

DAILY NEWS

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Relatives of cyclist killed in S.I. hit & run ask public's help to find driver

Ron Tillman was student at Wagner College

By BARRY PADDOCK

Relatives of a Staten Island college student killed by a hit-and-run driver are asking the public's help in finding the motorist.

Ron (R.J.) Tillman, 29, was biking home Sunday night from the Wagner College library after a long day studying for a big test when he was mowed down just blocks from school.

"They found his backpack with all his study materials," said Tillman's distraught aunt, Joan Snihur of Liverpool, N.Y.

"We're just still in shock," she added. "Anything that anybody can do to help find the driver — we're really interested in finding that out."

Tillman had moved to Staten Island from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, just weeks ago to be closer to school, his family said.

He had transferred from Brooklyn College, where he was studying film production.

"He wanted to try a different career and he started this nursing program, which he just loved," Snihur said. "He really, really enjoyed it, loved helping other people."

Tillman was riding against traffic on Howard Ave. when he was hit by a dark-colored SUV about 9:15 p.m., cops and witnesses said. He died later at Staten Island University Hospital.

"His mother's just heartbroken that he died alone and nobody stopped to see if he was okay or not," Snihur said.

Tillman's family remembered him for his sense of humor.

"He was hysterical," Snihur said. "He was the class clown in high school."

"He was great at impersonations," she added. "He was always at the table entertaining all his cousins."

His family is donating his organs in hopes of prolonging the lives of others.

"Identifying the driver's not going to bring him back," Snihur said, "but we still can't understand how somebody could do that."