

Today's weather High: 92 Low: 75 Partly sunny Details / A-10

All about POGs fad / Kids, Inc., C-1



LA CROSSE Tribune

FRIDAY MORNING AUGUST 18, 1995 50 CENTS

D.A.: Saints won't be charged

Woman's lawyer assails district attorney; vows to sue players, team

Peterson: Saints 'lied'

By ANN LADD
Of the Tribune staff

Attorney Lynn Peterson of Minneapolis, Minn., said she was shocked that authorities conducted a criminal background check of her client, but didn't make a similar check of several New Orleans Saints players.

Peterson's client accused the players of raping her on Aug. 4. "I think there was a decision not to charge before the investigation began," Peterson said, adding that the players "lied repeatedly" to police.

In addition, a La Crosse detective threatened the victim during her initial interview by telling her that she would come after her. This threat occurred just hours before the rape took place, Peterson said.

Milwaukee La Crosse County assistant district attorney Ron Kind's decision against charging the players, Peterson said. "If the Saints are to remain a significant source of income in La Crosse, it is not surprising that elected officials will give the benefit of the doubt to the powerful, rather than the little person."

La Crosse police investigator Tom Pristak said Thursday that during his initial interview with the woman, he asked if she had a criminal record.

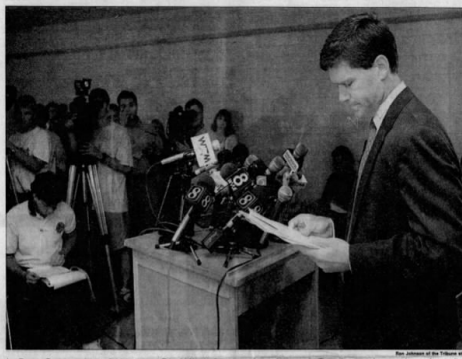
"I don't know why I asked it just then," he said. "I never discovered nothing but a 'minor traffic infraction' upon conducting a background check, he said.

Peterson said she and detective Joe DeHann did not ask any of the suspects about their past and criminal behavior.

"We just didn't ask them. I don't have any reason why we didn't ask them," Pristak said. He went on to say police may have done so "if we had been looking at a particular subject... at the point in time we didn't see a reason to do that."

Peterson said she offered to share a background check she conducted on the players with Kind. Kind said he was not allowed that information, and said she was criminal check on Wednesday turned up a misdemeanor arrest conviction from 1991 against one of the players.

■ Woman hoped doing strip act / back page



La Crosse County assistant district attorney Ronald Kind informs members of the media Thursday that charges of sexual assault will not be filed against members of the New Orleans Saints. Kind's news conference was held at the La Crosse County Courthouse.

Kind says woman not believable

By GRANT BLUM
Of the Tribune staff

It took three to credibility, said La Crosse County assistant district attorney Ron Kind.

Kind and other investigators believed that they would be unable to convince a jury that a woman had been raped by a New Orleans Saint.

As a result, Kind announced Thursday that he would not file charges against several Saints players who were accused by a 19-year-old Minneapolis, Minn., woman of sexual assault.

Kind said that the woman's version of the events would cast doubt on the allegations of the woman, a nude dancer at a downtown Minneapolis club. The woman had accused the players of raping her at a University of Wisconsin-La Crosse dormitory in the early morning hours of Aug. 4.

The woman said she left a bar with three players at about 1:30 a.m. Aug. 4 and went to a player's room in Sanford Hall. It was there and possibly in another room that the sexual activity occurred from 2:30 to 3:30 a.m., Kind's report said.

Kind said that four people are known to have had sex with the woman, but that the woman offered contradictory stories. One player said the woman performed sex acts with at least six players.

"I believe that the credibility of the woman who reported the assaults would be insufficient to convince a jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the sexual contact she had with numerous Saints players was not consensual," Kind said.

Kind said that the woman could not account for an hour of the time she spent in the dormitory. In addition, he said the woman told one woman after she left the dorm that she had consensual sex with three Saints, later said a UW-La Crosse police officer that it was one.

Kind said that interviews with Saints, meanwhile, provided a consistent pattern of information about what happened.

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SAINTS CASE CHRONOLOGY

By GRANT BLUM
Of the Tribune staff

The following is an edited interview account of what occurred in the early morning hours of Aug. 4 in Sanford Hall on the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus. They were compiled by La Crosse County assistant district attorney Ron Kind.

THE WOMAN'S VERSION:
The woman said she went to Sanford Hall with three Saints players after meeting them in a downtown La Crosse bar. She said she went to the room of a person identified only as Player 1 and had consensual sex with him.

The woman said a second player then came into the bedroom and tried to have intercourse with her, but she pushed him off after hearing it was not Player 1. She said she then tried to leave the room but another player came in, grabbed her and attempted a sex act. The woman said she had

to go to the bathroom, but players forced her to relieve herself in a waste basket.

Another player then came in, took her to his room and attempted a sex act with her. She demanded to be taken back to Player 1's room after realizing she had forgotten her car keys there. She said Player 1 would not let her leave, and she threatened to jump out of a window and throw a beer can and a chair.

The woman said she saw down the hallway, where she encountered another woman who was waiting for her aunt to leave the dormitory.

THE PLAYERS' VERSION:
Player 1 said he and Player 2 had consensual intercourse with the woman and that she performed sexual acts with four other players. Player 1 said when the woman arrived she wanted him to remove their clothes because "she wanted to be by her night and

she wanted to be in control."

Player 2 said he had had a few drinks before going to Sanford Hall and that he had engaged in sexual acts with the woman. He said there were 15 to 20 Saints players in and around the room at the time.

Player 3 said he stopped in the room for a few seconds and the woman was lying naked on the bed. He said she asked if he was going to the roof. Player 3 said he refused.

Player 4 said when he stopped by Player 1's room, the woman opened the door and said "Who's next?"

Player 5 said he heard pleasurable noises coming from Player 1's room. He claimed no force was used on the woman.

Player 6 said the woman opened the door to Player 1's room, was naked and said she wouldn't mind having sex with all the players.

G. Heileman reports losses of \$24.4 million so far in '95

By REID HAGNEY
Of the Tribune staff

G. Heileman Brewing Co. may be headed for a radical reorganization as the nation's fifth largest brewer continues to log heavy financial losses.

Heileman disclosed a net \$14.4 million loss in the second quarter ending June 30, bringing 1995 losses to \$24.4 million on sales of \$204 million, according to statements filed last week with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In 1994, Heileman lost \$27.6 million.

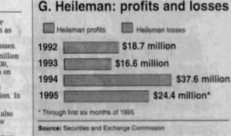
The company's quarterly report also said Heileman anticipates cash flow will not be sufficient to meet the company's cash requirements in future years.

As a result, "the company is pursuing several longer term potential options, including certain business combinations, sales of certain assets, repurchases of certain indebtedness or other debt reduction measures and an infusion of equity capital."

"In all my experience, I have never seen a statement that strong," Robert Weisberg, a beer industry analyst based in St. Louis, said Thursday. "By golly, they're in trouble. There's still hope, but not in their current state."

There's no danger Heileman will get out of business because its assets are valuable, he said. Some of those assets include brands that may remain in the house of Heileman.

G. Heileman: profits and losses



Heileman has been the subject of industry speculation for weeks. First, Publix Brewing Co.'s owners said they may close their high-cost Milwaukee brewery and contract with Heileman to make Publix Blue Bubbles and other brands. And there have been rumors of a merger or acquisition involving Denver's Stroh Brewing Co., the country's fourth-largest brewer.

Recently Smith, Heileman's general counsel and spokesman, said Thursday the company could not comment on anything involving Publix or Stroh.

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INSIDE FRIDAY



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April Larson makes cut in bishop quest

By GAYLA HOLLAMGEL
Of the Tribune staff

MINNEAPOLIS — Bishop April Ursula Larson of the La Crosse Area Synod was the second highest vote-getter in early balloting Thursday for promoting her to the 12 million-member Episcopal Lutheran Church in America.

Larson, 41, received the most votes in the second round of balloting. The top nominee in the same ballot was the Rev. H. George Anderson, president of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with 59 votes.

Anderson, 61, also received the most votes in the first ballot with 171 votes. Larson was fourth in that round with 43 votes.

The election process will continue today with Larson and Anderson and the most fervent leading vote-getters speaking to the full gathering this morning.

A third ballot is scheduled for about 10:30 a.m. to further narrow the field of candidates. Election results of the candidates on the third ballot are 68 percent on the fourth ballot, the election would go to a fifth ballot on Saturday morning.



Larson, who is retiring, has headed the ELCA since its formation in 1968.

Other nominees are: ■ Donald McNeil, bishop of Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, with 39 votes.

■ David L. Tiedt, president of Lutheran Synarchy in St. Paul, with 38 votes.

■ Dennis A. Anderson, president of Trinity Seminary of Columbia, Ohio, with 36 votes.

■ Richard J. Pines, bishop of Columbia North Dakota Synod, with 34 votes.

■ Joseph W. Elkington, pastor of Cross Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, with 31 votes.

Larson, who was elected to head the La Crosse Synod in 1988, is the denomination's first woman bishop, and the second woman bishop in Lutheran worldwide.