

Gay stereotypes surface during Cunanan manhunt

By MICHELLE BOORSTEIN
Associated Press Writer

Sexual promiscuity. Lavish parties. Violence, cross-dressing and a suggestion of AIDS. The story of Andrew Cunanan was loaded with all the stereotypes of gay men, old and new.

With its bath houses and bar rooms, the accused killer's story has unearthed some deep-rooted, if unsightly, images of homosexuals. The problem, members of the gay community say, is Cunanan represents a narrow slice of gay life.

"It's like, here we go again, describing gay bars as dark and seedy, like we're some sort of Masonic group plotting and planning and doing weird rituals," said Eugene Patron, who writes a column about gay issues for The Miami Herald. "I think that's the problem — are we ever going to be perceived as productive members of society or are we going to be seen as a liability?"

On the Internet and in coffee shops, among filmmakers and at bookstores, gay men said yesterday public interest in the case seemed oddly focused on Cunanan's sexuality though only three of his five alleged victims were gay. Sketchy reports that

"It triggered all those images that a straight killer wouldn't."

— John Orcutt
gay bookstore manager

Cunanan may have had the virus that causes AIDS or was hiding out in drag were believed — without scrutiny — because they perpetuate the stereotype, they said.

"It triggered all those images that a straight killer wouldn't," said John Orcutt, manager of A Different Light, a gay bookstore in New York. "That gay people's lives revolve around sexuality, or that they have AIDS, that they can disguise themselves as drag queens, that they float from place to place."

Some said the media were to blame for perpetuating the seedier side of gay culture.

"That's all that the public gets to see, they don't see the norm," said John Balasa, a 35-year-old computer designer from Minneapolis, the city where the first murder occurred. "Everyone wants to see the bizarre. They don't want to see

what they see at home."

Some gay men called it outrageous to link the killings to the possibility that Cunanan had recently tested positive for the AIDS virus, or to frustration over his sexuality. Others said it wasn't impossible for such things to prompt rage in a murderous person.

"In fact every stereotype has an element of truth, and there have been a number of cases of men who had problems with their sexuality who took their frustration out in negative ways," said Robert Rosenberg, maker of the documentary "Before Stonewall."

Rosenberg added that he was surprised to see police and FBI officials earnestly coming into gay neighborhoods to spread warnings of Cunanan.

While society has broadened its image of gay culture, the public's reaction to Cunanan shows the stereotypes remain strong, said Liz Tracey, spokeswoman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in Manhattan.

"This reinforcement of a gay elite subculture people are fascinated with because they think it's this world they'll never see," she said. "The truth is, there's a lot of very boring gays and lesbians out there."

Cunanan

Continued from Page 1.

Jordan of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. "There was absolutely no other place to go."

On Wednesday afternoon, police got a break.

Fernando Carreira, the caretaker of the houseboat owned by fugitive German businessman Thorsten Reineck, dropped by to check on the home along the Intracoastal Waterway and he saw the door partially unlocked.

As Carreira looked around inside, he saw slippers and a pillow

and then heard a gunshot, investigators said.

Carreira quickly retreated across the street and called the police, never taking his eyes off the front door, according to an FBI affidavit.

Dozens of police and SWAT officers converged, closed down busy Collins Avenue at rush hour and tried to communicate with the man inside.

When that proved fruitless, they fired tear gas inside and entered the home, quickly finding the vic-

tim's body on a bed in the upstairs master bedroom.

Investigators didn't say exactly when Cunanan shot himself, but said he did it with a .40-caliber semiautomatic handgun, the same type of weapon linked with Versace's death and two other murders.

Even after the body was found, hours passed as investigators struggled to identify the body because the face was largely blown off. Fingerprints confirmed it was Cunanan.

Profile

Continued from Page 1.

His surname was DeSilva. He had a wife and child in the Bay Area. He came from a wealthy, Jewish family that owned a national parking lot company.

Friends and acquaintances said he was alternately a bookish intellect who could talk politics and world affairs and a "party boy" who danced barechested in bars.

The youngest of four children, Cunanan, 27, was born and raised in San Diego.

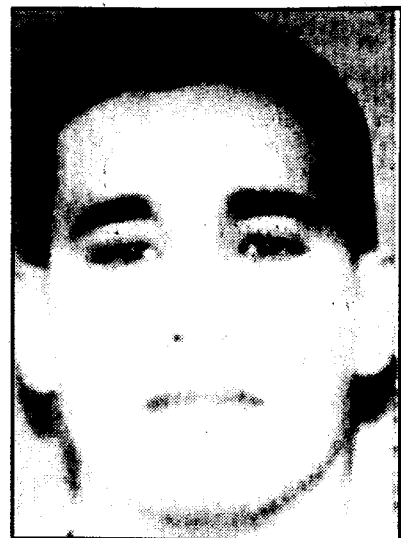
Cunanan graduated in 1987 from The Bishop's School, where classmates remembered him as an outgoing young man who acknowledged — some say even flaunted — his homosexuality.

The murders began April 29.

First David Madson, 33, a Minneapolis architect and ex-lover; then Trail, 28, a former Navy officer whom Cunanan considered one of his best friends; then Lee Miglin, 72, a millionaire Chicago developer; then William Reese, 45, caretaker of a Civil War cemetery in Pennsville, N.J.; and then Versace.

As the manhunt intensified, criminal experts theorized Cunanan was becoming increasingly desperate and poised to kill again. All the talk stopped Wednesday when a gunshot rang out from the Miami Beach houseboat.

"It's a strange kind of relief," said a Cunanan acquaintance from San Francisco. "There's no closure. No one is ever going to know why he did it."



Andrew Cunanan
alleged serial killer



One shell of a race

Turtle-racing fans watch a pack of the slow-moving reptiles make their way across a makeshift arena in Concord, N.H., Wednesday. The organizers of the city's Market Days festival shut down the Jaycees-sponsored event after receiving numerous complaints of animal cruelty at the races.

Self-defense may lead to prison term

By RACHEL GRAVES
Associated Press Writer

ERIE, Pa. — A simple "no" was usually enough to fend off guys who flirted with Michele Clark when she danced topless. Not so for the drunk who pinned her against an alley wall one night.

She kneed him in the groin. And then she shattered his jaw.

Now, she could be headed for prison.

A jury decided last week that the slightly built woman could have walked away once she had Ronald Daniel down on the sidewalk. Instead, she continued to kick him in the head.

"They said I should have run. Well, that's what I tried to do the first time," said Ms. Clark, "and he came after me."

The jury of eight men and four women needed only 20 minutes to find her guilty last week of aggravated assault. Ms. Clark, 20, could get a maximum of 10 to 20 years in prison Aug. 29.

Daniel, 27, a married father of two from Melbourne, Fla., had bruises and cuts all over his face and needed surgery on his jaw. He could not be reached for comment because his number is not listed.

Daniel testified that he had no memory of Ms. Clark or the fight because he had been drinking. He was in Erie visiting his sick father at the time.

Ms. Clark, who worked at Partners Tavern, said Daniel harassed her last September at the State Street Tavern, one of her favorite after-work hangouts.

He followed her to the ladies' room, where she said he grabbed her buttocks. Later, she tried to elude him by leaving through a back door, but he followed her into an alley, put his hands up her shirt and touched her breasts, Ms. Clark said.

"Obviously, he was trying to rape me," she said.

Ms. Clark, who said she never has taken a self-defense class, kneed Daniel in the groin and crossed the street, but Daniel followed her two blocks. She said he then grabbed for her hair.

She said she cannot remember exactly how she fended him off, but the next thing she knew, he had fallen to the sidewalk.

"I just remember fighting to get away," said Ms. Clark, who is 5-foot-6 and weighs 120 pounds, about the same size as Daniel. She said she continued kicking because Daniel grabbed the waist of her shorts in an apparent attempt to pull her to the ground.

Prosecutor Damon Hopkins challenged her story, noting that she lied to police about her underage drinking. She said she was trying to protect the tavern owner, a friend of hers.

A witness testified that he pulled Ms. Clark off Daniel because she kicked him even after he stopped resisting.

"If she hadn't been stopped, she probably would have killed him. She didn't try very hard to get away," said juror Charles Moon.

Defense attorney Christine Fuhrman Konzel argued that Ms. Clark struck Daniel in self-defense.

The director of a program for battered women suggested jurors might have treated Ms. Clark more leniently if she were a "plain, chubby girl" instead of a topless dancer.

Giant Foods, Inc. may join AFL-CIO in labor battle

By CARRIE DELEON
Collegian Staff Writer

Executives from Giant Foods Stores Inc. met yesterday to decide whether they will join Pennsylvania's AFL-CIO in a battle against a major distributor of California strawberries for inhumane treatment of its workers.

The treatment of some California strawberry pickers brought a protest by the Pennsylvania American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations Wednesday to the area Giant Foods grocery store.

The AFL-CIO petitioned the manager of Giant Foods Stores Inc., 255 Northland Center, to join its nationwide effort in improving the wages and working conditions of the workers. Over 100 union members distributed informational leaflets Wednesday at the store.

Executives from Giant's headquarters met yesterday to decide whether they will join

"We just want the public to know what's going on."

— Tom Santone
AFL-CIO business representative

the battle against Driscoll Corp., a major distributor of California strawberries, the manager of the State College store said in a news release.

However, the representative from Giant's corporate office was not able to be reached for comment on the outcome of the meeting.

The AFL-CIO urged Giant Foods Stores, among other food stores across the country, to let Driscoll know they disapprove of its actions as part of a nationwide effort, said Tom Santone, AFL-CIO business representative.

Santone explained that they weren't planning a boycott. "We just want the public to

be aware of what's going on," he said.

What is going on in the California strawberry patches is unfair treatment of pickers and unpleasant working conditions, Santone said.

The workers are earning \$8,500 a season for 10-, 11- and 12-hour work days, he said, which is one half of what the workers were earning 10 years ago.

There are no portable bathroom facilities or portable drinking water available to workers in the fields, Santone said. The workers are also forced to endure cancer-causing chemicals without proper protection, he said.

Boxing

Continued from Page 1.

"Alcohol is the fuel for our sports spectacular," he said.

Shortly after the wave, a woman dressed as a cowgirl appeared on the dance floor and stripped down to a g-string while the crowd cheered her on. She was followed by more women who wandered through the bar giving dollar bill-waving spectators private shows.

While most of the crowd was enjoying the view, some spectators hung back in the shadows observing.

"I'm not sure about this yet," said one student majoring in business logistics, who refused to give his name. "My roommate dragged me here," he said.

But the shy audience members were the minority, especially when the main event — boxing — began.

The crowd on the second level of the bar pressed against the railings and craned their necks to get a glimpse of the "sports spectacular" below.

Two men in the crowd each paid over \$20 to win the job of ringside manager.

The job entailed spraying down the women, dressed in thin, white cotton T-shirts and shorts, with cold water. The ringside managers were also supposed to coach the boxers.

"On your knees, baby doll," one manager said. "Back to your corners, baby dolls," another said.

"Hey, sweetheart, take it easy."

These coaching tips by the ringside managers encouraged the women to push each other around until one fell down sending the crowd into a frenzy.

When one of the boxers was down, her opponent would jump on her and pummel her until the referee, "Mad Mark," would pull the overzealous fighter off her competitor.

Although the enthusiastic audience was made up mostly of men, several women were present at Wednesday night's fight and seemed to be having just as much fun. One of these women, a scientist from Russia in town for a conference, said she viewed the fight

as a show and found it very entertaining.

"I can see it's only a show, but a pretty well-performed one," Tanya Makalrova said. "It's very entertaining and the girls have many interesting tricks."

But not everyone shares the views of Makalrova and the crowd who paid eight dollars each to enter Crowbar.

Jill Dworzanski, co-director of Womyn's Concerns, said despite the fact that business at Crowbar may be slower in the summer, the managers should not display topless women as entertainment.

"I don't support what they did," she said. "It promotes drunkenness, abuse, objectification of

women and the sexualizing of women," she said.

Dworzanski is not alone in her opinion about Crowbar's entertainment Wednesday.

Events like Foxy Boxing are part of a cultural phenomenon that encourages people to treat women's bodies as an object of lust, said Michael Johnson, associate professor of sociology and women's studies.

"We are embedded in a cultural phenomena of sexual violence and, although that event alone did not cause it, it does contribute to it," Johnson said.

The Center for Women Students and Women's Resource Center refused to comment.