

# gcam\_ah\_0293\_02\_edit

Tue, Jul 25, 2023 9:29AM 19:10

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

aaron, prom, lynch, students, cumberland, peter, rock lobster, tuxedo, homosexual, john, reflections, find, feel, gay, thought, request, bob, teacher, lavender, program

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00:03

Eric, what are you doing here?

00:06

Don't look so surprised. I just thought I'd drop by and give you some moral support. We we haven't talked very much since this thing started. I know. Thanks for coming dad. Well, it was the least I could do. Say, are you hungry? Yeah, I'd love to get something. Well, there's a place around the corner. That's not too bad. That sounds good to me. You really handled those questions? Well,

00:38

I feel like I've been working on the answers for a long time. Like about 18 years.

00:44

I'm beginning to understand that now. Era and I I don't know how to say this. But well, when I saw you on the stand today, I felt proud. I was proud that you had the courage to say the things you said.

01:07

I only wish it hadn't taken me this long to find out how you really felt.

01:11

Tad, you can't blame yourself for that. I didn't want you to know. I was afraid of what would happen if you did find out?



01:21

Well, I'll say this much. I never thought I'd be sitting in a restaurant with a homosexual telling him I loved him.



01:30

I love you, too, dad.



01:36

Mr. Lynch, Could you summarize your reasons for denying Aaron's request?



01:41

I'd be glad to. First of all, I was worried about Aaron's safety. Secondly, I was concerned about the negative effect this homosexual interaction would have been a pro.



01:53

If this court ordered you to protect Aaron Frick, wouldn't you provide that protection?



01:57

If I was ordered by the court? Yes, I would. But I couldn't get into their safety lot, even with adequate security. I don't know how much is adequate. I'd have to look into that. All right.



02:10

Did Aaron tell you about the violence against him in gym class? Yes. He told me and yet in effect, you refused his request for a transfer, therefore subjecting Aaron to the possibility of more violence?



02:21

No, no, not intentionally. Mr. Lynch, you mentioned that negative effect on prom? Could you be more specific? Well, the presence of an openly homosexual couple might encourage the other students to misbehave. There could be excessive drinking, vandalism and so on. There could be but you don't know for sure. Well, I'm not 100% Certain No. But I saw what happened last year at the junior prom when Peter Grayson tried to attend with his mandate. The students couldn't handle the pressure. They became unmanageable. One student jumped into the lake with his tuxedo on.



03:08

Wasn't that the older brother of the student who gave Aaron the weld under his eye?



03:13

Yeah, yes. Yes. As a matter of fact, it was.



03:20

Do you allow girls to dance together at the prom? Yes,



03:24

we allow girls to dance together. But that does not represent homosexual interaction. The two boys dancing together does.



03:32

That's interesting. I'm curious, Mr. Lynch, whether you have any homosexual acquaintances?



03:38

No, I do not.



03:42

Do you know anything about the homosexual lifestyle?



03:45

enough to know that I disagree with it.



03:49

Would you say you strongly disagreed with



03:51

it? Yes, I'd say so.

03:54

Mr. Lynch. Are there any homosexual teachers at Cumberland high?

03:57

No, there are not. Oh, Aaron has

04:01

received a letter from a substitute teacher at Cumberland high who's gay and whose name naturally will be withheld. Mr. Lynch, I have here the Cumberland High School handbook. Would you please read the underlined passage for us?

04:20

Prejudice, as a byproduct of ignorance is divisive and inimical to our nation's traditions.

04:29

Do you agree with that statement? Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Lynch. I have no further questions, Your Honor.

04:39

So we're really going through with this. Why? What's wrong? I'm sick of it. That's what's wrong. There were reporters calling me every 10 minutes. And some guy threatened to kill me in front of my building. That's kind of hoping they'd call the whole dance off. Peter.

04:58

We're so close to winning If the problem is only a week away, no,

05:02

I guess I never thought it would get this far.

05:07

Maybe I never thought it would get this far either. But it has. I mean, every gay person in the country is watching what's happening here. I can't stop now. Listen, if you don't want to go, That's okay. I'll find somebody else to go with.



05:25

No, I don't want to disappoint you. It's just one thing. What's that? Do you think you could find two lavender tuxedos?



05:38

I'll see what I can do. Let's wait for the judge's decision. Who knows we may end up having a prom all by ourselves.



05:50

After considerable thoughts and research, I have concluded that even a legitimate interest in school discipline does not outweigh a student's right to peacefully express his views and an appropriate time, place and manner. To rule otherwise would completely subvert free speech in the schools by granting other students a hecklers veto, allowing them to decide through prohibited environment methods. What speech will be heard? The First Amendment does not tolerate mob rule by unruly schoolchildren. In conclusion, I find that the plaintiff has established a probability of success on the merits. And accordingly his request for a preliminary injunction has been granted.



06:36

Does that mean what I think it means? It means that we've just won your case. We won. We won



06:52

excuse me, I'm a reporter for The Herald American. I'm asking students what they think about this whole thing. What whole thing? You know, the senior prom tonight. Oh,



07:00

hey, make me sick. Homosexuals don't even belong on this earth. Much less than our prom. Really? Then you're against what's happening against if I'm ashamed to be a Cumberland student anymore. If homosexuals were water bugs, I'd stomp on them.



07:19

No, not Aaron Frick by any chance.

07:22

How did you ever get all right

07:32

Peter,

07:32

I was getting worried train

07:33

was late. Aaron You look fantastic.

07:40

Well, I should after all, it's a night of my prom. Come on upstairs.

07:44

I've got a tuxedo did you get the lavender ones?

07:46

Did you really think I was tacky enough to wear a lavender tuxedo well I am

07:56

I got blue. This lovely dark navy ones yours and equally lovely pair of blue mine. Cumberland high school colors. I thought it would be patriotic of us. Peter, you really look good. I'm glad you're here.

08:13

I'm glad I'm here too. And I think we're going to make a stunning couple



08:21

What's that? Those are TV lights. And look at all those people.



08:26

Are you nervous? Yeah a little. So am I but we made it this far. It ought to be easy for me here



08:40

are you in the next chapter you feel about teacher filling out a statement condemning?



09:01

Dear Peter,



09:04

after the prom and everything



09:07

I thought you'd like to hear our graduation went. You know how they always wait until the end to call the names of the graduating seniors. When they finally call my name. People started boozing from the bleachers. My stomach tightened up. I knew it would be bad, but I didn't think it would be that bad.



09:30

But then I heard a fainter sound. The sound of applause.



09:39

It was coming from the senior class. They were cheering me love Aaron.



10:56

Erin Frakes reflections of a Rock Lobster starring Benjamin geyser is Aaron. Andrew soleras Peter Richard McElveen is Mr. Lynch and Kenneth Dembski is John featuring Nora Sinclair is Billy's mother and English teacher. William cabinets is judge between Virginia Mazur is Joseph

Tran is Bob. Michelle gaybo is the Duvall Bob owczarek Is Mr. Fred Aaron's father. David Erskine is the gym teacher and Dr. David Strassburger is Jad. Peter hey do as John Ward and Alan Zaremba as the defense attorney. Also appearing with Jim Cook, Jamie John hoverboard, Virginia Beach, Alex bar. Tom ligula. Charles Forsyth, Tom tannic. Julie Simon Elizabeth Stern's Sara steel.

12:02

Written by Richard Sigatoka based on the book and original material by Aaron frame, directed by Nicholas Deutsch produced by Wesley Horner. Melanie Berzon recording engineer David the ballet production assistant and paper editor John bozi occasion coordinator Francis shrine Kellan Gordon. Special thanks to the ideal diner of Boston, the staff and students at the Cambridge School in western, especially William Sheldon and Robin wood and to Gary Boserup. Attorney. The program was recorded entirely on location in New England makes the downtown recorders Boston Tom car engineer reflections of a Rock Lobster by Aaron Frey was used by permission of the publisher Allison publications in public.

14:21

For a cassette copy of this program, send \$10 to Rock Lobster box 225 Boston, Massachusetts Oh 2215 That's Rock Lobster. Box 225 Boston, Massachusetts. Oh 2215 And your letters and comments are welcome of course. Be sure to mention the call letters of your local station. Production of this program was made possible by a grant from the satellite program development fund, National Public Radio

15:05

Get it out. Leave him alone. Well, Bob, what do we care? Hello? Oh, hello, B. Hi, Bob. We were wondering if you asked anyone to the prom yet? No, I thought I'd skip the prom this year. What's going to find any boys to go with?

15:25

Reflections of a Rock Lobster. A story about growing up gay in rural America. When Aaron Frick decided to take another young man to a senior prom, the story made national headlines and court history. Rock Lobster is the tender coming out story of one brave young man and his very special night at the brown.

16:02

Listen, I did it.

16:05

I finally told my parents I'm gay.



16:07

It's great. How they take it? Well, my mother kind of suspected. But my father. He just broke down and cried. You're kidding. No. It was pretty bad. He was sitting at the kitchen table. Didn't say anything. The tears just rolled down his face. That's okay. You'll get over it. God I hope so. It was awful. How do



16:39

you feel? That's the important thing.



16:42

I feel all right. I really do.



16:47

Reflections of a Rock Lobster. A story about growing up gay in rural America



17:06

nobody's



17:13

ever seen too many reflections of a Rock Lobster. A story about growing up gay in rural America



17:38

Peter,



17:39

I was getting worried



17:40

rain was late. Aaron You look fantastic. Well, I



17:46

should after all, it's a night of my prom. Come on upstairs. I've got a tuxedo did you get the lavender ones? Did you really think I was tacky enough to wear lavender tuxedo? Well,



17:56

I am reflections of a Rock Lobster. A story about growing up gay in rural America. When Aaron Frick decided to take another young man to a senior prom. The story made national headlines and court history. Rock Lobster is the tender coming out story of one brave young man and his very special night at the Bronx. I'm sure you run here to ask friends on weekends



18:40

Peter,



18:40

I was getting worried frame this late.



18:46

Aaron You look fantastic. Well,



18:48

I should. After all, it's a night of my prom.



18:51

Reflections of a Rock Lobster. A story about growing up gay in rural America. Is this