

Dahmer crimes reveal horrific nature of solitary man



NATIONAL
MILWAUKEE (AP) — Friends were hard to come by for the solitary Jeffrey Dahmer. So when he invited attractive young men he met at shopping malls and gay bars home for drinks, he wanted them to stay.

Even if he could keep only parts of them.

When police finally burst into Dahmer's apartment on July 22, 1991, they found torsos soaking in acid, severed heads in the refrigerator and freezer, skulls in boxes, a hand and a genital organ in a 80-quart kettle pot, and photos of victims in various stages of dismemberment. Two human hearts and a bicep muscle Dahmer said he planned to eat were in the freezer.

A sickening stench permeated the whole scene.

"I should have stayed with God," Dahmer told a judge at his sentencing in February 1992. "I tried and I failed, and created a holocaust."

As gruesome as the discovery was, it merely swung wide a door into a secret, murderous life Dahmer had been living for 13 years, during which he claimed 17 victims. The nation was stunned by the depravity of the murders, the dismemberments, the cannibalism.

In Dahmer's neighborhood, that shock was tempered with rage. He killed his four final victims only after a close call with police in May, when two officers returned to his custody a 14-year-old Laotian boy found staggering naked in the street.

Dahmer told police the boy

was his homosexual lover and had drunkenly wandered out of his apartment. After his arrest two months later, he admitted killing 14-year-old Koneak Sinthasomphone moments after police left.

Officers had dismissed witnesses' concerns that the boy was really in trouble and had joked about the incident over their radios.

No one called police, they said, because people in the neighborhood believe it is better to mind your own business.

But Glenda Cleveland did call police after her daughter and niece told her of the naked boy. She repeatedly asked an officer if he was certain Sinthasomphone was an adult.

"As positive as I can be," the officer said.

Police recordings also reveal that one officer laughed as he reported finishing his investigation.

"Intoxicated Asian, naked male," the officer said. "Was returned to his sober boyfriend."

"My partner is going to get deloused at the station," he said with more laughter.

Dahmer was arrested two months later when a handcuffed man managed to escape the apartment and flag down police. The officers who handled the Sinthasomphone investigation were fired but won reinstatement after a two-year court battle.

Dahmer pleaded guilty but insane, but a jury found him sane on all counts. He said he had hoped to learn why he had been "so bad and evil."

"I didn't ever want freedom. Frankly, I wanted death for myself," Dahmer said.

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