

NEW YORK TIMES AND RELIGIOUS PROFILING



Bill Donohue accuses the *New York Times* of religious profiling:

The *New York Times* has a story today about the Diocese of Harrisburg's decision to ban high school boys from competing against girls in school wrestling. This is the second day in a row that the *Times* has covered this story, and there is nothing new of any substance in today's piece.

Today's news story on the Pennsylvania Catholic high school wrestling policy merited 978 words. By contrast, today's *New York Times* ran a story on Oslo withdrawing from a bid to host the 2022 winter Olympics that totaled 406 words. A story on Derek Jeter starting his own web forum was a mere 599 words. Even the Major League Baseball playoff game between the Pirates and Giants didn't out do the Catholic high school story—it was 897 words. If we add yesterday's story on the wrestling policy to today's (it was 401 words), the total figure is 1,379.

No newspaper in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh reported on this story, and outside of *The Sentinel* (a Carlisle, Pennsylvania paper), it got almost no coverage; no national wire service or newspaper covered it.

So what's going on? This is more than political correctness at work—we know the *Times* is fixated on matters sexual—it evinces an appetite for religious profiling. But not when it comes to all religions: the *Times* has a special place for the Roman

Catholic Church in its portfolio.

The *Times* just dropped 100 people from its newsroom—7.5 percent of its staff. Nice to know that it still has the resources to monitor Catholic high school wrestling policies in Pennsylvania. It all comes down to what is a priority, and when it comes to Catholicism and women, few subjects matter more to those at the top of the *New York Times*.

Perhaps the NYT public editor Margaret Sullivan would like to hear from you. Contact: public@nytimes.com. [Note: She is not unfair]