NEC-3

45. The power of the press 新闻报道的威力

[In democratic民主的,民主政体的 countries] any efforts （to restrict限制，限定；约束 the freedom of the press） are rightly肯定地;无疑地 condemned（通常因道义上的原因而）谴责；指责. However, this freedom can easily be abused滥用；妄用. Stories （about people） often attract far more public attention than political events.

Though we may enjoy reading about the lives of others, it is extremely doubtful难以预测的；难以预料的 whether we would equally enjoy reading about ourselves. 条件状Acting on根据…行动 the contention（争论或讨论时的）看法，观点 that facts are sacred（adj.）神圣的不可侵犯的；不容干涉的；不可变更的, reporters can cause untold数不胜数的；不计其数的 suffering （n.）(肉体或内心的)痛苦，苦难，折磨 to individuals [by publishing details about their private lives].

（记者按事实至上的论点行事）

→read about+详情，读到，获悉。

read of+一般了解， 读到，获悉。

在一般情况下，上面两者可以互换使用，但就意义而言，read about通常指“通过阅读了解到有关的详情”，而read of通常指“通过阅读一种出版物而获悉一般的情况或消息”。

→act on … ①根据…行动，以…来行事，遵循…来行事。②对…起作用

Newspapers exert施加（影响、压力等）;行使 such tremendous极大的，巨大的 influence 结果状从that they can not only bring about导致，招致，带来 major changes to the lives of ordinary people but can even overthrow推翻；打倒 a government].

The story of a poor family （that acquired fame and fortune overnight）, dramatically戏剧性地，引人注目地 illustrates（用例子、故事或图表）表明；说明；证明 the power of the press. The family lived in Aberdeen, a small town of 23,000 inhabitants in South Dakota南达科他州(美国).

As the parents had five children, life was a perpetual（adj.）无尽无休的；没完没了的 struggle against poverty（n.）贫穷;缺乏，不足. They were expecting their sixth child and were faced with even more pressing紧迫的，紧急的 economic problems.

If they had only had one more child, the fact would have passed 方式状unnoticed. They would have continued to struggle against economic odds（n.）掣肘的事情；逆境 / and would have lived [in obscurity（n.无名；默默无闻）默默无闻地；在暗处].

→从属连词if，在句中引导一个非真实性「条件状语从句」，这样“从句”中所用的had only had和主句中所用的would have passed 均为「虚拟语气结构」，表述“与过去事实不符的假设情况”。

But they suddenly became系 the parents of quintuplets五胞胎之一，五件一套, four girls and a boy, an event which radically彻底地,完全地,根本的changed their lives. The day after the birth of the five children, an aeroplane arrived in Aberdeen 伴随状bringing sixty reporters and photographers.

The rise to fame was swift迅速的;立刻的. Television cameras and newspapers carried the news to everyone in the country. Newspapers and magazines offered the family huge sums总数，一笔钱 for the exclusive独占的,独家的,专用的,排外的 rights （to publish stories and photographs）.

Gifts poured in涌人，倾倒进 not only from unknown people, but from baby food and soap manufacturers （who wished to advertise their products）. The old farmhouse （the family lived in） was to be replaced by new $500,000 home.

→was to be replaced by…即 be to do sth.的被动形式，be to do sth.结构表示“根据安排将要发生的事情”，这里表示“将被……取代”。

Reporters kept pressing for极力要求 interviews采访；面试；会谈 so因此，所以 lawyers had to be employed to act as spokesmen for the family at press conferences会议;讨论;（正式）讨论会.

→you press for something, v.极力要求，迫切要求，敦促

→act as充当，扮演……的角色

→press conference：记者招待会

While the five babies were still quietly sleeping in oxygen tents in hospital nursery育婴室，保育室, their parents were paying the price for fame. It would never again be possible for them to lead normal lives.

They had become系 the victims of commercialization（n.）商品化, for their names had acquired a market value. Instead of being five new family members, these children had immediately become a commodity商品,日用品；有价值的物品.

46. Do it yourself 自己动手

So great is {our passion热情,激情,强烈爱好 for doing things for ourselves}， that we are becoming increasingly less dependent on specialized专门的;专业的;专用的 labour劳动;劳工. No one can plead找(借口)，辩解 ignorance（n.）无知，不懂 of a subject any longer， for these are countless无数的，多得数不清的 do-it-yourself publications出版物，出版.

→以副词 so 幵头的句子通常使用「倒装结构」。这里将so great提前，是为了对great进行强调。全句使用的基本句型为 so… that…太……以至于，引导的「结果状语从句」。

→become/be dependent on 依赖，依靠

→plead ignorance of sth. 以不知道……为借口，对......一无所知。

→No one构成了否定形式，因此应使用any longer，不应使用no longer。

方式状语Armed with the right tools and materials材料，原料， newlyweds新婚夫妇 gaily愉快地，高兴地 embark on着手；开始做 the task of decorating装饰;点缀;粉刷 their own homes. Men， particularly， spend hours of their leisure time空闲时间；闲暇 installing their own fireplaces， laying out布置，设计 their own gardens; building garages and making furniture.

→you embark on something new，difficult，or exciting，v.着手；开始做

someone embarks on a ship, 登（船）；上（船）

→spend后的动词应构成动词-ing的「动名词」形式。句中的 installing、laying out、building 和 making 均为 spend 后使用的 「动名词」形式，作宾语。

Some really keen渴望的；热衷的 enthusiasts热心者;热衷于…的人 go so far as竟然到了干.....的地步 to build their own computers. Shops cater for迎合,满足 the do-it-yourself craze（n.）（一时的）狂热，风行 not only by running special advisory顾问的；提供咨询的 services for novices新手，初学者， but by offering consumers消费者，顾客 bits and pieces备件，零件（which they can assemble装配，组装 at home）.

→so far as直到……程度。其后如用动词时，均使用「带to的动词不定式」

go so far as to do: 竟然到了干......的地步

→In British English, to cater for a group of people；In American English, you say you cater to a person or group of people. v.为…提供服务；满足…的需要；接待

In British English, to cater for something；In American English, you say you cater to something. v.将…考虑进去；考虑到

a person or company caters for an occasion such as a wedding or a party, v.为…提供饮食；承办…的酒席

Such things provide an excellent outlet（n.）（情感的）发泄途径；（思想的）表达方式，出口；排放管 for pent up被压抑的creative energy， but unfortunately not all of us are born（adj.）生来就是,天生的,天赋的 handymen手巧的人，能工巧匠.

→provide an outlet for: 寻找......出路

→pent adj.被关闭的，郁积的

→not all of us 部分的否定；none of us 全部的否定

Some wives tend to believe that their husbands are infinitely无限地；无穷地;极其 resourceful足智多谋的；办法多的 and can fix anything. Even men （who can hardly drive a nail钉子 in straight） are supposed认为;觉得;相信 to be born（adj.） electricians电工，电气技师， carpenters木工，木匠， plumbers管子工，水暖工 and mechanics技工，机修工.

→something is supposed to happen, 情态动词短语：(按计划或期望)应当，应该，须

something was supposed to happen，本应该(发生而没有发生)

something is supposed to be true, 认为;觉得;相信

When lights fuse由于烧断保险丝而短路， furniture gets系 rickety（adj.）要散架的，晃动的。连接处不牢固的， pipes get系 clogged阻塞;堵塞， or vacuum真空的，空白 cleaners真空吸尘器 fail to operate， some woman assume主观武断的认为 that their husbands will somehow put things right.

→get 系动词，①（与形容词连用）变得。如，gets cold，get angry

②系动词（用于表示状况或处境的表达中）陷入，处于。如，get into trouble

The worst thing （about the do-it-yourself game） is that [sometimes] even men live under the delusion错觉；妄想；幻想 that they can do anything， even when they have repeatedly反复地;再三地 been proved wrong. It is a question of pride（n.）自尊;骄傲;自满（as much as不得了，了不得的 anything else）.

→live/be/labour under a delusion：抱错误的想法，痴心妄想

→as… as anything （else）：不得了，了不得的。在句中作“定语”，修饰pride。全句意为“这是一个和其他事情具有一样高度的自尊心问题。这是个地道的自尊心问题”。

as much as anything (else) 加强语气 =very， very much。as much as anything else和其他的事情一样多/重要/程度高。翻译成：“了不得的”是比较好的翻译。

[Last spring] my wife suggested that I call in把…请来，把…找来 a man to look at our lawn mower. It had broken down（机器或车辆）出毛病，坏掉了 the previous summer， and though I promised to repair it， I had never got round（拳击、摔跤比赛的）回合 to it抽出时间做某事. I would not不愿 hear of the suggestion / and于是就 said that I would fix it myself.

→get round to（介） ……：抽出时间（做……）。此短语中的副词round 也可用around代替，前者多用于英国英语中，而后者多用于 美国英语中。介词to后须用名词、代词或「动名词」形式

→I would not hear…中would表示意愿，意即“我不愿听 ……”。句中的连词and用来表示结果，可译作“于是就说”。

One Saturday afternoon， I hauled拖，拉 the machine into the garden / and had a close look at it. As far as I could see在我看来， it needed only a minor（疾病）不严重的，轻微的；（手术）小的 adjustment（n.）调整；校正；校准: a turn（n.）使转动；旋转 of a screw螺丝钉 here， a little tightening拧紧，旋紧（螺钉、螺丝帽等） up there， a drop of oil / and it would be as good as几乎，差不多 new. Inevitably不可避免地；必然（发生）地 the repair job was not quite so simple.

→a group, team, or organization tightens up, v. 加紧工作；加强管理；严格要求

The mower firmly refused to mow， so I decided to dismantle拆开;拆卸 it. The garden was soon littered with用…胡乱堆满 chunks厚块；大块 of metal （which had once made up a lawn mower）. But I was extremely pleased（adj.） with myself. I had traced查出；探出；找到 the cause of the trouble.

One of links in the chain链条;链子 （that drives the wheels） had snapped（使）咔嚓一声折断；（使）啪的一声绷断. [After buying a new chain] I was faced with the insurmountable不能克服的，难以对付的 task of putting the confusing令人困惑的;混乱的;混淆的 jigsaw puzzle智力拼图玩具 together again.

I was not surprised 原因状to find that the machine still refused to work after I had reassembled重新组装;重新装配 it， for the simple reason that I was left with several curiously奇异地;奇怪地 shaped bits of metal （which did not seem to fit anywhere）.

→for the simple reason that: 出于这个简单的原因

→leave… with…：把…托付/交给/留给…

如，Please leave word with him if you've anything important to do there. 如果你有什么要紧事儿要去那里做，请给他留个口信。

I gave up in despair. The weeks passed and the grass grew. When my wife nagged唠叨不休 me to do something about it， I told her that either I would have to buy a new mower or let the grass grow. [插入语Needless to say当然，不用说；不必说] our house is now surrounded包围，围绕 by a jungle（热带）丛林.

→nag sb. to do…：唠唠叨叨责怪/数落某人或叫其做…… 也可为 nag sb. into （doing）sth.…

（Buried埋藏，掩蔽 somewhere in deep grass） there is a rusting生锈 lawn mower （which I have promised to repair one day）.

→Buried somewhere…，「过去分词」短语，作定语，修饰lawn mower。现置于句首位置，一是起到强调作用。此外，由于 lawn mower后为which引导的「定语从句」，这样可使句子显得更为紧凑连贯。

1. lay out布置，设计，花（钱），如：

He works for a magazine / and lays out pictures for it. 他为一家杂志工作，并为其设计图片的版面。

He laid out all his gains in purchasing land. 他把全部所得都用来购置土地。（gain [ɡeɪn] vt.& vi. 获得;赢得;增加。n. 利润;获益）

lay out

（1）安排，布置，筹划，设计：

The garden is laid out in a formal pattern. 花园的布局，被设计成规则的几何图形。

They are busy laying out an election campaign. 他们正忙于筹划竞选活动。

（2）摊开，摆开，展开（常用于「被动语态」）：

She laid out the map on the table. （摊开地图）她将地图摊在桌子上。

The goods （for sale） were laid out attractively. 出售的商品摆放得十分吸引人。

（3）（将某人“放倒”，即）击倒，击昏：

I laid him out with a blow to the head. 我一拳打在他头上，将他击倒。

1. Some really keen enthusiasts go so far / as to build their own computers.

so far as直到……程度。这是该短语的一种借喻用法。在此意义时无论句子是肯定形式还是否定形式，虽然as far as也可使用，但多用so far as，且其后如用动词时，均使用「带to的动词不定式」，如：

He went so far as to declare himself infallible on all occasions. 他狂妄到宣称自己永远正确。

Tom went so far as to disregard the labour discipline. 汤姆竟然到了不遵守劳动纪律的地步。（discip-line ['dɪ-səp-lɪn] n. 训练;纪律;学科;符合行为准则的行为（或举止））

go so far as to do: 竟然到了干......的地步

→除上述意义外，so far as和as far as还可用于表示：

（1）直到……为止（指实际距离），如：

She accompanied me as far as the gate. 她一直陪我走到大门口。

用于表达此意义时，as far as也可用于否定句中，但so far as不可用于肯定句中。

（2）就……而论。用于此义时，其后常用动词know、go、concern 等，如：

As/So far as I know，he can speak only English. 就我所知，他只会讲英语。

1. ……but unfortunately not all of us are born handymen.

are born handymen：生来就是能工巧匠。在be born后除了可以使用“名词”外，还可以使用“形容词”或「动词不定式」，如：

He was born rich. 他生来就富有。

He was born to succeed. 他命中注定要成功。

1. It is a question of pride （as much as anything else）.

as… as anything （else）：不得了，了不得的。在句中作“定语”，修饰pride。全句意为“这是一个和其他事情具有一样高度的自尊心问题。这是个地道的自尊心问题”。再如：

It’s as easy as anything （else）. （和其他事情一样容易）这事容易的不得了。

He saw as plainly as anything that they did not feel bound [by those agreements]. 他看得极清楚，他们并不认为受到了那些协议的约束。

1. ……and though I promised to repair it， I had never got round to it.

get round to（介） ……：抽出时间（做……）。此短语中的副词round 也可用around代替，前者多用于英国英语中，而后者多用于 美国英语中。介词to后须用名词、代词或「动名词」形式，如：

Perhaps we'll get round to（介） doing it some day. 说不定有一天，我们会抽时间做这件事。

I should be able to get round to that job next week. 下周我会找时间，去做那件事。

→此外，此短语有时，还用来表示“开始注意或考虑（做……）”，用于此义时，常指“经过较长时间的耽搁后，才开始注意或考虑 （做……）”，如：

After a long delay，he got round to writing the letter. 耽搁了许久之后，他才又开始考虑写信的事情。

1. as good as 几乎，差不多 =almost， actually， virtually， nearly

He as good as turned me down. 他实际上就是拒绝了我。