

Richard was a science teacher and girls tennis coach at John Burroughs High School whose career came under a cloud:

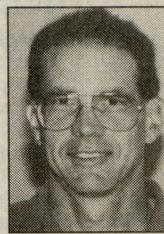
<http://articles.latimes.com/1997/dec/19/local/me-163>

Teacher who used cocaine is dead

■ Body of ex-Burroughs High School science teacher Richard Bedigan discovered at Mammoth Lakes motel.

By Jasmine Lee, *The Leader*

BURBANK — Nine months after he was arrested for snorting cocaine in his classroom, former Burroughs High School science teacher Richard Edward Bedigan



Richard Bedigan was found dead on the floor of a Mammoth Lakes motel, authorities said.

Funeral services for Bedigan, 48, were held Tuesday at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills. Mono

County Sheriff-Coroner officials have not yet determined the cause of his July 6 death.

Autopsy results will be available in a couple of weeks, said Lt. Steve Maris of the Mono County Sheriff-Coroner Department, the agency investigating the case.

"I choose not to speculate because the toxicology reports are not in," Maris said. "But it's my opinion that he died a natural death relating to diabetes."

Maris said there were no signs of physical harm to Bedigan. Police did not find any evidence of criminal activity in the Motel 6 room where he was found.

Bedigan checked into the

BEDIGAN

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motel in June, staying for about 10 days, said Emmet Gossen, a spokesman for Motel 6 corporate headquarters in Dallas. He left for a week, then checked in again a few days before his death.

A motel manager, prompted by a call asking him to check on Bedigan's health, went to his room and found him unconscious on the floor, Gossen said. Paramedics arrived and found him dead.

Bedigan was arrested Oct. 21 after a Burroughs High School administrator caught him using cocaine in his classroom during lunch period.

He pleaded guilty in December to using the drug. As part of a plea agreement, the court agreed to remove the conviction from Bedigan's record if he successfully complete two years of probation.

Bedigan was placed on administrative leave from his teaching job immediately after entering his plea.

Burbank Municipal Court Judge Rand Rubin sentenced Bedigan to two years' unsupervised probation and ordered him to enroll in a drug treatment program. Bedigan was subjected to monthly, random drug testing. He missed a scheduled court appearance in June.

At the hearing, his attorney, Richard Hutton, told the judge Bedigan was in a rehabilitation center in Mammoth Lakes. The judge agreed to reschedule Bedigan's court appearance. The case will be dismissed by the judge after he receives a copy of the

death certificate, said Bob Wilson, Hutton's law partner.

Bedigan, who also served as a Burroughs High tennis coach, is the son of Edward Bedigan, a former assistant superintendent of Burbank schools.

Clyde Richards, tennis coach at Burbank High School, said he was shocked and saddened by Bedigan's death. Richards said he

last talked to Bedigan a month ago, when the former teacher said he wished he could return to the classroom.

"Rich was a very serious teacher and educator," Richards said. "As a rival coach I always found him to be fair and courteous. He had an addiction problem and I wish that it could be treated as a medical problem."

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However, his sister Nanci wrote to us:

I am Rich's sister Nanci and I saw your link for Rich regarding his death. I want to advise you that cocaine usage had nothing to do with Rich's death. He was clean and sober and living an outdoor life in Mammoth Lakes where he so enjoyed fishing, hiking and rock collecting but unfortunately passed away from diabetes. Rich did not take care of himself as a diabetic should. Nancy Bedigan-Zemansky

Linda Mustion created this memorial for him:

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi?page=gr&GRid=46557608>