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UNB and city react to taxi driver's murder

PAT FITZPATRICK
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Whether they were friends of murdered taxi driver Doug MacIsaac, acquaintances of the accused, taxi drivers or simply students who rely on taxis as a means of transportation, Fredericton's first murder in over a year hit close to home for many area residents.

Sheona Doyle, a student in the UNB Faculty of Education and shift supervisor in the Student Union Building, regularly called Standard to request that Mr. MacIsaac be her driver. MacIsaac's murder hit especially close to home for her, "I think of Doug as a friend. I take cabs all the time and he drove me home quite frequently. I can't believe he's dead, let alone that he died in this manner. It's sick, it really is."

A female student at UNB, who wished to remain anonymous, also took the death to heart. "I didn't know the victim, but how he died makes me shudder. I know one thing's for sure - I'm not going to be sharing cabs with anyone I don't know," she concluded, referring to a common practice in the taxi industry in which taxi drivers will pick up two fares at the same time. Her sentiments were echoed by a number of students the night after the murder.

Danny Gibson, a second year Arts student at UNB, was also upset by the killing. "We just took Standard. The worst is that it happened close to my house - that's scary as hell. Why did it have to happen to some cabbie who's just trying to make a living? They don't deserve the stuff that happens to them."

Perhaps the most poignant commentary came from David Bouteiller, a Standard cab driver and life-long friend of Mr. MacIsaac's who gave one of two eulogies at Wednesday's memorial service. "It was a brutal, senseless murder, all for



Police cordon off the murder scene last Friday morning following the slaying of cab driver Douglas MacIsaac. Between twelve and fifteen investigators worked on the case, including dog handlers and forensic experts. The twenty-year old accused man will be back in court on Monday.

the sake of a three dollar fare. People just don't understand. If they could only see from our eyes on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night. The stuff that goes on downtown is ridiculous. You have people jumping on your cab, lying down on the street, swearing

at you..." "It's damn hard work for four bucks an hour. Could you do it? Ninety-nine percent of the public can't. We're taken for granted and if I learned one thing at Queen's or in 26 years in the military, it's that you

just don't do that." "If there's one thing I wish people would keep in mind here it's that Doug is more than a victim of butchery. He was a real person, a kind-hearted, decent human being who had hopes and dreams, who loved a good poker game,

enjoyed golf and enjoyed the ponies. I'm still remembering the scrawny little red-haired kid I grew up with when our dad's were stationed back in Germany." See also page 3: "Cabbies respond to death."

Arrest made after 32 hour investigation

PAT FITZPATRICK
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Residents of the 200 block of Charlotte Street, a quiet downtown residential district popular with students, awoke Friday morning to the unsmiling faces of the Fredericton City Police knocking on their doors.

Police were seeking information that could lead to an arrest in the early morning murder of Douglas Allen MacIsaac, a driver for Standard Taxi.

The investigation ended some 32 hours after the discovery of MacIsaac's body, when police arrested 20 year-old Jason Barth Young in connection with the murder.

As near as can be reconstructed to date, MacIsaac's last shift on duty began uneventfully as the quiet, well-liked cabbie drove a colleague home.

At approximately 1:00am, Standard dispatcher Milton Cogswell dispatched MacIsaac to 633 Windsor Street, "Windsor Palace," opposite the Faculty of Engineering at UNB.

Contrary to previously published reports, Sergeant Tim Cane, spokesperson for the Fredericton City Police, states that MacIsaac picked up only one person at 633 Windsor Street - the cabbie's last known call. According to Cane, the fare requested to be dropped off at 262 Charlotte Street. Five minutes later, at the end of a \$2.50 ride, MacIsaac's cab arrived at that address and stopped responding to radio calls from his dispatcher.

When MacIsaac did not answer dispatch calls, Cogswell became concerned and ordered his drivers to begin a slow, street-by-street grid search of the downtown area at

Campus radio under scrutiny Arts students to have own Society

MARY ROGAL-BLACK
THE BRUNSWICKAN

Despite its low listenership, CHSR may soon be getting more attention, as student council considers whether the radio station is serving students.

Following months of turmoil at the station and after what Student Union Executives say are numerous complaints from students, VP (External) Anthony Knight asked council to think about the feasibility of funding CHSR.

"UNB full-time undergraduate students contribute more than \$70,000 to a campus radio station annually," Knight told council in a meeting on Tuesday evening. "We see the potential that this resource represents yet there is a concern of the executive that the station is not serving a majority of students."

Reading from a prepared statement, Knight said that the Executive was concerned about meeting the needs of students. "That is why this executive is asking this council to consider taking action in deciding if there is a need for

the UNB Student Union to continue funding such an organization."

Knight told council that in the past, Executives concerned about poor listenership at CHSR had considered programming to be the main issue. Now, he said, the Executive recognises another problem. "The administrative structure of the radio station is the source of a majority of problems that have taken place at the station," he said.

Knight asked council to provide the CHSR Board of Directors with a mandate for change by the end of January of the new year.

"This mandate will include that the radio station develop a plan for significant change with regard to the structure of the radio station and the role of the membership in the administration as the Board of Directors sees fit," said Knight.

Finally, he told council that the Executive would be prepared to ask for a spring referendum question, "as to the feasibility of funding a campus radio station."

As a result of Knight's statement,

Business Representative Matt Hanrahan made a motion requiring the Executive to arrange a presentation to council from CHSR. "We have to make sure that we look into this issue fairly and in-depth," said Hanrahan, adding that he didn't want to see council rush ahead the way it did with the football question.

Reaction around the table was mixed. Representative Rodney Chaisson said he didn't see a problem with putting the question to students. "If you have a referendum and ninety-nine per cent of students say they don't want it [then we go by that]."

However, Law Representative Cathy Clark did have concerns about a referendum. "There are no guidelines in the bylaws for a referendum in terms of validity and quorum," she said. Clark said if two per cent of students vote and half of them don't want to support the radio station, "Well then you've got the voice of one percent of the students."

"If you're going to do referendum you'll have to clarify this issue," said Clark.

See "Campus Radio" page 4

CYNTHIA KIRBY
THE BRUNSWICKAN

The Arts Faculty is composed of nearly 1500 individual undergraduates and Meghan Nesbit is taking steps to make it one group of individuals.

Nesbit, a third year student of Economics and International Development, is resurrecting the Arts Undergraduate Society. "I was talking to Deborah Johnston (Coordinator of Student Support Services) about some of the concerns I had with the faculty over the lack of unity and morale. Students, for a large part, are just individuals because there's nothing to belong to, and I wanted to change that."

"I see other faculties are getting benefits like formals and grogs. Collectively, we pay over \$150,000 in Student Union fees and we're not getting anything back from that, not because the Engineers are more important, just because we're not asking," Nesbit said.

"You've got your Sociology Society, your Psychology Society, your Poli-Sci

Society, but that's not enough. Some groups are collapsing," she said, citing French and Philosophy as examples. "If you bring them together they'll have more strength."

Nesbit said Johnston told her there had once been an AUS but it had collapsed. "So we're completely new. There are no returning members. What people tell us is what we're going to do."

Response from the Arts Undergraduates has been excellent so far. "It's much better than I expected," Nesbit said. "People are taking responsibility for where the faculty is and trying to change it. I think we're going to be able to work together to make the Arts faculty a hell of a lot better. Even now, with our first two general meetings, there are a lot of people I've never met, who have lots of great ideas and enthusiasm."

Although she says she's "interested in hearing what students have to say," Nesbit has some ideas of her own on how the society should operate.

"I want a completely different kind of leadership from before when people

and their friends were appointed executives."

A tentative executive is currently in place, but Nesbit said elections will be held later when voters are more familiar with the candidates and their capabilities.

Also, she would like the new AUS to be involved with the community as part of a "well-rounded Arts education."

"The AUS could hear ideas and put on events. Why don't we have an Arts formal? We don't even have the photos of all the graduates hanging on the wall. I want the AUS to force people to get the most out of their degree, to know that it is going to get you farther in life."

Nesbit would particularly like to see first and second year students becoming involved with the Society. "We targeted them because they don't have to accept a completely fragmented faculty. They can make the faculty what they want."

However, she added, everyone is welcome. "Participation is completely open. If you're in Arts, you're in the society."

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