Divided Supreme Court weighs LGBT rights

By MARK SHERMAN and MATTHEW BARAKAT

WASHINGTON (AP) — A seemingly divided Supreme Court struggled Tuesday over whether a landmark civil rights law protects LGBT people from discrimination in employment, with one conservative justice wondering if the court should take heed of “massive social upheaval” that could follow a ruling in their favor.

With the court’s four liberal justices likely to side with workers who were fired because of their sexual orientation or transgender status, the question in two highly anticipated cases that filled the courtroom was whether one of the court’s conservatives might join them.

Two hours of lively arguments touched on sex-specific bathrooms, locker rooms and dress codes, and even a reference to the androgynous character known simply as Pat on Saturday Night Live in the early 1990s.

A key provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 known as Title 7 bars job discrimination because of sex, among other reasons. In recent years, some courts have read that language to include discrimination against LGBT people as a subset of sex discrimination.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, President Donald Trump’s first Supreme Court appointee, said there were strong arguments favoring the LGBT workers. But Gorsuch suggested that maybe the court should be wary of “massive social upheaval” that could follow a ruling in their favor.

The decision is wrong on many levels—and the case brings up the multifaceted interplay of parental identities and gender.

The judge, the Rt. Hon. Sir Andrew McFarlane, wrote, “It is now medically and legally possible for an individual, whose gender is recognised in law as male, to become pregnant and give birth to their child.”

That’s true. He then continued, however, “Whilst that person’s gender is ‘male’, their parental status, which derives from their biological role in giving birth, is that of ‘mother’.”

The ruling, which McConnell intends to appeal, could have far-reaching effects for both transgender and cisgender people alike. If trans people cannot legally use terminology like "see IDENTITY, page 7"
THE POWER TO

be me

Bank of America is proud to support the Colette Phillips Get Konnected and recognize Wendell K. Chestnut for all he does to inspire and support the LGBTQ community, a commitment we strongly share.

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The importance of the gay and transgender employment discrimination cases argued before the Supreme Court on October 8 is demonstrated by the rich harvest of amicus briefs submitted by legal groups, civil rights groups, advocates, academics, labor unions, religious groups, twenty-one states and the District of Columbia.

The question is whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, specifically its prohibition against discrimination “because of...sex,” protects LGBTQ employees. Here I will highlight an excellent brief that argues in the affirmative. It was written by Laurence Tribe and Joshua Matz (a member of Roberta Kaplan’s law firm) for four former Solicitors General and Acting Solicitors General and a former Associate White House Counsel.

Tribe and Matz ground their argument in textualism and cite Justice Scalia in Oncale, regarding a man sexually harassed on an oil rig. They quote Justice Kagan, “we’re all textualists now.” Regarding claims that Congress did not have LGBTQ folk in mind when it passed Title VII, they write, “A statute’s meaning is distinct from how people may have expected the statute would apply when it was enacted.” They quote Justice Scalia and Bryan Garner explaining that “the presupposed point of using general words is to produce general coverage—not to leave room for courts to recognize ad hoc exceptions.”

Tribe and Matz defend gender identity coverage: “Few forms of sex-based discrimination are more fundamental than firing someone on the premise that they have misapprehended their own sex.” They defend sexual orientation coverage: “Even if Title VII is read as prohibiting only discrimination because of a person’s ‘sex’—understood as the status of being male or female—it bars employment discrimination based on sexual orientation because a person’s ‘sex’ (and that of his or her desired partner) is a motivating factor in such discrimination.”

Despite a clear textualist basis for applying Title VII to LGBTQ cases, I fear the Court as currently constituted will apply an “original expectations” approach that better serves its conservative members’ animus, barring another legacy-preserving moment from Chief Justice Roberts or an unlikely epiphany in one of the Trump-appointed justices, as it does in those who seek its protection.

Justice Blackmun’s bracing dissent from the Court’s anti-gay 1986 ruling in Bowers v. Hardwick ultimately prevailed 17 years later in Lawrence v. Texas. A decade later came marriage equality. Now we face a renewed backlash. As Langston Hughes asked, “What happens to a dream deferred?” Fifty years after Stonewall, black trans women are murdered, and cyberbullied students kill themselves. They have no timeless Shangri-La where they can wait, as Billy Porter recently quoted James Baldwin, to “walk around this earth like I had the right to be here.”

America will be a long time recovering from Trump-era vandalism, especially if Justices Ginsburg and Breyer are replaced with right-wing justices half their age, as would almost certainly happen in a second Trump term. In that case many of us will not live to see the victory. Let us remember that the National Museum of African American History and Culture has artifacts that were passed down by six, seven, and eight generations before reaching the hands of its founder, Lonnie Bunch, who surely felt the ancestors with him as he was named Secretary of the Smithsonian.

45 and his mob would plunge us into a dark age of know-nothingism and civil strife. I imagine a future explorer discovering forgotten legal battles, reading, wondering, nodding, experiencing a flash of recognition—an old light flickering on again. We never know when the time will come to pass the torch. Let it suffice that we carry it for a time, like those who plant trees in whose shade they will never sit.

But as Monty Python said, we are not dead yet. Duty beckons. Win or lose, we have a country to defend.

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Get Konnected
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knowledge. Our presence, as well as contributions, are often lost, if not dismissed by the larger LGBTQ+ community, not only here in Boston but throughout the country.

In thanking Phillips for her vision to have the event, and in being one of the honorees she wrote the following:

“As you know there is a double invisibility for individuals who are gay and people of color that is why it is important to document, highlight and celebrate those individuals contributing to the civic, social and economic fabric of our city and region especially at the intersection of race and gender identity.”

LGBTQ communities of color continue to be both invisible and marginalized throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, even in 2019. According to a 2018 report from Boston Indicators, Massachusetts has the second-largest LGBTQ+ population in the nation, with the community comprising roughly 5% of the state’s population. Additionally, Boston Indicators reports that nearly three-fourths of the LGBTQ+ community in Massachusetts identify as white.

As a small population, LGBTQ+ communities of color recognize each other similarly as GK25. Keynote speakers and honorees at GK25 were Wilnelia Rivera and Kenneth Reeves. Wilnelia Rivera, of Rivera Consulting, were the lead architects of Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley’s successful campaign for Congress in the Seventh District of Massachusetts in 2018, gave remarks on behalf of GK25. Kenneth Reeves, the first openly gay African-American man to have served as mayor of any city in the United States, delivered remarks on behalf of Pioneers. The Pioneers are eight distinguished elders honored from our community for being trailblazers.

With this year marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, and the 15th anniversary of marriage equality in Massachusetts, GK25 celebration was in memory of Marsha P. Johnson, a trailblazer, an African-American transwoman, and one of the foremothers of the LGBTQ+ movement.

Each of us honorees at GK25 know we are where we are today because the entire LGBTQ+ community has been lifted from Johnson’s shoulders.
Proud to host Get Konnected’s inaugural event honoring Boston’s 25 Most Influential LGBTQ+ People of Color

From your friends at Tufts Health Plan, where diversity and inclusion are celebrated and honored every day
Is LGBTQ Friendly Senior Housing Coming to Boston?

Submitted by LGBTQ Senior Housing Inc.

The first affordable mixed income LGBTQ friendly senior housing in Boston is being proposed by the development partnership of Pennrose and not-for-profit LGBTQ Senior Housing Inc. They are hoping to renovate the former William Barton Rogers School in Hyde Park into 74 rental units for seniors.

Over 20 US cities already have LGBTQ friendly senior housing and there are nearly 30 such developments across the country. This would be the first for Boston. It would also be the first in Massachusetts and the entire Northeast.

“This would be an historic achievement for the City of Boston and Hyde Park,” according to Aileen Montour, President of LGBTQ Senior Housing Inc. “Hyde Park has a trailblazing history with the Grimke sisters (abolitionists) and James and William Monroe Trotter (civil rights leaders). This would add to that great tradition.”

While Boston and Massachusetts have been leaders and at the forefront of LGBTQ rights, they have yet to sponsor LGBTQ friendly elderly housing. If the development team of Pennrose and LGBTQ Senior Housing Inc. are selected to redevelop the William Barton Rogers, this would fill that missing piece.

Pennrose, which developed the country’s second LGBTQ friendly senior housing in Philadelphia and is currently developing another complex in New York City, would also serve as property manager. Ethos, a highly regarded community elder care organization, would provide resident services.

“The redevelopment is about more than being the first LGBTQ friendly housing in Boston,” says Hyde Park resident and board member Gretchen Van Ness, “As a former Main Streets President, this plan makes the most sense. It offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to knit together our community and the building by providing extensive community space, offering a home to the 54th Regiment, and partnering with the YMCA and Hyde Park Arts Association among others. We will historically preserve the school in its entirety which is extremely important to my Hyde Park neighbors.”

Architect DiMella Shaffer’s design includes preserving the auditorium, the gym, the cinema room, and the front entrance and retains 10,000 sq. ft. of space to be used by the public that will cater to residents and the community. Community organizations can use the space for meals, events, activities and can hold meetings, classes and workshops there.

Pennrose and LGBTQ Senior Housing Inc. will use the building to celebrate the history of Hyde Park, honor the LGBTQ rights movement in Boston, and provide LGBTQ focused programming for the building residents and the Boston community at large. Plans include a beautifully designed courtyard, two communal kitchens, the auditorium will host shows and events, and recreational activities like pickle ball, community meals, and even a Pride party can take place in the gym.

The 74 units will be available at a range of incomes so that anyone would have the opportunity to live there. Pennrose and LGBTQ Senior Housing are committed to making the former school inclusive and welcoming to everyone including the LGBTQ community.

If you would like to support affordable mixed income LGBTQ friendly senior housing in Boston you can let the City know by sending an email to Kelly Shay at kshay.dnd@cityofboston.gov or the Mayor’s office at MAYOR@BOSTON.GOV. LGBTQ Senior Housing Inc. is committed to facilitating access to safe, welcoming and affordable housing for low-income LGBTQ seniors, including through a formal role in the development of such housing; to define onsite housing services and programming that addresses the needs of LGBTQ seniors; and to support community space to serve seniors in the Greater Boston community.

If you would like more information about this project please contact Aileen Montour at 617.390.3384 or aileenmontour@gmail.com
Identity

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“father”) aligned with their identified gender, what else might they not be allowed to do under the law? And if motherhood equals giving birth, all non-biological, non-gestational, and adoptive mothers, and those who use surrogates, might find their legal parenthood in jeopardy.

Additionally, McFarlane notes there is uncertainty about whether the regulations governing assisted insemination include males as well as females. He leaves it for others to determine—but that could endanger trans men’s access to fertility treatment in the U.K.

As we react to the ruling, however, we should be careful not to think that the law should only recognize trans men as fathers and trans women as mothers. We queer parents have a wide variety of parental identities—and our gender identities and parental identities don’t always match in expected ways, as these examples I’ve seen over the years will show. Denise Bogan-Kator, chief policy officer for Family Equality, has said that when she began to transition, she wanted her children to know she “was not trying to replace their mother.

They therefore chose to keep calling her “Dad” or “Daddy.” Her grandchildren, however, call her “Gram” (OptionB, April 2018). For trans women and advocate Brynn Tannehill and her oldest daughter, neither “Mom” nor “Dad” felt right, so they settled on the portmanteau “Maddy,” Tannehill wrote in a USA Today essay (2012).

And in Queer Rock Love: A Family Memoir (2015), Paige Schilt noted that her masculine, trans-identified partner goes by “Mommy” because “in her moments of childhood need, she had decided that a Mommy was the strongest thing she could be.”

In her essay “Lesbian Dad,” Polly Pagenhart, communications and policy director for Our Family Coalition, explained that calling female parents “mothers,” and male parents “fathers” doesn’t work if “one’s gender itself lies somewhere between and the poles, as mine does.” Pagenhart’s children call them “Baba.” (In Confessions of the Other Mother: Nonbiological Lesbian Moms Tell All, 2006.)

Even for cisgender queer parents, parental identities and gender can mix and mingle. Amie Klempnauer Miller wrote in She Looks Just Like You: A Memoir of (Nonbiological Lesbian) Motherhood (2010), that she is “[not] even remotely butch,” but during her partner’s pregnancy, “My inner guy is coming out of the closet.

I feel urgently, irrationally protective of June…. I don’t feel like I somehow need to mimic the paternal role, but yet it seems to be finding and claiming me.”

Conversely, cisgender gay dad Biff Chaplow, a self-described “stay-at-home-gay-parent,” wrote at his blog, “I’ve often struggled with the uncomfortable feeling I get when I have to say I am the children’s dad, because I feel more like their mom… For now, my kids call me Dad and I am okay with that…. But make no mistake, I may not be a woman, but I am a mom” (biffandi.com, June 2016).

Chaplow’s husband, Trystan Reese, a trans man whose kids call him “Dad,” recently advised other trans parents, “It will take time for [your kids] to call you by a new honorific, if you want them to change from ‘dad’ to ‘mom’ or something else entirely. (And if you don’t want them to change what they call you, that’s okay too)” (familyequality.org, October 2019).

That personal choice is the key point—and the above are only a few examples of the varied interplay of parental identities and gender across the LGBTQ spectrum.

Law professor and gay dad Carlos Ball has suggested we think of “mother” and “father” as “verbs rather than as nouns” and “focus on what it means to mother and to father a child,” instead of on the gender of the parent (Huffington Post, 2012).

That idea has merit (though we should also expand the traditional definition of “to father a child” beyond just a procreative act). Still, our kids need to call us something. For most of us, that means an honorific that reflects our parental identity.

As for the law, I think the only recognition needed is that of “parent.” The gender-neutral “voluntary acknowledgement of parenthood” forms that a few U.S. states have adopted are a step in that direction.

I also propose that school, childcare, and healthcare forms, especially for young children, include space for parents to indicate what their children call them (as well as for pronouns). That way, when teachers, staff, or healthcare professionals are interacting with a child about their parents, they can all communicate more clearly.

Whatever our kids call us, though, we should remember that the title is a lifetime promise from us to them—and wear it with pride, no matter what the law says.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian. She is also the creator of Queer Parents. She is a trans woman and a GLAAD Media Award-winning blogger. She is the co-founder of the LGBTQ Parents’ Anonymous and the author of She Looks Just Like You: A Memoir of (Nonbiological Lesbian) Motherhood (2010).

For more information, see www.tenacrecds.org/visit • Wellesley
Nevertheless, Stevenson has done a wonderful job of making her main profiles engaging and informative while also whetting readers’ appetites to know more. Cartoon illustrations by Allison Steinfeld enliven the pages, but this is not a picture book. The biographies are thoughtful and feel substantial for their length. That’s not an easy trick, but Stevenson pulls it off. Even adults will likely find themselves learning something.

If Stevenson’s name sounds familiar, that’s not surprising. A queer mom herself, who lives in British Columbia with her partner and their son, she’s the author of numerous books for all ages, including Pride Colors, a board book for tots: Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community, a middle-grade book that blends a history of the event with a broader look at LGBTQ identities and the struggle for LGBTQ equality; My Body My Choice: The Fight for Abortion Rights, which gives teens a look at the past, present, and future of the movement; and Ghost’s Journey: A Refugee Story, a brand-new elementary grade picture book about two gay refugees and their cat.

Stevenson’s latest book is part of the publisher’s Kid Legends series, which also includes books about the childhoods of famous artists, athletes, authors, scientists, and U.S. presidents.

They may be on to something. Another children’s publication, Kazoo magazine (coincidentally founded by another queer mom), offers advice, ideas, and inspiration from outstanding women in STEM, the arts, politics, and other fields. Instead of depicting them as grownups, dispensing advice from on high, Kazoo shows images of them as children, so readers can more easily see themselves in these role models.

Rather than giving children the message that people must be adults to make a difference in the world, Stevenson and Kazoo are each reminding them that every famous person started out as a child. Some became famous as children; others used the experiences from their childhoods to guide them later in life. Either way, it’s an empowering approach. Kid Activists, with a focus on people who fought (and in some cases, are still fighting) for social justice, should find many fans—and just might inspire a few new “champions of change.” Seems like our world could use all it can get right about now.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.
A group of Greater Boston independent schools invites you to attend Open House Programs.

### Why An Independent School?

- **Small Classes**
- **Commitment to Diversity**
- **Performing Arts Programs**
- **Sports Programs**
- **Guided Learning Programs**
- **Dedicated Teachers**
- **Individual Attention**
- **Travel Programs**
- **High Academic Standards**
- **Dedicated Teachers**
- **Experiential Learning**

### A list of Greater Boston independent schools inviting you to attend Open House Programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL NAME</th>
<th>CITY/TOWN</th>
<th>AGES AND GRADES</th>
<th>OPEN HOUSE DATE(S) : TIME(S)</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>WEB ADDRESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Rivers School</td>
<td>West Roxbury</td>
<td>12-18 years (boys 7-12)</td>
<td>Sat., October 20: 1-3 pm</td>
<td>781-477-6317</td>
<td>roxburynatin.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gann Academy</td>
<td>Wellesley</td>
<td>4-14 years (PK-8)</td>
<td>Sun., October 20: 1-3 pm</td>
<td>781-894-1193</td>
<td>meadowbrook-ma.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble and Greensho School</td>
<td>Dedham</td>
<td>4-14 years (JK-K)</td>
<td>Sat., October 20: 1-3 pm</td>
<td>781-820-2250</td>
<td>concordacademy.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayerweather Street School</td>
<td>Dedham</td>
<td>4-14 years (PK-K)</td>
<td>Sat., October 20: 1-3 pm</td>
<td>781-820-2250</td>
<td>concordacademy.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thayer Academy</td>
<td>Belmont</td>
<td>4-14 years (PK-8)</td>
<td>Sat., October 20: 9:30 am</td>
<td>781-820-2250</td>
<td>concordacademy.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Learning Project</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>5-12 years (K-6)</td>
<td>Sat., October 20: 11-2 pm</td>
<td>781-738-2271</td>
<td>smilesf.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delphi Academy</td>
<td>Milton</td>
<td>2-13 years (PK-8)</td>
<td>Sat., October 20: 11-2 pm</td>
<td>781-738-2271</td>
<td>smilesf.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenacre Country Day School</td>
<td>North Kingstown</td>
<td>12-18 years (boys 7-12)</td>
<td>Sat., October 20: 11-2 pm</td>
<td>617-742-0520</td>
<td>cfsmass.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newton Country Day School</td>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>10-18 years (girls K-12)</td>
<td>Sat., November 4: 1-3 pm</td>
<td>781-641-1346</td>
<td>lesleyellis.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adams Montessori School</td>
<td>Milton</td>
<td>5-14 years (K-8)</td>
<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-737-8200</td>
<td>adamsmontessori.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milton Academy K-8 Division</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>4-14 years (PK-8)</td>
<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-783-2600</td>
<td>gisbos.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge Friends School</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>21 mos. to 14 years (T-8)</td>
<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-783-2600</td>
<td>gisbos.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Fessenden School</td>
<td>Newton</td>
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<td>Sat., November 4: 1-3 pm</td>
<td>781-630-2300</td>
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<td>Sat., November 4: 1-3 pm</td>
<td>781-227-2456</td>
<td>parkschool.org</td>
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<td>The Chestnut Hill School</td>
<td>Chestnut Hill</td>
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<td>781-566-4394</td>
<td>tchs.org</td>
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<td>Lesley Ellis School</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>2.9-14 years (PS-8)</td>
<td>Sat., November 4: 1-3 pm</td>
<td>781-641-1346</td>
<td>lesleyellis.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newton Country Day School</td>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>10-18 years (girls K-12)</td>
<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-737-8200</td>
<td>adamsmontessori.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German International School</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>3-18 (PK-12)</td>
<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-737-8200</td>
<td>gisbos.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Winsor School</td>
<td>Milton</td>
<td>15 mos. to 14 years (T-8)</td>
<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-737-8200</td>
<td>gisbos.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thacher Montessori School</td>
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<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-737-8200</td>
<td>gisbos.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fenn School</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>9-15 years (boys 4-9)</td>
<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-369-5800</td>
<td>frs.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thacher Montessori School</td>
<td>Dedham</td>
<td>5-14 years (K-8)</td>
<td>Sat., November 3: 10-2 pm</td>
<td>781-355-7318</td>
<td>rash.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CALL LISTED NUMBERS OR VISIT WEB SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS.**

The schools listed above do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, ethnic origin, disabilities, sexual orientation, gender identity or family composition in their admissions, financial aid, or in the administration of their educational policies.
I typically don’t start by remembering someone who has passed away, but Diahann Carroll was anything but typical. Just the spelling of her name let you know that she was different (a wise and powerful friend always pronounces it with three syllables—Di-ah-hann). Out of the many memories I have with her, I’d like to share one special anecdote. I wasn’t yet living in LA, but I was visiting and decided to go to the movies alone. There were only a few people in front of me to buy a ticket in Century City, but then I spied Diahann quietly go to the end of this long line. I had just spent time with her in Boston a few weeks earlier, so I caught her attention and surreptitiously slipped her in line ahead of me. She thanked me, adding that the manager of the cinema said she could always ask for him and not wait in line. But, she added, “I don’t do things like that”.

I asked what she was there to see. “My daughter is in school in New York and she said I had to see ‘The Joy Luck Club’ because it’s about mothers and daughters. So, I brought my mother to see it,” and pointed to the lovely Mrs. Johnson, who was sitting nearby on a bench. We got up to the window and Diahann bought her ticket. Then she turned to me—“I never asked—what are you seeing?” Well, I was planned on seeing “The Real Mc Coy”—don’t feel bad if you don’t remember this Kim Basinger/Val Kilmer stinker. I certainly couldn’t admit to Diahann that I was going to see this piece of trash. Plus, I smelled an opportunity. I, too, got a ticket for “The Joy Luck Club”. Diahann was delighted. “How great we ran into each other—now we can all see it together.” And that, dear readers, is how I shared a beautiful mother/daughter moment with Diahann Carroll...and her mother. Rest in peace.

A Russian man claims that his iPhone has made him gay. He is suing Apple for $15K for damages. My God, he’s not even a smart gay! But, it probably sounds like a lot in Rubles. The gay Russian in question claims that after he downloaded a payment app onto his iPhone, he got some Gay Coins with a message that said, “Don’t knock it till you try it”—again, it probably sounds better in Russian. “I thought, indeed, how can I judge something without trying it? And decided to try same-sex relationships.” I bet there are some Nigerians who’d like this guy’s e-mail address. Fast forward—the Russian is in a happy long-term relationship with his boyfriend. However, he doesn’t know how to explain it to his parents, so he’s suing for emotional distress. I can save Apple a whole lotta money—well, Tim Cook’s Starbucks bill for a week—with a free subscription to BillyMasters.com. You’re welcome.

Do you remember when Andy Dick was charged with groping an Uber driver? Yeah, I don’t remember it either, but it happened in April 2018. Before I go on, I’d like to note that one respected news outlet reported that the driver worked for Lyft, not Uber. Fingers crossed it was Uber—I’d like to think Andy has some standards. Last week, he was arraigned in court and pled not guilty. In the complaint, the driver claims that Dick reached over and grabbed his genitals during a car ride. Perhaps Dick was simply trying to fiddle with the radio and got confused. I suspect he’s confused quite often. Two months after the Uber incident, Andy faced similar charges for allegedly groping a woman he passed on the street. Imagine what would have happened if they were together in an Uber!

Some Republican operatives who have previously tried to smear Pete Buttigieg and Kamala Harris have turned their
the term sexual harassment was unknown in 1964, but now is considered sex discrimination.

Justice Elena Kagan suggested sexual orientation is a clear subset of sex discrimination, saying that a man who loves other men cannot be treated differently by an employer than a woman who loves men.

The cases are the court’s first on LGBT rights since Justice Anthony Kennedy’s retirement and replacement by Kavanaugh. Kennedy was a voice for gay rights and the author of the landmark ruling in 2015 that made same-sex marriage legal throughout the United States. Kavanaugh generally is regarded as more conservative.

A decision is expected by early summer 2020, amid the presidential election campaign. A ruling for employees who were fired because of their sexual orientation or gender identity would have a big impact for the estimated 8.1 million LGBT workers across the country because most states don’t protect them from workplace discrimination. An estimated 11.3 million LGBT people live in the U.S., according to the Williams Institute at the UCLA law school.

The Trump administration has changed course from the Obama administration and now supports the employers in arguing that the civil rights law’s Title 7 does not prohibit discrimination because of sexual orientation or transgender status.

During the Obama years, the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission had changed its longstanding interpretation of civil rights law to include discrimination against LGBT people. The law prohibits discrimination because of sex, but has no specific protection for sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Trump administration and the employ-
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SCOTUS
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ers say Congress could easily settle the matter by amending Title 7 to include LGBT people. Legislation to that effect is pending in Congress, but is not likely to pass the Republican-controlled Senate.

But the workers contend, and the lower courts that have ruled for them have reasoned, that the law as it stands plainly covers sexual orientation and gender identity because discrimination against them is based on generalizations about sex that have nothing to do with their ability to do their jobs.

They also argue that they were fired for not conforming to sex stereotypes, a form of sex discrimination that the Supreme Court recognized 30 years ago.
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sights on Elizabeth Warren. They are alleging that a few months ago, Warren began a long-term sexual relationship with a 24-year-old Marine. And just like that, Lizzie’s poll numbers skyrocketed! I think they missed the boat since the Marine in question is male! I mean, if they really want to smear, go the obvious route.

A high school football team in California has cancelled their entire season over a pretty lurid sex scandal. The city is Gilroy, and according to allegations, a varsity player was sexually assaulted by four of his teammates in the locker room. Since the people involved are juveniles, limited information is being disclosed, but police state that “there is no evidence at this time that this was a hate-motivated crime”. I don’t mean to trivialize this situation, but doesn’t this sound like the scenario of most gay porn?

At the Human Rights Campaign’s National Dinner in Washington DC, Ricky Martin announced that he and hubby Jwan Yosef are expecting their fourth child. Congrats.

Rachel Maddow will be appearing in several episodes of “Batwoman” on The CW. “I know no one’s going to believe this is true, but it’s true. I’m Vesper Fairchild in the new ‘Batwoman’ TV show that starts this Sunday night on The CW. My character is sooo not me, turns out playing her is one of the most fun things I’ve ever done,” she Tweeted. The character is a media personality and, while Rachel will not appear on screen, her voice will be heard. Oh, and in the comic, the character previously had a romance with Bruce Wayne (aka Batman). There’s a first time for everything.

In other super superhero news, Colton Haynes will be back on “Arrow” for season 8. Don’t touch that dial.

Last week, Mark-Paul Gosselaar joined Mario Lopez on “Access Hollywood” to talk about his new show, “Mixed-ish”. The female co-host asked Gosselaar if he would be doing the “Saved by the Bell” reboot. Mark-Paul passed the question onto Lopez, who is the producer on the reboot. “I dunno if we can afford you,” Mario laughed. But, seriously, since “Mixed-ish” is on ABC and “Saved by the Bell” is on NBC, there are logistics that would need to be ironed out. In the meantime, you can see the interview on our website.

I keep hearing about this “Punky Brewster” reboot. I can’t get excited about it—never saw it. Ditto for “Battlestar Galactica”.

Now that “BH90210” is over, can I just say I feel very unfulfilled? The biggest problem was the writing, which ironically enough was the same problem they were having in the show-within-the-show. I kept watching, hoping it would get better. It didn’t. I found it interesting that the two hottest members of the cast—Brian Austin Green and Jennie Garth—were also the two best actors. And, look. I have nothing against a hint of incest. But Brandon and Brenda? I don’t think so. Speaking of my pal Shannen Doherty, why was she constantly eating in every scene?

This week, “Grey’s Anatomy” features a “Charmed” reunion. Alyssa Milano and Holly Marie Combs star as sisters who have to decide whether to take their third sister off life support. Here’s my question—who is playing the third sister? Is it the crazy one, or is climate change real and hell has frozen over?

Our “Ask Billy” question comes from Rafael in San Diego: “Who are those hot twins on “The Politician”?”

I cannot really comment about the show because I haven’t seen it. I like to binge-watch my Netflix series, so “The Politician” episodes are just sitting there waiting to be watched. But that doesn’t mean I haven’t seen the Eason twins—who play the Hobart twins (older brothers of Ben Platt)—almost a cruel joke). Trey and Trevor Eason are pretty damn hot, but we already knew Ryan Murphy enjoys hot twins (see “Glee” and “Scream Queens”). They may be new to acting, but not to modeling, and you can see some of their hotter pics on BillyMasters.com.

When we’re doubling your pleasure and doubling your fun, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. I should mention that one of the twins is straight and has a girlfriend. As to the other, that remains to be seen. You can see more of them and others at www.BillyMasters.com—the site that you can read without any GayCoins. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Andy Dick becomes an Uber driver! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
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