City murders drop, on way to 3-year low

By Dan McCaleb

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With all the recent talk about
death bodies and serial killers,
it's hard to imagine that the city of
Lafayette appears on its way to a
three-year low in its murder rate.

Through Nov. 17, seven mur-
ders have been recorded inside
the city limits. Lafayette experi-
ced 18 murders in each of the last two
years, 18 and 19 in 1992 and 1993.

"Comparatively speaking, I
guess it's not too bad," Lt. Mack
Bailey of the Lafayette Police
Department said. "But one murder
is bad enough."

More than a month past the
midpoint, it was looking like
Lafayette might be on its way to a
10-year low, with only three mur-
ders recorded through Aug. 29.

But one murder in late August,
two in October and the recent discov-
ery that a woman found dead in
St. Landry Parish actually was
killed in the Hub City in late June
has pushed the figure to seven so
far in 1994.

Here's a breakdown of this
year's murders:

Aug. 7: Troy Simon, 25, of
112 Lyons, was found dead inside
his home by a neighbor. It was first
thought that Corning died of natu-
ral causes, but an autopsy re-
vealed he had been shot once in
the abdomen. A couple of days later,
police arrested 33-year-old Roddy
Joseph Goulbeou of 515 Truex and
charged him with second-de-
gree murder.

According to department stats-
tics, there were eight murders in
the city in 1991, seven in 1990, eight

Lt. Bailey pointed out that any-
thing could happen in the final
month and a half of the year, espe-
sically with the holiday season ap-
proaching. The stress that comes
with the year-ending holiday sea-
son often leads to increased crime,
especially domestic violence, sta-
tistics show.

And there remains two unsolv-
ed murders of Lafayette wom-
en whose bodies were found in
secluded locations outside the city
limits.

For the time being, investiga-
tors with the Lafayette Parish
Sheriff's Office are handling the
cases because bodies were
found outside of the city.

But investigators believe the
two women were not killed where
they were found.

The women could have been
killed anywhere in the area, in-
cluding outside the city, authori-
dies said.

Please see City, A-5