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X-Admin: news@aol.com
From: obedientfemme@aol.com (ObedientFemme)
Newsgroups: alt.transgendered
Date: 15 Aug 2002 14:33:11 GMT
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It should be clear to each of us that there has been a frightful increase in the number of hate crimes in the United States. Whether motivated by race, gender or religious beliefs, these hate crimes or apparent hate crimes threaten each of us in the most horrific way.

Understandably, it's not an issue we like to discuss. It's not comfortable. It certainly isn't pleasant. However, so long as these kinds of crimes continue to escalate, each and every one of us has the potential for becoming a victim.

As a result of the tragic events of September 11, America is still clinging to the mindset that all firefighters and police officers are heroes. The article posted below suggests that this is a myth, in the true and most meaningful sense of the word. What frightens me as much as the murders, and the attitudes of the public servants involved, is the total absence of any outrage in any community, even ours.

Have we reached a state where we merely take these kinds of crimes for granted? Do we accept the fact that some people feel they have a right to kill us merely because we are transgender, transsexual, intersexed, gay or because we are compassionate towards these individuals? Is this what it means to be a Judeo-Christian society?

As I imagine the eye witness account of a fire fighter dragging a woman, dropping her face down on the ground, and then kicking her over with his foot, I am horrified. When did we become less than human? When did it become appropriate to subject us to treatment less than is afforded to any other human being?

I'm interested in knowing how this community feels about the entire scope of these murders. How do you, as an individual, feel about them? And, what do

you believe we should do?

Roberta Angela Dee
Founder of TG Woman

>SPARC PLANS COMMUNITYWIDE VIGIL IN RESPONSE TO RECENT ACTS OF HATE
>AND INTOLERANCE

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>Harrisburg, Penn (August 13, 2002). On August 12, 2002 two
>young transgendered women, Stephanie Thomas, age 19, and Ukea Davis,
>age 18, were brutally murdered while driving their Toyota Camry in
>Washington, DC. Firefighters from Engine Company 30, the
>infamous "Dirty Thirty" involved in the Tyra Hunter murder seven
>years ago, responded to the scene. The dead women were dragged out of
>Thomas' bullet ridden car, and Thomas' body was dropped face first on
>the ground. The firefighters were apparently afraid to touch the
>victims, and a firefighter later pushed Thomas' body over with his
>foot as blood poured from her head and neck wounds, according to an
>eyewitness.

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>These two teenagers were members of Transgender Health Empowerment,
>an African-American support group coordinated by Earline Budd.
>Whether or not the DC Metropolitan Police Department will investigate
>this gruesome double homicide as a hate crime remains to be seen, but
>the brutality and overkill factor align this with many recent murders
>of transgendered people in the United States.

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>SPARC' Co-Chair, Stephen Glassman, offered these comments: "Not only
>do we deplore the vicious murder of these two transgender teenagers;
>we continue to be assaulted as a community on a daily basis through
>hate crimes committed because of irrational bias and hatred. Gender
>identity, gender, and sexual orientation are among the most frequent
>categories of individuals subject to the brutality of bias crimes. We
>call upon our state and federal governments here in Pennsylvania and
>in Washington, DC to pass pending Hate Crimes legislation without
>delay. How many more of these outrageous attacks on our people must
>we tolerate before our elected officials display the courage to stand
>up for us and pass these bills?" asked Glassman.

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>The Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition will be hosting a vigil
>in response to these acts of hate and intolerance. The vigil will be
>held on the steps of the Harrisburg Capitol Building on Thursday
>August 15th from 7:00pm – 8:30pm.

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>"We are asking that all members of the Commonwealth be present as we
>mourn this tragic loss as this affects not only those involved but
>our community at large." Jennifer Storm, Managing Director of SPARC
>commented.