



SLUGGING ON THE SOUTH SIDE

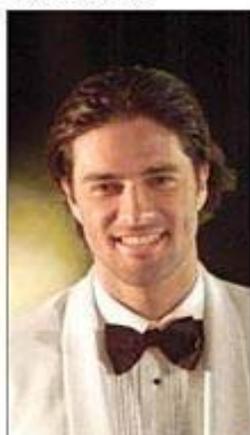
Barry Bonds homered and Jesse Foppert dazzled in the Giants' 11-4 win over the White Sox. / Page 17

SAN FRANCISCO'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

The Examiner.

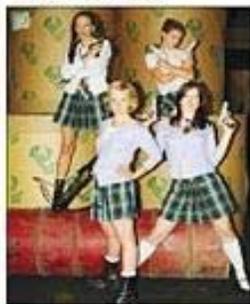
THURSDAY
June 12, 2003

Remote Patrol Reality jerk



NBC's reality show dream guy turns out to be more of a nightmare on "For Love or Money." | SEE 13

Film festivals Girls on film



Catch the best movies at the LGBT and black film festivals starting now. | SEE 12

U.S. Open It's anyone's guess

There is no clear-cut favorite among the 156 players teeing off today at the Olympia Fields Country Club in Chicago. | SEE 20

'Do we have our own serial killers, our own pathologicals?'

Why are they killed?

Researchers' goal: understand and prevent gay murders

BY J.K. DINEEN AND ADRIEL HAMPTON
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

In the general population, most murder victims are shot with a gun.

In the gay community, they tend to be strangled, stabbed or bludgeoned.

Heterosexual murder victims are rarely killed in bedrooms. Homosexuals who are killed are almost always found among blood-soaked bedsheets or strangled in a bedroom closet.

These are some of the gay homicide trends uncovered by the Minnesota Gay Homicide Study (www.mngayhomicide.org), a team of researchers who have been mostly focusing on their home state but are beginning to study trends in San Francisco.

With the aim of providing a database of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender homicides in the past 30 years, the researchers have compiled data on more than 1,700 homosexual homicides nationwide and have delved deeply into about 100 Minnesota cases — with another 60 they are still investigating.

They plan to release a complete statistical analysis for their home state next year.

While some advocacy groups have compiled information on hate crimes, the Minnesota Gay Homicide Study looks at all gay killings, even cases ruled self-defense or manslaughter.

And rather than an advocacy group looking to raise awareness of hate crimes, the MGHS is more interested in compiling peer-tested scientific data which can help police understand and solve murders involving homosexuals.

| SEE HOMICIDE, PAGE 5 Dallas Drake, foreground, and Joe Shulka investigate gay homicides.



City Budget

Pain relief for some health centers

BY ALISON SOLTVA
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

The City has slipped a painkiller to a handful of health services that faced closure under the weight of planned budget cuts.

While the rest of San Francisco

dreads the mighty budget ax, services like the Bayview Thunderseed mental-health day treatment center and the North of Market drop-in sobriety center will be among those receiving more than \$2 million

in addbacks.

But the news is cold comfort for the scores of community workers still fighting for their programs' survival, their hopes dwindling as budget details are confirmed.

To Martha Henderson at Potrero Hill Neighborhood Center drug outreach program, holding on to most of her organization's funding means kids at the International Studies Academy on Potrero Hill will continue to get counseling for marijuana and alcohol addiction and family crises.

| SEE HEALTH, PAGE 4

Why are they killed?

J.K. Dineen and Adriel Hampton
Of The Examiner Staff
Published on Thursday, June 12, 2003

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The heart of their national data so far comes from FBI supplemental homicide reports, with 1,119 recorded LGBT homicides from 1974-97. That's the data policymakers are using to fund prevention programs, they say, and it's far from complete.

They study the killers as well as the victims, looking for intracommunity problems.

"Do we have our own serial killers, our own pathologicals?" MGHS vice president Joe Shulka asked.

Shulka and researcher Dallas Drake met with The Examiner during a break from an international homicide research workshop they are attending this week in Sacramento.

Their research begins with newspaper reports of killings, then they move to paper records to fill out up to 115 variables in a database, establishing sexual identity and looking for sexual behaviors -- such as pants pulled down or mutilations -- in the crime scene reports.

"The problem with homicide is, once you've crossed that line ... you're going to get caught," Drake said, referencing the case of Andrew Cunanan, a gay man who killed gay men, then heterosexuals who were on his escape path. "You might as well go kill a few others."

The research, in addition to helping police put a dent into unsolved gay homicides, also benefits heterosexuals killed in related incidents, Drake said, and helps separate out the demographic to better understand why killings happen.

"What role does masculinity play in the killing of women?" Drake said. "When we look at same-sex killings, all of a sudden it distinguishes a little of that."

Drake said the group's data helps distinguish common patterns, like fire attacks on gay men. They've also found that FBI data show a high number of black victims in LGBT killings, 34 percent of the gay men and 50 percent of the lesbians. And they've seen a trend that suggests non-hate-crime murders may be lower in the gay community than the at-large population.

"LGBT people have no clue about this, they've never seen this before," Drake said.

The researchers have been meeting with police across the country in an effort to share some of their findings. Drake said they recently assisted in finding possible victims as law enforcement investigated an East Coast serial killer case.

"We were at a click of a mouse able to basically say, 'What do you want to look at?' " Drake said.

Homicides that involve gays are often radically different than those involving heterosexuals. The average age of gay murder victims is 37.7 years old, more than a decade older than the average age of the general population of murdered people.

Guns are used 65.6 percent of heterosexual murders, while knives are only used 16.5 percent of the time. In murders involving gay men, guns are only used in 28.4 percent of the time, while knives are the weapons of choice 43.9 percent of the time. Homosexual murders are carried out with blunt objects 10.8 percent of the time and victims are strangled 7.2 percent of the time.

The majority of homosexual murder victims -- 70 percent in Minnesota -- are found in bedrooms, often strangled and stuffed in a closet, the researchers said. The killings "tend to be very intimate, very intense, very physical," said Shulka. "There is often a strong sexual component."

Drake, a soft-spoken retired firefighter, said that while homicide inspectors tend to have very sophisticated ballistics training, they are sometimes unaccustomed to crime scenes with "blood splattered from top to bottom."

He said prevention strategies need solid data to work, and that a focus on homicide trends in the straight community may make it more difficult for law enforcement to investigate murders in the gay community.

The two began their work in the early '90s in response to three high-profile gay murders in Minneapolis and incorporated as a nonprofit four years ago. Grants and private donations fund the study.