 燕 郭捷庆
侯毅凌 姜 雁 钟美莉 蒋祖康 楼光庆 蔡剑峰

顾问委员会 (以下按姓氏笔划排列)

丁往道 刘永沛 范东亚 陈 琳 张中载 胡文仲 高厚望
薄 冰 熊德视

本刊编辑部通讯地址:

北京市西三环北路19号 (100089) 外研社大厦
《英语学习》编辑部
电话: (010) 68917570 传真: (010) 68917181
E-mail: ell@fltp.com

本刊广告部通讯地址:

北京市丰台区丰管路5号盛鑫嘉园1号楼105室 (100071)
电话: (010) 83660083 13601129021
传真: (010) 83660090

发行业务: (010) 68917181 68917749
传真: (010) 68917181

全国各地邮局均可订阅 (邮发代号2-447)
邮购请汇款至:

北京市西三环北路19号外研社期刊中心 (邮编100089)
汪爱成收

本刊部分内容可在以下网址查阅:

http://edu.sina.com.cn/es.html
http://www.beltwaonline.com/englishstudy

本刊如有印刷质量问题,请寄往:北京市西三环北路19号外研社期刊中心 (100089) 调换,恕不退货。5元邮费。

the brave new world 缤纷世界 / 冰尘 编译

- 4 Dishing up a Quality Seal for Authentic Eateries (餐馆认证)
Blondes Headed for Extinction? (金发女郎成历史?) Mutant
Gene "Sparked Art and Culture" (基因突变 文明曙光) Tomb
Curse Pronounced a Myth (诅咒无稽) Magazine Offers a Prize
to Die For (朝中奖, 夕死可矣) U.N. Upholds Ban on "Dwarf
Throwing" (对"投掷矮人"的禁令) Parliament Speaks out for
Ostrich Rights (为鸵鸟的权利呐喊) Can Airbags Save the World?
(安全气囊拯救世界?) Reading on a Roll (茅丽书香)

under the spotlight 聚光灯下

- 10 ① Hello from Above the Earth
天外来信 / 张顺生 选注
12 ② Don't Be Fooled: Strange Hoaxes That Endure
愚人节: 别再被谎言欺骗 / 千江 选注

tales of life 人生广角

- 24 ① Fit to Be President
总统的健身之道 / 柯卿 选注
26 ② Grandma
外婆 / 屈文生 选注

modern times 摩登时代

- 50 ③ Killing Me Microsoftly with PowerPoint
要命的幻灯片 / 程旭 选注
53 ④ Wrestling with Television
永不消失的电视机 / 述远 选注

outlook 瞭望台

- 15 ⑤ Cricket's the National Sport of Time Wasters
板球: 浪费时间的国球 / 秋叶 评注
18 ⑥ East and West
东方与西方 / 国华 树春 译注

dialogue channel 《对话》频道

- 20 ① Speak, Memory
说吧, 记忆——章含之访谈录 / 逸云 整理编写

historical account of western economy 西方经济史话

- 68 ③ Migrations to the West
西进移民的幸福生活 / 付美榕 编译

east-west corridor 东西走廊

- 55 维新、抗战、解放——《字林西报》文摘 / 叶向阳

classic prose 经典文选

- 60 醉翁亭记 / 北宋 欧阳修
The Pavilion of the Drunken Old Man / 罗经国 译

corner of literature 文学角

- 29 ① The Cheating Wife
偷情的妻子 / 李威 译析
- 31 The Tyger
老虎 / 蒋显璟 译评
- 32 ② Edith Wharton: *The Age of Innocence* **NEW!!**
伊迪丝·华顿:《纯真年代》 / 阿成 注

educating Melissa 女生玛丽莎

- 41 ① Chapter 2: Applying for College
第二章: 大学入学申请 / 张台萍 选注

learning English through films 英语电影览胜

- 35 ① Changing Lanes
逆行风暴 / 宋云峰 编写
- 39 ① 好台词(4): from *My Best Friend's Wedding* / 杜子华 析

popular interests 流行趣味

- 45 ① The Year in Quotes
2002 绿茵妙语 / 伊川 编译
- 48 "I'm Your Angel"
我是你的天使 / 朱艳 译析

speaking of which 非常知识

- 58 ② Topic: Air Force One
空军一号 / 黄海斌 编注

easy readings 轻松读物

- 74 ② Lessons of the Foreign Land
珍惜拥有 / 马静 选注
- 77 ③ Clever Monkey
听了老人言…… / 小蕊 选注

learning aid 教与学

- 62 ① McGraw-Hill 书摘
- 64 A Day's Wait
《等待的一天》的写作风格 / 巫育辛
- 67 你问我答 / 何曹楠

practice in writing 习作园

- 72 ① Light My Fire / 李恒敏

(北京市钱婧) 我今年一月从同学手中看到了贵刊。一经接触,爱不释手。贵刊简约、清楚的风格,深入浅出的讲解,贴近生活、与时俱进的内容是任何一个英语爱好者都无法抗拒的。所以,我决定不再从同学手里借阅,而是亲自购买。可是,我跑遍了学院附近的二十几个书摊与报刊亭也没有找到贵刊。我又先后去了东四邮局、东单邮局、花市邮局、体育馆邮局、永安路报刊零售中心,可是也都没有,最后才在永安路邮局买到了贵刊的2002年11期和2003年1期。

《英语学习》通常在每月上旬面市,我们的发行人员也一直坚持不懈地努力将其销售面铺到最广,从而让每一位读者能够及时、方便地读到我们的杂志。目前,《英语学习》的销售途径主要有三种,一是通过当地邮局订阅(邮发代号2-447),这是最普遍与覆盖而最广的方式;另一个则是由书报亭零售,但受某些条件所限制,部分地区的读者可能难以在本地找到《英语学习》,现在我们正在着手改善这一状况;第三种是邮购方式,读者可直接汇款至北京市西三环北路19号外研社期刊中心邮购,邮编100089,收款人汪曼庆(零买需加付20%邮费,订阅全年杂志或一次性订购12册以上免收邮费)。当然,倘若你刚好巧打我们编辑部门前经过,想亲自进来买一本,我们同样欢迎你的“参观访问”和“视察指导”——在读者面前,我们永远愿意做谦逊的小学生。

(读者焦东新) 你们好!我是在高二时接触贵刊的,感觉很喜欢,因为它既实用又超值。如今我已经大三了,《英语学习》还一直是我常常翻阅的英语杂志。而且我的同学们也都很喜欢它。但是我们普遍认为,如果《英语学习》能够把单词的注释加上音标,那样效果会更好,因为贵刊的许多文章实在是太适合诵读了,我们很多同学都会把好的、短的、有哲理的或发人深省的语句背下来,以便使用,但其中有些长词我们仍然觉得很难,得查字典。我想,如果在做注释的时候一并加上音标就好了,那样会更适合“英语学习”。

感谢你对《英语学习》多年的厚爱和积极的建议!诚然,《英语学习》是有一定阅读与理解难度的杂志,即使在某些英语专家眼中亦是如此。因此,降低杂志整体难度就成了当前编辑部的一个重要课题。得知很多同学把杂志中的某些句子作为“范句”来背诵,我们在欣慰之余,又倍感压力。过去由于《英语学习》中的文章通篇注释较多较细,有限的篇幅一直被用来释义和介绍背景,久而久之就忽略了单词的“释音”,导致读者认识单词却不会读它们。今后,我们将力图克服这一不足,为读者提供真正的“既实用又超值”的“英语学习”。

启事 “麦琪信箱”之周年论坛因故未能在本期刊登,将在2003年第五期与大家见面。敬请广大读者见谅。

本刊编辑部

■ 冰尘 编译

餐馆认证

Dishing up a Quality Seal for Authentic Eateries



So long soggy spaghetti, tasteless tagliatelle and papery pizza — at least if the Italian government's taste police get their way.

Ministers said they wanted to clean up the red-white-and-green credentials of the estimated 60,000 restaurants around the world passing themselves off as Italian. So the government is creating a certificate that will be awarded to deserving establishments abroad from the 300 or so in the Middle East and 25,000 in Europe. The dual aim is to promote Italy abroad and ensure tastebuds are being tickled by authentic Mediterranean fare. "There are people out there who don't realize pizza is an Italian word and ask us what we call it," lamented Adolfo Urso, deputy industry minister, at a news conference. And Agriculture Minister Gianni Alemanno said even if eateries did flaunt Italian roots, it was often a false claim. "Most have nothing more Italian about them than the name above the door or a tricolor flag draped outside," he said. The certificate, still without a name, would ensure restaurants offered genuine Italian menus and used authentic produce, instead of ingredients such as a German cheese marketed with the Italian-sounding name of cambonzola. Some argue that Italy's taste police will be toothless because restaurants will have the final say on whether or not they want to be tested under the voluntary scheme.

可以跟味道平平的意式细面、没滋没味的意式干面以及味同嚼蜡的比萨饼说再见了——至少，在意大利政府的“风味警察”开始行动以后情况会是如此。意大利政府表示，他们打算对世界各地6万家左右打着意大利招牌的餐馆进行彻底清理。政府为此正在制作一种证书，用来颁给合格的海外意式餐馆，甄选范围包括中东的约300家以及欧洲的2万5千家意式餐馆。此举有两个目的，一是在海外推广意大利的国家形象，再就是保证人们的味蕾能体验到正宗地中海食物的美妙滋味。工业部副部长阿道弗·乌尔索在记者招待会上哀叹道：“外面有些人连‘比萨’是个意文单词都不知道，还问我们管比萨饼叫什么。”而农业部长吉亚尼·阿莱曼诺说，即便有些餐馆吹嘘自己源自意大利，那也通常是靠不住的。“大多数这样的餐馆里没有什么比门上的名字和挂在门外的三色旗更意大利的东西。”这种还没有名字的证书可以保证获得它的餐馆供应的是正宗意大利菜肴，所用的材料也是地道意大利产品，而不是像“卡朋佐拉”干酪那样的货色。后者在出售时被冠上了意大利名字，实际却是德国货。也有人认为意大利的“风味警察”起不了什么作用，因为这一计划建立在自愿基础上，是否接受品尝最终由餐馆自己决定。

Remarks: 没有盗版的唱片多半不好听；没有遍地开花的“正宗XX餐馆”，如何能体现XX烹饪文化的博大精深、源远流长？

金发女郎成历史？

Blondes Headed for Extinction?

In the end, it seems it was just another dumb blond joke — The World Health Organisation, the Geneva-based health arm of the United Nations, has insisted that despite the many media reports to the contrary, it had never conducted a study predicting the extinction of the natural blond hair gene. Before this, there were many stories around the world citing WHO research stating that natural



blondes would become extinct by 2202. Reports to that effect had appeared in recent days on CNN and ABC News and in the *Daily Mail*, among others. But WHO said it has never conducted research on the

topic. WHO "has no knowledge of how these news reports originated but would like to stress that we have no opinion on the future existence of blondes," it said in a statement released at United Nations headquarters in New York. According to the published reports, the supposed WHO study had predicted that the last blond on earth would be in Finland, which today has the world's highest concentration of true blondes. The reports said blond hair was caused by a recessive gene, so both sides of the family have to have it to extend the shade into the next generation. But too few people carry the gene to assure its long-term survival.

最后，看来这只不过是又一个关于金发女郎的无聊笑话——联合国的卫生分部，总部位于日内瓦的世界卫生组织坚称它从未进行过预言天然金发基因将要绝种的研究，尽管许多媒体的报道与此相反。在此之前，世界各地流传着许多这样的故事，其中引用世界卫生组织的研究宣称天然的金发女郎将在2202年之前绝迹。关于此事的报道近日出现在了許多媒体上，其中包括美国有线新闻网，美国广播公司新闻网以及《每日邮报》。但是，世界卫生组织说它从未对这一课题进行过研究。世界卫生组织在纽约的联合国总部发表了一份声明，宣布它“不知这样的新闻报道何以产生，只想强调我们对金发女郎的未来存在状况并无看法。”根据此前的报道，假想中的世界卫生组织研究预测地球上最后一个金发女郎将出现在芬兰，那是当今世上天然金发女郎密度最高的地方。报道中说金发是由一种隐性基因造成，因此只有在家庭中的双方都携带这种基因的情况下这种发色才能遗传给下一代。但是携带这种基因的人为数太少，这种特质因此无法长期存在。

Remarks: 金色的头发没有了不要紧，因为我们有的是染发剂；我们还是关心赤红色的心何时会绝迹吧。

基因突变 文明曙光

Mutant Gene "Sparked Art and Culture"

A tiny mutation in a gene common to mammals may have changed the destiny of humanity. The gene, *foxp2* — identified by British researchers two years ago — could have been the switch that lit up art, culture and social behaviour in *Homo sapiens** 50,000 years ago. Richard Klein, an anthropologist at Stanford University in California, said that early modern humans 100,000 years ago were confined to Africa and seemed no different from their now-extinct cousins *Homo neanderthalensis* and *Homo erectus* in Europe and Asia. Then, 50,000 years ago, behaviour altered dramatically: "There was a biological change, a genetic mutation of some kind that promoted the fully modern ability to create and innovate." "When you look at the archaeological record before 50,000 years ago, it is remarkably homogeneous. There are no geographically delineated groups of artefacts. Suddenly, modern-looking people began



to behave in a modern way, producing art and jewellery... manufacturing styles and different cultures." Anthropologists have argued for years about this. Some researchers say population increase triggered creativity.

* *Homo sapiens*: 智人(现代人的拉丁学名)。后文的 *Homo neanderthalensis* 及 *Homo erectus* 都是古人类的拉丁学名。

哺乳动物共有的一种基因的微小突变可能改变了人类的命运。英国科学家在两年前识别出了这种名为 *foxp2* 的基因,它可能是在5万年前点亮现代人艺术、文化以及社会行为之光的电闸。加利福尼亚州斯坦福大学的人类学家理查德·克兰说,10万年前的早期现代人活动范围局限在非洲,看起来无异于他们生活在欧亚地区、现已绝灭的亲戚尼安德特人和直立人。之后,大约在5万年前,他们的行为发生了戏剧性的改变:“一次生物学上的变化亦即某种类型的基因突变促使他们获得了完全现代的创造和革新能力。”“5万年前(各个地方)的考古记录非常类似,没有按地理分野的不同人工物品组。突然,长相现代的人们开始有了现代的行为方式,开始创造艺术、加工珠宝……大量生产时尚和不同的文化。”人类学家们就此问题已经争论多年,有些学者认为触发人类创造力的动因是人口增长。

Remarks: 要是他是对的,那么达芬奇的画、米开朗基罗的雕塑、李白的诗、苏轼的词等等就都是 *foxp2* 突变的结果了,我觉得这样的结论很无趣。

诅咒无稽

Tomb Curse Pronounced a Myth

Researchers at Australia's Monash University have studied the curse of Tutankhamun's tomb, which was opened in 1923. The myth of the Mummy's Curse arose when some of those involved in opening the tomb in Luxor died prematurely, including the sponsor of the expedition Lord Carnarvon. Another member of the team Alb Lythgoe died in 1934 after a stroke. However, the researchers discovered that the 26 present at the excavations in the Valley of the Kings, or later coffin-openings, lived to an average age of

70. *The British Medical Journal* states that the research, led by Mark Nelson, shows the myth has little basis in fact. A rumour suggested that anyone opening the royal tomb would have a curse placed on them. However, the expedition leader Howard Carter, who opened the tomb, survived into old age although his canary was eaten by a cobra the same day. Dr Nelson believes that the rumours of a curse could have been generated by rival newspapers

after *The Times* of London was given exclusive rights to the story.



Carter in Tutankhamun's tomb
卡特在图坦卡蒙王陵中

澳大利亚莫纳什大学的学者们对图坦卡蒙王陵的诅咒进行了研究,该

陵墓于1923年被发掘。这座位于卢克斯(埃及中部城市)的陵墓被发掘后不久,与此事有关的一些人——其中包括赞助发掘的卡纳冯勋爵——纷纷早逝,关于木乃伊诅咒的传说由此而生。考古队中另一成员埃尔布·利斯荷于1934年死于中风。然而,学者们发现,参与了王陵谷发掘工作或是此后的开棺行动的26个人平均活到了70岁。《英国医学杂志》称,由马克·纳尔逊主持的这项研究表明有关诅咒的传说并无事实依据。根据传闻,任何打开法老陵墓的人都将受到诅咒。但是,打开陵墓的探险行动负责人霍华德·卡特却活到了老年——尽管他的金丝雀在陵墓开启当天被一条眼镜蛇吃了。纳尔逊博士认为,关于诅咒的流言可能是与伦敦《泰晤士报》竞争的一些报纸散布出来的,因为《泰晤士报》获得了发掘行动的独家报道权。

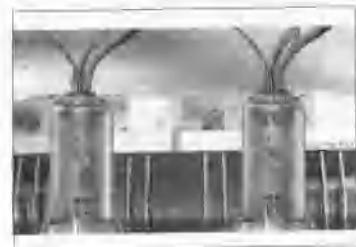
Remarks: 诅咒的说法不会被平均寿命的统计推翻,也不能为短命夭亡的事实所证明——因为我们不知道每个人原本“应该”活多久。

朝中奖，夕死可矣

Magazine Offers a Prize to Die For

A leading science magazine is offering readers a prize to die for — cryonics treatment. The lucky winner of the prize promoting the revamp of *New Scientist* magazine won't be able to collect the award until death when he or she will be cooled to a temperature at which decay of the body stops and then suspended in liquid nitrogen in a state known as cryonic preservation. "We think that the cryonics promotion is a way of making science interesting to everyone, not just scientists, which is exactly the same message we are trying to communicate about the magazine itself," editor Alun Anderson said in a statement. If and when the medical technology allows, the winner, preserved at The Cryonics Institute of Michigan in the United States, will be revived to continue their life. If the winner is not eager to be preserved, the magazine is offering an alternative prize — a week in Hawaii and a visit to the Mauna Kea* observatory.

*Mauna Kea: 莫纳基亚山，是夏威夷岛上的一座海拔4205米的休眠火山。山面上有美国、英国、加拿大和智利等国家的多座天文台和大型天文望远镜。



一本权威科学杂志为读者提供了一份值得为之去死的奖品——人体冷冻处理。《新科学家》杂志设立的这一奖项旨在为杂志的改版作宣传，幸运的获奖者要到死时才能领奖。届时获奖者的身体将被冷却到足以停止身体腐坏过程的低温，然后被悬浮在液氮中，进入冷冻保存状态。《新科学家》编辑埃伦·安德森在声明中说：“我们

认为，宣传人体冷冻法能让所有人而不仅仅是科学家对科学产生兴趣。这也正是我们想传达给人们的关于杂志自身的讯息。”到医疗技术条件

允许的时候，被保存在美国密歇根人体冷冻研究所的获奖者将被复苏过来继续生活。如果获奖者对被冷藏兴趣不大，杂志也准备了替代奖品——到夏威夷旅游1周并访问莫纳基亚天文台。

Remarks: 人是社会性很强的生物，隔世再生的滋味并不一定好受，还是去夏威夷吧。

对“投掷矮人”的禁令

U.N. Upholds Ban on "Dwarf Throwing"

A tiny stuntman who protested against a French ban on the bizarre practice of "dwarf throwing" lost his case before a U.N. human rights body, which said the need to protect human dignity was paramount. Manuel Wackenheim had argued the 1995 ban by France's highest administrative court was discriminatory and deprived him of a job being hurled around discotheques by burly men. In a statement the U.N. Human Rights Committee said it was satisfied "the ban on dwarf-tossing was not abusive but necessary in order to protect public order, including considerations of human dignity." The committee also said the ban "did not amount to prohibited discrimination." The pastime, imported from the United States and Australia in the 1980s, consists of people throwing tiny stuntmen as far as possible, usually in a bar or discotheque. The stuntman wears a crash helmet and padded clothing which has handles on the back to facilitate throwing the human projectile. The Frenchman, who measures 1.14 meter (3 ft 10 inches), filed his case in 1999 with the U.N. committee made up of 18 independent experts who examine states' compliance with the *International*

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

法国禁止了“投掷矮人”的怪异把戏，一位矮小的特技演员因此到联合国的一个人权机构进行抗议，而后者以保护人性尊严至关重要为由判他败诉。曼纽尔·瓦肯汉姆认为，法国最高行政法庭1995年的禁令是歧视性的，而且剥夺了他的工作机会——他的工作就是在迪斯科舞厅里被壮汉们抛来掷去。联合国人权委员会在声明中说，他们确信“对投掷矮人的禁令是维护公共秩序的必要措施，从人性尊严角度看来也顺理成章，不是对法规的滥用。”委员会还说这“不算是禁止性歧视。”这种娱乐在20世纪80年代从美国和澳大利亚传入法国，其内容是人们在酒吧或是迪斯科舞厅一类的地方把矮小的特技演员尽可能地往远处扔。特技演员戴着防撞头盔，穿着有衬垫的衣服，衣服背后有把手以便人们“发射人体炮弹”。这位身高1.14米（3英尺10英寸）的法国人于1999年向联合国人权委员会提出了诉讼，该委员会由18位独立专家组成，其职责是监督各国对《公民权利及政治权利国际公约》的履行情况。

Remarks: 人们不都是安贫乐道的颜回，各人对尊严的看法想必也大相径庭，为保护“有尊严的生存”而危及生存本身是否有点舍本逐末呢？

为鸵鸟的权利呐喊

Parliament Speaks out for Ostrich Rights

German parliamentarians stood up for the rights of ostriches, calling on the government to lay down minimum standards under which the birds should be kept before being killed for their meat. The Bundesrat upper house asked for existing animal protection legislation to be fleshed out to include the ostrich. The bird has become a popular dish for Germans seeking alternatives to traditional



meat and poultry after a number of Europe-wide health scares. The regional government of Schleswig-Holstein, which is home to 20 ostrich farms, said studies had shown the birds, which can grow up to six feet tall and weigh up to 330 pounds, each need 2,150 square feet of space. It said safeguards were also needed to ensure the animals, usually found in Africa, do not freeze in cold German winters.

德国的议员们为鸵鸟的权利挺身而出，呼吁政府制定鸵鸟在被杀而食之以前所应享有的最低生活标准。德国联邦上院要求扩充现有的动物保护立法，将鸵鸟纳入保护范围。数次蔓延全欧的（畜禽卫生问题带来的）健康恐慌使德国人急于寻找传统家禽家畜的替代品，鸵鸟由此成为流行美食。石勒苏益格-荷尔斯泰因州（简称石荷州）有20家鸵鸟场，该地政府称研究显示高可达6英尺、体重可达330磅的鸵鸟每只需要2150平方英尺的空间。此外，为了确保这种通常生活在非洲的动物不在寒冷的德国冬天挨冻，还应该采取一些安全措施。

Remarks: 这样的眷顾真的让动物们消受不了了，因为你得在成为 popular dish 之后才有可能得到这样的“权利”。

安全气囊拯救世界？

Can Airbags Save the World?

Giant airbags could one day save the world from the disaster of a cosmic collision with a giant comet, according to a scientist in the United States. Forget nuclear warheads to stop a crash with a comet that could have cataclysmic effects such

as the one that is believed to have triggered the demise of the dinosaurs, Hermann Burchard of Oklahoma State University told *New Scientist* magazine. Far better to send up a space ship equipped with a massive airbag that could be inflated to several kilometres (miles) wide and used to gently buffet the invading solar body away from a collision course with earth. "It seems a safe, simple and realistic idea," Burchard told the magazine's latest edition. However, he admitted there were still numerous details to be worked out including the material for the airbag which had to be light enough to cart into space yet strong enough to bounce the comet off its course to earth.



*An asteroid is shown crashing into Earth in this painting

这幅画描绘了一颗小行星撞向地球的情景

按照一位美国科学家的说法,有一天巨型安全气囊会拯救世界,使我们免于同一颗巨大的彗星发生宇宙大碰撞的灾难。俄克拉荷马州立大学的赫尔曼·伯恰德对《新科学家》杂志说,别想用核弹头去阻止同彗星的碰撞,那样做的后果会跟据信使恐龙绝灭的那次灾难差不多。明智得多的办法是发射一艘配备有巨型安全气囊的宇宙飞船。气囊可以膨胀到数公里(英里)宽,用以驱使入侵的太阳系天体逐步偏离撞向地球的航向。伯恰德对最新一期《新科学家》杂志说:“这似乎是一个安全,简单并且切实可行的主意。”不过,他承认还有许多细节问题需要解决,比如气囊的材质问题。气囊要非常轻以便发射到宇宙中,同时又要足够坚韧以便把彗星弹离冲向地球的路线。

Remarks: 听起来像童话?很多伟大的科学构想开始时都给人这样的感觉,所以爱因斯坦说:“想像力比知识更重要。”

茅厕书香 Reading on a Roll

Germans who like to read on the toilet no longer need to take newspapers in with them, but can instead turn to novels and poems printed onto toilet paper, a German publisher said. "We want our books to be used. That's our philosophy," said Georges Hemmerstoffer, head of the Klo-Verlag which publishes the toilet paper literature. About half of all people liked to read on the toilet, he added. Poems by German literary giants Heinrich Heine and Christian Morgenstern*, as well as tales and detective stories could be found on the toilet rolls, Hemmerstoffer told reporters at the Frankfurt book fair. Each text was printed several times on one roll, so that readers could actually use the paper and still leave behind some entertainment for the next toilet visitor.

* Christian Morgenstern; 克里斯廷·摩根施泰恩 (1871-1914), 德国诗人。

德国一位出版商宣布,喜欢厕上阅读的德国人不用再拿着报纸进卫生间了,他们可以阅读印在厕纸上的小说和诗歌。厕纸文学出版商克罗-维拉格公司老板乔吉斯·黑默斯托弗说:“我们希望自己出版的书籍被人使用,这是我们的哲学。”他补充说,大约半数的人喜欢在如厕时阅读。黑默斯托弗在法兰克福书展上对记者说,人们在厕纸上可以读到德国文学巨擘海因里希·海涅和克里斯廷·摩根施泰恩的诗歌,还有故事和侦探小说。每段文字都会在同一卷厕纸中反复出现,这样厕所读者们就可以实际使用它,不会妨碍下一位如厕者的阅读。

Remarks: 这样的发明使肠胃不好的人们都有了成为饱学之士的希望,只不知那些在厕纸文学中占有一席之地的作家们会作何感想。



Reading on the toilet
厕上阅读



这是美国“哥伦比亚号”航天飞机的飞行员之一劳雷尔·克拉克从地球上发来的一篇电子邮件。兹将本文介绍给我国读者，以表示我们对在“哥伦比亚号”航天飞机失事中遇难的全体人员的敬意和怀念。

By Laurel Clark

■苏州科技大学天平校区外语系 张顺生 选注

Hello from

1. 眼前的景象十分壮观。

perspective: 远景, 景观;
awe-inspiring: 使人敬畏的。
令人惊叹的。

2. 这是一次了不起的航天飞行。我们昼夜不停地忙着做科学研究。round the clock: 日夜不停地。

3. the Aurora Australis: 南极光。

4. the crescent moon setting over the limb of the Earth: 一弯浮在地球边缘的新月。

5. the dunes on Cape Horn: 合恩角(南美洲最南端)的沙丘。

6. the scars of humanity: 人类留下的印记。

7. Wind Point (Wis.): 即 Wind Point Lighthouse, 美国威斯康星州一著名景点。

HELLO FROM ABOVE our magnificent planet Earth. The perspective is truly awe-inspiring.¹ This is a terrific mission and we are very busy doing science round the clock². Just getting a moment to type an e-mail is precious so this will be short, and distributed to many who I know and love.

I have seen some incredible sights: lightning spreading over the Pacific, the Aurora Australis³ lighting up the entire visible horizon with the cityglow of Australia below, the crescent moon setting over the limb of the Earth,⁴ the vast plains of Africa and the dunes on Cape Horn⁵, rivers breaking through tall mountain passes, the scars of humanity⁶, the continuous line of life extending from North America, through Central America and into South America, a crescent moon setting over the limb of our blue planet. Mount Fuji looks like a small bump from up here, but it does stand out as a very distinct landmark.

Magically, the very first day we flew over Lake Michigan and I saw Wind Point (Wis.)⁷ clearly. Haven't been so lucky since. Every orbit we

go over a slightly different part of the Earth.⁸ Of course, much of the time I'm working back in Spacehab⁹ and don't see any of it. Whenever I do get to look out, it is glorious. Even the stars have a special brightness.

I have seen my "friend" Orion¹⁰ several times. Taking photos of the earth is a real challenge. I think I have finally gotten some beautiful shots the last 2 days. Keeping my fingers crossed that they're in sharp focus.¹¹

My near vision has gotten a little worse up here so you may have seen pics/video of me wearing glasses. I feel blessed to be here representing our country and carrying out the research of scientists around the world. All of the experiments have accomplished most of their goals despite the inevitable hiccups¹² that occur when such a complicated undertaking

8. 每次环绕地球我们的取道都略有不同。

9. Spacehab: 原为美国德克萨斯州一公司名, 该公司的业务是为航天飞机提供空间居住舱双舱, 用于后勤和科学目的。此次“哥伦比亚号”就使用了该公司的新成果——探索双重登月舱 (Research Double Module), 此处作者用该公司名字表示此登月舱 (作实验室用)。

10. Orion (天) 猎户星座。

11. keeping one's fingers crossed: 食指与中指交叉, 表示祈求好运; in sharp focus: 调焦准确的, 清晰的。

12. hiccup: (新时的) 中断或停顿。

Above the Earth

天外来信

is undertaken. Some experiments have even done extra science. A few are finished and one is just getting started today.

The food is great and I am feeling very comfortable in this new, totally different environment. It still takes a while to eat as gravity doesn't help pull food down your esophagus. It is also a constant challenge to stay adequately hydrated.¹³ Since our body fluids are shifted toward our heads our sense of thirst is almost nonexistent.

Thanks to many of you who have supported me and my adventures throughout the years. This was definitely one to beat all. I hope you could feel the positive energy that beamed to the whole planet as we glided over our shared planet.

Love to all,
Laurel

Hello



13. 由于没有地心引力帮你使食物沿着食道下去, 因此吃东西还得花些时间。如何在体内保持足够的水分也是一个持续的挑战。esophagus: 食道。

© Don't Be Fooled:

Strange Hoaxes That Endure

By Joe Nickell ■ 千江 逸注

有人捡到了外星人的飞碟碎片，还秘密解剖了他们的尸体，有人具有通灵的本事，可以施展招魂术让生死相隔的两个人再次对话，还有一位神奇的医师可以进入病人的体内，不用手术刀和麻醉药就能摘除肿瘤……这些消息听上去真是太“带劲儿”了，难怪世人宁愿相信它们是真的。

愚人节：别再被谎言欺骗

1. 每年的某一天这个宣告都会欢天喜地地来问候受害者们。

2. 在4月1号这天发生的那些令人难忘的闹剧，中有一桩是1980年英国广播公司(BBC)搞出来的。prank: 胡闹，(使人难堪的)玩笑; perpetrate: <口>恶劣(或愚笨)地做; British Broadcasting Corporation: 即BBC(英国广播公司)，是英国的国家电视和广播公司，一直是全球广播节目制作的领军者，在世界各地用英语和其他四十多种语言进行电台广播。

3. 大笨钟，英国国会大厦钟楼上的大钟。1859年建成，为英国最大的钟，高约64米，分针长达4.2米，使用人工发条。

4. hoax, 骗局，恶作剧。

5. 与主要以牟利为目的的欺诈行为明显不同的是，恶作剧的特征就是它只是纯粹的欺骗。fraud: 欺诈行为，诡计。

6. imposition: (对友谊等的)利用，哄骗; credulity: 轻信，易信。

7. 这些超乎自然与人类正常体验的宣称通常为恶作剧，但其中也有一些是彻头彻尾的欺诈。paranormal: 超过正常的，超过正常范围的; outright: 彻底的，完全的。

8. Roswell Incident: 美国新墨西哥州的“罗斯威尔事件”，据说外星人的飞碟在此坠毁，美国空军不仅捡到了飞碟的碎片，还秘密解剖了外星人的尸体。此事在当时轰动一时，后被证实是把发生在不同时间、不同地点的事件有意无意地混在一起的闹剧。



April Fool!

That gleeful pronouncement greets victims one day each year.¹ The celebration of April Fool's Day is of obscure origin but became common in eighteenth-century England. Among the memorable pranks launched on April 1 was one perpetrated by the British Broadcasting Corporation in 1980.² They announced that the landmark London clock, Big Ben³, was going digital and that the famous clock hands would therefore be given away! Such pranks are examples of hoaxes⁴, and April Fool's Day is an appropriate opportunity to look at them.

A hoax is an intentional deception. Distinguished from a fraud, which is perpetrated primarily for gain, a hoax is characterized by the nature of the deception.⁵ It may involve money or not, but essentially a hoax is an imposition on the victim's credulity.⁶ It may range from harmless mischief, such as that associated with April Fool's Day, or it may have a more cruel or sinister aspect.

Typical of the range of hoaxes is the following "top-six list", and these paranormal claims beyond the range of nature and normal human experience frequently involve hoaxes, and some are outright frauds.⁷

Roswell Incident⁸

In 1947 a "flying disc" crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. Rancher Mac Brazel described the debris as foiled paper, sticks, string, and tape consistent with a radar reflector, once thought part

9. 一位名叫马可·布雷泽尔 (Mac Brazel) 的牧场工人形容了由箔纸、棍子、绳子和胶带组成的钱骸, 类似于雷达反射器, 当时曾被认为是气象气球, 如今已被确认为“莫卧儿计划” (系美国军方在新墨西哥进行的军事试验, 试图用携带探测仪器的高空气球监测苏联的核爆炸试验) 的侦察气球。

10. Gallup poll: 盖洛普民意测验。

11. *X-Files*: 《X档案》, 一部美国科幻电视连续剧; *Independence Day*, *Men in Black*: 《独立日》与《黑衣人》, 美国黑人影星威尔·史密斯主演的两部科幻电影。

12. spiritualism: (认为死者的亡魂可通过招魂术者与活人互通信息的) 招魂说。招魂术。

13. peddler: 小贩。

14. 招魂术者在制造假象时被当场拆穿: 从石板上伪造的幽灵字迹到实质的“鬼”都被证实不过是些道具或是由助手伪装的。bogus: 假的, 伪造的。

15. incarnation: (神灵等的) 化身。

of a weather balloon but now identified as a Project Mogul spy balloon.⁹ Over time the story has prompted many other kinds of hoaxes. Despite well-documented evidence exposing the Roswell hoax, the tale persists as part of the American consciousness. A 1997 Gallup poll¹⁰ revealed that over 80% of Americans have heard of the Roswell incident, and 31% believe that a spacecraft from another planet did indeed crash at Roswell in 1947. In addition, the incident has inspired major plot themes in the very popular *X-Files* television series and films like *Independence Day* and *Men in Black*.¹¹

Spiritualism¹²

Belief in communicating with the dead is ancient, but modern spiritualism began in 1848 when two girls, Margaret and Katherine Fox, apparently received messages from the ghost of a murdered peddler¹³. He responded to their questions by knocking a certain number of times to signal yes, no, or other simple answers. Soon the girls traveled all over the United States to promote their "Spiritualist" society. Four decades later, however, the sisters revealed to a theater audience how they had tricked the world. Margaret Fox demonstrated how she had slipped her foot from her shoe and snapped her toes to make the rapping sounds. In the meantime, as well as later, spiritualists were caught producing fake phenomena from bogus spirit writing on slates to ghostly entities that proved to be mediums or their assistants in disguise.¹⁴ The most recent incarnation¹⁵ of spiritualism arrives in the form of psychic-medium James Van Praagh, whose book *Talking to Heaven* is currently atop the best-seller lists.

Crop Circles¹⁶

Since the late 1970's, mysterious swirled patterns have been appearing in southern English grain fields invariably during nighttime. Some thought the depressions were caused by "wind vortexes"¹⁷, while others, plying their dowsing rods, believed they had a mystical origin, and still others opted for an extraterrestrial explanation: perhaps the designs were communications from alien beings. However, in 1991 two elderly men, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley, demonstrated how they had made the first circles, which others copied and elaborated to produce the stylized "pictograms"¹⁸ that became known around the world.

Amityville Horror¹⁹

America's most famous haunted house is located in Amityville, New York, where in 1974 a man murdered his parents and siblings²⁰. A year later the house was bought by

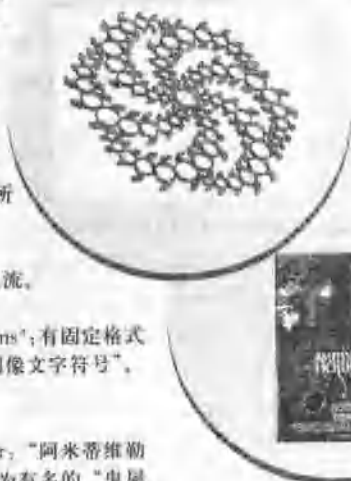
16. Crop Circles: “麦田圈事

件”。麦田圈指出现在农作物上的神秘图形。最早由英国人发现。据称在麦田圈出现的麦田周围没有任何足迹。圈内麦秆因弯曲而倒下, 并未折断, 并非人为所致。

17. vortex: 旋涡, 涡流。

18. stylized "pictograms": 有固定格式的、程式化的“图像文字符号”。

19. Amityville Horror: “阿米蒂维尔惊悚”, 是一度颇为有名的“鬼屋事件”。



George and Kathy Lutz who soon claimed they were driven out by weird events, including demon tracks in the snow and damage to doors and windows. Investigation showed the events never transpired, and the murderer's lawyers confessed how, for money, he and the Lutzes had "created this horror story over many bottles of wine." Despite the admission, the story spawned the best-selling book

Amityville Horror and a franchise²¹ of successful horror films that continue to be released on video today.

20. sibling: 同胞, 兄弟姐妹。

21. franchise: (公司或制造商给予在某一地区经营业务的) 特许经营权。



22. phony: 虚假的, 伪造的。

23. 一位医师仿佛进入了病人的身体内, 不用解剖刀和麻醉就能摘除肿瘤和其他患病的组织。

24. midriff: [解] 膈, 中腹部。

Psychic Surgery

Among the most outrageous and dangerous hoaxes is a phony²² healing procedure in which a practitioner appears to reach into a patient's body, without benefit of scalpel or anesthesia, to remove "tumors" and other diseased tissue.²³

愚人节: 别再被谎言欺骗

Common to Brazil and the Philippines, psychic surgery is actually produced

by sleight of hand. Animal tissue and blood are used to give a realistic appearance, while a patient's fleshy midriff²⁴ helps create the illusion that the surgeon's fingers have actually penetrated the body. Tragically, many of the patients, or victims, of the psychic surgeons have died within a year or so of the trick procedure.

King Tut's Curse²⁵

The "boy king" Tutankhamun ruled Egypt from the age of nine until his death at eighteen, during the twelfth century B.C. His tomb was discovered in 1922 by Howard Carter, but a curse written over the entrance began to take its toll, resulting in the death over the years of many associated with the excavation. Or so it was claimed. In 1980 the tomb's former security officer admitted the story of the curse had been circulated to frighten away thieves. In fact, ten years after the tomb was opened, all but one of the five who first entered it were still living, and Carter himself lived until 1939.

There are numerous paranormal hoaxes all over the world. Even the six examples, however, are sufficient to illustrate that the will to believe is part of human nature, and that hoaxes are not limited to April Fool's Day but are, in fact, a year-round occurrence.

Unfortunately, people worldwide continue to be fooled by the hoaxes and even in some cases, the numbers continue to grow. Too often the explanations or criticisms of these fabricated claims go unheard in the media, while movie makers, television producers and book publishers draw on²⁶ these hoaxes to weave top-grossing fiction that is often treated as real. Until the media provide more critical presentations of the paranormal, a word of warning is the only known antidote²⁷. ■

25. King Tut's Curse: "法老的诅咒", 是指1922年发掘图坦卡蒙(Tutankhamun)陵墓一事。据称陵墓开启后, 参与该次发掘的人都离奇死亡, 原因在于打扰了法老的安息而受到了诅咒。

26. draw on: 利用, 向……提取。

27. antidote: 矫正方法, 对抗手段。

板球:

A Cricket's¹

浪费时间的国球



the National Sport of Time Wasters

By Jeremy Clarkson

■秋叶 评注

I understand that England recently lost a game of cricket. Good. The more we lose, the more our interest in the game wanes and the less it will dominate our newspapers and television screens.

Cricket — and I will not take any argument² — is boring. Any sport which goes on for so long that you might need a “comfort break”³ is not a sport at all. It is merely a means of passing the time. Like reading.

Of course, we used to have televised reading. It was called *Jackanory*. Now we have *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, which is much better. Things have moved on, but cricket has not.

I'm not sure that it can. Even if Nasser Hussain, who is the captain of England, were to invest in some new hair and marry Council House Spice⁴ (aka⁵ Claire Sweeney, the ex-Brookside actress turned Big Brother contestant⁶), it wouldn't make any difference.

Nobody is quite sure how cricket began, though many people believe it was invented by shepherds who used their

crooks⁷ to defend the wicket gate to the sheep fold. This would certainly figure⁸ because shepherds had many long hours to while away, with nothing much to do.

The first written reference to cricket was in 1300, when Prince Edward played it with his friend Piers Gaveston. And again, this would figure. Princes, in those days, were not exactly rushed off their feet.

Cricket was spread around the world by British soldiers who found themselves marooned in godforsaken flea-bitten parts of the world⁹ and needed something to keep them amused, not just for an hour but for week after interminable week.

Today Australia dominates the game — which furthers my theory. Of course they're good at it. They have no distractions. And the only way we can ever beat them is to round up the unemployed and the wastrels and give

1. cricket: 板球。源于英国。普遍认为是英国夏季国球, 在大场地上进行的以船桨式木板击球的一种体育运动。

2. take argument: 卷入争论。

3. comfort break: 让人“如厕”的间歇。在美语里 comfort station 指公共厕所。

4. invest in some new hair and marry Council House Spice: 投资做新发型, 娶市政厅的“辣妹”。此处影射英格兰国家足球队巨星贝克汉姆。

5. aka: = also known as.

6. Big Brother: 英国一家电视台推出的“真人秀”节目之名称。该节目收视率颇高。

7. crook: (牧羊人等的)曲柄杖。

8. figure: 合乎情理。

9. marooned in godforsaken flea-bitten parts of the world: 被困在偏僻、遍地跳蚤的世界里。

10. to round up the unemployed and the wasters and give them all bats: 把失业者和浪费者召集起来并给他们发球板。

11. Monopoly: “大富翁”游戏 (由2-6人参加, 按骰子所掷点数走棋, 以筹码进行房地产交易, 赢得房地产多者为胜; 源出商标名)。

12. unmortgage a property: 解除财产的抵押。

13. be stymied by the law of probability: 被概率法则弄得进退两难。

14. out of steam: 精疲力竭。

15. Kamchatka: 堪察加半岛 (俄罗斯东北部), 喻指价值不大的荒凉之地。

16. jigsaw: 拼图玩具, 七巧板。

17. harness the brainpower spent every day on...: 约束每天在……上花费的精力。

18. bugbear: 烦恼的根由。

19. sepia lighting: 深褐色的灯光。

20. muscly: 即muscular, 强壮的。

21. lamb shanks: 羊腿肉。

22. an elaborate game of catch: 一种接飞球的复杂游戏。

板球: Cricket's

浪费时间的高手

the National Sport of

Time Wasters

them all bats.” Certainly, they'd feel at home in the pavilion. It's exactly the same as sitting in a bus shelter all day.

Let me put it this way — is there a sound more terrifying on a Sunday afternoon than a child saying: “Daddy. Can we play Monopoly?”

Like cricket, Monopoly has no end. The rules explain how you can unmortgage a property¹² and when you should build hotels on Bond Street but they don't say, and they should, that the winner is the last player left alive. And what about Risk? You make a calculation, based on the law of averages, that you can take the world but you're always stymied by the law of probability¹³ and end up out of steam,¹⁴ throwing an endless succession of twos and ones in Kamchatka.¹⁵ Still, this is preferable to the modern version in which George W Bush invades Iraq and we all die of smallpox.

Happily, my children are now eight, six and four so they're way past the age when board games hold any appeal. Given the choice of mortgaging Old Kent Road or shooting James Bond on a PlayStation, they'll take the electronic option every time.

Then there are jigsaws¹⁶, which I once had to explain to a Greek. “Yes, you spend a couple of weeks putting all the pieces together so you end up with a picture.”

“Then what happens?” he asked.

“Well, you break it up again and put it back in the box.”

It's not often I've felt empathy with a Greek, but I did then. And it's much the

same story with crosswords. If scientists could harness the brainpower spent every day on¹⁷ trying to find the answer to “Russian banana goes backwards in France we hear perhaps”, then maybe mankind might have cured cancer by now.

Crosswords, like jigsaws and cricket, are not really games in themselves. They are simply tools for wasting time. And that's not something that sits well in the modern world.

We may dream of living the slow life, taking a couple of hours over lunch and eating cheese until dawn, but the reality is that we have a heart attack if the traffic lights stay red for too long or the lift doors fail to close the instant we're ready to go.

Answering-machine messages are my particular bugbear.¹⁸ I want a name and a number, and that's it. I don't have time to sit and listen to where you'll be at three and who you'll be seeing and why you need to talk before then. And even if I do pick up the phone personally, I don't want a chat. I'm a man. I don't do chatting. Say what you have to say and go away.

British film makers still haven't got this. They spend hours with their sepia lighting¹⁹ and their long character-developing speeches and it's all pointless because we'd much rather watch a muscly²⁰ American saying: “Die, m*****r.” Slow-cooked lamb shanks²¹ for supper? Oh for God's sake, I'll get takeaway.

Cricket, then, is from a bygone age when people invested their money in time rather than in things. And now we have so many things to play with and do, it seems odd to waste it watching somebody else playing what's basically an elaborate game of catch.²²

Please stop watching — then it will go away. ■

现代人最常见的抱怨是“我没有时间！”其实宇宙中的时间本身既没有起点也没有终点，我们现在的时空观其实是在自然科学发展的基础上形成的。今天，外部内部有太多的东西让大家的时间知觉异常敏锐，如随处可见的精确计时工具、考勤打卡机，让你来不及半点迟疑，并深感“时间就是金钱”的朴素道理。

原文作者把板球看作是“浪费时间的国球”，其实也是源于现代人“珍惜时间”的考虑。他用了一千多字的篇幅说板球无聊，不合时宜，“罪证”显然只有一个，即每场比赛费时太多。他说板球最初的参与者是牧羊人、王子或派驻海外的军人，他们有的是打发不了的时间。而现如今，我们有太多的事要做，却坐在那儿长时间地看别人的击打球游戏，这不奇怪吗？作者认为现在板球只适合于失业者或浪荡闲人；既然它不能“与时俱进”，那么遭人冷落之日就在眼前了。

我对板球并不了解，只是许多年前听一位英国老先生说过，一场板球比赛有时要持续一个礼拜才

间上找到了切合点。这使我联想起中国的京剧和法国十九世纪的所谓“长河小说”。

据说京剧的全盛时期正值晚清慈禧太后当政。她偏爱京剧，因此演出场所增多，宫廷、剧场演出频繁。当时，一出戏往往要演一整天甚至好几天。观众和演员不仅需要comfort break，而且去看戏一般还要带上一日三餐，当时没人觉得这有什么不合适的。这种情况在西方戏剧史上恐怕不会有，因为他们从古希腊的亚里士多德时代起就严格遵循“三一律”，即“一地、一天、一故事”的原则，这使戏剧结构更集中、演出时间大为缩短。1949年后，中国在整理传统剧目的同时还创作了一批现代戏。改编和新创的剧目显示，京剧的“现代化”的一大方向就是加快节奏，减少演出时间，但尽管如此，天生就是要让大家坐下来慢慢欣赏的京剧还是被挤到了现代娱乐的最边缘。

十九世纪末到二十世纪上半叶，法国出现了以普鲁斯特《追忆流水年华》为代表的“长河小说”。顾名思义，“长河小说”是比“三部曲”更大的鸿篇巨制。《追忆流水年华》全书共7卷，300万字，全书出齐用时14年之久！但今天“三部曲”已很难听到，更不用说“长河小说”了。现在一般作家从构思到写作到出版也就是一年时间，读者欢迎的往往是《The Bridge of Madison County》（《廊桥遗梦》）这样的一百多页篇幅的小说，因为现代的作家、出版者、读者都搭不起太

多的时间。他们需要精品，但更需要“快”！

有一个现象很有趣：虽然很少听人说时间太多，要用金钱去打发，但常听人说“孤独”，要用金钱去买热闹！你在城

再谈“快”与“慢”

——从 *Cricket's the National Sport of Time Wasters* 一文想到的



能分出胜负。当时觉得这很奇特，并且有些“过分”。作为一名体育运动的参与者和爱好者，我对近年来排球、篮球、足球、乒乓球等运动的赛制改革知之甚少。

1998年国际排联决定将排球一直实施的发球得分制改为每球得分制；国际篮球规则更是每四年修改一次，前几年中国篮球实行职业化后，随即借鉴了美国职业篮球的规则：每场比赛改为4节，24秒内必须投篮出手；前些年国际足联也对规则进行了调整，加时赛采取“突然死亡法”，并对回传守门员作出严格规定，2001年国际乒联改乒乓球比赛每局21分为11分，而且增大球的体积。总之，现代体育比赛的主流是以快为主，以攻为主，其实这也正体现了奥林匹克“更快、更高、更强”的精神。值得注意的是，“快”总是被放在第一位的！

原文说，Any sport which goes on for so long that you might need a "comfort break" is not a sport at all. 英国诗人爱伦·坡说过，一首好诗应该让读者能 finish at one sitting. 看来，体育运动和诗歌的精彩性在时

市里参加马拉松比赛，也许一跑就是四个小时，会感到孤独吗？而你单独去爬中央电视塔的楼梯，在半小时之内，也许你就无法忍受孤单！原因很简单，一个有风景可以欣赏，还有观众可以“互动”，而在中央电视塔的楼梯上你只能“面壁”。

生活就像城市里的马拉松比赛，本有很多乐趣，但“与时俱进”必须要快节奏。我们原本跑在满眼风光的人生路上，却只求快，老怕沿途风光会让人开小差，结果自己蒙上了自己的双眼，这不能不说是一个时代的遗憾。

按照作者的看法，Monopoly, jigsaw, crossword 这些不能给人以“sensation of speed”的 time-honoured games，结局只能“go away”，代之以“the electronic option”；文学艺术的叙事手段大大简化，只能直奔主题；法国、意大利式的享受用餐方式也必须被在车上或办公室里大嚼“takeaway”取代。否则，就是本刊2001年第一期同栏目文章 *Slow is Beautiful* 里所说的“a hopelessly wrongheaded romantic who refuses to face the facts of modern life”了。现代生活需要速度和效率，但这并不意味着我们对“friend, family, fun”这些亘古不变的美好东西都要失去耐心并抛诸脑后！

作者说，“我们梦想着过上慢悠悠的生活，然而，红灯一旦亮得太久，我们就会心脏病发作！”看来在这个把速度看作是进步标志的世界里，要大家去追求“舒缓、优雅、诗意”的生活方式未免显得有点自欺欺人。我的信条是：你要想不落伍就“快步地往前走”，但也别忘了偶然地“回一回头”。板球只要你喜欢，照样可以打。可以看，但规则可能得改改！■