



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Support Groups Offered In Wake Of Mass Killings

[Milwaukee]- A special series of support groups, aimed specifically at Gays and Lesbians in the aftermath of the Jeffrey Dahmer murders, will be offered by agencies in both Milwaukee and Madison.

The Counseling Center of Milwaukee will be offering a free, drop-in group for all members of the Gay and Lesbian communities to discuss their fears and anxieties and to help begin the healing process. The Counseling Center promises a safe, secure place in which to sort through feelings and experiences.

The supportive discussion group will begin on Sunday, August 11, and will run from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Additional sessions will be offered on August 18 and 25. The groups will meet at the Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett Avenue and will be facilitated by staff and trained volunteers from the Counseling Center's Women's and Men's Support Group Programs.

Gays and Lesbians interested in attending any of the sessions are asked to just stop in. For more information, call Cheryl Orgas or Tim Baack at (414) 271-2565.

Meanwhile, in Madison, the United will be sponsoring similar drop-in support groups for the Gay and Lesbian community there. Sessions are scheduled for Sundays, August 11 and 18 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the United, 310 E. Wilson Street.

The Madison support groups will be facilitated by Gay and Lesbian therapists and will focus on the grieving process and fears and anger felt in the wake of the mass murders. All interested Gays and Lesbians, especially those having a difficult time dealing with the terrible tragedy, are encouraged to attend.

For further information on the Madison support groups, call the United at (608) 255-8502.

Colders Asked to Drop Belling Sponsorship

[Milwaukee]- WISN Talk Radio host, Mark Belling, is under fire again from Milwaukee minority communities for his controversial views. The groups involved, which include Gays, Lesbians and African Americans, are asking his largest sponsor, Colders Furniture, to pull its advertising from his late afternoon show.

Many involved are reportedly outraged by Belling's recent characterizations of murders, allegedly committed by Jeffrey Dahmer, as the "logical extension" of the Gay lifestyle and of the victims as being responsible for their own deaths. (Belling has described the victims as people who made bad decisions and suffered because of it.)

A flyer that was distributed at the August 5 candle light vigil for the murder victims urged people to call Colders' advertising department at 476-1574 and ask them "Why Colders wants to be linked with Belling's ignorant and irresponsible views."

The flyer also refers to a show broadcast earlier this summer, during which Belling proposed that all Gay males be stamped as potential health risks because of the large number of HIV positive Gay men.

According to the flyer, "unanswered prejudice leads to discrimination, segregation and, ultimately extermination. Milwaukee need not tolerate this attempt to legitimize bigoted and homophobic ideas."

Last fall, Dan Fons helped organize ACT UP's successful campaign to get an on-air correction of some AIDS misinformation that was broadcast during one of Belling's shows. Fons called this current attempt to pressure WISN "right

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Shock and Skepticism Greet Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel

By Terry Boughner and Jamakaya

[Milwaukee]- Lesbian and Gay community activists expressed surprise and shock upon hearing of the make-up of Mayor John O. Norquist's nine-member "Blue Ribbon" Commission on Police-Community relations. The names of the commission members were announced at City Hall on Tuesday, August 6, 1991.

"I am thoroughly disappointed in the Mayor's response to every aspect of this whole horrible situation," said Kitty Barber, spokeswoman for the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, reacting to the make-up of the Commission and the aftermath of the mass murders here.

"It's obvious that we have a lot of work to do, not only with the politicians, not only with the general public, but with the Mayor's office as well," said Barber.

The Commission was formed by Mayor Norquist in response to questions raised about police-community relations after the disclosure that three officers had returned 14-year-old Konerak Sinthasomphone to the apartment of serial murder suspect Jeffrey Dahmer on May 27, 1991. Other charges of racism and homophobia have been leveled against the Milwaukee Police Department for its failure to fully investigate the disappearances of so many of Jeffrey Dahmer's victims.

The Commission is to examine the Police Department's service to the public, particularly in the area of responsiveness and sensitivity to minorities in the community. It is also expected to make recommendations regarding reforms in police training and procedures.

Among those named to the Commission was Gary Hollander, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and a UW-Milwaukee lecturer. Hollander has been a Board member of the Milwaukee AIDS Project for three years and is currently serving as its Vice-President.



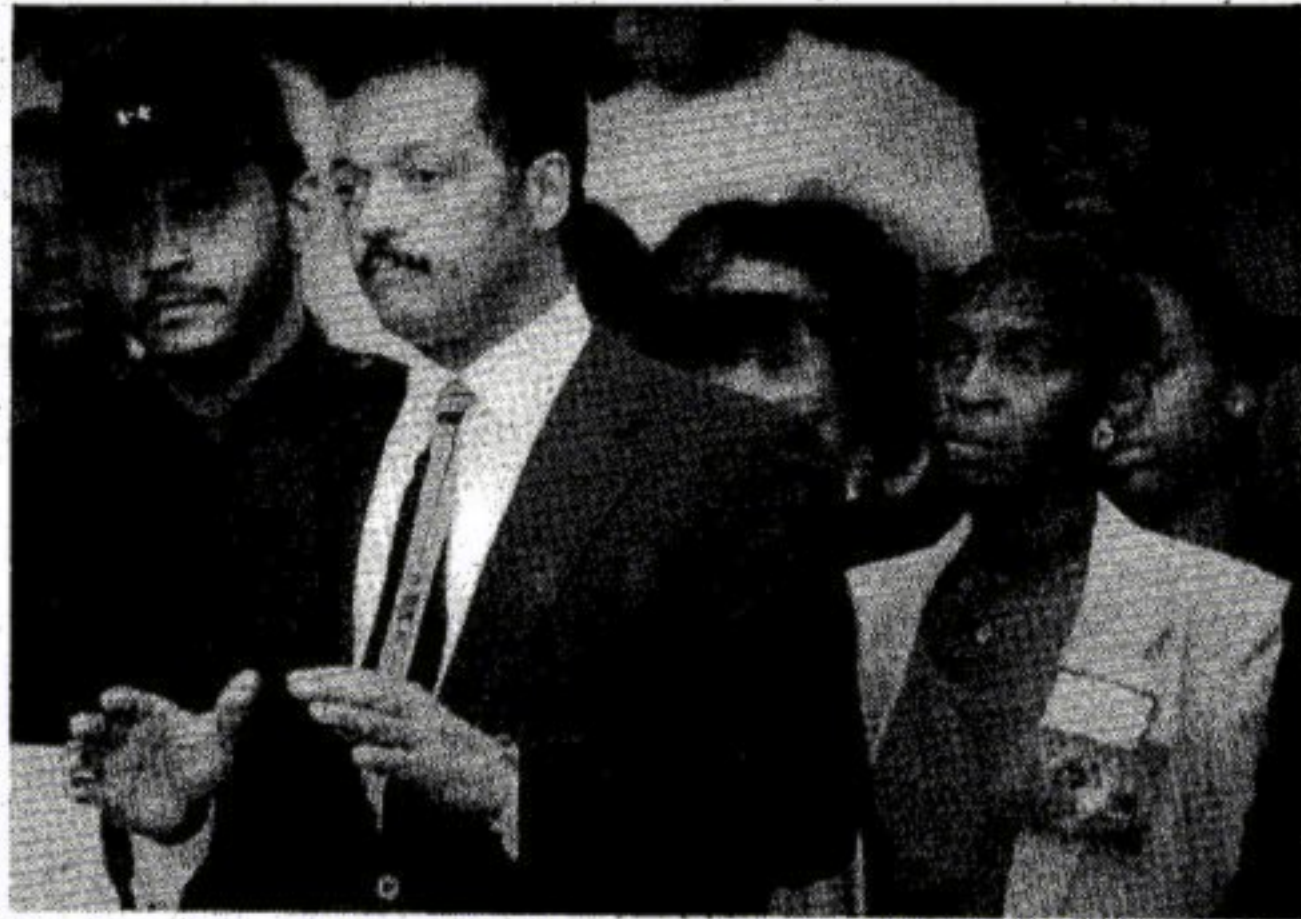
GARY HOLLANDER

Hollander, who is openly Gay, earned his Ph.D. from UW-Milwaukee in 1990 and wrote his dissertation on HIV disease and depression. He lives with his partner of seven years on Milwaukee's East side.

Reached by the Wisconsin Light on the evening of his appointment, Hollander said: "I'm very pleased to be appointed. I've been very disturbed by what's been going on in our community for some time and have been working through a lot of different channels to make changes."

Hollander said that as a member of the Commission, "I hope I can make some of those contributions more directly and be heard, which is always a concern."

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Rev. Jesse Jackson visited the Oxford Apartment building on August 7 in Milwaukee with Shirley Hughes whose son, Tony, was a victim in the Dahmer murder case.

Rev. Jesse Jackson Offers Support To Gay and Lesbian Community

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee]- "The people of conscience must come together. There must be a rainbow coalition of conscience that will include Gays and Lesbians and Blacks and Jews and all minorities," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson in Milwaukee on August 7, 1991.

Jackson spoke at a press conference at Milwaukee's Hyatt Regency Hotel attended by approximately 75 members of the local media. Jackson was in Milwaukee to meet with public officials, and to hold a service of healing for the grieving families of the mass murder victims and for members of the community at large.

Asked to address the Lesbian/Gay community in particular, Rev. Jackson did not hesitate to speak about the concerns of the Lesbian/Gay community and use the "G" and "L" words even as he had not hesitated to use them at the last Democratic National Convention.

In Milwaukee, he told the assembled press, "Lesbian people and Gay people" were victims of the "sin of indifference" of which, he said, "nothing is more damaging." He maintained that the serial murders committed in Milwaukee were "a logical conclusion of indifference."

Konerak Sinthasomphone, Jackson said, was a victim of indifference. "If Konerak were not Laotian, not brown, not [perceived as] Gay," Jackson said, "he would still be alive."

Speaking softly, Rev. Jackson roundly condemned the indifference to which he sees the Lesbian/Gay community subjected to from many outside its ranks.

The indifference to the fate of anyone, no matter that they are different, must stop, he said. "You are not your brother's keeper," he said. "You are his brother." He added, "Love covers all."

Jackson urged Gays, Lesbians, Blacks and all minorities afflicted by the system "to build bridges, band together," pointing out that people had to do this themselves.

His message, he said, was one of "Review, Reconciliation and Renewal," and in this process Gays and Lesbians

have a part to play.

However, he said, in our efforts we must not rely completely on help from officialdom. "When you march from Egypt to Canaan, you can't do it on a grant from Pharaoh," he said.

Much of what troubles Lesbians and Gays and all minorities, he noted, is lodged in a society that "breeds and feeds violence everyday as a way to solve problems."

Jackson also condemned the wide variation in resources given to the education of youth in the inner city and in the suburbs. "Six thousand dollars per young person in the city vs. \$12,000 for a suburban youth," he said. "One leads to UWM, the other to Waupun."

Afterward, one Gay activist present at the news conference said of Rev. Jackson: "Wouldn't it be nice if we had somebody like him in Milwaukee? We could sure use him."

New AIDS Care Clinic to Open In Milwaukee

[Milwaukee]- On August 23, 1991, Milwaukee will join the ranks of cities like Chicago, San Francisco, New York and others when a new HIV/AIDS clinic opens. The clinic, called AIDS Care Enhancement Health Institute (ACE-HI), staffed by volunteer practitioners from the community, will offer alternative complimentary therapies to those battling HIV/AIDS.

The co-founder and Director of Therapies is Arthur Shatluch, a board certified and licensed acupuncturist from Chicago who recently founded that city's Northside HIV Treatment Center (NHTC). Over the past five years, he has treated hundreds of people in the Windy City with HIV both in his clinical and private practice.

Co-founder and clinic administrator will be Bill Sparks of Milwaukee, a veteran HIV warrior since 1985. He has served as a buddy for the Milwaukee AIDS Project and, since 1987, a Brady East STD Clinic HIV counselor.

The new clinic is located at 1240A East Brady Street, (gate entrance) on the second floor. Initial clinic hours will be Fridays from 9:00-5:00 p.m. and will expand according to client needs and clinic resources. For more information or to make an appointment, call (414) 449-4939

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COVERAGE**
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