

AIDS and crimes of passion

A landmark case in New York involving AIDS and the killing of a sex partner has a strange echo here in Portland.

B Y W C M c R A E

A New York homicide case will determine if the threat of AIDS can provide justification for "heat of passion" defense in a case involving two men, one of whom confessed to killing the other after the second man revealed he had AIDS, reports *The New York Times*. The two men had had sex, after which the infected man mentioned his condition. The other man, whose lawyers will plead a "heat of passion" defense, picked up a knife and killed him.

The case is being watched very carefully by advocates on both sides. The "heat of passion" defense, probably familiar to most moviegoers, has not previously been used in connection with AIDS and a homicide. The counsel for the defense claims that "Mr. Grice [the victim] had AIDS . . . He had been handed a death sentence. This kid won't know for the next seven years whether he is going to die."

In Portland, a positive HIV antibody test has seemingly led to attempted assault and threats to the life of a local man. Our informant, who wishes to remain anonymous pending the court action, received an anonymous telephone threat several weeks ago that the male caller was "going to get me." Days later, a slight acquaintance, in

a bar, apologized for the phone call. However, later that evening, the acquaintance, with whom our informant had had sexual contact three years before, revealed that he was getting the results of his HIV antibody test that week. "If it's positive, I'm going to kill you and your lover," he said. Our informant has never had the antibody test; his former lover has ARC.

Late one night two weeks later our informant received a call; the caller said he was coming over to kill him. He also said he had spent \$500 to make a video depicting our informant "raping" the caller, apparently to justify the threatened violence.

The police were notified, but when the caller did not show up, they left the premises. Shortly afterward, our informant heard someone kicking at the door and breaking the glass panes. The attacker broke out two large windows before cutting himself badly on the glass and running away. A large butcher knife was found amongst the blood and the broken glass.

Our informant attempted to file charges immediately, but was met with inertia at the Police Bureau. He says that the police have given him the runaround. At press time, a week after the incident, the police report had just been filed. •

Coors strikes out at Boston's Fenway Park

Openly gay Boston City Councillor David Scondras announced this week that Coors beer will no longer be sold at Fenway Park, home of the Boston Red Sox baseball team. The move to ban Coors came as a result of negotiations between Scondras, Fenway Park management, and union representatives.

"Boston baseball fans should not be subsidizing a terrorist war on Central America," said Scondras, referring to Coors' funding of the Contras, "nor should they help support a family that is dedicated to attacking the rights of gay people, blacks, women, and unions."

Last year Scondras won an agreement

from Fenway Park management to severely restrict Coors sales. This year's decision to ban the beer entirely is believed to be one of the single largest contracts Coors has lost as a result of its alleged homophobic, racist, and anti-union activities.

"Councillor Scondras has shown that together working people, gay people, and all those struggling for social justice can win," said Dominic Bozzotto, head of Local 26 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union.

Bozzotto went on to urge activists in other cities to investigate beer sales in other sports parks and arenas to see if Coors is being sold: "Baseball is supposed to be an all-American sport — with their record of union busting, opposing workers' dignity and human rights, and funding terrorism in Central America, Coors doesn't deserve to be sold in any park in this country." •

RED ROSE SCHOOL



The Red Rose School offers classes to help us better understand our position in society and our ability to change it through social action. Classes meet one evening per week. Tuition for one course is \$25 (\$15 low income); no one will be excluded for inability to pay. **Classes start the week of April 13th.**

Life Under the Plague: Gay Men's Writings in the Age of AIDS

This Monday night class will use Dennis Altman's *AIDS in the Mind of America* and other readings to focus discussion of how gay men's culture has changed under AIDS. Led by Terry Miller, an avid collector of gay literature.

Other classes include: **Women and Work** (Dorinda Welle, Mondays), **Contemporary Indian America** (John Talley, Tuesdays), **Who Rules Portland?** (guest speakers, Wednesdays), **The Blues Had a Baby: Rock and Race** (Jan Senten, Wednesdays), **Women's Visionary Literature** (Karin Herrmann, Thursdays), **Community Organizing** (Natasha Beck, Thursdays), **Anarchy: Theory, Principles and Practice** (Don Chambers, Sundays), and **On Photography** (Sally Markowitz, Sundays).

Don't miss our **Open House and Forum** on Sunday evening, April 12. The forum will be on **Culture and the Movement**, featuring a panel of local progressive artists and cultural activists discussing the state of left culture today. Open house: 6 pm; forum: 7 pm. Friends' Meetinghouse, 4312 SE Stark.

For more information and a brochure, call 230-0488.

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