

MERCHANT SLAIN IN B'KLYN Immigrant dad of 2 stabbed, beaten in apparent robbery

Daily News (New York)

February 27, 2002, Wednesday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2002 Daily News, L.P.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 466 words

Byline: By AUSTIN FENNER, MARTIN MBUGUA and MICHELE McPHEE DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Body

An immigrant TV repairman was found dead early yesterday in his Brooklyn store, bludgeoned and stabbed during an apparent robbery, police said.

The body of Ding Hao Peng, 59, was discovered after his panicked wife, Joan, called a tenant who lived above Son Electronics in Canarsie, because her husband failed to return home from work Monday night.

The tenant summoned police, and cops from the 61st Precinct broke through a heavy security door to reach the bloody scene on Rockaway Parkway. They said Peng's hands were bound with duct tape and his body was covered with stab wounds and bruises.

A cash box that the victim kept hidden was found empty, police said.

The slaying stunned the tight-knit neighborhood where Peng, who came to the U.S. from China in 1982, ran his store for more than a decade. It also devastated his wife and two young children, James, 12, and Vicky, 9.

At the couple's tidy Queens home, where relatives and friends offered comfort, the grief-stricken widow urged the killers to give themselves up.

"I ask God to forgive this crime and these people," said a teary-eyed Joan Peng. "I ask God to move these people, to tell them to go to the precinct and turn themselves in."

She glanced at a worn, wooden piano that her husband, a Beijing College graduate, used to teach music to the couple's children and broke down as she grappled with how to tell them their daddy was gone.

"If I keep crying, I'll get sick," she said. "If I am sick, who is going to take care of my children? I pray to God, give me more power, keep me strong."

The widow said she had no idea who would want to kill her husband, because he always taught her to give up any cash to robbers.

"My husband told me to give the money," she said. "I believe this is what he did."

Detectives said whoever is responsible for the crime was buzzed into the shop, and the door slammed shut behind them.

"We believe the motive is robbery," said NYPD spokesman Lt. Brian Burke.

Dangerous after dark

MERCHANT SLAIN IN B'KLYN Immigrant dad of 2 stabbed, beaten in apparent robbery

The **slaying** infuriated shop owners on the block, who said they have watched the neighborhood deteriorate in recent years.

Mike Schwartz, a postal worker who has delivered mail to Peng for six years, remembered the victim as a "very nice guy."

"I can't imagine anyone doing this. I never saw the guy raise his voice. I still can't believe it," Schwartz said. "This neighborhood is going down. You don't want to be here at night anymore."

Evelyne Moise, 45, owner of Haitian B.G. Restaurant, said she is considering closing her business, or at least, changing its hours.

"I used to stay up until 11 p.m. to close. Now I may have to close at 8:30, when I have people with me," Moise said. "We small-business owners need to have people around because by the time we call 911, we'll be dead."

Graphic

HAPPY FAMILY **Slain** TV repairman Ding Hao Peng, on vacation with wife, Joan, and children James and Vicky two years ago.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: STABBINGS (90%); CHILDREN (89%); POLICE FORCES (78%); CUTS & ABRASIONS (78%); CONTUSIONS (75%); MUSIC EDUCATION (70%); WOUNDS & INJURIES (70%)

Industry: RESTAURANTS (73%)

Geographic: NEW YORK, NY, USA (79%); BEIJING, CHINA (56%); NORTH CENTRAL CHINA (56%); CHINA (79%)

Load-Date: February 27, 2002