

PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS

Apr 27, 2007

Tuesday Apr 24



Local MIT student dies while boating

By Neil Gonzales / MediaNews

A graduating MIT student from Menlo Park turned up dead in Massachusetts late last week after going missing since April 8, his family said Monday.

The body of Daniel Barclay, 22, was found Thursday at a Cape Cod beach after he had gone on a boating trip, his mother, Sue Kayton, said.

"Nobody really knows what he was doing until he washed up ashore," Kayton said. She said authorities were still investigating her son's death. "What we think happened is that he planned a multi-day camping trip, because he bought camping equipment," Kayton said. But when he found that bad weather was forecast for the area, she said, her son apparently changed his plans to a one-day trip, because "he left a sleeping bag behind. What we're

speculating is that he had a boat ... and somehow he got swept by the current."

Kayton said her son was not an experienced boater. "He wasn't a big fan of the water," she said. "He only paddled around in a lake as a Boy Scout." Usually when he sought solitude, "he'd go hiking," Kayton added. But she said her son had a sore toe, and that may have led him to choose boating instead of hiking this particular time.

The Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office could not immediately be reached for comment. But The Patriot Ledger in Quincy, Mass., reported that a woman birdwatching spotted Barclay's body at Scusset Beach near the town of Sandwich about 60 miles south of Boston. A small inflatable boat was near the body. Drowning was listed as the cause of death. Authorities didn't believe foul play was involved.

Authorities, family members and MIT community members spent about a week searching for Barclay before his body was discovered, Kayton said.

She said her son recently earned a bachelor's degree in economics at MIT and was finishing up his master's requirements in political science. He was expected to participate in graduation ceremonies in June. He also had just accepted a job with a large Boston financial-consulting firm, Kayton said.

Barclay attended Menlo Park schools Hillview Middle, Oak Knoll Elementary and Las Lomitas Elementary.

"He was a great kid with a wonderful sense of humor," Kayton said. "He was imaginative and creative. He read widely. If somebody wanted to know about something, someone would say, 'Go ask Daniel.'"

He is also survived by his father, Michael Barclay, and his sister, Rachel Barclay. Kayton said her son's remains were cremated. The family is planning a memorial service in Menlo Park. A memorial Web page has been set up at www.suekayton.com.