

Missing Alfred University student's body found

2/12/02

ALFRED - The body of an Alfred University student missing since Saturday night was found in a creek behind the Alfred Post Office on North Main Street shortly after 9 this morning. Alfred Village Police confirmed about 5:30 p.m. that the body found was that of Benjamin Klein, 21, a junior business major from Putney, VT, who was first reported missing early Sunday morning by members of his fraternity, which is located at 55 N. Main St., adjacent to the Alfred Post Office. Alfred Police, the Allegany County Sheriff's Department, the State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation and District Attorney Terry Parker were at the scene this morning. County Coroner Dave Schwert also responded. The body was taken to the Monroe County Medical Examiner's office, where, police are saying, an autopsy will be performed Wednesday. Police will not release a cause of death until after the autopsy results are received. "Our hearts go out to Benjamin's parents," said Gerald Brody, vice president of Student Affairs for the University. He said Klein's mother arrived on campus Monday; his father was still at his home this morning when the body was discovered, but University officials have been in touch with him throughout the day. Brody said Dr. Norman Pollard, director of Counseling and Student Development for the University, and his staff met with members of ZBT this morning. A group meeting for students, faculty and staff is scheduled for 8 tonight in the Kenyon-Allen Rooms at the Powell Campus Center. In a statement to the campus community, Alfred University President Charles M. Edmondson said: "We are deeply saddened to report that the body of Benjamin P. Klein, the student missing since Saturday evening, was found this morning in the creek behind the ZBT house. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family as well as to those of you who knew Benjamin as a friend." At this time we have little information about the details surrounding Ben's death. We are cooperating fully with the Alfred Village police and the crime scene investigation unit from the State. We encourage anyone who has direct knowledge pertaining to this case to contact the police. "The University has suspended the fraternity, pending a full investigation into Klein's death. Suspension of a fraternity means that it will no longer be accorded the privileges of other Greek organizations. It will not be allowed to recruit new members, nor may non-members attend any social functions at the house, said Brody. The Alfred police department indicated that Klein was last seen about 10 p.m. Saturday night at the Unimart on Main Street, next to the ZBT fraternity. By Sunday afternoon, village police had launched a full investigation to determine Klein's whereabouts, and were preparing to conduct an extensive search this morning with members of the Allegany County Sheriff's Department, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation forest rangers, and firemen from the A.E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Co. and the Alfred Station Fire Department when the body was discovered in the creek, adjacent to the Alfred Post Office and next door to ZBT.