HORROR IN HOUSTON

Newspaper of America's Homophile Community

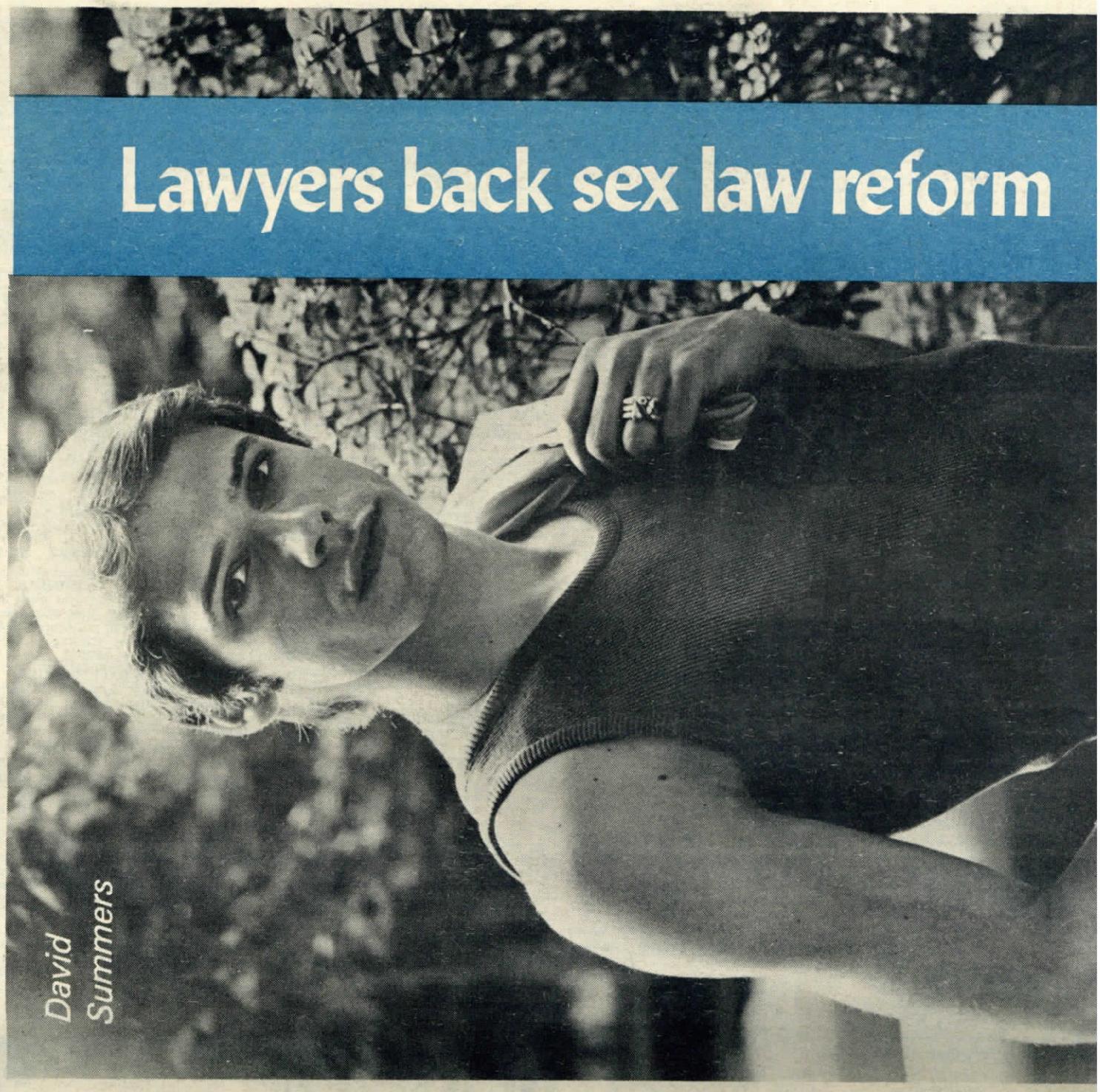
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Issue 119

Lawyers back sex law reform



David Summers

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the ADVOCATE
NEWSPAPER OF AMERICA'S HOMOPHILE COMMUNITY
ISSUE 119
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Advocate Publications, Inc.
AUGUST 29, 1973

—Boys victim of gay sadist—

HARVEST OF HORROR

Toll may reach 40 in Texas murders

by SCOTT HARBERS

HOUSTON—As many as 40 teenage boys may have died to satisfy the sadistic sex cravings of a 34-year-old "nice guy," police here believe. Nineteen bodies had been found as of Aug. 10.

If the number is anywhere near correct, it will be the nation's highest known toll of indisputably homosexual sex killings. Californian Juan Corona is serving a life term for the murders of 25 men in 1971, but though those killings had strong homosexual overtones, it was never definitely established that Corona was homosexually motivated.

The gruesome torture deaths attributed to Dean Corll of Pasadena, a Houston suburb, over the past three years could prove a major setback to the Gay Liberation Movement.

They surfaced when Corll was shot and killed early Aug. 8 by 17-year-old Elmer Wayne Henley, later identified by friends as Corll's young lover.

Henley then phoned his mother and both of them called Pasadena police. Henley later led police to a southwest Houston boat storage yard, where the bodies of 17 teenage boys were found buried.

Henley at first painted himself as an innocent victim of Corll's advances and said he shot the older man to save himself and two young friends whom Corll had threatened to kill. But under questioning, he broke down almost immediately and told a story indicating that he had been participating in Corll's thrill-kill activities for some time.

He also implicated another friend, 18-year-old David Brooks, in the slayings. Police said Brooks, an ex-roommate of Corll, has signed a statement admitting involvement "in practically all of the killings."

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United Press International Photo

REMORSE

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17, tells reporters how he shot and killed Dean Corll, 34, to prevent himself from being sexually molested. He later changed his story and admitted that he and another youth had taken part in the murders by Corll of many other teenagers in the Houston, Tex., area. As of Aug. 10, police had found 19 bodies and feared the total murdered may reach 40.

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TRES GAY: Ad in the *Chattanooga Times*: Some lucky couple will spend ... three days in Las Vegas ... climaxing with Elvis onstage at the Sahara Hotel.

Nation's lawyers call for consent laws

by THOMAS COLEMAN

WASHINGTON—The American Bar Association in its Aug. 5-9 annual meeting here adopted a resolution which urges the states to repeal all laws prohibiting private sexual behavior between consenting adults, saving only those portions which are necessary to protect minors or public decorum.

The adoption of this resolution was the product of extensive efforts and lobbying by several individuals and groups over the past 18 months.

The resolution was first introduced 18 months ago into the section on individual rights and responsibilities by E. Carrington Bogan, a New York attorney for that city's Gay Activists Alliance.

The rights section of the ABA recommended its passage at this year's annual meeting.

An identical resolution was introduced into the assembly of the ABA at its 1972 annual meeting in San Francisco by William Thom, another New York attorney.

The ABA membership succeeded in bucking the issue last year by sending the resolution to the section on criminal law for further study and consideration.

At the mid-year meeting of the ABA in Cleveland in February 1973, an ad hoc subcommittee of the criminal law section was appointed to consider the resolution. That subcommittee, chaired by Barbara Babcock, associate professor at Stanford University School of Law, heard testimony and recommended passage by the council of the section on criminal law.

The council, of which Joseph Busch, district attorney of Los Angeles County, is a member, voted to adopt the resolution and report it back to the assembly for adoption at the 1973 annual meeting here. It is not known how Busch voted at the meeting.

A similar resolution, which also called for decriminalization of prostitution, was introduced in the law student division of the American Bar Association at its annual meeting in San Francisco in August 1972.

Its passage in the law student division was secured by the efforts of the Gay Law Students Association and the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties.

Additional support for this year's resolution was received by the Young Lawyers section of the ABA.

Extensive Debate

At this year's meeting the resolution was extensively debated. Speakers for the resolution on the foor of the assembly included Babcock; E. Carrington Bogan, now chairman of the equal protection committee of the section on individual rights' this writer, who is past chairman of the Gay Law Students Association and member of the House of Delegates of the law student division' the Rev. John Corn, legal counsel for the Episcopal Diocese of New York; and Sen. J. Fernandez Sanchez (D-Puerto Rico).

Debate on the resolution was interrupted by the late arrival of U.S. Atty. Gen. Elliot Richardson, who addressed the assembly on the impact of Watergate on the trust of the citizens and the Department of Justice and reported new guidelines for the department.

After Richardson's address, several well-established members of the ABA opposed the adoption of the resolution on the grounds that it would promote "promiscuity, adultery, and undermine the family."

However, even after these pleas to

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Photos by the *Miami News Herald*

MACABRE MURDER. Men carry out the body of 16-year-old Mark Matson from the Miami house where he was murdered, dismembered, and buried in a shower stall (picture at right, foreground) under 3½ feet of concrete. The murderer, Albert Brust, then raped Matson's female companion repeatedly, freed her, and took his own life.

Diary reveals Miami killer's obsessions

MIAMI—The recently released diary of Albert Brust, who killed and dismembered an Ohio youth and sexually abused a 15-year-old Kentucky girl for nearly 24 hours before releasing her and killing himself; reveals a *hate*-drenched personality obsessed with death and a dread of *age* and infirmity.

It *casts* little light, however, on Brust's sexuality or what he did or didn't do in the well-equipped torture chamber in his neat brick home here before the final incident with the teenagers. According to a motorcycle shop owner who said Brust had propositioned him, Brust "hung around with a bunch of Gays" and described himself as a bisexual who preferred boys. Police are still seeking the identity of a husky former seaman who reportedly had been a frequent visitor at Brust's home.

The diary, however, while indicating that Brust was looking for sex, doesn't make clear what kind, and there was considerable evidence of his heterosexual interests in the pornography and other items found in the house such as women's panties and an empty pantyhose package.

His sado-masochistic bent emerged clearly in the pornography, books by French philosopher Marquis de Sade also found in the house, and the steel and concrete torture chamber itself—complete with sound-proofing, whips, chains and padlocks, stereo speakers, and a psychedelic black light.

Police described Brust early in their investigation as "a sexual deviate" who appeared to have "entertained other people with similar tastes." The torture chamber appeared to have been built shortly after Brust bought the house last October. But a diary entry July 12, "no sex yet," raised the possibility that the episode with the two teenagers was his first chance to use the chamber.

Whatever Brust's own warped predilections, his case and a series of unsolved mutilation murders in Long Beach, Calif., have focused attention on the growing S&M phenomenon in the gay world itself.

The final episode in Brust's unhappy life, in which his grim fantasies were to be bared in bloody reality, began when he stopped his recently purchased white Dodge van in Fort Lauderdale July 14 and picked up 16-year-old Mark Bernard Matson and the 15-year-old girl whom newspapers here have dubbed "Mary Ellen" while withholding her true identity.

Mark, from Washington Courthouse, Ohio, had met "Mary Ellen," a runaway from Frankfort, Ky., on the beach the day before.

Brust, a 43-year-old ex-convict originally from New York, had been working as a Metro housing inspector here for about 18 months. He got the two errant teenagers to come home with him by promising to pay them a few dollars for doing some chores around his house, "Mary Ellen" said later.

But when he got them into the house, she said, Brust took them in-

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Texas killer 'loved to be around kids'

Continued from Page 1

Although the two teenagers' stories indicated that Corll tortured his victims, few details were released. Police said "sadistic equipment," including boards, handcuffs, and knives, had been uncovered. Investigators theorized that at least some of the young victims had been strangled or bayonetted, but one police source said, "You name it, it happened."

In Henley's first account to police, which he has not substantially altered, the youth said he took Tim Kerley, 19, and Rhonda Williams, 15, to Corll's Pasadena home Aug. 7. The three sniffed glue until they passed out.

Next morning, Henley related, "he woke us up, and was tying and handcuffing us. He said he was going to kill us all, but first he was going to have his fun."

Kerley and the girl were gagged with tape, stripped naked, and fastened to a basketball backboard which had been converted to a torture rack with holes for hands and feet, Henley said.



United Press International Photo

DEAN CORLL

He said he "sweet-talked" Corll into untying him after "I promised I would torture and kill them [his two friends] if he'd let me go. So he did."

Henley said Corll told him to sexually attack the girl while he (Corll) would attack Kerley. Henley went into the bathroom for lubricant and returned to the bedroom.

"I picked up a gun from the table. I told him to back off and stop whatever he was doing. He said something and came at me, and I shot him."

Corll was hit six times in the chest with bullets from a .22 calibre revolver.

Henley later indicated he had known what was going to happen when he took Kerley and Williams to Corll's house, police said. He appeared grief-stricken.

As police reconstructed the story from statements by Henley, and apparently also by Brooks, teenage boys were enticed to Corll's house for sex and drug parties on a fairly regular basis over the past three years. The boys were tortured and killed, and their bodies wrapped in plastic bags and buried in a boat shed leased by Corll in 1971, as well as at an East Texas fishing resort on Sam Rayburn Lake and on High Island off the Texas coast.

The bodies found so far are all of boys in an apparent age range from 13 to 19. Most were in an advanced state of decomposition, and one was only a skeleton. Some appeared to have been buried naked, others in bathing suits.

One of the bodies is thought to be that of 13-year-old David Hilligiest, who disappeared in 1971 after leaving his home to go swimming. His parents spent thousands of dollars trying to find him.

Henley apparently became involved with Corll about a year ago when Brooks introduced him to the older man.

Henley's mother described Corll as "a polite man [who] loved to be around kids." She said that "Dean treated Wayne like a son, and Wayne loved him like a father. I know Dean must have done something terrible to Wayne to make Wayne shoot him."

A co-worker at Houston Light & Power Co., where Corll worked as an electrician, said he had a "good personality. Everybody liked him. He would help you if you needed help. And he was intelligent."

——MURDERS DON'T INDICT WHOLE COMMUNITY——

Gays shouldn't feel guilt over killings, S&M writer says

Larry Townsend, past president of HELP, Inc., has written extensively on the subject of S&M. He also holds a Master's Degree in clinical and industrial psychology and has worked as both a counselor and specialist in personnel motivation. He comments here, at the ADVOCATE's request, on the Dean Corll and Albert Brust killings in Texas and Florida and a series of unsolved mutilation murders in the Long Beach, Calif., area.

by LARRY TOWNSEND

When we read about these gruesome mutilitation murders, it seems only natural to ask ourselves, "Could this creep really be gay?" The answer, I think, is much more complex than a simple "yes" or "no."

Just as most human beings possess the emotional potential to be either homosexual or heterosexual, so do most of us retain the residual elements of a more primitive sexuality. Because the sex drive is the only component of our personalities to be seriously restricted by society, it is the one most likely to emerge in strange or distorted form. And even this is a subjective statement, based upon the arbitrary standards established by our social conditioning.

When a crime of unusual, bizarre circumstances takes place, it is viewed with horror, but also with a strongly morbid fascination—as witnessed by the flocks of curious onlookers who gathered outside the home of Albert Brust in Miami. Why this fascination? In a way, it parallels the old dilemma: Why do so many sweet little old ladies enjoy the murder and mayhem of Mickey Spillane?

In the case of Albert Brust, I think we have an individual with a (fortunately) unique sexual personality. Whereas he incorporated elements common to many other people, he compounded these elements into his own peculiarly lethal admixture.

In my opinion, he was no more "gay" than "het." He murdered the boy and mutilated him (although, apparently, not sexually); he then raped the girl. This is certainly not consistent with a purely homosexual syndrome—S&M or otherwise. Neither is rape, kidnaping, murder, nor enforced imprisonment a legitimate aspect of S&M behavior—not that form of behavior as practiced by many thousands (perhaps millions) of people, both gay and het, throughout the world. Brust was as much a maverick to this group as he was to the balance of society. In fact, I feel it is a serious misnomer to call these crimes "S&M murders."

In Dean Corll (Houston), we have a much grosser amplification of the same, basic syndrome. Following the classic pattern of heterosexual child molesters, Corll utilized a younger fellow to lure his victims into the web and physically used or abused them; then, probably motivated more by fear of discovery than anything else, he murdered them. As yet, we have seen no indication of Corll's having had any gay social aspects in his life; that is, he is not characterized as having been involved in any adult activities with other Gays.

This would seem to point up the basic inadequacy within his ego structure, a typical inability to relate to a peer group. Like the dirty old man who seduces little girls, Corll sought release by using kids. His behavior pattern relates about as closely to a gay S&M person's as does that of a heterosexual murderer-rapist to the style of the het "family man."

As Gays, we are easily embarrassed by sensationalized bizarre behavior on the part of any homosexual. But in neither Corll's nor

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