

When I first found out what was happening to Duke Ellington, my first thoughts were very selfish ones. And instead of waiting to see what happens in a year or two i'd like to apologize now to my classmates for my being so ignorant. I'd like to apologize first for not paying close enough attention.

The first child to be diagnosed with pseudobulbar affect had uncontrollable bouts of laughter and giggling so when he was taken to the hospital he was first diagnosed with misbehavior. The doctors had no idea that these laughing fits were actually seizures due to a brain tumor. They were not aware that he was in danger and they ruled out anything that suggested he may have been in pain.

To my classmates whom I talk to everyday and hug periodically, I would like to apologize for the ways I failed to notice when your smiles and your laughs started to change. I would like to apologize next for the ways in which I leisurely handed you sympathy rather than empathy because I decided I didn't want to feel your pain. The horror then becomes about how I did this subconsciously and with no awareness of it.

When I started to hear about these kids who were going to be kicked out and these families who were going to be sued the first thing I did was "...feel so bad for them." Not once did I try to think about how I would be affected should my parents be sued for \$800,000. With that amount of money you can attend Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Cornell, and Howard simultaneously (\$236,511) and still have enough money left over to buy an island off the coast of Belize (\$300,000). With that amount of money a family of six living in Washington D.C could afford to buy food without inconvenience for 52 years. So I can only begin to imagine what the loss of that amount of money can do to the families of my classmates.

At a later time when I have gotten over my shame, I would like to apologize for trying to provide inconsiderate solutions. For trying to make my circumstances universal and going so far as to getting upset when I couldn't understand. In the very beginning I allowed myself room to formulate a situation in which every student had a full proof second option should Duke Ellington

be brought down. However, in my doing so I, number one, became insensitive to all the different backgrounds of my peers and number two, made Duke's finale an option when it is not one. I believe the birth to a humans wickedness begins with the inability to understand and then cultivates due to the certainty that because of this we are better than that. For a brief moment I acquired what I believe is a white man mindset and so I would like to apologize to my classmates and to my friends for becoming part of their havoc.