Dancing with Danger: 
An Open Letter Home

EDITOR ENLISTS PARENTS' HELP TO SURVIVE

Dear Mum and Dad,

I know it’s been a while since I was in touch, but something urgent has come up and I simply had to put pen to paper.

I don’t want to worry you unnecessarily, but apparently at my place of work we are in imminent danger of a serious disaster such as an earthquake.

For this reason, I wonder if you would mind acting as my Out-of-Province Contact, so that I can stay in touch with my loved ones when the big one comes. I have discussed your candidacy with my loved ones and we are all in agreement that you would be most suitable.

It’s very easy: you don’t have to do anything, except answer the phone when my loved ones call after Vancouver Island vanishes beneath the sea. If I have called first, your job will simply be to let my loved ones know where I am; if you have not heard from me first, then your rôle is to reassure my loved ones that I have gone to a better place.

Things are much more complicated at my end. For a start I have to fill out my Out-of-Province Contact Card with such information as my name, address and of course your phone number. You’d think I’d be able to remember my name even after an earthquake, but apparently people do get confused at such times.

Hey – wait a minute! Maybe the card isn’t for helping me and my loved ones stay in touch, but for identifying my body after I am crushed under tons of new materials purchased for the expanded Library!

The really nice thing about the cards, though, is that I get three of them. While this is not quite enough for all my loved ones, I am hoping the cats will share one, as neither of them reads English anyway.

Thanks for your help. I’ll be in touch – or not!

Your loving son,
john

Dear Editor,

Another reader’s comment on campus safety:

Thought that Plainly Mal. should know about this [a memo informing “all Science and Technology faculty and staff of the steps to take if anyone is threatened in any way by the unleashed, ownerless dogs which are appearing on the upper part of the campus” – ed].

Also, the numbers of rabbits on the upper campus has been declining markedly. Several rabbits have attacked people recently and these small but vicious animals had small holes in their ears – as might be made by pellets. The students attacked were unable to find a tree to climb. [See PM, Jan 25 – ed] You did not hear this from me.

Name and Address Withheld