

Man who got in police car charged in woman's death

By DAWN WALTON

Monday, April 9, 2007

A 24-year-old man faces a number of charges in connection with a bizarre string of events in Edmonton on the holiday weekend, which left one woman dead and a male taxi driver with serious head injuries, police said yesterday.

On Friday night, a 61-year-old cab driver said a man in his car attacked him for unknown reasons and ran away. Not long after, a man who is now alleged to have assaulted the cab driver, got into the backseat of a police car that was responding to the complaint.

When the man was taken in for questioning, investigators were called to a home in the same area. Police said a window had been forced open and Stephanie Rae Butler, 25, was found dead, the apparent victim of an assault.

Edmonton police said yesterday that charges including murder and break-and-enter are now pending against a relative of the dead woman's husband.