

From NoleDreamer
To Jesse@freejesse.net
Cc
Subject A former student
Date Sat, 28 Jun 2003 22:06:05 EDT

Jesse,

I am a former student of Mr. Friedman's computer class. I just saw "Capturing The Friedmans" today. I now live in South Florida and my Great Neck days are way behind me. It is odd how seeing a movie can make you remember things more clearly, and put things into focus.

I want to let you know that I never saw your father do anything to any student. I just wanted to add that I am sorry that you lost him from your life. I lost my father when I was 14.

I came away from the movie with two strong convictions. First off, I believe that while your father may not have been 100% innocent, I think that he got caught up in the media storm and the police did use unethical tactics to build a stronger case against him. I also believe that you are totally innocent. This was quite a revelation to me. Back in late 1987, when the story came out I was just shy of my 12th birthday. I was not yet able to look at the story from any other angle than what was being fed to the community through the media storm. I think that is so unfair that you lost 13 years of your life (not to mention the most important thing, your good name), for things that you never did.

I am so glad that the movie was made because it finally tells the true story and draws no conclusions. Sadly, if you had asked me about Arnold Friedman and yourself before the movie, I would have called both of you evil and deserving of the worst kind of punishment possible. I now see your father as a flawed man yes, but also as someone who was a victim of a campaign to trump up more changes, 90% of which I believe are false. Lastly, I now believe that you were just a kid and you sort of got caught up in something that someone of that age couldn't handle. Once again I believe that you are 100% innocent.

I am so sorry that you had to lose 13 years of your life and your father over these things. May God bless you fully with a long happy life.

Sincerely,
A New Yorker in Fla