

Murder of YSU student shocks campus

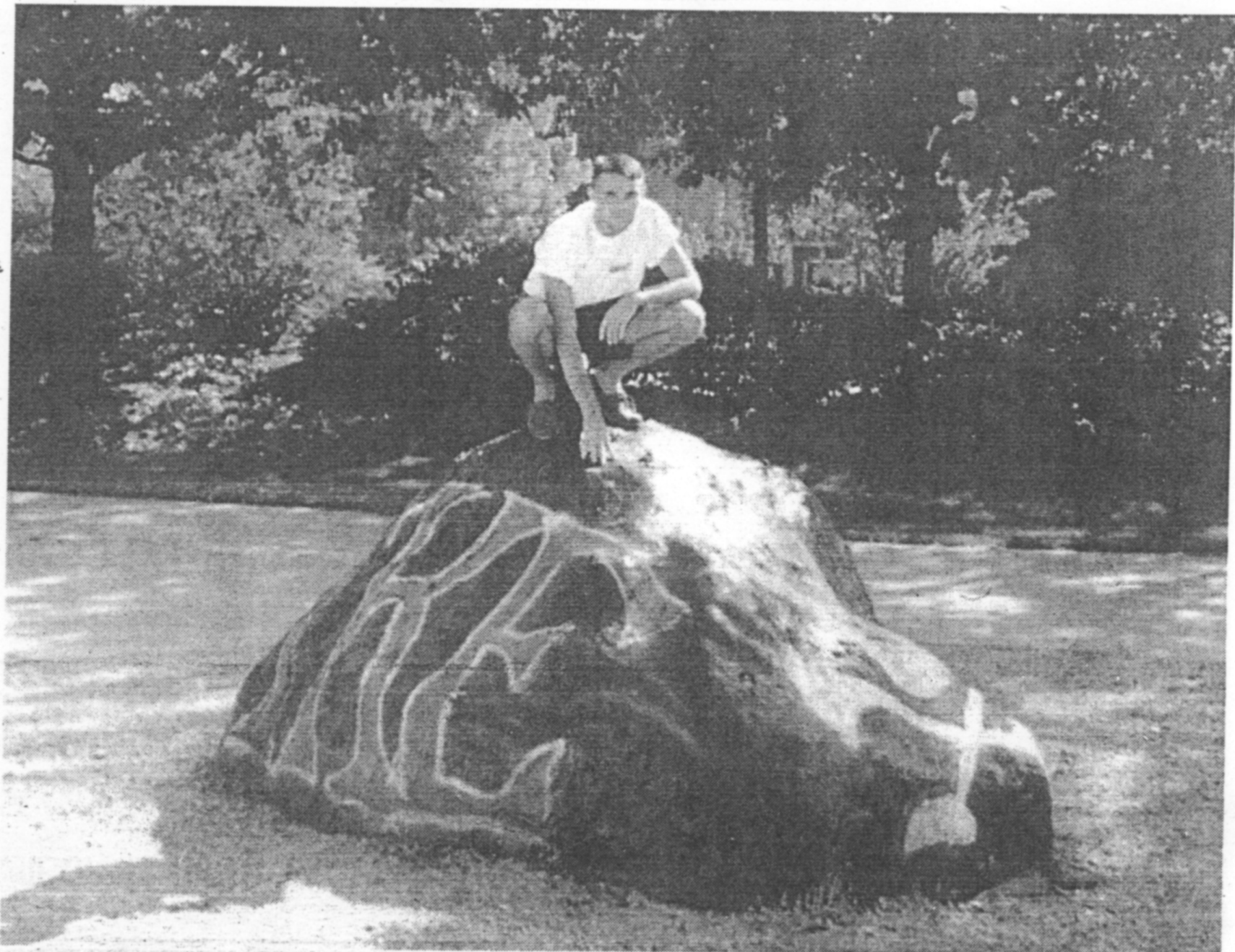


PHOTO COURTESY OF TKE

▲ Sean Kessler will be remembered by many as "a very athletic, unique individual with a kind heart," say his TKE fraternity brothers.

Murder is still mystery

By M. Ferguson Tinsley
INTERIM NEWS EDITOR

While police scour the city for clues, Sean Kessler's loved ones try to come to grips with their loss.

Mill Creek Park Police Captain John Lynch said a park worker found the bullet-riddled body of Kessler, 22, about 20 feet off the road on West Newport Drive at 8:30 a.m., Friday.

Diana Zullo said she had known Kessler, 22, since he was born.

"His mother and I have always been good friends," she said of Patricia Kessler. "I knew her before she was pregnant with Sean."

Zullo, 39, said she has been with Patricia since the Youngstown State University student's body was found in Mill Creek Park Friday.

"The police have no

motive right now," she said. "I heard so much from police and prosecutors, but it's purely conjecture. The poor mother wants to know what happened."

She said police found his car parked in the lot at a nearby car dealership.

"The police said the dash board was broken where the tape deck was, but they don't think it was a robbery because his wallet was found on him," Zullo said.

The murderers are still at large, Captain Lynch said.

He said there was very little blood in the area where the body lay and, although Kessler's knees were bruised, there appeared to be no struggle at the scene.

"It looked like it could've been a hit/skip {another way of saying a hit and run}," he said. "We didn't even see the bullet wounds until we got him to the [Southside] hospital," he said.

Lynch said his department and the city police are handling the investigation.