

BREAKING NEWS



Serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
Queer and HIV-affected Communities

March 5, 2011

AVP investigating the murder of John Laubach as a pick up murder; urges LGBTQ communities to use our safety tips

AVP has learned of the murder of John Laubach, 57, whose body was discovered in his Chelsea apartment on Friday night by a friend who went to check on him. Laubach had been bound and gagged and was pronounced dead by emergency medical responders arriving at the scene. On Sunday, the [New York Post](#) and several widely read [blogs](#) began circulating reports that Laubach's death may have occurred during a "hook-up."

AVP is in touch with the NYPD and the office of New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. We are also reaching out to community organizations and media outlets to follow up on this incident. **We will keep you informed of developments and ways to take action.**

AVP also denounces the victim blaming language used in the [New York Post article](#) and [related blog posts](#). The New York Post begins the article by stating: "A Manhattan floral designer who frequently picked up younger men was found tied up and slain in his Chelsea apartment in what may have been a sexual encounter gone wrong, sources said yesterday." This type of characterization by the media can create a stigma that prevents people from reporting dating or pick up-related violence.

AVP recently posted [safety tips about pick up violence](#). We encourage everyone to be safe and use these tips.

AVP encourages you to report violence, including hate violence, sexual violence, pick-up violence, or domestic/intimate partner violence to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek support, or you can [report violence anonymously online](#) via our website.

Find out more about the New York City Anti-Violence Project at our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).