Parents Sue 30-Year-Old Deadbeat Son

美父母狀告30歲失業兒子賴家不走

下文摘錄自香港《文匯報》2018年 5月24日報道:

歐美不少年輕人收入偏低,加上大 城市樓價 (property price) 高企,部 分人即使已踏入成年 (adulthood) 多時,仍要跟父 母同住。美國紐約州一對父母不滿30歲兒子羅通多 (Michael Rotondo) 長期賦閒在家,而且8年來均 沒付家用,近月多次要求他離家自立,甚至給他現 金資助搬家,但羅通多一一置若罔聞,父母無計可 施下向法院提告,紐約州最高法院 (New York State Supreme Court) 最終裁定羅通多敗訴,意味 他很可能須即時遷出。

「啃老族」兒子8年未付家用

羅通多接受傳媒訪問時透露,他高中畢業後不久 曾找到工作,更搬出父母住所獨居約一年半,其間 與伴侶誕下一名兒子,然而好景不常,羅通多隨後 被裁員(laid off),於是搬回雙親住處。

去年9月他在撫養權(custody)官司敗訴,兒子 歸母親照顧,羅通多提出上訴(appeal),並以沒 收入為由獲取法援 (legal aid) 。羅通多的雙親這時 要求他找工作,羅通多則要求先爭回兒子撫養權, 父母不久後不再向他提供食物,也禁止他使用家中 的洗衣機。

羅通多的父親馬克(Mark Rotondo)2月2日給 兒子一封信,命令他在14天內搬出,揚言採取「任 何必要措施」執行這決定。羅通多未有理會父親信 件,母親克里斯蒂娜 (Christina) 同月13日再寫 信,表示已諮詢律師意見,再給羅通多30天寬限期 (grace period) ,羅通多繼續置之不理。

父母二人見無計可施,5天後決定給羅通多1,100 美元(約8,633港元),助他尋找新居,並要求他求 職,但同樣無法趕走兒子。

無計可施 決定提告

馬克夫婦3月再兩度去信羅通多,但對方一直拒 絕遷走,二人本月初忍無可忍,向法院控告兒子。 羅通多抗辯時指出,父母過去8年均沒要求他繳付 家用、做家務 (chore) 或維修 (maintenance) 家 居,他認為這已是雙方共識(consensus),更舉出 類似案例,要求按照普通法 (common law) 原則, 給予6個月寬限期。

法官格林伍德 (Donald Greenwood) 讚賞羅通多 細心研究案例,但指出案例只適用於極少數個案, 直斥羅通多要求半年寬限期「太不像話」 (outrageous) ,其父母亦已給予充足通知,因此判 (sentence) 他敗訴。羅通多聞判後揚言上訴,稱自 己沒準備好搬家,只想獲給予合理的準備時間。





■羅通多早前在父母家門前接受傳媒採訪。但敗訴後現已搬離父 母住處。 網上圖片

考考你

- 1.「啃老族」又稱為 "NEET" (「尼特 族」),它的全稱是 什麼?
- 2.「啃老族」被西方稱作 什麼世代?
- 3. 相對於 "Empty nest" (「空巢期」,即子女 成年後離家)的失落, 「啃老」現象令父母面 對什麼難題?
- 4. 哪個國家也出現父母 與子女因為「啃老」問 題而對簿公堂的情況?

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1. Not currently en-



Because of low income and soaring property prices in big cities, many young adults in the European and

American regions still have to live with their parents even if they have entered adulthood for many years. A New York couple was so desperate to get their 30-year-old son Michael Rotondo, who reportedly had been living at home without getting a job for eight years, to move out on his own; after he had ignored their offer of money to get him a new house, the couple finally opted for the last resort to sue their son in the New York State Supreme Court and received favorable outcome that the son was ordered to take immediate action longer provided food for him and

Rotondo said to the media outlets that he had found a job shortly after graduation from high school and moved out of home for about 1.5 years, and later had a son with a woman; however, he was subsequently laid off and then moved back to his parents' house.

Last September, he lost custody of his son in a lawsuit and his son was then taken back by his mother. He made an appeal and was granted legal aid for having no income. Even though being requested by his parents to find a job, Rotondo insisted on having the custody of his son regained first.

The disappointed parents later no

chine as well in response to his failure mately HK \$8,633) to find a new to move out as demanded.

Too Broke to Move Out

Rotondo's father Mark had sent a notice to him on February 2, giving him a grace period of 14 days to vacate, otherwise the parents would take "whatever actions are necessary" to enforce the decision. Receiving no response from Rotondo, his mother Christina sent him another notice on February 13, granting him 30 more days to move out and saying that they had sought legal coun-

As their son took no action, they

banned him from using the washing ma- by gifting him US\$1,100 (approxiplace and asked him to hunt for a job, but still failed to kick him out.

> The parents left two more notes in March but still received no signs of their son's moving out. With no other options, they eventually took legal action against him to file for an eject-

Rotondo disagreed and claimed he had never been expected to contribute to household expenses, chores or maintenance of the premises, and believed this was a mutually agreeable consensus reached by both sides and further cited similar cases to argue that he should further offered him a cash incentive be, in accordance with the common

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law, entitled to a six-month notice before an eviction.

Parents Win Suit to Kick Son Out

The judge Donald Greenwood praised Rotondo for his detailed legal research, but said that the studies were only applicable to an extremely small number of cases. He described his claim for six months' grace period as "outrageous" because he had been given more than enough notice to vacate, therefore sentencing him to lose.

Rotondo responded that he would appeal the judge's decision, saying that he was not well prepared for moving out the property and requesting for more reasonable time to leave.

環保班際賽 鬥源頭減廢



■同學們齊齊參與回收膠模活動

保護地球人人有責,本校去年以「節能減 廢」為題,推行不同環保活動,讓學生在日 常生活參與保護地球的工作,在多方協助 下,更獲嘉許為港燈智「惜」用電計劃2017 最傑出「綠得開心學校」大獎 (小學組) 季 軍,成績令人鼓舞。

培養環保習慣 自備水樽餐具

為讓學生了解廢物問題嚴重,學校邀請了 不同的環保團體透過講座、攤位遊戲、戲 劇、工作坊,加上各項參觀活動,令全校超 過四分之三的學生參加至少一項環保活動, 開拓綠色眼界,更明白源頭減廢的重要性。

當同學的環保知識有所增長後,便在不知 不覺間改變態度,學校把握機會推行「自備 水樽計劃」和「自備餐具計劃」班際比賽, 計算各班有多少同學自備水樽及餐具,百分 比愈高,分數便愈高。

「小息熄電器計劃」則計算小 有關掉電器。



家教會家長也齊齊落手,協助回收塑膠產品計劃的分類 港燈供圖

三項比賽的得分,均作計算爭奪班際「環 保卓越大獎」,每位同學的表現,均成為所 屬班別奪得「環保卓越大獎」的關鍵。因 少了使用即棄水杯和餐具的數量。

即使比賽完結,同學已建立環保習慣,自 動自覺自備水樽和餐具,離開班房時亦會關 掉電器,可見「節能減廢」這個目標,已由 思想發展成態度,並植根成習慣

家校合作 回收重用

除了源頭減廢,學校亦致力提倡回收。紙 張方面,學校推行電子通告、電子課本、網 上點名、八達通收費,以單面廢紙作記錄表 格,並在課室和教員室增設單面紙和雙面紙 回收箱;同時鼓勵同學兩面使用紙張,兩面 均用完後則回收,成功讓學生把「珍惜紙 張」付諸實行,亦為學校減少廢紙。根據記 錄,由2016年9月至2017年7月期間,學校 息時,所有同學離開班房後有沒 回收紙張達1,446公斤,成效顯著。

發泡膠方面,午膳飯商會提供水果,同學

主動把包裝水果的發泡膠袋、包裝紙及水果 分類,將發泡膠袋交給環保大使投進回收 箱,包裝紙放進雙面紙回收箱。我校約百分 此,同學們都積極參與,互相勉勵,大大減 之九十五的學生訂餐,換句話說,他們都一 起參與發泡膠回收。

塑膠方面,我校設有多個塑膠回收箱,亦 開展塑膠乾淨分類回收的教育,與家教會合 作,推行「積分獎勵回收塑膠產品計劃」, 學生可與家人合作,把可回收的塑膠產品帶 回學校,儲積分換取小禮物,這是自願性活 動,得到百分之九十三的學生參與。

總括來說,我校推行的環保活動,有效提 高學生的環保意識,以比賽形式進行,有助 發展成習慣,而一系列的回收項目,讓學生 身體力行,參與保護地球的工作,齊齊共建

■東華三院馬錦燦紀念小學 (港燈智「惜」用電計劃2017最傑出 「綠得開心學校」大獎(小學組)季軍)



暑期將至,又是不少家庭考慮子女升學前涂 的季節。部門幾位社工同事在午餐閒談時,發 現大家也曾輔導無法適應外國留學,出現情緒 問題,甚至急需回港求醫的青少年個案。於 是,大家整頓飯都在討論,青少年在什麼情況 下較適合考慮海外升學呢?

須尊重子女意見

撇開外在因素,例如家庭狀況、經濟情況及教育制度等,單 從青少年個人出發,父母為子女作出海外升學的重大決定前, 必須充分評估及考慮子女的年齡、性格、志向、適應力,及家 庭可以提供什麼支援,其間須尊重子女意見。

獨自遠赴海外,即使是成年人也不容易應付,更何況是孩 子?他們要面對包括語言、學業要求、作息安排、社交壓力及 文化衝突等巨大轉變,不是單靠父母一兩句鼓勵,叫他們調整 心態、努力適應便能解決。

若然在香港讀書時已表現性格內向、不喜轉變的小孩,不難 想像,他們去到外地的心理衝擊之大、無助感之深,嚴重者更 可能覺得已被家人拋棄。

有些家庭以為只要父或母一方陪同子女海外升學,便無後顧 之憂,其實自己也面對適應問題,並且也無法全天候陪伴孩 子,孩子始終要面對生活轉變帶來的壓力。

及早聯繫支援團體

因此,父母作出决定前,最好以子女性格、志向及感受為 先,了解子女對留學的態度及看法,不應抱持「我是為你前途 着想!」硬要孩子遵從。

當然,也有許多青少年有清晰志向及喜好,知道自己較喜歡 外國教育制度及方式、較獨立自主或喜歡外國文化,他們很明 顯會較易適應留學生涯;亦有些即使不太清楚自己志向,但適 應力較強、較為外向,適應過程中雖然有困難,也會找方法排 解或求助,最終在外國學習及生活得如魚得水。

坊間有些性格測評,可以協助評估學生的個性,家長可以藉 此推測子女的優點及缺點。若父母決定讓子女在外求學,應當 提供更多支援,例如盡早並具體地讓他們知道,遇到不同範疇 的問題時,可以尋求幫助的方法及途徑,包括當地警方、領使 館、與當地親友聯絡、向教會或其他支持團體求助,並及早建 立並保持聯繫。子女在香港的社交網絡也要盡量保持,以便他 們有情緒壓力時,能隨時向香港親友傾訴。

■香港心理衞生會教育主任 曾媚

港燈智「惜」用電計劃,致力教導年輕一代及公衆人士培養良好的用電習慣,目前全港已有三百多間中小學校加入 「綠得開心」學校網絡。詳情可致電3143 3757或登入www.hkelectric.com/smartpower

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