

'An accident and my afterthoughts'

All my dear fellow students:

Re: An accident and my afterthoughts

I had been thinking for quite a while before I decided to write this letter because somewhere along the line, the ridiculous nature of my ethnic group and the meaning of friendship among my friends in Fredericton will be revealed. The purpose of this letter is (1) to reveal a tragic accident which happened on Sunday, July 29, 1984 at about 11:15 a.m.; and (2) to tell all UNB students my afterthoughts of that accident.

I have been suffering from insomnia for many years. Therefore, I am used to getting up late in weekends. On Sunday, July 29, 1984 at about 11:15 a.m., when I was still lying in bed, my wife (Elsa) shockingly shouted to me telling me that Bebe (our baby girl, Maple's, nickname) had fallen down to the ground floor from our window on the seventh floor at Magee House. I woke up immediately, told my wife to call police and/or ambulance. In a few seconds time, I rushed down to the site where my baby was lying, picked her up and held her on my arms. In less than a minute time, she stopped breathing. My body was trembling and my teardrops didn't even find the way out. You wouldn't understand the pain of losing a child, especially when he/she who was being held in your arms died while you could do nothing to save his/her life.

"In less than a minutes time, she stopped breathing. My body was trembling and my teardrops didn't even find a way out."

However, I do hope that you did/do/ will not understand exactly what this pain is. Doctor Carolyn Barry tried her best, I believe, to save my baby's life but in vain! My lovely sweetheart, 13 months and 15 days, then physically, but definitely not spiritually, left us.

The death of my child told me several things. First, it told me how good is the university administration at UNB; second, the purpose of forming so and so society/association(s) in the campus; and third, the meaning of "friendship" here.

I remember earlier this year, when I was waiting for my mails one day on the ground floor at Magee House, I heard some women talking about a boy who fell down from an apartment window in Magee House. However, I did not know much about that and I did not try to get more information about the fall. It is because I thought if it's true that a boy fell from an apartment window at Magee House the university (or at least the Housing Department) would have some sort of notice telling and warning residents who have young kids(s). However, there have been no circulars, no notices whatsoever about the first fall. Nothing has been done, as far as I know, to tell and to warn residents that screens on the windows are not strong enough to stop any falling. Needless to say, nobody representing the university came to us asking if we need to put bars on the windows just for safety sake. Remember tht Magee House is designed for married students. Therefore, although the apartment building does meet the safety code, it may be safety enough for adults, I don't know, but, I wonder whether they have ever considered the safety for kids. Since there have been no official and/or formal notices about the first fall (not until I read the tragic accident in the newspaper on Monday, July 30, 1984 about my little sweetheart, I was not sure if there had been a similar fall earlier this year), I was not really aware of it. I

had assumed that's just a sort of rumour. From the newspaper, I learnt that the University has been 'aware' of both falls. However, as far as I know, and many other residents, we don't see the University has been 'aware' of both falls. However, as far as I know, and many other Magee House residents, we don't see the University has done anything towards the first fall. I would guess that probably because the boy was not killed in the first incident. They did not even tell residents that those screens are dangerous. The death of my child has

awakened them to accept the fact that those screens are dangerous and they started to put bars on windows of some apartments. However, that could not return the life of my child. what I know is that **Magee House killed my baby.** Why waited to put bars on windows until something really tragic and painful had happened? Why my baby had to sacrifice? Perhaps some people do not feel that it is tragic and painful. If you don't, I would curse you! My dear compassionate fellow

child does not allow you to remember everything. I was sort of blaming the university who did not even say a word since the accident had happened. Mr. Garland and the other gentleman explained that they were not the persons who should contact me. From my understanding, they meant President James Downey (who was on vacation in Ottawa), or Mrs. Brooks, the Foreign Student Advisor, (who was also away), should be the right persons to contact me. Ha ha...I do not believe, that for exam-

"What I know is that Magee House killed my baby."

students, can you imagine that nobody representing the University has come to me and just to say one single word to comfort me and my wife? Several days after the incident, Mr. Gilbert Todd of the hospital arranged an informal talk between me and two gentlemen from UNB. One of these two gentlemen is Mr. Eric Garland and the other I do not remember. As you may not know, the pain of losing a

ple, there is any regulation which says if somebody dies in the campus, the president is the right person to contact the family. As far as I know, anybody leaves his/her job temporarily, his/her duty/responsibility must be relieved by somebody else. However, until Mr. Gilbert Todd's arrangement, I had not talked to anybody from the University. So far, nobody from the Foreign Student Ad-

visor's office has contacted me. I am sort of wondering what are these people doing in the Foreign Student Advisor's office. As a Foreign Student Advisor(s), do they really concern about the foreign students here at UNB, I really doubt it! Well, whether the University, the Housing (or Accommodation) Department as well as the Foreign Student Advisor's Office have been doing the right thing, I am not quite sure, I want you, my dear fellow students to be the judge!

With respect to some of the students' society/association(s) in the campus, I recognize that only the Student Union is really helpful to students. I am a member of the Graduate Students' Association (or society, I am not sure), the Malaysian Students' Society (MSA) and the Overseas Chinese Students' Association (OCSA). However, can you imagine that nobody representing these god damn organizations has come to me, or even telephoned me, just show a little concern, even though that wouldn't return the life of my

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Li Neighbour Criticizes Coverage

Dear Editor,

In writing a recent letter to Elsa Li, mother of Maple, I could not bring myself to mention your most recent issue of 'The Brunswickan', Vol.119, Sept. 14, 1984, even though you had dedicated the issue to the memory of Maple Li. You obviously did not know the Li family nor does it appear that you even considered the feelings of the Li family members and friends still living in Fredericton before you printed your article.

I realize that your article exemplifies 'investigative' reporting, but there must needs be opposition in all things and I feel you should have put some time and effort into finding out the positive aspects of this tragedy rather than focusing solely on the negative.

At the time of Maple Li's death, in fact within hours of it, the tenants of Magee House, most of whom are on limited budgets as students, did what they could to alleviate any immediate expenses to the Li family. A total of \$328.65 was collected and given to the parents.

As for the University Ad-

ministration, I suggest you send a reporter again to Dr. Downey and ask him what positive actions the University is now taking. I know of one particular project now underway and funded by the University that is of a truly dedicatory nature to the memory of Maple Li and which has the full support of the Li Family.

The Li Memorial Fund is still collecting donations for the purchase of a plaque. At present there is only \$211. in this fund. Donations can be made directly to the Bank of Montreal, Campus Branch or 106 -Magee House.

A pot-luck dinner has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 19 in Magee House, the purpose of which is to strengthen and even add communication lines between Housing/University Administrations and the tenants of Magee House. Dr. Downey will be in attendance and it is hoped that invited housing officials will come as well.

As for your attempts to find the answers to unanswered questions, perhaps it would be wiser to keep in mind that your main function is to report

rather than accuse or cast shadows of culpability. At this late date, I think the resolution of this matter should be confidential between the Li family and the University.

If you had really wanted to dedicate an issue to the memory of Maple Li, it should have been an issue that reflected the delight and beauty of a small child. All you reflected was our human failings in that we neglect the victim's and the family's feelings in our haste to chase the ambulance.

Yours truly and on the behalf
behalf of the Li Memorial
Fund,

Cynthia Larsen

P.S.

As you make it a policy not to print letters to the Editor without the Author's name, might I suggest you make it an editorial policy as well and not print an article, particularly one such as this that strived so diligently to get the names right, without the reporter(s) name(s).