



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

The Wisconsin Light

Three Charged With Hate Crime in Eau Claire Bar Fight

(Eau Claire, WI)- Three Eau Claire men accused of verbally abusing and striking patrons outside a Gay bar have been charged with disorderly conduct and battery as a hate crime.

Steven W. Endle, 42, Rocky P. Morzenti, 37, and Thomas M. Alley, 41, intentionally selected the victims because of their sexual orientation, prosecutors said.

Endle, Morzenti and Alley had drinks at Scruples bar September 12 and began making loud, derogatory comments against Gays in the bar, a criminal complaint said.

The three left the bar and returned at 11:53 p.m., where they confronted two men and a woman leaving the bar and verbally abused them, the complaint said.

One man was knocked to the ground and kicked in the neck and face, while the other man was grabbed by the throat, the complaint said. Both sustained injuries and needed medical attention.

Endle, Morzenti and Alley were ordered to appear in Eau Claire County Circuit Court on November 14. They each were released on a \$500 signature bond and have been ordered not to go near Scruples.

If convicted, the men face a maximum penalty of a \$20,000 fine and three years in prison.

National Poll Shows Concern for Values but Rejection of Religious Right's Agenda

By Peter Montgomery

(Washington, D.C.)- Most Americans are concerned about the state of moral decay in our society, but they wholeheartedly reject the Religious Right's view of the world and how to effect change given the opportunity. These conclusions were gleaned from a new nationwide voter survey conducted in August by Peter D. Hart Research Associates for People For the American Way.

The survey of 1,002 voters was commissioned by People For to evaluate American attitudes toward values in public life, religion and politics, and the Religious Right political movement in particular.

"We wanted to get beneath the superficial rhetoric that often passes for public discussion of values and religion," said People For's President Arthur J. Kropp. "We found that

Gay Man, Woman Chosen Homecoming King, Queen at UW-Stevens Point

(Stevens Point, WI)- Electing a Gay man and a Lesbian as homecoming king and queen at UW-Stevens Point is a vote for acceptance, the winners said.

Trevor Ilk and Nancy LeBeau, president and public relations director of the 10 Percent Society, respectively, were crowned September 29 after ballots were cast by about 600 students.

"I think it's a complement to the students who elected the homecoming king and queen," said Keith Sanders, Chancellor of UW-Stevens Point. "The students did not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation."

Sanders went on to note that Ilk's and LeBeau's election was in the spirit of Wisconsin's early maintenance of civil rights for Gay people.

Ilk said he thinks the campus is a lot more accepting of him and other LesBiGay students than it was when he first enrolled.

"For the most part, the number of negative prejudice-type things have been minimal considering the high profile, which I suppose can be another example of the changing climate on campus," Ilk said.

LeBeau said she's gotten opposition from Right Wing Christian groups on campus, but not from any of the ministry groups as a whole.

Jim Sautner, campus director of Student Impact, former Campus Crusade for Christ, said that "homosexuals are all sinners. It's wrong, just like adultery. We need to learn from God."

Congress Adjourns Without Passing AIDS Funding and Clean Water Bills

Ryan White Act Stopped by Partisan Battles



Native American Hero--Driven by a passion for freedom in the film "Squanto: A Warrior's Tale," (Adam Beach, right) escapes from his captors' ship during a raging storm and is rescued by Brother Daniel (Mandy Patinkin, center) a compassionate monk who shelters this stranger in a strange land and teaches him the English language and customs. "Squanto" is now playing in theatres nationwide.

(Milwaukee)- "The Congress adjourned with a ton of unfinished business on AIDS policy which puts in great jeopardy critical programs that comprise the country's primary attack against the AIDS epidemic," said Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

Nelson was giving an update to recent stories in Wisconsin Light concerning the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act.

"We fought hard in the final hours of the Congressional session to reauthorize the Care Act and came away defeated, frustrated, and angry that the intense partisanship of this Congress prevented us from getting the bill to the floor of either the House or Senate," Nelson explained.

"If we had gotten to the floor, we knew we had overwhelming support to pass the Care Act," Nelson continued. "We had 65 Senate co-sponsors and 130

House co-sponsors which is an unusual display of bipartisan support for an AIDS issue," Nelson said.

"Our problem was that the entire Congress was in the throes of jockeying for partisan advantage in the upcoming elections and Republican leadership, in particular, held forth on their strategy to procedurally block movement on any bill that would reflect positively on the Democratic Congress and the Clinton administration," Nelson said.

"So, while we knew the votes were there in the Senate and the House for passage, we were defeated by procedural barriers and the buzz saw of Congressional politics," Nelson said.

The Ryan White Care Act is the primary vehicle for Federal funding of AIDS care and treatment. It was originally enacted in 1990 and must be reauthorized for a new five year period. The national AIDS community wrestled intensely with the controversial formulas of the Act which directs critical funds to communities throughout the country.

Highly controversial negotiations on the inequity of the formulas were forced by ARCW's Nelson this past Summer, which resulted in changes that assure more equitable funding and a 66% increase in Care Act funds to Wisconsin.

"We've been through nine months of enormous struggle within the AIDS community to make the Care Act more equitable and to gain consensus and unity," Nelson said. "We essentially converged on Washington in the final two weeks of this Congress with a unified plea to reenact this bill and reassure people with AIDS throughout the country that care and support services would continue to be well funded by the Federal government."

"It's tragic that the Congress didn't act and that in the midst of this AIDS crisis it leaves substantial uncertainty about critical resources for those of us who are on the front lines of the epidemic," Nelson said.

"Congress as a deliberative policy institution failed us while it succeeded quite well in its partisanship," Nelson commented.

Nelson reported that national AIDS leaders have already begun the reauthorization strategy for the next Congress. The Care Act must be reauthorized by the Fall of 1995. Many AIDS leaders, Nelson included, are expressing great concern about the prospects for reauthorization if there is a more conservative new Congress that results from the November elections.

Nelson signaled out praise Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) for his "steadfast commitment" to greater equity in the Care Act and for quick reauthorization of the bill.

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seem poised to go as far as they can in eroding the legitimate separation of church and state.

Survey respondents want leaders who understand the need for strong moral values in our society, but who also understand the dangers of using government and politics to impose moral and religious viewpoints on others.

The gap between mainstream voters and the Religious Right's agenda grows even larger on a number of specific issues that are at the core of the Right's "culture war" agenda.

- Religious Right candidates often oppose comprehensive sexuality education in public schools and promote "abstinence only" curricula that leaves out vital information. An overwhelming 71% of registered voters support comprehensive sex education that begins with abstinence, but also includes information on birth control and disease prevention; 67% say that the Religious Right's opposition to teaching students about birth control methods used to prevent AIDS and other diseases and pregnancy gives them serious concerns.

- Americans prefer, by a huge 66% to 28% margin, to meet the country's educational needs by concentrating on improving the public schools rather than using public funds to send children to private schools, as the Religious Right advocates.

- 60% of all registered voters say they would be more inclined to support a candidate who believes the choice on abortion should be left up to the woman, with few legal restrictions; 65% say they would have serious concerns about the Religious Right's support for making nearly all abortions illegal.

when you move beyond broad 'traditional values' rhetoric and concentrate on specific issues, Americans will almost always reject the positions promoted by Religious Right political leaders.

Kropp predicted that the survey will prove to be exceedingly useful to citizens joining forces to challenge Religious Right political initiatives at the grassroots as well as at the national level.

"Rather than shying away from a debate on values, progressive and mainstream citizens should embrace that discussion," Kropp said. "At the same time, voters should force Religious Right politicians to go beyond empty appeals to 'traditional family values' (which most Americans, Gay or straight, long for) and explain clearly what specific policies will be dictated by their interpretation of those 'values'."

Despite the broad appeal of candidates who stress traditional values, only 24% of the public say they would be more likely to support a candidate who was closely associated with established Religious Right groups and supported positions associated with Religious Right organizations, while 41% say they would be less likely to support such a candidate.

72% of voters are familiar with movement patriarch Pat Robertson, but those with unfavorable impressions outnumber those with favorable impressions by 42 to 33 percent.

Most voters say they are uncomfortable with Religious Right political leaders who

MAP Praises Mayor Norquist's Clean Water Budget Commitment

(Milwaukee)- The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), which has historically been at odds with Milwaukee's City Hall over the city's cryptosporidium crisis, is strongly praising Mayor John Norquist's 1995 budget commitment to clean water, and is aggressively lobbying Common Council members to support the Mayor.

"Mayor Norquist's budget to improve Milwaukee's water system keeps his promise to the people of Milwaukee that we will have the cleanest water in the country," said Doug Nelson MAP's Executive Director.

"More importantly, the Mayor is making a solid commitment to the AIDS community through these improvements that virtually guarantee that we will never again have a cryptosporidium outbreak," Nelson said.

"We are deeply grateful for the Mayor's leadership and his clear understanding of the importance of clean water to people with AIDS," Nelson said.

Mayor Norquist's 1995 city budget includes an \$89 million water rehabilitation

package which would establish three protective barriers to assure clean water.

The package includes funding to move the Texas intake pipe further out into Lake Michigan to improve the quality of raw water entering the system.

The package also includes replacing the aged filtration system at the Linwood and Howard Water Plants and initiating ozone disinfection treatments at both plants.

Nelson spoke before a Common Council hearing on the Mayor's budget and strongly urged members to support the complete package.

"The wisdom of the Mayor's clean water plan is that it is comprehensive and that it invests in ozonation treatment which kills cryptosporidium and other bacteria that virtually assures that we will not have another water crisis," Nelson said.

"No one in Milwaukee should have to worry that our drinking water will either sicken them or kill them," Nelson told the

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