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

The Wisconsin Light

Anatomy of a Mass Murder And Community Mobilization

By Jamakaya

Milwaukee, WI [GLINN]. The gruesome mass murder uncovered July 22 in Milwaukee has sent shock waves through the Gay community here. It has raised fears about the already alarming level of anti-Gay violence, renewed charges of racism and homophobia against the Milwaukee Police Department and shaken the foundations of the social, political and criminal justice institutions in the city.

THE CRIMES

Several of the eleven victims, whose dismembered body parts were discovered in the apartment of Jeffrey L. Dahmer, 31, at 924 N. 25th Street, had met the alleged killer at Gay bars or Gay Pride events.

Tony Hughes, 31, a deaf man who had recently moved to Madison to escape the violence of Milwaukee, was last seen May 24 leaving Club 219 on Milwaukee's south side. Jeremiah Weinberger, 23, of Chicago, was last seen July 6, leaving Carol's Speakeasy in Chicago in the company of a man fitting Dahmer's description. Dahmer has confessed to Weinberger's murder.

In addition, Dahmer has admitted in an affidavit, that after attending Chicago's Gay Pride Parade on June 30, he met Matt Turner (aka: Donald Montrell), 20, at a bus station in Chicago and enticed him to come to Milwaukee by promising him money to watch videos and to pose nude for photos. Dahmer said he lured other victims with the same techniques.

Dahmer confessed, that once at his apartment, he drugged his victims, strangled them with a strap or his bare hands and then dismembered their bodies. He admitted that after killing Oliver J. Lacy, 23, of Milwaukee, he performed a sex act on the dead body.

Along with the severed heads and limbs and the vats of acid and formaldehyde recovered from the foul smelling apartment, police confiscated dozens of Polaroid snapshots of the victims — photos taken while they were still alive as well as of the dismembered body parts.

On Thursday, July 25, Dahmer was formally charged with four counts of first degree intentional homicide for the deaths of Weinberger, Turner, Lacy and Joseph Bradehoft, 25, of Milwaukee. He was also charged with habitual criminality. Cash bail was set at \$1 million. More charges are expected to be issued by the District Attorney's office on August 6.

DAHMER'S RECORD

Dahmer was previously convicted of disorderly conduct and fined in 1982 for an incident of indecent exposure at Wisconsin's State Fair Park. He received one year of probation for another incident in which he exposed himself to children while urinating in public in 1986. Most recently, Dahmer served 10 months at the Milwaukee House of Correction (with work-release privileges) between May of 1989 and March of 1990 for second degree sexual assault and enticing a child for immoral purposes. That incident occurred in 1988 and involved a 13 year old boy.

Konerak Sinthasomphone, the 14 year old brother of the youth assaulted in the

1988 case, has been identified as another of the victims whose remains were found in Dahmer's apartment. Sinthasomphone was a Laotian immigrant who came to the U.S. with his family when he was four years old.

Other victims, all from Milwaukee, include: Ricky Beeks (aka: Raymond Lamont Smith), 33; Errol Lindsey, 19; Curtis Straughter, 18; Ernest Miller, 24; Anthony Sears, 26; and Eddie Smith (aka: The Sheik), 28.

Eddie Smith was last seen at Milwaukee's Gay Pride Parade on June 16, 1990. David C. Thomas, 23, was last seen in September, 1990. The remains of both Smith and Thomas were not recovered at Dahmer's apartment, but Dahmer has told police they were murdered as well.

Of the thirteen victims positively identified so far, eleven were African-American, one was Asian, one was white. Dahmer is white.

On July 29, Dahmer admitted to police that he killed two Hispanic men he had picked up in Milwaukee Gay bars. Dahmer has also confessed to murdering Steven H. Hicks, 19, in Bath Township, near Akron, Ohio, in 1978. A search is underway for his remains.

IS DAHMER GAY?

Patrons at several Milwaukee and Chicago Gay bars recall seeing Dahmer. They described him as a loner, distant and moody, who didn't seem quite comfortable or able to fit into the Gay bar scene. Several men related stories of Dahmer trying to pick them up for the evening, often on nearby streets after Dahmer had left the bars.

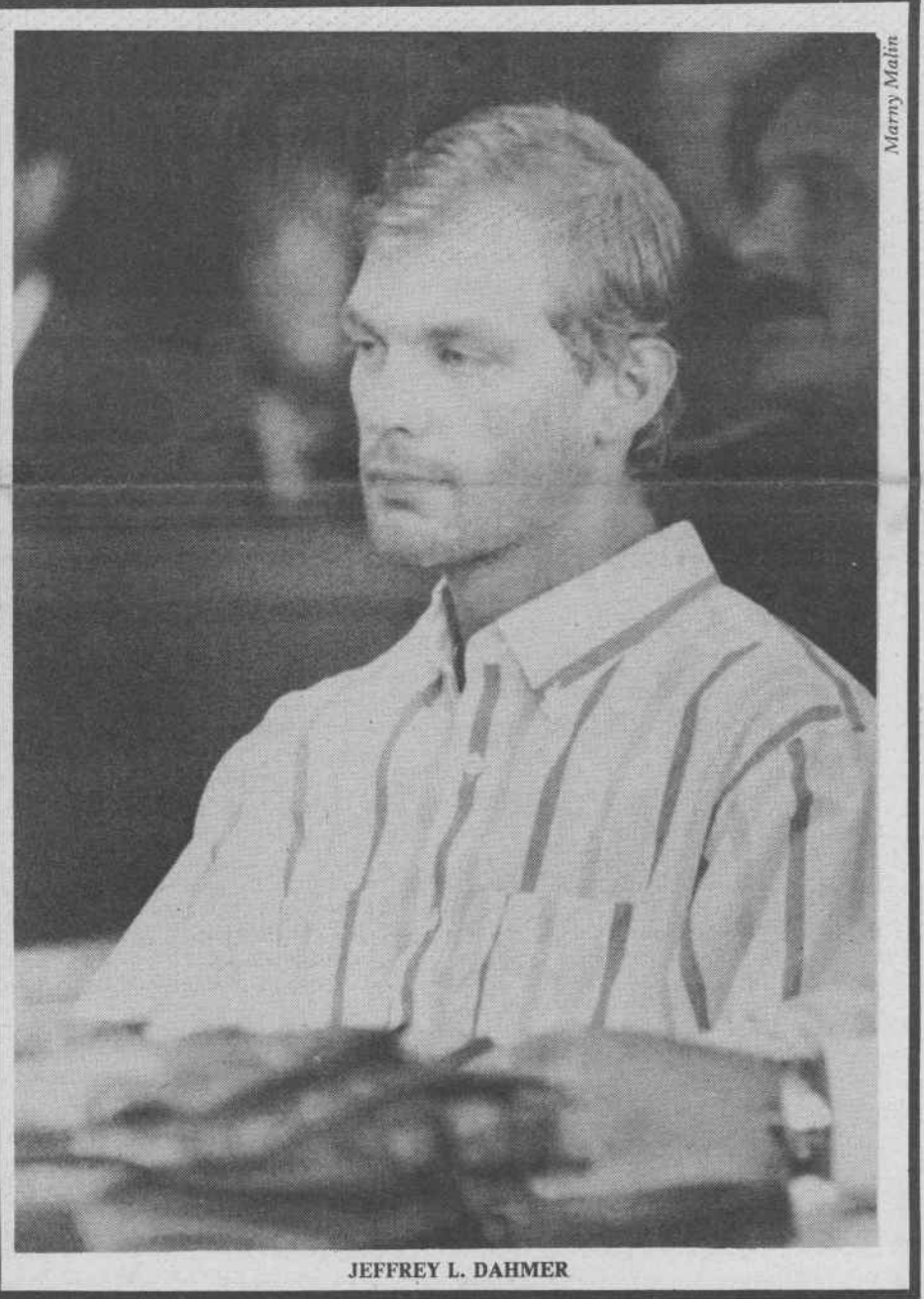
Prior to being sentenced for the sexual assault charge in 1989, Dahmer told Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge William D. Gardner that he was an alcoholic and a homosexual with serious sexual problems. On the other hand, several people who met Dahmer or knew him over the years, including a woman who said she dated him, said that Dahmer had often expressed hatred toward Gays and African-Americans.

Jean-Paul Ranieri, a lay brother in the Episcopal Church who ministers and counsels Gay men, said that after a long talk with Dahmer he concluded that Dahmer was "extremely homophobic," with an almost Christian fundamentalist view of homosexuality. He recalled Dahmer implying that AIDS was God's judgment on Gays. Ranieri once encountered Dahmer at the Wreck Room, a Levi-leather bar in Milwaukee. At that time Dahmer told him: "I'm not as Gay as everyone else in here."

Bradley Babush, a former employee at Milwaukee's Club Baths (which was forced to close by health authorities in December, 1988), said that in the summer of 1987, "We had to kick Dahmer out because he was drugging people in his private room."

Babush also related this chilling story. "One person from Madison was unconscious and we couldn't revive him. We called the paramedics and they took him to the hospital. He was in the hospital for a week to ten days. The police also came and talked to Dahmer and to our staff. But after questioning, the police

TURN TO DAHMER, PAGE 4



JEFFREY L. DAHMER

Thousands Expected For August 5 Candlelight Vigil and March

[Milwaukee]- In remembrance of the victims of Jeffrey Dahmer, concerned community groups will be holding a Candlelight Vigil on Monday, August 5, 1991, beginning at 7 p.m. at Juneau Park (Juneau Blvd. and Prospect Ave. in Downtown Milwaukee). Speeches at Juneau Park will center around remembering the victims, their lives, their friends and families and their contributions to Milwaukee.

The march, beginning at 8 p.m., will move down Kilbourn Avenue to MacArthur Square. Speeches will center around ways we can join together as a community and begin to rebuild Milwaukee.

The entire Milwaukee community is encouraged to attend the Candlelight Vigil. Those wishing to march should bring flashlights and/or candles and can assemble either in Juneau Park at 7 p.m., join the march down Kilbourn Avenue or

greet the marchers at MacArthur Square. Estimated time of arrival is 8:45 p.m.

Confirmed speakers include: Queen Hyler from Stop the Violence; Jeannetta Robinson of Career Youth Development; Scott Gunkel from Lambda Rights Network; Tim Grair from Queer Nation/Milwaukee; and Tony Hughes' mother. Hughes was one of the victims.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the march and vigil. Organizers need assistance in finding marshals to help with crowd control. Volunteers are urged to call Annabelle Havlicek at (414) 271-5819.

Organizers hope that all community members who care about the city will turn out for the march and vigil, mingle with their many neighbors of different backgrounds and interests, and help to begin the healing process for the whole city.

Marny Main

Homophobic Backlash Against Gays Intensifies In Wake Of Murders

[Milwaukee]- "I don't care if you queers die of AIDS or dismemberment. Do us all a favor though and hurry it up, OK? I hope Dahmer gets off on a technicality."

That anonymous letter was mailed to Terry Boughner, Executive Editor of the **Wisconsin Light** and postmarked July 26, 1991 in Milwaukee. The sender mailed it to the wrong address, to the office of another Gay publication, **Wisconsin In Step**, at 225 S. Second Street, but it found its way, via **In Step** publisher Ron Geiman, to the **Light**.

Dan Schramm, President of the Gay/Lesbian International News Network and typesetter for both publications, received the following message on his answering machine July 26: "Hello, this is Jeffrey Dahmer. I want your head in my refrigerator. Call me."

These are just a few examples of the homophobic backlash which has descended on members of Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian community since the Dahmer murder case hit the headlines July 23.

Bob Schmidt, owner of the popular M&M Club, at 124 N. Water Street, said he has received two telephone bomb threats since the murders have been in the news. He had a somewhat stoic — or resigned — attitude about it all, "We've had them before."

The **Light** followed up on the rumor of another bomb threat called into Club 219, 219 S. Second Street, but found that the threatening call apparently had been placed by a disgruntled patron who had been asked to leave the bar the night before.

Late in the evenings of Monday, July 29 and Tuesday, July 30, Gay bar patrons walking along the 200 block of S. Second Street were pelted with eggs by at least three rowdies in a passing vehicle. Witnesses identified the same car each night: a white late model Chrysler or Pontiac convertible.

People who walk along S. Second Street are advised to be on guard and to try to get the license number if such a car is seen in the area again.

Bartenders and patrons of the S. Second Street establishments have also detected a notable increase in the shouts of "Faggots!" and "Fucking queers!" from cars cruising by over the last week.

A bartender and patrons of Club 219 report that at approximately 10:30 p.m. Tuesday evening, July 30, two uniformed Milwaukee police officers entered the club and began to verbally harass patrons. They approached the bartender and demanded to know the location of the "S&M rooms where people were tied up and tortured."

Tommy, the bartender, said the incident was 'ridiculous' and that no one present, including volunteer health workers for the Brady East STD Clinic who were conducting HIV testing at the bar that night, knew quite what to say or how to react to the officers. After failing to locate the alleged "S&M rooms," the officers left without incident. One patron speculated that "it was just another attempt to harass us, as usual."

Numerous reports of insensitive and homophobic statements have flowed into the **Light** offices. While State Rep. Gwen Moore has received reports of comments

about "niggers" and "fags" circulating within the Milwaukee Police Department, the **Light** has learned of an incident in which Dave Orley, a lobbyist for the Milwaukee Police Association (the police officers' union), made less inflammatory, but equally insensitive remarks.

Ken Scott, a legislative aide at the Capitol in Madison, was present (with at least four or five other witnesses) in a Senate staff office on July 30 when Orley allegedly made the comments. Scott actually jotted down the words, as best as he could remember them, shortly after the exchange.

As Orley passed through the office, someone asked him whether accused killer Jeffrey Dahmer is Gay. "Oh yes, he's Gay," Orley reportedly said, chuckling. Orley then allegedly expanded on his views.

Scott recorded this opinion of Orley's: "People ask the police if it's hard to look at these murders. It's a lot harder for me to see a 10 month old baby with its head beat in. I feel more sorry for the baby. The baby was completely innocent."

Orley also reportedly said: "These Gays all chose the lifestyle which gets them killed."

Scott was deeply disturbed by what he perceived as Orley's homophobic, blame-the-victim mentality. He was so disturbed that he told the **Light** he was willing to risk being fired from his job for reporting the incident.

More blaming the victim attitudes have been expressed over the last week and a half by WISN Talk Radio host Mark Belling. The **Light** monitored some of Belling's shows and heard many inflammatory statements. Here is a sampling from his show on July 23, 1991, the day the murder hit the headlines:

"Most Gays that I've come in contact with are not happy — it's why they're always lashing out at society, and perhaps that's what's at work with homosexual overkill, it's the ultimate in lashing out..."

"When you hear some of the stories about the break-up of Gay relationships, and you see the tendency of multiple lovers and so on, you're seeing clear variance from societal norms. And if you take those variations to their logical extension, perhaps you see this kind of behavior ['homosexual overkill']. But if we're going to say there is such a thing as a Gay lifestyle, you can't then reject the notion that that lifestyle, at its most extreme and deviant, doesn't produce this kind of behavior..."

"Most Gay people that I know seem to be angry and they're constantly lashing out in one form or another. And if you take that lashing out and multiply it by a million, maybe you get this [multiple murder]

On July 29, on the eve of the first memorial service for murder victim Tony Hughes, Belling called Dahmer's victims (paraphrased here): "a handful of people who made bad decisions and suffered because of it."

Comments about Belling can be addressed to WISN Radio Program Director Richard Holcomb at P.O. Box 402, Milwaukee, WI 53201. The number at WISN Radio is (414) 342-1111. The fax number is 342-4734.

Judge Issues Restraining Order Against East Side Harassment

[Milwaukee]- On Monday, July 29, Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Leah Lampone issued a temporary restraining order against two East side residents who verbally harassed their neighbor and threatened him with physical violence because they believe he is Gay. The harassment seemed directly linked to the homophobic backlash surrounding the Dahmer mass murder.

According to court documents and attorney Thomas E. Martin, who identified his client only as "John," John gave the following statement to Judge Lampone under oath.

"On Friday, July 26, 1991, at approximately 5:40 p.m., both Respondents, John Patterson and his girlfriend, Renee Gossman, threatened me with physical injury, stating that they would have two 'skinheads' 'take care of a fag like me.' In the recent past they have called me 'fagman' and pasted the name 'Dahmer' over my name on my mailbox. Upon information and belief, they have smeared vaseline on my mailbox, plugged my apartment lock with crazy glue and caused damage to my car. Both respondents live [in the same building] where I live at ... East Bellevue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin."

Prior to the court action, John had moved out of his apartment, seeking refuge with friends. The matter had been reported to the Milwaukee Police Department, but officers reportedly told John, "It's your word against theirs," and took no action.

Judge Lampone found, however, "on the basis of the petition ... reasonable grounds to believe that the Respondents have violated Section 947.013 of Wisconsin statutes." That section prohibits anyone from "engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly committing acts which harass or intimidate the person [victim] and which serve no legitimate purpose."

Judge Lampone ordered John Patterson and Renee Gossman restrained, by order of the court, "from harassing the victim in any manner."

Patterson and Gossman have until Monday, August 5, 1991, to contest the temporary restraining order, at which time a permanent restraining order can be

ordered for eighteen months. According to court documents, violation of the restraining order can result "in a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 90 days, or both."

Attorney Martin commented that, "If John had concealed or hidden facts about himself, it would have been almost impossible to explain to Judge Lampone what was going on in this case. In my experience, when my clients are willing to be honest about themselves, the courts are more than willing to protect the rights of the Gay and Lesbian community."

"I am concerned about the very real potential for increased violence against the Gay and Lesbian community," said Martin about the Dahmer case. "I am also concerned that, in our city today, we sorely need political, moral and spiritual leadership to stop the hatred and stop the violence. And that leadership seems to be sorely lacking."

G/L Coalition Seeks Task Force Members

[Milwaukee]- The coalition of Lesbian and Gay groups that organized the July 29, 1991, press conference regarding the handling of the Dahmer cases needs more organizations and volunteers to participate in the 3 follow-up task forces dealing with: 1) police and authorities; 2) community groups and 3) media.

This is an excellent opportunity for us to make an impact in the community and work with neighborhood organizations. The authorities and media need our input. Please volunteer!

To get involved, please call the contact person for the specific area:

Police and Authorities — Scott Gunkel at 871-4839;

Community Organizations — Stephanie Hume at 342-8885;

Media Outlets — Kitty Barber at 264-2600.

FOR MORE INFO, CALL THE GAY LINES

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*They are not dead who live in lives they
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a life again,
and shall live, through the years
Eternal life, and grow each day more beautiful
As time declares their good,
Forgets the rest, and proves their immortality.*

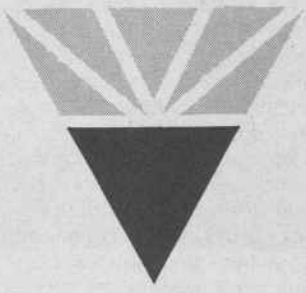
—Hugh Robert Orr



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will find their own way.

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GAY AND LESBIAN
PRESS ASSOCIATION

EDITORIAL

Investigate the Police Department, End Racism and Homophobia

The emotions unleashed by the mass murder discovered in Milwaukee on July 22 have led one observer to describe the city as suffering from a "collective nervous breakdown."

Horror at the initial discovery of the remains of eleven young men in Apt. 213 at the Oxford Apartments had, more than a week later, turned to anger, frustration, bitterness, recriminations and the makings of a major political scandal.

The **Wisconsin Light** joins with the many progressive lawmakers and community leaders, including those of the Gay and Lesbian community, who have called for an independent investigation of the Milwaukee Police Department. We all want to know why 14 year old Konerak Sinthasomphone and so many other vital young men — many of them African-American, many of them Gay — had to die.

That the racism and homophobia which appear to have contributed to the alleged killer's motivation may also be exhibited — whether actively or subconsciously — by the men and women sworn to protect us is a devastating prospect. But it **must** be faced and, then, quickly remedied.

Black citizens and Gay and Lesbian citizens of all backgrounds share much common ground. We have all experienced prejudice, harassment, exclusion, threats, cruelty. We know what it is to be treated by others as less than human. We know what it is to be "other." The present crisis is an unfortunate but important opportunity for us to recognize that common ground and to unite in common cause to rise above it.

The **Wisconsin Light** joins with Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian leaders in demanding an official liaison in the Milwaukee Police Department to work closely with the Gay and Lesbian community. Decades of bar raids, brutality, homophobic slurs and slow police response time must stop.

The **Wisconsin Light** demands a full definition and explanation of the bizarre concept of "homosexual overkill," as invoked by Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Jeffrey M. Jentzen in the case of Joachim Dressler. That nebulous term, casually repeated by police officers in relation to the Jeffrey Dahmer case and then disseminated throughout the media has caused enormous confusion and pain and defamed an entire community of people.

The **Wisconsin Light** calls on the mainstream media — both print and broadcast — to fairly and accurately cover the Gay and Lesbian community throughout the year, not just during our Gay Pride celebration in June or when an awful tragedy like this occurs.

The full picture of Gay and Lesbian life in Milwaukee reveals a diverse, creative, compassionate, productive, sometimes contentious group of individuals who, in the words of Kitty Barber, "have loving, caring and gentle relationships with our partners, our families, our friends and co-workers." It's long past time for that truth be told.

We want to express our deep sorrow and sense of solidarity with the family and friends of the young men who have died. The victims were our family and our friends, too.

Finally, we would like to join with Rep. Gwen Moore, one of the few Milwaukee leaders who has shown great and compassionate leadership during this crisis. Rep. Moore said: "Being angry and feeling rage is normal in the grieving process, but in order to move past that point we've got to pull together to work through this together. We cannot allow this one man to cause the implosion of our community."

Bars Urged To Close During August 5 Candlelight Remembrance

On Monday, August 5th at 7:00 p.m. the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian community will join neighborhood organizations and thousands of concerned citizens in a Candlelight Vigil and march. This is the least we can do in memory of the many victims of Jeffrey Dahmer, many of whom were Gay.

The taverns and nightclubs serving the Gay community, some of which were used as stalking grounds by Dahmer, have a responsibility and moral obligation to provide support for this candlelight remembrance.

During the Gay/Lesbian Pride Parade and Rally the bars stayed open. While thousands marched for Gay rights and pride, others only sat on their bar stools. While we march and remember the victims of Dahmer, no one in this community should be sitting upon a bar stool. Although it may seem only a gesture, at the very least, all Gay/Lesbian bars should encourage their customers to attend the vigil and march. At 7:00 p.m. they should close their doors. No one in this community should be sitting in a bar between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5th. To remain open during this period, for "business-as-usual" would be a callous disregard to the memories of the many victims, and a sad commentary on social and moral responsibility.

The **Wisconsin Light** and its staff call upon all taverns and nightclubs in the Gay/Lesbian community to shut down between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and join together at the Candlelight Vigil in Juneau Park and the march to MacArthur Square. Anything less is unacceptable.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

Breier Mentality Making Comeback In Arreola's Police Department

By Bill Meunier

The progress made in Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian - Police relations under former Chief Robert Ziarnik is gone. Under Chief Phillip Arreola even bar raids, a practice even the legendary Harold Breier abandoned, have returned. So, too, has mistrust, fear and antipathy.

And that is a shame. Most of the officers in the Milwaukee Police Department are good men and women who really do care about ALL of Milwaukee's citizens. The vast majority of them are doing a good job, but they are undertrained and underled. The problem is not with these officers. The problem is with the few bad ones and the Department's leadership.

Over the months the Gay and Lesbian community's suspicions over Arreola's apparent lack of understanding of us and our lifestyle has grown over his lack of concern has now manifested itself in a series of actions and inactions which tragically include the deaths of at least 17 young men.

Under Arreola we have seen men taken into custody when they moon a paying audience during a hot buns contest and when they are told that their G-strings are 1/2 inch too narrow, but not when they are naked and bleeding on the street.

The Gay and Lesbian community has

pleaded with Arreola to install Lesbian/Gay sensitivity training both for existing officers and academy cadets. He has even been warned that unless his officers got proper training people were going to get seriously hurt or even killed because too many of his officers equate Gay sex with violence.

You have probably heard the stories about the Milwaukee Police letting Jeff Dahmer drag a 14 year old boy, Konerak Sinthasomphone back into his apartment to kill him. We will never know if it would have made a difference had those three officers been given a realistic understanding of the Gay lifestyle through proper training. Would that have gotten those officers to show some common sense and investigate instead of just dismissing the episode as a "homosexual affair?"

We can thank God, that the two officers who encountered Dahmer's last intended victim had the diligence to do what should have been done months before.

The Konerak incident was not the only reported incident involving Dahmer and the Police. For example, there is also a young man who reported to police that Dahmer kept him prisoner and hit him with a rubber hammer. The Police admit they received the report but said "There was not enough evidence to investigate." Not enough evidence to investigate a 15

year old boy's account of a vicious encounter with a convicted child molester?

As the Chief Administrator of the Milwaukee Police Department, it is Arreola's job to formulate programs and policies that ensure that the various elements of the department are working together effectively and efficiently. No one said, "Hey we got a killer here let's leave him alone." But at the same time despite several reports about Dahmer, no one said, "Wait a minute I think there is a problem here."

The fact that several chances to stop Dahmer were bungled by the bureaucracy is a damning indictment of the Police Department's administrative shortcomings. And the fact that he has refused to make any statements reassuring the Lesbian/Gay community that it counts, too, makes us all the more suspicious and mistrustful of him.

What we know about Dahmer and the Police may only be the tip of the iceberg. But just as the shape of an iceberg comes from the top so does the shape of Milwaukee's Police Department. Arreola either doesn't care about the attitude of some of his officers or he is incapable of controlling the Department and stopping them from abusing us.

No matter how hard he tries, Arreola can not divorce himself from HIS responsibility for the tragedy that is still unfolding, just as we can not divorce ourselves from the horror, grief and shock that wells up whenever we think about it.

Milwaukee needs a Chief to do what Arreola was hired to do: build on what Ziarnik started in bringing the Police and minority communities together and modernize the Department — banging heads together if necessary. For some of us, Gay/Lesbian and Straight, our patience is worn to the point of being paper thin, others have no patience left. If he can't do the job he was hired to do, then lets get someone who can.

LETTERS

Outrageous Act

TO THE EDITOR:

In the Dahmer case the most outrageous act of Norquist's regime was the release into Dahmer's custody of a young man who was apparently a 14-year-old Laotian youth. Although two women saw the youth naked, bleeding, and dazed in the street, police who were called by them dismissed the incident as "a domestic squabble between homosexuals."

What would police have done had they come upon a naked, dazed, bleeding woman in a similar situation? It is hard to believe, given all the publicity and agitation over battered wives, that they would not at least have assured that she were alert and able to respond coherently to them. Instead, the old Breier discrimination ruled, and the safety of mere "homosexuals" was apparently not worth the ruin of a coffee break.

Only former Police Chief Ziarnik treated Milwaukee's Gay community decently, but had to be driven from office so Norquist could show his "liberalism" by appointing someone from a minority. A police department run by a white police chief from rural Alabama would be closely scrutinized for signs of racism, but few are brave enough to question the performance of a minority police chief.

When will Milwaukeeans wake up to what this Norquist really is behind all his public relations propaganda? Mike McGee has already awakened to the real Norquist, as have I, but what about the rest of you? What good are "Gay Pride" declarations from someone who appoints a macho closet-Breier to a position where he can do real damage to Gays?

—Name Withheld
Milwaukee

Missing

TO THE EDITOR:

I am seeking information regarding the whereabouts of Frederick M. Riss. When I last had contact with him in November, 1990, he was working in the power generation division of General Electric. He was on the road frequently due to his job, and was on assignment in the Cincinnati area at the time. He was staying at the Residence Inn in Sharonville, Ohio.

I met him in Boston during the city's 1990 Gay Pride Weekend when he was staying at the Sheraton Hotel in Leominster, Massachusetts. His main office at GE is in Salem, Virginia and he may/may not be keeping up an apartment in the Salem/Roanoke area of southern Virginia.

Any information that anyone may have will be greatly appreciated. Write to 1 Curtis St., Somerville, MA 02144.

—Frederick E. Vaughn
Somerville, MA

LETTER POLICY

Wisconsin Light actively solicits Letters to the Editor on any subject. However all such letters must be signed and contain the writer's address although the address is never printed and the name will be withheld upon request. All unsigned letters, notes and stuff scribbled on the sides of clipped columns will serve as cat box liner.

Community Responds to Murders, Demands Answers, Accountability

DAHMER

Continued from Page 1

didn't pursue it. None of the victims wanted to press charges."

HOMOPHOBIC REACTION

When the murder story broke late Monday and then Tuesday, July 23, police officers at the scene were quick to label the mass murders "homosexual overkill," a phrase widely reported throughout the print and broadcast media. Gay community leaders were appalled at such misleading and dangerous rhetoric.

Scott Gunkel of Milwaukee's Lambda Rights Network deplored the use of "homosexual overkill." "It tarnishes the entire Gay community for the acts of one deranged man. It ignores the violence Gays are subjected to all the time and contributes to greater homophobia and public fears about us."

The mainstream media backtracked a few days later, seeking the input of the Gay community. But Gunkel noted: "It's too late to retract this. You can't put a knife in somebody and then say, 'Oh, sorry,' and pull it out. It's too late. The damage is done."

Dan Fons of Queer Nation/Milwaukee agreed with Gunkel: "It's going to damage peoples' already limited perception of the Gay community. Being a heterosexual or a homosexual has nothing to do with being a serial killer. Words like 'deranged,' 'mentally ill,' and 'psychotic' are more accurate terms to describe it. Heterosexual or homosexual should be way down on the list."

Others questioned whether there was such a thing as "heterosexual" overkill and why that phrase was not also applied to criminal behavior.

Theodore I. Friedman, a psychologist who practices in Milwaukee and Chicago, expressed concern that, "There's a lot of pent-up homophobia out there. It [the murder] has unraveled a lot of nerves everywhere."



E. Michael McCann, Milwaukee County District Attorney.

Friedman said the term "homosexual overkill" had no basis in psychological theory. He described serial killers as "isolated, alienated individuals. It is not a homosexual issue. It is a human issue with many human dimensions."

In a press conference on July 24, Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Jeffrey M. Jentzen stated unequivocally that "homosexual overkill" was not applicable in the Dahmer murder case. Just days before, however, Jentzen himself had used that phrase repeatedly in the Racine County trial of Joachim Dressler, who is accused of killing and dismembering James Madden, 24.

Jentzen's denial did little to repair the damage already created. WISN Talk Radio host Mark Belling once again used his program to attack Gays and Lesbians. He suggested that Dahmer's alleged murder spree was the logical result of what he called the "homosexual lifestyle." And, on the eve of the first memorial service planned for victim Tony Hughes, Belling implied that the victims had brought their fates down on themselves.

Attorney Thomas E. Martin commented: "The entire city seems to be experiencing a collective nervous breakdown." Martin obtained a restraining order in Milwaukee County Circuit Court on July 29 against an East side couple who, since the multiple murders were revealed, have verbally harassed a neighbor with anti-Gay epithets and threatened the man's safety. (See related story.)

Since the mass murder was exposed, bar owners have reported bomb threats against their Gay establishments. The level of anti-Gay slurs yelled from passing cars outside the bars has also intensified. (See related story.)

Attorney Kathleen Hume said that her

"greatest concern" was that no one has focused on hate crimes. Despite the fact that Dahmer was said by many to be strongly anti-Black and anti-Gay, and despite the fact that his victims were overwhelmingly Black and some of them were Gay, the District Attorney did not charge Dahmer under Wisconsin's Hate Crimes statute.

POLICE NEGLIGENCE?

Serious allegations of police negligence have renewed charges of racism and homophobia on the part of the Milwaukee Police Department. Police officers apparently had the opportunity to rescue 14 year old Konerak Sinthasomphone and to arrest Dahmer on May 27 but bungled the case.

At 12:30 a.m. on May 27, two young Black women, Sandra Smith and Nicole Childress, saw Sinthasomphone running down an alley near 25th Street, fleeing from Dahmer. The youth was naked, incoherent and bleeding from the buttocks. One woman called 911 while the other attempted to shield the boy from Dahmer.

Childress and Smith said that when police arrived they listened only to Dahmer, who claimed that the boy was 19 years old and that they were just having a lover's quarrel. Officers refused to listen to the women and apparently could not or did not question Sinthasomphone. Given Dahmer's admitted modus operandi, Sinthasomphone may have been in a drug-induced state.

Childress told the **Milwaukee Sentinel**: "He [the officer] was listening to Jess; he was not listening to me... He told us to get lost or he would take us Downtown."

Deeply upset by the incident, Glenda Cleveland, Smith's mother, called police an hour later to see what had happened. She said police assured her that Sinthasomphone was not a minor, the situation was under control, and that the incident was merely a "domestic squabble between two homosexuals."

Despite the fact that Sinthasomphone's disappearance was reported by most of the local print and broadcast media at the end of May (newspapers even published his photo), and despite the fact that the boy's family filed a missing person's report, the police officers failed to make a connection. They took no further action.

The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office has determined that Sinthasomphone and at least four of the other victims were murdered after May 27, when police had the chance to apprehend Dahmer.

CHARGES OF RACISM

Representatives of the Black and Gay communities expressed outrage at the racism and homophobia they believe kept the police from investigating all the disappearances more aggressively.

Speaking at a protest outside Dahmer's apartment building on Friday, July 26, Rev. LeHavre Buck, Director of the Harambee Ombudsman Project, declared: "People of color are always viewed as the criminal. If that had been a Black man chasing a white boy down the alley, he wouldn't have killed anybody else. They would have investigated and done everything to find out what's going on. This is crazy."

Dan Fons of Queer Nation agreed: "It's pretty clear that if the people disappearing had been white daughters of middle-class people, the police would have been doing a thorough statewide search until they found out who was responsible. Because it was a lot of Black men, some of them known to be Gay, it was ignored completely. It should have been stopped much earlier."

Fons himself has been arrested several times by Milwaukee police during ACT UP protests, once while distributing condoms and safe sex literature at the Marquette High School homecoming. His perception of their attitude was this: "The police make it very clear that if you live the Gay lifestyle, you deserve whatever you get...I really think that's the attitude of the police, that as long as they think it's a bunch of Gay people hurting each other, it really doesn't deserve their attention."

Scott Gunkel, who works as a bartender at Milwaukee's Club 219, commented on the slow response time when police are called to an altercation or a Gay-bashing incident at the bars. Lack of police response is a complaint that has been voiced for years by the city's African-American citizens.

MORE BASHING

Gunkel noted that during the time when the victims were disappearing one by one, Milwaukee police were focussing instead on raiding strip shows at Gay bars. On



Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola and Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Jeffrey M. Jentzen spoke at the July 24 news conference about the Jeffrey Dahmer mass murders.

March 28 this year, almost 30 officers closed down Club 219 in the midst of a "Hot Buns" contest. Thirteen citations for disorderly conduct were issued. As recently as July 19, two male strippers were arrested at the Triangle bar for indecent exposure. Ironically, the Triangle's strip show that night was a benefit to raise funds to combat hate crimes.

Gunkel said that after the disappearance of Tony Hughes in May, Hughes' family members came around to the Gay bars and to the Gay Pride Parade in June to mingle with the Gay community, ask for tips about his whereabouts and generally spread the word. Gunkel admires the love and concern Hughes' family exhibited, but asked, "Where were the police detectives? Why weren't they doing their job?"

POLICE PRIORITIES

State Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Milw.) reinforced this perception of police negligence. She said that when the family of Errol Lindsey reported him missing to the police in April, "They received a very cavalier response — 'Well, he's grown,' police allegedly said."

Gunkel also demanded to know why, if the police officers perceived their contact with Dahmer and Sinthasomphone in May as a "domestic squabble," they didn't invoke Wisconsin's mandatory arrest law for cases of domestic violence. That law applies to all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

Said Gunkel: "I really hope the police administration conducts a thorough investigation and that the D.A. looks at possible criminal neglect charges against these officers if they are indeed warranted. Anything short of that will smack of a cover-up and once again victimize both the Black and Gay communities."

COPS SUSPENDED

On July 26, Milwaukee Chief of Police Philip Arreola announced that the three officers who had contact with Dahmer and Sinthasomphone on May 27 had been suspended with pay until a full investigation can be completed.

Bradley DeBraska, president of the Milwaukee Police Association, the police union, quickly criticized Arreola's action, claiming it made scapegoats of the three officers and denied them their due process rights. He also called for a vote of confidence on the chief.

"If the membership returns a no-confidence vote," DeBraska said, "we will demand that the chief resign and be replaced by someone who can serve both the community and the department." DeBraska said that Arreola had bowed to pressure from groups in the community and implied that some sort of job action ("blue flu") could result from the suspension.

The police union is seen by many in Milwaukee's Gay and minority communities as a conservative organization which has opposed many of the attempts at modernization — including court-ordered recruitment of more women and minorities as well as race, sex and Gay sensitivity training — over the last eight to ten years.

While Chief Arreola was under attack by the police union, Rep. Moore called for the state Attorney General's Office to conduct an independent investigation of the all the actions and procedures of the Milwaukee Police Department. She has received reports of jokes about "niggers" and "fags" circulating among officers and insisted that an internal investigation by the police themselves would lack credibility.

GAY DEMANDS

Leaders of Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian community held their own news conference on July 29 and lambasted the

media for its sensational coverage of the murder and the police for their apparent negligence in the case. They insisted on a comprehensive, independent investigation of the police department and ongoing education on Gay and Lesbian issues for all police department staff. They demanded an official liaison from the Milwaukee Police Department to work with the Gay and Lesbian community and called for leadership from the Mayor's office and the Police and Fire Commission in implementing these reforms.

In addition to the apparent police negligence, other revelations point to more inadequacies and disparities in the criminal justice and social service delivery systems.

For instance, despite Dahmer's well known problem with alcohol, documented in court records and probation reports, he never received any treatment for alcoholism. In October, 1990, Dahmer voluntarily visited the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex, but left after a short wait without ever being treated.

In another glaring oversight, the state probation agent who was assigned to regularly visit Dahmer in his home following his sexual assault conviction in 1989 did not follow through on those visits. She was excused from doing so by a supervisor because of a heavy caseload.

Mayor John O. Norquist, who had been conspicuously silent during the entire week of extraordinary events rocking his city, finally issued a statement on July 29.

The Mayor said: "If the allegations are confirmed by a court of law, it appears not only were the slayings vicious, but they were racist and homophobic. This city will do absolutely everything within its power to ensure that the person responsible for these unspeakable crimes is put behind bars and never, ever let out."

The news conference was cut short after angry members of the Black community heckled Norquist for what they perceive as his tardy remarks and the lack of leadership he has displayed during this crisis and, more generally, on issues affecting the Black community.

The horrifying murder story and the subsequent grief, anger and recriminations which have enveloped the city of Milwaukee have made it seem as if the city is, indeed, suffering a "collective nervous breakdown." In a press conference on July 29, Gwen Moore tried to calm rising emotions.

"There's a lot of polarization in the community: Black against white, heterosexual against homosexual, the police department against the police chief, the community against the police. We need to move beyond the rage all of us are feeling," said Moore.

"Being angry and feeling rage is normal in the grieving process, but in order to move past that point we've got to pull together. We cannot allow this one man to cause the implosion of our community."

MEMORIAL VIGIL

A Candlelight Vigil to Remember the Victims of Jeffrey Dahmer is expected to bring thousands of concerned people into the streets of Milwaukee on Monday, August 5. It is sponsored by an impressive coalition of Gay and Lesbian, African-American, civil rights and neighborhood organizations. Speakers are likely to call for changes in the criminal justice and social service systems and in the way the media covers crime stories and the Gay and minority communities.

On the positive side of the ledger, the grisly mass murder discovered on July 22 had, by a week later, united and mobilized Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian and Black communities as never before and threatened to force major, long-overdue changes in the city's attitudes and institutions.

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Gay, Lesbian Community Leaders Issue Demands to Police, Media

Kitty Barber, President of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee

Ever since the term "Homosexual Overkill" was used by Racine County Assistant District Attorney Lennie Weber and Milwaukee County Medical Examiner Jeffrey Jentzen in the Dressler murder case right up until the early edition of yesterday's *Milwaukee Journal* whose headline read "Gay Misfit" to describe Jeffrey Dahmer, authorities and media alike have linked Gays and Lesbians with murder and violence.

Medical Examiner Jentzen, without definition and without explanation, used this unclear term "Homosexual Overkill" time and time again. Repeated calls to his office have not been returned and our questions remain unanswered. When the Dahmer murders were uncovered, the police immediately and irresponsibly used this term to describe that case as well, again without any source, explanation or definition.

The media, in turn, repeated and reprinted this term over and over again — confusing the victims with the perpetrators in the minds of the public. This has led the public to see us as criminals — when, in fact, we have been the victims of these horrible crimes.



KITTY BARBER

We demand that the Medical Examiner issue a public statement explaining his use of the term "Homosexual Overkill," where it came from and what, if any, equivalent heterosexual terminology exists.

Repeatedly, the media has used the term "homosexual" and "Gay" in relation to this serial killer. This association has encouraged the public to believe that Gays are criminal and that violence against Gays and Lesbians is acceptable. This belief has resulted in a dramatic increase in harassment and threats against us just in the last few weeks. Gays and Lesbians are being harassed on the street and local bars are receiving bomb threats regularly.

The terminology used by the authorities and by the media has emphasized and reinforced the worst stereotypes of Gays and has equated our lives with murder and violence. The truth about our Gay and Lesbian lives has been consistently ignored. The truth is that we have loving, caring and gentle relationships with our partners, our families, our friends and co-workers.



SCOTT GUNKEL

These murders have been described in the press as "deviant homosexual behavior" and equated with typical Gay life. We don't know if the killer is Gay or not. HIS sexual orientation is irrelevant. His behavior is deviant by ANY standard and the fact that some of his victims were Gay does not add to or detract from the horror of his crimes, but it does make clear that these were crimes of hate — hatred of Gay men and especially Gay men of color.

We also protest the racist portrayal by the police and the media of the neighborhood in which these crimes occurred as a place where only drunks, addicts, prostitutes and drug dealers reside. This serves to further dehumanize the victims.

The truth is that families with children and good men and women also live in this neighborhood. Blacks and Asians and Gays and poor families are not disposable people. Where we live, who we love and the color of our skin does not make us responsible for these crimes against us, nor does it make our lives any less valuable.

The media has tremendous power to influence and educate the public. We need you to present an accurate portrayal of the Lesbian and Gay community, our issues and the facts in this case. We ask you, sincerely, to involve us in the creation and implementation of ongoing education and information programs on Gay and Lesbian issues for your staffs, especially for those in news and editorial positions.

We hope this will be the beginning of a stronger working relationship between the media and our community.

We are asking all the authorities, including the Milwaukee Police Department, as well as the media to please stop maligning the people who are the target of this violence.

Scott Gunkel, President of Lambda Rights Network

Every day in Milwaukee, Gays are harassed, attacked and even murdered because of our sexual orientation. We are victims — victims of ignorance, intolerance and hatred.

We are not alone — people of color, women and those in poor neighborhoods are also victimized daily. This is the thread that connects us. Not only were these men the victims of a mass murderer, but also of a police department that did not even NOTICE, much less act on the disappearances of so many young men, most of whom were Gay and African American and were last seen in the same neighborhoods.

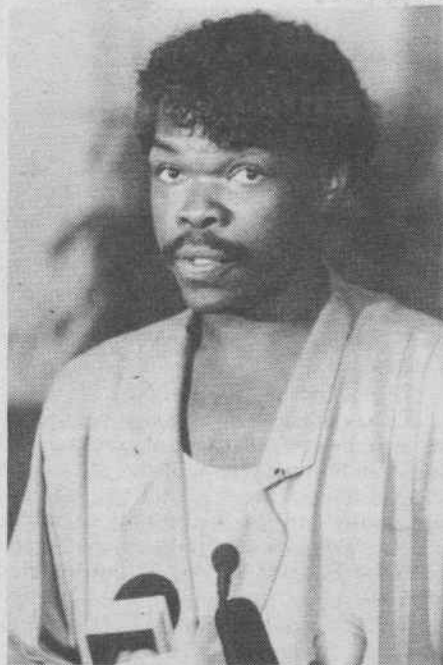
The Lesbian/Gay community is outraged by these murders, and the totally inadequate way the police handle people of color, Gay and Lesbian and impoverished communities. The police have failed us all by victimizing the very communities they are sworn to serve and protect. When an officer makes a statement "that down there life is cheap" this only works against us all.

Incident after incident, victims of crime have reported that police ignore them, even threatening them with arrest. The police only see us as deviant perpetrators of violence. Such attitudes result in continuous victimization and violence against us.

The Milwaukee Police Department has a lengthy history of harassing the Gay/Lesbian community instead of protecting it. The failure of the police department to relate to the Gay/Lesbian community, as evidenced by the mishandling of the many missing persons reports, most of whom were Gay Black males, as well as mishandling the Konerak Sinthasomphone report, has contributed to the deaths of these victims. The Police Department and the individual officers must be held accountable to the communities involved and to the victims' families for their actions.

Therefore, the Lesbian/Gay community makes the following demands:

- 1) A full-scale, comprehensive investigation by outside authorities of the Milwaukee Police Department's failure to protect citizens who are people of color, Gay and Lesbian or poor;
- 2) An official liaison from the Milwaukee Police Department to work with the Gay and Lesbian community;
- 3) Involve us in creating and implementing on-going information and education on Gay and Lesbian issues for all police department staff;
- 4) We call on the Mayor's office and the Fire/Police Commission to take a leadership role meeting our demands.



LARRY TAYLOR

Larry Taylor, Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee

Speaking on behalf of the Black community and Gay Blacks in particular, I would like to address our feelings concerning this tragic situation. First, I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to all the families who lost their sons to this gruesome crime. This absolutely sickens me, that a man like Jeffrey Dahmer can come into our community, stalking and murdering so many of our young men.

Myself, I am hurt because this man took the life of a dear friend of mine, Tony Hughes who was a caring, loving, warm individual. Many friends, straight and Gay, have also been victimized by Jeffrey Dahmer through the loss of their friend Tony. I can not look outside my window without seeing this man standing there, or walk through the mall without thinking "It just can't be!" Tony Hughes' family has searched for weeks and months to find their son/brother. We as a Gay family gave this information to the police and nothing happened. I would just like to say that, "If this was your child or your brother, what would you do?"

All of us, no matter what color skin, Gay or straight, need to work together because we all bleed the same color blood.

L.G. Shanklin Flowers, Resource Associate, Milwaukee Associates in Urban Development

Out of this deplorable incident is created an opportunity for us to unite, as a broad-based community, to stop the violence. People of color, Gays and Lesbians and poor communities share many of the same problems, the same issues and the same enemies. We are all called to join together to make our entire community a safer, more vital place in which to live.

If we work together, we are no longer the minority — we are the community. If we allow ourselves and our communities to be divided, we will be picked off — one by one.

To this end, members of our Gay and Lesbian community have invited other organizations and neighborhood groups to join us in holding a candlelight vigil for the victims on Monday, August 5, 1991 at 7:00 p.m. We will gather at Juneau Park and march to MacArthur Square. We invite other concerned citizens of Milwaukee to help us remember and rebuild in peace.

Reverend Buck Attacks Classism, Racism, and Homophobia

[Milwaukee]—The following is the text of the statement given to the media at City Hall, July 29, 1991 by Rev. LeHavre Buck, Chair of the Coalition of Community Groups.

...

First of all we extend our deepest sympathies to the families who are suffering through this tragedy.

We should not be here right now. This should not have happened. We are a coalition of community groups comprised of concerned citizens representing every facet of life in the City of Milwaukee, be it political affiliation, race, religion, economic background, gender, sexual orientation or age.

Today we gather at City Hall because it is the source of the highest administrative power. The Mayor, the police department, the Attorney General, other government offices and other public officials have allowed the institutionalized classism, racism, and homophobia that exists in our city and state departments to continue, and each must be held accountable.

Yesterday we heard from the city and state officials. Today the city hears from its citizens.

Representative Gwendolynne Moore (D-Milwaukee) said that this incident has caused a great deal of rage. We as citizens, have dealt with a lot of negligence — blatant disregard of the value of human life.

Poor follow-up on missing children
Lack of following police procedure.

Disrespect for the rights of people who do not speak the English language.

We have waited for community oriented policing and we have waited too long.

It is inexcusable to us that it takes a serial killer to bring to the forefront issues that community groups have raised for years.

We are asking all citizens' groups to join forces to create a community agenda that we, the citizens of Milwaukee, will use to hold our government officials accountable.

To this end, we are establishing a task force which will be gathering at Harambee, 335 W Wright St., Thursday, August 8 at 6:00 p.m.

We are asking citizens to support State Representative Polly Williams' (D-Milwaukee) memorial fund at North Milwaukee State Bank. This fund will go to aid the families of the victims.

We also plan to hold a memorial service for the families of the deceased and members of the community.

For more information on the memorial fund and the task force, call 264-7822.

Now is the time to pull together.

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Fear, Shock, Paranoia Expressed By Apprehensive Community

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee] - "You don't know who to trust anymore," said John, a young Black man sitting having a beer at This Is It. The **Light** was out at Milwaukee's Gay bars on Tuesday, July 30, seeking more reaction to the multiple murders from the Gay and Lesbian community.

Bob, an older man at the same bar agreed. "Yes, it frightens me," he said, referring to the recent killings alleged to have been committed by Jeffrey Dahmer.

Mike Stocke at M&M admitted to being "more suspicious of people" and, he added, in his view "people are looking at each other differently." He also noted that, having no car, he was "frightened of going from bar to bar now."

People at other bars also agreed.

Basia at Club 219 said, "I'm afraid of meeting people. It's awful. Who can you trust now?" she asked. She noted that maybe some good would come of "all this;" that the community would "band together" but added, "it's a shame it has to be because of this."

Rick, a young, handsome and well-built man having a beer at the Boot Camp said that "I'd think twice about going home with anyone I met." He added that he didn't think anyone should go home with somebody "unless you've met them five or more times."

Fred at the Boot Camp said, "Yes, definitely, I'm more afraid." He and his lover had been subjected to verbal harassment on 2nd Street, he said. "It was scary." When they went into the Phoenix, he said, a "Black person asked 'Are you going to kill me?'" It was asked in all seriousness, Fred added.

Throughout the bars the reaction seemed much the same: fear, shock, and "paranoia," along with a great outpouring of grief. J.P. at C'est La Vie expressed sorrow over the death of "The Sheik." "He was always friendly," J.P. said.

Jeff, a young man standing in front of 219, wept openly for Tony Hughes, one of the victims whose funeral had been held that day. Jeff had come from his home in Florida to grieve for his friend.

Kelly, an older woman at C'est La Vie, seemed to sum things up. "Shit, it's going to hell," she said, referring to a world that, after the Dahmer case, Casy, a young Black man called simply "insane."

Then, as this reporter and his spouse were standing outside C'est La Vie talking with J.P. and Larry, a white Pontiac convertible drove past. There were three men inside. They hurled eggs at the people standing in front of the bar as they drove off. Larry and J.P. said the same vehicle had been around before.

Reactions to Dahmer

People's reactions to Dahmer, the alleged murderer, were varied, ranging from anger to trying to understand him.

The Tuesday night bartender at Fannie's said she favored capital punishment for him — and other criminals. Lois said Dahmer should be "done away with," and both heartily resented what they saw as the media's connection of Lesbians and Gays with violence and mayhem.

Penelope at Fannie's also resented the emphasis she saw in the media on 219. "They [the media] don't play up straight bars if a straight murderer kills people," she said, and then added, "I feel relieved that they caught the nut."

Cory at La Cage said he was disgusted at what he saw as Dahmer's "lack of remorse."

Fred at the Boot Camp said he "felt sorry" that Dahmer didn't get the psychiatric treatment he needed while he was in jail.

Mark Bucher wondered if someone early on in Dahmer's life had befriended him, "could some of this have been

stopped?" Bucher said he thought that if Gays would "just be ourselves," not just interested in others and physical beauty for the sake of sex, "we'd have a lot less violence." Bucher refused to blame anyone in particular beyond Dahmer for the mass murders. "Too many people dropped the ball on this," he said.

A number of people remembered having seen Dahmer. Henry Kokemueller said that he'd "noticed" him, but "he wasn't someone I would have talked to. He didn't present himself like someone who wanted to be there [in the bars]."

Kokemueller, who said he had known four of the victims, was asked why he thought anyone would go home with Dahmer.

"He had a sly approach," Kokemueller responded. "He was attractive. I'd have gone home with him if I'd been in the mainstream." Kokemueller, a popular and well-known female impersonator, said he had heard from "some other performers" that Dahmer "favored drag queens."

Mike Stocke, a former owner of the New Statehouse Bar located near Marquette University, also said he remembered seeing Dahmer in his bar. "He wasn't friendly," Stocke said. "He wasn't a guy you'd talk to." Stocke recalled that Dahmer was a polite man. "He always said 'please' and 'thank-you'" and always drank screwdrivers.

Tom, who asked, like most of the others interviewed, not to be fully identified, said he saw Dahmer frequently in the Grand Avenue Mall in downtown Milwaukee. In retrospect, Tom observed, "He was like a Nazi stalking the Grand Avenue Mall."

Dan Fons had a different reaction. He said that Dahmer had "an insidious affect on me." Fons said he couldn't "see someone and not think of what Dahmer had done." "I see elements of Dahmer in myself," he said, agreeing that everyone has a dark side to them that the vast majority keep well under control, but that none of us like to admit to having.

General Reaction

Several of the bars reported that business had been "slow" since the Dahmer case broke.

However, others reported "no loss of business."

Yet others, such as J.P., reported that "People are coming back."

Over and over again, people wondered what could be done to prevent the same kind of thing from happening again. Jack Kelly offered the idea that "We need to look at why people are put into vulnerable situations. We as a community need to pull more people into the fold," he said. He added, "We can't stop the sociopath, but we can make people less vulnerable."

Penelope at Fannie's urged the need for education of the non-Lesbian, non-Gay community and warned, "You don't sleep with the first person you meet."

In the end, if anything could be said to have mitigated the situation somewhat, it was, as Rona said, the Lesbian/Gay press conference held Monday, July 29 at City Hall. "I've never been more proud of the community," Rona said, adding that it made shivers run up and down his spine to see and hear the participants. "Kitty Barber was phenomenal," he said.

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State Rep. Gwen Moore spoke at a news conference on victim assistance and matters related to the Dahmer mass murders as the State Attorney General, James Doyle looked on.

Victim Assistance Experts Meet With Traumatized Citizens

By Terry Boughner

[Milwaukee] - "This is not a finite trauma. The community is being traumatized and re-traumatized. Healing will take a long time," said Dr. Stephanie Hurd. Hurd was speaking on July 30 to a group of over 50 care-givers from all over Milwaukee, meeting at the offices of the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

Hurd is one of eight members of the team sent by the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) at the request of State Rep. Gwendolynne Moore (D-Milwaukee) to aid and assist community groups, Blacks, Gays, Lesbians, Hispanics and others, in developing strategies to cope with the aftermath of the murders in the Dahmer case.

NOVA is an all volunteer, not-for-profit crisis management group made up of psychologists and other highly trained professionals. Team members go throughout the country to help traumatized communities deal with their trauma and begin to heal.

Hurd, a psychiatrist, pointed out to the group that the term "homosexual overkill," seemingly used first in open court by Jeffery M. Jentzen, Milwaukee County Medical Examiner, "has no meaning." She told the audience that she had never heard the term before coming to Milwaukee.

Hurd told the group of care-givers to be prepared for an increase in depression and suicide. When asked for statistics on suicide rates among Lesbians and Gays, she replied that there were none. "Gays," she said, "are an invisible community in the United States."

Hurd also expressed "dismay" over the "myths about the Gay community prevalent in Milwaukee" and said the community would have "difficulty in dealing" with these myths.

Hurd also expressed doubt if Jeffrey Dahmer, the man accused of the serial killings, was Gay. She pointed out that homosexuality is a "normal" sexual expression. Abnormalities such as pederasty and "sexual sadism" are not. These latter, she said, are sometimes exhibited people who feel powerless. She also pointed out that "95% of all

pederasts are heterosexual."

"Just because Dahmer was not able to have a meaningful relationship with a woman," Hurd said, "doesn't mean that he's Gay."

What to Expect

Hurd and Ted Kirk, another member of the team and a psycho-therapist, handed out fliers describing what crisis reactions might be expected.

In the physical area, one can expect shock, disorientation and numbness. Also a "Fight or Flight" reaction that includes heightened sensory perception.

At a meeting of community leaders held July 30 at the Milwaukee Public School Administrative Center, Marlene Young, another member of the NOVA team, described a woman and her four sons who were shot in a burglary attempt. The woman, lying wounded on the floor, thought she heard water running. What she actually heard, said Young, was the blood of her sons spilling out onto the floor.

In the area of emotions, reactions include anger/rage, fear/terror, frustration, guilt and much grief.

These things, Young said, are part of shock and can be felt "for years."

Hurd and Kirk agreed, telling the group at the Milwaukee AIDS Project that one should not expect grieving such as was happening over the Dahmer case to go away in "three months." Grief and other trauma will last much longer, they said.

Kirk said that the community should know that the grief, anger and fear were "valid." He added, "underneath the anger is fear, but it's not only fear, it's terror."

The NOVA team was in Milwaukee for three days, during which time they held meetings with representatives of the police department and various Milwaukee communities. There was a debriefing for the Lesbian/Gay community held at the Milwaukee AIDS Project on July 31 in the evening. It was for the purpose of people freely expressing their feelings and responses to the Dahmer crisis. The meeting was closed to the press.

Homosexuality Is Not Chosen Like Selecting Clothes or a Line of Work

[New York, NY] - "Homosexuality is not chosen, like selecting clothes or a line of work. No one knows how human sexual orientation is determined. In discussions covering nearly a decade with hundreds of families with Gay children, we have found that the Gay child is most often aware of his/her homosexual orientation at a very early age.

"None of the children was influenced or taught to be Gay by any person. In homes where Gay children try to become heterosexual, all attempts fail. Being Gay is not just a state youngsters go through. Family fears of 'catching' homosexuality, or being 'recruited' at school or elsewhere are unreasonable and, utterly without scientific foundation."

Dr. Jack Weinstein, M.D. American Psychiatric Assoc. as quoted in Lakeshore P-FLAG Newsletter, Sept., 1990.



THIS IS IT!

In Memory of the Brothers We Have Lost

Joe, June and Staff

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Gay Youth Leader Remembers Victims and Mourns Their Loss

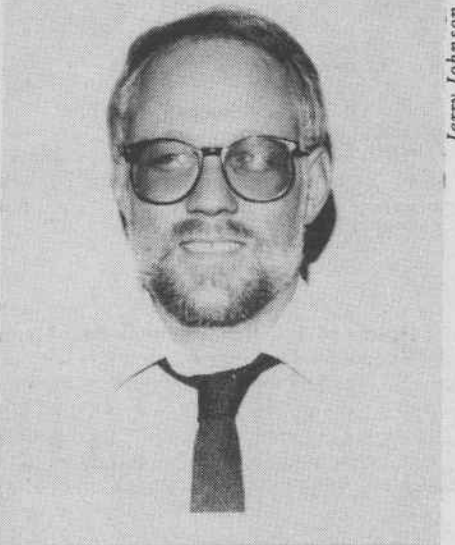
Editor's Note: The writer of this memorial is the Director of Gay Youth Milwaukee and works as an educator with the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

By Michael S. Lisowski

Having known four of the victims of the alleged killer, Jeffrey Dahmer, this tragedy has affected me in ways that I never thought would impact on me.

The one person whose death really hit me hard was Curtis Straughter, known as "Demetra." He was a member of Gay Youth Milwaukee. Demetra was 15 when he first called me about the group, and subsequently attended his first meeting at the Public Library. That was about three years ago. I remember; he was 15.

Demetra made friends easily and was well liked by other members in the group. My impression was that he did not have many friends to hang around with at the time and found the group the perfect vehicle to a new social circle of friends.



MICHAEL LISOWSKI

Having lived only blocks away from me, he would occasionally stop by or call to talk. Sometimes, my house would be a meeting place for some of the guys before they went off to the mall or to a movie on Saturday afternoon.

The personal tragedy about Demetra, for me, is that I sometimes wonder if maybe I could have done more for him, or maybe helped him out in more ways. He never really opened up much on personal issues when talking with me, but felt very comfortable talking with one or two close friends about matters that concerned him.

In the short time that I knew him, I feel good about Demetra being able to be among friends where he could feel safe and at home. Gay Youth Milwaukee at least provided that space for him.

"What Ifs?"

When I reflect about this whole sordid affair, I ponder many "What Ifs?" What if Demetra had been with a friend that fateful day? What if he had let someone know where he was going (if he even knew)? What if he had confided more in me, and I could have done something or foreseen something? What if he would have done this or that? I'll never know.

Demetra wanted to be a model, and maybe he could have achieved that status someday. I do know that he never had much money, if any, and would occasionally need bus fare. This is why Jeffrey Dahmer's lure may have worked well with Demetra.

I feel especially torn by Demetra's loss. I also feel in a limbo state. Anytime I became very familiar with the guys in the youth group, watching them come out of their shells, helping them deal with their developing orientation, watching them struggle through the doubt, anxiety, the joys and the pains of growing up Gay, I became very "motherly," almost protective.

These were my kids in a special way, a way that their own parents would most likely never be able to know them. I was able to know their 'secret' and watch each of them grow and develop as their 'secret' gradually became less and less a reason to hide from parents, friends and themselves. To know that these kids would grow up and, finally, everything would be okay for them was suddenly shattered by Demetra's death.

I felt like a mother/parent who suddenly could not account for all her 'children,' like the mother duck who panics when one of her ducklings is missing or has been killed. And because the guys live all over, we were not able to gather together to huddle for safety's sake. I know that as soon as Demetra's death was announced, Demetra's friends instantly phoned one another in the hope of bonding together in their shock and

grief, even if over the phone.

A Crossroads

Reflecting on the impact this whole tragedy has for our city and for the Lesbian and Gay community, I believe that we are finally at a crossroads, both as a city and as a community. It is unfortunate that it takes something so evil and malevolent to happen to our loved ones to finally commit ourselves to action. This is where we can direct our rage, our anger and channel it into constructive change for our city and for our Gay and Lesbian community.

We can blame the police, City Hall, the court system, Jeffrey Dahmer, etc., but that will not bring Demetra, Tony, Eddie or Ernest back. But we can work at doing our best to see that something like this does not have the opportunity to manifest itself again.

The positive elements are already in motion: the Gay/Lesbian community is being acknowledged and sought out in coalition-building with other community and cultural groups to deal with the tragedy; the Gay/Lesbian community is rallying around to help out its own by providing channels for us to deal effectively with the emotional and psychological aftermath that many of us will have to endure; the African-American community and other ethnic groups are working with each other and with us to demand change in our institutions, especially the Police Department, which has not been responsive or sympathetic to our concerns; religious leaders in the Black community want to sit down and work together with us — something which is unprecedented in this city; the Police

Department or the Fire and Police Commission are beginning the process of establishing a constructive liaison to the Gay/Lesbian community.

These are truly changes that would not have come about, unfortunately, without such a tragedy to set off the needed spark for change.

Although many in the city are trying to deflect the issue of sexual orientation of homosexuality in this tragedy, it nonetheless hangs like a pall over the entire affair. Let us finally acknowledge that the alleged killer is a disturbed and pathetic man regardless of his sexual orientation. Yet, it is the homophobia in our Gay and Lesbian community and in our city that has allowed these incidents to occur.

Accepting Diversity

Our failure to deal with diversity in people, whether it be the color of their skin or their sexual orientation has brought us all to this tragic turning point. Now is the time to confront the racism, sexism and homophobia in all of us and to confront them directly. If we pass by this opportunity now, we will only be further torn apart as a city and as a community.

After years of networking within the school system, there is finally light at the end of the tunnel for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual students. Soon there will be recommendations presented to the Milwaukee Public Schools' Board of Directors to implement programs and policies to deal with concerns facing Gay and Lesbian students in the Milwaukee Public School system.

By finally dealing with issues of diversity in sexual orientation, students, teachers and families — in effect, all of us — the walls of separation, indifference, intolerance, fear and bigotry can be dismantled and eventually torn down.

We all long to live for the day when

sexual orientation will be less of an issue to abuse or isolate a young person, to live for the day when concerns and fears about sexual identity and confusion can be discussed in safe environments within our schools with teachers and personnel who will empathize with these young people; to live for the day when sexual and cultural diversity will be celebrated and affirmed; to live for the day when young people will not have to endure isolation, abuse, suicidal thoughts and attempts and low self-esteem.

That day will come only when we work together to make it happen. It is unfortunate that it took this tragedy to get us moving toward these goals.

I believe that we owe this to those who have been needlessly murdered. Otherwise, our hatred and our fear will drive the wedge deeper between us as a community and as citizens of Milwaukee. Let us not let Demetra and the others die in vain. We owe it to Demetra, Ernest, Tony, Eddie and all the others.

But we must believe that we also owe it to ourselves and to the Gay and Lesbian community that will inherit what we so diligently strived to attain: a Milwaukee community that celebrates and affirms everyone regardless of race, culture or sexual orientation. Let's put aside our differences once and for all and walk hand in hand as we build a better Milwaukee together.

Demetra will be smiling upon us.

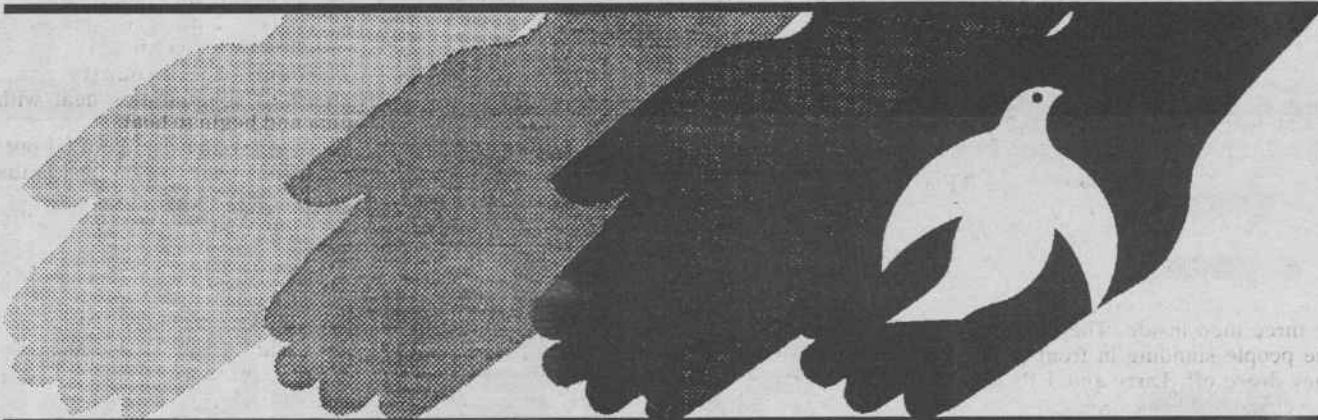
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Those wishing to march should gather at Juneau Park by 7:00 pm. Please bring flashlights or candles. At 8:00 pm, we will begin to march down Kilbourn Avenue to MacArthur Square. A program of inspirational speakers will follow.

SPEAKERS

Queen Hylér ■ Stop the Violence
Jeannetta Robinson ■ CYD, Inc.
& Other Community Leaders and
Local Government Officials

PERSPECTIVE: No Satisfaction In One Man's Confession

By Maytee Aspuro

I have read the press reports. I have watched the local, as well as the national media coverage. I have listened to friends, peers and strangers discuss the Jeffrey Dahmer mass murder case.

Expressions of shock have been a constant denominator and I have been left wondering why any adult would be shocked. I can understand why a child with no knowledge of our violent society would be stunned but any adult who experiences life even in a most protective shell could not be surprised that hatred, homophobic and racist hatred, will manifest itself in such a sheer disjointed violence.

How can this latest mass murder exercised by one man distress the Gay community, the city of Milwaukee, the nation, anymore than the record breaking murders of Afro-American men that occur on a daily basis? How can the Dahmer murders when raised to the light of the historic traditions of child molestation, of the rape of women, Gay bashing and the epidemic increase of violence against the elderly, be deemed more worthy of our attention or our horror?

The horror I can not escape is that the violence of our world is a reflection of the hatred of difference and diversity. It is the violence of the powerful against the less powerful or the less powerful against the helpless or unsuspecting.

Actions void of "reason" frighten. There is no safe place to ensconce oneself. If it were a case of incest I would reassure myself that as an adult I am no longer at risk. If it were "only" a racist killing I could try to convince myself that though Hispanic I do pass for white and can find safety on either side of the racial dynamic. If it were a case of rape I would tell myself that by being careful and limiting a man's access to me I would remain untouched. If it were a case of elder abuse I could look in a mirror and let my youthfulness console me. And if it were a Gay bashing I could cloak myself in the fact that I am a Lesbian and tell myself that most attacks are against Gay men, be that true or not.

I have been told that once touched by violence an individual will never be the

same. I believe the difference is that those who experience violence can no longer pretend that they are invincible. Mortality and pain are fused with an acknowledgment of the all too real hatred that drives our society.

I am all too aware of the history of violence institutionalized by governments and religions. It is a history that dwarfs the reality of Jeffrey Dahmer's actions. But by focusing on one atrocity politicians and commentators will call the event an exception. What is not said because it is too painful and "unthinkable" (for we should not think) is that Jeffrey Dahmer's actions are logical given the hatred that surrounds us.

I wish I could feign shock but I cannot. I wish I could pretend that the Dahmer murders are just an isolated event but they are not. I wish I were not so cold in my assessment but I want the nightmares to stop both in my sleep and in my waking hours.

To stop the nightmares I have to face the fact that Dahmer's violence is not a quirk within the fragile mind of one man but an undeniable component of a society with little compassion or tolerance for those who live within its domain.

Dahmer's actions have been referred to as "unspeakable." Too much about our society is left unspoken. Voices of victims if truly heard would raise a wave of sorrow that would shake our very ability to function.

Questions are being asked and blame is being tossed about to find reason for what has happened. The Milwaukee Police Department has many questions to answer. The limitations of our criminal justice system and our social services are once again denoted as contributors to a tragedy. Jeffrey Dahmer taking full responsibility for his actions does not resolve the turmoil. Blaming him is not enough. There is no satisfaction in the simplicity of one man's confession.

In the past two weeks my companion has not been the fear of the unknown but the fear of the all too familiar. The Dahmer murders have briefly opened a door to a world none of us wants to admit we live in.

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Milwaukee Police Chief to Consider Gay/Lesbian Liaison

[Milwaukee]- Milwaukee Police Chief Philip Arreola will consider a proposal to establish a Lesbian/Gay liaison for the department. This according to Sgt. Susan Edman, Police Department Public Information Officer.

Edman said that the proposal for a liaison came from a meeting between members of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) and Deputy Inspector James Koleas.

NOVA is a professional crisis intervention team in Milwaukee to help develop coping mechanisms and other strategies for the community in the wake of the serial killings.

Edman said that the proposal, along with others, will be submitted in writing to Chief Arreola for his consideration. A decision will be made at an unspecified date.



Milwaukee Mayor John O. Norquist spoke to the community about the Dahmer murders at a press conference.

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