

NATIONAL news

In the ruling, Assistant Attorney General Robin Coulon wrote that Pueblo managers discriminated by "holding themselves out to the public as a women's-only park in their rules; vowing to do anything to keep the Pueblo as an all-women's park, requiring Realtors to remove 'for sale' signs from outside and inside the Pueblo...and refusing to disclose to prospective male purchasers information regarding which lots...were available."



Collins is displeased with the agreement because the resort was not fined and she was not awarded monetary damages. She has stated she intends to pursue this matter.

CALIFORNIA

San Francisco freelance journalist Bruce Mirken must stand trial on a felony charge of attempted child molestation. Superior Court Judge Patrick Marlette refused to dismiss the charge against Mirken, a gay man who was arrested in an Internet sting operation last July, reports the Feb. 25 *San Francisco Examiner*.

Mirken had been engaged in an online correspondence with someone he thought was a 13-year-old gay youth named Anthony. Mirken has written a number of stories about lonely and troubled lesbian and gay youths who have searched for friendship and counsel on the Internet. Mirken has contended all along that his conversations with Anthony were held in the hopes of developing a story.

Anthony turned out to be Sacramento vice cops. They had carried on all the online communication with Mirken and were waiting for him at a Sacramento park where Mirken went expecting to meet Anthony.

The judge prohibited Mirken from using the Internet for any sexual purpose. In addition, the only screen name Mirken can use is his own.

The trial is set to begin April 14.

MINNESOTA

The angry exchanges at school board meetings, the letters and phone calls of protest, and the threats by parents to remove their children from the classroom if Alyssa Williams was allowed to continue teaching finally had the desired effect: The 35-year-old male-to-female

trans music teacher resigned her position at Roosevelt Middle School in Blaine, reports the Feb. 25 *Minneapolis Star Tribune*.



Parents in Touch, a group that formed as a result of Williams' hiring, sought help from the Minnesota Christian Coalition and the American Center for Law and Justice. The group threatened to sue the school district claiming the rights of students were violated by preventing them from expressing their opposition to Williams' hiring.

The group also wanted an apology from the school board for what it deemed "offensive" handling of a parents meeting held last fall to introduce Williams. Several members of Parents in Touch claimed the presentation was biased in favor of Williams and was an affront to their Christian values.

School Superintendent Roger Giroux wrote a letter to parents pointing out that the district could not reassign Williams without violating Minnesota's Human Rights Act. The act prohibits discrimination against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and trans people.

Williams' resignation was not enough for people opposed to her hiring.

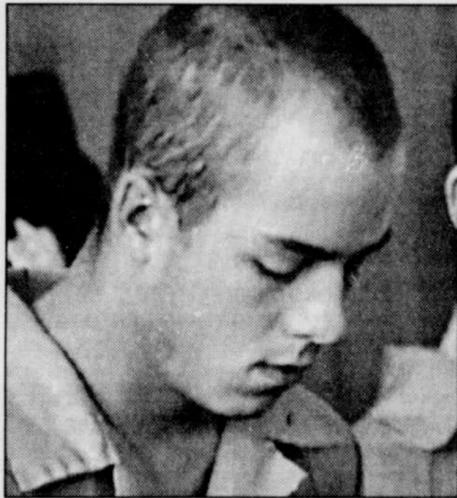
"While this issue may be settled in this particular situation, the overall problem still remains," says Tom Prichard, president of the Minnesota Family Council. "The Legislature still needs to address the granting of special legal protection to transgender individuals, bisexuals and homosexuals in our public schools."

Williams was not available for comment.

WYOMING

Things are moving forward in the cases of the two men accused in the beating death of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard.

The two men are being tried separately. Russell Arthur Henderson's trial is scheduled to begin April 6. Aaron James McKinney's trial is set for Aug. 9, reports *The Associated Press*.



Russell Henderson



Aaron McKinney

A request by Court TV to provide live, uninterrupted coverage of Henderson's trial was denied by Judge Jeffrey A. Donnell. Concern for the privacy of witnesses and jurors formed the basis for his decision, Donnell said.

Additionally, Donnell expressed concern that televising Henderson's trial might make it difficult to seat an impartial jury for the trial of McKinney, which will begin after Henderson's trial.

Both defendants face the death penalty if convicted.

Twenty-one-year-old Shepard was beaten Oct. 7 and died five days later.

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