

# Times Chronicle

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## School Department finds no evidence documents were taken in alleged CCC break-in

By OWEN MACDONALD

READING - School officials reported this week that they have found no evidence of any wrong-doing in a School Department sponsored investigation into last week's alleged Chinese Cultural Connection (CCC) break-in.

Reading Police first received a complaint from the CCC, a

small, non-profit organization housed in the high school, on Thursday, August 26, from Interim Director of the CCC Mei Hung.

In two separate phone calls, Hung indicated that the door to the office had been found wide open, and then later reported that files appeared to be missing from the office. She also said that it appeared some construc-

tion had taken place, and some things had been moved around. Hung also reported, according to the School Department findings, that documentation may have been missing as early as August 12.

School officials, who had not heard anything about the alleged incident until reading it on the front page of *The Daily*

(Continued to Page 4)

## Reading man dies from injuries sustained in Plymouth plane crash

PLYMOUTH (AP) — One of the two men pulled from a fiery wreckage of a plane crash by state troopers this week has died.

Charles Crane, 68, of Reading, died at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston at 5:20 p.m. Wednesday, according to a hospital spokeswoman.

Crane and Sgt. Detective Jeffrey Walcott, 34, a 13-year veteran of the Boston Police

Department, were taken to the Department of Transportation Safety Board.

"It cartwheeled, and then the aircraft went up in flames," Austin said.

Massachusetts State Trooper Shawn Campinha and Pennsylvania State Trooper Christopher Royles were at the airport for flight instruction when they saw the plane go down, said Massachusetts State Police spokesman Lt. Paul Maloney.

suffered a knee injury during the rescue, and was treated at Jordan Hospital in Plymouth, Maloney said.

The cause of the crash was under investigation by the Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission, the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Cox said the victims' training flight was preparation for a

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## CCC...

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*Times Chronicle*, immediately launched an investigation into the matter, and brought their findings to the School Committee this past Wednesday evening. There, Associate Superintendent of Schools Dennis Richards, who had put his findings in memo form, read them into the record.

During the week of August 9-13, said Richards, Reading Public School custodians were working outside the CCC area washing floors and stripping the floors of wax. Before they started work (the memo does not say which day), the workers noticed that the CCC door was open, but left it open because they believed Hung was in the area.

Workers were also present in the CCC area during the week of August 23-27, said Richards. Workers entered the CCC office to install an electrical line and breaker for an air conditioning unit being installed in an adjacent office. "They admit moving a desk and unplugging a computer," he wrote.

Richards also wrote, "She [Mei Hung] does not understand why Reading employees would be in CCC's offices without permission from her."

Richards also indicated that he had spoken with Interim Maintenance Director Dominic Cacciapuoti, who said that custodians have had a "cordial relationship" with the former CCC director, and that the custodians had permission to enter the office at will to empty trash and assist in other duties using "Reading keys on Reading locks."

Hung, in a phone interview this morning, said that is not an accurate description of the relationship between the CCC and the School Department custodians.

Hung claims that after speaking with Catherine Hsu, she was made aware that the only time custodians came in to the CCC office was once a month to clean the office floor. That custodian was paid directly by Hsu for the work. As for emptying trash and other jobs, Hung said that did not occur.

"She emptied her own trash. They never emptied it," said Hung.

Of his contact with Hung, Richards wrote, "I spoke to Mei Hung, CCC director, who indicated that she realized in the middle of August that the CCC file was missing. It has not turned up as of Tuesday, August 31, 1999. She indicated she did see the electricians working on the air conditioner's electrical connections on Monday or Tuesday, August 23 or 24, 1999. Last Thursday, August 26, 1999 she found the door to her office open and called the police to file a complaint," the memo said.

In conclusion, Richards wrote

two statements: "Based on the information I have gathered I have no reason to believe that anything other than normal maintenance and custodial work has occurred," and "As for the the allegation filed by Mei Hung that CCC's Reading file is missing, I found no information to confirm the allegation."

Mei Hung is adamant that seven files containing documentation of work performed by the CCC are gone. Hung says she noticed this for the first time on August 12 when she was trying to put together information for a meeting with school officials, and for an ensuing School Committee meeting which saw the CCC's tenure at the school terminated as of October 31 of this year.

"I don't have much to say," said Hung, who received a copy of Richards' memo by fax just this morning, "except that seven files are missing. It's funny to see that nothing is missing except these files."

Hung's current situation comes amidst an increasingly difficult and confusing few weeks where Hung and the School Department have differed on the history of the CCC's stay at the high school, particularly with regard to the amount of workshops that have been provided to Reading schools by the CCC, as per their "lease" agreement.

The documents that are missing, said Hung, are directly related to that information.

Police were unavailable to comment on the case this morning. The investigation is ongoing.

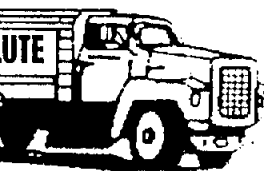
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## Crash...

Continued from Page 1

very well-respected  
Our prayers go out to  
is family," said Bos-  
spokesman Kevin  
e're just praying he  
ill recovery."

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