

Discrimination Public File March 2014

Date=3/4/2014

Time=2:18

Slug=SOUTH BOSTON PARADE

THE DRAMA SURROUNDING SOUTH BOSTON'S SAINT PATRICKS' DAY PARADE CONTINUES. ORGANIZERS HAVE *AGAIN* REJECTED A GAY ADVOCACY GROUP'S APPLICATION TO MARCH. FOX 25'S JESSICA REYES JOINS US LIVE FROM OUR BEACON HILL STUDIO WITH THE LATEST TWIST IN THIS STORY.

Date=3/14/2014

Time=:30

Slug=GAY NORTHBRIDGE

A MARRIED GAY COUPLE SUING THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WORCESTER NOW HAS THE BACKING OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL. MARTHA COAKLEY HAS FILED A BRIEF SUPPORTING JAMES FAIRBANKS AND ALAIN BERET. THE PAIR IS SUING THE DIOCESE AFTER IT BACKED OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS TO SELL THEM A MANSION IN NORTHBRIDGE. THE COUPLE WANTED TO BUY THE FORMER CATHOLIC RETREAT. HOWEVER CHURCH LEADERS SENT AN EMAIL SAYING THEY WOULD NOT SELL BECAUSE THE COUPLE MIGHT HOLD GAY WEDDINGS AT THE SITE. COAKLEY SAYS ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS DO APPLY TO THE CHURCH WHEN IT SELLS REAL ESTATE.

Date=3/18/2014

Time=:30

Slug=MODERN MILLIE

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL SPARKS PROTESTS IN NEWTON. THIS PAST WEEKEND STUDENTS AT NEWTON NORTH PERFORMED A STAGE VERSION OF "THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE". ACCORDING TO THE GLOBE, SOME PARENTS WHO SAW THE SHOW TOLD SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS THEY FOUND IT OFFENSIVE TO ASIAN AMERICANS. THE STORY, BASED ON A 1967 MOVIE STARRING JULIE ANDREWS, USES CHARACTERS SPEAKING IN FAKE ACCENTS AND BRINGS UP OTHER STEREOTYPES. ADMINISTRATORS AND THE SCHOOL'S THEATRE DIRECTOR HAVE APOLOGIZED FOR CHOOSING TO PERFORM THE MUSICAL.

Date=3/21/2014

Time=2:21

Slug=BULLYING BILL

THE STATE SENATE LAST NIGHT APPROVING A BILL TO UPDATE THE CURRENT ANTI-BULLYING LAW. SUPPORTERS SAY IT WILL INCREASE THE PROTECTION FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER STUDENTS, ALONG WITH STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. THE HOUSE APPROVED THE BILL LAST MONTH. THE NEW BILL WOULD CREATE A DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING SYSTEM TO HELP IDENTIFY TRENDS AND RESPOND TO THEM. IT WOULD REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO REPORT BULLYING DATA EVERY YEAR TO STATE EDUCATION OFFICIALS. THAT DATA WOULD THEN BE PASSED ON TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND LAWMAKERS.

Date=3/21/2014

Time=:32

Slug=PRE-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS

NEW NUMBERS ARE RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PUNISHMENT OF AMERICAN STUDENTS, INCLUDING SOME AS YOUNG AS FOUR-YEARS OLD. A REPORT BY THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LOOKED AT SUSPENSION RATES FOR PUBLIC PRE-SCHOOLS. NEARLY HALF OF THE STUDENTS SUSPENDED MORE THAN ONCE WERE BLACK. BUT, BLACK STUDENTS ACCOUNT FOR JUST 18-PERCENT OF THE TOTAL PRE-SCHOOL POPULATION. OTHER STUDIES SHOW BLACK STUDENTS OF ALL AGES ARE SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED THREE TIMES MORE THAN WHITE STUDENTS.

Date=3/25/2014

Time=:40

Slug=BEDFORD HS ANTI SEMITISM

BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL IS DEALING WITH ANOTHER CASE OF ANTI-SEMITISM THIS MORNING. ACCORDING TO THE BOSTON GLOBE, OFFICIALS DISCOVERED A SWASTIKA ON FRIDAY. IT WAS WRITTEN ON A WALL NEAR THE TEACHER'S ROOM. THE SCHOOL'S SUPERINTENDENT SAYS HE CALLED THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE SWASTIKA WAS REMOVED. THE INCIDENT CAME ONE DAY AFTER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY GATHERED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO ADDRESS SEVERAL RECENT INCIDENTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM. EARLIER THIS MONTH, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS REPORTED PLAYING A GAME CALLED "JAIL THE JEWS". LAST FALL, HATEFUL GRAFFITI AND SWASTIKAS WERE FOUND AT THE HIGH SCHOOL. POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING, BUT HAVE NOT MADE ANY ARRESTS.