

ALASKA

Police found the body of an openly gay man July 26 in Ketchikan, a town in the southeastern part of the state. David Blare, 35, also known as Steve Perry, was an Alaskan Native from the Organized Village of Saxman.

Terry L. Simpson Jr., 19, and Joshua A. Anderson, 20, have been arrested and charged with second-degree murder, manslaughter, first-degree robbery and second-degree theft. They are being held on \$50,000 bail.

"My only consolation is that I know David is with the Lord, no longer in pain and safe from harm and hate," said Paul Zellmer, Blare's friend and former partner. "In the 11 years I have lived in Ketchikan, I have seen and been the recipient of many threats and actions against myself and others. It is time to stop denying that anti-gay hate exists here in Alaska."

Police arrested Simpson and Anderson in response to a tip called in to Ketchikan Crime Stoppers, according to news reports. The caller said he overheard the two men bragging that they were planning to "beat up and rob [Blare] because he is a fag," District Attorney Stephen West said.

The Governor's Commission on Tolerance was formed May 1 after Anchorage police released a videotape of white youths shooting Alaska Natives with paint balls. Its report to Gov. Tony Knowles is due Nov. 30.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights also is holding hearings later this month to take testimony on discrimination against Alaska Natives. Last year, Knowles introduced a hate crimes measure including sexual orientation, but the Legislature has yet to act on it.

Since 1991, Alaska stands out as having one of the nation's poorest records on reporting hate crimes. The state has failed to participate in the reporting process in three of the past nine years: 1991, 1992 and 1998.

In the other years, only one law enforcement agency, out of a possible 43, has participated. Anchorage reported the following number of hate crimes incidents: 24 in 1993, nine in 1994, eight in 1995, nine in 1996, 10 in 1997 and five in 1999, the latest year for which statistics are available.

NATIONAL

For the first time, polls now show a majority of U.S. citizens in favor of allowing homosexuals to serve openly in the military. In a new study to be published this fall by MIT Press, two sociologists report that 56 percent of the general public responded affirmatively to a survey asking whether they thought gay men and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the armed forces.

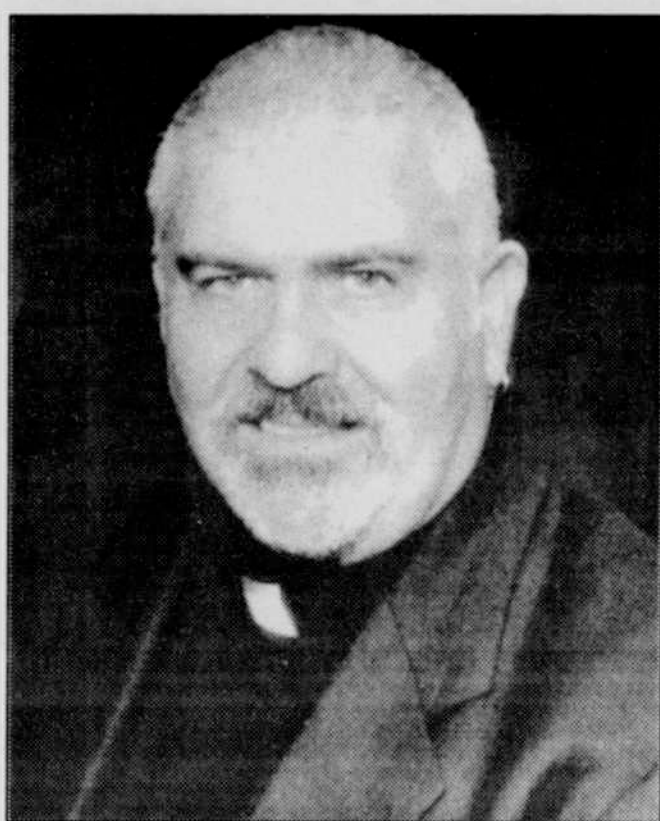
In a related trend, anti-gay sentiment within the military has declined during the past decade. A March 2000 study by Maj. John W. Bicknell of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., found U.S. Navy officers who "feel uncomfortable in the presence of homosexuals" decreased from 57.8 percent in 1994 to 36.4 percent in 1999.

According to another poll, since 1992 the percentage of Army men who "strongly oppose" homosexuals serving in uniform dropped nearly in half, from 67 percent to 37 percent. The percentage of Army women "strongly opposed" to gay troops fell from 32 percent to 16 percent.

PENNSYLVANIA

In a setback for social justice and equality under the law, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has ruled that the law provides protections based on sex but not sexual orientation.

The decision effectively says gay workers



The Rev. Elder Troy Perry

may not sue under federal sex discrimination laws if they are harassed or denied promotions because of their sexual orientation. The court ruled unanimously that it is up to Congress, not the courts, to write that protection into Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The case arose when John J. Bibby filed a lawsuit against the Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Co. He contended his rights were violated by co-workers who harassed and physically attacked him after he revealed he was gay.

Bibby's lawyer noted his client is in an "incongruous situation in which he can sue if he is the target of sexual advances by a woman or another gay man but not if he is harassed by straight male co-workers because of his sexual orientation."

The Rev. Elder Troy Perry, Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches founder, urged Congress to remedy the situation. "It is time...to close the loophole which allows this type of legally sanctioned discrimination," he said.

MICHIGAN

Wayne County Prosecutor Mike Duggan announced Aug. 6 his office is putting a halt to the selective entrapment and prosecution of gay men.

For years, people have complained of police stings that resulted in arrests for soliciting sex from undercover officers when they had done



Mike Duggan

nothing but flirt or walk away. Some were charged with being an "annoying person," a misdemeanor; others had their vehicles impounded and had to pay a \$900 fee to have them returned.

Duggan said his office no longer would prosecute men who are approached and propositioned by undercover police decoys. He said such tactics appeared to unfairly target homosexuals.

"I'm not going to charge people criminally for what they thought was a consensual act between adults," Duggan said. "We do not send female officers into sports bars to come on to guys to see which ones respond and then arrest them. We should not be sending undercover decoys...to do exactly the same thing."

Lorri L. Jean, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force executive director, welcomed the new policy. "Decoys, entrapment, vehicle seizures and arresting people for private conduct are tactics used to harass and intimidate gay men." □

Compiled by Copy Editor JIM RADOSTA, who can be reached at jim@justout.com.



UNUSUAL GARDEN ART
Fountains • Pots • Arbors
Trellises • Bird Baths & Lots More

(503) 603-0411
11935 SW Greenburg Rd
Tigard (1 Blk Off 99W on Greenburg) • Open 7 Days

Drive with Pride



Schedule your appointment today with:
Lisa Costello
503-256-3700

REY REECE DEALERSHIPS
ISUZU-VOLKSWAGEN-USED

122nd & East Burnside
www.reyreece.com
vdublisac@hotmail.com

Specializing in home financing for gay men and lesbians.

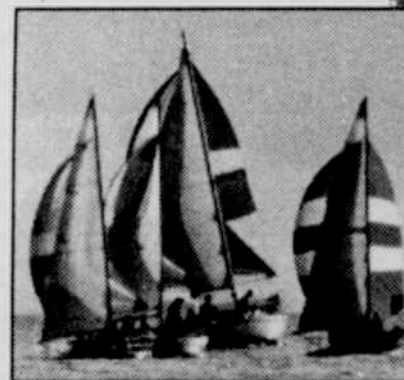
Rose City
Mortgage Specialists

- **FREE consultations**
- **\$0-down loans**
- **all credit & loan types**

503.768.4248
www.RoseCityMtg.com

DON'T JUST ENJOY THE VIEW. OWN IT.

Resort living at an affordable price.



Life on Hayden Island offers you the ideal blend of a peaceful, quiet residential community, with the convenience of downtown Portland only minutes away.



Common Amenities Include:

Indoor and outdoor pools with spa & sauna
Exercise facility • Private marina slips available
Elevator-served buildings
Underground/covered parking
Walking path along river and bay

Spacious condominiums with spectacular views of Columbia River, Mt. Hood, and Mt. St. Helens

Open Daily 12-5pm except Wednesday
233 N Hayden Bay Dr.
503-735-4884
www.columbiapoint.com

COLUMBIA POINT WEST



Marketed by:
The Hasson Company
Jeff Burghart, P.C.

