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MDCR/MCRC E-newsletter for September 29, 2011

Online Bullying Pervasive Among Young People, Poll Shows

From the Huffington Post, 9/28/11

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/09/27/online-bullying-pervasive_n_983052.html

WASHINGTON — Catherine Devine had her first brush with an online bully in seventh grade, before she'd even ventured onto the Internet. Someone set up the screen name "devinegirl" and, posing as Catherine, sent her classmates instant messages full of trashy talk and lies. "They were making things up about me, and I was the most innocent 12-year-old ever," Devine remembers. "I hadn't even kissed anybody yet."

Disabled passengers settle discrimination suit

From the Associated Press, 9/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/business/detroit/index.ssf/2011/09/disabled_passengers_settle_dis.html

Five physically disabled airline passengers, Delta Air Lines and the Wayne County Airport Authority have resolved a 3-year-old discrimination lawsuit.

Michigan farmers have thrived despite economic turndown, but one concern remains

From The Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 9/27/11

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2011/09/michigan_farmers_have_thrived.html

WEST OLIVE — As the rest of Michigan's economy struggled over the past decade, the one industry that saw growth was agriculture.

Obama Proposes Protecting Unemployed Against Hiring Bias

From the New York Times, 9/26/11

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/27/us/politics/obama-proposes-adding-unemployed-to-protected-status.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha24

WASHINGTON — President Obama has not been particularly successful in fostering the creation of jobs. But he thinks he has found a way to pry open doors in the workplace for many of the unemployed, especially those who have been out of work for a long time.

SVSU Census expert: Immigrants could boost state's declining population

From the Saginaw News/MLive, 9/25/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/09/svsu_census_expert_immigrants.html

KOCHVILLE TWP. -- While higher education leads to higher income, many graduates are having difficulty earning that income in Michigan, figures show.

About 55,000 bachelor's degrees are issued in the state each year, but recent estimates show only half that many job openings for that education level, said Mike Boulus, executive director of the President's Council, State Universities of Michigan.

Fight to protect benefits for Domestic Partners

From the Lansing State Journal (Letters to the Editor), 9/25/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110925/OPINION02/109250509/Sunday-s-letters-editor>

Way to go, Michigan House of Representatives - last week's passage of HB 4770 and 4771 marks a new low point in state-sponsored discrimination. The bills would prohibit public employers from offering benefits to unmarried partners, or even negotiating for these benefits.

Guess which group the legislation is aimed at? Right: same-sex couples, who may just have families and children to care for, and loved-ones who may need medical care.

Are we as a state really so mean-spirited that we will stoop to such discrimination? I hope that we will soon look back at this period in our state's history with the same view we now have of the "colored only" drinking fountain era. Call your representatives and the governor to have them oppose these bills.

David Arnosti
East Lansing

Should same-sex marriage become legal? (Our Turn column)

From the Kalamazoo Gazette/MLive, 9/24/11

(There are multiple letters in this link)

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/09/should_same-sex_marriage_becom.html

Bullying as true drama

From the New York Times, 9/22/11

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/23/opinion/why-cyberbullying-rhetoric-misses-the-mark.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha212

The suicide of Jamey Rodemeyer, the 14-year-old boy from western New York who killed himself last Sunday after being tormented by his classmates for being gay, is appalling. His story is a classic case of bullying: he was aggressively and repeatedly victimized. Horrific episodes like this have sparked conversations about cyberbullying and created immense pressure on regulators and educators to do something, anything, to make it stop. Yet in the rush to find a solution, adults are failing to recognize how their conversations about bullying are often misaligned with youth narratives. Adults need to start paying attention to the language of youth if they want antibullying interventions to succeed.

Henry Louis Gates Jr.: Right after the beer summit, the death threats went away

From the Saginaw News/MLive, 9/22/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/09/henry_louis_gates_jr_right_aft.html

KOCHVILLE TWP. — For the first hour and twelve minutes, no one brought up racial profiling or the “beer summit.”

'The Bullycide Project' performs at national bullying conference in Washington D.C., receives award

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 9/22/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/09/the_bullycide_project_performs.html

FENTON, Michigan — “The Bullycide Project” has been gaining steam since it made its debut about a year ago.

Immigration raid outside church stirs outrage

From the Detroit Free Press, 9/22/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110922/NEWS05/109220492/Immigration-raid-outside-Detroit-church-sparks-outrage>

An immigration raid on the grounds of a Detroit church during religious [services](#) is the latest incident of profiling of the Latino community, advocates and religious leaders said Wednesday as they announced details of the incident.

West Michigan farm honored for treating migrant farmers right

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 9/21/11

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2011/09/west_michigan_farm_honored_for.html

GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP — Pay migrant workers fairly and give them adequate housing, and they will come back year after year, Wayne Kiel said.

Livonia, cops sued over Breathalyzer for teens

From the Detroit Free Press, 9/21/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110921/NEWS01/109210357/Livonia-cops-sued-over-Breathalyzer-tests-teens?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

An empty liquor bottle. A group of boys in the woods. A suspicious assistant principal.

Ann Arbor goes on record opposing state ban on domestic partner benefits

From Ann Arbor.com/MLive, 9/20/11

<http://www.annarbor.com/news/ann-arbor-goes-on-record-opposing-state-ban-on-domestic-partner-benefits/>

The Ann Arbor City Council went on record Monday night opposing a Republican-backed effort at the state level to outlaw domestic partner benefits for public employees in Michigan.

LGBT community will soon be fleeing unfriendly Michigan

From the Lansing State Journal, Letters to the Editor, 9/20/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110920/OPINION02/109200311/Tuesday-s-letters-editor>

I am a Michiganian through and through, born and raised in the Lansing area and a recent graduate from the University of Michigan. Growing up in the accepting environment of East Lansing and Ann Arbor, I am shocked by how legislative leaders are turning Michigan into a state of ignorance.

House Bills 4770 and 4771 that are up for vote, propose stripping unmarried partners (read: same-sex couples) of benefits when one partner is a public sector worker. This is unacceptable. Michigan, you already banned same-sex marriage and now seek to marginalize your LGBT community further. I thought that Michigan, in these rough times, would work to ensure everyone is welcome. Apparently not.

Should these bills pass, I would urge everyone in the LGBT community to make the best vote they can: with their feet. It seems Michigan may no longer want your tax money, volunteer work or college degrees.

Matthew R. Trecha
East Lansing

Poll: Young people see online slurs as just joking

From the Detroit News/AP, 9/20/11

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20110920/BIZ04/109200385/1361/Poll--Young-people-see-online-slurs-as-just-joking>

Washington— Is it ever OK to tweet that a girl's a "slut"? How about slinging offensive names for homosexuals in a post to a friend on Facebook? Or texting a racial slur? Most young people think it's all right when friends are joking around with each other, according to a new poll.

Employers, keep diversity top of mind

From the Lansing State Journal, 9/17/11

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110918/OPINION01/109180498/Employers-keep-diversity-top-mind?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Opinions|s>

Regrettably, it comes as little surprise that diversity seems to be less of a priority in the region's work places than it was just six years ago.

'The Bullycide Project' to be featured in national television news show

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 9/15/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/09/the_bullycide_project_to_be_fe.html

FENTON, Michigan — A play created and performed in Fenton about bullied teenagers who committed suicide will be in the national spotlight Friday night.

Woman says arrest after 9-11 flight ethnic profiling

From the Detroit Free Press, 9/14/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110914/NEWS05/109140429/Woman-says-arrest-after-9-11-flight-ethnic-profiling?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

A suburban Toledo woman who is half-Jewish and half-Arab says that she and two Indian Americans were detained Sunday by armed officers on an airplane at Detroit Metro Airport and then jailed and strip-searched -- an incident that civil rights leaders say was one of many cases of law enforcement targeting minorities on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Domestic partner benefits debated again in Michigan

From the Detroit Free Press, 9/14/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110914/NEWS06/110914003/Domestic-partner-benefits-debated-again-Michigan>

Republicans in the Michigan Legislature are preparing another attempt to block the offering of taxpayer-paid health insurance to domestic partners living with public employees.

Grand Rapids: Race and gender should be considered in hiring, university admissions

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 9/13/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/09/grand_rapids_race_and_gender_s.html

GRAND RAPIDS – Grand Rapids city leaders will encourage a federal appeals court to allow the consideration of race and gender in government hiring and university admissions when a panel hears arguments later this year.

Guilty plea in US –Europe sex trafficking case

From the Associated Press, 9/13/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2011/09/guilty_plea_in_us-europe_sex_t.html

A man once listed as a top fugitive by the U.S. government has pleaded guilty to conspiring to lure Eastern European women to the U.S. and force them to become strippers.

Couples will need birth certificates when applying for marriage licenses later this fall

From the Advance Newspapers/MLive, 9/12/11

http://www.mlive.com/walker/index.ssf/2011/09/couples_will_need_birth_certif.html

Beginning on Nov. 1, the Kent County Clerk's Office will require birth certificates from both applicants to be presented when applying for a marriage license.

Is Discrimination Running Rampant in Our Long-term Care Facilities?

From Politic 365, 9/12/11

<http://politic365.com/2011/09/12/is-discrimination-running-rampant-in-our-long-term-care-facilities/>

It has been almost 50 years since Title VII of the Civil Rights Act outlawed workplace discrimination. Despite this law, discrimination is still taking place at some long-term care facilities where patients are refusing to be cared for by health care professionals of races different from themselves.

Why a recent court ruling is wrong about affirmative action in Michigan (guest commentary)

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 9/12/11

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2011/09/why_a_recent_court_ruling_is_w.html

By Mark J. Perry

In 2006, Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved Proposal 2, ending state-sponsored discrimination via race-based preferences in college admissions, hiring, and contracting. But a recent federal court ruling has temporarily overturned the will of Michigan voters, opening the door for affirmative action's return to Michigan.

Civil rights violation added to lawsuit by former Atherton High School principal

From the Flint Journal/MLive, 9/10/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2011/09/civil_rights_violation_added_t.html

BURTON, Michigan — A possible civil rights infraction has been added to a lawsuit by former Atherton High School principal Tom Devaney who's been placed on paid leave.

Racism is the reason MDOT ignores overgrown grass and weeds along highway on Saginaw's East Side, resident says

From the Saginaw News/MLive, 9/4/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/09/racism_is_the_reason_mdott_igno.html

SAGINAW — The grass along Interstate 675 on Saginaw's East Side is longer and contains more litter because its residents are blacker, says Shirley F. Rice, Saginaw resident whose property overlooks the highway at North 13th and Lapeer.

Seaholm grad could avoid jail time for racist message

From the Detroit Free Press, 9/1/11

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110901/NEWS03/109010623/Seaholm-grad-could-avoid-jail-time-racist-message>

A former Birmingham Seaholm High School student charged with ethnic intimidation agreed Wednesday to plead guilty to the lesser count of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor charge that will likely spare him from jail time.

Gratiot County man, convicted of ethnic intimidation of black male, gets sentenced Tuesday

From the Saginaw News/MLive, 9/1/11

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/09/gratiot_county_man_convicted_o.html

ITHACA — Police say a Gratiot County man yelled racial slurs at a black male visiting his neighbor's home in March, and then tried to harm the visitor with a knife.

Our View: Adoption should be a game-changer for MHSAA eligibility

From The Daily Telegram (Adrian), 9/1/11

<http://www.lenconnect.com/opinions/editorials/x549431604/Our-View-Adoption-should-be-a-game-changer-for-MHSAA-eligibility>

ADRIAN, Mich. — When it comes to denying an adopted Hudson teen the same opportunities as others, the Michigan High School Athletic Association is playing a dangerous game and would do better to concede the field gracefully.

Editorial: Separate church and state

From the Detroit News, 9/1/11

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20110901/OPINION01/109010340/1008/OPINION01/Editorial--Separate-church-and-state>

A case from a Redford Lutheran church and school could play a major role in deciding the relationship between religious freedom and labor law. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal of an employment law case brought by the U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission and a teacher at the school.

Court clears Hudson athlete to play; MHSAA will appeal

From The Daily Telegram, Adrian, 8/31/11

<http://www.lenconnect.com/news/x488545171/Court-clears-Hudson-athlete-to-play-MHSAA-will-appeal>

ADRIAN, Mich. — Sang Woo Robbins has a court order allowing him to play on the Hudson High School football team starting this week. And the Michigan High School Athletic Association is filing an appeal to block him.

Grand Rapids Black Chamber of Commerce makes its debut

From the Grand Rapids Press/MLive, 8/31/11

http://www.mlive.com/business/west-michigan/index.ssf/2011/08/grand_rapids_black_chamber_of.html

GRAND RAPIDS — Of the nearly 2 million black-owned businesses in the U.S., more than 72,000 are in Michigan. Now a new group is hoping to make those numbers work in favor of West Michigan's black entrepreneurs.