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Pandemic Cancels Texas African Business Summit



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Southern DAILY

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China senior diplomat says U.S. relations at ‘new crossroads’



SHANGHAI (Reuters) -China’s relationship with the United States has reached a “new crossroads” and could get back on the right track following a period of “unprecedented difficulty”, senior diplomat Wang Yi said in official comments published on Saturday.

Relations between the world’s two biggest economies have come under increasing strain amid a series of disputes over trade, human rights and the origins of COVID-19. In its latest move, the United States blacklisted dozens of Chinese companies it said had ties to the military.

Wang, China’s state councillor and foreign minister, said in a joint interview with Xinhua news agency and other state media outlets that recent U.S. policies towards China had harmed the interests of both countries and brought huge dangers to the world.

But there was now an opportunity for the two sides to “open a new window of hope” and begin a new round of dialogue, he said.

President has been widely expected to improve relations between Washington and Beijing after four years of escalating tensions under the administration of Donald Trump. Last month, Wang said he hoped the election of Biden would allow U.S. China policy to “return to objectivity and rationality”.

However, President-elect Biden, who will take office on Jan. 20, has continued to criticise China for its “abuses” on trade and other issues.

Wang did not mention Trump or Biden by name, but he urged the United States to “respect the social system and development path” chosen by China, adding that if Washington “learns lessons”, the conflicts between the two sides could be resolved.

“We know some people in the United States are apprehensive about China’s rapid development, but the most sustainable leadership is to constantly move forward yourself, rather than block the development of other countries,” he said.

cused China of covering up the outbreak of COVID-19 during its early stages, delaying its response and allowing the disease to spread much further and faster.

But Wang said China had done its utmost to combat the virus’s spread, “sounding the alarm” for the rest of the world.

“We raced against time, and were the earliest to report the epidemic to the world,” he said. “More and more studies show that the epidemic very probably emerged in many places throughout the world.”

FILE PHOTO: Flags of U.S. and China are displayed at American International Chamber of Commerce (AICC)’s booth during China International Fair for Trade in Services in Beijing, China, May 28, 2019. REUTERS/Jason Lee



The election of Joe Biden as U.S.

Politicians in the United States have ac-



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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/02/2021

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

Wealee@scdaily.com

Miserable Year Should Be Over Soon

Today the U.S. surpassed 20 million COVID-19 cases while experts predict more tough times ahead this month. The nation has also set a pandemic hospitalization record for four straight days. Some leaders say the worst is yet to come. In Atlanta, the convention center will again become a field hospital according to John Hopkins University. Data shows that December was the deadliest month with more than 77,500 deaths, bringing the total now to 346,000 deaths.

Defense Authorization Act delivering a defeat to the president in his final days in office.

Trump's veto really forced the Republicans to decide whether to defy the president in support of legislation that sets the defense policy for the country. A lot of politicians know that Trump got more than seventy million votes in the election which gave him a very strong political base for the future.

The Senate voted on Friday to override President Trump's veto of the National

Virginia Democratic Senator Tim Kaine issued a statement after the vote in the



Senate saying that today's vote sent a clear message that Congress will not allow President Trump to stand in the way of that support stating that, "I'm relieved the critical bipartisan priorities we fought for will become law."

As many as 140 House Republicans could vote to throw out the electoral votes on January 6. That number repre-

sents a strong majority of Republicans in the House trying to overturn the election and swear allegiance to the president. But in reality, these political games will really damage our democratic system.

We as ordinary citizens are really disgusted with what's been going on in Washington D.C. politics. All we want is the peaceful life.



Publisher Southern Daily Wea H. Lee

Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Nation's First Experimental Plasma Treatment Against COVID-19 Is Currently Being Tested At Houston Methodist

COVID-19 Blood-Transfusion Therapy Finding Success



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

When facing a pandemic, every second is critical. And since the outbreak, Houston Methodist's physician-scientists have been readying the nation's first experimental COVID-19 plasma treatment.

The experimental treatment transfuses vital antibodies found in the plasma of recovered COVID-19 patients into a critically ill patient, in the hopes of providing that patient with life-saving treatment. One of the major advantages of this treatment approach is that it can be tested and used right now, while vaccines and antiviral drugs can take from months to years to develop.

From Bench to Bedside — Fast

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) classifies this experimental treatment as an emergency investigational new drug protocol (eIND) that requires FDA approval for each patient infused with donated convalescent serum. Houston Methodist physician-scientists began recruiting blood plasma donors from across the Greater Houston area who have recovered after testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. We immediately identified willing donors, who each give a quart of blood plasma in a procedure much like donating whole blood.



The physician-scientists at Methodist are seeking additional FDA approval for follow-up experimental studies, and possibly a multicenter national trial on the effectiveness of convalescent serum therapy against the COVID-19 virus.

Beating COVID-19 — Using Antibodies Made to Fight It

Plasma from someone who has recovered from COVID-19 contains antibodies made by the immune system that potentially could be used to destroy the virus. Transfusing this antibody-rich plasma into a COVID-19 patient — a patient still fighting the virus — may transfer the benefits of the antibodies into a healing, possibly life-saving therapy.

What Is Donating Plasma Like?

The process for donating plasma is similar to donating blood and takes about an hour. Plasma donors are hooked up to a small device that removes plasma while simultaneously returning red blood cells to their bodies. Unlike regular blood donation in which donors have to wait for red blood cells to replenish between donations, plasma can be donated more frequently, as often as twice a week.

Your Plasma Donation Is Vital

We are hoping that this can be a viable, scalable treatment that helps in this crisis. If you have had COVID-19 and are interested in helping others by donating your plasma, please call 346.238.4360. Please note: You do not have to be a Houston Methodist patient to donate, but you must have a verified, positive COVID-19

test.



Related

FDA APPROVES FIRST PLASMA THERAPY FOR HOUSTON METHODIST COVID-19 PATIENT

Houston Methodist has received FDA approval to become the first academic medical center in the nation to transfuse donated plasma from a recovered COVID-19 patient into a critically ill patient. This treatment was fast-tracked to the bedside over the weekend as the death toll in the COVID-19 pandemic soared to more than 2,000 people across the United States, with more than 100,000 Americans sick from the virus.

Houston Methodist physician scientists have begun recruiting blood plasma donors from among the approximately 250 patients who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus at Houston Methodist hospitals. Willing donors were immediately identified, who each give a quart of blood plasma in a procedure much like donating whole blood. Plasma from someone who has recovered from COVID-19 contains antibodies made by the immune system and used to kill the virus. Transfusing this antibody-rich plasma into a COVID-19 patient — a patient still fighting the virus — may transfer the power of the antibodies into a healing, possibly life-saving therapy.



Dr. Eric Salazar

The first recovered COVID-19 patient to donate plasma was an individual from the Houston metropolitan area who has been in good health for more than two weeks. The plasma was transfused into a COVID-19 patient on Saturday evening at Houston Methodist Hospital.

Known as convalescent serum therapy, the con-

cept dates back more than a century, when similar treatments were used during the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918, a diphtheria outbreak in the 1920s, a flesh-eating bacteria epidemic in the 1930s, and during other outbreaks of infectious diseases. While literature abounds on the theory that immunity can be transferred from a healthy individual to a sick individual using convalescent plasma, results have varied. A description of the treatment of five patients in China was published this week in the Journal of the American Medical Association, suggesting that the treatment was beneficial.

"Here at Houston Methodist, we have the capability, the expertise and the patient base from our health care system, and we feel obligated to try this therapy," said Houston Methodist President and CEO Marc Boom.

"There is so much to be learned about this disease while it's occurring," he said. "If an infusion of convalescent serum can help save the life of a critically ill patient, then applying the full resources of our blood bank, our expert faculty, and our academic medical center is incredibly worthwhile and important to do."

Houston Methodist recruitment began as soon as the FDA issued regulatory guidelines for the study earlier last week. Physician scientists at



Houston Methodist already had designed and validated a COVID-19 molecular test two months ago and were prepared to begin collecting data when COVID-19 patients started arriving. The Houston Methodist IRB and regulatory affairs experts reviewed the treatment protocol rapidly and secured the FDA approval this weekend.

In New York City earlier this week, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced that patient recruitment for plasma donations would begin in a matter of days and initially would focus on the heavily hit New York City suburb of New Rochelle, NY.

Eric Salazar, M.D., Ph.D., principal investigator and a physician scientist in the Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at

the Houston Methodist Hospital and Research Institute, said a review of COVID-19 patients' charts indicates that nearly two-thirds of the patients may meet the criteria to donate plasma. Patients with critical underlying conditions and advanced age will not be eligible to donate.

Under FDA guidelines, Houston Methodist's convalescent serum therapy treatment is classified as an emergency investigational new drug protocol (eIND) that requires FDA approval for each patient infused with donated convalescent serum. Houston Methodist physician scientists will seek additional FDA approval for follow-up studies, possibly a multicenter national trial on the effectiveness of convalescent serum therapy against the COVID-19 virus.

The process for donating plasma is similar to donating blood and takes about an hour. Plasma donors are hooked up to a small device that removes plasma while simultaneously returning red blood cells to their bodies. Unlike regular blood donation in which donors have to wait for red blood cells to replenish between donations, plasma can be donated more frequently, as often as twice a week.

"Convalescent serum therapy could be a vital treatment route, because unfortunately there is relatively little to offer many patients except supportive care, and the ongoing clinical trials are going to take a while. We don't have that much time," Salazar said. (Courtesy <https://www.houstonmethodist.org/>)



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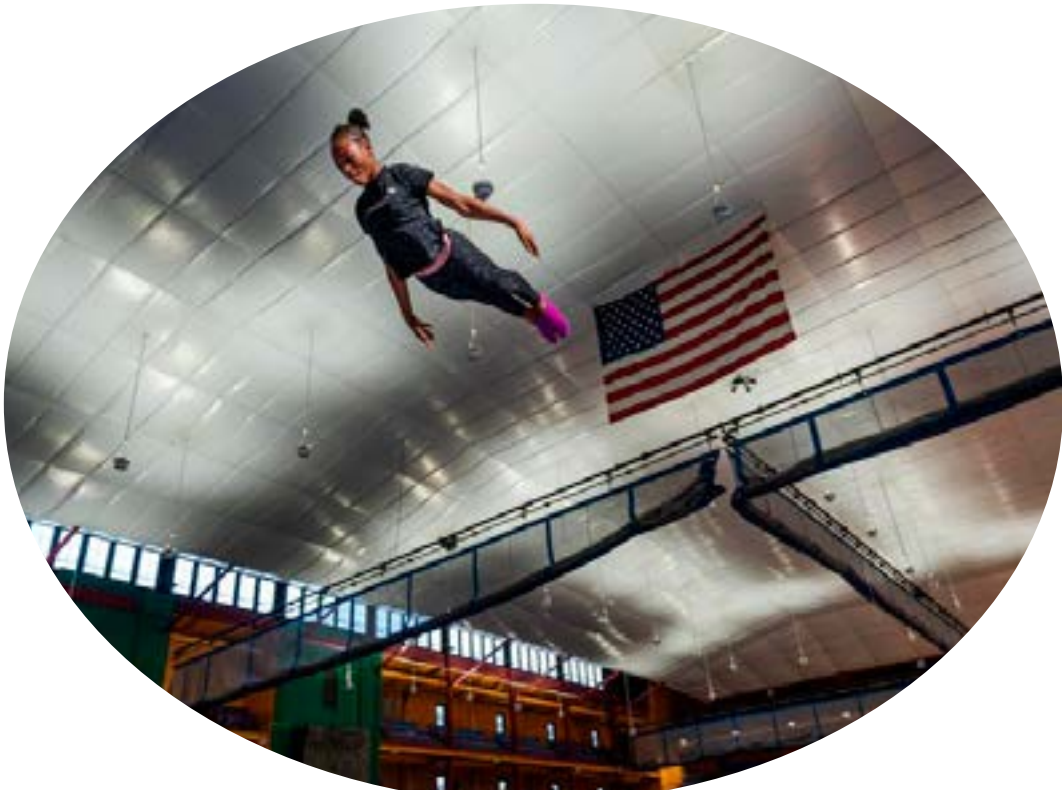
Editor's Choice



A woman stands in flooded St. Mark's Square during high tide as the flood barriers known as Mose are not raised, in Venice, Italy. REUTERS/Manuel Silvestri



Tanna Ingraham places the body of a patient who died due to COVID-19 inside a body bag, at United Memorial Medical Center in Houston, Texas, December 30, 2020. REUTERS/Callaghan O'Hare



Gymnast Ty-La Morris trains at the Wendy Hilliard Gymnastics Foundation, which offers free and discounted classes for children in Detroit and in New York, in New York. The 13-year-old, who said she's drawn comparisons to 2016 Olympic champion Simone Biles, said a full - a tumbling move where a gymnast flips backwards and twists - was her favorite move that she's learned through her classes at Wendy Hilliard Foundation. She's also formed rock-solid bonds there with other students. "We are very close. We (are) like brothers and sisters," she said.



Rohingya refugees disembark from a navy vessel as they arrive at the Bhasan Char island in Noakhali district, Bangladesh, December 29, 2020. Bangladesh is set to move some 100,000 Rohingya from cramped refugee camps on the mainland to the low-lying...[MORE](#)



Azeri service members guard the area, which came under the control of Azerbaijan's troops following a military conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh against ethnic Armenian forces and a further signing of a ceasefire deal, on the border with Iran in Jabrayil District. REUTERS/



Bianca Toniolo draws on her bedroom's window on Christmas Eve in San Fiorano, Italy, December 24, 2020. Her father Marzio Toniolo has been documenting what life has been like for the small cluster of northern Italian towns since they were put on lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak weeks before the rest of the country. REUTERS/Marzio

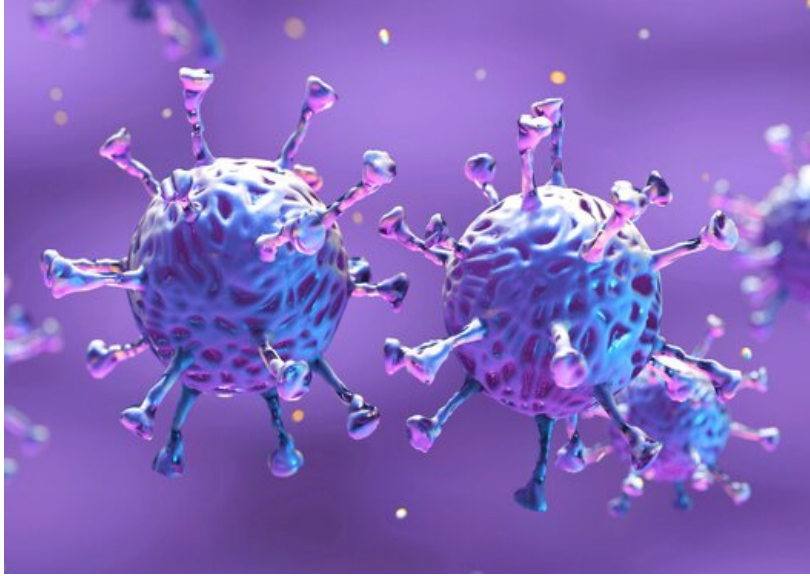


Nurse Elena Betti reacts after receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at the Careggi hospital in Florence, Italy, December 27, 2020. REUTERS/Jennifer Lorenzini



Nicky Clough looks through the window as her mother Pam Harrison opens a present on Christmas Day at Alexander House Care Home in Wimbledon, London, Britain, December 25, 2020. REUTERS/Hannah McKay

Why Obesity May Increase The Risk For COVID-19 Risk

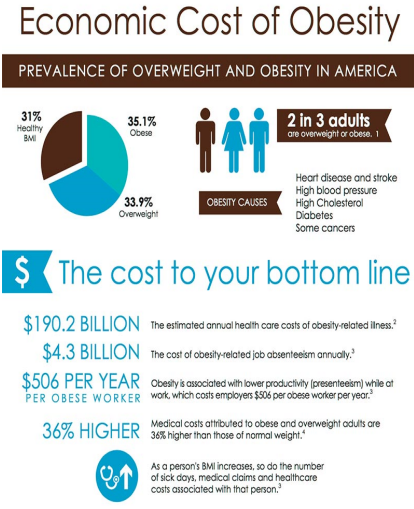


Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

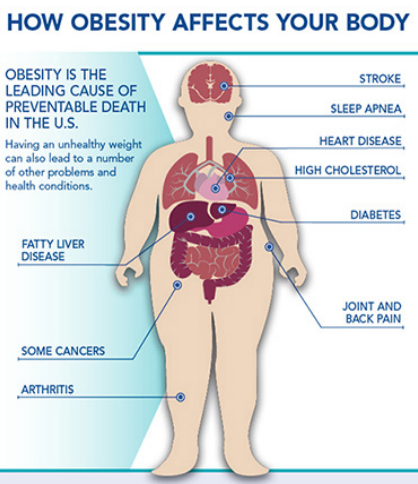
Stephen O’Rahilly recently spent a week in a hospital, sick with COVID-19 and struggling to breathe. “My lungs were quite badly affected,” says O’Rahilly, 62, who spent almost a week getting extra oxygen in what’s known as a high-intensity care unit in the U.K. The experience got him thinking: While about 80% of cases of COVID-19 can be treated at home, why do some people, including him, wind up with more severe infections? Besides his age, O’Rahilly knew he had another strike against him when it comes to COVID-19 infection: his weight. His BMI, or body mass index, is over 30. O’Rahilly, who directs the MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit at Cambridge University, is considered one of the world’s leading obesity researchers. He was knighted in 2013 by Queen Elizabeth II for his work, which includes the discovery of a genetic condition that robs the body of the hormone leptin, which controls appetite and weight. And so after his brush with the coronavirus, he started digging into exactly what it is about obesity that makes it so risky for

a COVID-19 infection. **Obesity a Known COVID Risk** It has become clearer that people who are obese are one of the groups at highest risk from the disease, regardless of their age. The CDC recently refined its risk categories for COVID-19, stating that obesity was as big a risk for COVID as having a suppressed immune system or chronic lung or kidney disease. The agency also lowered the bar for where that risk starts -- from a BMI of 40 to a BMI of 30. Roughly 40% of Americans have a BMI over 30. The CDC’s change in BMI risk comes after a British study of more than 17 million people found that people living with severe obesity were about twice as likely to die from COVID-19 as people who were not obese. That was true even after other things like their age and sex were taken into account. The study also found that risk rises with the degree of obesity. The bigger a person, the higher their risk of a COVID-19 death. During the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic, there was a strong link between obesity and bad outcomes for patients. People with obesity were at a higher risk of dying

during flu pandemics in the 1950s and 1960s, too. **Markers Hint to Reason** So why is that? Some people say that being heavier just makes it harder to breathe, especially when you’re sick.



The Relationship Between COVID-19 and Diabetes **Uncontrolled blood sugar can make it harder to fight off infection. Here’s what you should know about diabetes and COVID-19.** “On the radio, you heard people making really facile comments about big tummies and pressing on the diaphragm and bad for ventilation and rather simplistic thoughts about why obesity might be associated with bad outcomes, and I wondered about that,” O’Rahilly says, “and I thought it was a bit unlikely.” Instead, he thinks the risk comes from the fact that fat makes and regulates hormones. For example, people who are obese make more of something called “complement” proteins. These proteins can trigger out-of-control blood clotting, which is a problem in patients with severe COVID-19. People with obesity also have lower blood levels of a hormone called adiponectin. Recent studies in mice show that adiponectin protects the lungs. O’Rahilly thinks that if you have lower levels to begin with, you may be more likely to have lung inflammation during an infection like COVID-19. Adiponectin also helps keep blood vessels clean and open.



A Mixture of Problems So if the insides of your blood vessels are sticky, and a virus causes your immune system to go haywire and create more blood clots, that sets the stage for blockages. These blockages can cause heart attacks, strokes, and lung damage -- all problems seen in COVID-19 patients. To compound the problem, people with obesity appear to have more ACE2 receptors on their cells than others. ACE2 receptors are the doors the virus uses to infect cells and then make more copies of itself. A recent study found that fat tissue has more ACE2 receptors than lung cells do. More ACE2 may mean more virus in the body, says Carl Lavie, MD, medical director of cardiac rehabilitation and prevention at Ochsner Health in New Orleans. Lavie recently published a paper on obesity and COVID-19 in Mayo Clinic Proceedings. On top of all that, there’s insulin resistance, which is more common in people who are obese and may turn up the ACE2 receptors even further. Insulin is a hormone that’s critical for maintaining blood sugar levels. In obesity and some other conditions, cells of the body stop responding as well to insulin’s message to use sugar as energy and take it out of the blood and instead it stores it as fat. In response, the pancreas tries to turn up the volume by cranking out more insulin. The problem is that insulin doesn’t just impact blood sugar levels. “One of the things it affects is the ACE2 receptor that this virus binds to,” says Francis Finucane, MD a consultant endocrinologist

at Galway University Hospital in Galway, Ireland. “If you’re insulin-resistant, you’ve got more receptors for those spike proteins on your cell surfaces, say, for example on your lung cells,” he says. “We think that would make it easier for viruses to get into those lung cells, and that more viruses would get in, and that would create a worse COVID infection, and that would account for at least some of the variation in the severity of the disease,” Finucane says. He says researchers are planning studies that will try to prove some of these theories.



Role of Insulin His team is going to try to measure insulin resistance in COVID-19 patients through blood tests, then look at how sick they are. Finucane admits that may not show anything. Illness can make people insulin-resistant. So they might be measuring an effect of the infection, and not a cause. A different team of researchers in the U.K. is taking a different approach. They’re going to mine data on tens of thousands of patients to see if genes for insulin resistance are tied to COVID-19 severity or survival. Learning the root causes can help doctors develop strategies to help protect obese patients. For example, there are ways to improve insulin sensitivity relatively quickly through diet, physical activity, and drugs. “I’m being facetious here, but we may need to outlaw chocolate and sugar-sweetened beverage to reduce the population risk from COVID-19,” Finucane says. (Courtesy <https://www.webmd.com/>)



让您惊讶的美国人生观

白岩松在他的《你想像的美国其实是中国》一文中，一语道破了一个很多国人不愿面对的现实：“提到美国，也许人们马上会想到，这是一个现代化的国家。生活节奏快，都市霓虹灯闪烁，酒吧餐馆歌舞升平。人们尔虞我诈勾心斗角，人情冷漠，家庭观念不强，性方面非常开放，各种消费欲望极强，钱才是上帝。到了美国你会发现，以上描述基本符合如今中国的状况，与美国关系不算太大”。
1.带病坚持工作是一种不负责任的行为
在国内媒体一边倒地宣传某人时，常用的形容词就是忘我工作到了“带病坚持”的程度。
在美国你会发现，生命是第一位的，生病就应该休息，带病坚持工作是对自己不负责任的表现，对自己都不能负责任的话怎么指望你对他人或工作负责任？
再说你流感什么的还可能有传染性。医生都会告诉你呆在家里，需要自我隔离多久之后才能去公共场所，这是公德道德，是对社会负责任的表现。
2.汽车洋房是生活必需品，不是富人才有
在美国说到买房，基本指的是买独立房。也就是国人嘴里的别墅。这个基本就是普通民宅，并非有钱人才有。还有一种排屋（中国叫联体别墅）比更便宜些。这样民宅3、5万至千万美金不等，产权是永久的。
3.政要没有什么了不起的
作为一个中国人，如果能有一张和主席、总理、哪怕就是省长、市长的单独合影，那一定很了不起，这辈子我应该没有希望了吧……这些政要多数人可能一生都没有机会见到的，哪怕是远远地撇上一眼。
而美国的政府官员因为是自己竞选选民投票选举出的，你有很多机会在你竞选的时候见到他们，若你要求合影的话他们肯定笑逐颜开搂着你摆出最动人的姿势，照完了人家还谢谢你的支持。
议员等官员上任后选区的人需要帮助，给议员写信的话肯定会收到答覆，基层办公室解决不了还会一层层往上报。
4.家庭第一，哪怕金钱和工作都要给家庭让路
在中国，因赚钱和工作两地分居的人家还真不少，即使家在一地也还可能为了工作夜以继日，把物质的东西看的超过了一切，错过了妻子生孩子，耽误了给孩子看病，不能给老人送终等。
在美国，这样做是会被人鄙视的。在美国，融融的合影摆桌上都摆放著家人的照片，其乐融融的合影透露著美国人的家庭观念，下班后和周末的时间都是属于家庭的，所有的节日也是一家人安静地聚在一起。最近一位美国好友要做一个小手术，她丈夫取消了全部的商业会谈，宁肯自己出钱支付会谈方延期滞留也要去陪著她手术，这就是国外家庭观念的典型体

现。
一个真实的事。有一个只身在美国餐厅打工的女人，对一个每天靠说唱谋生艺人说，你为什么不去中国，我可以介绍你去做英语老师。何必那么辛苦。说唱艺人说，我为什么要背井离乡，离开我的妻子和孩子？这个工作不好吗。我喜欢我的工作。每天和自己爱的人在一起，我很幸福。瞬间，在场的人都觉得那个中国女人更可怜。
5、“富”不等于“贵”
我们现在大部分中国人所理解的贵族生活就是住别墅、买宾利车、打高尔夫，就是挥金如土、花天酒地，就是对入呼之即来，挥之即去。实际上，这不是贵族精神，这是暴发户精神。
在美国以貌取人是很容易犯错误的，富人不是靠名牌包装的，也不是名车大房子，而是在不动声色之中，一口整齐的白牙（非常重要），一身古铜的皮肤（有钱度假晒太阳），一副健美的身材（有闲健身房），最重要的是每年捐给慈善协会和教堂的大笔捐款。
真正的贵族学校，学生睡的是硬板床，吃的是粗茶淡饭，每天还要经过非常艰苦严格的训练，这甚至比平民学校还要辛苦。在大多数中国人的意识里，富与贵是一样的，没有什么区别。但事实E这是两回事儿。
富是物质的，贵是精神的。
6、有钱不等于会生活
有话说，贵族的养成至少三代。中国现在与美国相比更像是暴发户社会，离贵族社会相

差甚远。这个是国情决定的，也是意识决定的。美国进口食品到中国起码翻4倍，这还是按大宗货品走的价。美国食品是安全健康，但只有少数富人吃得起。碰到一个北京的进口商，我们问难道中国就不能制造健康食品？他很老江湖地抛了一句：回去做做看你们就知道了。钱且不是问题，买不到才是问题。
在中国，有钱人肯花几千元每一个月保养自己的奔驰宝马，不愿花几百元买个营养品保养下自己的身体。因为觉得开个漂亮的车，比起臃肿的身体棒多了。住豪华的装修，但充满甲醛的豪宅，却不愿买一个空气净化装置。直到大病临头四处求医问药，却不愿意平时多预防，多锻炼，均衡营养。
保健？太麻烦了。到了美国才发现，越是高学历和高收入的人，生活方式越是健康的，而中国高学历和高收入的人生活方式反而不健康。
奥巴马每周坚持至少锻炼6天，每次锻炼大约45分钟，只有星期天才会休息。他每天早上起床后的第一件事，就是冲进他的健身房开始锻炼。还严格按照减肥食谱进餐。一般以巧克力烤花生蛋白棒、烤杏仁和开心果作为零食。不能说我们比奥巴马更忙，只能是我们意识穷乏。7、读大学是一种个人养成，而不是为了出路和提高身价
从小到大听惯了考大学实现“鲤鱼跳龙门”的故事，现在虽然不同了，但是学历的招牌！似乎依旧是身价的砝码。
在美国你会发现，高学历的分子做普

通工作并不新鲜，我见过印度的哲学博士开出租车、东欧的音乐家干装修、地理系的研究生在找到教师工作以前在家具店当服务员、工科博士在售车店做销售等。
反之，也会有哥伦比亚大学的清洁工旁听拿到了古典文学的本科学位，而大货车司机酷爱莎士比亚长达长途旅行的闲暇写下让圈内人震惊的剧本等，美国受过大学或更高教育的人口比例远高于中国，而这个教育追求的是一种养成，和出人头地没有关系。
哥伦比亚大学清洁工用七年旁听了一个古典文学本科，因为喜欢。我不否认，这样的追求，多少也与国情也有关。在美国10—20年经验的蓝领年薪超过常春藤毕业生的水平。而美金的购买力和人民币的购买力……是的，国人很累，但或许改变的起点不在于大环境，而在于心灵。
8·离婚的男人像根草
写到这里我笑了，在国内的情形就不用我说了。在美国离婚的话，男人什么都得拿出来分一半给妻子，如果妻子没有赚钱能力的话还要支付抚养费以保证离婚后妻子的生活水准不显著下降，直到妻子再嫁或死亡；孩子的抚养费更是不能少，多数州规定要支付到18岁，而且男人支付的抚养费没有退税的优惠等等，男人离婚的话身价立马巨幅缩水，所以，美国男人鲜有去养小三、小四的事情发生，而是下班就回家，周末陪孩子老婆。

