

A Dorm Story

By Robert MacPherson
Campus Reporter

Two rooms from Blanchard reported leaks from the ceiling after the barrage of water we experienced during hurricane Juan. The Blanchard roof was in the process of being renovated, when according to the university, leaks were caused when high winds tore a hole in the membrane that seals one of the drains. This allowed the water to leak into the two reported rooms, on either side of the drain.

I got the chance to speak to one of the individuals who had been affected, and she explained to me, that water had dripped down into her room from the ceiling in two places: one in the middle of the room leaving a stain of rust on the ceiling, and a puddle on the floor. The other was above the bed, which got soaked, along with the student in it.

I was told during an interview with Mark Braithwaite, the general manager of UPEI Residence, Food, and Conference Services, that all repairs had been made including

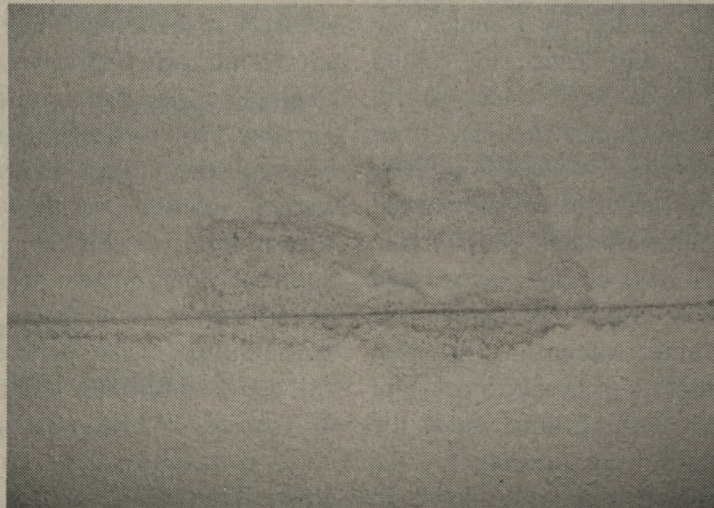
repainting, and replastering all the damaged surfaces in the two rooms affected. So you can imagine his surprise when I told him there was still a stain on the ceiling of the damaged room. Does this mean, that it leaked again, or that it was never really fixed. If it leaked you would expect the student to call back, and register a complaint, but this is not the case. According to Mark, there have been no instances of leaks since the repairs have been made.

I think these rust spots are more common than the university knows. In one other room I visited, the tenant needed a bucket to deal with the oncoming water during that same week, and now has a stain where the water once was above the door to the apartment. This room wasn't even in the same wing as the other rooms. According to the university the only problem rooms were located in the wing closest to subway.

This leaves me thinking something fishy is going on here. Why wouldn't a student call if there was a continuing problem in their apartment? Maybe they're too busy, or they don't want to rock the boat, or perhaps they don't know who to talk to. Mark says there are five vehicles of communication existing between the students and management, but that the best way is to just visit the offices in Bernadine Hall. Mark was very confident in his attempts to satisfy student repair requests saying that all student work orders submitted, even cosmetic, have been checked on, and remedied. Lets hold him to his word.

PS: There is more to come.

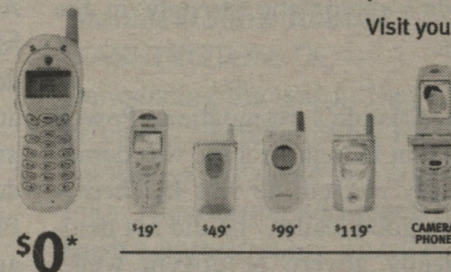
PSS: There wasn't actually any rodents, mice more specifically, found. Not even by pest control. So, the food that was "disturbed", can only be said to have been "disturbed" by some mysterious (scampering) creature or force which has not been determined.



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