

## **Tomorrow is not Guaranteed**

**By: Richard Jiang**

Growing up in the state of Maine has been such a blessing. Not having to worry about the crime and transgression that goes on in other parts of the country. Not to say that grim events don't occur here, just that they are less frequent. Life is good here, sometimes too good. I start to complain about things in my life where I shouldn't be complaining about. I don't have to worry about putting food on the plate, robbers coming into my house at night, and can even leave my car unlocked when I go into the store. I live in a safe home, have a caring mom and dad, good education, and many peers to help encourage me to do well. Growing up in this small community, everyone knows each other, it is like one big family. When good happens, everyone celebrates, but when a tragedy happens, it affects everybody.

Over the past summer, two of my friends passed away in a car accident. They were co-workers with one another and got into an accident on their way home from a jobsite. It is not sure to us if the accident was caused by an act of distracted driving, but the road was dead straight, and neither had any drugs in their system. They were both alumni from my highschool and both were a prominent name in the community. One was driving and the other was riding shotgun. My sister was best friends with the passenger. I remember the day, everyone in the community knew about the incident within hours. Sorrowness

and despair hit our small town like a 3ft Nor'easter. We all just prayed that somehow it was a joke and that something like this couldn't happen to us.

However it did happen. Two of the people who I had looked up to during my highschool years had passed. Crazy to think that a life ending accident could happen to anyone. Especially to two people who had such a high name in our community. Now that they are gone we can only grieve. Grieve we shall, but we should remember all the good in their lives. Cherish the memories and give their names the highest praise.

I remember at the funeral going up to my sister and her group of friends who were very close to the two boys. Seeing the sadness and distraught amongst all of them truly made me think differently about life. Life isn't guaranteed everyday. You should be thankful to wake up every morning. The impact that these deaths left on the community showed me how precious life is. We are on this Earth just to experience. We don't know what is after life so we gotta do what we want with our lives while we can. Cherish the people you will not be able to see anymore one day. The hardest part about life is not seeing the people who you used to see everyday.

There is something to come out of tragedy like this. To enjoy life, but to be aware that tragedy can happen. Spend your time with the people you love. Do what makes you happy. Hangout with the people who are going to bring the best

out of you. Be aware of your priorities, but don't let the stress make you forget the good in your life. Miss you guys everyday R.I.P <3!