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Chinese Parents: Let You Kids be a Critical Thinker, Problem Solver and Positive Social Networker

Southern DAILY Make Today Different

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Inside C5

Trump administration may target immigrants who use food aid, other benefits

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Trump administration is considering making it harder for foreigners living in the United States to get permanent residency if they have received certain public benefits such as food assistance, in a move that could sharply restrict legal immigration.

U.S. President Donald Trump delivers remarks at the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, U.S. February 8, 2018. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

The Department of Homeland Security has drafted rules seen by Reuters that would allow immigration officers to scrutinize a potential immigrant's use of certain taxpayer-funded public benefits to determine if they could become a public burden.

For example, U.S. officials could look at whether the applicant has enrolled a child in government pre-school programs or received subsidies for utility bills or health insurance premiums.

The draft rules are a sharp departure from current guidelines, which have been in place for nearly two decades and specifically bar authorities from considering such non-cash benefits in deciding a person's eligibility to immigrate to the United States or stay in the country.

"Non-citizens who receive public benefits are not self-sufficient and are relying on the U.S. government and state and local entities for resources instead of their families, sponsors or private organizations," the document states. "An alien's receipt of public benefits comes at taxpayer expense and availability of public benefits may provide an incentive for aliens

to immigrate to the United States."

Receiving such benefits could weigh against an applicant, even if they were for an immigrant's U.S. citizen children, according to the document.

"The administration is committed to enforcing existing immigration law, which is clearly intended to protect the American taxpayer," said Tyler Houlton, a DHS spokesman. "Any potential changes to the rule would be in keeping with the letter and spirit of the law – as well as the reasonable expectations of the American people for the government to be good stewards of taxpayer funds."

In 2016, nearly 383,000 people who would be subject to the new standards obtained permanent residence while already in the United States. The rules would not apply to permanent residents

applying for citizenship, but would apply to a wide range of people living or working in the United States, including close family members of U.S. citizens and workers employed by U.S. companies.

In addition, nearly 620,000 other immigrants living abroad obtained U.S. permanent residence through the State Department in 2016. The State Department typically adopts



Immigration activist Ravi Ragbir walks during a demonstration against deportations at Federal Plaza in Manhattan

immigration policies that mirror those of DHS, but Reuters could not establish if it is considering similar policies. The Department did not respond to a request for comment.

U.S. immigration law has long required officials to exclude a person likely to become a "public charge" from permanent residence. But current U.S. guidelines, in place since 1999, narrowly define "public charge" to be a person "primarily dependent on the government for subsistence," either through direct cash assistance or government-funded long-term care. Current guidance instructs immigration officers to look at a narrow range of public benefits in trying to determine whether someone is likely to become a burden, specifically directing officers not to consider most non-cash benefits, such as government food assistance programs or preschool programs.

The new rules, if adopted in their current form, would significantly change these guidelines. Under the draft rules, a person would be considered a "public charge" if they depend on "any government assistance in the form of cash, checks or other forms of money transfers, or instrument and non-cash government assistance in the form of aid, services, or other relief," according to the document seen by Reuters.

Among the benefits singled out in the draft rule for consideration are: health

insurance subsidies such as those provided by the Affordable Care Act; the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); WIC, a federal program that feeds poor pregnant or nursing women and their children; transportation and housing vouchers; programs that help the poor pay their heating bills; and programs such as Head Start, which provides early education to low-income children.

Some benefits would not be considered in making the "public charge" determination under the draft regulations, including emergency or disaster relief, public health assistance for immunizations, attending public school, receiving free or reduced-price school lunches, and earned benefits such as disability insurance, Medicare and unemployment payments.

According to the draft rule, the government will also have the authority to obtain information from a broad range of state and federal government entities to determine if someone has requested or received public benefits, and to obtain an applicant's credit report to determine their financial status. And though DHS allows applicants to request fee waivers for many immigration benefits, receiving such a waiver could be used as evidence that the applicant could become a public charge, according to the draft rule.

North Korea says no U.S. talks planned at Olympics, Pence vows continued pressure

SEOUL, South Korea (Reuters) - North Korea has no intention of meeting U.S. officials during the Winter Olympics that start in South Korea on Friday, state media said, dampening hopes the Games will help resolve a tense standoff over the North's nuclear weapons program.

Members of North Korean cheering squad arrive at a hotel in Inje, South Korea, February 7, 2018. Yonhap via REUTERS

However, the North's high-ranking delegation, including the younger sister of its leader Kim Jong Un, will meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in and have lunch with him on Saturday. Such a meeting would be the first such event between a South Korean head of state and a member of the Kim family since a 2007 summit meeting of Kim Jong Il and late South Korean president Roh Moo-hyun.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, who has described North Korea as the world's most tyrannical regime, spoke with Moon on Thursday ahead of the opening ceremony in the

mountain resort of Pyeongchang, just 80 km (50 miles) from the heavily armed border with the reclusive North.

Friday's ceremony will be attended by North Korea's delegation, including its nominal head of state, Kim Yong Nam.

Kim Yo Jong, the sister of the North's leader, and her entourage, will travel by private jet to Seoul's Incheon International Airport on Friday, North Korea told the South.

"We have never begged for dialogue with the U.S. nor in the future, too," the North's KCNA news agency said, citing Jo Yong Sam, a director-general in the North's foreign ministry.

"Explicitly speaking, we have no intention to meet with the U.S. side during the stay in South Korea... Our delegation's visit to South Korea is only to take part in the Olympics and hail its successful holding."

The United States had not requested talks with North Korea, but Pence left open the possibility of some contact although his message for denuclearisation remained unchanged.

REUTERS/Kim Hong-Ji



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VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - A framework accord between the Vatican and China on the appointment of bishops is ready and could be signed in a few months in what would be an historic breakthrough in relations, a senior Vatican source said.

An even partial resolution of the thorny issue of who gets to appoint bishops could open the way for a resumption of diplomatic relations nearly 70 years after they were cut during the Communist takeover of China.

Full relations would give the Church a legal framework to look after all of China's estimated 12 million Catholics and move on to focus on Catholic growth in a country where Protestant churches are already growing fast.



Archbishop Joseph Li Shan of Beijing celebrates Christmas Eve Mass in 2016 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. China and the Vatican have reached consensus on the appointment of bishops. (Photo/EPA)

Catholics in China are split between those in "underground" communities that recognise the pope and those belonging to a state-controlled Catholic Patriotic Association where bishops are appointed by the government in collaboration with local Church communities.

Under the formal deal, the Vatican will have a say in negotiations for the appointment of future bishops, the source told Reuters, declining to give details.

"It is not a great agreement but we don't know what the situation will be like in 10 or 20 years. It could even be worse," the source said on Thursday.

"Afterwards we will still be like a bird in a cage but the cage will be bigger," he said. "It is not easy. Suffering will continue. We will have to fight for every centimetre to increase the size of the cage," he added.



John Tong: the low-key Hong Kong cardinal seeking better ties with Beijing.

Last December, with papal backing, a Vat-

China-Vatican Deal On Bishops Ready For Signing

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



Pope Francis arrives to lead his Wednesday general audience in Saint Peter's square at the Vatican January 31, 2018. (Photo Reuters)

The source rejected recent accusations by a senior cardinal that the Vatican was prepared to "sell out" the Church in China and media suggestions that Pope Francis was out of the loop on China negotiations.

He said the pope followed the China dossier very closely and had backed an offer made to two Chinese bishops loyal to the Vatican in which they would take on different positions in their dioceses in order to facilitate an overall accord with government-backed bishops.

Five out of seven very complex situations regarding "illegitimate bishops", those with government backing, had been resolved. They have asked for a pardon from Pope Francis and to be made legitimate in the eyes of the Church.

CHINA SAYS IT'S WILLING TO FURTHER IMPROVE TIES

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement provided to Reuters on Friday that China had always been sincere in its efforts to improve China-Vatican relations.

"We are willing to, in accordance with relevant principles, continue to engage in constructive dialogue with the Vatican side and push forward the improvement of bilateral ties."



Last December, with papal backing, a Vat-

ican delegation went to China to make an offer relating to two Vatican-recognised bishops.

One, an 87-year-old prelate, would retire to make way for a state-backed bishop to succeed him. Under the scenario, the government would officially recognise the Vatican-backed prelate as "bishop emeritus".

Another Vatican-recognised bishop would become an auxiliary, or assistant, to one who had been appointed by the government. Though he would effectively take on a lesser role, the government would grant him official recognition as part of the deal.

The source said both Vatican-backed prelates recognised they would be making sacrifices for the greater good of the Church.

There currently was what the source called "a gentleman's agreement" on seven government-backed bishops who would be made legitimate after seeking a papal pardon but this still had to be formalised.



Michael Yeung named new Hong Kong Catholic leader as John Tong retires. (Photo/ South China Morning Post)

Dossiers have to be prepared for the pope

in order to make the case for legitimising them.

This week, Cardinal Joseph Zen, 86, the outspoken former bishop of Hong Kong, caused a stir with a Facebook post highly critical of the Vatican's recent overtures to China.

Zen wrote: "So, do I think that the Vatican is selling out the Catholic Church in China? Yes, definitely, if they go in the direction which is obvious from all they are doing in recent years and months".

In a sharply worded statement following the post, the Vatican said it was surprising and regrettable that some people in the Church were "fostering confusion and controversy".

Zen, who has often criticised the Vatican's attempt at rapprochement with Beijing, suggested that Vatican diplomats doing the groundwork were keeping the pontiff in the dark or even going against his wishes.



Chinese Catholic worshippers hold candles as they watch during a special baptism ceremony at a mass.

The Vatican statement said there was no "difference of thought and action" between the pope and his aides and the source said the pope had been fully briefed before the delegation left for Beijing in December and after it returned. (Courtesy https://uk.reuters.com/article)

Related

The Vatican's Deal With Beijing

The Vatican appears close to a deal with Beijing to settle a long running dispute over who has the power to appoint bishops

Why It Matters: The Vatican, which believes there are roughly 10 million-15 million Catholics in China, appears to be bending to the will of the atheist Chinese Communist Party. This is a concern to Taiwan, because a Beijing-Vatican official diplomatic rapprochement would require the Vatican to drop official diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favor of the PRC.

"A framework accord between the Vatican and China on the appointment of bishops is ready and could be signed in a few months in what would be an historic breakthrough in relations, a senior Vatican source said."

"Catholics in China are split between those in 'underground' communities that [recognize] the pope and those belonging to a state-controlled Catholic Patriotic Association where bishops are appointed by the government in collaboration with local Church communities."

"Under the formal deal, the Vatican will have a say in negotiations for the appointment of future bishops." (Reuters)



Pope Francis greets the masses.

1."There are Catholics in China — somewhere between 10 and 15 million, according to most estimates, though no one knows for sure due to the difficulties of doing reliable religious surveys."

2."The Vatican has its own diplomatic corps, aspiring to be a voice of conscience on the global stage...the Vatican understands that if you're not talking directly to Beijing, you're basically out of the loop."

3. "There's a deep romance about China nurtured over centuries in the Catholic psyche, associated with legendary figures such as Matteo Ricci and St. Francis Xavier. There's also a nagging historical sense that the Church sort of blew it with the Chinese Rites controversy in the 17th and 18th centuries."

4. "The Vatican also understands that China is rich with missionary potential... Many experts regard China as the world's last truly competitive spiritual marketplace." (Courtesy https://wwwaxios.com)



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00:00~00:30	中國文藝(重播)						地理·中國(重播)
00:30~01:00							明星加油站(重播)
01:00~01:30							味道(重播)
01:30~02:00		動物傳奇(重播) (English)	Story China 故事在中國(重播)	防務新觀察(重播)	中國大舞臺(重播)	男女女右(重播)	
02:00~02:30	經典電影(重播)			中國功夫(首播)			經典電影(重播)
02:30~03:00				今日關注(重播)			
03:00~03:30		地理·中國(重播)		中國功夫(重播)			
03:30~04:00			English 900(首播)			司馬白話(重播)	
04:00~04:30	特別呈現(重播)			電視劇《大時代》(重播) (English Subtitles)			武林風(重播)
04:30~05:00	空姐新發現(重播)			電視劇《大戲法》(重播) (English Subtitles)			中國大舞臺(重播)
05:00~05:30	Story China 故事在中國(重播)						國際新聞/ 大陸新聞/ 台灣新聞
05:30~06:00	國際新聞 / 大陸新聞 / 台灣新聞						寶刀越木(重播)
06:00~06:30				美南新聞 / 台灣新聞 / 國際新聞 / 大陸新聞			
07:00~07:30	防務新觀察 (重播)						
08:00~08:30	中國輿論場 (重播)		健康之路(重播)			橫案(首播)	
09:00~09:30		Story China 故事在中國(首播)	快樂童年(重播)	中國大舞臺(首播)	男左女右(首播)	地理·中國 (首播)	
09:30~10:00	文明之旅(重播)		粵語天地(重播)	明星加油站(首播)	洋言洋語(重播)	空姐新發現(首播)	電影藏密(首播)
10:00~10:30						今日關注(首播)	
10:30~11:00							國際新聞 / 大陸新聞 / 台灣新聞
11:30~12:00	國際新聞 / 大陸新聞 / 台灣新聞						中國輿論場(首播)
12:00~12:30	空姐新發現(重播)						動物傳奇(首播) (English)
12:30~13:00							經典電影(首播)
13:00~13:30	台灣心動線 (重播)		美食風味(重播)	光鹽健康園地 (重播)	城市一對一(重播)	體育報導火箭時間 (重播)	Howdy Philippines! (首播)
13:30~14:00		生活(重播)					特別呈現(首播)
14:00~14:30			電視劇《大時代》(首播) (English Subtitles)				
14:30~15:00						花季中國(首播)	
15:00~15:30			卡通片《鞠萍姐姐講故事》(首播)			洋言洋語(首播)	
15:30~16:00	特別呈現(重播)	緣水青山看中國 (重播)	武林風(重播)	中國民歌大會第一季 (重播)	武林風(重播)	地理·中國 (重播)	中華文化遺產 (首播)
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19:30~20:00	美食風味	光鹽健康園地	城市一對一	體育報導火箭時間	台灣心動線	防務新觀察(首播)	
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22:30~23:00							
23:00~23:30					美南新聞 / 台灣新聞 / 國際新聞 / 大陸新聞		幸福來敲門 (重播)
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A Snapshot Of The World



A woman holds a sign counter-protesting a demonstration against deportations at Federal Plaza in Manhattan



The North Korea's Samjiyon Orchestra performs in Gangneung
OLYMPICS-2018/NORTHKOREA-ORCHESTRA



Trump attends the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington



Children look on the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics mascot Soohorang in Gangneung



An investor walks into the Dubai International Financial Market in Dubai.
react outside a hospital, in Barranquilla, Colombia



An artisan paints hearts made of polystyrene at a road side workshop ahead of Valentine's Day, in Kolkata
Britain's Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union David Davis arrives in Downing Street, London



A passerby walks behind cracks on a street after an earthquake hit Hualien



Aerosuperbatics Wingwalkers perform during the start of the 22nd Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta in Clark



Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army fighters are seen in the eastern suburbs of al-Bab

COMMUNITY

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan, joined by the Texas Attorney General and City of Houston, obtained a judgment for over \$2.5 million in civil fines and penalties against Fantasy Smoking & Accessories for selling synthetic marijuana.

Synthetic marijuana, known on the streets as "kush," is a designer drug, typically manufactured overseas, that is marketed as a "safe" and "legal" alternative to marijuana. Synthetic marijuana is not marijuana at all but a dried leafy substance that is sprayed with powerful, added-in hallucinogenic chemicals that are dangerous and highly addictive to the user. It is often sold in colorful packets, with names such as Spongebob and Zilla, in order to appeal to children and teen-agers, and is the second most abused drug by high school students, after marijuana itself. It is also illegal in Texas. In June 2017, 16 people were hospitalized after overdosing on kush in Hermann Park.

On January 30, 2018, District Court Judge Michael Landrum signed a final judgment, prohibiting the store owners from selling or offering for sale synthetic marijuana and other illegal drugs.



Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan
In 2015, Houston Police narcotics officers conducted undercover investigations at the family-owned shop that led to seizure of a garbage bag and jars containing over 77 pounds of synthetic marijuana and other illegal drugs. Officers also discovered labeling and packaging supplies for the drugs in the backroom of the store. The

judge issued his final

County Attorney Ryan Obtains A \$2.5 Million-Plus Fine Against Montrose Smoke Shop For Selling Kush

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

store clerk and one of the owners, Glen Cohen, were arrested for felony possession and delivery of a controlled substance.

The Harris County Attorney's Office, along with the Texas Attorney General and City of Houston, then brought an enforcement action against Glen Cohen and the family-operated shop for deceptive trade practices and maintaining a common nuisance.

Should the court's judgment be violated, the store is to be closed for one year. The store owners agreed to pay a total of \$550,000 in civil fines and penalties to resolve the case and another \$2 million if the court's judgment is violated in the future.

"My office will continue the fight, together with law enforcement and state, county, and city officials, to put a stop to greedy store owners who sell these dangerous chemicals to our citizens," said County Attorney Ryan. "We will continue to seek substantial fines against them and shut down their businesses entirely if necessary."



Synthetic Marijuana also known as kush or spice.

Related

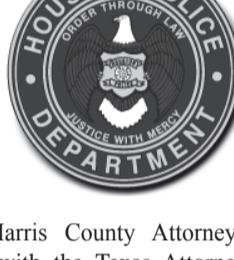
HARRIS COUNTY, Texas — Fantasy Smoking & Accessories in Montrose could be hit with more than \$2.5 million in civil fines and penalties if caught selling synthetic marijuana, prosecutors announced Thursday morning.

On Tuesday, the judge issued his final



judgement and prohibited the store owners from selling or offering for sale synthetic marijuana — more commonly known as kush — and other illegal drugs.

Should the court's judgment be violated, the store is to be closed for one year. The store owners also agreed to pay a total of \$550,000 in civil fines and penalties to resolve the case and another \$2 million if the court's judgment is violated in the future. Officers also discovered labeling and packaging supplies for the drugs in the backroom of the store. The store clerk and one of the owners, Glen Cohen, were arrested for felony possession and delivery of a controlled substance.



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nuisance. "My office will continue the fight, together with law enforcement and state, county, and city officials, to put a stop to greedy store owners who sell these dangerous

What is Kush?

Synthetic marijuana, known on the streets as "kush," is a designer drug, typically manufactured overseas, that is marketed as a "safe" and "legal" alternative to marijuana. Synthetic marijuana is not marijuana at all but a dried leafy substance that is sprayed with powerful, added-in hallucinogenic chemicals that are dangerous and highly addictive to the user.

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Chinese Parents: Let Your Kids be a Critical Thinker, Problem Solver and Positive Social Networker

Jane Ren On Education

What is the purpose of an education? As a high-achieving student many years ago, I believed that the purpose of an education was to gain the credentials for a stable, high-paying career. My parents thought this way, and I know this mindset is common among the Chinese community. With this mindset, I worked hard to master every subject in high school and attended New York University, where I studied finance. After graduation, I worked as a financial analyst in New York City. My experience in the working world quickly led me to think differently about education. The people who graduated from the most prestigious universities were not the most successful in the workplace. The people who were successful often studied subjects completely unrelated to their jobs. As I continued to observe people in the workplace, I began to notice three important skills that led to success: the ability to form positive relationships with others, the ability to think critically, and the ability to solve problems. A student who finishes college or graduate school without these three skills - even if she has gained letters behind her name - has wasted her education.

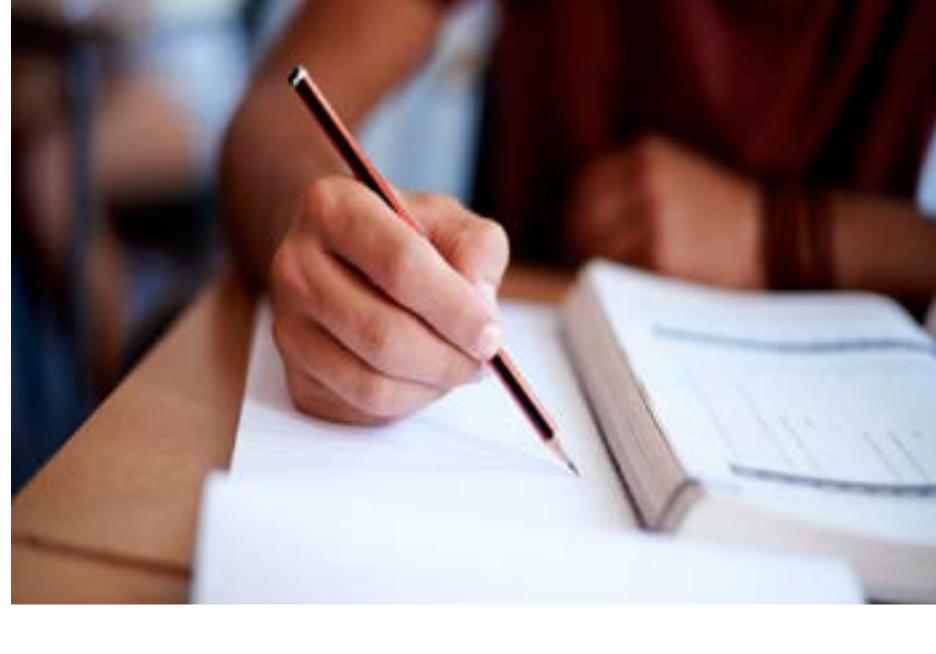
I understand why Chinese parents, especially immigrant parents, place such emphasis on securing lucrative jobs through education. The financial, social, and emotional costs to immigrate are enormous. Knowing that

Houston Columnist
Jane Ren

the future is uncertain, parents naturally want their children to pursue jobs that guarantee at least a middle-class standard of living. Furthermore, Chinese-Americans still face language and cultural barriers in the workplace, so pursuing a math or science-related career with objective - rather than subjective - standards for competence seems the safest route. While these are all good motivations, they are dangerously short sighted. Saddest of all, pursuing an education with this mindset may cause a young adult to fall short of her full career potential.

Why do I think that Chinese parents are short sighted? Maybe there was a time in the past when people of average intelligence and little motivation could find a middle-class job right after college and stay in that job for decades without worry. If that time existed, is definitely over. College students are graduating into a fiercely competitive global economy in which the only way to excel is to show your employer that you can add value to your organization. How does an employee add value? In the first few months, it means doing your assigned tasks well. But in the long run, it means being able to solve problems for your employer. These might be problems that your employer does not even recognize yet. This means that you need to think critically about how to improve your organization's product or operations and then develop a plan of action. In order to carry out your plan, you will need the help and support

of others. This means you need to develop positive, productive relationships with your coworkers and bosses. As a bonus, having these relationships means that others will give you credit for your problem solving skills and support you when you try to advance your career. Entrepreneurs need the same skills, except they are solving problems for their customers. Learning to think critically, solve problems, and develop positive working relationships seems challenging compared to simply memorizing information or passing tests. I would argue, however, that mastering these skills is more deeply satisfying and leads to greater enjoyment of work. I did not learn the importance of solving problems until I started my second job at a small nonprofit organization in San Francisco. Not only did I value and respect myself more when I became a problem solver, I also gained more respect from coworkers and my boss. During my time in that job, I developed positive working relationships that made me look forward to going to work every day. All of these successes gave me a sense of control and optimism regarding my career. So, Chinese parents, by all means encourage your children to become doctors and engineers. But please, encourage them to become problem solvers first. Instead of asking them about their grades, ask them if they are learning to think critically and build positive relationships. The good news is that any college major can teach you these skills, and it is never too late to start learning.



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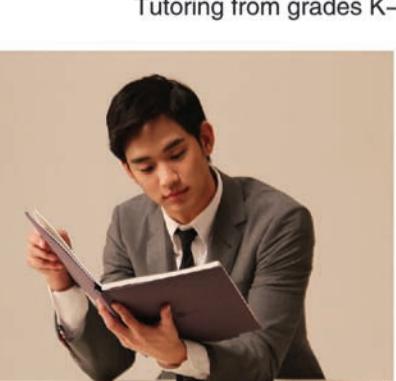
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