

http://www.jackcentral.org/news/updated-sources-reveal-more-information-about-joseph-michael-bock-s/article_8a39fe46-315e-11e8-8637-e3d456a959b9.html

UPDATED: Sources reveal more information about Joseph Michael Bock's death

Megan Troutman and Adrian Skabelund Mar 26, 2018



The apartment at Hilltop Townhomes where Joseph Michael Bock was found March 21. The windows are boarded to prevent people from looking into the crime scene.

Shannon Ainsley Cowan

Rumors have been spreading rampantly about the unattended death of business major Joseph Michael Bock, known by his friends as Joey.

Bock's body was discovered March 21 at 2 p.m. in an apartment at Hilltop Townhomes, a housing complex not directly affiliated with NAU, but right off NAU campus on San Francisco Street. His body was found underneath a bed. There was blood in the bathroom and the bedroom, and the apartment's windows were boarded up so no one could look inside or take pictures of the scene.

Sources said he was found underneath the bed with stab wounds to his abdomen.

An anonymous source, who knew Bock, expressed concerns with misinformation being construed about the death.

According to the source, Bock was in communication with at least one person approximately 12 hours before his body was found. Bock was last seen outside his apartment at approximately 2 a.m. on the day his body was found, the source said.

“I saw him outside. He was sitting outside at 2 a.m. — that was the last time I saw him,” said the anonymous source. “They found him at 2 p.m., but he was probably dead before that. They were just doing [apartment] rounds.”

Initially, NAUPD said that Bock had been presumed dead for approximately a week prior to the body's discovery. According to the anonymous source, this analysis conflicts with what the source witnessed.

NAUPD Chief Kelli Smith sent an email to students the evening of March 26, confirming that “his body was discovered less than 12 hours from the time he passed away.” Smith sent the email “due to the number of unfortunate rumors and misinformation that are causing unnecessary concern.”

The email also said that “The Coconino County Medical Examiner's report and toxicology screen can take significant time (often as much as 60 days)” and that the incident was “deemed a contained, isolated incident.”

The anonymous source got to know Bock well over spring break because both of them stayed in Flagstaff.

“I texted him in the morning at 9 o'clock [March 21], and I said ‘Good morning, how are you doing?’ And I never got a response,” the source said.

Police have released minimal information about the incident, but rumors have spread with students feeling unsettled about the death.

“A girl just posted [on] Facebook about all this ... [and how] there’s a murderer running around on the loose and all this happening. I was like, dude, stop commenting on things you know nothing about. It’s making everything worse,” the source said. “There’s not a murderer running around.”

Two days after the incident on March 23, in an email sent to students, faculty and staff, NAU President Rita Cheng said she had full confidence that the police would uncover what transpired after a thorough investigation. Cheng also assured students that, despite the death, there was no threat to students or employees on campus.

“Let me assure you, there is no known imminent threat or concern on our campus,” Cheng’s email read. “The safety of our students, as always, is our top priority.”

Smith reiterated this statement in her March 26 email.

Cheng continued that her thoughts and prayers went out to Bock’s friends and loved ones.

“Our thoughts are with the family of our deceased student, and I hope you will respect their privacy during this difficult time,” Cheng’s email read. “We are sensitive to the emotions and concerns of all our students as they come back to campus from spring break, and we understand the concerns of their families.”

Junior environmental science major James Phillips was a roommate of Bock’s since January. Bock moved into the apartment halfway through the school year.

“He moved in at winter semester. I talked to him every day, we went out to eat a few of times, I met his family, he was a nice guy,” said Phillips.

Phillips was in Tucson for spring break and first found out about the incident through the NAU Alert system.

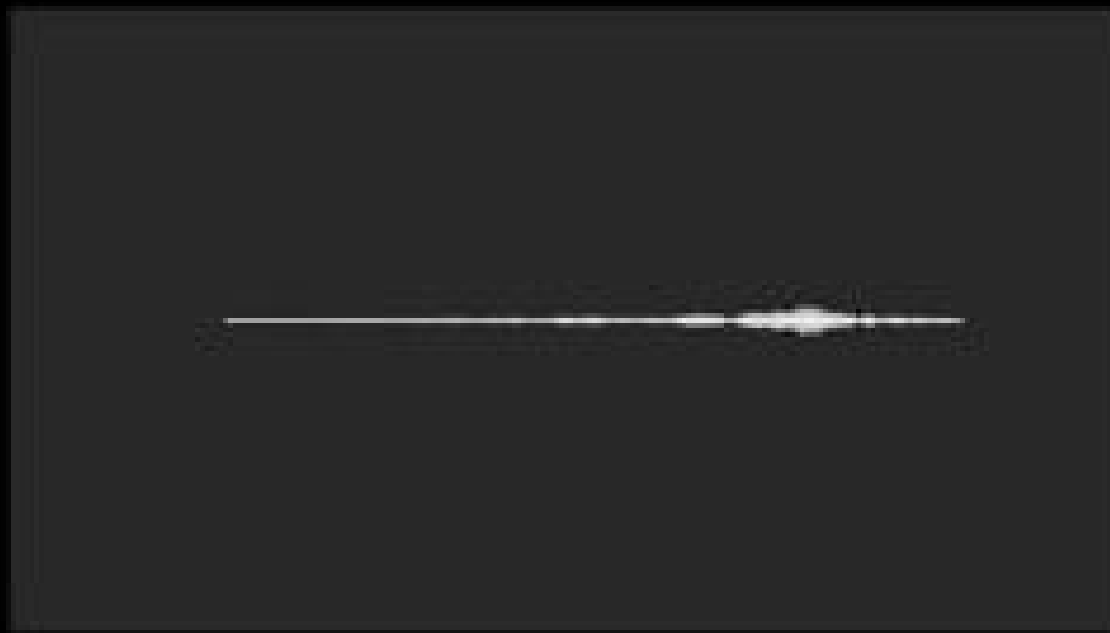
He did not find out it was his roommate, however, until returning to Flagstaff.

“[I knew] that someone died at the apartment complex that I live in, [but] I didn’t really know it was my roommate,” Phillips said. “I didn’t really have any confirmation that it was Joey until they sat me down with the detective at the police station and said, ‘Hey, it was your roommate.’”

NAUPD asked Phillips about the other roommates and the people he knew.

"[I was] very shocked, like I said I didn't know anyone would want to do that to Joey. He seemed like a very live-and-let-live kind of guy, he didn't have any enemies," Phillips said. "So when I learned that it was him I was very shocked."

An emergency dispatch recording on the day of the incident, at approximately 1:50 p.m., said that there was "blood all throughout the apartment," and that "a body that was found under the bed." Five minutes after the call, medics arrived at the scene.



Emergency dispatch about unattended death at Hilltop Townhomes

The official cause of death has not been released. Police are not speculating on the cause.

"They said it looked like it started in a bathroom, they wouldn't tell me which bathroom, and that it ended with him underneath the bed. They wouldn't tell me which bed," Phillips said.

Since returning to campus, Phillips has not seen the inside of his apartment. He has been relocated to the SkyView Apartments on central campus, and Hilltop employees moved his belongings out of his room for him.

“They’ve removed the tarp and the tape from around the apartment so I’m assuming they cleaned it up for the most part,” Phillips said. “As far as they’ve told me, that room is closed indefinitely.”