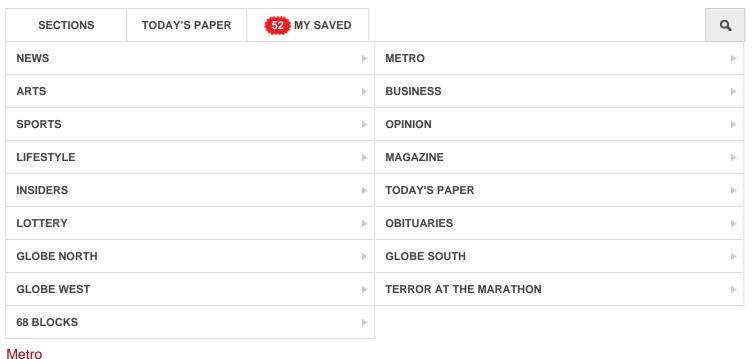
The Boston Globe





Brandeis unit cuts ties with group over boycott of Israeli schools

By Matt Rocheleau | GLOBE STAFF DECEMBER 20, 2013

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A Brandeis University program has cut ties with a US scholarly association that has joined a boycott of Israeli academic institutions as a form of protest against Israel's treatment of Palestinians. The American Studies Program at Brandeis, a nonsectarian, Jewish-sponsored university, announced on its website that it will end its relationship with the American Studies Association. "We view the recent vote by the membership to affirm an academic boycott of Israel as a politicization of the discipline and a rebuke to the kind of open inquiry that a scholarly association should foster," the program said. The American Studies Association, which says it has 5,000 individual members and 2,200 institutional subscribers, announced Monday that it had voted to join the boycott.

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In this section: Metro

Road closed after 6-foot icicle drops, smashes car window

A street in Chelsea was closed Sunday afternoon when a 6-foot icicle fell three stories from a house, smashing a car's back window, fire officials said. The icicle fell about 3 p.m. near 9 Second Street, forcing authorities to shut down the road for several hours from Broadway to Cherry Street while the owner was called to remove more icicles dangling from the house, Chelsea Fire Captain Mike Thompson said. Authorities also briefly closed sidewalks near Pembroke and Beacon streets Sunday afternoon because of icicles.

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Marathon security balances new rules, old ways

With two months to go before the Boston Marathon, officials are working at a feverish pace to lock in a comprehensive safety plan.

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Conn. casinos employ hardball tactic to collect debts

Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun have placed dozens of liens on homes across Mass. since the early 2000s, according to a Globe review.

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Pope softening tone, not stance, O'Malley says

Cardinal Sean O'Malley cautions that those expecting major changes in church teachings are likely to be

disappointed.

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Walsh says Boston will hold gun buyback

Mayor Martin Walsh said the city will partner with the police department on a gun buyback program.

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Child welfare agency shows signs of panic

In the wake of Jeremiah Oliver's disappearance, the DCF has moved to take many children from their homes. Is this really what we want?

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With horror, hope, Ukrainians watch crisis from afar

Most of the emigres in Mass. are following the increasingly violent struggle against pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovych.

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State Senate president won't run for reelection

Therese Murray, the first woman to serve as the chamber's president, called her time in the Senate "the greatest honor."

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Air Force jet lands in Mass. after losing pressurization

The massive C-5, traveling to Delaware, was forced to divert to the Westover Air Reserve Base in Chicopee.

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Protesters highlight Chinatown's affordable housing crisis

Marchers also walked to a nearby luxury condominium building to express concern over their plight.

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Malden man in drug trafficking ring sentenced

Brendan Joyner, 21, was one of 11 people arrested in 2013 for moving 400 pounds of marijuana from California to Massachusetts.

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R.I. man dead after powered paragliding crash off Plum Island

The 49-year-old was powered paragliding off the northern tip of the island, Newburyport police said.

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What's the deal with South Station's closed staircase?

Commuters are irked that they received little to no advance warning that their transfer between modes would require them to take the outdoor stairs from Feb. 1 to March 31.

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Bird sightings

Bird sightings by the Massachusetts Audubon Society

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Officials warn residents about displaced bears

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is warning residents about displaced, agitated bears due to the fickle winter. A lack of snow exposes dens and winter rain can make bears uncomfortable and restless, both factors that can cause them to awaken and abandon their dens, said Bear Project Leader Forrest Hammond. The department said it has received reports of bears at bird feeders, in residential areas and in the back country. A bear is reported to have killed a hunter's beagle in Elmore. Disrupted bears sometimes produce nests of spruce boughs in dense evergreen thickets so hare and rabbit hunters should be extra wary of these areas, the department said.

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