

News Muse

MELANY PETROSKY

The End Before the Beginning

Associated Press via www.365gay.com

House Majority Leader Gordon Fox is planning to file a bill in the General Assembly that would allow divorce among married gay couples. This is in response to the December decision by the state's supreme court preventing a lesbian couple who had married in Massachusetts from divorcing in Rhode Island. Governor Carcieri and other lawmakers are expected to oppose the bill. I find it endlessly sad that a bill is proposed to end our relationships legally before we can even begin them legally in this state. Marriage Equality Rhode Island also called for a bill granting many of the rights afforded married couples, including family medical leave, nursing home visitation and funeral planning, to domestic partners. People, just go to a nice gay or lesbian attorney and get the simple paperwork drawn up. You can find some forms online for free. Waiting for the law makers to decide our future is like watching paint dry.

Openly Gay Gov. Patrick Appointee to be Arraigned on Sexual Assault Charges

From Bay Windows

Carl Stanley McGee, openly gay assistant secretary for policy and planning in Gov. Deval Patrick's administration, will be arraigned Feb. 25 in Fort Myers, Florida on the suspicion of sexually assaulting on a 15-year-old boy. According to the police report, McGee approached the boy in a hotel steam room, masturbated in front of him, and then forcibly performed oral sex on him. The previous sentence begs many questions, the least graphic of which would be why is a 15 year-old alone in a steam room? Furthermore, one would think a steam room might clear out rather quickly if some unwelcome public masturbation show all of a sudden took center stage. McGee is an attorney, a Harvard Law School alumnus, and a Rhodes Scholar, as well as a former activist with MassEquality, an organization which fought to prevent a ban on gay marriage in Massachusetts. In other words, he has a lot of credentials that will be essentially meaningless should he be found guilty of the alleged offense. He is married to Episcopal priest associate John Finley IV.

Federal Panel Rules Against Lexington Parents

From Bay Windows

A Boston federal appeals panel ruled that a public school does not violate the religious freedom of a family who objects to homosexuality by not first notifying them when classroom books or discussions mention the existence of gay people or families. The decision was prompted by the objections of two families who were offended by books read in their children's classrooms. The books discussed different types of families and told a story about two princes who fall in love. The decision was based on the well-established principle that parents whose children attend public school cannot control what that school teaches. I'm glad to see that these parents are so concerned about their children's education. Or could this just be a neurotic concern that one of their children just might be gay? And perhaps that the mere mention of the existence of gays in the universe will tip the scale in the favor of the homoerotic? Ah, deny instead of discuss. What a wonderful lesson for the young.

Former Priest Accused of Abuse Revealed to Have HIV

Reported by In Newsweekly

The Rev. Philip A. Magaldi has the virus that causes AIDS, said Catholic Fort Worth diocese spokesman Pat Svacina. Church officials believe he has been HIV positive since 2003. Magaldi was removed as a priest in 1999 amid claims of sexual misconduct in Providence, where he served from 1960 to 90, and the Fort Worth area, where he served from 1990 to 92 and 1993 to 99. His ministry was briefly interrupted while serving in prison in 1992 after embezzling about \$200,000 from his Rhode Island church. The diocese has alerted the alleged victims - at least five minors in two states - and the parishes where Magaldi served for nearly four decades. Magaldi is currently 71 years old and retired. He claims he is innocent of all abuse allegations and thus far he has not been charged. Abuse advocates urged the dioceses to aggressively seek out potential victims. He said it's impossible to know the number of victims because many children and teens abused by priests don't ever come forward. There are worries that a child victim could be suffering the very adult consequences of an HIV infection. In Rhode Island, three separate allegations

were reported in 1998, 2002 and 2007 against Magaldi. A leader in the Catholic diocese is flying to Rome next week to ask the Vatican to hurry along the process of having Magaldi defrocked. Well, thank goodness it's finally a priority to defrock the man after he's retired. Helpful. Perhaps they should have considered defrocking Magaldi after the embezzlement...just a thought.

Gay Mags Can't Play Nice

From InNewsWeekly

In Newsweekly reports on itself. Suffolk Superior Court on February 8th issued a preliminary injunction against former *In Newsweekly* associate publisher Bill Berggren, and former sales executives Matthew White and Beau de Mello, that bars them from "initiating, establishing, continuing, maintaining, or renewing any relationship or contact" with any person in the advertising database that Berggren took with him for 45 days in relation to a new publication published by Berggren, *N'Touch New England*. The court issued the preliminary injunction in response to a lawsuit brought against Berggren and two others, alleging that the three former *In Newsweekly* employees stole current and prospective advertiser contact information, deleted the information from the *In Newsweekly* computer system, and solicited advertisers for *N'Touch* while still employed with *In Newsweekly*. The complaint also alleged that Berggren breached his duty of loyalty to HX by hiring away the *In Newsweekly* advertising department, then made up of White and De Mello, to work for his new publication. The advertising data at the center of the suit consists of contact information for current advertisers, including, in some cases, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. The information was stored in electronic and paper formats. I'm not sure why one would waste their time with a lawsuit to get back "info." Remember, copy machines are pretty common. How hard is it to just make a copy of all the contact info and toss it under the couch for a month or two until things cool off. Anyway, competition is a bitch. It's not like you can't just pick up an *In Newsweekly* at Reflections and just look at the ads to figure out who advertises. Bottom line is the better deal is the better deal. Vive la free market.

News Muse

Broward County Votes to Protect Transgenders

From www.365gay.com

On February 12, Broward County, Florida became one of the 13 states and 96 communities to offer some form of protection against discrimination to transgender individuals. This was an addition to an ordinance passed in 1995 granting protection to gays and lesbians. The ordinance covers housing, the workplace, and public accommodations. Florida now has another claim to fame to add to the place you go (1) to die or (2) to get really fresh oranges. ▼