

# Mystery shrouds 'suicide' of Wagner College senior

Autopsy inconclusive, says coroner, who'll sift pills in aspirin bottle found beside the body in Bronx park

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An autopsy shed little light Wednesday on the case of Wagner College student Kelsey Justin Stevens, whose lifeless body was found Tuesday in the Bronx's Van Cortlandt Park.

Nevertheless, NYPD investigators continue to believe that Stevens took his own life, according to police.

Stevens, 22 was last seen by his roommate Monday, just before he said he was headed to Manhattan for a doctor's appointment.

The roommate received an early-morning call from Stevens, saying he was in the woods in the Bronx, and just after 1 p.m., police found his body face-up in the park, along with a suicide note and an unspecified quantity of pills, according to police.

On Wednesday, an NYPD source familiar with the case offered some insight into the scene: The suicide note was addressed to the 22-year-old's mother and was apologetic in tone, though it offered no explanation. The

pills, meanwhile were discovered inside an aspirin bottle, and investigators plan to test them.

The source said police found no evidence suggestive of foul play.

According to Ellen Borkove, a spokeswoman for the city medical examiner's office, the autopsy was inconclusive pending "further testing and investigation."

Stevens' father, also named Kelsey, declined to talk about the circumstances of his son's death Wednesday, except to say that the outpouring of support from Wagner College is "giving me strength."

"What the school is doing and what the classmates are doing is beautiful," he said.

Stevens, a senior and New Jersey resident majoring in theater and speech, had prominent roles in several Wagner stage productions, and spent most of his summer on-campus in his role as a student coordinator of freshman orientation.

On Tuesday night, more than 200 students and faculty gathered outside Main Hall to remember Stevens in a candlelight vigil.

At the event roommate Brendan McCann recalled "what a presence [Stevens] was in my life, especially."

Speaking to a reporter after the ceremony, McCann said Stevens sounded "confused" during the 5 a.m. phone call but wouldn't get into specifics of the conversation.



**STEVENS**