NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Train Accident Puts Dreams in Jeopardy



Alice Huang in her graduation photo

By Joshua Robin and Pete Bowles
STAFF WRITERS

Alice Huang, a college freshman from Elmhurst who suffered a crushed leg when she fell into an oncoming subway train, had dreams of becoming a black belt in the martial arts discipline of tae kwon do.

Those hopes appear dashed, her martial arts instructor said yesterday as doctors tried to save Huang's badly mangled left leg.

"It makes me feel like I'm losing a good student," said Yong J. An, an instructor at the S.Y. Kim Martial Arts Center in Elmhurst, where Huang, 18, has been attending classes for 2½ years.

Huang remained in critical condition yesterday at Bellevue Hospital Center, said spokesman James Saunders. He said he could not discuss the extent of her injuries because of confidentiality rules. Police officials have said she is in danger of losing her leg. Her parents were said to be holding a vigil at her side.

Huang, an illustration major and freshman at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, was injured Monday morning when struck by a train in a freak accident in the F line's 23rd Street subway station in Manhattan. Police said she dropped a book, lost her balance as she tried to retrieve it and fell forward into a train entering the station.

The impact spun her around and her left leg was caught between the car and the platform, police said.

An, in discussing his star student, said Huang was dedicated to acquiring a black belt, the sport's highest classification, and was supported in her endeavors by her mother, Chen Huang.

He said Huang's family was not well off financially and that her mother worked extra jobs to pay for Huang's twice-a-week classes. "She knows Alice really wanted to do this kind of tae kwon do, even though it was a hard financial situation," An said.

An said Alice Huang had worked hard to achieve a purple belt, halfway towards her final goal. "I think she wanted to have a good discipline and self-defense," he said.

At her home, which she shares with her parents and a brother, Richard, 13, Alice Huang's room is filled with her artwork, and belts and trophies she has won in tae kwon do competitions.

On the floor is an unfinished sketch she drew at school. Her wall is decorated with pictures of her friends and her diplomas from LaGuardia High School for the Arts and Intermediate School 93.

At the School of Visual Arts, some of her fellow freshmen yesterday described her as a private person. "She's studious and quiet," said Derrick Lee, 18, of Hempstead. "Kept to herself."

"She's kind of quiet, but friendly," added Charles Belen, 18, of East Brunswick, N.J. "She's really nice."

Staff writer Regine Labossiere contributed to this story.

NEWSDAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2001

CITY_21MC100_01183418Z

NYC-WTC_000415845