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Inside C2

Global coronavirus cases rise by one-day record of 400,000



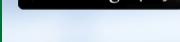
FILE PHOTO: A medical worker prepares for a procedure with a patient in the intensive care unit of the City Clinical Hospital Number 52, where patients suffering from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) are treated, in Moscow, Russia October 8, 2020. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov

(Reuters) - Global coronavirus cases rose by more than 400,000 for the first time late on Friday, a record one-day increase as much of Europe enacts new restrictions to curb the outbreak. Europe, which successfully tamped down the first surge of infections, has emerged as the new coronavirus epicentre in recent weeks and is reporting on average 140,000 cases a day over the past week.

As a region, Europe is reporting more daily cases than India, Brazil and the United States combined.

Of every 100 infections reported around the world, 34 were from European countries, according to a Reuters analysis. The region is currently reporting a million new infections about every nine days and has reported more than 6.3 million cases since the pandemic began.

Major European countries - United Kingdom, France, Russia, Netherlands and Spain -- accounted for about half of Europe's new cases in the week to Oct. 18, according to Reuters tally



France is reporting the highest seven-day average of new cases in Europe with 19,425 infections per day followed by the United Kingdom, Russia, Spain and Netherlands in worst affected European countries.

for four.

In Spain, authorities in Catalonia ordered bars and restaurants to close for 15 days and limited the numbers of people allowed in shops.

Several European countries are closing schools, cancelling elective surgeries and enlisting student medics as the authorities face a



COVID-19 resurgence. Russia is moving students to online learning and Northern Ireland is closing schools for two weeks and restaurants

Europe crosses 150,000 daily coronavirus cases mark, a week after reporting 100,000 daily cases. The Czech Republic has also shifted

schools to distance learning and plans to call up thousands of medical students. Hospitals are cutting non-urgent medical procedures to free up beds.

Polish health officials have warned the

and considering creating military field hospitals.

Latin America is the worst-affected region with about 27% of total COVID-19 cases followed by Asia, North America and Europe, according to a Reuters analysis.

India is reporting fewer cases this month compared with September, with 69,000 cases per day, according to Reuters analysis. The numbers have fallen by more than 20,400 over the last three weeks, down 22% from its previous peak.

India reported 55,342 cases on Oct. 13, its lowest daily increase since Aug. 18.

In the United States, which has the largest total number of cases and deaths in the world, new infections are edging higher along with the most hospitalized COVID-19 patients since early September.

Efforts to develop a vaccine hit snags, with Johnson & Johnson JNJ.N pausing its trial after an unexplained illness in a study participant. AstraZeneca's AZN.L U.S. trial has remained on hold for more than a month.

Russia, which recorded a record daily increase in cases, has meanwhile granted regulatory approval to a second vaccine.

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Monday, October 19, 2020

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LOCAL NEWS

U.S. Supreme Court to hear Trump bid to exclude illegal immigrants from representation

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear oral arguments over President Donald Trump's effort to exclude illegal immigrants from the population totals used to allocate congressional districts to states.

The court, likely to soon have a 6-3 conservative majority if the Republican-controlled Senate confirms Trump nominee Amy Coney Barrett, will hear the case on Nov. 30.

The challengers to Trump's July directive, including various states led by New York, cities, counties and immigrant rights groups, said it could leave several million people uncounted and likely cause Califor-

nia, Texas and New Jersey to lose seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A three-judge panel ruled against the administration in September. The U.S. Constitution ensures that the apportionment of seats in the House of Representatives be based on the "whole number of persons in each state." The population number is derived from the census,



nia, Texas and New Jersey to lose seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Trump "seeks to reallocate political power among the states and to weaken the political influence of states with larger populations of undocumented immigrants," the challengers said in a court filing.

which takes place every 10 years.

By statute, the president sends Congress a report in early January with the population of each state and their entitled number of representatives. A ruling in the case could be expected before the report is due.

Once states are allocated the districts, the states them-



News assistants run outside the U.S. Supreme Court after the court ruled that U.S. President Donald Trump's administration did not give an adequate explanation for its plan to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, delivering a victory to New York state and others challenging the proposal in Washington, U.S., June 27, 2019. REUTERS/Carlos Barria

selves draw the districts, which will be used first in the 2022 congressional election. The census itself does not gather data on citizenship or immigration status. The Trump administration would base its numbers on data gathered elsewhere.

The Supreme Court on Oct. 14 allowed the Trump administration to wind down popu-

lation counting for the census early in a blow to civil rights advocates who said it could lead to an undercount of racial minorities. Efforts to get an accurate census count have been hindered by the coronavirus pandemic, which has limited the ability of workers to follow up in person with those who did not fill out the survey.

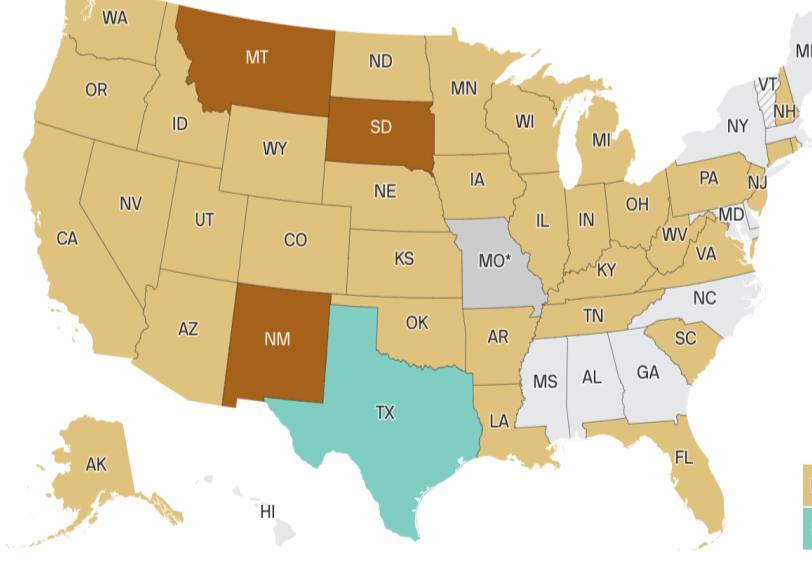
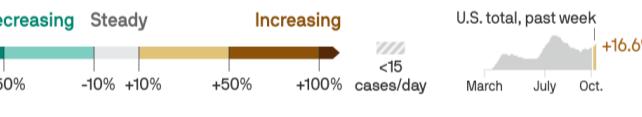
Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

The Coronavirus Is Surging Again

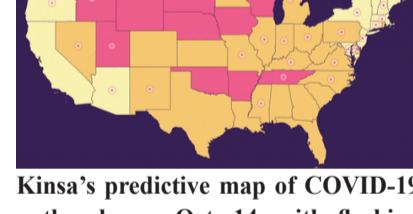
Change in new COVID-19 cases in the past week



easily. If those assumptions bear out, those increases will come on top of a caseload that's already too high.

Related

Predicting The COVID-19 Spread Of With Smart Thermometers



Kinsa's predictive map of COVID-19 outbreaks on Oct. 14, with flashing lights indicating states where cases are projected to rise. (Photo/Kinsa)

A company that makes internet-connected thermometers has shown success in predicting likely COVID-19 hot spots days or even weeks before case counts rise. **Why it matters:** Even as the U.S. has ramped up coronavirus testing, too often we're still behind the pace of the virus. But connected, at-home diagnostics could give advance warning of when COVID-19 — or the next new virus — is about to strike. **Driving the news:** The total number of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. this week hit the highest level since August, driven by uncontrolled outbreaks in the Midwest and Mountain West. Cases are trending upward in 36 states, and 33 states have a test positivity rate of 5% or higher.

How it works: The smart thermometer company Kinsa offers a different way to track — and even predict — the spread of COVID-19.

Its 1.5 million connected thermometers provide real-time data about fevers around the U.S., which can be compared to historical rates of seasonal illnesses like the flu to indicate "when something unusual is happening," says Kinsa CEO Inder Singh.



Testing also increased over the past week. The U.S. is now conducting roughly 1 million tests per day, up about 6% from the week before. But the increase in cases is bigger than the increase in testing, which is a sign of an actual worsening outbreak.

The big picture: The U.S. has consistently failed to control the virus, and we are failing to control it now. Experts say the fall and winter will likely make things worse, as colder weather causes people to move their socializing indoors, where the virus can spread more

Police conduct coronavirus regulations checks in Hamburg, Germany. Chancellor Angela Merkel announced new measures Thursday, as the country reported a record number of new cases. Photo: Axel Heimken/picture alliance via Getty Images

lor Angela Merkel said Thursday new measures would include a curfew for restaurants and bars in coronavirus hot spots and a limit on gatherings, after the country reported a record 6,638 new infections, per DW. In France, President Emmanuel Macron announced in a televised address Wednesday a curfew from 9pm to 6am would be imposed on Paris and its surrounding regions, and in the cities of Marseille, Lyon, Lille, Toulouse, Montpellier, Grenoble, Rouen and Saint-Étienne. In the U.K., the government introduced a three-tier alert system for towns and cities this week — with Liverpool the first to face the toughest restrictions whereby measures include the closure of bars that don't serve food.

Russia registered a record 14,231 new cases Wednesday, but officials were focusing on touting a coronavirus vaccine developed by the country, the New York Times reports.



Italy on Wednesday surpassed its record number of cases with 7,332 new infections. In Spain, authorities in Catalonia ordered restaurants and bars that don't offer takeaways to shut for 15 days from Thursday, per AFP. The Netherlands government imposed a "partial lockdown" that began at 10pm Wednesday local time, forcing cafes, bars and restaurants to shut for four weeks, according to DutchNews.nl. Portugal Prime Minister Antonio Costa announced Wednesday gatherings would be limited to five people and declared a "state of calamity," as the country confirmed more than 2,000 cases in a single day for the first time, Anadolu Agency notes. The Czech government on Wednesday announced household guests must be limited to three people, alcohol could not be sold after 8pm and there would be a "wider mandatory use of face masks," AFP reports. (Courtesy axios.com)

Kinsa thermometer

Coronavirus infections jumped by almost 17% over the past week as the number of new cases increased in 38 states and Washington, D.C. **Why it matters:** The U.S. is headed solidly in the wrong direction — and at a dangerous time, as experts say the fall and winter will likely make the pandemic worse. They had hoped we could get cases under control before then, but that seems unrealistic. **By the numbers:** The U.S. racked up an average of up 51,000 new cases per day over the past week. The number of new infections rose in 38 states, spanning every region of the country. Three states — Montana, New Mexico and South Dakota — saw their case counts rise by over 50%. The pace of new infections slowed down in only one state: Texas.

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

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The big picture: German Chancel-

Monday, October 19, 2020

"Waste Not, Want Not" – 1772 Proverb

Waste Pickers Are Essential Workers During The COVID-19 Crisis



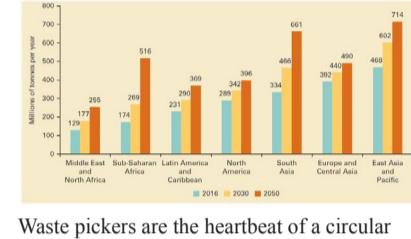
Waste pickers at Kpone Landfill in Accra, Ghana remove almost 800 tonnes of recyclable material from the landfill annually.

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

COVID-19: an existential threat to the circular economy

Right now, the estimated 15 million waste pickers who are active in the world are facing deep and life-altering challenges amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. As instability rises with increased uncertainty, these workers are among the most vulnerable. They often live in areas where healthcare and hygienic necessities are difficult to access. Many of them are part of the informal economy, without access to insurance, health services or other social safety-net programmes.

The pandemic environment is putting their lives and livelihoods at risk. In some regions they must continue to work, often without the proper protective equipment, jeopardizing their health. In other places, recycling programs are temporarily shut down for sanitation purposes and workers are left unemployed for the duration of the shutdown without reliable income outside of potential government assistance. Extra income during this time could prevent workers from needing to seek out other unsafe jobs during this crisis and allows them to get back to work in the waste sector as soon as safely possible.



Waste pickers are the heartbeat of a circular economy, and we all need them for a healthy and sustainable world. But right now, they need us. (Courtesy weforum.org)

Related

Out of Sorts: Rural Waste Problems In China And The United States



A mountain of trash in Yunnan, China. (Photo/Matthew Chitwood. All Rights Reserved.)

By Yining Zou, China Environment Forum

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

In Bangdong Village, Yunnan, Matthew Chitwood wanted to do his part to keep the stunning mountainous area clean during his two-year residency as a China fellow at the Institute of Current World Affairs. One day he took his empty beer bottles to a local convenience shop for recycling, but the owners would not accept them. He was told to dump them over the embankment. Looking down the slope at the accumulated piles of broken furniture, soggy socks, food waste, and crushed soda cans entangled with plastic bags, Matt refused. Later, Matt's friends flung his bottles into the gully. He related his frustrating recycling attempt to Mao Da, the founder of China Zero Waste Alliance, who told Matt that "rural trash management itself is a misnomer... It's really just trash relocation." 40 percent of China's population lives in rural areas and generates more than 280 million tonnes of waste a year. Single-use plastics make up a large proportion of this mountain of trash. Chinese cities themselves are struggling to manage the 100 million plastic waste containers generated every day from the food delivery industry, as well as the tsunami of e-commerce plastic packaging. The explosion of this waste has galvanized reforms in urban waste management, but waste infrastructure is still scarce in rural China.



Waste sorting and collection in rural China. (Photo/Matthew Chitwood. All Rights Reserved.)

China's central government has developed and funded a rural waste management system in which village waste workers collect trash from households, then township workers transfer household waste to county infrastructure for recycling, landfilling, or incineration. According to the plan set forth by China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, by the end of 2020 this central government-supported waste management system will cover more than 90 percent of rural areas in eastern

and mid-western China. However, some Chinese researchers argue that this system relies heavily on upper-level government funding and once it disappears, county and village-level governments will not be able to sustain it. Even more troubling, many of the rural incinerators and landfills are not well operated and do not meet environmental standards. Village waste workers are also understaffed and unable to do comprehensive waste collection and shipping. In 2018, the Chinese government launched a 47-city waste reform pilot program to help improve urban waste collection and increase recycling rates. For rural areas to get their plastics to recycling facilities there is an urgent need to build out extensive waste collection and sorting. The most promising area of development has been efforts to sort and process kitchen waste. Kitchen waste makes up about 50 percent of China's waste stream, and in rural areas it can reach 70 percent.

In China, Turning Rural Kitchen Waste to Gold

Chen Liwen, the founder of Zero Waste Village, says that rural China has unique advantages over urban areas in dealing with food waste. Rural villagers can feed food waste to livestock, and then turn the manure into fertilizer. Alternately, the food waste can be combined with animal waste and used as feedstock for small anaerobic digesters that generate electricity for rural households. Importantly, separating wet kitchen waste helps increase supply of recyclable plastics and reduces pressure on landfills and dioxin contamination from incinerators. Chen has helped more than 24 villages around China set up new waste sorting programs. Understanding that behavioral change is difficult, she starts by allocating two buckets to each household—a yellow one for recyclable trash that can be sold for money and a green one for food waste. She usually spends a few months in each town engaging the heads of local women's associations, who keep the waste sorting on track after she leaves. Chen's efforts have had a significant impact—the monthly amount of waste going to landfills or incinerators in these villages decreased by 50 to 70 percent.



A backyard incinerator in rural China. (Photo/ Matthew Chitwood. All Rights Reserved.)

Pushing Companies to Swallow Costs In many U.S. rural communities, trash collection and recycling is the second-most expensive item in local government budgets after schools. The State of Maine is working to fix this cost burden by creating an extended producer responsibility (EPR) law. EPR laws mandate that companies shoulder the costs of collecting and recycling plastic packaging they produce. Troy Moon, the sustainability coordinator for Portland, Maine believes rural communities will especially benefit from the new law. The Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) found that Maine's government and citizens pay \$16-\$17.5 million annually to manage packaging waste. Chrissy Adamowicz from NRCM says that EPR can help to equalize not only the uneven burden between consumers and producers, but also the unequal recycling development between urban and rural areas. "We were living a lie before and we didn't ask where our waste was going. Now we are more aware how badly the system was operating," said Adamowicz in a recent interview. When companies have to pay cradle-to-cradle costs and manage their product's packaging waste, producers have incentives to make their products and packaging more recyclable or durable. An EPR system could create a stable source investment in recycling infrastructure for rural areas. In 2016, China's central government started establishing regulations pushing producers to be responsible for their products, including some voluntary guidelines for recycling and biodegradable packaging. Speaking at a recent Wilson Center event, Mao Da said that China issued more guidance documents in late 2019 encouraging manufacturers to reduce plastic packaging and many provinces are issuing bans on some single-use plastics. All of these efforts are laying the groundwork for an eventual EPR law, which will benefit both urban and rural areas.

About the Author

Yining Zou is a research assistant at the Wilson Center's China Environment Forum. She earned her master's degree in public policy at McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University Washington, D.C.



在美国，这样“穷养”与“富养”女儿

很多家长都会纠结孩子到底该“穷养”还是“富养”。其实,与其一味追捧“穷养儿子富养女”的信条,不如尽可能提供这合孩子发展需要、这合家庭实际情况的条件,不必费力超越,也无须刻意降低,在有选择、有限度地满足孩子的物质需求的过程中,言传身教地传递给孩子对待物质、金钱既不挥霍无度,也不锱铢必较的价值观。

在各类子女教育论坛里时不时地会看到“穷养,富养”这两个词,大家讨论得热热闹闹。我却看得糊里糊涂,一直对“穷养富养”的定义不得要领。理论问题想不明白,索性不想了,不过倒是借着这个话题梳理了一下这些年养女儿的经历和体会。

大女儿5岁时我们来到美国。那时,一个博士后的工资养三个人,房租一个月一千块,啥东西换成人民币都让我肉疼(当时一美元值八块多人民币),这些加上身份和工作的不稳定,让我对家里的经济状况有深深的不安感,甚至是恐慌感,恨不得一块钱掰成几半花。不是夸自己,我真觉得自己是成功转型的典范,由国内的小资生活迅速滑入过紧日子的状态,由曾经的“上得厅堂”华丽转身“钻进厨房”。那时的生活圈子里都是大学里的博士后,学生,我是“从善如流”,虚心学习大家交流的省钱秘籍。我连walmart都不常去,专去大家口口相传的Aldi(便宜店);老墨店,希腊人的店买东西。不过大家的状况都差不多,倒也没什么压力,出去郊游,家家户护带著茶叶蛋,拌凉面,从没想过午餐去饭店,那真是穷乐和的日子。

当然女儿的生活水准也未能幸免,跟著我们一落千丈。还记得第一次去yard sale(美国人的家庭拍卖),满

载而归两大袋,一袋毛绒玩具,一袋小孩衣服。用洗衣机洗了以后,女儿穿著高兴,玩得开心。可是当我在越洋电话里得意洋洋向我妈汇报我的“成果”时,却被训了一顿:“怎么能给孩子穿别人的旧衣服!”也是的,在国内独生子女是小皇帝,小公主,爸爸妈妈就差为他们“五天揽月,五洋捉鳌”了。女儿在国内过生日时朋友送的都是几百块钱的玩具和衣服。不过,好汉不提当年勇,此一时彼一时,陪父母“洋插队”,娃也得跟著接受“再教育”。

在那段谷底的岁月里,女儿很懂事地和我们一起走过来。去中国店买菜,她的眼睛总是被花花绿绿的小食品吸引,可是她记住妈妈说的话:“每次只能挑一个,不能超过一块钱。”在超市里看到喜欢的玩具她会拿起来先看价签,然后自言自语说:“哦,太贵了,等到降价的时候我们再来看看。”再喜欢的她也会放回架上。至今想起她当时的洋子,我的心都会酸酸的。

从小酷爱读书的女儿童年时好像没有几本属自己的新书,因为十块钱一本的书对当时的我是一笔大钱。不过这并没有影响她的成长,因为一到美国我们就发现了一个最好的地方——图书馆。每周十几本甚至几十本书借,借回来如饥似渴地读,读完就催著爸爸妈妈去图书馆。就这洋日复一日,年复一年,没有新书的女儿却成了最爱读书的孩子。

这洋的日子过了五年,随著孩子找到稳定工作,我们有了绿卡,再后来我也有了工作,家里的日子不再那么紧巴,我花钱的手也慢慢地松了起来。我不再给孩子买人家的旧衣服,而是去百货商店赶sale的时候买。等到女儿上了初中,对穿衣戴帽有了自己的想法时,我就带著她一起去商店

让她自己挑选,现在更多的时候是她和朋友一起去买。

孩子小的时候对金钱没有什么概念,渐渐大了,看到周围的人和事,就有了想法和疑问。面对这些,我知道不能回避,敷衍,只能正面地去和女儿交流。记得上初中时女儿说:“有的同学家住公寓,自己都没有单独的卧室,可是她们却背著c品牌的包,穿著c鞋。”我说:“我们和人家一洋都不是富人,只是每家的父母把钱花在不同的地方。我们更愿意把钱花在你学钢琴,长笛,滑冰,网球,游泳上。你说哪种做法更值得?”

一次我给钢琴老师写支票时女儿在旁边说:“妈妈,我从四岁开始学钢琴,到现在花了很多钱,这些钱够买一辆汽车了吧?”我笑了:“够买一辆宝马了。不过,看到你在舞台上弹琴,妈妈的心会紧张,兴奋,激动;听到掌声,妈妈会特别骄傲。这些都让妈妈感觉比坐宝马车幸福多了。”

我一直都没有富养还是穷养的概念,也没有为此纠结过。跟著家里的收入走,跟著孩子的需要走,边走边把自己的金钱观价值观灌输给孩子,这洋孩子也不会纠结,不会为物质所累。

我让女儿知道:你不是含著金钥匙出生的,家里的钱不是大风刮来的,每一块钱都是父母辛苦工作挣来的。我们对你物质需求的满足是有限度的选择的,更不会超越我们能力所及的。

我让女儿知道:帮助做家务是没有报酬的义务劳动。秋天扫树叶,冬天铲雪,平时倒垃圾,推垃圾筒,在家里带妹妹,都是你做女儿做姐姐的本分。

我让女儿知道:考试得了好成绩,比赛得了奖是你为自己做的,爸爸妈妈会为你高兴,全家会出去吃饭庆祝,可是我们不会事先悬赏,也不会事后

现金奖励。

我让女儿知道:一个女孩子打动人的不仅是健美的身体,自信的眼神和阳光般的笑容,没有这些,穿再贵的衣服人们在心里也不会给你打高分。

守住这些底线,并不意味我是个在金钱上苛待孩子的妈妈。女儿去外州参加国际科学大赛,去DC领奖,我都会带她去买漂亮的衣服,去做头发,去买好的化妆品。女儿和朋友去逛mall,看电影,吃饭,如果她需要20块钱,我会给她30,回来后她会主动把钱还给我。

特别是女儿上高中以后,校内校外参加的很多活动都要花很多钱,有时我们也会私底下唠叨一句:“这真是花钱如流水啊!”可是该花的时候我们从不犹豫。记得九年级女儿试著组织debate club(辩论俱乐部)的时候,她对我说:“妈妈,要加入一个全国性的组织;需要交200多美元的会费。可是现在还没有几个人,而且他们几个都犹犹豫豫的。”我说:“你不用担心这个钱,需要交的时候我们为你付。”尽管最后club没有办起来,可是女儿知道爸爸妈妈一直在支持她。今年,她要参加一个全国性的科学学会组织的竞赛。那个竞赛不仅要提交书面报告,还要交一份录像。因为这学期的功课和考试的压力特别大,女儿想要放弃。她说:“我准备得不充分,得不了奖,95块钱的报名费肯定是白花的。”我说:“95块钱你不用考虑,你不试怎么知道自己不行?你已经准备了,别错过这个机会。”结果她得了二等奖,对于这意外的收获她高兴得不得了。

我让女儿知道:尊重父母辛劳得来的金钱,因为她不挥霍;因为父母在金钱上让她不缺乏,给她安全感,所以她不会对金钱孜孜以求,锱铢必较。更重要的是我们在为她花钱的时候,我们的选择和优先次序向她传递著我们的价值观。

现在回想起来,这个女儿从小到大,小到玩具衣服,大到手机电脑;从没为哪样东西和我们纠缠过,更没有因为得不到满足而对父母抱怨。当然,手机和电脑在她该需要的时候我们就会为她准备。

特别是这一两年,我们对她自己的花费越来越放松,可是她自己懂得分寸,所以还没让我们头疼过。

去年暑假她去华盛顿参加一个政府部门组织的活动,一周里所有费用主办方都包了,没有需要花钱的地方,可是我还是给她100块钱。活动结束后我们全家在华盛顿又玩了几天,在历史博物馆,妹妹挑了几件纪念品和书,交款的时候,我一筹莫展找不到信用卡,大女儿连忙从自己的钱包拿出钱。后来她又在路边的小店给妹妹买了一件纪念衫。我跟小女儿说:“看,姐姐多好!”大女儿马上说:“那是妈妈的钱。”回到后,她把剩下的钱交给我,我随便问了句:“你买什么了?”她说在Smithsonian(美国著名的国家博物馆)买了些纪念品,是送给她的好朋友们的。

就这洋,在我还没明白啥是穷养富养的时候,孩子就长大了。

看到关于穷养富养的讨论我问我女儿怎么看,她说:“小孩懂事之前不该富养。”看来小时候的苦日子在她的身上没有成为负能量,而是让她懂得了父母给与孩子的无限的爱和有限的物质之间是不矛盾的。