

Q Notes

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Charlotte man robbed at knifepoint by bar pick-up

by David Stout
Q-Notes Staff

CHARLOTTE—A friendly conversation that began in a gay nightclub culminated in a night of terror for a local man when he was bound and robbed in his own home by two suspects.

"Bill" (not his real name) told *Q-Notes* that he arrived at The Masquerade, 3018 The Plaza, around 12:45am November 5 and struck up a conversation with another patron named Dave (who apparently never gave his last name). During their exchange, Dave reportedly asked Bill if he was alone, where he lived and if he had any roommates. Bill thought the questions were harmless and answered.

A little later, Dave allegedly asked, "Are we leaving?" When Bill agreed, Dave commented that he had a friend sleeping outside in his truck who would have to go with them. He explained that "Mike" did not come in because he was tired and "doesn't like gay bars."

After moving outside and informing Mike, all three men headed for Bill's northeast Charlotte home — Bill driving his car and the other two in Dave's black, new model Chevy S-10 truck.

Bill said they settled in his back den for a few drinks and everything seemed okay. In fact, he thought the night was about to get even bet-

ter. Dave came over and sat on the arm of his chair and asked, "So, are we going to do anything?" and slipped his arm around his neck.

Bill felt a sharp blade press into his throat.

Reportedly, Dave — brandishing a paring knife he had gotten from the kitchen when Bill was in the bathroom — instructed, "This is armed robbery, cooperate and I won't kill you."

Bill said he was forced to remove his jewelry and wallet then lay face down on the floor. At that point, Mike came over with a roll of duct tape — which Bill had used earlier in the day and left out — and secured his feet together; his hands were lashed together and taped to his waist. After Mike taped a pillowcase over Bill's head, Dave sliced a gash in it so he could breathe.

According to Bill, the suspects exhausted the next half-hour plundering for anything of value while he "prayed that they would let me live." Several times, Dave came back looking for more cash, but Bill insisted there wasn't any. The suspect threatened, "If I find any, I'll kill you."

In the end, Dave took Bill's ATM card and demanded the PIN number — "You know if that's not the right number, I'll be right back here." Finally, the duo left.

After five or 10 minutes of waiting, Bill said he struggled to the front door and managed to get outside. His calls for help drew the assis-

tance of two neighbors; one ran over to release him while the other called 911. It was now around 3:15am.

Police officers were on the scene within five minutes and Bill said they showed no outward biases. "The [reporting] officer said 'I don't care about your lifestyle or what you do in the privacy of your own home, but I need to know the answers to a few questions.'"

According to the police report, stolen items included a television, stereo, 20 compact discs, silverware, two gold rings and a watch. Bill said additional items are missing like his grandmother's jewelry, his father's tie-tack and several hand-held power tools.

Police investigator Tom Ledford has been assigned to the case. He says there are a few suspects, but nothing has turned up so far.

Although Bill told *Q-Notes* that he thought he had seen Dave in The Masquerade before — and he had a "feeling" that the men had perpetrated similar crimes in the past — Investigator Ledford discounted the notion of a predator routinely staking out the bar for victims. "This crime doesn't show a lot of planning. I mean, he used a knife from the victim's own home. This was a crime of opportunity." Ledford added that the police weren't currently investigating any comparable offenses.

Damon Stone, owner of The Masquerade, encouraged anyone who might be thinking of taking someone home from the club to talk with the staff first. "They need to ask the bartenders what they know about the person. We're a small place and we know most of the people who come in here on a regular basis. If we know

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Dave — brandishing a paring knife from the kitchen — instructed, "This is armed robbery, cooperate and I won't kill you."

World AIDS Day gathering planned at Aunt Stella Center

by Stefanie Groot
Special to Q-Notes

CHARLOTTE—The 12th annual World AIDS Day will be commemorated on Wednesday, December 1. A Mecklenburg County observance, sponsored by the World AIDS Day Coalition, will take place at the Great Aunt Stella Center from 6:00-7:30pm.

The goal of the 1999 World AIDS Day campaign is to increase awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic within the young adult population. World AIDS Day provides an opportunity for youth to participate in movements that encourage healthy lifestyles. The theme of this year's remembrance is "AIDS — End The Silence; Listen, Learn and Live."

The program at the Great Aunt Stella Center is scheduled to include a diverse panel of community representatives, music by One

Voice Chorus and a candle-light vigil. Refreshments will be available and Starbucks will provide complimentary coffee. The evening is being underwritten by the Immunology Division of Ortho Biotech, Inc.

As of 1999, 33.4 million men, women and children worldwide were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS. In 1998, nearly three million children and young adults became infected with HIV — about 590,000 under 15 and more than 2.5 million between the ages of 15 and 24. In the US, 688,200 people had been reported infected with HIV/AIDS as of 1998.

The Great Aunt Stella Center is located at 926 Elizabeth Ave. For more information, call (704) 944-6000. ▼



Soldier pleads not guilty of murder

by Dan Van Mourik
Q-Notes Staff

FORT CAMPBELL, KY—On November 15, Private Calvin Glover, 18, pled "not guilty" to a charge of premeditated murder in the slaying of Pfc. Barry Winchell, 21. Glover's general court-martial, the military equivalent to a felony trial, is scheduled for December 6.

At the same hearing, Glover chose to be tried by a military panel rather than by a military judge alone. He also chose that his panel be comprised of one-third enlisted personnel rather than consist exclusively of officers. Glover's motion to present expert witness testimony concerning substance abuse and anti-social personality disorder was approved.

In an earlier hearing, requests for a change

of venue were denied. Glover's lawyers had asked for the change due to pretrial publicity.

Glover is charged with premeditated murder for allegedly beating Winchell to death with a baseball bat on July 5. At the Article 32 hearing to determine if he would be sent to court-martial, soldiers testified that Winchell faced daily anti-gay harassment for four months prior to his murder and that Glover allegedly said after the murder that he "hated faggots."

On November 12, Ft. Campbell officials announced that SPC Justin Fisher would also be sent to a general court-martial. Fisher, Winchell's roommate at the time of the murder, is charged with encouraging Glover to commit the murder, among other charges. His arraignment is scheduled for December 18. ▼

Court supports lesbian co-parent visitation rights

by David Stout
Q-Notes Staff

WASHINGTON, DC—The US Supreme Court ruled November 15 that a lesbian who helped raise the child her partner bore during their relationship is entitled to visitation rights now that the couple is separated and awaiting a custody trial.

Without comment, the high court rejected an appeal by the biological mother to overturn a ruling by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts granting her former partner temporary visitation rights of three hours per week.

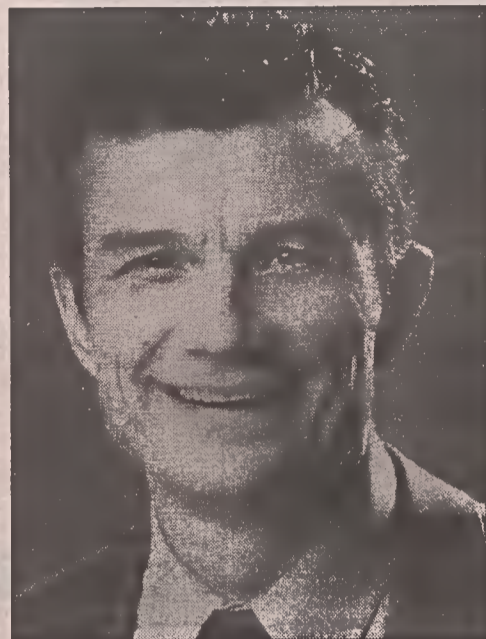
According to court documents, the litigants in the case — identified only by their initials L.M.M. and E.N.O. — met in 1984 and maintained a "committed, monogamous relationship" until May 1998.

In 1995, L.M.M. became pregnant through artificial insemination and delivered a baby boy. The women created the child's last name by combining elements from each of theirs and distributed birth announcements naming them both as parents.

When the boy was two, the couple moved to Massachusetts — from Maryland — so E.N.O. could legally adopt the child without L.M.M. terminating her own parental rights. However, the relationship unraveled before the joint adoption was secured.

In the first round of litigation, L.M.M. won a temporary order prohibiting E.N.O. from seeing the boy. But, in the next proceeding, a family court judge instituted the visits, finding that they were in the child's best interests.

The Supreme Court said the visitation order may be changed or set aside after a trial on the merits of the case. ▼



Award winner Scott L. Mayer

Eighth slate of Stonewall Award winners named

by Paulette Barrett
Special to Q-Notes

CHICAGO—Growing up in impoverished farm country triggered Maria Price's hunger for social justice. Her career-long crusade to fulfill that goal has culminated in being named as one of four 1999 Stonewall Award winners for improving the quality of life for gays and lesbians in America.

Price, 34, of Louisville, KY, is executive director of the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, regarded as the model for state gay rights organizations because it reaches across cities and into rural communities to create links between race, sexual orientation and economics.

The three other Stonewall Award recipients, who will each receive \$25,000, are: Michael Bronski, 50, of Cambridge, MA, cultural critic, author and columnist; Scott L. Mayer, 43, of Minneapolis, MN, innovative producer of epic events to help fund AIDS organizations and promote tolerance of gays and lesbians in the business community; and Dean M. Prina, MD, 46, of Denver, CO, civic leader who has raised more than \$10 million in the past dozen years to benefit AIDS and gay rights causes.

With this year's awards, the Chicago-based Anderson Prize Foundation will have given nearly \$900,000 in Awards to 36 recipients (including North Carolina organizer Mandy Carter) since 1991. The awards are named for the 1969 Stonewall Riots that energized the gay liberation movement. Paul A. Anderson of Chicago established the Foundation shortly before his death from AIDS-related illness in 1992. Allen A. Schuh, an attorney in Chicago and San Francisco, and Anderson's companion for 14 years, is president of the Foundation.

The awards, which carry no requirements, are made without regard to sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, age or gender. The Foundation selects nominators from the gay and lesbian community to recommend candidates, anonymously, from the four regions of the US — Northeast, South, Midwest and West. Four winners are chosen by a committee which includes the previous year's recipients.

A brief biography of the recipients follows: Maria Price's family ran a farm in Lawrence County, IL, growing grain and raising livestock. Each of the five children, upon reaching the age of eight, would pick a species of animal, raise it until they turned 18, sell the animals and use the profit to fund their college education. See **WINNERS** on page 25