

Ceiling collapses on UNB student



Submitted

Pictured above is the six-by-five foot hole in the ceiling of Angela Aydon's former rented home. The ceiling collapsed on her while she was sleeping.

SARAH RATCHFORD
THE BRUNSWICKAN

On the evening of Feb. 24, 2009, fourth-year UNB student Angela Aydon woke up to an unpleasant surprise: a six-by-five foot chunk of the roof fell in on top of her and all of her things.

"It was disgusting. There was moldy insulation all over everything," she says.

This happened at Aydon's former place of residence, 720 Albert St. The house is no longer fit to be lived in. After the collapse, Aydon says, she and her roommates were notified that the house needed "extensive renovations," and nobody could continue to live there.

"We tried the superintendent, but he's been so unhelpful and rude toward us," she says.

Aydon and her five roommates waited to speak to media in order to give the owner of the house a chance to rectify the situation. They have waited almost

a month, however, and Aydon says that nothing has been done as of yet.

Property superintendent Ryan Ward refused comment, stating, "I don't deal with specifics on that property."

Aydon says that both the owner and superintendent neglected to answer her calls for a time. The owner of the property did come to speak with Aydon, but she says that this was after three weeks had passed since the incident.

Prior to the roof caving in, other problems plagued the residents of 720 Albert as well. Aydon says that there were numerous leaks throughout the house, as well as a five-day stint without power.

This occurred over the winter break when Aydon, who is from Vancouver, was at home by herself. The oil ran out, she says, and she was stuck in the house in 1°C weather.

"I could see my breath," she says. "This went on for six days."

This happened at other times as well, she says, including a seven-day stretch in October.

"Three of those were without water," says Aydon.

Following the roof fiasco, Aydon sustained injuries to her wrist, hindering her performance on UNB's women's basketball team.

She also developed a rash on her arm and an eye infection.

"I just want what was ruined," she says. "I'm not looking for any extra damages. I think I'm being extremely reasonable."

Aydon has made steps toward seeking legal action. She visited the UNB law center, through which she said that Saint John-based legal firm Cox & Palmer reviewed her case. However, they were unable to represent her as they also represent her landlord.

On a positive note, Aydon says that she is currently trying to formulate an agreement with the owner of the property, who she says only recently became aware of the issues, having not been notified of previous damages by the superintendent.

"He'd never met us, and didn't know there were problems. We met today [Friday, Mar. 20], so it's progress."

Aydon declined to give the name of property owner.

Plane crashes outside of Fredericton

CAMERON MITCHELL
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Two weekends ago, a twin-engine Piper aircraft from the Moncton Flight College crashed 40 kilometres outside of Fredericton. This was the third crash in as many years for the aviation school.

"It all started around 1:30 in the afternoon on last Saturday," explained RCMP Media Correspondent Sgt. Claude Tremblay. "The tower in the Fredericton Airport lost sight of the plane that was flying at 2,200 feet. Shortly thereafter the Halifax search and Rescue picked up the beacon for a crashed airplane and they sent a C-130 military plane to fly over with a beacon watch. What they discovered was that there was actually a plane in the woods."

There were three people found in the plane: two students and an instructor. The student pilot was on his first multi-engine training flight, and was training to be a commercial pilot. All three escaped with only minor injuries.

"One had a bump to the head, and there is no indication of anything serious other than a blue spot on the forehead," explained the CEO and Principal of the Moncton Flight College Mike Doiron. "Another individual had a hairline fracture

of the ankle, and the other individual pulled a couple of muscles in his lower back."

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) did not show up at the crash site because the aircraft was a training airplane. Furthermore, the NTSB is not required to do investigations on training airplanes, and according to Sgt. Tremblay "it is left up to the school to do their own investigation."

So far, the school's internal investigation has been bumpy, but they are fighting through to find out what went wrong.

"We are currently conducting an investigation and are reviewing all of the data that we've been able to collect," said Doiron. "The only problem is that in a general aviation aircraft (the type used for training), we don't have the infamous black boxes. All we really have to go by is witness statements."

Black boxes are common in commercial and military aircrafts, but they are not required in general aviation aircrafts. The boxes records things such as flight speed and distance at the time of an accident.

This accident is the third crash in as many years involving the Moncton Flight College.

Sgt. Tremblay explained, "They had one just last year on their tarmac, where the guy missed the runway and he almost died. And there was one in Moncton the year before."

Training international pilots has been common practice for the Moncton flight school, and as Doiron explains, their involvement in the international community dates back to the 1960s.

"The flight college has been operating since 1929 and since the 1960s we've been heavily involved in international training," said Doiron. "We've trained students from well over 60 countries over the years."

Sgt. Tremblay assured New Brunswick residents that three accidents in three years is not a cause for concern. He said that the only reason these crashes have garnered so much attention is because they involved planes.

"It's not any worse than any car accident ... but there is a little bit more curiosity because it is a plane," he said.

With an 8,000 pilot quota to meet over a 10 year period, Sgt. Tremblay predicted that there will be more accidents, but that is something that they're prepared to deal with when it happens.

"There will be more accidents. I'm sure there will be because there are new pilots that are training, but that's the way it goes. But they are well trained and there is a system in place for (accidents) and we'll deal with them as they come," he concluded.

The names of the injured students and pilot will not be released until the families of the two students, who are from China, are released.

House Don moves out amidst allegations

JOSH O'KANE
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Don of Joy Kidd House has moved out of the residence after allegations of verbal harassment from members of the house.

Carl Burgess has been Don of the house since last fall.

"Carl moved out late last week and is co-operatively separating himself from a group of students in Joy Kidd who have alleged verbal harassment," says James Brown, Executive Director of Residence Life, Campus and Conference Services.

Brown is handling the investigation of the complaint, and will move forward once he receives Burgess' written response to the allegations. UNB Human Rights Officer Mark Walma is assisting Brown in the process.

Handling a complaint with a House Don is a grey area, says Brown, as a Don is somewhere in between a student and university employee, though his or her only compensation is an apartment and a Sodexo meal plan. While Burgess has, at least tentatively, moved out of Kidd, his meal plan is still retained at the moment. Brown currently holds the keys to the Kidd Don apartment.

Burgess says he's currently drafting his response. Once he received word of the complaint, he says he immediately volunteered to leave the house.

His concern at the moment is for the students in Kidd that he's left behind.

"I'm close to many of them," he says. "A lot of students are upset."

While the house is left without a Don until after the investigation, Brown says that the house is being taken care of. Tibbits Hall Don Marie Paul is looking after the proctor team, and will have an office set up

in Kidd during evenings to be a resource for the house. Beth Seamans, Don of Lady Dunn Hall, will look after the Tibbits team in the meantime. Karina Wong Chong, Residential Life Coordinator, will handle any programming issues in the house.

Brown praises the Kidd proctor team's ability to reach out to the house once Burgess moved out.

"The proctor team's been greatest. They've immediately stepped up. They formed hall meetings on the night Carl moved out to give answers to students."

Burgess says he's greatly enjoyed living in Kidd, and last month accepted a contract to extend his donship of Kidd for an additional year; however, he will not return if the investigation finds the allegations are true.

"I love Joy Kidd," says Burgess. "It's been one of the best experiences of my life. I love it there."

"Only time will tell what happens."

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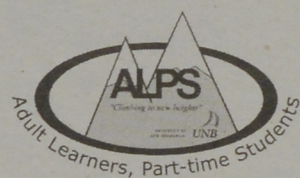
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The ALPS (Adult Learners, Part-Time Students) Executive Board of Directors is calling for nominations for the Spring Election.

Students must be a registered UNBF student with a GPA of 2.0 or above and meet one of the following criteria:

- Be a Registered Part-Time Undergraduate Student on the Fredericton Campus;
- Be a Registered Part-Time Undergraduate Student off-Campus/Open Access;
- Be a Registered Full-Time Undergraduate Adult Learner.(+25)

The following positions are available:

President
VP Student Affairs
VP Social Events
VP Administration
VP Finance
VP Administration
Senator

Nomination forms and detailed terms of reference for each position can be picked up at the ALPS office, located at 130A of Marshall d'Avray Hall. Also, terms of reference can be viewed on the ALPS website. (<http://www.unbf.ca/alps>)

The elections will be held from April 14 to the 18, 2009.

For more information, contact ALPS at 453-3596 or alps@unb.ca