

POLICE SUSPECT DRUGS INVOLVED IN SLAYING

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Kevin Blaine Mullins first made news in May 1985 when he brought charges against seven staff members of Possibilities Unlimited, a Lexington drug rehabilitation center where he had been undergoing treatment.

According to Fayette District Court records, Mullins, then a 19-year-old student at Eastern Kentucky University, contended that he had been forcibly taken from his home in Frankfort to the rehabilitation center and held against his will for nearly an hour.

This week, Kevin Mullins was in the news again.

He was shot to death in his Lexington apartment Saturday in what police suspect was a robbery- and drug-related homicide.

Police Lt. John Bizzack said neighbors heard shots about 3 p.m. Saturday at Mullins' apartment at The Landings complex at 2414 Richmond Road. He had moved into the apartment two weeks ago, Bizzack said.

Lora Page Mason, Mullins' roommate and an employee at a local lounge, reported finding the body at 11:05 that night, he said.

Mullins, who had been shot several times, was killed by a bullet in the chest, said Fayette County Deputy Coroner Claire Dixon.

Bizzack said the slaying probably occurred during a robbery. He said "an overtone of drugs" was involved."

Police are seeking information about the owner or driver of a small, possibly late-model gray or light blue car seen near Mullins' apartment Saturday afternoon, Bizzack said.

Anyone with information about the car can call police at 258-3600.

"Several dozen people who have had relationships with the victim are now being interviewed," Bizzack said, adding that detectives have several suspects.

Mullins was arrested several months ago on drug charges in Richmond, said Madison County Deputy Jailer Roger Portwood.

At the time of his treatment at Possibilities Unlimited, Mullins had "a major drug problem," George Ross, director of Possibilities Unlimited, said yesterday.

Ross was tried and acquitted on charges of unlawful imprisonment in the Mullins case. Charges against other staff members were dropped after Mullins failed to show up in court to testify.

"We had a good chance of turning the kid around if he had stayed in treatment, but he chose not to," Ross said.

Testimony at Ross's trial indicated that Mullins had been fighting with his father, John, who had called Possibilities Unlimited to pick up his son.

A woman who answered the phone at the elder Mullins' home yesterday said John Mullins did not want to discuss his son's death.

"Kevin's story is typical of a lot of young people who leave treatment prior to overcoming their disease of chemical dependency," Ross said, responding to police suspicions of a drug connection in Mullins' death.

"Hopefully," he said, "this incident will serve to awaken the community at large of the price we're paying for our young people being harmfully involved with alcohol and other drug usage and abuse."

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