



Volume 2 Week 43

Tuesday, Sept. 23

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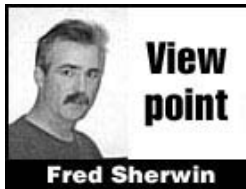
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Senseless tragedy will not end with sentence



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"It's a hell of a thing killing a man. You take away all he's got and all he's ever gonna have." – Clint Eastwood in Unforgiven.

It's probably been at least 10 years since I've seen *Unforgiven*. I had all but forgotten that bit of dialogue when William Munny, played by Eastwood, imparts a pearl of wisdom on the Schofield Kid, played by Jaimz Woolvett, after the Kid had just killed a guy.

It came back to me last Friday while I was sitting in Courtroom #34, listening to Carl Michel Belance describe the instant in which he stabbed Dapo Agoro to death in the Sub Zero Dance Club on June 7, 2002.

During his testimony, Belance admitted that at the time of the incident he knew stabbing a person four times in the stomach would likely result in the person's death, although the thought never entered his mind when he stabbed Agoro four times with a large knife.

One would hope that since the stabbing, the thought of what he had done has entered his mind on more than one occasion. The thought that in a split second he took away everything Dapo Agoro had and everything he was ever going to have.

It's a hell of a thing killing a man and Michel Belance knows just what a hell of a thing it is, because in killing Agoro he not only took away everything Agoro ever had and everything he was going to have, he took away everything he himself ever had and is ever going to have.

Up until the stabbing, Belance never had so much as a jaywalking ticket on his record.

For all intents and purposes he was a normal 18-year-old with the same dreams and ambitions any 18-year-old has. Since the stabbing and his subsequent arrest the following day, he has spent the last sixteen months in prison.

Having already admitted to stabbing Agoro, Belance could face up to eight more years in prison should he be found guilty of second degree murder.



Updated Sept. 30



Click on image
This week:
Herb Kreling



Updated Jan. 11



FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE WEEK



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THIS WEEK'S POLL

The on-line poll has been temporarily suspended until further notice.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Do you believe Martha Stewart is being victimized or does she deserve what she gets?

56.5% She deserves what she gets
43.5% She's being victimized

Even if he's found guilty of manslaughter, which is the more likely verdict, he still stands to spend several more years in prison, years he would have spent countless other ways had he not brought a knife to the Sub Zero Dance Club and stabbed Agoro to death.

This is not the story of some juvenile delinquent on a one way ticket to a life of crime. This a story of a young man whose intention was to come to the aid of his younger, smaller cousin who was being confronted by four older and much larger young men.

Had Belance not had a knife that night, Agoro would still be alive today, his sister would still have a brother and his parents would still have a son.

Had Belance not had a knife that night, he would never have spent a night in jail. His life would not have been altered forever and his mother would never have missed countless hours of sleep.

To say Agoro's death was senseless is an understatement of unfathomable proportion.

Is Belance guilty? Yes. He's guilty of being young, brash and reckless, all of which lead to the death of Dapo Agoro.

The question which the jury must answer this week and the judge in turn, is what price should Belance pay for all of the above?

Unfortunately in this case, as in many others like it, the tragedy will not end with the sentence.

(If you wish to comment on this or any other View Point column please write to Fred Sherwin at fsherwin@magma.ca)

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Updated Jan. 11

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by
Walter
Robinson

Posted Nov. 28