

In Hansen case

Out-of-state link to gay killing doubtful

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Chances are growing more slim that there is any connection between a series of homosexual murders in other Midwest states and the murder-dismemberment of Eric Hansen.

A detective from the Indiana State Police contacted Sheriff's Lt. Lee Ormson late Monday to compare notes. Ormson said today the differences in the Indianapolis slayings and the Hansen case seem strong, but authorities will continue to review the possibilities.

The torso of the 18-year-old St. Francis resident was found on Oct. 4 in Petrifying Springs park. Hansen's arms, legs and head had been severed, and the torso, wrapped in a plastic bag, had not sustained any wounds.

Hansen was prominent in Milwaukee's gay bar scene and was a homosexual prostitute, like the eight Indiana victims.

Indiana State Police report that in those slayings, which began in 1981, the victims died of multiple stab wounds and were buried in shallow graves in rural areas. None of the victims were dismembered. The Indiana victims were between the ages of 15 and 25.

Unless it can be established that the crimes against gay men are traveling northward, Ormson said there may be no link at all. Ormson said sheriff's detectives are almost certain Hansen never traveled out of Wisconsin during the last few weeks of his life.

Capt. Larry Carmichael, Indiana State Police spokesman, acknowledged in one report that his agency does not presently suspect any strong link between Hansen's death and those in his state.

Illinois authorities are investigating a link between the bodies found in Indiana and slayings of gays that have taken place throughout the Chicago area.