



WIN A FREE iPOD!

...details inside

Notes

Noted . Notable . Noteworthy . LGBT News & Views

Volume 23 . Number 26

May 2 . 2009

Printed on Recycled Paper

FREE

Elevation
Church hosts
disgraced Ted
Haggard

page 15

q-notes.com

MURDER IN FAYETTEVILLE

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS / POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

Sister says brother is victim of hate crime, police aren't doing enough to find killer

FAYETTEVILLE — The sister of a murdered drag performer says police aren't doing all they can to find the killer of her brother, 34-year-old Jimmy Ali McCollough.

In the early morning hours of April 14, officers with the Fayetteville Police Department found McCollough dead, lying on the edge of a roadway near a gay and lesbian nightclub in this town that's home to Fort Bragg, one of the Army's most important bases of operation. As reported at *Q-Notes.com* on April 14, it took several hours for police to initially release the identity of the murder victim. Since then police have maintained silence about the case, citing the "sensitivity of the ongoing investigation" in their clamp down.

Known to many LGBT community members as Imaje Devera, McCollough was a performer at Club Emages on Swain St., located just one street over from where McCollough was found in front of 119 Joseph St. Several attempts to reach club owner Dy'Mond Cartier have been unsuccessful, but she told Raleigh news station WRAL that police had said McCollough had been stabbed and that the case was being investigated as a hate crime.

Kathy McCollough, Jimmy's 27-year-old sister, told *Q-Notes* that she feels police haven't adequately responded to the crime.

"I do not believe they have done all they can," she said. "I have emailed and I have

called quite a few times. Specifically, I emailed the police chief. I've gotten no response."

She says the only interaction she's had with police was when they notified her of her

man who cross-dressed and prostituted," she said. "They are not working on the case as hard as I think they should be. I don't think they are taking every little lead and going with it and chasing it to see if it could lead to my brother's killer. They just aren't working hard enough."

Club Emages wasn't open on the night McCollough was found on the side of Joseph St., so it is not entirely clear why McCollough was in the area. However, sources close to the victim have told *Q-Notes* that he was involved in prostitution as a way to support himself.

Sister Kathy McCollough admits that her brother had a hard time finding a regular job, because so many people knew of his drag performance. In some instances, it isn't rare to see transgender or other gender-variant persons forced into sex work as a means of financial survival.

According to police reports available online, the Joseph St. and Bragg Blvd. areas

by Matt Comer . *Q-Notes* staff

are known to have an unusually high crime rate, with reports of prostitution, armed robberies and aggravated assaults, including one wherein the victim was shot (although not fatally wounded).

But information about the events surrounding McCollough's murder have remained scarce. Police have kept a tight lid on releasing new information and key sources have never returned phone calls made by *Q-Notes*. Any ideas on how or why McCollough was killed remains purely speculative.

Kathy McCollough is hopeful the investigation will turn up something. She said she believes her brother's death was the result of a hate crime, perpetuated solely because of her brother's drag persona.

Kathy and Jimmy didn't grow up together in childhood — she says her brother grew up in nearby Samson County — but, nonetheless, they've always been close, especially after Jimmy moved to Fayetteville. Her three-year-old son, she said, is too young to know much about the death but does know his uncle is gone.

"He knows his uncle isn't here anymore," she said. "He's at that age where he wants to know why, but that's really the only part he doesn't understand."

Kathy also has a two-year-old child.

She said her brother was a caring person.
see Sister on 16



McCollough performed as Imaje Devera at Club Emages, formerly Club Spektrum.



Jimmy Ali McCollough, 34, was found dead on the side of Joseph St. in Fayetteville.

was involved in prostitution as a way to support himself.

Sister Kathy McCollough admits that her brother had a hard time finding a regular job, because so many people knew of his drag performance. In some instances, it isn't rare to see transgender or other gender-variant persons forced into sex work as a means of financial survival.

According to police reports available online, the Joseph St. and Bragg Blvd. areas

Healthy you

A look at women's health
page 18



Nat'l honors

Time Out Youth receives award
page 13



Flashback

Eureka Springs, one year later
page 12

