

University graduate dies on Mt. Jefferson



Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Cony
Rick Sahley (left) fell to his death Friday while climbing Mt. Jefferson.

A 1980 University graduate died Friday in a mountaineering accident on Mt. Jefferson.

Rick Sahley, 28, was a geologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Vida and was active in the University's Outdoor Program and geology department.

Sahley was working with geology Prof. Bill Orr on a geochemistry project in fossil shells. He also organized and led University geology staff and students on field trips to Mt. St. Helens, where he had done observations. He had intended to return to the University for graduate work in the future, according to Orr.

Sahley, from Cleveland, Ohio, was climbing Mt. Jefferson, west of Madras, with friends Elizabeth Cony, Joel Myers and Earl Benedict.

According to Cony, Sahley fell at about 8,000 feet on the 10,000-foot Mt. Jefferson. The climbers were not roped, Cony said, and Sahley was descending a 65-70 degree

slope to aid a fellow climber in distress.

Sahley was traveling quickly down the slope and tripped. He slid along the rocky mountain-side and fell off several short cliffs, traveling 2,000 to 2,500 feet into Milk Creek Canyon. Cony said Sahley tried to stop himself but failed when he lost his ice axe.

He died instantly of head injuries, she said.

Sahley had been climbing for six years, and the recent climb was the group's second attempt at climbing the mountain in the Cascade range. The group had climbed together regularly.

"He had a good scientific curiosity," said Orr. "Almost fearless."

The 12-year-old research project in geochemistry Orr and Sahley were conducting will continue, said Orr. "But this will set us back."

Sahley was a "talented photographer, writer and mountaineer," Cony said.

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Multnomah DA's office probes city narc officers

PORTLAND (AP) — An investigation of possible criminal violations by Portland narcotics officers has begun with two at-

torneys from the Multnomah County District Attorney's office assigned to the probe, authorities said Tuesday.

The probe follows the indictment last month of former narcotics agent Scott L. Deppe, 32, on two counts of tampering with drug records.

Deppe has pleaded innocent to the charges and a tentative trial date in Multnomah County Circuit Court has been set for Jan. 30.

He resigned in August following an internal investigation into complaints by people arrested on drug charges. They said money and other possessions were stolen and drugs were planted on their property.

It was reported Tuesday that no officers have been suspended as a result of the new probe and no new indictments were imminent.

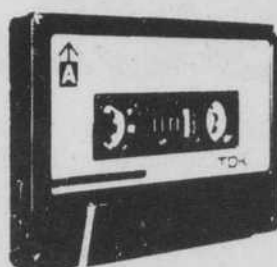
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