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"The Queer Family Podcast" Showcases Beautiful, Unique Stories

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

Jaimie Kelton, founder and host of "The Queer Family Podcast." Photo courtesy of Jaimie Kelton.

When Jaimie Kelton launched a podcast for queer families in 2018, she thought, "This would be a fun side project." Now, 11 seasons later, she's interviewed hundreds of queer families, published a book based on many of their stories, and has just rebranded the podcast to emphasize the range of queer family experiences the show covers.

Kelton said that she and her original co-host Robin Hopkins, both White lesbian moms and actors,

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 4*

Giving the devil a free tank of gas

We must get our fight on against fascists or lose our republic

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

Last week I received an urgent text message from a group of gay men hiding from an angry mob in Kampala, Uganda. They sought money for transport to the border with Kenya. Over dinner I described their plight to a trans activist friend, and she promptly took out her phone and sent me the money, which I sent on to them.

There you have one small example of global LGBTQ activism in the 21st century. The fleeing Ugandans were grateful for the help, but they depended on their own courage, fortitude, and resourcefulness to sustain them on their path.

Stepping back, there is a need for increased advocacy and organizing, not only to help particular refugees but to end the persecution that creates refugees. The ugly truth is that

see **ROSENDALL,** *page 4*

Portsmouth counters hateful graffiti with weekend of love

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. (AP) —Love is blooming in Portsmouth as the community counters a hateful graffiti spree with kindness and connection.

The attorney general's office and local police are investigating after 15 downtown sites were marked Tuesday with swastikas and other symbols. The targets included a synagogue, minority-owned businesses and storefronts with rainbow flags supporting the LGBTQ community.

In response, local nonprofit groups and city officials organized "Love in Bloom, " a weekend aimed at high-

see **GRAFFITI,** *page 4*

PRIDE IS BACK!

Boston Pride For The People is excited to announce the return of a Pride Month celebration in Boston on

June 10th – 11th, 2023

The celebration will include a parade, a festival, block parties, and more as this new organization creates a unified city Pride celebration.

Get more information at
www.bostonprideforthepeople.org

Mayor Wu And LGBTQ+ Advancement Announce AmplifyGSA

Submitted by Mayor Wu's Office

This initiative supports students to create safe, welcoming, and accepting school communities

Mayor Michelle Wu and the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement today announced the launch of AmplifyGSA, a new initiative to promote, support, and protect Genders and Sexualities Alliances (GSA) in Boston Public schools. This program will officially launch tonight with support from the Boston Celtics and TD Bank at the "Celtics Pride Night" game. The Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement will host the AmplifyGSA Youth Summit on May 21, 2023 at Boston Arts Academy.

"In Boston, we're committed to protecting and promoting our LGBTQ+ communities and the rights, dignity, and humanity of all our residents," said Mayor Michelle Wu. "Currently only a handful of our schools have a Genders and Sexualities Alliance, so we're launching our new program, AmplifyGSA."

"It is our duty to provide a safe space for all of our young people and having GSAs in our schools is a proven holistic way to create the spaces needed to help our youth not just survive, but thrive." said Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Ad-

see **AMPLIFYGSA,** *page 7*

"I never liked when she did this in concerts either. I don't like when females are overly sexualized in art. It degrades and objectivy's [sic] women in a way that's not healthy."

—TJ Jackson on reports of Auntie Janet's new concert. I can only imagine what Tito's spawn thought of Auntie LaToya and that snake!

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

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Nationalbriefs

Judge tosses challenge to Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' law

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)— A federal judge has again dismissed a lawsuit challenging a Florida law critics have dubbed "Don't Say Gay" that restricts teaching about gender identity and sexual orientation in schools.

U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor in Tallahassee ruled last month that a revised lawsuit filed by students, parents and teachers failed to show they had legal standing to challenge the law. The lawsuit had argued the new Florida law is unconstitutional.

According to the ruling, the plaintiffs needed to show they suffered harm that could be traced to the new law and could be remedied by a favorable decision from the court. The judge said most of the plaintiffs' claims of harm come from the existence of the new law, rather than its enforcement.

Winsor dismissed an earlier version of the case in September on similar grounds, and a similar lawsuit filed in Orlando was also dismissed in October.

A report released in August by the Human Rights Campaign, one of the nation's largest LGBTQ advocacy groups, and the Center for Countering Digital Hate said that hateful references to gays, lesbians and other LGBTQ people surged online after Florida's Republican-dominated legislature passed the bill last spring. The law was championed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican.

California will try to enshrine right to same-sex marriage

By Sophie Austin, Associated Press/ Report for America

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)— California, a U.S. trendsetter for progressive policies and a state where the current governor once made news issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in San Francisco before it was legal, will attempt to enshrine marriage equality in the state constitution.

The effort comes 15 years after a voter-approved initiative, Proposition 8, banned the state from recognizing same-sex marriages. In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for same-sex marriage in California. The constitutional amendment is still on the books, however, and that worries advocates who think the high court may revisit the 2015 case that legalized gay marriage nationwide.

"It's absolute poison, it is so destructive and it's humiliating that this is in our constitution," said Scott Wiener, a state senator who represents San Francisco.

Wiener and Assembly Member Evan Low of Silicon Valley, both Democrats and members of the California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus, introduced legislation Tuesday to rescind Proposition 8. The measure would need to be approved in the Legislature by a two-thirds vote, and then it will ultimately fall to voters to decide via a referendum.

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced his support for the repeal.

"It's time that our laws affirm marriage equality regardless of who you are or who you love," the Democrat said. "California stands with the LGBTQ+ community and their right to live freely."

In the days leading up to Proposition 8's approval, Low joined opponents of the measure outside his alma mater De Anza College in Cupertino, California, to call on voters to reject the initiative. When it passed, it felt personal to Low, who is gay.

"Why do fellow Californians hate me?" he said. "Why do they feel that my rights should be eliminated?"

California could follow in the footsteps of Nevada, which in 2020 became the first state to amend its constitution to ensure the right to same-sex marriage. The matter took on fresh urgency last year when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the right to an abortion established by Roe v. Wade. At the time, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas called into question other prominent cases and urged the court to reconsider them. His list included Obergefell v. Hodges, which forced states to issue and recognize same-sex marriages.

"In future cases, we should reconsider all of this Court's substantive due process precedents, including Griswold, Lawrence, and Obergefell," Thomas wrote, referencing two other landmark cases involving access to birth control and a decision striking down laws against same-sex sexual activity.

In December, President Joe Biden signed into law the Respect for Marriage Act, which requires states to recognize same-sex marriages, but the legislation doesn't force states to allow them if Obergefell is overturned.

Wiener and Low, the two California lawmakers, hope to replicate the process under which state voters in November approved a constitutional change guaranteeing the right to abortion.

Jeremy Yancey and Fabio de Andrade, who got married Tuesday at a Valentine's Day celebration at San Francisco City Hall, said Proposition 8's repeal is overdue.

"It's about time. Protecting our rights as human beings is very vital," Yancey said. "It should've happened many years ago."

Assembly Member Greg Wallis, a Republican representing part of San Bernadino County, said in a statement that he was proud to co-author the legislation.

"The reality is that marriage is a contract and commitment between any two people in love, and it's high time we make that clear," Wallis said.

The path to marriage equality in the Golden State was uneven. In 2000, voters approved a statute that banned the recognition of same-sex marriages, a measure that was overturned by the courts. Newsom, who became San Francisco's mayor in 2004, issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples in the city in a move that defied the law and ran counter to views then held by many in his party. In 2005, the California Legislature was ahead of all other states when it passed a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. But then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican, vetoed it.

Support for marriage equality has rapidly expanded since the Obergefell ruling. While Mormon groups helped fund the Proposition 8 campaign in California, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came out in support of the Respect for Marriage Act.

national briefs national briefs national briefs

Tony Hoang, executive director of Equality California, is optimistic the group can help build a large supportive coalition for the proposed amendment.

"I know this will be a bipartisan campaign," he said.

Associated Press journalist Terry Chea in Fremont, California contributed to this report.

Sophie Austin is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Austin on Twitter: @sophieadanna

Missouri debates ban on LGBTQ education for all grades

By Summer Ballentine, Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) - Missouri lawmakers argued Wednesday over a bill that would ban most LGBTQ education subjects for all grades in the state's public schools.

The proposal is modeled after a Florida education law passed last year, touted by supporters as protecting "parent's rights" and dubbed by opponents as a " Don't Say Gay " law.

The Missouri bill debated in a state House committee hearing would ban K-12 public school staff from teaching about gender identity and sexual orientation.

The Florida law only prohibits teaching those subjects from kindergarten through third grade, although any lessons on those topics for students of any grade are also banned if they are not age-appropriate.

"Exposure to such topics is inappropriate for children, creating confusion which may then cause doubt in their identities," said Rep. Ann Kelley, a former teacher and the Republican sponsor of the Missouri bill. "It is not the place of the school to indoctrinate our children by exposing them to gender and sexual identity curriculums and courses."

Kelley said her bill will need to be amended so it does not limit teaching for Advanced Placement courses.

In response to a question from a committee member, Kelley said she assumes that under her bill, educators would be banned from explaining the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges that legalized same-sex marriage.

"It seems like the things that you want to prohibit are targeted to one particular group that you find disfavorable," Republican Rep. Phil Christofanelli told Kelley.

Democratic Rep. Ian Mackey, a former teacher who is openly gay, asked Kelley if him "being gay in the classroom" and not hiding that from students would be limited under her bill.

"Did you ever inform your students on your beliefs?" Kelley asked Mackey.

"They did know I was gay," Mackey said. "They would see my wedding ring and they would ask about it, and I would say I have a husband."

A committee vote on the bill was not scheduled as of Wednesday afternoon.

The White House, Disney, and LGBTQ advocates criticized the passage of

Some Florida schools have since moved library books and debated changing textbooks in response to the new law. Some teachers have worried that family pictures on their desks could get them in trouble.

A federal judge in February again dismissed a lawsuit challenging the Florida law's constitutionality. The judge ruled that the students, parents and teachers who filed the lawsuit didn't have legal standing.

The Missouri Senate is considering a similar bill requiring public school teachers and staff to tell parents if their children "express discomfort or confusion."

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Rosendall

Continued from page 1

right-wing American evangelicals have helped fuel the scapegoating of gay and trans people in that region.

We in America are not immune to similar harm. From the radical right there is a surging crusade to ban books, forbid the teaching of our racial history, prohibit gender studies, marginalize gay and trans people, criminalize drag performances, and treat white people as fragile and beleaguered simply by the presence of others different from them.

Congressional Republicans talk endlessly of freedom even as they act to block the District of Columbia from reforming its century-old criminal code, which is full of ambiguities and inconsistencies that make it harder to get convictions. Meanwhile, many Democrats cower for fear of being called soft on crime.

What is clear—whether it is Republicans fear-mongering against minority populations, or East African politicians and clergy doing the same—is that the goal is not to solve problems but to exploit them. Demagogues wrap themselves in patriotic symbols while dragging their countries into a tribalist hell of us versus them.

The way out of hell is to embrace and respect our diversity. This is what America's motto, e pluribus unum, says: "Out of many, one." What the bigots demand instead is dominion by the few over the many, which is tyranny.

As I write this, a "Hands Off DC" rally is being planned at Columbus Circle in front of DC's Union Station to protest Congress's assault on DC's right to govern itself.

It is a supreme irony that Democrats go into a defensive crouch when Republicans rant once again about law and order, despite the fact that the Republicans are dominated by insurrectionist thugs. A further irony is that recent violent crime in DC is being blamed on a bill that has not become law. This is like blaming Biden for problems caused by Trump policies, as with the Norfolk Southern train derailment and chemical spill in East Palestine, Ohio.

Instead of having a serious, informed public policy debate, the right wing portrays the DC Council as radical leftist kooks and children who need adult supervision. If anyone needs adult supervision, it is the seditionist committee chairs installed in the House by Kevin McCarthy.

That being said, District leaders in the future must anticipate congressional opposition and plan stronger rollout messaging. But that requires cooperation between Mayor Muriel Bowser and the DC Council, not public sniping by the mayor because she did not get her way. Similarly, President Biden undermined his stated support for self-governance by the 700,000 residents of DC by caving to right-wing disinformation.

What the mayor and the president have done in undercutting years of legislative work will only encourage more congressional meddling in District affairs. Judging by past experience, this will include frontal assaults on LGBTQ protections. As in Florida under Gov. Ron DeSantis, Congress will push anti-gay and anti-trans measures in the name of combating "wokeness."

The reality, both in Washington and Kampala, is that we cannot expect to defeat the devil after bowing to his lies and giving him a free tankful of gas. If we fail to fight in a smart, strategic, and compelling way, he will descend upon our beleaguered friends an ocean away—and much closer to home—before we have paid the check for dinner.

As of this writing, I have not heard back from the fleeing Ugandans. If you are the praying sort, it cannot hurt to say a prayer for them and others in harm's way.

It is like my parents' generation watching newsreels of London during the Blitz in 1940 and 1941: you know that your personal witness is important, but far more is required in resources and resolve to take the fight to the enemy. Let us be about it.

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

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Mombian

Continued from page 1

"had no idea it would take off the way it did. These stories needed to be told; people wanted to hear these stories and people wanted to tell their stories."

Hopkins has gone on to other ventures, and Kelton has launched the show's new season under a new name, "The Queer Family Podcast," with the encouragement of actor Rosie O'Donnell and Black trans activist and writer Tiq Milan, both interviewees and fans of the show. Kelton explained that the original name, "If These Ovaries Could Talk," no longer fit because "We weren't just telling female stories anymore. We were telling trans stories, telling nonbinary stories."

Kelton is also expanding diversity among the show's hosts. E Bradshaw, a nonbinary Black parent, was cohost for one season, and now Kelton is bringing in interviewees from previous episodes as guest cohosts, "from all different backgrounds, all different sexualities, all different genders," she said.

Kelton wants to keep telling queer family stories because queer families "are not represented in mainstream media like we should be." She added, "What we see in mainstream media is not the truth of the world around us, and that needs to change. The point is to highlight, normalize, and uplift queer families and queer people in general so that the rest of the world can see that we're just like them, except we work a lot harder to make our freakin' families."

Reaching a mainstream audience has been challenging, though. While she's had some straight allies tell her things like, "I didn't know everything that went into [queer family building] and I'm learning so much," she still feels that the podcast isn't where she wants it to be in the parenting podcast world because the show gets categorized as "queer first and then parenting," Kelton said. She's even had conversations with television producers who have told her, "This is just such a niche topic," and "Our audience is just not ready for this yet." Her frustration is evident in her retort, "What do you mean? Look at the world around you!"

She is, however, having a significant impact on her LGBTQ listeners, many of whom have used the podcast to help them figure out their journeys to parenthood. Kelton explained, "There are so many decisions when it comes to queer family making. We have to start from a place of intention way before we even start the process." She related that she often gets feedback from listeners saying, "I didn't know how to do this" or "I didn't even know this was an option for me. Then I heard these stories and I slowly was able to see this is an option and this is the route that I want to take."

She also loves that there are queer parents out there "breaking the mold," because, she said, "We don't fit the mold to begin with. We feel this freedom to bust outside the box and make our families completely unique in this world of very heteronormative families."

She observed, "There are folks who are not only breaking barriers with their parenting, with the way they build their family and how they show up as families, they're also working to change systems that are not set up for us." One couple she interviewed, for example, a cisgender and a nonbinary parent, "experienced some serious microaggressions at their fertility clinic." Instead of getting angry and suing, "They worked with that clinic and changed all of it from the inside out, the whole structure," including making the clinic's forms more inclusive."

"There's a lot of us out there who are working really hard to change these systems, chiseling away one little clinic at a time, but it makes a difference. It's really inspiring to hear these stories of folks who are working to make it better for the LGBTQIA+ community," she said.

The current season of the show brings even more stories about the wide variety of queer families, including one guest who was conceived in the 1980s by gay moms and is now a queer mom herself, with children via fostering, adoption, and being in a blended family with her partner, who has a biological child. Another episode features a teen girl who comes in with her gay mother to talk about what it's like being raised by a gay mom. "It's really fun to get that teenage perspective and learn that the kids really are all right," Kelton said. Other episodes feature international guests and others from around the LGBTQ spectrum.

Everybody's story is so beautiful and so unique," she asserted. "That's the beauty of this show. It just shows the humanity behind all of our journeys and all of our families."

Listen to "The Queer Family Podcast" wherever podcasts are found.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1000+ LGBTQ family books.

Graffiti

Continued from page 1

lighting hope instead of hate. On Friday, residents were encouraged to pick up fresh flowers from a coffee shop that was among the vandalized buildings and distribute the blooms to the other 14 locations.

Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley, who owns the café, said the goal was to outshine hate by being more vocal than the perpetrators.

"We know that silence doesn't work," Kelley said, according to the Portsmouth Herald. "They're proud of who they are. They're proud of their mentality, their thoughts. They marched loudly in our streets and we feel that we have to be louder than they are."

Temple Israel, which was among the sites targeted, invited the public to an hourlong interfaith "Community Gathering for Love" on Sunday afternoon. Organizers encouraged participants to share thoughts, music, song and prayer.

"Together we will weave an energetic quilt of love and friendship," they said.

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Worldbriefs

Japan PM: Ban on same-sex marriage not discrimination

By Mari Yamaguchi, Associated Press

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the country's ban on same-sex marriage is not discriminatory, insisting that constitutional freedom of marriage only envisions heterosexual unions, a comment that triggered criticism he is backtracking despite his recent apology and meeting with LGBTQ people.

Kishida's governing Liberal Democratic Party, known for its conservative family values and reluctance to promote gender equality and sexual diversity, is virtually the main opposition to legalization of same-sex marriage and other measures of equality for LGBTQ people.

Asked by an opposition lawmaker at Tuesday's parliamentary budget committee if he thinks a same-sex marriage ban constitutes discrimination, Kishida said "I don't think disallowing same-sex couples to marry is unjust discrimination by the state."

His comment sparked criticism from opposition lawmakers and LGBTQ activists, who questioned whether Kishida was backpedaling to show consideration to ultra- conservatives in his party who oppose sexual diversity.

Kishida said after meeting with LGBTQ representatives in mid-February that he "strongly felt the need for discussion" and would consider the voices of the people and in parliament, as well as rulings in several ongoing lawsuits and measures in local municipalities.

Kishida on Wednesday repeated his position that a same-sex marriage ban "is not unconstitutional" and denied that he is prejudiced. "I believe I do not have a sense of discrimination (on the issue)," he said. "And I have never stated I'm against it."

Former Kishida aide Masayoshi Arai's discriminatory remarks last month about LGBTQ people ignited nationwide outrage, and prompted a renewed push for the Kishida government to enact an anti-discrimination law even after the official was sacked.

Arai told reporters in early February that he wouldn't want to live next to LGBTQ people and that citizens would flee Japan if same-sex marriages were allowed.

Toru Miyamoto, a Japanese Communist Party lawmaker, asked Kishida on Wednesday about his meeting with LGBTQ representatives and whether he really meant his apology. Miyamoto also noted recent media surveys and local government initiatives introducing non-binding same-sex partnerships, and told Kishida that support for same-sex marriage now represents the majority of public opinion.

Since the controversy erupted, Kishida appointed a special aide for LGBTQ issues and instructed his party to prepare legislation to promote understanding for LGBTQ rights.

Activists are now urging the government to enact anti-discrimination legislation before Japan hosts a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations in May in Hiroshima. Japan is the only G-7 member that has not recognized same-sex marriage or enacted an anti-discrimination law for LGBTQ people.

But his own previous comments—including that allowing same-sex marriage would change society and family values and must be carefully considered - were also seen as an indication of his reluctance to promote equal rights for LGBTQ people despite his pledge to create an inclusive and diverse society.

Campaigns for equal rights for LGBTQ people have been stonewalled especially by conservatives in Kishida's governing Liberal Democratic Party. An attempt to enact an equality awareness promotion law ahead of the 2021 Tokyo Olympics was quashed by the party.

While surveys show growing public support for same-sex unions, government efforts to support sexual diversity have been slow in Japan and legal protections are still lacking for LGBTQ people. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people often face discrimination at school, work and home in Japan, causing many to hide their sexual identities.

Ugandan lawmaker introduces new anti-LGBTQ legislation

By Rodney Muhumuza, Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) - A Ugandan lawmaker on Tuesday introduced draft legislation that he said seeks to prohibit homosexuality in the East African country, voicing widespread anti-gay sentiment that has peaked in recent days.

The legislator, Asuman Basalirwa, said his bill would punish "promotion, recruitment and funding" related to LGBTQ activities. Most lawmakers in the parliamentary chamber in Uganda's capital Kampala stood up to show support for the bill.

"You are either with us or you're with the Western world," Speaker Anita Among said, announcing that legislators would show support by raising their hands when the bill eventually is put to a vote. "We should be counted, and we are going to vote by show of hands on this matter," she said.

Same-sex relations in Uganda are already criminalized under a colonial-era penal code. Harsh anti-gay legislation enacted in 2014 later was annulled by a panel of judges amid international condemnation. That bill in its original draft had called for the death penalty for some homosexual acts.

The new bill will be assessed by a parliamentary committee before it is debated in a plenary session. Details of its specific provisions were not yet immediately available. Basalirwa spoke of homosexuality as "a cancer," saying his bill is an opportunity to pass a strong law.

"In this country, or in this world, we talk about human rights. But it is also true that there are human wrongs. I want to submit ...

see **WORLD BRIEFS,** *page 7*

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billy masters

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There are things that naturally go together. Mashed potatoes and gravy. Burgers and fries. This week, I got an email from Fatburger touting its new Chicken and Waffle sandwich — a breaded piece of chicken, drizzled with maple syrup, topped with a piece of bacon, and slapped between two lightly toasted Eggo waffles. You'd think perfection. But you'd be unsatisfied. Then there's a nightclub in Whately, Massachusetts that has come up with a combination which sounds like a winner. Club Castaway — a strip club — has just applied for a license to become a marijuana dispensary. Oh, no — not instead of a strip club; in addition to being a strip club! If their application is approved, they will become the first topless marijuana dispensary. Am I the only one who thinks this is brilliant? On the other hand, I had high hopes for that chicken/Eggo sandwich!

Remember when **Lady Gaga** offered a $500K reward — "no questions asked" — for information on her pilfered French bulldogs? I predicted nothing good would come from the words "no questions asked". The woman who retrieved the dogs has yet to receive the reward. Why? Well, she's been linked to the dog —nappers. So? "No questions asked". Now she's suing Gaga for $1.5 million. Next time, ask a few questions!

Poor **King Charles** is having a devil of a time getting entertainment for his coronation. We previously reported that **Adele and Ed Sheeran** turned down the royal request. Now we hear that **Harry Styles** has declined (he's "tied up" — and I'll give you a second to picture that). **Elton John** will be busy wrapping up his endless farewell tour. Even **The Spice Girls** have turned down offers of a reunion (I'm blaming Posh — for no good reason). As of now, Take That will perform (without **Robbie Williams**), as will **Kylie and Dannii Minogue**, **Lionel Richie and Olly Murs**. Frankly, this is starting to sound like one of those oldies shows lineups you can see for $75 at a summer locale!

Speaking of oldies, **Madonna** has rebounded from her latest split and landed on a new beau. She was previously "dating" 23 —year —old model **Andrew Darnell**. She's now allegedly with 29 —year —old boxer **Josh Popper**. But, here's the rub — he's the boxing coach of her son David. You remember him — the one who looked so fetching in that red dress. Well, at least he has good taste.

It's never comfortable when your romantic life intersects with your kids. Take **Cher**. One tabloid ran the following headline: "Cher, 76, Feuding With Sons Over Relationship With 37 —Year —Old Boyfriend". **Cher** barely has any relationship with **Elijah Blue**. So, who cares what he thinks? As for **Chaz**, last I heard they were on good terms...so that could be an issue. Regardless, I believe Cher is more than capable of making her own romantic decisions. After all, she once dated **Tom Cruise**!

Remember when **Neil Patrick Harris**' show "Uncoupled" was canceled by Netflix? We've got good news — "Uncoupled" has been picked up by Showtime. Because, you know, what else do they have? I'm told the budget was slashed, but NPH and company are willing to do whatever it takes to keep the show afloat. Showtime had one edict — make it raunchier. Throw in more Tuc, and I'm there!

Details about the long —gestating "Frasier" reboot have finally been revealed. The plan was for Frasier to be in a new city with a new cast — much like when the character relocated from Boston to Seattle. Well, brace yourself — Frasier is returning to Boston! We're told that **Bebe Neuwirth** will be back as Lilith. The couple's son, Freddy, has been recast with actor **Jack Cutmore** —Scott. And the son of Niles and Daphne, David, will be attending college in Boston — and portrayed by **Anders Keith**. Thus far, nobody else from the "Frasier"/"Cheers" family has signed on as a regular, but there's quite a cast of characters who could drop in (including those nice boys from "Wings"). The show will debut on Paramount+ this fall.

Meanwhile, Paramount+ has given the ax to "Star Trek: Discovery". The series will end in early 2024. "The final season will see our beloved crew take on a new adventure and we can't wait to celebrate the series' impact on the franchise leading up to its final season early next year," says Paramount's chief programming officer. There's one slight problem — filming of season five wrapped prior to this decision being made. I'm told that the cast is being called back for several weeks of reshoots.

Chris Pine — the Captain Kirk of the movie reboot — has some choice words to say about the status of the next "Star Trek" flick. "It feels like it's cursed!" When asked for details about "Star Trek 4", Pine said, "I don't know anything. In 'Star Trek' land, the actors are usually the last people to find out anything. I know costume designers that have read scripts before the actors." Well, you know, it takes a long time to make those Klingon heads!

One of Pine's castmates isn't waiting around. **Zachary Quinto**, who plays Spock, will headline a new series for NBC. "Wolf" is based on the book (and play), "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat", and will find Quinto playing neurologist Dr. Oliver Wolf. NBC hopes to find a slot for the show in the upcoming fall season.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Will in Rhode Island: *"Is **Lukas Gage** gay? I keep seeing photos of him and someone who people say is his hot boyfriend. Who is he?"*

I'm sure someone out there won't remember that Lukas Gage first came to prominence after a Zoom audition in 2020 when director **Tristram Shapeero** quipped, "These poor people live in these tiny apartments." Lukas, seizing the moment, posted the video which turned him into something of a cause célèbre (primarily because of his response: "You're not muted. I know it's a shitty apartment. Give me this job so I can get a better one.") Tongues definitely started wagging when he turned up on "The White Lotus"...and bent over...but that's another story. Lukas hasn't talked about his sexuality — except to respond to someone who criticized him for being straight and playing gay roles by saying, "U don't know my alphabet." Someone who probably knows more is hairdresser **Chris Appleton**. In addition to his celebrity clients (like **J-Lo and Kim Kardashian**), he made a splash in his native England when he won the BBC reality show "Young Hairdresser of the Year". Chris is openly gay, but he also has two kids from a previous relationship. Chris and Lukas recently vacationed in Mexico and took a whole lotta pictures. And if you think Gage is hot on his own, you should see him with Chris...on BillyMasters.com.

When only Lukas' hairdresser knows for sure, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. If you thought Gage getting rimmed was risqué, wait till you see him on the Netflix series "You". Let's just say this is a shower that's less than refreshing — which you can see on www.BillyMasters.com — the site that is far from squeaky clean! If you have a question, send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I find out which came first — the chicken or the Eggo! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

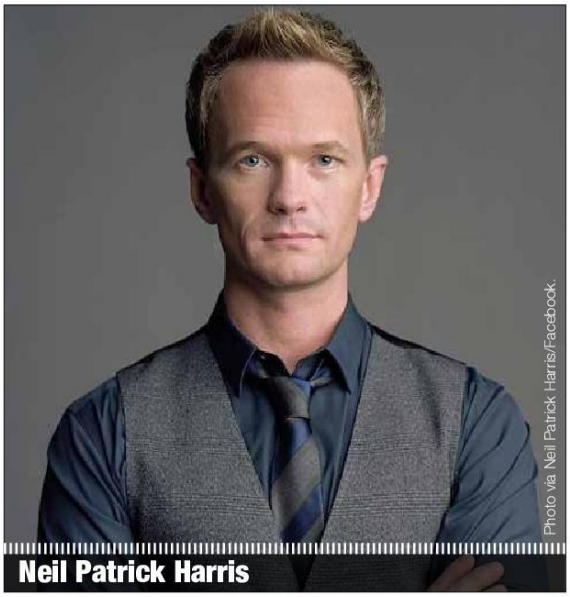

Photo via Neil Patrick Harris/Facebook.

Neil Patrick Harris

Photo via Zachary Quinto/Facebook.

Zachary Quinto

Photo via Lukas Gage/Instagram.

Lukas Gage

AmplifyGSA

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vancement Executive Director Quincey Roberts Sr. "With many parts of this country telling our kids they are not enough, here in Boston we have to show they are MORE than enough!"

Through AmplifyGSA, Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement, in partnership with Boston Public Schools, is developing relationships with school communities across the city to learn about what LGBTQ+ students need in order to feel more supported in their school. This program will highlight Genders and Sexualities Alliances, student-run school groups that unite LGBTQ+ and allied youth to build community and organize around issues important to them, in Boston schools. AmplifyGSA builds connections across differences by engaging with LGBTQ+ youth and their allies, teachers, school administrators, and families.

"We are proud to expand our partnership with the Boston Celtics, under Mayor Wu's leadership, and the City's Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement to launch AmplifyGSA, endeavoring to increase the number of GSAs across our schools," said Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper. "Every student, family, and staff member should be celebrated and fully accepted for who they are and their unique contributions to our classrooms and district. Every aspect of each person's identity, experiences, culture, and talents enriches our learning community and we are committed to making every effort to welcome and affirm each individual and group, particularly members of groups that have been historically marginalized."

Research states that the presence of a GSA in a school can have a positive and lasting effect on student health, wellness, and academic performance. Additionally, they can protect students from bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The presence of a GSA also can create and support more welcoming, inclusive school environments for all students in the long-term.

"As a former educator, I'm thrilled to see the community come together in this way to create safe space for queer youth and those who support them," said Chief of Equity & Inclusion Mariangely Solis Cervera. "AmplifyGSA is creating the opportunity to develop young people into tomorrow's leaders."

To learn more information about this newly launched program, please visit boston.gov/amplify-gsa.

world briefs

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that homosexuality is a human wrong," he said.

Anti-gay sentiment has grown in recent days amid alleged reports of sodomy in boarding schools. The recent decision of the Church of England to bless civil marriages of same-sex couples also has inflamed many, including some who see homosexuality as imported from abroad.

"The Church of England has departed from the Anglican faith and are now false teachers," Ugandan Archbishop Stephen Kaziimba said in a statement earlier this month that described "a crisis at hand."

Homosexuality is criminalized in more than 30 of Africa's 54 countries.

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