

Single Gendered Schools



Kennedy George
Weiss High School

Single gendered schools don't have any evidence that they improve learning skills. So why do schools want them anyway? Single gendered schools are also illegal and discriminatory says the American Civil Liberties Union. Schools should not have same sex classes because it limits opportunity, prevents social growth and doesn't prepare students for the real world.

First off, I'd like to

state how single gendered schools might seem exciting to some parents at first. Same sex classes can also seem good because of the connection of all the students and the teacher. But single gendered schools actually have a major disadvantage on students and their lives. One way is that it causes disappointing test scores in those classes.

Third, 14% of parents want to send their kid to a single gendered school but just a little bit more than one third of americans feel parents should have the option of sending their child to a single gendered school. Even though parent choice is very important some people just don't care about parent choice. If school boards don't give parents the choice that may result in the parents homeschooling their child.

Ex-Prosecutor: Cosby Paid Accuser Millions of Dollars

by: Michael R. Sisak Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A former prosecutor claims his decision in 2005 not to charge Bill Cosby with drugging and molesting a woman led to the comedian paying his accuser a settlement “well into the millions of dollars.”

Bruce Castor's assertion in a lawsuit Thursday against the accuser, Andrea Constand, and her lawyers is the first time anyone has put a value on the confidential settlement.

Castor alleges the women harmed his reputation and cost him a chance to return as district attorney in suburban Philadelphia by publicly criticizing him and suing him for defamation days before the 2015 election.

Castor's lawsuit

doesn't explain how he would know how much Cosby paid Constand. Castor's lawyers and Constand's lawyers, Dolores Troiani and Bebe Kivitz, didn't immediately return messages.

Castor ended the investigation after four weeks, announcing Cosby would not be charged because the evidence had shown both parties “could be held in less than a flattering light.”

He said he was concerned that Constand had stayed in touch with Cosby and waited a year to call police. He said last year that the decision was intended to let Cosby speak freely at a civil deposition.

Cosby testified in 2005 and 2006 as part of Constand's lawsuit



FILE – In this Aug. 16, 2016, file photo, Bruce L. Castor Jr. speaks a day before taking the oath to become acting attorney general during a news conference in the agency's headquarters in Harrisburg, Pa. Castor, a former district attorney who declined to press sexual-assault charges against Bill Cosby in 2005 has filed the beginnings of a lawsuit against Cosby's accuser in Philadelphia. An attorney for Castor said the personal-injury complaint will claim Andrea Constand sued Castor for defamation in 2015 so he would lose the prosecutor's race. The winner, Kevin Steele, had criticized Castor's handling of the Cosby case. (AP Photo/Marc Levy, File)

Día de los Muertos



Quinn Langford
Cedar Ridge H. S.

Día de los Muertos is a two day holiday celebrated every November first and second. This year those dates fell on a Wednesday and a Thursday. “Día de los Muertos” is a Spanish phrase that translates to “Day of the Dead.” Día de los Muertos is celebrated by various Latin American communities, especially Mexico. The tradition started hundreds of years ago with the Aztecs, a Mesoamerican people. They had a month-long celebration each year in which they honored their dead ancestors and left offerings for them. They also celebrated the god and goddess of the underworld during this

time. When Catholic Spaniards conquered the area, their Catholic traditions of All Saints' Day on November first and All Souls' Day on November second merged with the indigenous people's tradition of honoring the dead, and Día de los Muertos was born.

In present day, those who celebrate Día de los Muertos do so with extravagant parades and festivals. Unique sweets such as pan de muerto (bread of the dead) and calaveras de azúcar (sugar skulls) are consumed to combat the bitterness of death. People clean their dead loved ones' graves and leave marigolds on adult graves and white orchids on children's graves. They also set up ofrendas (altars) for diseased individuals, complete with all of their favorite foods, flowers, and decorative tissue paper. November first is the day when all of the dead children return to be with their families, and November second marks the return of the adults. When these spirits return, the altars make them feel welcomed and as if they have not been forgotten.



FILE – This photo combination shows Andrea Constand, left, walking to the courtroom during Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial on June 6, 2017, at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa.; and Bill Cosby, right, arriving for his sexual assault trial on June 16, 2017, at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown, Pa. Former acting Pennsylvania Attorney General Bruce L. Castor, who declined to press sexual-assault charges against Cosby in 2005, has filed the beginnings of a lawsuit against Cosby's accuser in Philadelphia. An attorney for Castor says the personal-injury complaint will claim Constand sued Castor for defamation in 2015 so he would lose the prosecutor's race. The winner, Kevin Steele, had criticized Castor's handling of the Cosby case. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

against him.

A new prosecutor reopened the case and charged Cosby after excerpts from that deposition about giving drugs to women he wanted to have sex with were made public.

After Cosby's June trial ended in a mistrial, Castor said he was disappointed but not surprised. “My opinion continues to be that Ms. Constand was probably the victim of a sexual assault,” Castor said. “‘Probably’ does not win criminal trials.”

A retrial is scheduled for April.

Another woman who says Cosby sexually assaulted her, Kathrine McKee, has asked a federal appeals court to reconsider her defamation case against him. A three-judge panel of the 1st U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals last month refused to revive her lawsuit against Cosby.

The former actress said Cosby defamed her in a letter his lawyer sent to the New York Daily News demanding a retraction of a 2014 story about McKee's allegations he raped her decades ago.

A lower court judge who dismissed her lawsuit said the letter was protected by the First Amendment. McKee is challenging the three-judge panel's conclusion that she was a public figure, which makes it harder to win a defamation claim.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

November is National Adoption Awareness Month

Thousands of Texas Children Wait for Families to Call Their Own

More than 5,000 abused or neglected Texas children were adopted from state care last year, but the need is as great as ever for families willing to provide safe, loving homes. Every day, more children enter foster care in Texas. Some won't be able to go home again and will need adoptive families to start new lives that are free from abuse or neglect.

As of September, more than 3,900 children and teens in state care were legally free for adoption, but without the promise of a new family to call their own. Many of these children ask themselves, “Why not me? Why can't I have a family?”

This November, which is National Adoption Awareness Month, there are adoption events across the state that spotlight the need for adoption and the many children waiting for a permanent family. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is asking caring adults, “Why not you? Why not adopt?”

“No child should grow up in foster care or feeling unwanted,” said DFPS Commissioner Hank Whitman. “If you are considering adoption, you can learn more about it at AdoptChildren.org.”

While the number of children adopted from state care in Texas grew by 34 percent over the last decade, there is a critical need for adoptive parents for children of all ages. There is even a greater need for families willing to adopt children with special needs and older children and teens who tend to linger in foster care longer than other children.

All children need a safe and loving family of their own. Children are waiting at AdoptChildren.org. Find out more about becoming an adoptive parent, because no child should ask, “Why not me? Why can't I have a family?”

Adoption By the Numbers

- 5,395 - The number of children adopted from DFPS in fiscal year 2017.
- 6,685 - The number of children in DFPS care who were awaiting adoption as of September 2017 (latest data). Some of these children are already matched with an adoptive family and some are not.
- 3,939 - The number of children awaiting adoption who were not living with a family or adult who intends to adopt them as of September 2017.
- 21 - The minimum age you must be to adopt a child in Texas.



Washington, DC, Oct. 25, 2017 –

The U.S. Senate passed a resolution (S.J. Res. 47) to repeal the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) rule to restore consumers' rights to band together to hold banks and lenders accountable in class action lawsuits when the companies break the law.

The CFPB conducted a five-year study that revealed the negative impact of forced arbitration on consumers before spending two years crafting a rule to prevent companies from keeping wronged customers from joining class actions. Despite the care taken by CFPB, Republicans in Congress have voted to throw out the Bureau's efforts before the ink is even dry on the rule announced just this summer.

In our view, the Senate has declared war on consumers and given a big fat gift to companies like Equifax and Wells Fargo, who now can continue to abuse and defraud customers without fear of liability. Because of the shortsightedness of many in Congress, giant banks and other corporations regulated by the CFPB can rest assured that no matter how they treat their customers, those customers will be prevented from collective redress.

Republicans in Congress have decided: There will be NO meaningful justice for consumers wronged by the wealthy and powerful.