

District Attorney says Klein's death 'not homicide'

4/26/02

A campus-wide memo issued this morning by President Charles M. Edmondson: Just yesterday I told you that we had received no further information for several weeks regarding the death of Benjamin Klein. However, we learned this morning that the medical examiner's report has been released to the District Attorney's office. In a press release issued this morning, District Attorney Terry Parker ruled out homicide as the cause of death. He indicated, however, that the investigation continues and that charges may be brought in the assault that Ben allegedly suffered prior to his death. We will continue to cooperate fully with the authorities in this matter. The statement from the District Attorney does not answer all the questions relating to Ben's death, but I hope that it puts an end to some of the rumors and speculation surrounding this tragic incident. The full text of the District Attorney's press release follows this message.--

-----OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEYCOUNTY OF ALLEGANY212-A County Office BuildingBelmont, NY 14813(585) 268-9225PRESS RELEASETO: All MediaFROM: Allegany County District AttorneyDATE: April 26, 2002RE: Death of Benjamin P. KleinThe investigation into the death of Alfred University student Benjamin P. Klein, age 21, of Pultney, VT, has been continuing since the body of the student was found in Canacadea Creek on February 12th of this year. The final autopsy report in the February death of Benjamin Klein in Alfred, NY has been received by the authorities investigating the circumstances of his death. The report has been shared with family members. Based upon the findings of the Medical Examiner, the death of Benjamin Klein is determined to be not a homicide. The conclusions in the report do confirm that Mr. Klein was the victim of an assault prior to his death, but this death cannot be directly attributed to the assault. Therefore, no charges relating to his death are contemplated or warranted at this time. The police investigation into crimes which occurred prior to Mr. Klein's death is continuing, however, and it is anticipated that criminal charges will be filed when the investigation has been completed. No further comment can be made on the status of the investigation at this time. The investigation continues to be jointly conducted by the Alfred Police Department and New York State Police, including the Violent Crime Investigation Team, Allegany county Sheriff's Office and the Allegany County District Attorney's Office.