

# Q Notes

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## Murder suspect arrested

by David Stout  
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—Police have charged Paul Herman Craig, Jr., 20, with the armed robbery and murder of a well-known Charlotte businessman whose company installed lights and sound equipment in a number of the gay clubs that opened in the Queen City during the last two decades.

Employees of Reliable Music, a staple on East Stonewall Street, found the store's co-owner, David Luther Bustle, 45, dead in his home at 1147 Linda Lane around 7:00pm on Friday, October 24 after he hadn't come to work that day. Bustle had been shot in the head during an apparent robbery the previous night. Charlotte Police Investigator R. K. Harris told *Q-Notes* that the body was discovered wrapped in a sheet. He declined to divulge if the body was clothed or what room it was found in.

The murder weapon has been identified as a .22 caliber handgun. Harris said that "several" weapons had been recovered in the case, but since they had not been sufficiently examined, could not say if any of those recovered were used in the killing.

Investigator Harris indicated that Bustle had told friends he was meeting Craig on the night of the murder. "Mr. Bustle appears to have been

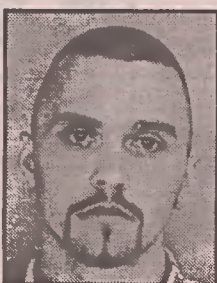
a very organized individual. People were well informed about where he was and what he was doing," Harris commented. He would not clarify how Craig arrived at and left Bustle's home.

When asked if Bustle brought Craig there, Harris said, "I'm sorry, I really can't answer that."

One source told *Q-Notes* that Bustle became acquainted with Craig about a year ago when the suspect was working at a local nightclub. Another employee of the club confirmed that Bustle was a regular patron there.

According to the warrants issued against Craig on October 26, he is suspected of killing Bustle then stealing a safe containing watches and credit cards worth an undetermined amount. Craig has been arrested three times since March; two of those instances for larceny of more than \$200.

As *Q-Notes* went to press, Craig was being held at Mecklenburg Jail Central without bond. At an October 28 bond hearing, he was scheduled to appear for a probable cause hearing on November 17. ▼



Paul Craig, Jr.

## Rising Moon leaving Charlotte Bookstore taking to the Carolina highways

by Gene Poteat  
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—The gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community of the Piedmont area of North Carolina is losing an important resource. Charlotte's six-year-old Rising Moon Books and Beyond will close its doors on December 24.

"Alas, the rumor is true," writes Sue Henry, proprietor of the retail establishment, in an e-mail announcement sent to *Q-Notes*. "After months of trying to think of ways to avoid it, we [she and partner Barbara Parke] have decided to permanently close the bookstore.... We are still committed to queer and women's culture. And to books.... So, Sue will be taking Rising Moon Books on the road. Yes, a mobile bookstore."

Henry describes her business as a "multi-cultural store specializing in items of interest to lesbians, gays, feminists, African-Americans and others selling books and related items such as jewelry, magazines and periodicals." Henry and Parke write, "Our mission for the bookstore was to provide a safe, welcoming space to seek resources and information about lesbian/gay culture (as well as other minority cultures). We believe we have been extremely successful in this effort."

In an effort to stay in business by lowering its overhead, the bookstore, now located on East 35th Street, moved from its location in the trendy Dilworth neighborhood at the end of January 1997. "When we moved, we really believed the community would support us as

they had in the past," notes Henry. "I am disappointed with the lack of a broad-based level of support from the gay and lesbian community.... I believe Rising Moon was an important part of the local gay/lesbian culture."

Henry seems clear about where to lay the blame for the store's closing. She and Parke write in their announcement, "As we saw our business dwindle, as the queer community visited/shopped less often, as it was more often taken for granted that we would provide free services (such as community calendar, bulletin boards for roommates, meeting notices, etc.),

we knew something had to change. The decision to close the bookstore was a direct result of our queer community's behavior. Yes — we lay this at your collective feet. We tried very hard for six years, that's enough."

When asked if she is bitter, Henry responds, "I don't believe 'bitter' is the right word. It's just reality that the [local] gay and lesbian community isn't supportive." She becomes even more philosophical when she talks about what she sees as a national trend wherein big corporations are buying out or forcing the closing of smaller businesses. "I call it the

Wal-Marting of America," she says, "Independent gay/lesbian bookstores (and other small businesses such as record stores) all over the country are being forced to close because larger, national retailers are moving into their communities." She notes, "With our closing, there will not be a feminist-identified bookstore in either North or South Carolina."

"It's kind of scary," according to Henry. "Big corporations are not necessarily friends of minority cultures; they are not part of the environment." See *LEAVING* on page 11



Sue Henry's ready to hit the road

Photo: Jim Yarbrough

## Senate opens hearings on ENDA

### Job bias victims tell their stories in packed Senate chamber

by Kim I. Mills  
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC—When David Horowitz, an attorney from Phoenix, told the Mesa, AZ, city prosecutor, a prospective employer, that he is gay, the prosecutor said, "Well, we may have a problem with that," and the job offer evaporated.

Doug Retterer, an assembly line worker at a Whirlpool plant in Marion, OH, endured more than a decade of severe anti-gay job discrimination, including being called a "fag" and a "queer" to his face and having his supervisors speculate about his sex life in front of him and other workers. Retterer began to have panic

attacks and bouts of uncontrollable weeping, eventually becoming so depressed that he has been certified totally disabled by doctors and the Social Security Administration.

eral law to fire a person simply because he or she is gay, lesbian or bisexual," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest national lesbian and gay political organization and the driving force behind ENDA. "This kind of discrimination happens in every region of the country. It is un-American. It is unbusinesslike. And it is wrong. But it remains sanctioned by federal law, or rather, by the absence of any law prohibiting it."

A recent report released by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (I-GLSS), a non-profit think tank that uses scholarly research, analysis and education to inform public policy debates on sexual orientation issues, effectively illustrates just how pervasive and costly workplace discrimination is. The report, entitled "Vulnerability in the Workplace: Evidence of Anti-gay Discrimination," details survey evidence of workplace bigotry from cities across the US and finds that the expectation of discrimination leads gay, lesbian and bisexual people to conceal their sexual orientation, reducing both morale and productivity in the workplace.

"The message of ENDA is clear and straightforward," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Kerry Lobel. "Discrimination is wrong." She added, "We look forward to the day when gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people no longer have to fear the loss of their jobs on the basis of their sexual orientation. When that day comes, our society will have taken another step forward in assuring justice and equality for all of its citizens."

Raymond W. Smith, chairman and chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic, testified in favor of the bill, saying, "No one should have to fear loss of career opportunities or employment because of his or her race, religion, heritage or sexual orientation."

"No company can afford to waste the talents of valuable employees as we compete in a global marketplace," he added. "It is good business and it is good citizenship."

A small businessman, Tom Grote, chief op-

"[ENDA] is good business and...good citizenship."  
— Raymond W. Smith

## First pro-gay initiative defeated

by Mark F. Johnson  
Special to Q-Notes

SEATTLE—The first-ever pro-gay statewide ballot measure was defeated in Washington State. Initiative 677 would have banned employment discrimination based on sexual orientation. Though supporters of the initiative were disappointed, their efforts marked a new chapter in the movement for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) equality.

Prior to Initiative 677, ballot measures were used only to attempt to restrict the civil rights of sexual minorities. The most notable of these is Colorado's Amendment 2, which passed in 1992 and was overturned by the US Supreme Court in 1996. California, Idaho, Maine and Oregon have also faced statewide anti-gay ballot measures. California, Hawaii and Maine all have anti-gay ballot measures looming.

Though I-677 was defeated by about 200,000 votes — a much larger margin than pollsters anticipated — the campaign is considered an overall step forward for the GLBT movement throughout the country.

"Our march to equality is a progression, not

an event. Putting an affirmative civil rights measure on the ballot for sexual minorities is historic and a victory in and of itself," stated National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Kerry Lobel. "We have asserted our right to equality in Washington State. It is a courageous and visionary example for GLBT people throughout the country," she added.

Activists in Washington State have unsuccessfully tried to pass a civil rights bill in the state legislature for the past 20 years. Initiative 677 would have amended existing state law against employment discrimination by adding sexual orientation to a list of categories that includes race, national origin, sex, age, religion, marital status and disability. Eleven states currently ban discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"The importance of the education of the people of Washington and their greater understanding of the discrimination faced by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people cannot be underestimated or taken away," stated Lobel. "I-677 may have lost, but overall we have gained." ▼

attacks and bouts of uncontrollable weeping, eventually becoming so depressed that he has been certified totally disabled by doctors and the Social Security Administration.

Sue Kirchofer of Seattle was fired from her job after she used her vacation to attend the Gay Games as a soccer player. At a staff meeting after Kirchofer was terminated, the company owner told employees, "If she can afford to go to the Gay Games, she can afford to find another job."

These three were among the witnesses and spectators at a standing-room-only hearing October 23 on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), a bill to outlaw job bias based on sexual orientation. The hearing was called by Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT), a lead sponsor of the bill (S. 869) and chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.

"Today, it is still perfectly legal under fed-