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BAY WINDOWS

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The Official Guide to
NEW ENGLAND
LGBTQ+
pride
2025

THIS ISSUE OF BAY WINDOWS HAS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE LISTINGS FOR NEW ENGLAND'S LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER PRIDE CELEBRATIONS

BOSTON

BOSTON'S LGBTQ PAST WALKING TOUR
JUNE - AUGUST

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bostonbyfoot.org/tours/bostons-lgbtq-past

June dates: Thursday the 5th, Friday the 6th, Saturday the 7th, Friday the 13th, Thursday the 26th, Friday the 27th, and Saturday the 28th.

July dates: Saturday the 5th, Friday the 11th, Saturday the 19th, and Friday the 25th.

August dates: Friday the 1st and Friday the 15th.

see **BOSTON**, page 15

MASSACHUSETTS

LESBIAN NIGHTLIFE PRIDE
JUNE 5-15
Boston, MA; lesbiannightlife.com

BOSTON DYKE MARCH
JUNE 13
Boston, MA (location TBA); bostondykemarch.com

MARTHA'S VINEYARD PRIDE
JUNE 13-15
Martha's Vineyard, MA; queer-hubmv.com, obamv.com

BOSTON PRIDE FOR THE PEOPLE
JUNE 14
Copley Square to Boston Common, Boston, MA; bostonprideforthepeople.org

LEE PRIDE
JUNE 14
9:00 AM - 10:00 PM Park Place, Lee, MA; berkshirepride.org

ROAD OF RAINBOWS
JUNE 14
10:00 AM Boston Common, Boston, MA; bostontheater.org/ror

SOUTH COAST PRIDE (TAUNTON)
JUNE 14
Noon - 5:00 PM Hopewell Park, Taunton, MA; scgbtqnetwork.org

HOLYOKE PRIDE FEST
JUNE 21
Noon - 6:00 PM Veterans Park, Holyoke, MA; holyokepride.org

see **MASSACHUSETTS**, page 15

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A Multiplicity of Pride
by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

Pride is not just a month, but a feeling—or rather, many feelings, and I am experiencing several of them right now as I mark personal, professional, and communal milestones.

On the personal level, I am proud of my son, who has just graduated from college. As a parent, of course, I have been proud of all his achievements, from his first steps onward. But graduating from college is a big step into the world. He worked hard for his degree, but he also learned more about himself

see **MOMBIAN**, page 8 Photo via Pexels

Womxn of Color Weekend rocked!
by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer

Photo courtesy of Irene Monroe.

Supreme Court: No extra hurdles for majority plaintiffs



Photo via Unsplash.

By Lisa Keen
Keen News Service

In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday (June 5) rejected a federal appeals court ruling that a straight woman had to clear an extra hurdle to press her claim of sexual orientation discrimination under a federal civil rights

see **SCOTUS**, page 12

Womxn of Color Weekend (WoCW) held its annual event from June 4-9 in Provincetown. WoCW was a unique and bold event held in this present political era, that's targeting marginalized, intersectional communities. How-

ever, WoCW "unapologetically centers womxn of color, trans-, nonbinary, and genderfluid people of color and warmly welcomes our accomplices," stated on its

see **MONROE**, page 10



"Please welcome a man who makes everyone wet."

- Cynthia Erivo introduces the very moist Jonathan Groff during the Tony Awards. I think Keanu would agree.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

Photo by Rhododendrites, via Wikimedia Commons.

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Pride is wherever you are

All of us are part of the struggle

by Richard J. Rosendall | rosendall@starpower.net
contributing writer



Photo via Adobe.

I thought of titling this “A long way from WorldPride” to contrast the struggles of displaced LGBTQ+ people in Kenya with the recent celebrations in Washington. But that would miss the real story.

The United States is facing a concerted right-wing effort to erase and disenfranchise minorities in the name of fighting “wokeness,” a term used to disrespect the diversity of America’s population. The phrase “DEI hires” [referring to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives] is used mockingly to pretend that no person of color or other minority is ever qualified for any job.

Meanwhile, my friend Rosamel, a trans woman who runs a safe house in Nairobi, is the very embodiment of pride under pressure. The two dozen residents of the house include several orphaned children of queer folk. After Rosamel was hospitalized for days due to an injury and tetanus, the children have taken to sleeping next to her and following her around because they are afraid of losing her.

If that is not family, there is none. Those who use the claim that God created two and only two sexes as justification for denying legal protections to gender-non-conforming people need to take off their blinders and see the greater complexity of God’s creation.

Whether right-wing culture warriors recognize it or not, God created intersex people and people whose brain chemistry tells them their gender is different from what was assigned at birth.

The phrase “biological males” is routinely used by people on the right in a way that reduces biology to genitalia. Perhaps even more egregiously, many in the news media uncritically accept the right-wing vocabulary.

Thus our struggle continues. We still have work to do to build and honor what many good people of faith call the Beloved Community.

I attended the WorldPride Human Rights Conference in Washington featuring delegates from across the globe. Being surrounded by so many smart, dedicated activists was invigorating despite my suffering from stress and lack of sleep.

The final session at the conference was a conversation with the Congressional Equality Caucus. One of the panelists, Rep. Becca Balint (D) of Vermont, said, regarding right-wing threats to roll back LGBTQ+ progress, that she is a glass-half-full kind of person.

She is right. We could easily sink into despair, given the aggressive attacks on our community.

But we must not let the haters rob us of our joy nor deflect us from our purpose.

Before the panel began, I spoke with moderator Eugene Daniels of MSNBC, an openly gay journalist who is president of the White House Correspondents Association. I thanked him for his fearlessness and excellence.

A friend told me that he didn’t care to emulate Eugene’s fashion-forward style nor his use of nail polish. But my point in praising Eugene is not that all of us should try to be him. We are a diverse people. It is rather his poise and self-confidence that deserve emulation.

Eugene’s mother told him when he was younger, “You belong in whatever room you find yourself.” Yes.

The threats to LGBTQ+ people around the globe are real and daunting. But we have one another, and the examples set by those who came before us. We also have the wisdom of those children in Nairobi, who needed no one to tell them who loves and cares for them.

I raised money to pay for repairs to the safe house, and for the walking sticks Rosamel required after her injury. The need among these displaced people is always greater than the capacity of the handful of donors. More non-governmental organizations are needed to help those forced to flee their homes and countries because of unscrupulous politicians and clergy who scapegoat them for problems they had no part in causing.

Eugene Daniels was motivated to come out after the Pulse Nightclub murders in 2016. He didn’t want to die with no one knowing his true self.

By contrast, Utah state legislator Trevor Lee (R) backs HB 77, a measure to ban pride flags in schools and local government buildings, with an amendment allowing Nazi and Confederate flags for “educational purposes.”

We must join forces to beat back the evil nonsense currently proliferating.

To find role models, we have only to look around us and around the world. Rosamel and Eugene did not wait for permission to step up and lead.

To quote a wise ancient man whose teaching is routinely ignored by the hatermongers on the so-called Christian right: “Go thou and do likewise.”

Richard J. Rosendall is a writer and activist at rosendall@me.com.

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City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to usher in Pride Month with our LGBTQ+ communities here in Boston and across New England.

In Boston, we've been celebrating our revolutionary roots as we mark 250 years since lighting the lanterns that sparked our country's struggle for freedom. But that struggle didn't end when the Declaration of Independence was signed. For two-and-a-half centuries, we've continued to tug at freedom's edges—unwilling to rest until "liberty and justice for all" are a reality for all our communities.

Pride is a call to continue that fight: To celebrate the beauty, resilience, and vibrancy of our queer, trans, and nonbinary families, friends, and neighbors—and to reaffirm our resolve to make every space safe, fun, and affirming for the LGBTQ+ community.

That call has grown louder over the past several months. Today, there is a concerted effort to roll back the rights and freedoms that generations of LGBTQ+ leaders dedicated their lives to securing. Here in Boston, we refuse to lose ground in the fight for equality. We will never waver from our vision to build a city for everyone.

From creating the City's first Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement and helping establish New England's first LGBTQ+ senior housing community, to providing small business support for Boston's newest lesbian bar and updating our marriage licenses to be gender-inclusive, we are finding every possible way to make Boston a prouder, more joyful place for our LGBTQ+ community.

And that joy has been on full display all year long: Earlier this year we welcomed the Big Queer Food Fest to Boston along with the North American Cup, a biennial LGBTQ+ rugby tournament. This month, we raised the Pride flag on City Hall Plaza, are taking to the streets with the Boston Dyke March, and will kick off a series of events for Black Pride that will last through the first week of July.

However you choose to celebrate Pride this year, know that the City of Boston stands with you and all of our queer, trans, and nonbinary communities.

In solidarity,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

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Happy Pride to all!

I'm honored to celebrate our
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month alongside Boston and
New England.

Michelle Wu
MAYOR OF BOSTON

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billy masters

Prior to my European vacation, I was helping a friend on a project at a large multinational corporation. Within days of my return, I was called down to HR. Before my trip, I had an encounter with an employee who knew me only casually. As a result, some words I said were taken out of context and I was asked to issue an apology. This is that apology: "I would like Miss X to know I meant no harm in any comments I made to her at our offsite event. In my community, there is no higher compliment than to tell someone that they could be paid for sex. Still, I can see where someone might be offended to be told, 'If you were a hooker, you'd make a fortune'. So, let me be clear—that was just a joke. In no way do I believe anyone would pay Miss X for sex. In truth, I'd be surprised if someone would even buy her dinner. I apologize for any emotional distress I caused in suggesting she would be given bus fare should she enter the world's oldest profession." Crisis averted.

Welcome to Pride Month. And you know it's Pride Month when Billy Masters has to take a sensitivity class to be taught that people don't aspire to get paid for sex...unless they're on a Bravo show! Pride Month or not, **JoJo Siwa** has confirmed that she is currently sleeping with a guy. Look, I don't care who she sleeps with. But, here's a tip—before you become a role model for future librarians everywhere, try sleeping with a man first to see if you like it.

US Navy Secretary **John Phelan** announced that the USNS Harvey Milk is going to be renamed. Why? According to a leaked memo, El Presidente wants to "reestablish the warrior culture." Is it just me, or is that the gayest thing you've ever heard? **Sean Penn**, who played **Harvey Milk** onscreen, said, "I've never before seen a Secretary of Defense so aggressively demote himself to the rank of Chief Petty Officer." OK, that was a good one! The Navy also plans to rename such ships as the USNS Thurgood Marshall, the USNS Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the USNS Harriet Tubman. I can kinda accept these changes. After all, I don't think many sailors want to go home and say, "I just spent six months on **Ruth Bader Ginsburg**!" And don't get me started on Tubman or Thurgood!

Perhaps because it's Pride Month, I've come across lots of online posts titled "Were They Trans?". And they're about people like **Katharine Hepburn**, **Greta Garbo**, **Amelia Earhart**, **Boy George**, and even **Benny Hill**! Not all tomboys want to be men, and not every fella in a frock wants to be female. However, it is true that Hepburn did go through a trans-adjacent period. She told **Katie Couric**, "I was called Jimmy, and I hated being a girl. I really hated it. I had three brothers, and I just shaved my head and thought, 'I'm a boy.'" What people skip is what she said next. "Inside, I never felt like Jimmy." That's why she wasn't trans. As to Earhart (who briefly lived in my hometown), her masculinity was more about her professional aspirations—goals that were distinctly unfeminine. I hasten to add there is no truth to the clothes making the man. But when a man is out of them, get out of my way!

For the past 20 years, many gay boys' clothes undergarments were emblazoned with the name **Andrew Christian**. Alas, that time is coming to an end. Christian just announced he's shutting down his atelier. "After more than 25 years, my hands will soon lay down the needle that has guided me through this calling...I began this journey as a scared gay kid from Fresno with nothing but a sketchbook and a dream. Fashion became my sanctuary—a place to exist, survive, and celebrate who we are. Every stitch told a story, every collection a reflection of our collective journey. As I retire, my heart is full of gratitude. To every LGBTQ+ soul who let me dress their truth—thank you. This isn't the end, just a new beginning. With love and pride."

What is **Whoopi Goldberg**'s one-woman show without Goldberg? It's "The Whoopi Monologues." Lincoln Center's off-Broadway stage will house "The Whoopi Monologues" next summer. Rather than trying to find one woman to fill Whoopi's shoes, the cast will include five women—including **Kerry Washington** and **Kara Young**—who just made history by being nominated for a Tony Award four years in a row, and winning the last two!

The current Broadway revival of **David Mamet**'s "Glengarry Glen Ross" has been extended through June 28th. It was widely rumored that when the current cast departs (which includes **Kieran Culkin**, **Bob Odenkirk** and **Bill Burr**), they would be replaced by an all-female cast. While the idea of a female "Glengarry" has been kicking around for years, we hear Mamet has never signed off on it.

This column is being written before the Tony Awards are given out (except for the next paragraph, obviously). We all know that **Cole Escola** has brilliantly brought his alternative history of Mary Todd Lincoln to the stage in "Oh, Mary!". Surely his return to the show on April 8th was orchestrated to remind Tony voters not only of the play's merits, but also his capabilities as a performer. And obviously that worked. Now, **Titus Burgess** will return to the role on June 23rd for a six-week run. That brings us to the end of July, which begs the question—who will be the next Mary? After all, the show is slated to run through September. I would hope producers learned something from the **Betty Gilpin** debacle and avoid casting a cis female. But might I be so bold as to suggest someone like a **Charles Busch**? Certainly he'd look fetching in the frocks!

As to the Tonys themselves, I thought **Cynthia Erivo** did a fantastic job hosting—and what an opening number! But how hot was Radio City Music Hall? Everyone looked like they were sweltering from the start—particularly a hot guy on the aisle in the second row who looked like he was about to pass out! As always, there were high points, there were low points. A high point was **Nicole Scherzinger**, who was sweating and sensational. But I was so hungry watching her, I had to hit pause and get something to eat. I did make it back to see the "Hamilton" reunion, which was as relevant as ever. There were also some awful moments...but why dwell on them? **Oprah** didn't mind going low with a not-so-subtle barb at **Patti**. Despite basically anointing Audra, it was Nicole who came out on top. Speaking of which, who would have ever expected to see Cole Escola top **George Clooney**? And on live television! Then he thanked a random guy from Grindr. I bet George wouldn't have done that!

Could it be that one of those celebrated performers has become completely insufferable? Well, "become" is probably not the right word, because this person has always rubbed me the wrong way—despite obvious success. I was watching one of those actors' roundtables recently and this person dominated the proceedings, despite being surrounded by people who have paid their dues for years. Why is it that the least amongst us has the most to say?

This week's "Ask Billy" question comes from Steve in Las Vegas: "I just saw a photo of **Jonathan Groff** in head to toe leather. He looked so hot! What was that for? Some role?"

When Groff went to Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter" tour in New Jersey, he wanted to get into the swing of things with some...well, country regalia (if you're in a country filled with gay men). "It was cowboy theme, but also I wanted to feel a little gay," he told Jimmy Fallon. He was successful. He had on black leather chaps over black hot pants, a black leather vest, and a black leather cowboy hat. The outfit was provided by Go at The Leather Man on Christopher Street. Groff called it "baby's first chaps". When asked to explain, he said, "I'm the baby and those are my first chaps." So much to unpack. First, when you are over 40, you cannot refer to yourself as a baby—except on Grindr! When asked about the chaps, Jonathan said, "Oh my God, it's my new fetish. I learned so much about myself once I got into those chaps. It's the smell of the leather." Needless to say, you can check out Jonathan in and out of leather on BillyMasters.com.

When we're starting with Groff being wet and ending with him in leather, I think I better give him a hand and end yet another column. If anything untoward happens, I'll tell you all about it on www.BillyMasters.com—the site where I don't have to watch what I say. If you have a question for the uncensored moi, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Groff invests in a Chrysler Cordoba—with fine Corinthian leather! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



Kieran Culkin

Photo by Bryan B... via Wikimedia Commons.



Titus Burgess

Photo by Emily Madrid.



Jonathan Groff

Photo by Carrie Sells, via Wikimedia Commons.



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Mombian

Continued from page 1

over the past four years, gaining confidence and creating a path that felt right for him. I am ridiculously proud of the young man he has become.

I am proud, too, that my now-spouse and I were able to start our family in the first place more than two decades ago. We chose to do reciprocal IVF (my egg, her womb) before we even

We stood on the shoulders of the first intentional LGBTQ+ parents of the 1970s, of the queer parents in earlier decades who had children within different-sex marriages and then came out, and of the queer parents stretching back for millennia, arguably to Sappho (7th to 6th century BCE), who may have had a daughter.

knew a term for it, and before we knew whether a court would grant me legal parentage of the child she carried. (It did, but only because we worked for it.). We didn't have all the resources available today, but we figured things out.

Not that we were really pioneers, though. We stood on the shoulders of the first intentional LGBTQ+ parents of the 1970s, of the queer parents in earlier decades who had children within different-sex marriages and then came out, and of the queer parents stretching back for millennia, arguably to Sappho (7th to 6th century BCE), who may have had a daughter.

I am proud to be part of that long tradition, one of the millions of LGBTQ+ parents carrying it on today. Some parts of parenting are universal, of course, and I also have pride simply in being a human who has raised a child. But I am particularly proud to do so within a community that has fought fiercely for the right to love and to be, that has challenged boxes and labels and sought to expand the possibilities for every person.

That combination of personal and communal pride came together for me 20 years ago this month, when I launched Mombian, a blog for and about lesbian moms and other LGBTQ+ parents. At the time, mainstream parenting sites rarely included LGBTQ+ people, while LGBTQ+ sites rarely included parents. I saw a need for a site that looked at parenting issues with a queer lens and queer issues with a parenting lens and that offered a mix of news, resources, and a

little fun. While other sites both queer and not now include queer parenting stories more frequently, I'd like to think there's still use for one that draws on 20 years of in-depth coverage.

As my site reaches this milestone, I am looking back with pride at all that has changed for queer families in 20 years. Marriage equality is perhaps the most visible advance, bringing with it both legal protections and a growing awareness and acceptance of our families. But marriage protections and parentage protections are not the same. Even though same-sex married couples should benefit from the presumption that children born into a marriage are the legal children of both parents, some states have challenged that, and nongestational parents everywhere are still advised by legal experts to take additional steps to secure their parentage. For parents who choose not to marry, the need to do so is even greater. I am thus proud of the small but growing number of states that have updated their parentage laws to make this easier and to better protect children in all types of families. I am proud, too, of the legal experts, advocates, and elected officials who worked together to make this happen.

Representation of LGBTQ+ families has also increased greatly in the past two decades. Only a handful of LGBTQ+-inclusive children's books were published in 2005. Now, there are hundreds each year—and the Mombian Database of LGBTQ+ Family Books that I created as part of my website includes more than 1,800 items (and counting). I'm proud of the database, but I'm

even more proud of every author and illustrator represented in it, starting with Jane Severance, who in 1979 wrote the first clearly LGBTQ+-inclusive picture book. These books have often faced challenges and bans, but their creators have defended them, defended each other, and championed the young people whose lives the books reflect.

Although the LGBTQ+ community has made much progress in the past 20 years, though, it seems we are now slipping backwards in many ways. I worry about the country my son and his generation are inheriting as they step into adulthood. I used to be proud of it, despite wanting to correct its flaws. Now, those flaws loom ever larger, chipping away at my pride, as our leaders display a sense of entitlement and hubris, pride in the worst sense.

But this is Pride Month, a time to renew our pride in the best sense—in our families, our community, and ourselves. May it be a month to honor all we have achieved, separately and together, to remember the proud spirits whose protests made it possible, and to recommit to holding our rainbow banners high. I've been proud to chart our progress over the past 20 years, and I know there are many more of our stories left to write.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents plus a searchable database of 1,800+ LGBTQ+ family books.

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Monroe

Continued from page 1

website. This year's annual gathering once again reaffirmed our right to exist.

WoCW was founded in 2007. Its bold mission was to bring diversity to Provincetown. Provincetown has a long and revered history of predominantly white gay male vacationers.

"Representation matters!" one of this week's attendees stated on wocweekend Instagram. "It's great to see people of color, especially women of color. This is the only time you'll get to see this many people in this space."

Provincetown - unlike Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard - does not have a historically black section nor an annual summer visit of a sizable population of people of color vacationers.

"In full honesty, my perception of Provincetown was that it only catered to an older and whiter demographic; I had no idea that there would be events and venues that warmly welcomed my 20-something black queer self. I believe that WoCW is transforming the existing culture by signaling to the queer communities of color that there is, in fact, space for us in P-town; we just gotta show up first!" Jha told Curve.

However, Provincetown has changed drastically for the better in accommodating WoCW in terms of racial cultural competence and police protection of us. In 2011, I wrote a piece for the Huffington Post titled "Provincetown's Not Safe for Black Lesbians" because of the sexual and homophobic harassment by male Jamaican summer migrant workers and a lack of protection from the police.

"A few years back, I sent a letter about this very subject... and I received an email from the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce, instructing me to get in touch with them and the police if this happens again... well, it has happened again, and

again," a woman wrote me in 2011.

In 2025, I now feel safer in Provincetown as an African American lesbian walking back to my accommodation in the wee hours of the morning than I do residing in Cambridge. As a safe place where we can gather and enjoy the pleasures of Provincetown, such as its beaches, natural beauty, and entertainment scene, WoCW draws huge crowds from across the country.

The event programs were electrifying and edifying, featuring a wide variety of activities for an audience with diverse interests: a pool party, fashion show, all-star game, comedy show, fitness classes, mindfulness sessions, speed dating, workshops, and discussion panels, to name a few. I was on the panel titled "Nurturing Our Narrative," which was a discussion on how we own our narratives through storytelling, arts, and media. One of the ways was the annual WoCW, a celebration and opportunity for intergenerational, multicultural, and cross-sector networking, business engagement, and community relationship building. As LGBTQIA women of color, trans, non-binary, and gender-fluid people of color, this event creates a historical record of our presence in Provincetown that now intersects with the town's promotion as an inclusive LGBTQ+ destination.

The 4-day gathering went by too swiftly. However, our farewells and goodbyes come with new friendships and lasting memories. On the last day of the event, one of the attendees texted me the following:

"It was such a pleasure to meet all of you. I'm actually standing outside of the Rose and Crown (the only mixed lesbian couple owned guest house in P-town and on Commercial Street) right now. I came down from Basswood to say goodbye, but the door is closed, so I'll send a text and head out. I'm looking forward to seeing you all again!"

WoCW looks forward to 2026.



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SCOTUS

Continued from page 1

law.

The law, Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibits employers from taking adverse action against an employee or potential employee "because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin." Four years ago, a 6 to 3 majority of the Supreme Court ruled, in *Bostick v. Clayton County*, that Title VII's prohibition of employment discrimination "because of sex" includes because of sexual orientation and gender identity. It was one of the most stunning Supreme Court victories for LGBTQ+ people.

Thursday's decision in *Ames v. Ohio* may not draw much more than a yawn. The case was testing whether Title VII could require heterosexual employees—as part of a majority class—to provide a level of proof of discrimination that sexual minorities would not have to provide. The Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the district court had ruled that plaintiffs who are part of a majority should provide "background circumstances" to support their claim of discrimination.

"We conclude that Title VII does not impose such a heightened standard on majority-group plaintiffs," wrote Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, in a nine-page decision for the court.

The case was brought to the Supreme Court by Marlean Ames, a straight woman who worked at an Ohio juvenile prison facility for 15 years. When, in 2019, she applied for a promotion, she did not get the promotion and, instead, was demoted. The Department gave the promotion to a lesbian and gave Ames' previous position to a gay man.

Interestingly, the Sixth Circuit decision noted that the two supervisors who took the adverse actions against Ames, were both straight thus making her sexual orientation discrimination claim seemingly unsupported by the facts. The Supreme Court vacated the lower court deci-

sions and sent the Ames case back to the district court for reconsideration.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Department of Justice under the Biden administration did not support requiring majority group plaintiffs to meet the extra requirement. So, while this case was about sexual orientation discrimination on the surface, it was about how hard a court can make it for straights to prove sexual orientation discrimination.

Neither the ACLU nor any of three LGBTQ+ legal groups filed a friend-of-the-court brief in this case. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund opposed Ames' effort to eliminate the "background circumstances" requirement for majority plaintiffs. It noted that studies have shown majority group plaintiffs in Title VII cases are already "more likely to prevail" than minority group plaintiffs. The LDF also noted that, "LGBTQ people... experience high rates of discrimination in the workplace, with studies showing over half of LGBTQ workers surveyed report experiencing discrimination or harassment in the workplace."

"Further," noted the LDF brief, "22 percent of LGBTQ workers surveyed noted that they had been fired or not hired, and 21 percent reported being denied a promotion, wage, equal wages, or training opportunities, because of their LGBTQ status. Transgender people, especially, report high rates of discrimination, with surveys showing that 70 to 90 percent of transgender people surveyed have experienced workplace discrimination."

A concurring opinion to Thursday's decision in *Ames v. Ohio* sought to tie it to the current presidential administration's campaign to eradicate programs that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Written by Justice Clarence Thomas and joined by Justice Neil Gorsuch, the concurrence said that "American employers have long been 'obsessed' with 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' initiatives and affirmative action plans."

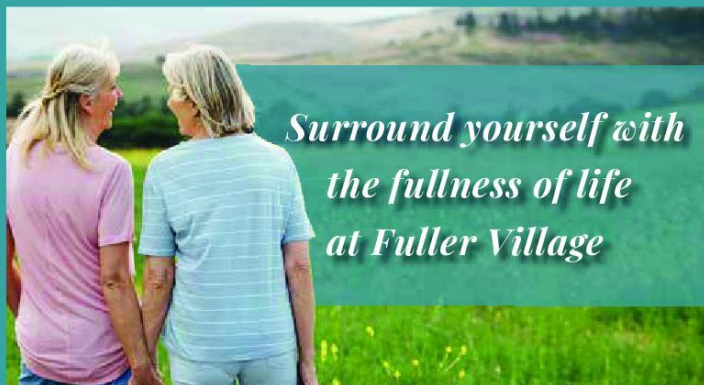
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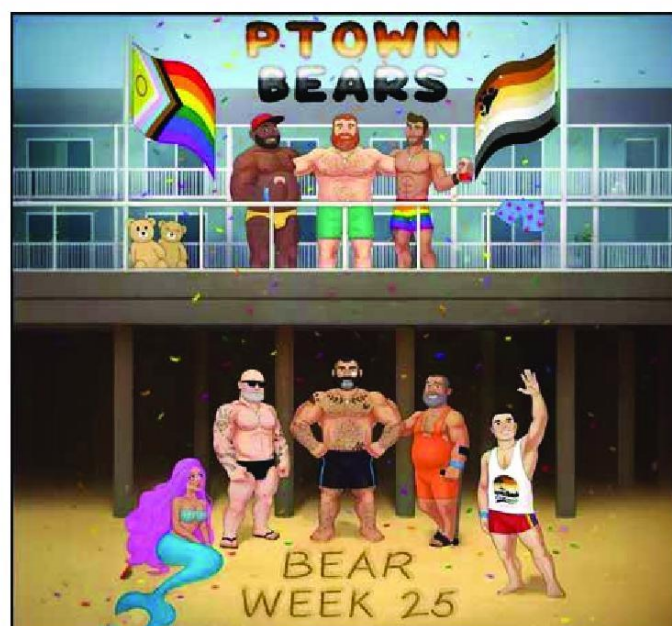
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'Not just a party:' World Pride celebrations end with defiant politics on display

By Christine Fernando, Fatima Hussein,
Jacquelyn Martin AND Mike Pesoli
Associated Press

Washington (AP) — After the raucous rainbow-hued festivities of Saturday's parade, the final day of World Pride 2025 in the nation's capital kicked off on a more downbeat note.

Thousands gathered under grey skies Sunday morning at the Lincoln Memorial for a rally and protest march, as the community gathers its strength for a looming fight under President Donald Trump's second administration.

"This is not just a party," Ashley Smith, board president of Capital Pride Alliance. "This is a rally for our lives."

Smith acknowledged that international attendance numbers for the bi-annual World Pride were measurably down, with many potential attendees avoiding travel to the U.S. due to either fear of harassment or in protest of Trump's policies.

"That should disturb us and mobilize us," Smith said.

Protesters cheered on LGBTQ+ activists taking the stage while waving both traditional Pride flags and flags representing transgender, bisexual, intersex and other communities. Many had rainbow glitter and rhinestones adorning their faces. They held signs declaring "Fight back," "Gay is good," "Ban bombs not bathrooms" and "We will not be erased."

Trump's campaign against transgender protections and oft-stated antipathy for drag shows have set the community on edge, with some hoping to see a renewed wave of street politics in response.

"Trans people just want to be loved. Everybody wants to live their own lives and I don't understand the problem with it all," said Tyler Cargill, who came wearing an elaborate costume with a hat topped by a replica of the U.S. Capitol building.

Wes Kincaid drove roughly 6 hours from Charlotte, North Carolina to attend this year. Sitting on a park bench near the reflecting pond, Kincaid said he made a point of attending this year, "because it's more important than ever to show up for our community."

Reminders of the cuts to federal government programs were on full display, Sunday. One attendee waved a pole bearing a massive rainbow flag along with a large USAID flag; another held a "Proud gay federal worker" sign; and a third held an umbrella with the logos of various federal program facing cuts — including the PBS logo.

Trump's anti-trans rhetoric had fueled fears of violence or protests targeting World Pride participants; at one point earlier this spring, rumors circulated that the Proud Boys were planning to disrupt this weekend's celebrations. Those concerns prompted organizers to install security fencing around the entire two-day street party on a multi-block stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue.

But so far, the only clear act of aggression has been the vandalizing of a queer bar last week. Late Saturday night, there was a pair of violent incidents near Dupont Circle — one of the epicenters of the World Pride celebrations.



People attend the World Pride Rally and March at the Lincoln Memorial, Sunday, June 8, 2025, on the National Mall in Washington. Photo by Alex Brandon/AP.

Two juveniles were stabbed and a man was shot in the foot in separate incidents. The Metropolitan Police Department says it is not clear if either incident was directly related to World Pride.

A cold rain began falling around noon Sunday as the rally speakers cut short their comments and prepared to march. Some attendees filtered away while others huddled under umbrellas and ponchos.

"Rain will not stop us, and after rain comes rainbows," said one speaker from the stage.

The speeches didn't just target the Trump administration or the Republican party. Some turned their ire on Democratic politicians, who they say have wilted under the pressure of Republican control of the White House and both houses of Congress.

"We have to call out people who have abandoned our movement," said Tyler Hack of the Christopher Street Project.

"Being a Democrat is more than carrying the party affiliation," Hack added. "It's about unapologetic support for the trans community."

While the main march headed toward the U.S. Capitol, a separate group splintered off and headed toward the White House, unfurling a large "TRUMP MUST GO NOW" banner.

Those who stayed to brave the weather said their presence amid less-than-ideal circumstances was vital.

"People are still out here, despite the rain, despite their exhaustion," said Gillian Brewer, a university student studying physics from Silver Spring, Maryland. "We're not going anywhere."

Brewer expressed some frustration that the turnout for Sunday's protest march was lower than for the World Pride parade the day before, which she decided to skip.

"This is more important," Brewer added. "You can party all you want but at the end of the day, the protest is why we can party."

Natalie Farmer, who traveled from San Diego with her wife, attributed the difference in numbers between the march and Saturday's parade to people being tired from celebrating the previous night.

"Some of us have to do the rallying to keep the party going," Farmer said. "We all fight in different ways."

Massachusetts

Continued from page 1

NORTH SHORE PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL JUNE 28

Parade noon, Festival 11:00 AM
- 4:00 PM Shetland Park to Salem
Common, Salem, MA; northshore-
pride.org

PLYMOUTH PRIDE JUNE 29

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Nelson
Park, Plymouth, MA; plymouthpri-
deinc.com

REVERE BEACH PRIDE JUNE 29

1:00 PM - 7:00 PM Waterfront
Square, 400-500 Ocean Ave, Revere,
MA; revere.org/reverepride

BOSTON BLACK PRIDE JULY 6

Noon - 8:00 PM Boston, MA;
lesbigayurbanfoundation.org

BEAR WEEK PROVINCETOWN JULY 12 - 19

Provincetown, MA; www.ptown-
bears.events

PRIDE WORCESTER SEPTEMBER 6

2:00 PM - 7:00 PM Downtown
Worcester, MA; prideworcester.org

LONGMEADOW PRIDE SEPTEMBER 7

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Longmead-
ow Town Green, Longmeadow, MA;
longmeadowpride.org

Boston

Continued from page 1

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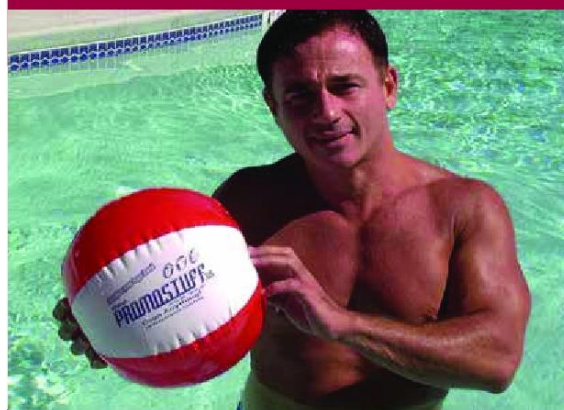
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