

# Student found murdered in dean's house

By LISA M. SOLLEY  
Jambar Editor

Austintown police are investigating the death of YSU student Kenmore Drake, who was found murdered at Dr. Timothy Lyons' house Tuesday.

Drake had been house sitting for the dean of the School of Fine and Performing Arts when his body was discovered by police around 11 a.m. in the upstairs bedroom of Lyons' house at 658 Notre Dame Ave., Austintown, police said. Lyons was vacationing in California and had reportedly asked Drake to watch the dean's dog.

According to police, Lyons

flight was scheduled to leave the Cleveland airport at 5:20 p.m. Friday evening.

Police said they had contacted Lyons in Los Angeles, California on Wednesday around 12:30 p.m. to inform him about the murder. Lyons's secretary said the dean is not due back in the office until Monday.

The Mahoning County coroner has ruled the death a homicide, as an autopsy report revealed Drake had been stabbed 49 to 50 times in the head, face and neck area. He was discovered with his hands and feet bound with duct tape. A plastic bag had been placed over

See Murder, page 5

## Friends remember Drake

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A friend of Kenmore Drake described him as excited about having a quiet house to himself for the weekend to get some homework finished.

Now friends may be hoping Drake will find peace and quiet in his final resting place.

The secondary business education major was found murdered Tuesday morning in Dr. Timothy Lyons' house in Austintown from multiple stab wounds.

Friends and faculty members who were close to Drake are sitting around in solemn groups asking each other "Why Ken? He was such a nice person and never did anything to anyone," said Dawn Graham, senior, education.

See Drake, page 5



KENMORE DRAKE

# Murder

Continued from page 1

his head and duct tape was also placed over his mouth and nose. Drake was found fully clothed with his coat on, but with no socks and shoes.

Published reports on Thursday stated that the police had found Drake's socks and shoes, but were not releasing any further information.

The coroner's office is running tests on a pair of bloody scissors that were discovered on the bed as the possible murder weapon. A knife was also found on the bed, but no blood stains were found on the knife.

Drake's body was discovered in the bedroom, wedged between a waterbed and the wall. Austintown Police Chief John Cannon said the body was "wedged so tightly that the police had to move the bed in order to get the body out."

Drake, a senior majoring in secondary business education, was employed at the business education and technology department on campus. Witnesses reported Drake had worked Friday from 12-4 p.m. at the lab on the third floor of Meshel Hall.

The coroner said the approximate time of death is between Friday evening and noon Saturday.

Dawn Graham, senior, education, was one of the last persons believed to have seen Drake alive. She said she was working on a project with Drake

in the lab and left around 3:40 p.m. Friday. She said Drake told her he would call her Saturday.

Graham said she never received the phone call, but did not think anything of it because they both have busy schedules.

Graham said she became a little worried when she arrived at school Monday and found Drake had not shown up for work. The BET office notified Drake's parents. The Drakes had not heard from their son all weekend. They reportedly were aware he was house sitting for the dean.

Graham said she knew something was wrong when she got off the elevator Tuesday and saw the typing lab where Drake was scheduled to work at 8 a.m. was not open.

"I knew something was wrong when I got off the elevator and saw the lab was dark. It wasn't like Ken to not show up for work and not call off. He was a very dependable person," Graham said.

When Drake did not show up for work Tuesday, his parents were notified. Drake's father went to the Austintown Police Department around 9 a.m., explaining the situation and ask for Lyons' address, according to Cannon. The police chief said the father went to the house and saw his son's car in the driveway, but no one answered the door.

The police arrived at the house and proceeded to obtain a search warrant to enter the

house. Cannon was one of the officers on the scene.

"After working in this field for a lot of years, you get what you might call a gut feeling that something is seriously wrong. And that's the feeling I had when we arrived at the house," Cannon said. Approximately two hours later, police discovered the body.

Cannon said a search warrant was necessary because Lyons was out of town.

Drake was born July 1, 1966, the son of John D. and Roberta M. Snyder Drake of 1007 W.

Martin St., East Palestine. Besides his parents, he leaves a half sister, Joanne LaRue of Cresline, and grandparents, Paul A. Snyder of Deming, N.M., and Elizabeth Drake of Charleroi, Pa.

Drake had been employed at the BET department since last summer. He had also been employed as a secretary and computer operator at the Albert H. Buehrle Co. of Youngstown. He was also employed as a secretary for the kindergarten at the East North Avenue School during his senior year as a

cooperative education student at East Palestine High School.

Services will be at 11 a.m. today at the Van Dyke-Swaney Funeral Home in East Palestine.

Material tributes may take the form of contributions to the East Palestine Alumni and Friends Scholarship Association.

Friends at YSU are starting a Kenmore Drake memorial fund. Donations can be forwarded to the BET department at YSU.

# Drake

Continued from page 1

Graham had known Drake for two years. They were in several classes together and were scheduled to graduate together after student teaching in fall quarter 1988. Graham was also one of the last known persons to see Drake alive.

Cynthia Campbell, BET, was one of Drake's teachers and also a friend. She described the 21-year-old as an excellent student who was very popular in the department. "Ken was a real go-getter. He was always volunteering for something or always helping someone — even if he didn't know them very well," Campbell said.

She said Drake hung around with a group of other BET students who not only studied together, but socialized

together. That group has been sitting around for the last two nights crying and trying to support each other through a very sad time, according to Graham, who is part of the group of five.

"We were all like a chain and when one of us got weak, all the other links became strong to help the weak one. Now one of the links is missing and all of the links are weak," Graham explained, fighting back tears as she talked of her friend.

She said the group has been together for the last two nights, but she said there is a presence missing and no one is strong enough to say anything.

The latest task the senior took on was coordinating an upcoming meeting for the Youngstown Area Business Teachers Association.

A reason for this may be because Drake was one of the

leaders of this group, according to Campbell. "Right now we

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Dawn Graham, friend

have a unique group of BET students — they do everything together and Ken was one of the leaders," Campbell said.

His leadership qualities were exemplified when he took it upon himself to start the BET student organization. Campbell also said Drake was responsible for conducting a food and clothing drive for Vietnam veterans over the holidays.

Campbell said the meeting involves approximately 150 people and Drake just volunteered himself and the network of BET students to coordinate the meeting, which will be held at YSU in May.

Campbell said Drake and his mother were making small chalkboards with wooden easels as favors for every person. "That's the kind of person Ken was. He would do anything for anyone, no matter how much time it involved," she said.

Besides being an outgoing person, Graham said he always had a smile on his face. "He was one person in the group that would give everyone little pep talks, or sent you a card — he was very caring."

She laughed as she remembered fun times the group shared together like going to the zoo this past summer and she cried as she thought aloud at "how it will be sad that students will never have the chance to

have him as a teacher."

"He would have been an excellent teacher. It is a disappointment that kids can't learn from his experience and his knowledge," she said.

Campbell said the senior will be missed very much. She said other faculty members in BET described Drake as "the kind of student that made you a better teacher."

For the group of BET students, their busy class schedules will go on.

Although the group is sad, Graham said they are also scared because the questions of why and who are going through each of their heads.

"I'm glad each of us in the group had the opportunity to know Ken," Graham explained. "We were going to be student teaching together and then graduate together. This is something that is not going to be over with when Ken is buried on Friday."