

# 'Gay bash' theory in backyard bricks murder

# BALLET WORKER SLAYING



Maurice McCarty... staggered outside after being bashed with bricks

By SANDRA LEE

POLICE are investigating the bashing death of a homosexual on Sunday night - the sixth man to be killed in attacks on members of the gay community since 1988.

Police believe the attack could have been a gay bashing and have appealed to the gay community for information. Maurice John McCarty, 47, from Linthorpe St, Newtown, was found lying semi-conscious in a pool of blood in his backyard shortly after 11pm.

He had been bashed about the head with bricks and died soon after being admitted to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Detective Sergeant Ian Finch from Newtown said yesterday police still were trying to find a motive for the murder.

"Whether it was because he was gay or it was a robbery I don't

know," Det Sgt Finch said.

"But (because of) the fact that he was homosexual, I guess it comes under the heading of a gay bashing until any further motive is elicited."

Mr McCarty was attacked in his home and then staggered outside.

Detective-Sergeant Dave Llewellyn from the Major Crime Squad said it did not appear the victim had surprised a burglar.

After Mr McCarty was bashed he apparently fell on some sharp objects, causing further head injuries.

Police want to question an Asian man aged in his mid-20s in relation to the murder. He was last seen driving a Nissan sedan in Wollstonecraft yesterday.

A woman picked up a

diary thrown from the car which contained Mr McCarty's name.

Mr McCarty, who was working as a head technician with the Australian Ballet Company, had been living with two other men, one of whom he had known for about 20 years.

A New Zealander, he had been in Australia for about 11 years, most of which he spent in Melbourne.

Police said Mr McCarty only arrived in Newtown, which has a large homosexual community, last month.

He was last seen at 5pm on Sunday after finishing work.

A spokeswoman for the Australian Ballet Company said Mr McCarty was in Sydney only temporarily for the current season, including a trilogy of dance which opens tonight at the Opera House.

She said the company was saddened at the loss of Mr McCarty and everyone involved with the company had been "thinking about him a lot" yesterday.

# Landmarks hit in paint demo

A GAY rights group is being blamed for splashing red paint on prominent Sydney buildings yesterday, including State Parliament, court premises and churches.

After the 11 attacks the vandals, wearing surgical gloves, stuck up posters reading: "We're over it. Stop violence against gay men and lesbians."

Cans of paint and green surgical gloves were found at each site.

The attacks began at 3.15am when glass doors fronting the City Tower in Market St were splashed.

Minutes later, paint was tossed across the front walls of Parliament House in nearby Macquarie St.

Front doors at St Mary's Cathedral were hit, followed by St Andrew's on George St.

More paint was thrown on the Ultimo headquarters of Channel 10, the Fairfax newspaper group at Broadway and a News Ltd building in Walker St, North Sydney.

Other targets were the Education Department office in Parramatta and the city office of State Education Minister Virginia Chadwick.

The Downing Centre court complex near Hyde Park was also hit, as well as the Church Mission Society in Bathurst St.

A security guard who saw the first incident said three men splattered with paint ran from the Market St building.

At Parliament House, a security guard saw three men getting into a late-model blue Ford Laser.



The paint-splashed entrance to Parliament House yesterday after the attacks on city buildings

Police later charged a 33-year-old doctor from Potts Point with causing malicious damage to Parliament House.

He was remanded on bail to appear at the Downing Centre Court on April 22.

The paint spree followed a call by the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby on Education Minister Chadwick to try to

stop violence directed at the gay community.

The group issued a statement saying the church denounced gays, the judicial system discriminated against them, the media mocked them and the education system ignored them.

It said these institutions were targeted because of their "outstand-

ing contributions to homophobia, discrimination and violence against gay men and lesbians."

The unsigned press release said the protesters would paint the town red - "the color of our blood that's being spilt on the streets, the color of our anger at the s... that's heaped on us by a society that says violence

against gay men and lesbians is OK."

The Richard Johnson Foundation, a gay lobby group named after a murder victim, distanced itself from the paint spree.

However, a foundation spokesman said gay people were fed up and were not going to sit back and "keep being assaulted and murdered".

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