

## Mark R. Kordos <sup>4/12/88</sup>

Mark R. Kordos '89 died last Friday when he jumped off the 13th floor of MacGregor House. Kordos, 18 years old, came from Morristown, NJ, and was majoring in computer science.

In addition to being a straight-A student, Kordos had been active in the Musical Theatre Guild, playing lead roles in two productions.

Chief of Campus Police Anne P. Glavin said the suicide occurred at about 6:30 pm. Kordos was pronounced dead at Massachusetts General Hospital at 8:10 pm. The death certificate cited his cause of death as a massive injury to the head.

Robert M. Randolph, associate dean of student affairs and head of the Student Assistance Services, described Kordos as someone who set very high goals. "He was quite demanding and a perfectionist," Randolph said.

Two courses, Computer Language Engineering (6.035) and Automata, Computability, and Complexity (6.045J) had been troubling Kordos in the past few days, Randolph said. "The day he died, there was a test in 6.045J, and he was apparently frustrated," Randolph said. Kordos had a 5.0 grade point average, Randolph added.

Kordos lived in A-entry at MacGregor. Robert S. Kennedy '59, professor of electrical engineering and computer science and housemaster at MacGregor, described Kordos as a "superb student who wanted to do well."

In Kordos's room there was a very brief note which he had left for his family, Glavin said. But it made no mention of his academic situation this semester, she stressed.

Randolph said a "reliable source" told him that Kordos had ingested a large amount of aspirin before he fell out his window. "Because of this some people might believe that what happened on Friday was not a suicide," Randolph said, but "rather a cry for help."

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Nevertheless, the Suffolk County medical examiner yesterday ruled the death a suicide. He would not comment on whether high levels of aspirin were found in the body during the autopsy.

Suzanne M. Wurster '89, who went to the same high school as Kordos, explained that Kordos was very smart and always demanded a lot from himself. He finished high school in three years. There, he participated in plays, the math team, and the science club, Wurster said.

He continued his interest in the theater when he joined the Musical Theatre Guild in the fall of 1985. He served as secretary between the fall of 1985 and fall of 1986. Scott E. Ramsay, treasurer of MTG, said that Kordos was a very good singer and had played the lead roles in *Diamonds in the Rough* and *West Side Story*.

In the spring of 1987, Kordos left MTG to spend more time on his schoolwork, Randolph said.

The funeral will be held today in Morristown, Randolph said. He added that no plans have yet been made for a memorial service at MIT.