

FAMILY, FRIENDS GRIEVE FOR YOUNG MAN STABBED AT RICHMOND HILL NIGHTCLUB

'Basically, they ruined a family'

BY GIANNI COLAVECCHIA
Staff Writer

Gerry Nardozi will always remember his kid brother Marco as the big man with a big heart.

"He was a very respectable guy," he recalled. "Everybody who knew him loved him."

The 26-year-old Woodbridge resident is one of several people mourning the death of 23-year-old Marco Nardozi, who died after being stabbed Sunday morning in Richmond Hill's Paparazzi nightclub.

He died trying to break up a heated argument between friends and three men.

Surrounded by supporters in the garage of the family's Brandy Crescent home Monday afternoon, a somber Gerry remembered his brother as a quiet young man with many acquaintances and a close circle of friends.

Woodbridge resident Steve Buchignani echoed those sentiments, saying Marco was large in stature but did not intimidate anyone.

"He was just an easy-going guy, very mellow," Buchignani, related to the family through marriage, said. "He always stuck up for his friends. He would do anything for anybody."

York Regional Police say two groups of men began arguing before 2 a.m. in the second-floor washroom of the club.

The fight moved outside the room, where Nardozi was stabbed. Moments after he fell to the floor, three men fled the scene in a 1999 Mercedes-Benz sport utility vehicle.

Acting on tips from several club-goers, police arrested 28-year-old Bolton resident Joe Catroppa hours later. He was to appear in Newmarket court late Monday afternoon on second-degree murder charges.

Sgt. John Sheldon declined to say whether investigators are close to arresting the two other suspects but said they are making headway.

"We've made substantial progress. We feel this case should be resolved by the end of the week," Sheldon told the Economist & Sun/Tribune. "There are a number of people we have not spoken to who witnessed the attack."

Police called the stabbing "vicious" and are looking for the public's help in locating the suspects, who have been identified by their first names only.

Investigators describe them as:
• Vinnie: a white male of Italian



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Steve Buchignani, family relative and close friend of stabbing victim Marco Nardozi, spoke briefly with reporters outside the family's Woodbridge home. "Basically, they ruined a family," he said. Nardozi was stabbed Sunday morning in Richmond Hill's Paparazzi nightclub.

descent, with a medium build, standing around five-feet, 10-inches, at least 20 years of age; and

• Aldo: a white male of Italian descent, standing around five-feet, seven-inches, wearing a dark short-sleeved shirt

The stabbing is not the first time

in recent memory that a violent incident has taken place at the club. Two bandits pistol-whipped a manager there in 1997 during an attempted daylight robbery.

Police ask anyone with information to call them directly at (905) 881-1221 or Crime Stoppers at

1-800-222-TIPS.

A mass will be held for Nardozi around 9:30 a.m. tomorrow at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Woodbridge. Interment is to follow at the Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery near highways 7 and 27.

Police get regular calls to popular nightclub

BY DARYL-LYNN CARLSON
Staff Writer

Victor Lee wasn't a bit surprised to see several police cruisers parked near his Richmond Hill store when he came to work Monday morning. The police tape marking the scene of a murder didn't faze him either.

Twice in the past eight months, he has had to pick up beer bottles and garbage outside of his herbal remedies shop, the remnants of patrons to Paparazzi Nightclub.

"Just last Monday, I picked up a beer bottle outside of my store," Lee said, waving his hands in resignation. Lee's store is one of more than 30 businesses at Jubilee Square, a strip mall at Hwy. 7 and West Beaver Creek Road. Most of the businesses are restaurants frequented by professionals at lunchtime and packed with families during dinner.

A flower shop, Lee's herbal store, a dozen other boutiques and a children's learning centre draw a hub of activity throughout the daytime.

But the scene changes drastically at night.

He said the patrons at Paparazzi are mostly young

Lee said. "They're not from around here. They get drunk. People who are drunk don't have any self control. I have seen the doorman shouting and arguing with people."

Luckily, he said, most of the shops at Jubilee Square are closed by 8 p.m., just before the nighttime crowd roars into the parking lot with car stereos blaring, pumped to party until the wee hours of the morning.

They line up to get into the club, the throbbing beat of the music pouring out into the parking lot each time the door opens to let more of them inside.

"Sometimes, they are lined up there until midnight," says Const. Grant Rutherford of York Regional Police.

He said police are familiar with the bar, where Marco Nardozi, 23, was killed. "We get calls to attend here regularly," says Rutherford.

Paparazzi owner Frank Ieraci was not available for comment yesterday, but told Toronto newspapers Sunday his club employs a security firm that provides video surveillance and other security to keep order. He is considering expanding his security to include metal detectors at the door.

REGIONAL News Digest



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Rugby matches
Thursday, July 20, 5:30 and 7 p.m.
Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School
Dunning Avenue, Aurora

Aurora Rugby Club hosts two games against Crypt School from Gloucester, England. The British team is touring Canada this year.

There is no admission charge.

York police seek Mark

York Regional Police are trying to track down a 911 caller who reported an incident of domestic violence in Richmond Hill on Canada Day.

Just before 11 p.m., a passer-by named Mark witnessed a woman being grabbed by the hair by a man in a silver vehicle at the rear of the Canadian Tire store at 9325 Yonge St.

A 35-year-old Nepean man was charged with a number of offences, including forcible confinement, assault and resisting arrest.

Mark is heard on the tape talking to the 911 dispatcher on his cell phone as the assault is taking place.

However, the dispatcher didn't get his last name or phone number. Detectives want to speak to Mark, feeling he has information vital to their investigation.


Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Mark Charlebois at 881-1221, ext. 7241.

Electronics robbery

About \$20,000 worth of electronics equipment was stolen from a Markham company last Friday.


Thieves smashed through the front door of Core Technical on McIntosh Drive at about 1:30 a.m.

They caused \$1,000 damage.



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