



Child falls to death at Magee House Administration inaction to blame?

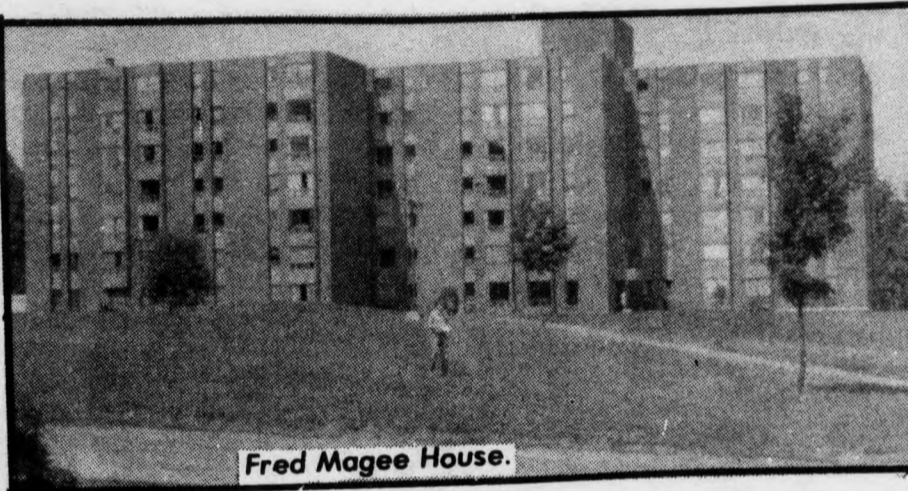
On July 29, 1984, a thirteen month old child fell to her death from a seventh storey window of Magee House.

The child, Maple Li, had been playing in the living room with her mother. The mother's attention was diverted for a moment and upon turning back she saw that the girl was about to fall out of the window. Mrs. Li ran to the window in an effort to save Maple but did not reach the child in time. A police investigation, headed by Constable Steff Jones, ascertained that foul play was not a factor in the death of maple Li.

Magee House is the only married student's residence on the UNB-F campus. The building has 103 apartments, (6 three bedroom, 48 two-bedroom and 49 one

which resulted in a thirteen day hospital stay. Almost immediately after the incident, Malcolm Johnson, Superintendent of Magee House, approached James and asked him to sign a work order granting permission for Physical Plant to enter the apartment to install restraining devices on the windows. According to the August ninth Report to the Board of Governors from Eric Garland, Assistant Vice-President (Administration and Campus Planning) concerning Magee House windows, Johnson's duties include recording any repairs required on work memos and forwarding these memos to the Physical Plant Department for action.

When more than a week had passed without any positive action on the part of the



Fred Magee House.

ing and Food Services, who told Brooke that Johnson did not have the authority to "do anything like that".

According to James, Helga Stewart, Off Campus Housing Officer, was also contacted and she stated that putting bars on the window would only give the James's "a false sense

that day to speak to Johnson who was not available at that time as he was on vacation. Bosnitch then called Garland who, he was told, would not be in his office until the following Monday (May 28th). On Monday, Bosnitch contacted Garland and asked that bars be placed on the window of

met with several obstacles. A Brunswickan reporter, along with Bosnitch and Clayton Burns, met with Stewart and due to the persistent questioning by Burns after Stewart refused to answer a question, Stewart called on Campus Security to remove the three. They then proceeded to Brostowski's office and met, with the same results; for the same reason. Brostowski was contacted by telephone at a later date and refused to grant an interview stating: "I quit that; I don't do interviews anymore."

Later that same day at a meeting with Garland, the Brunswickan was told Stewart was directly responsible to the Dean of Students office and that Brostowski was directly answerable to James

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Maple Li.

bedroom), all of which have the potential of being leased to families with small children. The design of the living room windows in these apartments is a source of concern as they can be reached with ease even by children who are under the age of one. Access to the windows is enhanced by a low window seat that runs the length of the slider window. The screen opening of these windows is approximately 16 1/2 inches by 19 1/2 inches.

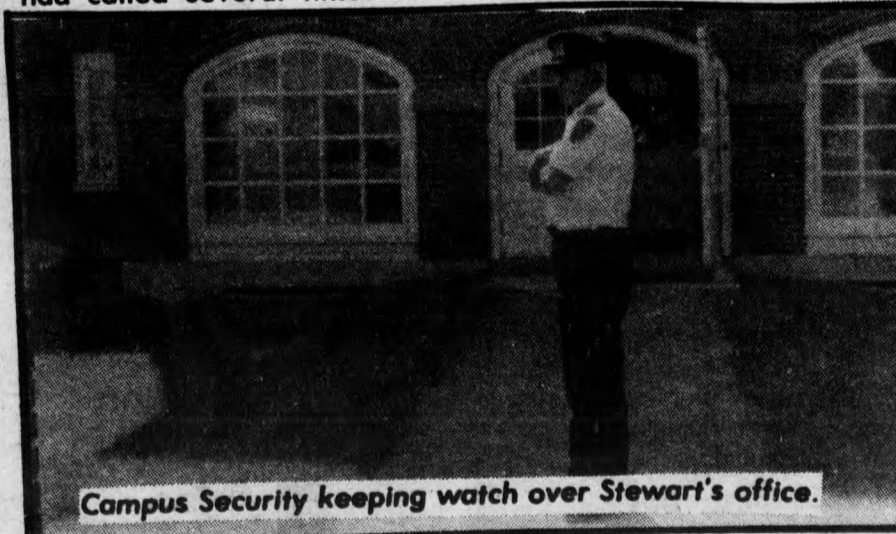
Another area of concern is the transom or hopper style windows which have an opening of approximately 16 1/2 inches by 32 inches. Up until may of this year, these windows could open 90 degrees (that is, they could open parallel to the floor). An incident which occurred on the seventh of May resulted in chains being installed on these windows to prevent them from opening more than a few inches.

At that time the child of Mr. and Mrs. Brian James fell from their sixth floor apartment

Physical Plant the James's reportedly became increasingly concerned that the work would not be complete when their child returned home from hospital. James revealed he had called several times en-

of security", and that she could not do anything. Stewart did, however, call the Physical Plant and told them that James wanted bars on the windows.

James waited and action was still not forthcoming. He



Campus Security keeping watch over Stewart's office.

quiring as to when the work would be done. After the child returned home and the restraining devices were still not in place, James went to the office of the International Student Advisor and spoke with Patricia Brooke. James reports that Brooke called Roy Brostowski, Director of Hous-

approached the then Chairman of the Board of Foreign Students, Daizal Samad, and told him of the differences he was encountering in trying to get the work done. Samad arranged for James to meet with Student Union President, John Bosnitch, on May 25th. Bosnitch called Magee House

the James apartment. Garland agreed to do so and told Bosnitch that the work would be carried out no later than the end of the week. This was done.

According to the Garland report: "...some restraints had been placed on some of the building windows in response to previous requests from tenants," and "...it was agreed to continue to install restraining devices on apartment windows for those who requested them." The report further states that "No general notification was circulated to the tenants at that time reaffirming the existing policy." when the Brunswickan approached Dr. James Downey, President of UNB, after the second incident, he stated that in retrospect omitting to circulate notification among the tenants of Magee House was a regrettable error in judgement on behalf of the administration.

Brunswickan efforts to establish who is ultimately responsible for the safety of the residents of Magee House

O'Sullivan, Vice-President (Administration and Finance). However, according to the job description released by O'Sullivan which included an Organization Chart, Stewart is directly answerable to Brostowski while Brostowski is directly answerable to the Dean of Students. Further, in an accompanying letter written by O'Sullivan on July 31, 1984, it was stated that "The Office of Assistant Vice-President... (Garland)... is responsible for... ensuring that construction projects, including building alterations, meet appropriate standards, building code and safety requirements." Downey, in an interview with the Brunswickan confirmed this fact. The President, as well as others the Brunswickan spoke to, could not shed any light as to who countermanded/cancelled/delayed the work order Johnson put in on the seventh of May.

Many questions concerning this issue remain unanswered...