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"Keeping Our Beaches Bare"

Ovadal Fined \$1,315 for Outburst at Mazo Beach

Madison, Wisconsin

Exactly one year and one day after he called a woman a "harlot," a "whore," and a "heifer" in the parking lot of Mazo Beach, Ralph Ovadal of Wisconsin Christians United was fined \$1,315, the maximum allowed for the incident. Ovadal had previously been found guilty of disorderly conduct and had been awaiting the sentencing hearing, which took place May 29, 2002.

Ovadal claims he was "preaching" to the woman, trying to save her soul, but at the conclusion of the sentencing hearing, Judge Paul Higginbotham declared that Ovadal's tirade had "crossed a line" and included "fighting words" that could not be protected by First Amendment guarantees of the U.S. Constitution.

Judge Higginbotham could have sentenced Ovadal to as many as 90 days in jail, but knew that would make him a martyr and a hero in the eyes of those who follow him. The Dane County court room was filled to standing room only with the Monroe pastor's followers.

Higginbotham, the son of an Episco-

Mayor Cohen Seeks To Strip Men of Right To Remove Shirts

His memo to Commons Advisory Board follows:
"The United States Supreme Court has issued a decision that it is not legal to discriminate between men and women in regards to wearing clothing. Wherever men are allowed to be shirtless, women are also allowed to be shirtless. The City of Ithaca is beginning to investigate areas that they feel may be inappropriate for men and women to be less than fully clothed and the Commons has been identified as one of those areas. The City Attorney's Office is conducting research into the legality of requiring people to be fully clothed in certain areas of the City and the Mayor would like to know what your interest level is in pursuing this type of legislation, or any other ideas you may have regarding this topic." – Mayor Alan J. Cohen, 274-6501, mayor@cityofithaca.org ☆

palian preacher, told Ovadal: "Just so you know, I prayed before I came in here, so I think we're on the same page in that regard."

Ovadal maintains he was exercising his right of free speech. Officials said it was disorderly conduct.

Higginbotham said. "I call your conduct ... truculent. You crossed the line. It wasn't preaching anymore." He told

Ovadal he was lucky the victim in this case was not a violent person.

The victim wanted a court-ordered public apology from Ovadal, but that did not happen.

The judge gave Ovadal until July 29 to pay the fine. Ovadal's attorney, James Donohoo, announced an intention to appeal the case. ☆