

Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Western Canada) Association 香港理工大學(加拿大西)員生會

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2003

No.14

編者的話

本刊編輯組

各會員留意,為節省經費起見,本會的郵箱已經取消,目前最新的通訊地址是:#107-5560 Minoru Blvd, Richmond, BC, V6X 2A9。電郵共四個,分別是:一般聯絡info@polyuwca.com,會員事宜membership@polyuwca.com 活動消息 program@polyuwca.com 及編輯事務 editor@polyuwca.com。另外,本會的全新網址經 Andy Sung君數月來精心泡製,現已正式成立,大家不防抽空瀏覽:www.polyuwca.com。

本會五月內有兩項活動,其中一項是參加巨無霸單車比賽,為Heart& Stroke Foundation籌款,為善不甘後人,希望大家鼎力支持,踴躍參加,比賽完畢還有大快朵頤的餘興節目。另一項是港式燒烤,在楓樹嶺的Golden Ears郊野公園舉行,兩項活動詳情請參閱本刊之通告。

為了使通訊真正成為大家互相溝 通、交換資訊的橋樑,本刊除了在會 員之間傳閱外,還會寄贈一眾友會及 若干海外機構,希望各位多方提出意 見,務令本刊精益求精。而且本刊園 地公開,在此誠邀各會友積極投稿, 表達心聲,使本刊內容更為充實,多 姿多采。

本期通訊蒙多位作者襄助,登載 精彩文稿多篇如下:

關應泉君的「環保種植」講座紀要,為我們報導由徐游慧玲女士主持的環保種植講座,令喜歡種植的朋友大開眼界。另外也是他執筆的「旁觀者言」,道出港加兩地生活之異同,觀察入微。

八爪魚君之「羊年春茗聯歡」活動,輕鬆惹笑,一如其人一貫作風, 尋幽訪勝,上下而求索。

Gabriel Yam君之大作,教你如何利用加國公民身份,在美國尋找工作,子女剛好大學畢業又想前往美國發展的父母,不可錯過。

如果大家對明月、殘劍、寒星、飛雪 等名字耳熟能詳的話,古龍失散的高足臥龍居士,以獨特的輕鬆幽默筆法,寫成「聚沙成塔」故事,諷刺時下被扭曲的社會現象,令人忍俊

不禁,必能令大家再三回味。

宋燦熙君的「道德與權益的攻防 戰」,指出法律並不能解決道德與權 益的衝突。沒完沒了的訴訟,納稅人 永遠是大輸家。

夜叉君以一絲不苟的態度寫成之 人物誌,本期介紹劉美霞校友,劉校 友以堅毅不屈的精神開創新天地,令 人欽佩。

此外Danny君的漫畫,藍田君的 詩,來自各方朋友提供的中英文笑 話,都令人耳目一新。

本刊誠徵各類稿件

稿例:

來稿中英不拘。稿件無論中 英文以不超過一千三百字為限。

來稿請附姓名及聯絡電話。 作者可用真實姓名或筆名刊登來 稿。

本會保留刪改稿件的權利, 但以不違背來稿原意為原則。

Editorial Board:

Rupert Kwan Dennis Sung Helen Chiu Andy Sung(Web page) Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Western Canada) Association #107-5560 Minoru Blvd., Richmond, BC, Canada V6X 2A9 e-mail:info@polyuwca.com web:www.polyuwca.com



要未 羊 年 春 茗 聯 歡

活動八爪魚





理工加西員生會去年攪新舊會員 耶誕聯歡會,參加者眾,至今記憶猶 新。今年二月眾理事再接再厲,來一 然有殺錯無放過,速速報名參加矣。 當晚八爪魚泊好車後,以陰陽五 行迷蹤步法,印印腳攝入會場,但見 眼前一亮,大紅燈籠高高掛似的羊年 春茗聯歡橫額,懸掛在堂前。當八爪 魚左顧右盼尋找座位之際,只見這邊 廂Helen, Jonathan,及Raymond正忙 於迎賓,那邊廂Martha及Francis正 埋頭商量節目安排,正所謂有佢地辦 事,你唔放心都幾難。離表演台三 尺,擺放了大銀幕,八爪魚心想,難 道稍後有好戲看?果然看見遊戲大師 Parmenas 正在耍弄電腦軟件 Powerpoint 的投映來調教角度高矮, 料必好 遊 戲連場。八爪魚再遊目四 望,合指一算,當晚共筳開十三席,

氣氛熱鬧,人聲「頂肺」,完全當目前

個羊年春茗聯歡大集會,我八爪魚當

流行猖獗,肆無忌憚的「沙皇」病毒無 到。八爪魚耳後突傳來歡笑聲,回頭 一望,原來Cecilia正介紹眾來賓給 大家認識,一講曹操,曹Sir就到, 加埋永權叔兩人,互相寒喧,熟落非 常。Priscilla左擁右抱 (永權叔 幸運兒能滿載而歸。Martin西裝骨 骨,談笑風生,睇落後生左十年有 多。Randv同浸大學生會會長陳兄密 密斟,一齊合作攪活動益大家咁話 喎,好得很!Johnson正同曹Sir就上 帝是否全能的問題過招,八爪魚細個 已俾老師點名包拗頸,一個箭步上前 問:「上帝能否明白祂自己也無法了 解之 沙士 病毒的成因? 大家此時 你眼望我眼,八爪魚重唔乘機借水 (搵汽水飲) 遁咩!

環保種植講座紀要

關應泉

冬去春來,正是打理花園的好日 子,所謂一年之計在於春,真是沒 錯。還記得初到貴境時,剛好是夏 天,鄰家的花園玫瑰園盛開,晚風徐 來,暗香浮動,教人格外欣賞這裡的 環境,那時就萌起修園藝的念頭。可 惜不久之後為口奔馳,事情就淡了下 來。這次很高興請得會友徐游慧玲女 士(Agnes Tsui)為我們主講環保種 植的竅門,溫哥華四季分明,風土與 香港大大不同,難怪當日天氣不佳仍 有數十人參加,其中港大校友會的 Peter兄更不時插科打諢,令氣氛輕鬆 熱鬧。徐女士曾在香港大學主修植物 學,移加後更在卑詩大學深造園林設 計,是溫哥華植物公園的 Master Gardener, 更不時主講溫哥華教育局

一些專題園藝課程,當日她一開始便 說小心購買由美國哉培的花種,看看 耐不耐寒,難怪在下苦心經營十年的 玫瑰園仍然貌似空中樓閣!她又說半 數農藥都含有致癌的物質,可以影響 動物中樞神經或干擾荷爾蒙分泌,家 裡有小朋友或飼養寵物的會友,可要 小心了。其實環保種植就是以環境為 先,最好自製堆肥(Compost),在後 園種植適當的植物,吸引一些益蟲及 雀鳥去對付害蟲,植物在自然環境下 茁壯成長,害病的機會就越少了。講 座完畢後茶點招待時與徐女士閒談, 得知溫哥華植物公園有數株梅花盛 開,回家途中禁不住走去看看,當時 正是雪花紛飛,有點踏雪尋梅的感 覺,真是不枉此行。







POLYTECHNIC OVERSEAS ALUMNI

For the information of members, the following are the contact details of the Chairmen / presidents of the PolyU's associations in Toronto, Vancouver and Australia :

1. PolyU (Eastern Canada) Association

President: Mrs Pauline Tsang

 $E\text{-}mail\ address:\ paulinehkpu@yahoo.ca$

Website: http://www.hkpu.ca

2. PolyU (Western Canada) Association

President: Mr Randy Chan

E-mail address: chan8393@shaw.ca Website: http://www.polyuwca.com

3.PolyU (Australia) Association Chairman: Ms Sarah Chow

E-mail Address: sarahchow@optushome.com.au

Website: http://www.hkpuaa.cjb.net

Members may be interested to know that the PolyU is planning to send a letter to all alumni in the U.S., informing them about the proposals to establish a PolyU's association in Northern California (based in San Francisco) and another one in Southern California (based in Los Angeles), and invite them to join the Organizing Committee. The letter may be sent out in March or April. The PolyU will also try her best to locate more alumni and ex-colleagues who are now living near S.F. or L.A.

現時理大酒店及旅遊業管理學院研究產量亞洲的康奈爾大學(全球第一的酒店管理學院

出,世界旅遊,亦是亞洲區唯

一上榜的大學

,已被世

界權

|威的

旅遊教育期刊

訓 旅遊 點

,正有助理大在香港發展酒店及旅遊課

程

,包括為國內酒店業提供度身訂造的專業培

最近更吸引紐西蘭

一百萬元購入理大整套酒店及旅遊課

Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award 2003 - Award Presentation Ceremony

Results of this year's Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award were publicly announced on February 17, via press release and newspaper advertisement. Five distinguished graduates of the Institution and its forerunners have been selected by the Panel of Judges, and below are the names of the awardees:

- Prof. John Lee, Professor,
 Department of Mechanical
 Engineering, McGill
 University, Canada (1957/
 Mechanical Engineering /
 HK Technical College)
- Dr Rebecca Lee Lok-sze, Founder and Director of China Polar Museum Foundation (1964 / Commercial Design / HK Technical College)
- Mr Humphrey Leung
 Kwong-wai, Founder,
 President & Managing
 Director, Solomon Systech
 Limited (1978 & 1981 /
 Electronic Engineering / HK
 Polytechnic)
- Mr Liu Sing-cheong, Founder and Managing Director, Pearl River Hang Cheong Real

- Estate Consultants Ltd. (1977 & 1979 / General Practice Surveying / HK Polytechnic)
- Mr Samuel Wong King-on,
 Partner, Assurance and
 Advisory Business Services,
 Ernst & Young Certified
 Public Accountants and
 International Deputy
 President, The Association of
 Chartered Certified
 Accountants (ACCA) (1977 /
 Accountancy / HK
 Polytechnic)

Some Useful Pointers when applying the TN Status for Canadians to work in the U.S.

By Gabriel K. C. Yam

Many of our sons and daughters graduating from University will be going into the workforce. Some of them may be heading south to work in the U.S. Since they have been in Canada for quite a number of years and have become Canadian citizens, they may be admitted to the U.S. in the "TN" or Trade NAFTA category under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

How to apply and get a job with a U.S. Company is something we parents do not need to worry about. Our kids are more resourceful. They may apply the job on the Internet, have the interview done in Canada or to visit the company in the States during the weekend. In no time they would receive the "Appointment Letter" from the employer. When the job is one of those in the approved category (http://travel.state.gov/ tn_visas.html), our sons and daughters can just bring along their Canadian Passports, the impressive picture-framed University Degrees, march to any Port of Entry to apply for TN Status. It is that simple. That is the message they get when they phone the US Consulate in Canada - and the Consulate is not dealing with TN applications.

It is the process at the Port of Entry that will cause most frustration.

Most Ports of Entry at the Canadian-US border are opened 24 hours daily. Would you expect a Duty Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Officer available for your TN application anytime of the day?

Unfortunately the answer is NO!

Officers are specially trained for TN processing and there may be only ONE qualified TN Officer on duty during normal working hours at any Port of Entry. Normal hours mean only weekdays (except statutory holidays - US's are different from Canadian's) between 8 am (or later) to 4 pm (or earlier). If there is only ONE TN Officer at a particular Port of Entry, you will have to arrive on the day that he or she is not sick, not on firing practice or on any training program.

You may logically reason that there would be more than one TN Officers on duty at a major Port of Entry. Bureaucratic logic works in a peculiar fashion. For example, there are three Ports of Entry between SW Ontario and Michigan border. One would imagine the Tunnel Crossing between downtown Windsor and Detroit would be a major entry point. Yes, it is, but only one single TN Officer is available there. The Ambassador Bridge crossing at the outskirt of Windsor (it should be the first crossing you come across when you drive from Toronto on HWY 401) would only deal with nursing profession. Port Heron, which is 80 km north of Windsor, is said to have more than one TN Officers. To get there one would have to take minor highways from London, Ont. If similar bureaucratic logic is applied to British Columbia - Peace Arch Crossing or the Vancouver Airport will have only one TN Officer on duty during normal weekday. But you can see more than one TN Officers at Port Angles when you arrive by ferry from Victoria or at Osoyoos Crossing. This is the author's conjecture, check it out yourself.

So, where can you obtain the information that A TN Officer is on duty at a particular crossing? You may have better luck than the author when using http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/aboutins/index.htm. Please share the information if you can find the telephone numbers listing the Ports of Entry between the Canadian-US borders. Otherwise, remember to ask the INS Officer at the Port of Entry these questions if you need to return again for your TN application:

- Is there only one TN Officer on duty at this crossing?
- What are the service hours for the TN Officer?
- Can I have the telephone number of this Office which I can phone ahead to ensure a TN Officer is available?

The next "possible problem" is the "Appointment Letter". Its contents should include:

a) The Profession which the applicant is

- required to fill per Appendix 1603 D.I hopefully the boss will use the appropriate terminology.
- Description of Duties which the applicant b) will perform. - Both Employer and Employee understand and have a clear knowledge of what the duties are. It seems superfluous to describe them in the "Appointment Letter". However, we must understand that the letter is not meant to be read by the "Employee". It should be written in such a way that it is going to be read by anyone who had no knowledge of the profession. Statement like "any other duties as required" should be avoided because it is too vague. The description must be written with the TN Officer in mind. Many applicants have been turned back at the Port of Entry because the TN Officers want more explicit explanation of the
- c) The anticipation period of stay Usually starts with a year and to be renewed thereafter. Not much of a problem here.
- d) The salary which the applicant will be paid during the course of employment - Again, there is no great problem in this item because the Salary always appears in any "Appointment Letter".
- e) Any benefits the applicant will receive in addition to the Salary, i.e. vacation and sick leave, retirement benefits and others that will be received from employment. The full description of these benefits may take pages and normally they would not appear on the "Appointment Letter". There may just be a statement such as "you will enjoy extensive benefit packages" appears in the letter. Surely, you would not like your sons or daughters to be rejected because there are no specific vacation and sick leave spelt out in the "Appointment Letter".

Let us reiterate once again the very important "Appointment Letter" should be written for the eyes of the TN Officer. There would not be any great problem in producing the "TN Officer - acceptable Letter" if the Companies that our

offsprings will work for have the experience of employing Canadians, but it would be useful to know what TN Officers are looking for in order to avoid the disappointment at the Border.

We must also understand that the "TN" applicant is considered as an "Alien" at the border. He or she would be sent back to Canada if there is any hitch in the application - TN officer not available to process the application, the appointment letter is not written satisfactorily, etc. Living in the Lower Mainland is not too bad when using the Peace Arch Crossing because one can easily return home and re-organise. Detroit Crossing is more than 300 km from Toronto. The inconvenience is compounded when using the Airport as the Port of Entry. The author could not imagine what would happen to the airline ticket if a "hitch" happens. But there had been applicants being turned back from the Airport in the past.

One last important point to remember: if you were asked to get another letter from your employer, you just do so. The employer will always modify the letter to the satisfaction of the Immigration Authority. But NEVER drive to another Port of Entry, "hoping" other Officer may have different interpretation. The INS may not have your record yet, but any hesitation from you in answering simple question such as "Have you been to so and so port of entry?" or "Are you applying for the first time?" - will make the Officer to suspect you are trying to "crash" the Border. The Officer is very unforgiving on untruthfulness on the part of the applicant.

You may browse the Internet under "US Immigration", "NAFTA" or "TN" for more information. You may even engage an US Immigration Lawyer to help with the TN applications. It may cost you \$1000 to \$6000 a pop, though!

On the other hand, if there is a TN Officer available to process your application at the entry port and all the documents are in good order, the application is quick (about 20 minutes), simple and relatively inexpensive (US \$56 for application fee). The experience is really enjoyable when you can meet a good-natured and humorous TN Officer.



旁觀者言

關應泉

小時候居於九龍牛池灣村,大概是1960年吧,香港政府於牛池灣村的菜田上大興土木,建成東九龍一個大型屋邨,起了一個美麗的名字 彩虹邨。其中有幾幢還是樓高二十層,對我等在田裡間長大的小孩而言,算是對現代化的第一次接觸,尤其是聯群結黨去搭電梯,竟也是節目之一。

有時與幾位好友於二十樓處梯間遠觀啟德機場的飛機升 降,覺得百看不厭。不久又發現另一好去處,香港小童群益 會於其中一幢大廈內開了一間圖書館,面積不大,但對我來 說,簡直是個寶庫。因常收聽香港電台的故事節目,薛仁貴 征東,薛丁山征西等等,對中國的古典小說甚為嚮往,於是 乎整個暑假流連於內,三國演義,水滸傳,鏡花緣等書,看 得似懂非懂,似通非通,總之看個不亦樂乎。印象最深的是 水滸傳,八十萬禁軍教頭林沖,花和尚魯志深,武松打虎等 人物情節,事隔多年尚依稀記得。於圖書館出入漸多,發覺 其一角設有數副象棋,方便小朋友對奕,起初我只作旁觀, 逐漸忍不住落場,因求勝心切,遂一發不可收拾,甚麼梅花 譜,橘中秘等棋書頓成床頭讀物,不數月,居然略有所成, 贏的多,輸的少,有一次連當時的館長亦被我殺敗,委實高 興一段日子。當時不少鄉民於茶餘飯後,乘涼之際,亦會拿 出象棋,互相對奕,引起不少鄉里圍觀,而我亦絕不會錯過 此等免費娛樂。有次看得入神,發覺一方有機可乘,不禁大 叫聲:落馬將軍,將軍抽車!忽然各鄉里怒目而視,其中一 奕者掀了掀棋盆,內有十元紙幣兩張,心知大事不妙,一縷 煙溜之 不覺事隔四十年,象棋早已束之高閣,唯對圖書

藩市遜色得多。

至於卑斯理工學院的圖書館,亦比不上香港理工大學, 論面積則不相伯仲,但藏書則不敢恭維。因工作關係,每一 處圖書館,機械工程的部份都不會錯過,在卑斯理工圖書館 內,大多是年代久遠的舊書,原因可能是此地工會勢力甚 大,一般資源大部份落了學院的員工口袋中,至於添置新書 方面,有心無力矣。回說溫哥華的圖書館總館亦是一樣,在 四樓的商業服務部,服務十分周到。若你要翻查此地公司的 地址,規模大小,負責人的姓名,公司的營業簡介,他們會 十分樂意為你翻查,此等資料對繕寫求職信及見工面試時大 有幫助,只可惜教人繕寫求職信的書,大多數是七、八十年 代出版的,與現今商業環境脫了節,是故各會友若要翻查這 類型的書時,最好去近幾年落成的圖書館,例如列治文南部 Ironwood Plaza的圖書館,館內教人寫求職信的書,不只 新,更分門別類,對每一行業、每一工種,總有示範求職 信,在下就憑這樣,以望五之年,尚可求職轉工而無往而不 利,但望各有心轉工跳糟的會友亦然。至於市中心的圖書總 館,每年夏天都會舉辦一次清除舊書運動,二十五仙一本, 去了幾年,每次皆有收穫,不知為何,間中亦夾雜新書出 售,曾用二元買了一本價值三十五元的新書,就是我心中景 仰的卑斯省前任省督林思齊博士的自傳,書中不少警句足以 為吾等新移民作參考,最深印象的一句是:在加拿大賺一 元,好過在港賺三元。真是一語中的,閱後心中釋然。



所

楊女仕提供

名在加州海灘踱步的男子正在祈禱

隨時隨地可以駕車前往吧。」上帝說:「你的要求很實際啊。」 轉眼間 突然男子頭頂天空雲集,上帝以澎湃隆隆之聲向他說道:「由於你對我一片 ,我成全你之所願吧。 男子回應:「建一條通往夏威夷的大橋 ,該名男子向上天大聲呼喚:「上主,求你使我從心所欲 ,使我能夠

的確是困難 少噸鋼筋及水泥!我當然可以辦得到 ·試想一想該項工程的細節。支撐大橋的橋腳需要落到太平洋底層!將要用多 ,你倒不如用多些時間考慮其他的願望,其他用來光榮及歌誦我的願 ,但要証明我答應你這個世俗的慾望是正當

知道她們內心的感覺,當她們向我默不做聲地回應時,她們實在想什麼 男子搜索思量頗久,最後他對上帝說:「上主,我希望能夠了解女人,我想 上帝沉默數分鐘後回答:「你要求該大橋是雙線還是四線行車?」 ,她們表示沒什麼是何意思,及我如何能夠使女人真正開心快樂。」

兒子,告之一切,並問下一步該如何處理。 兒子的回信道:「爸爸,安心去種你的馬鈴薯 吧,這是盡我所能做到最好的了。」

兒子的愛心

的泥土掘鬆,好能種出鮮美的馬鈴薯享用,但畢竟這是 項很費神又吃力的工作。唯一能夠擔當這份差事,是他

一名因行劫而被捕入獄的兒子。

土,把我埋藏在花園下的贓款掘出。」

一名耆老在愛爾蘭獨居,一心一意希望把後花園

老人家於是寫信給獄中的兒子,告之一切。不久 他收到兒子的回覆:「老天爺啊,不要讓我父親翻泥挖

零晨四時,天還未亮,大隊警員趕到,把整個後

老人家看見此情景,大惑不解,再寫信給獄中的

花園翻天覆地,最後警方一無所獲,遂收隊離去。

。鴉雀無聲,一片靜寂,五分鐘後

,大門打開

,男子眼淚盈眶走出來,說:

彭興提供

獨 眼 龍

小飛俠提供

獨眼龍船長走進一酒吧借酒解悶,酒吧老闆看見 他,問道:「老友,好久不見,看來你的氣色很差,究 竟發生何事?」

- 「你這樣問我是什麼意思?」獨眼龍船長回應:「我 很好呀!」
- 「看看你那頭用木條鑲成的左腳?以往不是這樣的 啊。」
- 「你有所不知了,在一場海戰中,我被對方的流彈 打中,但吉人天相,我現在不是很好嗎。」
- 「對、對」酒吧老闆附和說道:「但那柄鐵勾又如 何?你的左掌去了那兒?」
- 「在另一場戰役中,我身先士卒,衝入對方陣營, 大打起來,一時不察,左掌被砍掉,後來套上鐵勾使 用,不算得什麼大不了!」
 - 「那麼,你那塊黑眼罩又如何?」
- 「噢,有一天,我們揚帆出海,剛好遇上一群海鷗 從頭頂飛過,其中有一頭正向我眼前衝下啄撲。
- 「不要跟我開玩笑吧。」酒吧老闆不解地道:「英 明神武的船長,怎會因一頭海鷗而失掉眼珠?」
 - 「那是我第一次使用鐵勾。」

\triangleright

拉

供

兩男一女。在總部進行面試那天,C1A總管把其中一名男子帶到一扇金屬大門面 絡繹不絕。經過多層背境品格檢查及多次面試覆核手續,最後揀選了三名入圍者: 殺死的。 . 總管望了男子一眼,說:「回家吧,你不是我們心目中的人選。 」 把她殺掉,明白嗎!」男子回應:「是真的嗎?不要來這一套,我永遠不會把愛妻 執行命令。在這扇大門房間之內,你會見到你的妻子,安靜地坐在椅上等你。你要 ,交給男子一柄手槍,說道:「我們需要了解你是否在任何情況下,百分百願意 CIA近日有招聘職業殺手之空缺 。由於經濟下調失業者眾之故 ,所以應徵

槍…竟然用上了空彈頭…我迫不得已拿起椅子把他打死!」 費心機,回家和妻子互訴心曲吧。」 有呼救聲 拿起手槍,頭也不回地衝入房內。祇聞呯呯、彭彭、連串槍聲從房內傳出 我嘗試……但…我不忍心下毒手把妻子殺死啊。 總管搖搖頭 輪到最後的一名女子面試。她同樣收到總管的指示,要向她的丈夫下手。女子 ,撞擊聲,慘叫聲夾雜其中 ,女子抽身出來,順手把眉心額上的汗珠抹掉 ,震耳欲聾。數分鐘過後 ,施施然地道:「這柄手 ,萬籟俱寂 ,對他說:「 。隨後更 你白

房間內 輪到另一名男子面試,他聽到同樣指示。男子於是拿起手槍,推開大門,走進

. 7 .

Define "tragedy"

Submitted by: Amy Wong (from Australia)

Prime Minister John Howard is visiting a primary school and he visits one of the Year 4 classes. They are in the middle of a discussion related to words and their meanings.

The teacher asks the Prime Minister if he would like to lead the class in the discussion of the word, "tragedy." So our illustrious leader asks the class for an example of a "tragedy."

One little boy stands up and offers, "If my best friend, who lives next door, is playing in the street and a car comes along and runs him over, that would be a tragedy." "No," says Howard, "that would be an accident."

A little girl raises her hand: "If a school bus carrying 50 children drove off a cliff, killing everyone involved, that would be a tragedy." "I'm afraid not," explains Mr. Howard. "That's what we would call a GREAT LOSS."

The room goes silent. No other children volunteer. Prime Minister Howard searches the room. "Isn' t there someone here who can give me an example of a tragedy?"

Finally, way in the back of the room, little Johnny raises his hand. In a quiet voice he says, "If The Prime Ministerial Jet, carrying Mr. & Mrs. Howard, was struck by a missile and blown to smithereens, that would be a tragedy".

"Fantastic," exclaims John Howard, "that's right. And can you tell me WHY that would be a tragedy?"

"Well," says little Johnny,
"because it wouldn't be an accident,
and it certainly would be no great
loss."



A farmer always makes sense

Submitted by: Peter Hilman

A farmer got pulled over by a state police for speeding, and the police started to lecture the farmer about his speed, and in general began to throw his weight around to try to make the farmer uncomfortable. Finally, the police got around to writing out the ticket, and as he was doing that he kept swatting at some flies that were buzzing around his head. The farmer said, "Having some problems with circle flies there, are ya?"

The police stopped writing the ticket and said--"Well yeah, if that's what they are--I never heard of circle flies". So the farmer says--"Well, circle flies are common on farms. See, they're called circle flies because they're almost always found circling around the back end of a horse."

The police says, "Oh," and goes back to writing the ticket. Then after a minute he stops and says, "Hey...wait a minute, are you trying to call me a horse ass?"

A LIQUOR LESSON

By: Bingboton

A chemistry teacher wanted to teach his 5th grade class a lesson about the evils of liquor, so he produced an experiment that involved a glass of water, a glass of whiskey and two worms.

"Now, class, observe the worms closely," said the teacher, putting a worm first into the water. The worm in the water writhed about, happy as a worm in water could be. The second worm, he put into the whiskey. It writhed painfully, and quickly sank to the bottom, dead as a door nail.

"Now, what lesson can we derive from this experiment?" the teacher asked. Johnny, who naturally sat at the back, raised his hand and wisely responded, "Drink whiskey and you won't get worms."

Four doctors

Submitted by: Danny Chan

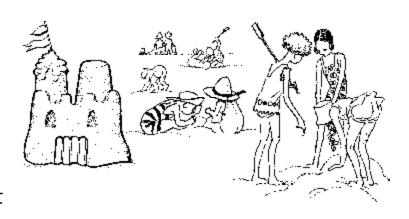
A British doctor says "Medicine in my country is so advanced that we can take a kidney out of one man, put it in another and have him looking for work in six weeks."

A German doctor says "That's nothing, we can take a lung out of one person, put it in another and have him looking for work in four weeks."

A Russian doctor says "In my country medicine is so advanced we chop a heart out of one person, put it in another and have them both looking for work in two weeks."

A Chinese doctor from Hong Kong, not to be outdone, says "You guys are way behind. We just took a man with no brain, put him in the Governor House of Hong Kong, and now half the city is looking for work."

江湖恩仇錄 之 「**聚沙成塔」**



臥龍居士

人物簡介:

東耶至勇:這位前京城大內高 手,復姓「東耶」,字「至勇」,生於 古國之八仙嶺,故體形高大,寬面大 耳。話說廿年前東方古國發生了武林 悲劇,全國過萬武林人仕於習武時走 火入魔,輕則身受重傷,重則氣絕而 亡,少有倖免;一時間舉國上下,全 民皆聞武色變,無人再敢練武,其時 猛虎林傳有一武林秘笈,能助練武人 脫離走火入魔之苦,可惜世人皆無膽 入虎穴拿取秘笈。遠在西方雲來仙界 之東耶至勇先生,不惜遠渡重洋,更 深入虎穴,幾經辛苦危難,終於尋得 秘笈,放在懷中帶離虎穴,重返西方 雲來仙界。此一壯舉救天下人無數, 後來更將秘笈獻上京城城主,深得城 主讚賞,及後東耶至勇先生更榮選為 大內高手,風頭之勁,一時無兩;至 於其後為何退任大內高手原因,他日 有緣定當再相告。

御風行者蠟道人在西水海傍之富貴門落腳後,真的果然,立刻富貴迫人來,為日月派出戰,爭奪京城大內高手一位,順利勝出,成為西水海傍富貴門之一時佳話。

公羽長:東耶至勇之幕僚,複姓「公羽」,單字長」,一身素色衣裳,裁剪合度,中等身形,一頭銀絲蓋頂,兩邊太陽穴高高鼓起,架上一副金絲打造的上等水晶雙照(金絲眼鏡),一望而知其內功深厚無比,這位老者,最厲害是他的一雙化骨綿掌,中其掌者無不肝腸寸斷。江湖中人稱之為劃雪無痕「公羽長」。

故事的帷幕慢慢地在兩旁拉 聞

> 窗外 寒夜,殘風,冷雨 窗內 孤燈,隻影,獨坐

「唉」,幾許風雨,幾多風光,人生際遇總會有高低順逆,絕無例外,所差者只是如何面對處理而已。也許獨坐之人早已慣於這個環境。

凜烈寒風夾雜着幾許冷雨,不停 地敲打「忠義堂」之門窗。

自上次東耶至勇與御風行者禾花魚「蠟道人」之爭,未能佔得半點上風,反而屢失先機,眾人士氣一再低落;趨炎附勢之徒一哄而散。如 燈上,門庭冷落,水靜河飛,燈時,只見三兩人影呆坐一旁,輕以之聲此起彼伏。此情此景,想起昔, 虚炎外車水馬龍,堂內金碧輝煌, 燈火通明,衣香繽影,茶香酒醉,人聲鼎沸,真不可同日而語。

微風輕拂,擺弄了眾人頭上幾縷 青絲,惜未能引起半點喜悅,反之更 挑起淡淡哀愁。

「眾位賢弟,我東耶至勇,一生忠誠為人,凡事必竭盡全力,鞠躬盡瘁,死而後已。但為何天下人皆不明我心我志,反之事事與我為敵,處處與我抬槓,天呀天,你、你、你天道何存?為何如此待我! 此語既畢,東耶至勇頹然重重地跌坐在太師椅上,肥重的軀體把太師椅直壓得格格作響。眾人至此一時間也不知如何安慰,只急得亂作一團。

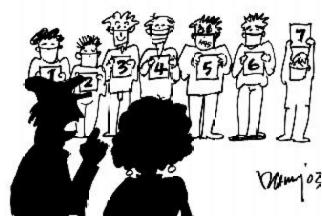
正當此時劃雪無痕「公羽長」輕輕站了出來低聲說道:「東耶先生,為弟現有一計,未知賢兄能否聽我一言。」【下接第10頁】

尋梅不遇

藍田

應泉君踏雪尋梅,藍田君尋梅不獲, 贊文一篇以紓其懷:

昔植梅花開正盛,少我來看! 我欲尋梅梅不在,祇餘宿霧繞雲煙



警:妳認得係邊個搶妳手袋就講個號碼我知

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the official viewpoint of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Western Canada) Association.

【上接第9頁】

江湖恩仇錄之「聚沙成塔」

「賢弟有話請說,為兄與你何曾見外,快說快說。」東耶至勇一聽有人 肯說話,當然求之不得,馬上從太師 椅中彈跳起來。

「東耶先生,上次我們之所以未能 成事,把御風行者「蠟道人」這臭老道 拉下馬來,主要成因不外乎一次過開 出項目太多;以至目不暇給,因而大 失良機,而且我們若舊橋再用,似乎 欠缺新意,所以我現有一計獻上。」

「公羽賢弟,你老毛病始終未改,說了老半天還未達主題,直急煞我也!」東耶至勇一語未完,已一個箭步走到「公羽長」面前,一手將他從椅中提起,嚇得劃雪無痕「公羽長」雙腳亂踢叫道:「先生請勿動怒,且讓魯弟說來。」

「賢弟,為兄一時情急,才把你從 椅中提起,莫怪莫怪,且跟為兄到燈 前坐下,好讓為兄聽得仔細,見得清 楚。」東耶至勇還未說畢,便馬上牽 着「公羽長」之衣袖來到燈前。

劃雪無痕「公羽長」被東耶至勇連拖帶推拉到燈前,未及整理衣襟便馬上說道:「咱們過往所作行動,未有鮮明主題,所以失敗。如今之計是要喚醒所有「聾」的傳人,過往我等聾的傳人一盆散沙,難以整合。這次我等喚醒他們,讓他們去「聚沙成塔」,讓他們知道團結便是力量!」正當劃雪無痕「公羽長」話入主題之際,一手推開所坐交椅,大踏步走向堂中。

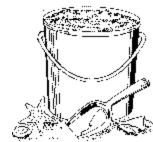
「哈、哈、哈,至勇大哥,公羽 長老弟,為兄剛才正想把聚沙成塔一 計說將出來,怎知被你快我一步。」 喊話之人便是江湖中,人稱為智多星 草上行之「花重城」是也。

「若想聚沙成塔,最重要是我們所 用之沙,一定要用黃色的沙,其他白 的、黑的、紅的、各種雜色沙子,一 律通通不要,只要黃沙。到時一座座 九層高的巍峨沙塔,在城中各處高聳 入雲,既壯觀又可顯示我等實力;到 其時天下人均知我們的力量厲害,不 再被番幫蠻夷等化外之人看扁。如今 年近歲晚,殘年急景,最宜在各個大 小墟場市集,舉行聚沙成塔大會,招 募有志之士共襄盛舉,未知至勇大哥 意下如何?」

「好賢弟,好一個聚沙成塔共襄盛舉,此計甚好,比起上回連環之計還要好;不知好了多少倍。事不宜遲,有請賢弟立刻進行,以便早日成事;事成之後,我再也不用孤燈獨影。來人、來人呀,馬上給我弄一壺上好碧螺春,以茶代酒,好與「花重城」及「公羽長」兩位賢弟,共飲一番。」

劃雪無痕「公羽長」說話冷不防被 人欄腰打斷,搶奪功勞,一瞬間回不 過氣來,呆

在堂中不知如何是好。



由九名大法 官組成的加國聯 邦最高法院,去 年六月十二日在 渥太華開庭聆訊 一宗影響深遠的 案子。這宗案子 源於卑詩省素里 市學校局禁止學 校圖書館擺放三 冊描繪同性戀家 庭的書籍,作為 幼稚園及一年級 的參考教材。同 性戀教師及部份 家長認為學校局 有壓制知識傳授 之嫌,遂展開訴 訟,在省級法庭 先勝一仗。素里 市學校局不服, 向卑詩省上訴庭

道德與權益的攻逐戰

要求推翻原判,上訴庭法官裁定學校局有權決定在校內圖書館擺放「適齡與否」的讀物,學校局獲得平反。但事情並未因此了結,同性戀教師及有關團體,加上民權團體如Civil Liberties Association等組織上訴聯邦高等法院,成為雙方在司法程序上角力最終的第三回合

聯邦最高法院當日雙方擺出的律師團陣容鼎盛,旗鼓相當。同性戀者方面由教師張伯倫Chamberlain為上訴人,要求推翻省級法庭的裁決;而素里市學校局為答辯人,要求維持原判。支持學校局的一方,包括亞伯斯福學校局、天主教和基督教的團體,及大部份會員有宗教背景組成的一些民間組織。觀乎雙方整個激辯過程,代表同性戀者張伯倫一方的律師對學校局不利的陳詞有以下數點:

一、無論人數多寡,同性戀家庭的存在 是不爭的社會現實,該三冊書籍只 是指出目前存在的現實。對現實避 而不談,並不代表現實會自動消 失;拒絕正視這個現實的存在,對 解決同性戀家庭收養的孩子在校內 受到另類眼光的看待,並無幫助。 學校局既為提供公立學校教育制度 的負責機構,應該一視同仁,不能 刻意漠視某類家庭及其孩子面對的 歧視或所受的偏見。

- 二、根據加國人權憲章,任何人的權益 都應該受到保障,不論肥瘦高矮、 傷殘、貧富、性取向、來自單親或 雙親家庭,為何同性戀家庭的孩子 有例外?
- 三、學校局需要採納包容互重的態度, 不能因為保守及有宗教背景家長的 壓力,而作出偏頗的政策決定。
- 四、由於部份家長的保守觀念及其受宗 教道德方面的規限,使他們無法面 對及處理這個棘手的現實問題,所 以索性 斬腳趾避沙蟲」,採用駝 鳥政策,眼不見為淨,此實為自欺 欺人。
- 五、在同性戀家庭長大的孩子,從小就已經有兩個爸爸或兩個媽媽,他們對同性戀的認識並不存在所謂適齡與否」的問題,學校局以「並不適齡」來剝奪異性戀家庭的孩子認識這個問題的權利,已是帶有偏見,取態並非中立。
- 六、不可能把同性戀家庭的孩子當作透明(invisible),視而不見他們在校內存在的現實,使他們看來和來自異性戀家庭的孩子有別,這樣做對雙方均無好處。
- 七、既然宗教把同性戀看成是罪惡,這就是道德的判斷。在課堂提出兩個爸爸或兩個媽媽的問題,也就必然牽涉道德或宗教判斷;這等同於在課堂討論,進化論」,也就無可避免牽涉創造論。受宗教教義及道德規範影響的家長,無論從道德或宗教層面都未能就這些議題提供圓滿的解答,既然不能解答,就單可避而不談,甚至不斷逃避,或阻攔學生對同性戀問題的討論。
- 八、既然宗教把同性戀定性為邪惡,要 求該些家長對同性戀人士及其家庭 採納包容互重的態度,簡直是椽木 求魚。

而代表學校局爭取維持原判的律師 之理據為:

- 一、學校局是民選機構,其主要角色是 反映當地社區人士的訴求。
- 二、學校法賦予學校局權力編制課程和 決定教學內容,而不是怎樣教學, 怎樣教學是屬於教師的專業範圍。

- 學校局也有權決定採用「適齡與 否」的教材。
- 三、家長作為子女的首要培育者,也是納稅人,應該有權知道其孩子在課堂學些什麼,也該有權決定甚麼最適合孩子學習,要是不同意學習內容,更有權拒絕讓孩子學習。沒有家長會置其子女切身利益於不顧。
- 四、既然加國人權憲章列明任何人的權益都應該受到保障,這任何人」亦應包括宗教人士及道德保守的家長,法庭應該平衡雙方觀點,任何偏重一方權益的裁決,必然令人對法律的公正性產生質疑。
- 五、三冊描繪同性戀家庭的書籍並非單純反映社會現實,上訴人之意圖乃藉此引發及帶動對同性戀家庭更深入的討論,這就免不了牽涉「性取向」複雜等議題,對幼稚園及一年級學童造成一定的困惑,如此已未能充份考慮對該等學童的利益。
- 六、由於三冊同性戀書籍在校內將給予年 幼學童混淆的訊息,使有宗教背景的 家長難於向子女解釋及灌輸立場。

從上述雙方角力的過程,可以察覺 同性戀者一方是採用進攻型的策略,以 推翻原判為目的,而學校局則以防守為 主,處處設防,企圖說服九名大法官維 持省級法庭的裁決。

所謂進攻是最佳的防衛,半年後, 聯邦最高法院最後裁決素里市學校局禁 書的做法不當,違反公立學校須以不偏 不倚,不向任何宗教派別的立場屈服。 案子可說是道德與權益的角力戰,此案 例影響深遠。對全省以至全國所有之校 區帶來的骨牌效應不難理解,有宗教背 境或道德保守的家長只有讓子女逃避這 些課堂,長此下去,對公立學校教育不 免造成破壞,要求政府撥款成立傳統學 校的壓力只有越來越大。但卑詩教師聯 會恐防資源及權力被削,對家長及教會 只有虎視耽耽。不過聯邦最高法院也看 通這點,不想被雙方擺上檯,遂將此事 交回學校局重新考慮其決定。其實以法 律來解決複雜的道德問題,是場沒完沒 了的戰爭,無論那一方得勝,也並不表 示以後風平浪靜,執筆至此,另一場有 關 婚姻 是否必定一男一女的定義之 訴訟正在展開, 躲在牆角的律師們正發 出冷笑。



劉美霞Angela是理工校友,出生 五零年代中期,那時香港的工商業仍 未發展;市民生活艱苦,知識水平偏 低,教育並未普及。而劉美霞的父親 也未受過教育,故此,他覺得子女亦 無需接受教育。但小小年紀的劉美霞 卻知道讀書的重要性,加上有年長親 友向父親說項,這樣她才有入學讀書 的機會。但他父親並沒有在子女讀書 方面作出任何金錢上的支援,故此, 即使是五元的學費,劉校友也要到處 張羅。穿膠花、釘珠片、做手襪等各 項外發加工,便成為她支付學費、書 簿費、交通費等的主要經濟來源。上 了中學後,她就替學生補習來賺取一 切所需。她自強不息,努力進取,永 不放棄的精神,促使她最終在何文田 官立中學完成了預科課程。在求學生 涯中,劉校友可以說是活脫脫的典形 「清貧學子」。

預科畢業後,劉校友當過一年多的代課老師,後來轉到聖雅各福群會,學做了兩年照顧中度弱智的導師及照顧老人的工作。及後,劉校友決定辭工重返校園進修。她覺得自己適合當社工,於是入讀理工學院兩年制的社會工作課程。

劉校友在一九八零年完成社工課程後,隨即在基督教服務處:深水埗外展隊工作,服務對象是青少年。外展服務在當時來說是一個新發展計劃,富有挑戰性及發展空間,她這樣就做了五年多。後來,劉校友就轉到學校當駐校社工,一幹十年有多。在這十年中,劉校友就如一般女性一

劉美霞校友

樣,結婚、生子,一切都來得順理成章;安安穩穩、平平靜靜的度過。直 到她丈夫決定移民加拿大時,安穩平 靜多時的生活,才起了重大的衝激。

一九九七年八月中,劉校友抱着 破釜沉舟的心情,帶着年僅八歲的女 兒,隨着丈夫一起來到溫哥華。正所 謂 人到中年萬事憂」, 更何況要面對 一個陌生的環境,一切都要從零開始 呢。劉校友明白到幹回老本行是沒有 可能的,但投身其他行業亦不見得容 易。加上移民前已決定到了溫哥華 後,要多點時間照顧家庭,讓女兒有 足夠的安全感;陪伴着女兒慢慢成 長,做個真真正正的全職家庭主婦。 一切家庭開支,生活重擔就交由丈夫 背負,但當面對着在香港幹了十多年 社工的丈夫,在謀事上遇到種種困 難,再加上有某程度的家庭經濟壓力 下,劉校友知道是時候需要找一份工 作,以減輕丈夫的負擔。但找工作又 談何容易呢!

偶然在翻閱報章時,劉校友看到一則「家庭托兒服務課程」招生廣告,頓時為劉校友露出一線曙光。劉校友立即報讀為期三個月,每週上課兩的課程,從而學習照顧幼兒的課程,從而學習照顧幼兒的課程,從重之事,及立時,與實施之一間家庭托兒中心。剛巧,故如時,以表表上正打算購買房子,故此之用,亦成為考慮因素之一。

完成課程後,劉校友就着手籌辦家庭托兒中心的一切事宜。例如:申請牌照、發廣告、買玩具、添置教材及基本設施等。而且還得通過防火組及衛生廳的檢查,證明一切都符合規格,持牌人還需得到警務廳發出文件,證明並無犯罪紀錄方算完成。大

夜叉

大小小的事情,繁繁複複的手續,並 未難倒鍥而不捨的劉校友,加上朋友 的支持及育兒資源中心的支援,終於 在一九九八年中,劉校友在她家中, 成立了自己的家庭托兒中心。

由初期只有兩個小孩,到後來額滿(按:加拿大政府規定,家庭托兒中心最高限額為七個小朋友。 劉校友對今日的成績,感到非常滿足。而且,最重要的是受托管的小孩,他們的父母大部份都是來自主流社會接納一个地深深感受到自己被主流社會接納及信任的那份認同感。她既可在家中作亦可照顧家庭,更有收入來更有收入來說,何樂而不為呢?

劉校友雖然大部份時間都需要留在家中,但實際上,她是一個喜愛戶外活動的人。夏天的時候,她喜歡駕車穿州過省,尋幽探勝,露營及欣賞大自然風景。冬天,她則喜歡滑雪,也好結交朋友。故此,每逢週末假日,她必呼朋喚友來家中作客。正是高朋滿座,熱鬧非常。

劉校友坦言在移民溫哥華後,無 論事業上,家庭上及靈性生活上,都 有所得,這是在香港生活時所沒 的。對劉校友來說,溫哥華是一片 享雨露恩澤,流奶流蜜的新天新地; 也是一塊天地交融,神人合一的恬靜 樂土。而事上劉美霞校友亦已在這 一塊恬靜樂土,畫出了一片屬於此 無力 思自淺,胡自深。人生樂在相知心。」 溫哥華,妳的名字又豈是一個地名那 麽簡單呢。

後記:有興趣投身育兒行業者, 可向以下機構查詢:

West Coast Child Care Resources Centre, 電話: 604-709-5661