

Triangle area

Chapel Hill man claiming to be Native American author actually former gay porn writer

'Nasdijj' actually Timothy Barrus

CHAPEL HILL — At press time the location of writer Timothy Barrus, a one-time resident of Chapel Hill, remained unconfirmed. Barrus captured national media attention in early February after it was revealed that the former gay porn writer was actually masquerading as Native American writer



Timothy Barrus

Nasdijj.

As Navajo writer Nasdijj, Barrus authored three critically-acclaimed books, among them "The Blood Runs Like a River Through My Dreams," which allowed him to capture a PEN Award for minority writers.

A post on Nasdijj's website in response to email messages from Raleigh's *The News & Observer*, Barrus avoided questions about why he adopted a pseudonym.

"The real scandals are racism, poverty, disease, AIDS, FAS [fetal alcohol syndrome], autism, a medical system that is a train wreck, an environment that can barely breathe and a war that is a self-created nightmare," the email said. "Journalists need to focus on the real problems." That was shortly followed by a second email: "Like the culture of celebrity that creates a society of indifference."

Under his pseudonym, Barrus claimed to be a part Navajo Native American who was raised in poverty, orphaned at a young age and later adopted two sons. Barrus/Nasdijj's story indicates one son died of AIDS and the other suffered from fetal alcohol syndrome. According to various reports, the truth is vastly different: his parents weren't Native American, they didn't die when he was young and actually raised him in Lansing, Mich. There is also no record of him ever adopting children.

According to an AP report, the publisher of two memoirs by Nasdijj says that it will no longer ship his books and would accept returns of copies from book sellers.

"This looks pretty conclusive," Ballantine spokeswoman Carol Schneider said after *The News and Observer* of Raleigh, N.C., reported that Nasdijj's Social Security number did in fact match Barrus, who had previously written book reviews for *The News and Observer*.

The two memoirs, "The Boy and the Dog Are Sleeping" and "Geronimo's Bones," had few copies in print, Schneider said. "The Boy and the Dog are Sleeping," published in 2003, won a PEN/Beyond Margins award. A paperback edition of "Geronimo's Bones," came out last fall.

Nasdijj emerged in 1999 with an article in *Esquire* about his adopted son, a Navajo named Tommy Nothing Fancy and the

boy's death from fetal alcohol syndrome. The article was a finalist for a National Magazine Award and led to a book contract with Houghton Mifflin.

Esera Tuaolo back in spotlight with new book

DURHAM — Former Carolina Panthers player Esera Tuaolo, who served as Grand Marshall of N.C. Gay Pride held in Durham in 2004, is back in the media eye with the release of his autobiography "Alone in the Trenches." Co-written with John Rosengren, the book tells the agonizing and compelling tale of a dirt-poor Samoan immigrant who won a football scholarship to Oregon State, played in the Super Bowl and then made a life-changing decision that ultimately saved his life, his family and his religious faith.

Tuaolo's book takes the reader on a journey, where one will see and hear: a nine year-old Esera, kneeling in a banana batch, desperately praying to God to take away his "curse," a brutal murder, one of many violent actions that will forever change Esera and his relationships, and a brilliant and brave athlete, singing the National Anthem, but too afraid to look at the camera or crowd.

At its heart, Tuaolo's story also exposes the behind-the-scenes world of professional football and what happens on the field



Former Panthers player Esera Tuaolo.

and in the locker room. It is a world where nationally-recognized players attend conferences on Christian prayer and preachers remind that homosexuals are sinners, damned to hell. A deeply religious man, Tuaolo often sat in silence, pinned by his players' hatred for his hidden identity. Knowing that his career would end if he were discovered.

Tuaolo's story is rife with heartbreak and, ultimately, hope. While keeping his identity secret, his beloved older brother and idol, Tua, died of AIDS, having never told his friends and loved ones that he was gay. Tuaolo would eventually love a man of a different culture, a native of Minnesota, with whom he would adopt Samoan twins and begin a new life.

As Tuaolo puts it: "I am just your typical gay Samoan ex-nose tackle who would like to break into show business."

Sat Feb 25 - Bear Party - Mick Powers - Mustang/Falcon Star



Sat March 4 - Bear Rugby Party - CBL & Charlotte Royals bar night - charlotteroyals.org Country Night Ealry

Sun March 5 - Oscar Party - Win DVD's - most picks

Sat March 11 - Mr. FLEX Contest Categories: BEAR, Leather, Western Onstage question, Category Wear & Shirtless Crowd votes winner

Sat March 18 - Bear411 Party - come see if the guy matches the picture

Sat March 25 - Tarheel Leather Club - TLC - Mardi Gras Party - free beads - maybe

mondays - cheap drinks - \$1.25
tuesdays - Karaoke - 9:30pm-till
wednesdays - Country music 8-till
thursdays - Trailer Park Prize Night
fridays - ShowTunes - free pool



saturday - special events
sundays - free Pool All Day - open 2-2
Raleigh's longest running T-Dance
9:30-till DRAG QUEEN Karaoke

FLEX 2 S. West St - Raleigh - NC
Open 5-till Mon-Sat 2-till Sun
919-832-8855 flex-club.com