

# Man questioned about murder

By Barry McCaffrey

**P**OLICE were last night continuing to question a teenager in connection with the murder of a 23-year-old man in Belfast city centre yesterday morning.

Aaron Montgomery died following an altercation outside Skye nightclub at Howard Street in Belfast city centre shortly before 1.30am.

Mr Montgomery, who was from Danesfort in Moira, Co Armagh, is understood to have been treated by ambulance staff at the scene but later died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Police were last night continuing to question a 19-year-old man in connection with the death, which they are treating as murder.

The dead man had worked in the marketing department of *The News Letter* newspaper since November.

Mr Montgomery is understood to have been on a night out with friends in Belfast on Thursday night when he was involved in an altercation outside the bar during which he was knocked to the ground.

The scene around the bar remained sealed off yesterday morning with blood stains visible on the pavement.



■ **SCENE:** The Skye Bar in Howard Street, Belfast, where Aaron Montgomery, inset, was murdered yesterday morning

**MAIN PICTURE:** Seamus Loughran

**"He was a very popular and valued colleague"**

Newsletter MD Jean Long

Police are understood to be examining footage from CCTV cameras outside the bar.

A postmortem examination was carried out on Mr Montgomery's body yesterday afternoon.

Expressing condolences to the dead man's family, a spokesman for Skye said: "It was a Valentine's formal event for students.

"The incident happened after the event outside the venue.

"Some of the staff are friends with a relation of the victim.

"We would all like to express our deepest and most heartfelt sympathies to the family."

Expressing shock at the death of her colleague, News Letter managing director Jean Long said:

"Although Aaron had only been with us for a relatively short period of time he was a very popular and valued colleague.

"He will be sorely missed by us all and our sympathies are with his family at this sad time."

It is the second tragedy linked to the city centre nightclub in recent years.

In November 2006 mother-of-one Grace Moore was killed after a night out with friends at Skye.

The 38-year-old was last seen leaving the club with friends and driving away in a car. Her body was later found at her flat on the Suffolk estate in west Belfast.

A 23-year-old man has been charged with Ms Moore's murder.

Detectives at Musgrave Street police station want to hear from anyone who had been in the Howard Street area in the early hours of Friday morning.

They also want to hear from anyone who visited Skye on Thursday night and who may have information that could assist their inquiry.

Detectives investigating the killing can be contacted at the incident room on 028 9070 0317 or on Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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## Alliance concern at RTE move

**T**HE Alliance Party has added its voice to a cross-boarder coalition of parties calling for RTE to continue broadcasting on medium wave in Northern Ireland.

RTE have said they intend to drop their MW service next month but will improve their FM reception in the north, which it admits is patchy.

Thousands of Radio 1 listeners in the north fear they will be left with no service or inadequate reception from March 24. Politicians from both sides of the border have already expressed concern at the move and the issue has been debated in both Stormont and the Dail. Strangford MLA Kieran McCarthy praised *The Irish News* for raising the issue. He called on the RTE to maintain its medium wave radio broadcast for northern listeners.

"People here need RTE to keep their medium wave service or else they will be left with poorer reception or may lose out on their Radio 1 broadcasts altogether," he said.

## Kids miss ice show due to traffic chaos

By Rebecca Black

**A**DISNEY production has brought traffic chaos to east Belfast during its three-day run.

Many eager children and their parents with tickets for *High School Musical on Ice* were left sitting in traffic instead of being entertained by the colourful production.

The management at Belfast's Odyssey have apologised to customers after many, some who had come from as far as Dublin, missed out.

The Odyssey said that car parking and traffic management were coping with the 20,000 expected customers as best as they could.

They put the heavy usage down to a very busy Pavilion with a mid-term promotion at

W5 as well as the Disney Show attracting parents with their children to the venue.

However, parents said more should have been done.

The Disney On Ice version of the top-rated TV show has sold out its three nights in the Odyssey.

Wonderland, the promoters of the *High School Musical on Ice* show, said they could not understand what had caused the chaos but added they are not responsible for car parks at the Odyssey or traffic management.

In a statement, a spokesman said: "Approximately 5,000 people attended each show today and given that the capacity of the venue for large concerts is 10,000 we are at a loss to explaining why there was such a problem."

## Items withdrawn

**A NUMBER of major grocery chains have withdrawn fish products from their shelves after it emerged they may have been contaminated with white spirit.**

Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and

**Morrisons have recalled nearly 50 products.**

**The fish is thought to have been tainted with diesel, giving it an unpleasant taste, but there is not to be believed to be a health risk.**

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