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OBERLIN COLLEGE JUNIOR FOUND DEAD SATURDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

BENJAMIN URICH, STAFF REPORTER

An Oberlin College co-ed was found dead outside Peters Hall Saturday, Oberlin Police said.

According to police reports, Margaret Rose Linde, 20, a Mathematics major at the college originally from Rochester, NY, was found on the sidewalk outside of Peters Hall shortly before midnight Saturday, April 25.

Police responded to the scene along with fire and ambulance after two eyewitnesses whose identities were not released reportedly found Linde prone on the ground. She was described as gasping for breath by the witnesses but was not breathing when police arrived. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police believe she fell from the condemned observation deck on the roof of Peters. The Oberlin Police investigation into this incident is ongoing.

RUMORS SPREAD OF AFFAIR BETWEEN DEAD STUDENT AND A PROFESSOR

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

BENJAMIN URICH, STAFF REPORTER

In the wake of the death of an Oberlin College co-ed, allegations have emerged that suggest she could have been involved with a professor.

Those serious allegations emerged through interviews with College faculty members and students who spoke on the condition of anonymity. They gave several similar accounts of an argument that took place around noon last Saturday, as Margaret Linde, 20 of Rochester, NY and a Physics professor, Dr. Alvin Singer, reportedly got into an argument in Tappan Square Saturday afternoon.

According to one college junior who said she traveled to Japan with Linde last summer, Linde and Singer were walking through the square when they started to shout.

"I don't remember exactly what they were saying," the student said, "but it didn't sound good. Margie walked away pretty quickly, and it looked like she was crying."

Singer said he and the student were having a conversation about a recent student performance, and declined to comment beyond that.

"We were talking about last week's production of 'The Crucible,'" Singer said, "and the conversation got a little heated."

A Conservatory Junior said he had heard Linde and Singer had met in private several times and may have been carrying on an affair.

"That's just what I heard," Barry Allen, 20, said. "I mean, it's happened before."

Singer reacted angrily when asked about the rumors.

"That's incredibly inappropriate," he said. "Show some respect."

A friend of Linde's parents, reached by phone at their home, said they were surprised. He said the phone call from a Lorain Journal reporter was the first time anyone had heard those rumors.

"Margie was a responsible young lady," said Ronald Egress, a professor of religion at the University of Rochester where Linde's father also taught. "Very bright. She worked very hard at all her studies," he added, before asking that the family's privacy be respected.

College President William Richards Stevenson said now is not the time to spread rumors. "Let the student body, Margaret's parents, and the community have its time to grieve," he said.

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STUDENT PREGNANT AT TIME OF DEATH

FRIDAY, MAY 1

BENJAMIN URICH, STAFF REPORTER

When an Oberlin College co-ed reportedly fell from the deck of Peter's Hall, she was pregnant, her autopsy reveals.

According to the Oberlin Police coroner's report, Margaret Linde, 20, of Rochester, NY, was carrying a baby when she fell to her death late last week.

Linde's parents were shocked. "If this has anything to do with that professor, I'll have his head," Dr. Hugo Linde said.

At the time of Linde's death, rumors circulated among students and staff that she may have been carrying on an affair with professor of Physics Dr. Alvin Singer.

Singer declined comment when asked about the pregnancy.

College President William Richards Stevenson said if the rumors about the affair were true, disciplinary action would have to be taken.

"But," Stevenson cautioned, "it is far too early to tell."

TEACHER FOUND DEAD AT HOME

SUNDAY, MAY 3

BENJAMIN URICH, STAFF REPORTER

An Oberlin College physics professor was found dead at his home yesterday, the Oberlin Police said.

According to police, Alvin Singer, an esteemed member of the College's physics department, was found dead in his back yard Saturday, May 2.

Singer was reportedly found with a gunshot wound to the head. His body was reportedly found holding the gun.

Police believe Singer's death to be self-inflicted. "Singer's death is a tragedy," Oberlin College President William Richards Stevenson said. "Especially as the campus continues to be affected by the loss of another bright young mind."

Singer's death comes just days after the death of Margaret Linde, 20, of Rochester, NY. In the wake of her death, police and the Lorain Journal both heard rumors that Singer and Linde had been carrying on an affair.

Linde was found dead last weekend. She died after apparently falling from the condemned deck on the top of Peter's Hall, an academic building on Oberlin's campus.

Sources within the police department have recently provided the Lorain Journal with a copy of the internal police report detailing the discovery of Linde's body. In it, information is given that muddies the water surrounding Linde's death. According to the report, Singer's fingerprints were found on the door leading up to the deck.

In response to the fingerprints, Oberlin Police sources said, an arrest warrant was issued for Singer on charges of manslaughter. Police found Singer's body in his home that Monday when they went to arrest him for Linde's death. When they arrived, Police said, Singer was dead.

A search of Singer's house did not produce a necklace Linde's family says was missing from her body and possessions.

"We heard what sounded like a car backfiring," Singer's neighbor, Mavis Beacon, said. "We didn't think Alvin would go and do a thing like that."

Singer left several pieces of art to the Allen Memorial Art Museum and much of the rest of his estate to charity. He had no known close relatives. Memorial services for Singer will be private. Per his wishes, his remains will be cremated.
