



Kyle Guyer, third from left, was the drummer for local pop-punk band Easy Target.

Guyer

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planning on graduating from the School of Journalism and Communication in June, has also left his mark on campus. Journalism Dean Tim Gleason said the journalism school is mourning the student's death.

"Everyone in the school is grieving at his death, and our hearts go out to his family and friends," Gleason said.

Assistant Adjunct Professor Rebecca Force had Guyer as a student, and also worked with him on Duck U, a University television show where Guyer was a music critic. Guyer was one of the students who originally started Duck U this year. Force described Guyer as smart, talented, charming and a great student.

"He was an energetic, delightful, creative, funny person," she said. "It's a real loss. ... This is just heartbreaking."

Friends said when Guyer wasn't in school, he was either working with children at a YMCA summer camp or playing drums with his band, Easy Target. Band member and close friend Jake Portrait, Dan Portrait's brother, said one of his best memories of Guyer was last summer when the band toured for 10 days up and down the West Coast.

"I always called him the 'soul-stamper,'" he said. "Anybody he touched, he graced. He had a lust for life."

Jake Portrait said that despite the tragic circumstance of Guyer's death, it is exciting to see how much love Guyer has spread throughout his 23 years. After graduation, he said, Guyer was planning on moving to Portland to pursue "the creative side of him."

Beyond his love for music, Guyer also had a passion for children. Eric Guyer laughed about how the biggest problem Guyer faced at summer camp was that half the children wanted him as a counselor.

"He had the ability to make a 7-year-old abuse victim feel like they were the king of the world," he said.

Dan Portrait added that even though Guyer is dead, his memories will still live on.

"I don't think Kyle left a hole — because he left us with so much love and so many memories," he said. "He taught us so many things, like what it is to be a friend and what it is to love people."

Jake Portrait said that another one of his favorite memories of Guyer is when he and his friends would get together just to laugh and talk about life.

Susan Guyer said Guyer still volunteered during the school year at the YMCA After School Program in Eugene.

After Guyer's death, his friends compiled a card to give to Susan, which said things like "Kyle

touched many lives," and, "We've all lost a piece of ourselves."

Susan Guyer said that even though her heart is breaking, she awaits the day she will be reunited with her son.

"We know Kyle is tucked away safely in heaven," she said. "And we look forward to the hope of heaven and the reunion with Kyle. He was truly the light of our life."

Contact the reporter at alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com.

Sacred Heart treated Guyer before his death

An autopsy is expected today as police investigate the cause of death of the 23-year-old senior journalism major

Ali Shaughnessy
Environment/Science/Technology Reporter

Friends of University senior Kyle Kristopher Guyer found him dead Sunday morning after attending his graduation party the night before. Guyer, 23, was majoring in electronic media with a focus in video production and was going to graduate from the University's School of Journalism and Communication on June 14.

According to a press release from the Eugene Police Department, Guyer spent Saturday night celebrating his upcoming graduation with 20 to 25 friends. After the barbecue, Guyer went to Fathom's Bar, located under Pegasus Pizza.

While at the bar, Guyer burned his hand when a flaming drink spilled on him. He was treated for

burns at Sacred Heart Medical Center shortly after.

Guyer's mother, Susan, said that her son was given drugs at the hospital.

"He was given IV and medication in the emergency room. It's an ongoing investigation as to what exactly happened."

Susan Guyer
Kyle Guyer's mother

"He was given IV and medication in the emergency room," she said. "It's an ongoing investigation as to what exactly happened."

An autopsy is expected to be performed today, so it is not yet clear what medicine he ingested.

Sacred Heart spokesman Brian Terrett could not comment on the case.

"We're not at liberty to talk about anyone's medical treatment unless they sign a release," he said, adding that the Emerald's phone call was the first he had heard of it.

Guyer returned to his house early Sunday morning and went to bed, where his roommates discovered his body shortly before 8 a.m. According to EPD reports, there is no indication of foul play, and the exact cause of death is still unknown.

Guyer's brother Eric would not comment on whether Guyer took pain medication, but he did stress his family's gratitude for the friends who took care of Guyer that night.

"It's always an extreme tragedy when you seek medical attention and you still have a negative outcome," Eric Guyer said. "Finding fault won't bring him back, but hopefully it can avoid hurt in the future."

Contact the reporter at alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com. News editor Brook Reinhard contributed to this report.

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