

JOHN CHARIGNON/THE JAMBAR

**Making plea:** Brian Scott Blevins, center, is escorted into Mahoning County Court by his lawyer R. Scott Krichbaum, left and an Austintown police officer. Blevins has been charged in the murder of YSU senior Kenmore Drake.

# Suspect enters no plea

By LISA M. SOLLEY  
Jambar Editor

Brian Scott Blevins entered a mute plea last night in front of Mahoning County Court Judge Fred H. Bailey.

Standing before the judge in a pale blue jail jump suit, Blevins made his plea through Attorney R. Scott Krichbaum.

Bail was set at \$250,000 for the 22-year-old, who was charged Saturday in the murder of YSU student Kenmore Drake.

Over 100 spectators packed the small courtroom in Austintown. Many lined the back wall of the room as Blevins entered the room in ankle shackles, without handcuffs, accompanied by two detectives and two police officers.

When a mute plea is made, the court enters

a not guilty plea on the defendant's behalf, according to the *Ohio Rules of Criminal Procedure*. However, the defendant has the opportunity to enter a plea at a later date.

Krichbaum then presented the judge with a form to waive the right to a speedy trial.

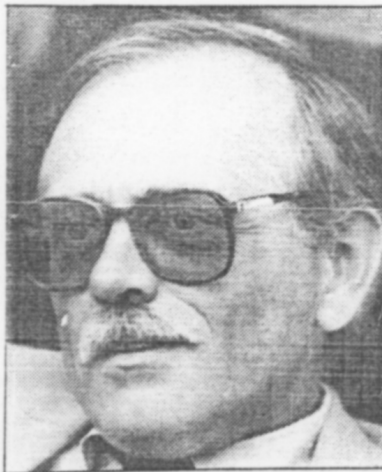
Bailey next asked the prosecutor for comments on setting bail. Dino Prassinis told Bailey, "due to the serious nature of the crime in which the defendant has been charged, we ask that bond be set at \$250,000."

After hearing the prosecutor's comments, Bailey set the bail at \$250,000 and bailiff Bob Naymick will set the date for a preliminary hearing.

The Boardman man, with blond hair shaven above his ears, stood expressionless throughout

See Blevins, page 5

## Campus views vary on Drake murder case



DR. TIMOTHY LYONS

By DEBORA SHAULIS  
Jambar Managing Editor  
and JONI DOBRAN  
Jambar Entertainment Editor

A wash of emotions has flooded the YSU campus following the recent death of senior Kenmore Drake, with the majority of students and staff remaining supportive of Dr. Timothy Lyons.

Drake, who was house-sitting for Lyons, dean of the School of Fine and Performing Arts, was found murdered

Feb. 12. Police recently arrested a suspect, and the University has been under scrutiny due to publicity concerning Lyons' personal life, including a police report alleging homosexual behavior which was widely reported in local media.

Most students and staff questioned, though, said Lyons' personal life shouldn't interfere with his professional life.

The media and community "shouldn't make a scandal and

See Drake, page 5.

# Blevins

Continued from page 1

the arraignment until he left the courtroom. With police officers on each side of him, he turned his head toward the left side of the courtroom, and with a slight smile winked at the crowd.

Blevins is being held at the Mahoning County Jail.

Blevins, of 107 Jeanette Drive, Boardman, was arrested at 5 p.m. Saturday by Boardman police, near his mother's house.

Blevins is charged with the murder of Drake, who had been bound and gagged with duct tape and stabbed approximately 50 times in the head, face and neck area. The body was found by Austintown police Feb. 12 in the home of Dr. Timothy Lyons, dean of the School of Fine and Performing Arts.

Drake had been reportedly house-sitting for Lyons, who



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**BRIAN SCOTT BLEVINS**  
...charged in murder

was on vacation in Los Angeles at the time of the murder, according to police.

According to Dawn Graham,

senior, secondary business education and Drake's friend, Drake had met Lyons after answering an advertisement in *The Jambar* for typing and word processing work. Graham said Drake had house-sat in Austintown before, but she said she was not sure if it was at Lyons' house or not.

According to published reports, Austintown Detective Richard J. Kashak filed an affidavit that stated Drake telephoned a female friend just after 5:30 p.m. Feb. 12.

The affidavit stated Drake "told her that someone was coming to the door and identified this person as 'former lover of Tim's [Lyons].'" The published report went on to state that Kashak said: "My investigation reveals Brian Scott Blevins is a former lover of Timothy Lyons."

Dr. Neil D. Humphrey said the University will not make a statement until sufficient infor-



**KENMORE DRAKE**  
...found murdered

mation is compiled. "Presently this is a police investigation and we are all gaining information. When we have sufficient information concerning the incident, we will release a statement," Humphrey said in a telephone

interview.

Humphrey also said Lyons is still on annual leave. Secretaries in the Fine and Performing Arts School report Lyons will return to the office next Monday.

Authorities will not comment on whether Lyons had any relationship with Drake. Nor will they comment on whether any relationship existed between Blevins and Drake.

When asked whether the police will still investigate other persons in the case or if Blevins was the only suspect, Kashak replied: "no comment."

At the arraignment, Kashak said the case is still under investigation and no further details surrounding the case would be released.

# Drake

Continued from page 1

force him to lose his job," said Diane Beatty, a senior studio art major. "He's a very educated man and does his job well."

Other students in the School of Fine and Performing Arts echoed Beatty's sentiments.

After the initial shock, "I was very curious to know the specifics," said F. Wesley Brainard, a junior theater major, adding that he didn't know much about Lyons previously.

"Dean Lyons is Dean Lyons," Brainard continued, "and I certainly hope his future at Youngstown State isn't affected."

Frederica H. Johnson, senior, studio art, said that the media has been giving the University a lot of unfair publicity. "The school has been mistreated by the media — that's his [Lyons'] employer." She added that she would prefer the media simply state that Lyons is a dean at the University, without continually stating his school.

Michele Lepore-Hagan, University Theatre manager, called the death of Drake "a horrible tragedy" for the family and friends of Drake and for Lyons.

"Dean Lyons is a really sensitive man, and he'll probably carry this with him for the rest of his life," said Lepore-Hagan. "I hope society treats Dean Lyons fairly."

Lepore-Hagan noted that the mood in Bliss Hall has been supportive of Lyons, and many people have been willing to help out in any way possible.

While many were concerned with Lyons' status in the University and community, other students expressed their concerns over possible repercussions on the school and YSU overall.

"I think it's going to stereotype the whole department, which could cause problems within the University as far as dealing with that department," said Anthony J. DiCesare, a senior telecommunications major.

"It shouldn't be a reflection of the University," said Pete Zafirides, senior, A&S.

Since the incident was reported as news, the way the information is perceived "depends on the person reading it," said Zafirides.

John Cox, junior, A&S, said Lyons may be hampered in his job duties due to the publicity.

"It depends on if he is up to this coming out," said Cox. "He may feel awkward because of the publicity."

Nick Varveris, senior, F&PA, said, "I think he'll be hanging his head for a long time."