

AWARDS AND BOOK SIGNING Gerlinger Hall, University of Oregon Thursday, June 5 • 7:30 p.m. • Free

Hosted by this year's contest judge, Karen Karbo -

Correspondent for "Outside" magazine and celebrated author of "Gen-Ex: Tales from the Second Wives Club" and "Motherhood Made a Man Out of Me." Karbo will be joined at the podium by this year's three contest winners, Kristina Johnson, Bonnie Dodge, and Susi Klare who will read their winning selections.

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Medication

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emergency room with second-degree burns, according to Deputy Medical Examiner Frank Ratti. The hospital also wrote a Percocet prescription for Guyer, giving him six pills to take home until he could fill the prescription.

Deputy Medical Examiner Frank Ratti said Dilaudid is a typical drug given to people with serious burns, adding that the hospital told Guyer he could take two of the Percocet after he went home to help with the pain.

According to reports, Guyer was conscious and alert when he left the hospital with friends to walk back to his apartment, where he ingested two Percocet — the recommended dosage — and gave one to a friend. Ratti said the remaining three Percocet have been accounted for.

Guyer burned both of his hands after a flaming drink spilled on him while he and his friends were at a bar celebrating Guyer's upcoming graduation.

Ratti said Guyer was given the Dilaudid in small dosages of one milligram each, with a total of four milligrams, adding that the hospital gave both written and verbal instructions to Guyer before he left the hospital. Ratti said reports indicate Guyer was drinking, but he did not know whether the hospital checked Guyer's blood alcohol level before administering the drug.

Until toxicology reports are done, Guyer's blood alcohol level at the time of his death is unknown. Francis van Veen, a retired coroner and forensics pathologist in Washington, said Dilaudid is substantially more powerful than morphine. He said mixing a drug like Dilaudid with alcohol can cause serious medical complications, adding that Dilaudid is not typically used for second-degree burns.

Multiple Sacred Heart spokespeople said they could not comment on whether Guyer's blood alcohol level was tested before drugs were administered. However, federal Medicare regulations and interpretive guidelines require hospitals to provide for an "appropriate medical screening examination."

While Sacred Heart spokespeople also would not comment on screening procedures, Tom Hambly, clinical manager of the emergency department at Springfield's McKenzie-Willamette Hospital, said a hospital's first duty is to solve a patient's immediate problems.

"People who have been drinking and are injured that come to an emergency department deserve to have their pain treated, regardless of their intoxication," Hambly said.

He said that while McKenzie-Willamette rarely conducts blood alcohol level tests, patients who show signs of intoxication are more closely monitored.

The federal regulations also require continued monitoring "according to the patient's needs."

Hambly said patients who are suspected of ingesting alcohol are usually monitored for four to six hours and sometimes stay in the emergency ward overnight, especially if they are given higher doses of narcotics.

The clinical manager noted that narcotics administered in an IV are fairly safe because the drugs have a short half-life — which means they quickly leave the patient's system.

Lori Reader, co-owner of Fathom's bar where Guyer was burned, would not comment about the situation, but she expressed sympathy for the death.

"We consider this a great loss, and our condolences go out to the friends and family," she said.

Contact the reporter at alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com. News editors Brook Reinhard and Jan Montry contributed to this report.



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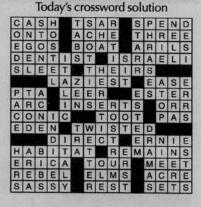
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