2010年 five

one of Dara Torres' trainers is wallking all over me . Literally, I'm lying on my stomach as Steve Sierra concentrates his entire 160lb. on my glutei and hamstrings. It hurts, but in a good way.

It's all part of the flexibility -and strength-building regimen that torres, who is making history as the oldest swimmer to compete in the Olympics, credits with getting her 41-year-old body in good-enough shape to race athletes half her age. But resistance stretching, as it is called, is not just for the Olympians among us. Its focus on maximizing muscle flexibility has been useful for everyone from injured NBA players to children with cerebral palsy. The exercises may not look like much - they generally require no equipment other than a mat and maybe a towel and some staps - and they may not feel that strenuous ,but you know the next day that you've had a workout.

Resistance stretching centers on flexing your muscles even as you stretch them ; for example , instead of simply releasing a leg lift, resist the urge to let your quad muscles relax on the way down. Unlike holding a muscle in a passively stretched position , the resistance route actively lengthens muscles through constant movement.

"Resistance stretching goes deep into the joints and grabs more muscle fibers to increase strength and flexibility" says Tierney, Sierra's partner. "It takes twice as much force to stretch a muscle as it does to contract it." I'm not convinced yet, but after they guide me through a few exercises my muscles do start to feel more energized . I can see why Torres likes to be worked on half an hour before she swims.

Although Tierney and Sierra have certified 250 trainers through weekend workshops, you might be hard-pressed to find a class at your local gym. That may have something to do with the fact that stretching has always been deemed the most disposable part of any exercise regimen. "People usually only think about flexibility and stretching when they are older and getting stiff or when they are injured," says Tierney. "It's just not considered sexy." That could change. As doctors urge even us non-Olympians to remain physically active throughout our lives, we'll start to pay more attention to stretching. After all, look what it does for Torres.

2010.10

Passage One

The idea of building “New Towns ” to absorb growth is frequently considered a cure-all for urban problems. It is erroneously assumed that if new residents can be diverted from existing centers, the present urban situation at least will get no worse. It is further and equally erroneously assumed that since European New Towns have financially and socially successful, we can expect the same sorts of results in the United States.

Present planning, thinking , and legislation will not produce the kind of New Towns that have been successful abroad. It will multiply suburbs or encourage developments in areas where land is cheap and construction profitable rather than where New Towns are genuinely needed.

Such ill-considered projects not only will fail to relieve pressures on existing cities but will, in fact, tend to weaken those cities further by drawing away high-income citizens and increasing the concentration of low-income groups that are unable to provide tax revenues. The remaining taxpayers, accordingly, will face increasing burdens, and industry and commerce will seek escape. Unfortunately, this mechanism is already at work in some metropolitan areas.

The promoters of New Towns so far in the United States have been developers, builders, and financial institutions. The main interest of these promoters is economic gain. Furthermore, federal regulations designed to promote the New Town idea do not consider social needs as the European New Town plans do , In fact, our regulations specify vitually all the ingredients of the typical suburban community , with a bit of political rhetoric thrown in.

A workable American New Town formula should be established as firmly here as the national formula was in Britain. All possible social and governmental innovations as well as financial factors should be thoroughly considered and accommodated in this policy. Its objectives should be clearly stated, and both incentives and penalties should be provided to ensure that the objectives are pursued. If such a policy is developed, then the New Town approach can play an important role in alleviating American’s urban problems.

Passage Two

It is a treasure hunt with a difference: conducted not with metal detectors, but by negotiation. Italy is at last reaping the benefits of a two-year campaign to regain smuggled antiquities. Five American museums have been talked into returning works that they claim to have acquired in good faith. Almost 70 of the finest are now on display in Rome - and they have just been joined by the only know intact work by Euphronios , an Athenian vase-painter.

New ground is also being broken with the return of nine items from the private collection of a New York philanthropist, Shelby White. This is the first pact negotiated with an individual. Francesco Rutelli, the culture minister, met Ms . White twice in America before the deal was done. She has always maintained that she and her late husband had no idea that the pieces were suspect. A tenth item from their collection, also by Euphronios, is being sent back to Italy in 2010. Under Italian law, any classical artifacts found on Italian soil belong to the state, even if (like Euphronios’s vases) they originated in Greece. A former head of the J.Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles and an American art dealer have been on trial for almost three years in Rome, charged with trafficking in illegally excavated objects. Both deny wrongdoing. Their charge was followed by a deal that officials say is crucial for efforts to curb the traffic in smuggled antiquities. Switzerland has undertaken to require importers of classical artifacts to produce proofs of origin and of legal export.

The deals with the museums have all involved give-and-take. In exchange for works claimed by Italy, the museums have been given others on long-term loan. “Italian lovers of art and archaeology will get back what has been stolen,while others abroad will profit from the exhibition of sometimes even more beautiful works,” says Mr Rutelli.

The deal with the Getty museum was the hardest to do but also the most productive:40of the works on show in Rome come from there.But they do not include the “Getty bronze,” which the Italians had hoped to retrieve. This third-century BC statue,attributed to Lysippus, Greek sculptor, was caught by Italian fishermen in 1964. The Getty insists that it was found in international waters. The Italians say it still illegally exported.

Passage Three

Greg Gadson, a lieutenant colonel in the Army’s Warrior Transition Brigade, is a natural leader-the kind of guy you’d be looking for on the battlefied. He’s also the kind of guy Mike Sullivan, a coach for the New York Giants, whose thought could make a difference to his losing football team. The two men had gone to the US Military Academy at West Point together but hadn’t been in touch much afterward, until Sullivan walked into Gadson’s hospital room at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, outside Washington, D.C. , last June. Friends had told Sullivan that his former Army football teammate had suffered serious injuries in Iraq - resulting in both of Gadson’s legs being amputated above the knee.

“This man had suffered so much,” Sullivan recalls , “yet he was so happy to see me .” The coach, who brought his old friend a signed Giants jersey with the number 98 on it , wathed as Gadson interacted with the other patients and the doctors and nurses, encouraging them all. “To see the impact he had on these people - the look in his eyes and how they responded- was overwhelming and inspirational.”

Sullivan couldn’t help but be impressed by Gradson’s enthusiasm and lack of self-pity. When the Giants were scheduled to play the Redskins in Washington three months later, Sullivan sent his friend tickets -along with a request: Would Gadson speak to the team before they took the field? Having lost the first two games of the season, the Giants had already given up 80 points and , worse, seemed to be playing with no heart. The coach felt that Gadson was the perfect person to tell the players something they needed to hear about commitment, about perseverance, about teamwork.

Teamwork was everything to Gadson. He had played football at Indian River High School in the Tidewater region of Virginia and gone on to become a starting linebacker-No.98 for West Point from 1986 to 1988, despite his relatively slight build of 190 pounds on a 5-foot-11 frame. Following his graduation, Gadson, the son of a hospital pharmacist and a teacher, planned to serve his compulsory five years and get out. But after tours in the Balkans and Afghanistan, he found himself hooked. “Serving my country is important,” he says, “but for me it’s about being a soldier, being there for each other in the biggest sense of the word. I love being part of that team.”

Passage Four

One of the appealing features of game thery is the way it reflects so many aspects of real life. To win a game, or survive in the jungle, or succeed in business, you need to know how to play your cards. You have to know when to hold ‘em and know when to fold ’em. And usually you have to think fast Winners excel at making smart snap judgments. In the jungle, you don’t have time to calculate ,using game theory or otherwise, the relative merits of fighting or fleeing, hiding or seeking.

Animals know this. They constantly face many competing choices from a long list of possible behaviors, as neuroscientists Gregory Berns and Read Montague have obseved . “Do I chase this new prey or do I continue nibbling on my last kill? Do I run from the possible predator that I see in the bushes or the one that I hear? Do I chase that potential mate or do I wait around for something better?”

Presumably, animals don’t deliberate such decisions consciously, at least not for very long. And even if animals could think complexly and had time to do so , there’s no obvious way for them to compare all their needs for food, safety, and sex. Yet somehow animal brains add up all the factors and compute a course of action that enhances the odds of survival . And humans differ little from other animals in that regard, Brains have evolved a way to compare and choose among behaviors, apparently using some “common currency ” for valuing one choice over others. In other words, not only do people have money on the brain, they have the neural equivalent of money operating within the brain. Just as money replaced the barter system-providing a common currency for comparing various goods and services-nerve cell circuitry evolved to translate diverse behavioral choices into the common currency of brain chemistry.

When you think about it , it makes a lot of sense. But neuroscientists began to figure it all out only when they joined forces with economists inspired by game theory. Game theory, after all, was the key to quantifying the faint notion of economic utility.

Passage Five

In the massive Zambezi River system, fish are not only vital to the ecosystem, but also a staple in the diet of millions of people . Yet, little is known about the species, their movements and the stocks. In hopes of ensuring that these fish stocks will continue to be around for many years to come, the African Wildlife Foundation has embarked on extensive research and monitoring efforts in the Zambezi River , its tributaries and related reservoirs.

While tracking the fish of the Zambezi River system, AWF learned of a sport-fishing tournament taking place on the river. AWF decided to join the tournament . ALL the tournament catches were carefully monitored and recorded , providing invaluable data on the health and size of key trophy specimens.

For the time in history, real data is now available on the effect of the human population on the Zambezi River network, on the use of incompatible fishing methods, incompatible land uses (like deforestation, which leads to erosion and massive deposits of silt in the river), and overfishing. All this research will help AWF and its partners to help guide fishery policy and legislation -- and help local communities create fishing strategies that are not just profitable, but truly sustainable.

For many years, the fish of the Zamberzi River network have been bountiful. In fact, the upper part of the river alone feeds 300,000 people. The sardine catch in Lake Kariba yields more than 30,000tons of fish annually --amounting to more than $ 55 million a year.

To manage the region’s fisheries effectively, to monitor water quality, and to keep track of fish yields and fishing activities, AWF created the Aquatic Resoures Working Group(ARWG). Its first priority was to gain a greater understanding of the fish that swim in the Zambezi River system as well as a clearer picture of the river system itself.

Although data collection will continue, the ARWG has already collected a significant amount of data. Now underway are pilot business ventures with fisheries and the creation of a formal fishing association in which registered fishermen drawn from the local community in Mozambique will undergo training in business skills, best-practice fishing, energy-efficient fish processing and marketing. The future is looking bright for both the fish and the communities along the Zambezi River system.

2011.3

Passage One

At many colleges, smokers are being run not just out of school buildings but off the premises. On Nov. 19, the University of Kentucky, the tobacco state’s flagship public institution, launched a campus wide ban on cigarettes and all other forms of tobacco on school grounds and parking areas. Pro-nicotine students staged a “smoke-out ” to protest the new policy, which even rules out smoking inside cars if they’re on school property.

Kentucky joins more than 365 U.S. colleges and universities that in recent years have instituted antismoking rules both indoors and out. In most places , the issue doesn’t seem to be secondhand smoke. Rather, the rationale for going smoke-free in wide open spaces is a desire to model healtly behavior.

Purdue University, which has 30-ft. Buffer zones, recently considered adopting a campuswide ban but tempered its proposal after receiving campus input . Smoking will now be restricted to limited outdoor areas.

One big problem with a total ban is enforcing it. Take the University of Iowa. In july 2008, the school went smoke-free in accordance with the Iowa Smokefree Air Act, violations of which can result in a $50 fine . But so far, the university has ticketed only about 25 offenders. “Our campus is about 1800 acres, so to think that we could keep track of who is smoking on campus at any given time isn’t really feasible,” says Joni Troester,director of the university’s campus wellness program. Instead, the school helps those trying to kick the habit by offering smoking-cessation programs and providing reimbursement for nicotine parches, gum and prescription medications like Zyban.

Naturally, there has been pushback from students. “ Where do we draw the line between a culture of health and individual choice?” asks Jonathan Slemrod, a University of Michigan senior and president of the school’s College Libertarians. “If they truly want a culture of health, I expect them to go through all our cafeterias and get rid of all our Taco Bells, all our pizza places.” Students might want to enjoy those Burrito Supremes while they can. In today’s health-obsessed culture, those may be next.

2011.3

Passage Two

The familiar sounds of an early English summer are with us once again. Millions of children sit down to SATs, GCSEs, A-levels and a host of lesser exams, and the argument over educational standards starts. Depending on whom you listen to, we should either be letting up on over-examined pupils by abolishing SATs, and even GCSEs, or else making exams far more rigorous.

The chorus will reach a peak when GCSE and A-level results are published in August. If pass rates rise again, commentators will say that standards are falling because exams are getting easier. If pass rates drop, they will say that standards are falling because children are getting lower marks. Parents like myself try to ignore this and base our judgments on what our children are learning. But it’s not easy given how much education has changed since we were at school.

Some trends are encouraging -education has been made more relevant and enthuses many children that it would have previously bored. My son’s A-level French revision involved listening to radio debates on current affairs, whereas mine involved rereading Moliere. And among their peers, a far greater proportion stayed in education for longer.

On the other hand, some aspects of schooling today are incomprehensible to my generation, such as gaps in general knowledge and the hand-holding that goes with ensuring that students leave with good grades, Even when we parents resist the temptation to help with GCSE or A-level coursework, a teacher with the child’s interests at heart may send a draft piece of work back several times with pointers to how it can be improved before the examiners see it .

The debate about standards persists because there is no single objective answer to the question:”Are standards better or worse than they were a generation ago?” Each side points to indicators that favor them, in the knowledge that there is no authoritative definition, let alone a measure that has been consistently applied over the decades. But the annual soul-searching over exams is about more than student assessment. It reveals a national insecurity about whether, in a country with a history of upholding standards by ensuring that plenty of students fail, we can attain the more modern objective of ensuring that every child leaves school with something to show for it.

2011.3

Passage Three

Suzan Fellman had a hard time with Laura Bush’s redo of the famed guest quarters named for President Lincoln: “Looking at it , I thought I was in a Radisson lobby somewhere in the Midwest long ago . I could not imagine spending a night in that space.”

Done up with Victorian furnishings, the Lincoln Bedroom is one of the residence’s least-changed spaces, said Betty Monkman, formerly chief curator of the White House for nearly 40 years. “It’s a quasi-museum room,” she said , “with a lot of objects, such as the bed , that have symbolic importance.”

The elaborately carved bed bought for Lincoln is the centerpiece of the room.

According to historian William Seale, the president was furious that his wife, Mary, spent so much money redecorating the White House during a time of war . He never slept in the bed, and the ornate piece eventually was moved to a spare room.

Los Angeles designer Fellman saw parallels, calling the Obama era a period of “ pulling back on extravagance.” It is a good time , she said, to revisit pieces in storage, to rearrange old furniture in a new fashion, and use paint and fabrics to bring life and fun into a room without spending a fortune.

In this re-imagining of the Lincoln Bedroom, Fellman would retain the legendary bed but paint the ceiling a sky blue and use a Cecil Beaton rose-print fabric for curtains .”Lincoln loved roses,” Fellman said , “and this beige and ivory version keeps it from being too bold, modern or feminine.” At a time when Americana is expected to stage a strong revival, Fellman said traditional styles such as Colonial and Federal can co-exist with European antiques if they are balanced in scale.

Mindful of the recession, the designer advocated selecting furniture with longevity in mind .”If you are going to spend money, buy quality things that you never want to get rid of,” she said .”A couple of really good things can make all the difference in a room.” Her splurges would include a camel-hair sofa, which Fellman said was long-lasting and timeless. As a Pop Art-influenced statement about thrift, a custom rug woven with a 6-foot-diameter medallion replicates the penny’s image of Lincoln in subtle shades of ivory and copper.

In bad times as in good, spare rooms don’t have to be grand to be effective, Fellman said . “A guest room should feel inviting and intimate,” she said. “It has to exude serenity.”

2011.3

Passage Four

Laurance Rockefeller, the middle brother of the five prominent and benevolent grandsons of John D. Rockefeller, who concentrated his own particular generosity on conservation, recreation, ecological concerns and medical research, particularly the treatment of cancer,died of pulmonary fibrosis at his home in Manhattan.

His career began on Wall Street almost 70 years ago, where he became a pioneer of modern venture capitalism, compounding his inherited wealth many times over. In the decades since he first took his seat on the New York Stock Exchange, he often used his native instinct for identifying the next big thing, not content simply to make more money but to make the money produce something of lasting value.

Less sociable than his older brother Nelson, who was a four-term governor of New York and the country’s vice president under Gerald R. Ford, Laurance Spelman Rockefeller was also more reserved and private than his flamboyant younger brother Winthrop who was the governor of Arkansas. A philosophy major at Princeton he had long wrestled with the question of how he might most efficiently as a successful pioneer of modern venture capitalism.

Using significant amounts of his money as well as his connections and prestige and negotiating skills he was instrumental in establishing and enlarging National Parks in Wyoming, California, the Virgin IsIands, Vermont,Maine and Hawaii. As an active member of the Palisade Interstate Parkway Commission, he helped create a chain of parks that blocked the advance of sprawl, thus maintaining the majestic view that he first saw as a child looking out from Kykuit, the Rockefeller country home in Pocantico.

His commitment to wilderness, recreation and environmental conservation had many roots.

Since childhood he liked to ride horses through unspoiled terrain. He was a passionate photographer in search of new landscapes. Even before Laurance reached adulthood the Rockefellers had included parks among their many philanthropic projects.

Laurance was born on May 26,1910. As Laurance matured he came to more closely resemble his grandfather than any other family member, having the same pursed and seemingly serious expression that John D. Rockefeller often showed in photographs. According to family accounts he was also the one who most closely revealed his grandfather’s ability for profitable deals.

2011.3

Passage Five

The first three days of July 1863 saw the bloodiest hours of the Civil War, in a battle that spilled across the fields and hills surrounding Gettysburg, Pa. The fighting climaxed in the bright, hot afternoon of the third day, when more than 11,000 Confederate soldiers mounded a disastrous assault on the heart of the Union line. That assault marked the farthest the South would penetrate into Union territory. In a much larger sense, it marked the turning point of the war.

No surprise, then, that the Battle of Gettysburg would become the subject of songs, poems, funeral monuments and, ultimately, some of the biggest paintings ever displayed on this continent. Paul Philippoteaux, famed for his massive 360-degree cyclorama paintings , painted four versions of the battle in the 1880s. Cycloramas were hugely popular in the United States in the last decades of the 19th century, before movies displaced them in the public’s affection. Conceived on a mammoth scale, a cyclorama painting was longer than a football field and almost 50 feet tall. Little thought was given to preserving these enormous works of art. They were commercial ventures, and when they stopped earning they were tossed. Most were ultimately lost - victims of water damage or fire. One of Philippoteaux’s Gettysburg renderings was cut up and hung in panels in a Newark, N.J., department store before finding its way back to Gettysburg, where it has been displayed off and on since 1913. Along the way, the painting lost most of its sky and a few feet off the bottom. Sections were cut and moved to patch holes in other sections. And some of the restorative efforts proved almost as crippling to the original as outright neglect. Since 2003, a team of conservators has labored in a $ 12million effort to restore Philippoteaux’s masterwork. They have cleaned it front and back, patched it, added canvas for a new sky and returned the painting to its original shape - a key part of a cyclorama’s optical illusion was its hyperbolic shape : it bellies out at its central point, thrusting the image toward the viewer.

When restoration is completed later this year, the painting will be the centerpiece of the new Gettysburg battlefield visitors’ center, which opens to the public on April 14. Much work remains to be done. But even partially restored, the painting seethes with life -and death.

Civil 民用 民事 公民的 outright 总冠军 冠军赔率 彻底的

Spilled 覆水难收 泼洒 溢出 Renderings 效果图 渲染图 装裱效果

Confederate 共犯 同盟 同谋者 crippling 极有害的 有严重后果的 局部失稳破坏

mounded 半埋设的 panels 面板 展板 事务委员会

disastrous 灾难性的 悲惨的 损失惨重的

assault 攻击 突击 殴打 department 部门 部 学校

penetrate 穿透 渗透 刺入 store 存储 商店 储存

Territory 领土 领地 领域 Along the way 一路上 打下手 沿途

funeral 葬礼 丧礼 有关丧事的礼仪 neglect 忽视 忽略 疏忽

monuments 纪念物 纪念碑 古迹 seethes 起泡沫

displaced 颠沛流离 换行攻击 流离失所 optical 光导纤维 光纤 光学纤维

Conceived 构思 构想 构想拙劣的

mammoth 猛犸象 长毛象 猛犸 illusion 错觉 幻想 幻觉

preserving 防护 保存 坚持的 hyperbolic 双曲线的 夸张的 双曲

ventures投机者 商业冒险 谷歌风投 bellies 腹部羊毛 胴网 肚子

tossed. 抛 突然抬起 使上下摇动 thrusting 顶推施工 猛推；上冲

2011.10

Passage One

Everyone has been trying to understand Michael Jackson’s death this summer. While medics are still picking at his slender corpse, cultural authorities argue like vultures over his reputation. Should he be remembered as a great singer, a man possibly sexually attracted to children, an emblematic black artist who tried to bleach his face white, the Fred Astaire(a major founder of stage dance) of the 1980s, the first to master the MTV pop video, or a troubled victim of a domineering father? His difficult journey from unhappy childhood, to weird quasi-adulthood has been told and re-told frequently and annoyingly across the world.

Yet Jackson’s current crisis is an extreme version of a process that will happen to us all. For, as Jean-Paul Sartre (French existentialist philosopher) put it , at death we become prey to the “Other” -our identity dissipating into the sum total of what is thought about us . While we are alive, Sartre explained, we can resist this pressure: we can defy the opinions that other people try to project onto us . We can’t erase our pasts, but we can always overturn future expectations. It’s a struggle Sartre saw as central to our existence as moral beings : we must do more than act out the roles others a have scripted for us.

This is the existential condition of humanity - we are the artists of our own lives, although with the anguish that comes from being condemned to be free. Given the weight of expectations heaped on his shoulders, it’s something Michael Jackson felt more crushingly than most: a burden reflected in his lifelong modifications of his own appearance. The human body, Ludwig Wittgenstein (an Austrian-British philosopher) once declared, is the best picture we have of the human soul. And Jackson’s body in his last days legibly expressed something very revealing.

Death, of course, takes everything away. The back catalogue of Jackson’s songs is now the complete catalogue. Yet, according to Sartre, death is not the final chord of a melody that suddenly resolves and makes sense of what went before . Instead , it merely begins an endless new argument over meanings from which the core-the real person- is perpetually absent . Michael Jackson is no longer with us . Instead, “Michael Jackson” is becoming the sum of what others hope to make of him.

[medics](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/medics" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)医科学生; 医生; 大夫; 救护人员，护理人员[picking](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/picking" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)选择; 挑选; 采; 摘; 摘掉，剔除，掐去,[slender](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/slender" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)苗条的; 纤细的; 细的; 窄的; 微薄的; 不足的,[corpse](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/corpse" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)尸体; 死尸，尸首; 演出僵住,[vultures](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/vultures" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l 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"https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)极其,[heaped](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/heaped" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)满满的; 堆积; 堆置; 在…上放很多,[reflected](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/reflected" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)反映; 映出; 反射; 显示，表明,[soul](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/soul" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)灵魂; 心性; 内心; 心灵; 精神状况,legibly,明了地；易读地,[complete catalogue](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/complete catalogue" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)完整星表,[back catalogue](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/back catalogue" \t 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Passage Two(2011.10)

Most graduate programs in American universities produce a product for which there is no market (candidates for teaching positions that do not exist) and develop skills for which there is diminishing demand (research in subfields within subfields and publications in journals read by no one other than a few like-minded colleagues ), all at a rapidly rising cost.

Widespread hiring freezes and layoffs have brought these problems into sharp relief now. But our graduate system has been in crisis for decades , and the seeds of this crisis go as far back as the formation of modern universities. Kant, in his 1798 work “The Conflict of the Faculties,” wrote that universities should “handle the entire content of learning by mass production, so to speak, by a division of labor, so that for every branch of the sciences there would be a public teacher or professor appointed as its trustee.”

Unfortunately this mass-production university model has led to separation where there ought to be collaboration and to ever-increasing specialization. In my own department, for example, we have 10 faculty members, working in eight subfields, with little overlap. And as departments fragment, research and publication become more and more about less and less.

The emphasis on narrow scholarship also encourages an educational system that has become a process of cloning. Faculty members cultivate those students whose futures they envision as identical to their own pasts, even though their tenures will stand in the way of these students having futures as full professors.

The dirty secret of higher education is that without underpaid graduate students to help in laboratories and with teaching, universities couldn’t conduct research or even instruct their growing undergraduate populations. It is simply cheaper to provide graduate students with modest stipends and teaching assistants with as little as $5000 a course -with no benefits -than it is to hire full-time professors.

The other obstacle to change is that colleges and universities are self-regulating or, in academic terms , governed by peer review. While trustees and administrations theoretically have some oversight responsibility , in practice, departments operate independently. To complicate matters further, once a faculty member has been granted tenure, he is functionally autonomous. Many academics who cry out for the regulation of financial markets vehemently oppose it in their own departments. [candidates](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/candidates" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)候选人，申请人; ;[diminishing](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/diminishing" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)减少; 减弱，缩减; ,[like-minded](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/like-minded" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)想法相同的; 志趣相投的[colleagues](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/colleagues" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)同事; 同僚; 同人[Widespread](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Widespread" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l 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2011.10 Passage Three

Next week, the European Parliament will debate stringent regulation of a number of effective pesticides. If this regulation is passed, the consequences will be devastating.

In the 1960s, widespread use of the potent and safe insecticide DDT led to eradication of many insect-borne diseases in Europe and North America. But based on no scientific evidence of human health effects, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned DDT, and its European counterparts followed suit. Subsequently, more than 1 million people died each year from malaria-but not in America or Europe. Rather, most of the victims were children and women in Africa and Asia

Today, even while acknowledging that indoor spraying of small amounts of DDT would help prevent many deaths and millions of illnesses, nongovernmental organizations continue-with great success-to pressure African governments not to allow its use. In order to stave off such pressure, African public health officials cave, and their children die needlessly. Yet, rather than learning the tragic lesson of the DDT ban, the European Union wants to extend this unscientific ban to other effective insecticides, including pyrethroids and organophosphates - further undercutting anti-malarial efforts.

The currently debated regulation would engender a paradigm shift in the regulation of chemicals,from a risk-based approach-based on real world exposures from agricultural applications-to a hazard-based standard, derived from laboratory tests and having little or no basis in reality as far as human health is concerned. Of course, this is fine with anti-chemical zealots. Their concern is bringing down chemical companies in the name of “the environment”-though luck if African children have to be sacrificed to their agenda, as was the case with DDT (which is still banned in the EU and not under consideration in the current debate).

Most poignantly, the fight against malaria and other insect-borne tropical diseases would take another hit, with resulting illness, disability and death disproportionally affecting children under five and pregnant women.

And what, after all, is the “danger” of these chemicals being debated? In fact, there is no evidence to support the contention that insecticides pose a health threat to humans. Even DDT, one of the most studies chemicals of all time, has been conclusively shown to be safe for humans at all conceivable levels of exposure sufficient to control malaria and save millions of lives.

* [European Parliament](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/European Parliament" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)欧洲议会,[stringent](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/stringent" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)严格的; 严厉的; 紧缩的,[pesticides](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/pesticides" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)杀虫剂; 除害药物,[consequences](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/consequences" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)结果; 后果; 重要性,[devastating](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/devastating" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)破坏性极大的; 毁灭性的; 令人震惊的,[potent](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/potent" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)有强效的; 有力的; 烈性的,[insecticide](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/insecticide" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)杀虫剂; 杀虫药,[led](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/led" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)起主导作用的; 带路; 领路,[eradication](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/eradication" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)根除，消灭,malaria,疟疾；瘴气,[stave off](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/stave off" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)推迟; 暂时避开,[cave](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/cave" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)山洞; 洞穴; 塌陷; 倒塌; 屈服; [needlessly](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/needlessly" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)不需要地，不必要地,[tragic](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/tragic" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)悲惨的; 悲痛的; 可悲,[organophosphates](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/organophosphates" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)有机磷酸酯,pyrethroids 拟除虫菊酯杀虫剂,[undercutting](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/undercutting" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)削竞争, 削弱,[engender](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/engender" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)产生，引起,paradigm.范例；词形变化表,hazard, 危险，风险；冒险的事,[derived from](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/derived from" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)来源于, zealots狂热者[under consideration](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/under consideration" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)在考虑中,poignantly,痛切地,深刻地,[fight against](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/fight against" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)与……作斗争；反对,[tropical](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/tropical" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)热带的; 来自热带的,[disability](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/disability" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)缺陷，障碍; 缺陷,disproportionally,不相称地,[contention](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/contention" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)争吵; 争执; 争论; 看法，观点,[pose](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/pose" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)造成; 引起; 产生; 提问;[conclusively](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/conclusively" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)最后地；决定性地; 令人信服地,[conceivable](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/conceivable" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)可想象的; 可信的,

2011.10.4

In the post Cold War world few articles have influenced how Western policymakers view the world more than Samuel Huntington’s 1993 article, “The Clash of Civilizations.” Suggesting that the world was returning to a civilization dominated world where future conflicts would originate from clashes between ‘civilizations,’ the theory has been broadly criticized for oversimplification, ignoring local conflicts and for incorrectly predicting what has happened in the decade since its publication. The claim made by many that September the 11th has vindicated Huntington is simply not supported by the evidence.

Huntington’s thesis outlines a future where the “great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural.” He divides the world’s cultures into seven current civilizations, Western, Latin American, Confucian, Japanese, Islamic, Hindu and Slavic-Orthodox, In addition he judged Africa only as a possible civilization depending on how far one viewed the development of an African consciousness had developed. These civilizations seem to be defined primarily by religion with a number of ad hoc exceptions.

Huntington predicts conflicts occurring between states from different civilizations for control of international institutions and for economic and military power. He views this mix of conflicts as normal by asserting that nation-states are a new phenomenon in a world dominated for most of its history by conflicts between civilizations. This is a dubious statement as the inter-civilizational conflict driven mainly by geo-political factors rather than cultural differences is an equally if not more persuasive way to view much of history.

The theory at least differentiates between non-Western civilizations rather than grouping them together. He also explains how the West presents pro-Western policies as positive for the entire world and that the very idea of a universal culture is a Western idea. However, his escape from a Eurocentric bias is only temporary. He completely fails to account for local cultures even though one can argue they collectively comprise a separate civilization. The article also predicts future conflicts will be started by non-Western civilizations reacting to Western power and values ignoring the equally plausible situation where Western states use their military superiority to maintain their superior positions. The policy prescriptions he suggests to counter this perceived threat equate to increasing the power of the West to forestall any loss of the West’s pre-eminence. Thus he suggests the latin American and Orthodox-Slavic civilizations be drawn further into the Western orbit and the maintenance of Western military superiority.

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2011.10.5The multibillion-dollar international pharmaceutical industry has been accused of manipulating the results of drug trials for financial gain and withholding information that could expose patients to possible harm.

The stranglehold the industry has on research is causing increasing alarm in medical circles as evidence emerges of biased results, under-reporting and selective publication driven by a market worth more than 10 billion pounds in Britain alone.

The industry has sponsored the trials of new drugs which have held out great promise for patients with cancer, heart disease, mental health problems and other illnesses.

But the tests on the same drugs in independent trials paid for by non-profit organizations -governments, medical institutions or charities-have yielded very different results.

The drugs for abnormal heart rhythm introduced in the late 1970s were killing more Americans every year by 1990 than the Vietnam War.

Yet early evidence suggesting the drugs were lethal, which might have saved thousands of lives, went unpublished.

Evidence published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that 38 per cent of independent studies of the drugs reached unfavorable conclusions about them, compared with 5 per cent of the studies paid for by the pharmaceutical industry.

In the latest case, the researchers commissioned by the National Institute for Clinical Excellence to develop guidelines for the prescribing of anti-depressant drugs to children say they were refused access to the unpublished trials of the drugs held by the pharmaceutical companies.

Published evidence suggested that the anti-depressant drugs were safe and effective for children.

But when they obtained the unpublished evidence by contacting individual researchers who had worked on the trials and other sources, a different picture emerged -one of an increase in suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide. Only one of the drugs, Prozac,emerged as safe.

Anti-depressant drugs, though not recommended for children, were widely prescribed in Britain until last year, when the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency issued a warning to doctors, prohibiting their use.

This followed the safety concerns raised by campaigners and taken up in two BBC TV Panorama broadcasts which brought the biggest response in the program’s history.

Writing in the Lancet medical magazine, the researchers say:”On the basis of published evidence alone, we could have considered at least tentatively recommending use of these drugs for children and young people with depression.” [pharmaceutical](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/pharmaceutical" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)制药的; 配药的; 卖药的; 药物,[manipulating](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/manipulating" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)控制，操纵，影响; 操作，使用,[withholding](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/withholding" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)拒绝给; 不给;[stranglehold](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/stranglehold" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)掐脖子; 卡脖子; 压制; 束缚,[sponsored](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/sponsored" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)为慈善筹款而举办的; 赞助; 主办; 举办,[promise](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/promise" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)许诺; 承诺; 答应; 保证,held out,坚持；伸出；提供；维持,[abnormal](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/abnormal" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)不正常的; 反常的; 变态的; 畸形的,[heart rhythm](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/heart rhythm" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)心节律,[lethal](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/lethal" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)致命的; 可致死的; 危害极大的;[unfavorable](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/unfavorable" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)不利的；相反的；令人不快的,[commissioned](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/commissioned" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)正式委托; 任命…为军官,[Excellence](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Excellence" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)优秀; 杰出; 卓越,[prescribing](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/prescribing" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)给…开; 让…采用; 开; 规定; 命令; 指示,anti-depressant 抗抑郁药,[refused](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/refused" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)拒绝; 回绝; 推却; 拒绝给,[suicidal](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/suicidal" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)想自杀的; 有自杀倾向的,[attempted suicide](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/attempted suicide" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)自杀未遂,[prohibiting](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/prohibiting" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)禁止; 阻止; 使不可能; [concerns](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/concerns" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)影响，牵涉; 与…有关; 涉及,[campaigners](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/campaigners" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)运动领导者，运动参加者,Panorama 全景，全貌；全景画Lancet 柳叶刀,[tentatively](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/tentatively" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)初步; 尝试性地; 暂时性地,[recommending](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/recommending" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)推荐; 举荐; 介绍; 劝告,[depression](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/depression" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)抑郁症; 精神忧郁; 抑郁

2012.3.1

Like so many things of value, truth is not always easy to come by. What we regard as true shapes our beliefs, attitudes, and actions. Yet we can believe things that have no basis in fact. People are capable of embracing horrific precepts that seem incredible in retrospect. In Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler had millions of followers who accepted his delusions about racial superiority. As Voltaire put it long before Hitler's time, "Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

We are surrounded by illusions, some created deliberately. They may be subtle or may affect us profoundly. Some illusions, such as films and novels, we seek out and appreciate. Others can make us miserable and even kill us. We need to know if particular foods that taste perfectly fine can hurt us in the short term (as with Salmonella contamination) or in the long term (cholesterol), whether a prevalent virus is so dangerous that we should avoid public places, and what problems a political candidate may cause or resolve if elected. Gaining insights about the truth often is a challenge, and misconceptions can be difficult to recognize.

We often believe stories because they are the ones available. Most people would identify Thomas Edison as the inventor of the incandescent light bulb. Although Edison perfected a commercially successful design, he was preceded in the experimentation by British inventors Frederick de Moleyns and Joseph Swan, and by American J.W Starr.

The biggest enemies of truth are: people whose job is to sell us incomplete versions of the available facts, our willingness to believe what we want and the simple absence of accurate information. Companies advertising products on television do not describe the advantages of their competitors' products any more than a man asking a woman to marry him encourages her to date other men before making up her mind. It is a social reality that people encourage one another to make important decisions with limited facts.

Technology has simplified and complicated the fact-gathering process. The internet allows us to check facts more easily, but it also disburses misinformation. Similarly, a belief that videos and photos necessarily represent reality ignores how easily they can be digitally altered. Unquestioning reliance on such forms of media makes us more susceptible to manipulators: those who want to deceive can dazzle us with a modem version of smoke and mirrors.

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2012.3.2 All art booms are different. The previous one ended in 1989, when Japanese buyers withdrew from the Impressionist market. Interest rates rose in the slump that followed; there were plenty of sellers but no buyers. Today the reverse is true. Buyers are looking to diversify into alternative assets. The only problem is the sellers. There is plenty of money about, but little to buy.

It should follow, then, that buyers will snap up anything. But that is not quite the case, as the Old Master sales at Christie's in London on December 8th showed only too well. In the recent sales the best pieces sold brilliantly, and the rest hardly at all. The best included a rare Raphael drawing, and an elegant self-portrait by Sir Anthony van Dyck. Many of the leading dealers were present, including Philip Mould, known as the BBC's "art detective;" Alfred Bader, a rich American art-market broker; and the heirs to two important art-dealing businesses, William Noortman and Simon Green.

Van Dyck's oval shaped self portrait, painted in 1640, the year before he died, had been in the same family for almost 300 years. Mr. Mould joined forces with Mr. Bader to try and win the painting. Young Mr. Noortman, the underbidder who was trying to buy the picture for stock, did not stand a chance. The winning bid was £7.4m, nearly three times van Dyck's previous auction record.

The last lot in Christie's sale was a black chalk drawing, less than a foot square, by Raphael, an early 16th-century Italian master. It is the study of a head for one of the Greek muses. Its beauty, rarity and the sense that the study may well have been used by the artist himself when working on a larger painting drew collectors from far and wide.

Christie's had estimated the study would fetch £12m-16m. Bidding opened at £8.5m, with three buyers on the telephone. Jennifer Wright, Christie's New York-based drawings specialist, made a final bid for the Raphael of £26m—a world record for a work on paper.

After the sale, Christie's international co-head, Richard Knight, was quick to point out that, at £68.4m, theirs had been the biggest Old Master sale ever. "This result shows what a very solid market this is," he said. But that took no account of the failures, which were considerable. Fifteen of the 43 lots in Christie's auction failed to sell at all.

[booms](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/booms" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)激增，繁荣; 突然风靡的时期; 帆桁[withdrew](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/withdrew" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)撤回，撤离; 停止提供; 不再给予; 退出[Impressionist](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Impressionist" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)印象派画家; 模仿演员[slump](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/slump" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)骤降，猛跌，锐减; 重重地坐下; 萧条期; 衰退[snap up](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/snap up" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)抢购，赶紧买下[only too](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/only too" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)太;极其; 太; 极; 极，非常[brilliantly](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/brilliantly" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)光彩夺目地; 出色，精彩; 高明地[hardly at all](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/hardly at all" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)几乎不; 几乎没有[Raphael](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Raphael" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)拉斐尔[self-portrait](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/self-portrait" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)自画像[detective](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/detective" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)侦探; 警探; 私人侦探[broker](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/broker" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)经纪人; 掮客; 安排，协商[heirs](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/heirs" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)继承人; 后嗣; 继承者，承袭者[forces](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/forces" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)武力; 暴力; 力; 力量; 强大效力[underbidder](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/underbidder" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)喊价过低者，喊价较低者; 低叫[stock](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/stock" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)现货，存货，库存; 储备物; 备用物; 供应物[muses](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/muses" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)沉思; 冥想; 沉思地自言自语[far and wide](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/far and wide" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)大范围地；广泛地[estimated](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/estimated" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)估价; 估算;[fetch](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/fetch" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)拿来; 请来; 售得，卖得[final bid](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/final bid" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)最终叫牌[lots](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/lots" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)全体; 全部; 整个; 组，群，批

2012.3.3

On the outside, Betsy Lueth's school looks like any other in this arty neighborhood of Minneapolis: a sprawling, boxy red brick building with plain steel doors. Yet inside, the blond, friendly Minnesotan presides over an institution unique in the heartland: Yinghua Academy, a charter public school where elementary students of every ethnicity study subjects ranging from math to American history in Mandarin.

The idea behind Yinghua, as with many immersion programs, is to introduce kids to the language and culture as early as possible—ideally, before age 12, while they're still absorbing information like sponges. Kindergartners and first-graders are taught exclusively in Mandarin, and a single period of English is introduced in second grade. By sixth grade, kids are learning half in English and half in Mandarin, with the expectation of proficiency in both.

The challenges at Yinghua are numerous. Most teachers come from Taiwan or

mainland China, and cultural misunderstandings prevail. Lueth's instructors are learning to be tolerant of local norms like nontraditional families and boys who cry—as well as a lot more parental input than they're used to. "In China, teachers are revered. They are not questioned," says Luyi Lien, Yinghua's Taiwan-born academic director. "In America, parents are more ... expressive of their opinions."

Yinghua's student body, once 70% Asian, is now 50% white, black or Hispanic. The school has more than tripled its enrollment, to 300 kids, many of whom commute an hour each day. Research has shown that in the long run, immersion programs can provide cognitive benefits, including more flexible, creative thinking. Though students from the programs lag for a few years in English, by fifth grade they perform as well as or better than their monolingual peers on standardized reading and math tests. For multicultural families, the psychological boost can also be important. Lueth's adopted daughter, Lucy, used to squirm when cousins asked why her skin color was different from theirs; Now, Lucy proudly answers them, "Yeah, I was born in China."

Lueth recently won an $800,000 grant from the Department of Education to develop a teaching model for immersion middle schools, and she advises educators around the country who are starting their own programs. If Yinghua can make Mandarin a success in Minnesota, so can they. "This is a glorious culture—and an increasingly important language-that we are meaningfully teaching to our children. And we’re in the middle of nowhere.”

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2012.3.4

Fifty is the gateway to the most liberating passage in a woman's life. Children are

making test flights out of the nest. Parents are expected to be roaming in their recreational vehicles or sending postcards of themselves riding camels. Free at last! Women can graduate from the precarious balancing act between parenting and pursuit of a career.That has been the message of my books since I wrote New Passages 15 years ago. What I didn't see coming was the **boomerang**.

With parents living routinely into their 90s, a second round of caregiving has become a predictable crisis for women in midlife. Nearly 50 million Americans are taking care of an adult who used to be independent. Yes, men represent about one third of family caregivers, but their participation is often at a distance and administrative. Women do most of the hands-on care.

It starts with the call. It's a call about a fall. Your mom has had a stroke. Or it's a call about your dad—he's run a red light and hit someone, again, but how are you ever going to persuade him to stop driving? Or your husband's doctor calls with news that your partner is reluctant to tell you: it's cancer.

When that call came to me, I froze. The shock plunges you into a whirlpool of fear, denial, and feverish action. You search out doctors. They don't agree on the diagnosis. You scavenge the Internet. The side effects make you worry. You call your brother or sister, hoping for help. Old rivalries flare up.

We'd like to think that siblings would be natural allies when parents falter. But the facts are quite different. Brothers bury their heads in the sand. The farther away a sister lives, the more certain she will call the primary caregiver and tell her she doesn't know what she's doing. A 1996 study by Cornell and Louisiana State universities concluded that siblings are not just inherent rivals, but the greatest source of stress between human beings.

There are many rewards in giving back to a loved one. And the short-term stress

of mobilizing against the initial crisis jump-starts the body's positive responses. But this role is not a short race. It usually turns into a marathon, averaging almost five years. But most solitary caregivers will wait until the third or fourth year before sending out the desperate cry: "I can't do this anymore!”

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2012.3.5

Madonna seems like a person used to getting her own way. So the pop star must have been dismayed when a court in Malawi refused her request to adopt a three-year-old girl, Mercy James. The reason was that Madonna had not fulfilled residency requirements. The last time Madonna tried to adopt a Malawian child she met with more success and a heap of criticism.

By plucking David Banda from grinding poverty in Malawi in 2006 she provoked mixed reactions. Some praised the singer for offering a child an escape from a life of misery. Others suggested that the pop queen might have used her wealth and stardom to jump the queue. Detractors also suggested that it was wrong to take David away from his country of birth. The criticisms grew louder when it emerged that David was not, in fact, an orphan.

That circumstance is not particularly uncommon. Children given up for adoption

often do have a surviving parent but one who cannot provide adequate care. David's father was still alive but gave him up to an orphanage where he hoped his offspring would have a better life.

The number of families from rich countries wanting to adopt children from poor countries has grown substantially in the past 30 years. And there is little shortage of children who need additional help. In 2005, it was estimated that there were 132 million children who had lost at least one parent in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Around 13 million of these had lost both parents, although most of them lived with extended family.

But difficulties abound. Would-be parents typically want to adopt a healthy and young orphan, usually a small baby. Older children, or those who suffer chronic illnesses, are not in demand.

Governments are understandably uneasy about outsiders removing their citizens. And as the demand for children to adopt has grown, so have examples of abuse, including cases of children who have been kidnapped or parents who have been coerced or bribed. The absence of effective international regulation also allows middlemen to profit from the demand for children to adopt.

The Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoptions is intended to regulate international adoptions. It states that these can only go ahead if the parents' consent has been obtained without any kind of payment or compensation. Costs and expenses can be paid, and a reasonable fee may go to the adoption agency involved, but nothing more.

* [dismayed](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/dismayed" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)使诧异; 使惊愕; 使失望[fulfilled](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/fulfilled" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)感到满足的; 觉得满意的; 满足的[residency](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/residency" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)驻留时间，驻留期; 居住; 定居[grinding](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/grinding" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)没完没了的; 无休止的; 无改进的[provoked](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/provoked" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)激起; 引起; 引发; 挑衅; 激怒; 刺激[misery](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/misery" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)痛苦; 悲惨; 穷困; 悲惨的生活[queen](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/queen" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)女王; 女酋长;[stardom](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/stardom" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)明星的地位[jump the queue](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/jump the queue" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)插队，获得优惠待遇; 插队抢先Detractors批评者[orphan](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/orphan" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)孤儿; 使成为孤儿[circumstance](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/circumstance" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)条件; 环境; 状况; 境况; 境遇[orphanage](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/orphanage" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)孤儿院[offspring](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/offspring" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)孩子; 子女; 后代; 崽兽[substantially](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/substantially" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)非常; 大大地; 基本上; 大体上;[estimated](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/estimated" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)估价; 估算;[Latin America](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Latin America" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)拉丁美洲[Caribbean](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Caribbean" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)加勒比海地区;[extended family](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/extended family" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)大家庭[abound](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/abound" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)大量存在; 有许多[chronic](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/chronic" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)长期的; 慢性的; 难以治愈的; 长期患病的uneasy 不舒服的；心神不安的；不稳定的[coerced](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/coerced" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)强迫; 胁迫; 迫使[bribed](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/bribed" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)向行贿; 贿赂;[Convention](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Convention" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)习俗; 常规; 惯例; 大会，集会[consent](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/consent" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)同意; 准许; 允许; 赞同; [compensation](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/compensation" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)补偿物; 赔偿金

2012.10.1

The Super Bowl and the Oscars are the moon and sun of American communal rituals. Together, more Americans watch them than attend church or vote in presidential elections.

Like it or not, they are America`s preeminent means of announcing itself to the world; we can share our ideals with hundreds of millions of our friends (and enemies) around the planet.

Of the two events, one emphasizes the spirit of collective effort, by gathering anonymous men in identical uniforms to sacrifice themselves for the shared ideals of the tribe. The other glorifies the exceptional individual, who is celebrated for the Virtually anywhere there is a television-in Afghanistan, in Uruguay---these grand pageants are watched.

The Super Bowl offers us a model of the kind of moral clarity that can be elusive on the playing fields of our lives. Its scores are settled on neutral territory, and its teams are governed by inflexible rules. There is little room for favoritism or sentimentality or emotional nuance. Football knows right from wrong. The Super Bowl shows us a world we all can agree on---one in which, far removed from the messiness of everyday life, strength and skill and practical intelligence prevail. Its champions earn their trip to Disneyland because they prove themselves to be rulers of a magical kingdom.

The Oscars, on the other hand, restore us to the commotion of the social world. They allow charm, money, fame and influence to matter. Sex and youth count above all, which is why, to the Oscars` disgrace, women over 40 are rarely on display. Like Greek gods, the stars of the show are magnifications of the best and worst in all of us. No matter that they arrive bedecked with jewels or with a supermodel on their arm or with a complexion whose glow is suspiciously youthful, at the Oscars they are stripped to their most vulnerable selves, utterly at the mercy of the unpredictable. The Oscars give us unfiltered human spectacle in which one is either called to the stage to meet with approval or forced to sit and contend with feelings of neglect and disappointment.

[Super Bowl](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Super Bowl" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)超级碗橄榄球赛[communal](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/communal" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)共享的，共有的，共用的[rituals](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/rituals" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)程序; 仪规; 礼节; 宗教仪式; 习惯[preeminent](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/preeminent" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)优秀的[anonymous](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/anonymous" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)不知姓名的; 名字不公开的; 匿名的[identical](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/identical" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)完全同样的; 相同的[uniforms](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/uniforms" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)制服; 校服[sacrifice](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/sacrifice" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)牺牲; 舍弃; 祭献; 祭祀[glorifies](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/glorifies" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)吹捧; 吹嘘; 美化; 颂扬，赞美[exceptional](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/exceptional" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)杰出的; 优秀的; 卓越的; 异常[Virtually](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Virtually" \t 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2012.10.2

More than 50 years ago, the psychologist Carl Rogers suggested that simply loving our children wasn`t enough. We have to love them unconditionally---for who they are, not for what they do.

As a father, I know this is a tall order, but it becomes even more challenging now that so much of the advice we are given amounts to exactly the opposite. In effect, we`re given tips in conditional parenting, which comes in two flavors: turn up the affection when they`re good, withhold affection when they`re not.

Conditional parenting isn’t limited to old-school authoritarians. Some people who wouldn`t dream of spanking choose instead to discipline their young children by forcibly isolating them, a tactic we call “time out”. Conversely, “positive reinforcement” teaches children that they are loved only when they do whatever we decide is a “good job”. The primary message of all types of conditional parenting is that children must earn a parent`s love.

The child psychologist Bruno Bettelheim, who readily acknowledged that the version of negative conditional parenting known as time-out can cause “deep feelings of anxiety”, nevertheless endorsed it for that very reason. “When our words are not enough”, he said, “the threat of the withdrawal of our love and affection is the only sound method to impress on him that he had better conform to our request”.

But research suggests that love withdrawal isn`t particularly effective at getting compliance, much less at promoting moral development. Even if we did succeed in making children obey us, is obedience worth the possible long-term psychological harm? Should parental love be used as a tool for controlling children?

Albert Bandura, the father of the branch of psychology known as social learning theory, declared that unconditional love “would make children directionless and quite unlovable”---an assertion entirely unsupported by empirical studies. The idea that children accepted for who they are would lack direction or appeal is most informative for what is tells us about the dark view of human nature held by those who issue such warnings.

In practice, unconditional acceptance should be accompanied by actively imagining how things look from the child`s point of view. Most of us would protest that of course we love our children without any strings attached. But what counts is how things look from the perspective of the children---whether they feel just as loved when they mess up or fall short.

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2012.10.3

It`s a Monday night at MIT, just a few weeks before final exams. Grad students Tegin Teich and Todd Schenk could be studying or relaxing. Instead, they`re hustling through a maze of basement hallways in search of notorious energy hogs: vending machines. The average soda dispenser consumes 3,500 kilowatts a year---more than four times the juice for a home refrigerator. To conserve electricity, MIT`s administrators have been installing devices called Vending Misers, which use motion detectors to turn off a machine`s lights and cooling systems when people aren`t nearby, cutting energy consumption by 50%. Trouble is, MIT isn`t exactly sure where all its vending machines are located, or which ones already have the devices installed. So tonight it`s enlisted the MIT Energy Club to help figure it out.

It`s just one event on the club`s very busy calendar. With 750 students, the four-year- old group is MIT`s fastest-growing extracurricular organization. Many of its members aim to build careers in “green tech” fields, and club events offer a chance to network and learn about the challenges and opportunities in emerging energy fields. In recent weeks, members had lunch with the U.S. Energy Secretary and toured a nuclear reactor. Others discussed national biofuel policy as part of a biweekly discussion held over beer and pizza at a local pub. Club members say the group exposes them to people and ideas from other disciplines; as a result, M.B.A. types become better versed in the science of climate change, while science geeks get comfortable reading business plans and understanding concepts like return on investment. In contrast to left-leaning campus environmentalists of a decade ago, who might have joined Greenpeace after school, “most of our members really believe in the power of the tools of capitalism to solve the problem”, says founder Dave Danielson, who earned a Ph. D. in material sciences last fall.

Down in the basement at MIT, Teich and Schenk have found a group of eight vending machines. Four of them are hooked up to Vending Misers, but only one is functioning. “This is like wiring a stereo”, Schenk says, untangling wires to make the devices work. Teich climbs on top of a different machine to pick off layers of masking tape left over from a paint job that had rendered the gizmo`s sensor inoperable. “We probably just saved MIT $100” in reduced electricity bills, Teich says. It won`t save the planet---but every bit counts.

[hustling](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/hustling" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)推搡; 猛推; 催促; 兜售，取得[maze](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/maze" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)迷宫; 纷繁复杂的规则; 复杂难懂的细节[hallways](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/hallways" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)走廊，过道; 门[notorious](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/notorious" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)声名狼藉的; 臭名昭著的[hogs](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/hogs" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)猪; 阉公猪; 多占; 独占[vending machines](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/vending machines" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)投币式自动售货机[dispenser](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/dispenser" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)自动取物装置[conserve](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/conserve" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)节省; 节约; 保护; 保存; 保藏[enlisted](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/enlisted" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)士兵的; 争取，谋取; 入伍; 征募[extracurricular](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/extracurricular" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)课外的; 工作之余的[biofuel](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/biofuel" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)生物燃料[biweekly](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/biweekly" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)双周的; 两周一次的; 双周刊[held over](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/held over" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)延搁推迟[disciplines](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/disciplines" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)训练; 训导; 纪律; 风纪; 训练方法; 行为准则[versed](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/versed" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)精通的; 熟练的[geeks](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/geeks" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)闷蛋; 土包子,极客们[left-leaning](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/left-leaning" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)左倾的[capitalism](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/capitalism" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)资本主义[hooked](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/hooked" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)弯曲的; 钩形的; 上瘾; 有毒瘾; 着迷[wiring](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/wiring" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)线路; 用导线给接通电源; 将…连接到[stereo](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/stereo" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)立体声音响; 立体声的; 有立体感的[untangling](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/untangling" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)解开，松开; 整理; 理清[pick off](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/pick off" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)逐个瞄准射中,传感器[rendered](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/rendered" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)使成为; 使变得; 使处于某状态,提出[inoperable](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/inoperable" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)手术无法治愈的; 无法使用的gizmo 小发明

2012.10.4

No doll outshines Barbie`s celebrity. If all the Barbies and her family members---Skipper, Francie and the rest---sold since 1959 were placed head to toe, they would circle the Earth more than seven times. And sales boomed in 2009, when the fashion doll celebrated her 50th birthday on March 9 th.

Barbie starred at an array of global events honouring her milestone, including a glamorous affair at New York`s Fashion Week in February. On her birthday, Mattel, the company that makes her, launched a souvenir doll honouring the original Barbie in her black-and-white striped swimsuit and perfect ponytail. It was available for purchase only that one day. Another Golden Anniversary doll targets collectors. Barbie fans planned hundreds of events, including the National Barbie Doll Collectors Convention in Washington D.C, which was sold out.

When Ruth Handler created Barbie in 1959, a post-war culture and economy thrived but girls still played with baby dolls. These toys limited the imagination; so Handler introduced Barbie the Teen-Age Fashion Model, named after her daughter, Barbara. Jackie Kennedy soon walked onto the world stage and Barbie already had a wardrobe fit for a first lady. Barbie bestowed on girls the opportunity to dream beyond suburbia, even if Ken(Barbie`s fictional boyfriend) at times tagged along.

Barbie entranced Europe in 1961 and now sells in 150 countries. Every second three Barbies are sold around the world. Her careers are myriad---model, astronaut, Olympic swimmer, palaeontologist and rock star, along with 100 others, including president. Like any political candidate, controversy hit Barbie in 1992 when Teen Talk Barbie said “Math class is tough” and girls` education became a national issue. She has been banned (in Saudi Arabia), tortured (by pre-teen girls, according to researchers at the University of Bath`s School of Management) and fattened (in 1997).

Feminists continue to batter Barbie, claiming that her beauty and curves treat women as objects. But others see her as a pioneer trendsetter, crashing the glass ceiling long before Hillary Clinton cracked it.

High-tech entertainment now attracts girls and Barbie also faces fierce competition from various copycats including the more fashionable, but less charming, Bratz dolls. The Bratz suffered a setback in 2008. Mattel sued MGA Entertainment, Bratz`s producer, for copyright infringement. A judge awarded Mattel $100m in damages.

[doll](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/doll" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)玩偶; 玩具娃娃; 俊妞[outshines](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/outshines" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)比…做得好; 使逊色; 高人一筹Barbie芭比娃娃[celebrity](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/celebrity" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)名人; 名流; 名望; 名誉; 著名skipper队长；船长；机长[toe](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/toe" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)脚趾; 足尖部; 有…脚趾的; 用脚尖走[starred](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/starred" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)主演; 担任主角; 使主演; [honouring](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/honouring" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)尊敬，尊重[milestone](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/milestone" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)重要事件; 重要阶段，转折点; 里程碑[glamorous](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/glamorous" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)特别富有魅力的; 富于刺激的; 独特的[souvenir](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/souvenir" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)纪念物; 纪念品; 礼物[striped](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/striped" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)有条纹的[ponytail](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/ponytail" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)马尾辫[sold out](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/sold out" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)票已售完的，满场的，满座的;[wardrobe](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/wardrobe" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)衣柜; 衣橱; 放置衣物的壁橱[bestowed](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/bestowed" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)给予，授予，献给[suburbia](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/suburbia" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)郊区[Ken](https://fanyi.baidu.com/" \l "en/zh/Ken" \t "https://fanyi.baidu.com/translate?aldtype=16047&query=&keyfrom=baidu&smartresult=dict&lang=auto2zh" \l "en/zh/_blank)视野; 知识范围; 理解范围; 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2012.10.5

As he has done frequently over the last 18 months, Andy Roost drove is blue diesel Peugeot 205 onto a farm, where signs pointed one way for “eggs” and another for “oil”.

He unscrewed the gas cap and chatted casually as Colin Friedlos, the proprietor, poured three large jugs of used cooking oil---tinted green to indicate environmental benefit---into the Peugeot`s gas tank.

Mr. Friedlos operates one of hundreds of small plants in Britain that are processing, and often selling to private motorists, used cooking oil, which can be poured directly into unmodified diesel cars, from Fords to Mercedes.

The global recession and the steep drop in oil prices have now killed many of those large refining ventures. But smaller, simpler ones like Mr. Friedlos`s are moving in to fill the void with their direct-to-tank product, with a flood of offers of free oil from restaurants.

Used cooking oil has attracted growing attention in recent years as a cleaner, less expensive alternative to fossil fuels for vehicles. In many countries, including the United States, the oil is collected by companies and refined into a form of diesel. Some cities use it in specially modified municipal buses or vans. And the occasional environmentalist has experimented with individually filtering the oil and using it as fuel.

Peder Jensen, a transport specialist at the European Environment Agency, said that cooking oil fuel was “feasible” for diesel engines---Rudolf Diesel predicted that his engine, patented in the 1890s, would run on it---and that it was, “from an environmental point of view, a good idea, taking this waste and making it useful”.

Others disagree. Stuart Johnson, manager of engineering and environment at Volkswagen of America, called putting raw vegetable oil in cars“ a bad idea” and said, “We don`t recommend it”. The inconsistent quality of cooking oil fuel, he said, means that “it may contain impurities and it may be too viscous”, especially for newer, more complex diesel engines with injection systems.

None of that seems to stir concern in Mr. Nicholson, the Welsh entrepreneur. He said, “There is a lot of resistance”, he said, “to putting something into your precious car that you brewed in the kitchen sink”.

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2013.3.1

Ever since the early days of modern computing in the 1940s, the biological metaphor has been irresistible. The first computers---room-size behemoths---were referred to as “giant brains” or “electronic brains”, in headlines and everyday speech. As computers improved and became capable of some tasks familiar to humans, like playing chess, the term used was “artificial intelligence”. DNA, it is said, is the original software.

For the most part, the biological metaphor has long been just that --- a simplifying analogy rather than a blueprint for how to do computing. Engineering, not biology, guided the pursuit of artificial intelligence. As Frederick Jelinek, a pioneer in speech recognition, put it, “airplanes don`t flap their wings”.

Yet the principles of biology are gaining ground as a tool in computing. The shift in thinking results from advances in neuroscience and computer science, and from the push of necessity.

The physical limits of conventional computer designs are within sight---not today or tomorrow, but soon enough. Nanoscale circuits cannot shrink much further. Today`s chips are power hogs, running hot, which curbs how much of a chip`s circuitry can be used. These limits loom as demand is accelerating for computing capacity to make sense of a surge of new digital data from sensors, online commerce, social networks, video streams and corporate and government databases.

To meet the challenge, without gobbling the world`s energy supply, a different approach will be needed. And biology, scientists say, promises to contribute more than metaphors. “Every time we look at this, biology provides a clue as to how we should pursue the frontiers of computing”, said John E. Kelly, the director of research at I.B.M.

Dr. Kelly points to Watson, the question-answering computer that can play “Jeopardy!” and beat two human champions earlier this year. The I.B.M.`s clever machine consumes 85,000 watts of electricity, while the human brain runs on just 20 watts. “Evolution figured this out”, Dr. Kelly said.

Several biologically inspired paths are being explored by computer scientists in universities and corporate laboratories worldwide. One project, a collaboration of computer scientists and neuroscientists begun three years ago, has been encouraging enough that in August it won a $21 million round of government financing. In recent months, the team has developed prototype “neurosynaptic” microprocessors, or chips that operate more like neurons and synapses than like conventional semiconductors.

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2013.3.2

South Korea`s hagwon (private tutoring academies) crackdown is one part of a larger quest to tame the country`s culture of educational masochism. At the national and local levels, politicians are changing school testing and university admissions policies to reduce student stress and reward softer qualities like creativity. “One-size-fits-all, government-led uniform curriculums and an education system that is locked only onto the college-entrance examination are not acceptable”, President Lee Myung-bak vowed at his inauguration in 2008.

But cramming is deeply embedded in Asia, where top grades---and often nothing else---have long been prized as essential for professional success. Modern-day South Korea has taken this competition to new extremes. In 2010, 74% of all students engaged in some kind of private after-school instruction, sometimes called shadow education, at an average cost of $2,600 per student for the year. There are more private instructors in South Korea than there are schoolteachers, and the most popular of them make millions a year from online and in-person classes. When Singapore`s Education Minister was asked last year about his nation`s reliance on private tutoring, he found one reason for hope: “We`re not as bad as the Koreans”.

In Seoul, large numbers of students who fail to get into top universities spend the entire year after high school attending hagwons to improve their scores on university admissions exams. And they must compete even to do this. At the prestigious Daesung Institute, admission is based on students` test scores. Only 14% of applicants are accepted. After a year of 14-hour days, about 70% gain entry to one of the nation`s top three universities.

From a distance, South Korea`s results look enviable. Its students consistently outperform their counterparts in almost every country in reading and math. In the U.S., Barack Obama and his Education Secretary speak glowingly of the enthusiasm South Korean parents have for educating their children, and they lament how far U.S. students are falling behind. Without its education obsession, South Korea could not have been transformed into the economic powerhouse that it is today. But the country`s leaders worry that unless its rigid, hierarchical system starts to nurture more innovation, economic growth will stall---and fertility rates will continue to decline as families feel the pressure of paying for all that tutoring. “You Americans see a bright side of the Korean system”, Education Minister Lee Ju-ho tells me. “but Koreans are not happy with it”.

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2013.3.3

A dispute that, according to Members of Parliament (MPs), threatens the very survival of London Metropolitan University(London Met), the capital`s biggest higher education institution, is spilling over on to London`s streets. Last week lorry drivers on Holloway Road in Islington watched as a group of students and staff marched in protest against a meeting of London Met`s governors.

“Save our Staff” and “London Met on the Roper”, a reference to the university`s vice-chancellor, Professor Brian Roper, screamed the banners.

The university, which has 34,000 students, has long attracted controversy for the militancy of its staff and students, but the latest row is a more serious matter. This crisis is over an attempt by the Higher Education Funding Council (Hefc) to claw back more than £50m that London Met should not have received. It is believed that as many as 500 jobs could go as a result of the university having been overpaid for student dropouts since 2005, and the unions are furious, claiming at the same time that the university is being unfairly treated by Hefc but that neither the managers nor the governors have explored the alternatives to job cuts.

“The University and College Union (UCU) is very concerned that the Hefc regulations appear to discriminate against widening participation”, said a UCU spokesperson. “But we also feel very strongly about the fact that the management are not consulting the unions as they are required to do in law and that they have not considered alternatives like a freeze on new appointments”.

One of the issues in dispute is whether students who did not take their assessments at the end of the year but were intending to take them the following year should be classified as drop-outs. Hefc considers them to have dropped out and says that its funding definitions apply to all universities regardless; UCU believes they should not be classified in this way on the grounds that they need all the help they can get to complete the course.

The dispute has also hit the House of Commons. An early day motion signed by MPs says that the scale of the cuts---an 18m reduction in teaching budgets and 38m in claw-backs for precious years---“throws the future operability of the university into doubt at a time when education and training are vital to the capital`s economic health”.

2013.3.4

After years of defensiveness, a siege mentality and the stonewalling of any criticism, a quiet revolution is under way in animal research.

What has triggered this change of heart? It`s partly down to the economic climate plus fewer new medicines and the removal of much of the threat from animal rights extremism, in the UK at least.

Until recently the only criticism of animal research came from antivivisection groups who persistently complained about a lack of transparency. Now criticism is coming from researchers too, with the recognition that not all aspects of animal experimentation are as robust as they should be and that something needs to change.

That is why we have published new guidelines aimed at improving the quality of reporting on animal experiments in research papers. These have been met with support, notably from the major funding bodies and many international journals. This is indicative of the new climate in which we operate.

Five years ago the guidelines would have been met with skepticism and accusations of increased bureaucracy from some within the scientific community.

The difference is that these guidelines come in the wake of recent studies, which reveal serious shortcomings in animal research. One by my own organization, the UK`s NC3Rs, found that key information was missing from many of the 300 or so publications we analysed that described publicly funded experiments on rodents and monkeys in the UK and the US.

The new guidelines should ensure the science emerging from animal research is maximized and that every animal used counts. Better reporting will allow greater opportunity to evaluate which animal models are useful and which are not. One way of doing this is through the systematic reviews that are the gold standard in clinical studies but rarely undertaken for animal studies due to the lack of information published.

Animal research has been a thorn in the side of researchers for many years. We can`t afford to get this wrong, scientifically, ethically or financially. Failings in reporting animal data properly can be perceived as an attempt to hide something, either about the quality or value of what is being done. When animal research is funded from the public purse a public mandate is essential. There is much scope for improvement. It is time for scientists---funders, researchers and editors---to use the new guidelines to put our house in order.

2013.3.5

Likenesses of Buddha are those days so commonplace---the casual adornment of fashionable spas, fusion restaurants and Parisian nightclubs---that it is strange to think that artists once hesitated, out of reverence, to portray the Buddha in corporeal form. In 2nd century India, judging by 2nd century sandstone carving excavated from Mathura, it was sufficient to simply depict an empty throne---the implication that the Buddha was a spiritual king being very clearly understood by anyone who saw it.

But as the stunning new gallery of Buddhist sculpture at London`s Victoria and Albert Museum makes plain, somewhere along the line the reticence(沉默) about rendering the Buddha`s likeness gave way, and the world embarked on two millenniums of rich iconography and statuary. The gallery`s 47 masterworks, chosen from the museum`s renowned Asian collections, trace the Buddha`s portrayal from the 2nd to 19th centuries, in places as diverse as India, Java and Japan.

Inspiration came from unexpected sources. Some sculptors in Sri Lanka and China simply shaped the Buddha in their own likenesses. A 4th century stucco bust unearthed in Afghanistan features the full lips associated with India Gupta art, but also fulsome curls that reflect the Greco-Roman artists brought to the region by Alexander the Great.

Other enlightened souls are shown beside the Buddha. Among the gallery`s most glorious artifacts are depictions of bodhisattvas---those who deliberately postpone their passage to nirvana(涅槃), Buddhists believe, in order to help others along the eightfold path. In the 14th century, metalworkers from Nepal`s Kathmandu Valley crafted the Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, a manifestation of the Buddhist lord of compassion, in gilded copper and precious-stone inlay. An and rogynous-looking deity with wide hips and sensuous form (in Chinese tradition, Avalokiteshvara or Guan Yin is female, in others male), Avalokiteshvara`s serene face projects the harmony to which all Buddhists aspire.

John Clarke, the gallery`s principal curator, says that Avalokiteshvara is sometimes depicted holding a blooming lotus---a symbol of spiritual purity. “It comes up from the mud, flowers, and remains untouched by the dirt that surrounded it”, he says. You could say the same thing for the wonderful richness of Buddhist art.