A high-ranking administrator at Morehead State University apparently shot and killed his wife, a professor on leave from a Pennsylvania university, and then fatally shot himself yesterday at their home in Morehead, officials said.

Larry W. Jones, 49, dean of Morehead's College of Professional Studies, and his wife, Ellen B. Barker, 43, an assistant professor of psychology at Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa., were found dead by Morehead campus police about 5 p.m. yesterday, said Morehead State spokesman Keith Kappes.

Mr. Jones sent an apparent suicide note to Morehead President C. Nelson Grote through the campus mail. The handwritten note arrived at Grote's office yesterday afternoon, Kappes said.

"It was a personal note that caused concern for their well-being," Kappes said.

Grote and two university vice presidents accompanied campus police to Mr. Jones' university-owned house at 524 Wilson Avenue, a neighborhood near campus.

Rowan County Coroner James Barker said he pronounced the couple dead at the scene. Barker said the shootings were an apparent slaying-suicide.

The bodies were found in a bedroom. They had been shot once each in the head above the ears. Mr. Jones, dressed in pajamas, was holding a .38-caliber pistol. She was wearing a night gown, Barker said.

Officials said there was no sign of a struggle.

Barker and Morehead police Sgt. Bob Criswell said the shootings apparently occurred in the morning.

Mr. Jones had called his university office yesterday to say that he was sick and would not be at work, Kappes said. It was the first day of classes after last week's spring vacation. The couple had gone out of town during the

break, Kappes said.
Because there was no campus mail delivery during spring vacation, Mr. Jones could have posted the note to Grote more than a week ago, officials said.

Barker said the note to Grote and another note written by Mr. Jones and found at the house did not reveal a motive.

Mr. Jones wrote in the notes that he was sending letters to relatives and friends, leaving instructions on finances and arrangements, seeking help for his two college-age daughters from a previous marriage, and asking for prayers, Barker said.

The coroner said the notes were in Mr. Jones’ handwriting. He said there was no indication that Ellen Barker realized what her husband had in mind. "I don't think she had any idea what was going on," Barker said.

Morehead State officials said Ellen Barker and Mr. Jones were married in summer 1985.

Before coming to Morehead in October 1986 as dean of the college of professional studies, he was provost and vice president for academic affairs at Bloomsburg, a 7,500-student public university.

He was the school's interim president in 1983 and acting president in 1985, returning for about a year to his former job after the new president was named, Bloomsburg spokesman Kevin Engler said.

Ellen Barker continued working at Bloomsburg after her husband moved to Kentucky in 1986.

She had been on sabbatical leave this academic year, apparently to do research, Engler said. She had lived in Morehead during part of her leave, Kappes said.

"It's extremely distressing and sad," said Janet Gross, an associate professor and president of the Morehead Faculty Senate.

"It's distressing that whatever type of personal situation precipitated this had gone unnoticed and the resources to help weren't available to them."

Mr. Jones, a graduate of North Dakota State University and the University of Oregon, had been dean of business and economics at Eastern Montana College and an administrator at Moorhead State University in Minnesota, Kappes said.

He was president of the Kentucky Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

Mr. Jones is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones of Fargo, N.D., and two daughters from a previous marriage -- Katie, a student at the University of Pittsburgh, and Sarah, a student at North Dakota
Ellen Barker is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Barker of St. Cloud, Minn.