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## Private admits killing fellow soldier

by Dan Van Mourik  
Q-Notes Staff

FORT CAMPBELL, KY—An Army private accused of bludgeoning a soldier to death admitted he beat the victim's head with a baseball bat, a fellow soldier testified during an Article 32 hearing to determine whether there was enough evidence to send the case against Pfc. Calvin N. Glover, 18, to a general court martial.

Several soldiers have said they believed the killing was an anti-gay hate crime. Pfc. Barry L. Winchell, 21, was perceived as a homosexual by some soldiers in his unit, according to Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, the watchdog group for gays in the military.

Neither the Army nor Winchell's family will comment on, and there is conflicting evidence concerning, the victim's sexuality.

Glover was charged with premeditated murder in Winchell's killing in the hallway of Winchell's barracks at Fort Campbell, KY while Winchell's roommate, Spc. Justin Fisher, encouraged him. Fisher has also been charged in the killing and his hearing was scheduled to begin after press time.

Chief Warrant Officer Alfred Brown testified that Winchell suffered massive head injuries when he was beaten with a blunt object after a party outside the barracks on July 5.

Pfc. Ryan Futch, who served in the unit with the three soldiers, guarded Glover after he was taken into custody. Futch testified that during that time, Glover told him he had hit Winchell

several times with the bat.

Futch also said he overheard Glover make disparaging remarks about blacks and homosexuals to another prisoner.

Pfc. Arthur Hoffman, a member of Winchell's company and a good friend of the victim, described Glover as someone with an apparent drinking problem who often tried to pick fights. Hoffman testified that on July 3 Winchell had gotten the better of Glover during a fight.

Private Christopher Matthews—who knew neither Fisher, Winchell nor Glover but attended the same party that evening—said he was in the barracks area when he saw Fisher, covered in blood, run down some steps. Matthews testified that Fisher was "babbling and jumping up and down." Fisher eventually pulled the fire alarm, out of panic, which woke the rest of the soldiers.

Brown said investigators searched Glover's room and recovered gloves, a t-shirt, and socks that appeared to have blood on them. Brown also said blood was smeared on the door to Glover's room. Investigators also recovered a pair of blue jeans covered in blood from a trash bin near Glover's barracks.

Sgt. Eric Dubielak, a platoon leader who served with Winchell, testified that rumors that the soldier was homosexual made him a frequent target of name-callers in his unit. Dubielak said the rumors started late last year and that soldiers in Winchell's own unit started calling him derogatory names almost daily. ▼

## Three major airlines institute domestic partner benefits

by David Stout  
Q-Notes Staff

WASHINGTON, DC—In a giant leap forward for gay and lesbian workplace equality, three major American airlines have released plans to institute comprehensive domestic partner benefits for employees. United Airlines, the world's largest carrier, was the first major domestic airline to announce the new policy. Within a week, they were joined by American Airlines, typically regarded as the industry's most gay-friendly company, and US Airways, which maintains a hub in Charlotte and is one of the city's largest employers.

United officials said that under the new policy, the company will offer full medical, dental and COBRA benefits, dependent life insurance, pension survivor benefits, bereavement leave and travel benefits to all employees' same-sex domestic partners. Heterosexual domestic partners will only receive non-economic benefits such as bereavement or medical leave and flight discounts. The policy goes into effect next May.

"The recent decisions by American Airlines, United Airlines and US Airways to offer domestic partner benefits to same-sex couples is a good first step and recognizes the value not only of gay and lesbian employees, but also of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered travel dollars," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Kerry Lobel.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), praised United for blazing the benefits trail in its industry. "We congratulate United for joining the rapidly growing legion of companies who real-

ize that treating all employees with dignity and respect is good for business. United has definitely earned their wings."

Her praise, mirrored in comments by community leaders across the nation, stood in sharp contrast to the GLBT community's recent battles with United which have included an active boycott for the last two years.

The boycott was instituted in June 1997 after the carrier announced plans to sue San

Francisco to overturn the city's Equal Benefits Ordinance, a 1996 measure that required all businesses who contract with the city to provide domestic partners the same benefits offered to married spouses.

United argued that they did not have to comply with the ordinance because they were a national company subject only to federal regulations.

In retaliation, GLBT community organizations across the country (including Birch's HRC) joined with United's own GLBT employee groups and thousands of individuals on the Internet to impose a national moratorium on the company.

US District Court Judge Claudia Wilkin recently ruled that San Francisco can force businesses to provide "soft benefits" such as bereavement or medical leave, but not economic benefits such as pensions or health insurance. The Air Transport Association, an organization representing the airline industry, is appealing the ruling on behalf of its member carriers.

United's wide-reaching domestic partner policy, which exceeds Judge Wilkin's decision, hit a home run with even its staunchest critics. See AIRLINES on page 25



Photo by Tanya Ariowitsch

The four members of the organizing collective of the Gay Men's Health Summit from left to right: Eric Rofes, Matt Brown, Kirk Read, Mark Beyer

## Men's health summit highlights overlooked issues, communities

by Julie Boler  
Special to Q-Notes

BOULDER, CO—Over 300 gay men from a variety of fields and backgrounds converged in Boulder for the first Gay Men's Health Summit over the weekend of July 28-August 1. Besides their luggage and business cards, they brought high hopes for a new movement that would address a host of issues impacting the lives and well-being of gay men.

According to keynote speaker Eric Rofes, longtime activist and author of *Dry Bones Breathe*, HIV/AIDS organizing during the last two decades cannot be considered the sum total of what is needed by gay men to live whole healthy lives.

Varied workshops presented at recent years' National Gay and Lesbian Health Association Conferences eventually led to this year's gathering, which Rofes called "an attempt to break the stranglehold HIV seemed to have on gay men's health organizing."

Based on the comments at the opening plenary session the first night of the conference, participants were excited and prepared to put energy into this work. They talked about how for many years HIV/AIDS has been synonymous with the concept of gay men's health.

Younger participants described never knowing a time when HIV was not the main health

concern they could identify as important to them. They eagerly voiced their enthusiasm for developing structures to deal with other growing health needs like other STDs, substance use, mental health and violence.

Older attendees related that they found the work being done at this summit reminiscent of a more general gay men's health movement that had been developing in the '70s, but was almost completely eclipsed by AIDS.

The wide range of topics covered during the weekend included age-related issues (with separate programs on older and younger men); the impact of one's generation on his understanding of HIV; anal health (including anal STDs, anorectal cancers and injuries); the culture of bodies, sex and pleasure (examined in sessions on barebacking, the dance party circuit and recreational drug use); the special needs of rural gay men; mental health; spirituality; gay prisoners; public sex issues; and the history of gay men's health activism.

So much was addressed, in fact, that a common complaint about the weekend was that there were too many things going on at once.

### Gathering the tribes

Summit organizers placed great value on multicultural focus and participation from the  
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## Second suspect gets life term, no parole in slaying of Gaither

by Dan Van Mourik  
Q-Notes Staff

ROCKFORD, AL—Charles M. Butler Jr., 21, the second suspect in the beating death of Billy Jack Gaither, 39, went on trial the first week in August on a capital murder charge. He was accused of helping kill Gaither because of an unwanted sexual advance. From the beginning, authorities have said Gaither was killed because of his sexual orientation.

Butler was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to life without parole. Prosecutors waived their option of asking for the death penalty during the jury's deliberations because Gaither's family requested that the death penalty be withdrawn.

The victim's father, Marion Gaither, said his Southern Baptist faith caused him to ask prosecutors not to seek the death penalty. "I go

strictly by the Bible," he said.

"The death penalty is too quick," Mrs. Gaither said. "This way they've got to live with what they did day by day."

Butler's co-defendant, Steven Mullins, 25, who pleaded guilty earlier and testified against Butler, also received a life sentence without parole.

Butler blamed the crime on Mullins who admitted cutting Gaither's throat and, when the bloodied victim fought back, cracking his head open with an ax handle.

"I was in shock and didn't know what to do," Butler testified.

During questioning, District Attorney Fred Thompson pointed out that Butler had numerous chances to flee from the crime or get help for the victim. "You went along every step of  
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