

Split troubled accused killer

Court hears suspect in fatal hit-and-run was upset over marital problems

By [NADIA MOHARIB](#), CALGARY SUN

The good friend of a man accused in a fatal hit-and-run told Court of Queen's Bench Colin Jones was jovial and happy hours before the fatal collision.

Norman Starnes took the stand yesterday, saying he saw Jones at the Rose & Crown Pub hours before 20-year-old Lindsay Giacomelli was struck and critically injured the night of March 17, 2005.

He said Jones was not intoxicated and seemed in good spirits at the St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

"He was fine," Starnes testified. "Happy, jovial."

That's in stark contrast to his meeting with Jones the next day. Starnes testified he picked him up in Carstairs after Jones said he had smashed his car into the rear of a parked flatbed truck.

The next day the two friends met in Calgary, where St-arnes testified he signed documents in relation to Jones' marital break-up.

In court, Starnes described Jones that day as being "completely distraught" and overwhelmed by the breakdown of his marriage and wanting to leave Calgary by the following day.

Three days after Giacomelli was struck, Starnes told court he was surprised to find the Jaguar he'd lent Jones parked near his house with a note detailing in-structions regarding his financial obligations.

Defence lawyer Balfour Der asked Starnes what he took the note to mean.

"I thought he had committed suicide," he said.

His brother David Jones told court he took an early morning phone call from his brother on or just after the date of the deadly crash.

"Colin was quite upset," David Jones testified.

"He suspected his wife was seeing someone else and they were breaking up."

It wasn't until the next day when David Jones took a call from his brother's wife that he learned his sibling was accused of a fatal hit-and-run.

The trial resumes in February.