New LGBTQ-Inclusive Books for the Youngest Children
by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

Not only has the number of LG-BTQ-inclusive picture books increased greatly over the past few years, but more and more are being published even for the very youngest children.

Here are some new ones aimed at babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Robin Stevenson’s Pride Colors board book (Orca Book Publishers) takes the original meanings of the colors in the Pride flag, as envisioned by楣 Stevenson’s Pride Colors board book (Orca Book Publishers) takes the original meanings of the colors in the Pride flag, as envisioned by

"I've been getting in shape for tonight with the Jussie Smollett workout. You hire two trainers and sweat for eight weeks. It wipes out all your belly fat…and credibility."

— Sean Hayes begins his acceptance speech at the GLAAD Awards.
After House Intel Chair Adam Schiff's blunt response to Republican colleagues' demand for his resignation on March 28, it should have been as clear to them that they had prematurely celebrated the still-unreleased Mueller report as when an NFL player spikes the football at halftime.

Here is an excerpt from Schiff's litany of Trump wrongs: “You might think it’s okay that the campaign chairman of a presidential campaign would offer information about that campaign to a Russian oligarch in exchange for money or debt forgiveness... You might think it’s okay that that campaign chairman offered polling data to someone linked to Russian intelligence... You might think it’s okay that the president himself called on Russia to hack his opponent’s emails, if they were listening. You might think it’s okay that later that day, in fact, the Russians attempted to hack a server affiliated with that campaign. I don’t think that’s okay.”

Schiff concluded, “I think it’s immoral, I think it’s unethical, I think it’s unpatriotic and, yes, I think it’s corrupt — and evidence of collusion.”

Despite even Attorney General William Barr's four-page summary saying Mueller had not exonerated Trump of obstruction, a chorus of know-it-alls, many of them conservative, had quickly told Democrats to take their lumps and move on. They said it was time to change the focus to solving the nation’s problems—as if Democrats are not already working on that, as if they cannot multitask, and as if Trump's corruption and incompetence are not among our chief problems.

Turning from DOJ to Foggy Bottom: the State Department announced plans to cut aid to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras over the flow of migrants to our border. That will only make it worse, which is why Trump is doing it. He has the right authority as a soldier and fine complexity as the pastor. His second act sermonizing is a standoff passage. Marc Pierre catches soldier Pika's tenacity and Frans's muted angst.

At a key moment, playwright Jung describes Chris and Francis as being on the same bus—a connection that could be philosophical as well as literal. In a similar vein, director Ambush and his stellar fellow traveling quarter make their upcoming journey something to celebrate and “Cardboard Piano” a well-played if disturbing instrument.

Time to check out of Trump’s madhouse
45’s vaunted ‘exoneration’ makes a crash landing
by Richard J. Rosendall | rrosendall@starpower.net
contributing writer

Seniors
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Friday of the month at the Orleans Council on Aging.

The lack of services for LGBTQ seniors, particularly when it comes to providing meals in a social setting, is exactly why Silvia started the group in June, also known as pride month, in 2013.

Silvia also runs the Single Seniors Supper, which meets the first Tuesday of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Council on Aging. About 60 to 70 people attend. Silvia wants to see the same number of people at the LGBT supper. A grant from the Lipsky-Whittaker Fund pays for food and activities.

On a Wednesday in February, Silvia talked about possible upcoming events: a paint night and the Duffield Festival on Nantucket.

There were some new faces at the supper club that evening. Some found out about the group a few days before when Connie Mayer talked about it after a screening of “Cloudhunters” at the Whaling Museum. It was the second event in the New Bedford LGBTQ Winter Film Series.

There is a lot of support for LGBTQ youth now that older folks just never had, Silvia said.

Since the start of the club, she’s learned a lot about those who attend. “It’s sad to think they lived so much of their lives under a rock,” she said.

Marty Keady, who recently turned 70, started attending the supper club about a year ago, shortly after he moved to Fairhaven when a spot for housing opened up.

Frank Schmidt, 72, of New Bedford, has been coming to the supper club for about five years. A year ago, he started bringing Bill Copeland, 72, who drives him. Schmidt had to give up his license in 2015.

After hearing about options counseling, or assistance with planning for long-term care needs, Michael Ofori has the right authority as a soldier and fine complexity as the pastor. His second act sermonizing is a standoff passage. Marc Pierre catches soldier Pika's tenacity and Frans's muted angst.

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Chicago
Continued from page 1
President and longtime City Council member Toni Preckwinkle on Tuesday with backing from voters across the city. Late results showed Lightfoot, 56, winning every one of the city’s 50 wards.

Lightfoot also made history, becoming the first black woman and the first openly gay person to be elected Chicago mayor. Chicago will become the largest U.S. city to have a black woman serve as mayor when Lightfoot is sworn in May 2020. She will join seven other black women currently serving as mayors in major U.S. cities, including Atlanta and New Orleans, and will be the second woman to lead Chicago.

“Our there tonight a lot of little girls and boys are watching. They’re watching us, and they’re seeing the beginning of something, well, a little bit different,” Lightfoot told a jubilant crowd at a downtown hotel. “They’re seeing a city reborn.”

She pledged to make Chicago “a place where your zip code doesn’t determine your destiny,” to build in his ward.

“My momma always said birds of a feather flock together,” Ross said.

Preckwinkle said she called Lightfoot Tuesday night to congratulate her on a “hard-fought campaign.”

“While I may be disappointed I’m not disheartened. For one thing, this is clearly a historic night,” she told a crowd gathered in her South Side neighborhood. “Not long ago two African American women vying for this position would have been unthinkable. And while it may be true that we took two very different paths to get here, tonight is about the path forward.”

That path will have major challenges. Chicago has been losing population, particularly in predominantly African American neighborhoods hit hardest by violence and a lack of jobs.

The new mayor will take over a city that faces massive financial problems. She will have just a few months to prepare a new budget, which in 2020 is expected to have a roughly $250 million deficit. Lightfoot will also take over the worst-funded public pensions of any major U.S. city.

Chicago’s annual payments to the retirement system are slated to grow by $1.2 billion by 2023. She has expressed support for a casino in Chicago and changing the state’s income tax system to a graduated tax, in which higher earners are taxed at a higher rate — two measures lawmakers have tried unsuccessfully for years to pass.

Violence and policing will also continue to be an issue, and one that has proven to be politically difficult.

The Chicago Police Department must implement a federally monitored consent decree approved in January. It followed the McDonald killing and a U.S. Justice Department review that found a long history of excessive use of force and racial bias by officers.

While voters also elected several newcomers over City Council veterans, Lightfoot will have to work with a council that has a sizable number of members who are the type of politicians she railed against during her campaign.

Associated Press reporter Don Babwin contributed.
by creator Gilbert Baker, and turns them into a poem from parent to child. We're treated to a celebration of self and relationships, coupled with images of babies and toddlers and sometimes their two moms or dads. “Yellow sunshine, smiles so bright. I'll hug you, kiss you, hold you tight,” says one spread.

There’s a mention of “Pride Day fun” at the end, but the book is less about LGBTQ history and more about the sentiments that extend far beyond a single day or month. Parents will enjoy reading Stevenson’s loving words as much as children will enjoy the uplifting statements, gentle rhythms, and bright photos.

Rainbow: A First Book of Pride, by Michael Genhard and illustrated by Anne Passchier (Magination Press), which comes out in May, uses essentially the same concept, but in a more literal way. “Rainbows!” it begins, with a page showing two dads waving rainbow flags. “Every color means something.” It continues, “Red means life,” and shows a red-heavy image of two dads happily holding their two moms or dads. “Yellow sunshine, smiles so bright. I’ll hug you, kiss you, hold you tight,” says one spread.

Another original storyline for young children came recently in They, She, He easy as ABC, by Pura Belpré Honor Award winner Maya Gonzalez and Matthew Smith-Gonzalez. The book is a follow up to their 2017 They She He Me: Free to Be!, a joyous celebration of pronouns and identities. Maya Gonzalez’ dazzling illustrations also populate this new work as we meet an alphabet of friends who dance their way from A to Ze. “Ari loves to arabesque. They hold their pose with ease,” it begins. Each new letter introduces us to another child with a different dance and pronouns. Most are children of color, which feels needed and refreshing in a literary world that’s usually mostly White. It ends with an invitation to the reader to “Join the dance. There’s always room.”

There’s also always room for more LGBTQ-inclusive children’s books, but these are a great place to start.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.
Buddy Dog Benefit Concert

On Saturday, April 6, The Women In Music Gathering (WIMG) a New England-based, intergenerational artist-alliance of women in music: singer-songwriters and performing musicians, will be singing to benefit the cats and dogs at the Buddy Dog Humane Society.

The performance will be 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm, in the Napoleon Room at Club Café, 209 Columbus Avenue, Boston.

WIMG will be joined by some out of town colleagues in this very special event. All proceeds to be donated to Buddy Dog. Scheduled to appear: Mara Bettenourt, Kat Chapman, Mary Crowe, CGi Eberle, Lotetta Hagen, Linda Marks, Tia McGraff, Collette O’Connor, Lori Zaroff. More information at www.buddydoghs.com

House votes to condemn Trump's transgender military ban

By SUSANNAH GEORGE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House delivered a rebuke to President Donald Trump on Thursday by voting to condemn his administration’s move to restrict transgender men and women from military service.

A non-binding resolution opposing Trump’s transgender ban passed 238-185. Every Democrat supported the resolution, while nearly every Republican voted against it. Five Republicans broke ranks and voted in favor. Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Trey Hollingsworth of Indiana, Will Hurd of Texas, John Katko of New York and Tom Reed of New York.

The Trump administration’s policy bars people who have undergone gender transition from enlisting. It also requires military personnel to serve as their biological sex unless they began a gender transition under less restrictive Obama administration rules. The policy is being challenged in court.

Rep. Joe Kennedy, D-Mass., the resolution’s sponsor, said Trump’s policy amounts to “targeted discrimination.” He said the House was voting to tell transgender people “that they cannot be banned from military service because of who they are.”

The top Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Mac Thornberry of Texas, opposed the resolution and said the vote attempted to politicize U.S. service members. Thornberry said because the resolution does not change law or policy it was a “messaging bill” that detracted from “serious issues that need to be discussed.”

Ahead of the vote many Democratic lawmakers placed transgender pride flags outside their offices on Capitol Hill, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who spoke from the floor in support of the resolution.

“There is no moral justification for this ban which violates every value of our American democracy,” Pelosi said Thursday.

Under the Obama administration, the Pentagon announced that transgender people already serving in the military would be allowed to serve openly. Trump reversed that policy beginning in 2017 with a tweet that the government would not allow “transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military.”

An estimated 14,700 troops on active duty and in the reserves identify as transgender, but not all seek treatment. Since July 2016, more than 1,500 service members were diagnosed with gender dysphoria; as of Feb. 1, there were 1,071 currently serving. The Pentagon says it has spent about $8 million on transgender care since 2016. The military’s annual health care budget tops $50 billion.

All four service chiefs told Congress last year that they had seen no discipline, morale or unit readiness problems with transgender troops serving openly in the military. But they also acknowledged that some commanders were spending a lot of time with transgender individuals who were working through medical requirements and other transition issues.

Speaking from the House floor ahead of the vote, Armed Services Chair Adam Smith, D-Wash., said the Trump administration policy is “primarily based on ignorance and bias against the transgender community.”

“We have the best military in the world,” Smith said.

“People need highly qualified people to serve and to single out a particular group—to discriminate against them and to say they cannot serve—is bad for national security.”
With the stroke of a pen, Jussie Smollett’s troubles came to an end—at least legally. All 16 criminal charges against him were dropped. But that doesn’t mean he isn’t guilty—according to the guy who dropped the charges! Joseph Magats, First Assistant Cook County State’s Attorney, says, “I do not believe he is innocent. We stand behind the Chicago Police Department’s investigation and our decision to approve charges in this case. We did not exonerate Mr. Smollett. The charges were dropped in return for Mr. Smollett’s agreement to do community service and forfeit his $10,000 bond to the City of Chicago. Without the completion of these terms, the charges would not have been dropped. This outcome was met under the same criteria that would occur for and is available to any defendant with similar circumstances.” Except, of course, the court records were sealed—something which likely would not have happened to “any defendant” unless their “similar circumstances” were deep pockets, celebrity, and lawyer Mark Geragos. This may not have been a “plea deal,” but make no mistake—it was most certainly a deal.

Ironically, it’s not even a deal anyone is happy about. Let’s start with the Pope. The Pontiff feels the kissing his ring—a tradition that dates back centuries. The Pontiff feels the practice is “non-hygienic”—cause Heaven knows where that ring’s been. Call me old-fashioned, but I like a bit of theatricality with my religion. And I’ve never heard a Catholic priest turn down anything oral! But you know what I also like? A sassy Pope! Have you seen recent videos of the Pope’s meet-and-greets? Well, I’m sure that’s not what the Vatican calls ‘em, but people line up to meet the Pope, he extends his hand, they lean in to kiss the ring, and BANG—he snatches it back with a smile which seems to say, “Gotcha!” I’m all about a Papal snatch-back!

Last week, Piers Morgan had Mel B on his “Life Stories” show in the UK. And, being Piers, he asked her about the rumors that she had a sexual encounter with Geri Halliwell back in the day. First, Scary skirted the question by saying, “Yeah, we all slept in a bed together, but not ‘like that’—all of us.” Piers (who is often like a dog with a boner) asked, “Did you sleep with Geri ‘like that’?” Mel sheepishly nodded, adding, “She’s going to hate me for this because she’s all posh in her country house and her husband, but it’s a fact. It just happened and we just giggled at it and that was it.” A word to the wise—giggling during intimate moments doesn’t help. Mel continued, “It was just that once. And hopefully when Geri gets asked that, which hopefully she will after this, she won’t deny it. Because it was just a fun thing.” I’m sure this will play out well during the upcoming Spice Girls tour!

We all know there was tension when Elisabeth Hasselbeck & Rosie O’Donnell were both co-hosts on “The View”. But was it sexual? In the upcoming “Ladies Who Punch: The Explosive Inside Story of The View” by our very own Min Setoodeh, Ro reveals the depth of her crush. “I loved her,” she says. Joy Behar pipes in, “I think there were underlying lesbian undertones on both parts.” Both parts—hmm. Rosie adds, “I think this is something that will hurt her if you write it. She was the MVP of a Division 1 softball team for two years that won the finals. There are not many, in my life, girls with such athletic talent on sports teams that are traditionally male that aren’t at least a little bit gay.” Getting back to her feelings, O’Donnell clarifies, “There was a little bit of a crush. But not that I wanted to kiss her. I want to support, raise, elevate her, like she was the freshman star shortstop and I was the captain of the team...but it was in no way sexualized.”

Needless to say, these revelations make Lizzie very uncomfortable. "The truth is, what she said, if you took her words and replaced ‘Rosie’ for ‘Ronald’, there would be an objectification of women in the workplace. So that’s disturbing and it’s wrong. Whether you’re a man or whether you’re a woman, and you’re objectifying women in the workplace, it’s wrong."
PHOENIX (AP)—LGBT groups sued Arizona Thursday asking a federal judge to strike down a state law prohibiting HIV and AIDS instruction that “promotes a homosexual lifestyle.”

The lawsuit, filed on behalf of Equality Arizona, alleges the 1991 law constitutes unconstitutional discrimination and restricts educational opportunity for LGBT students. It says it endorses in state law that LGBT students can only be discussed in a negative light and communicates to students and teachers “that there is something so undesirable, shameful, or controversial about ‘homosexuality’ that any positive portrayals of LGBTQ people or same-sex relationships must be explicitly barred.”

Arizona is one of seven states with laws prohibiting the promotion of homosexuality. The Arizona law prohibits HIV and AIDS instruction that “promotes a homosexual lifestyle,” “portrays homosexuality as a positive alternative lifestyle” or “suggests that some methods of sex are safe methods of homosexual sex.”

Critics say such laws stigmatize lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students and create a state-sanctioned climate of discrimination.

“Aristocracy is stigmatizing and demeaning LGBTQ students and preventing them from getting medically-accurate information that literally could save their lives,” said Puneet Cheema, a staff attorney with Lambda Legal, a legal advocacy group for LGBT rights.

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healthy enough to be a living organ donor.”

At a news conference Thursday, Martinez said she was “feeling good” and hopes she’s opened doors for other would-be donors.

“To be able to leave this kind of medical legacy for me was quite important,” she said.

The recipient of Martinez’s kidney, who chose to remain anonymous, also is recovering well, Hopkins said.

“She’s a disease that in the past was a death sentence and now has been so well controlled that it offers people with that disease an opportunity to save somebody else,” said Dr. Dorry Segev, a Hopkins surgeon who pushed for the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act, or HOPE, Act that lifted a 25-year U.S. ban on transplants between people with HIV.

There’s no count of how many HIV-positive patients are among the 113,000 people on the nation’s waiting list for an organ transplant. HIV-positive patients can receive transplants from HIV-negative donors just like anyone else.

Only in the last few years, spurred by some pioneering operations in South Africa, have doctors begun transplanting organs from deceased donors with HIV into patients who also have the virus, organs that once would have been thrown away.

Since 2016, 116 such kidney and liver transplants have been performed in the U.S. as part of a research study, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, or UNOS, which oversees the transplant system. One question is whether receiving an organ from someone with a different strain of HIV than their own poses any risks, but so far there have been no safety problems, said UNOS chief medical officer Dr. David Klassen.

Hopkins’ Segev said Monday’s kidney transplant was a world first. Doctors had hesitated to allow people still living with HIV to donate because of concern that their remaining kidney would be at risk of damage from the virus or older medications used to treat it.

But newer anti-HIV medications are safer and more effective, Segev said. His team recently studied the kidney health of 40,000 HIV-positive people and concluded that those with well-controlled HIV and no other kidney-harming ailments like high blood pressure should face the same risks from living donation as someone without HIV.

“There are potentially tens of thousands of people living with HIV right now who could be living kidney donors,” said Segev, who has advised some other hospitals considering the approach.

Generally, kidneys from living donors last longer, added Dr. Niraj Desai, the Hopkins surgeon caring for the recipient. And if more people living with HIV wind up donating, it helps more than HIV-positive patients who need a kidney.

“That’s one less person waiting for a limited resource,” Desai said. “That helps everybody on the list.”

Martinez, a public health consultant, became interested in living donation even before HIV-to-HIV transplants began. Then last summer she learned that an HIV-positive friend needed a transplant, and tracked down Segev to ask if she could donate.

Her friend died before Martinez finished the required health tests but she decided to honor him by donating to someone she didn’t know.

A runner who plans on making this fall’s Marine Corps Marathon, “I knew I was probably just as healthy as someone not living with HIV who was being evaluated as a kidney donor,” Martinez said. “I’ve never been surer of anything.”

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Tennessee bill would allow adoption groups to turn away gays

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee lawmakers are working to become the latest state to ensure faith-based adoption agencies can refuse to place children with gay parents and other families because of their religious beliefs with facing any penalties.

The GOP-dominated House on Monday overwhelmingly voted 67-22 in support of the proposal after a brief but tense debate. The bill must now pass the similarly GOP-controlled Senate before it can reach Republican Gov. Bill Lee’s desk for final approval.

Lee hasn’t said publicly whether he supports the legislation but his religious faith has often been a cornerstone of his political career. Kansas and Oklahoma enacted similar laws last year.

Supporters argue that while faith-based adoption agencies in Tennessee have been operating without issue, the move is needed to protect against potential lawsuits hostile to the group’s religious beliefs.

Furthermore, if the proposal becomes law, current adoption practices in the state aren’t expected to change. Some faith-based agencies already do not allow gay couples to adopt. But this measure would provide legal protections to agencies that do. For example, denied applicants couldn’t sue an agency for damages if the religious belief or moral conviction was cited a reason.

“We’re doing the same as nine other states have done,” said Republican Rep. Tim Rudd of Murfreesboro, the bill’s sponsor. “Throughout the country, these faith-based organizations have been sued to the point they’re being driven out of business due to costs.”

However, opponents counter the measure will give adoption agencies free reign to discriminate against LGBT families, single parents and non-Christians in placing children based on religious or moral convictions or policies.

Some experts have said same-sex couples are nearly three times as likely to adopt as heterosexual couples.

“We have children across this state looking for loving homes, why are we doing anything to prohibit a loving family or a couple from being able to care of a child and take it in and provide for it, why?” said Democratic Rep. John Ray Clemmons after a brief back and forth with Rudd over the bill’s purpose.

In 2011, Illinois declined to renew its state contract with Catholic Charities adoption services due to its policy of refusing child placement to same-sex couples. Catholic Charities has also stopped handling adoptions in Washington D.C., Massachusetts and San Francisco over concerns they would be required to act against their religious beliefs.

Follow Kimberlee Kruesi on Twitter at https://twitter.com/kkruesi

Interim housing for homeless LGBTQ youth coming to Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The state’s first transitional housing for homeless LGBTQ teens and young adults is about to open in Indianapolis, but advocates say more homes are needed for youths who are turned away by their families when they come out.

Trinity Haven, a former Airbnb property in Maple Fall Creek, will open this summer, the Indianapolis Star reported. The home will initially be able to house 10 youths between the ages of 16 and 21, but organizers hope the property will eventually accommodate 15. Youths will be allowed to live there for up to two years.

“I would say we could easily fill 10 Trinity Havens today,” said Chris Paulsen, executive director of the Indiana Youth Group and a Trinity Haven board member. “Actually, we could fill 20 Trinity Havens.”

Leigh Ann Hirschman, board chairwoman, said Trinity Haven aims to prevent chronic homelessness among LGBTQ youths who have been rejected by their families.

Residents must be at least 16 years old so they are old enough to sign a lease when their time in the home comes to an end, Hirschman said.

“The home, which will be operated around the clock, will help residents learn how to become self-sufficient,” said Jenni White, the home’s founding executive director.

There will be at least two staff members continuously available to manage any crises that arise.

School-age students will be able to enroll at the high school of their choice.

Trinity Haven is the brainchild of the Trinity Episcopal Church, which also provides temporary housing for teen mothers and opened an affordable day care center.

Rev. Julia Whitworth, Trinity Episcopal Church’s pastor, said she became aware of the prevalence of homelessness among LGBTQ youth when she was a pastor in New York City, before she moved to Indianapolis in 2016.

“As a progressive faith institution, we have a particular call to be agents of healing and to show a different image of Christianity to LGBTQ people,” Whitworth said. “I would love for this to be a model for other progressive faith communities.”

Hirschman said that those wanting to move in will first be screened but that there is no requirement to follow any religion.

“The church understands that it has an essential obligation to heal some of the damage that religious malpractice has caused some of these youth. That’s one of the reasons that we started this home,” she said.

Jay-Z, Beyonce dedicate GLAAD award to her uncle

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Jay-Z and Beyonce have dedicated their GLAAD award to her uncle, who died of HIV-related complications.

The musical power couple received the LGTBQ advocacy group’s Vanguard Award on
Have I missed a memo? I think there’s a difference between “objectifying” and “having a crush”—especially one which isn’t acted upon. What Hasselbeck did when she heard this news is also telling. “I’ll be very honest. I read it and I immediately started praying. Because I’m like, ‘How am I going to handle this?’” So, lemme get this straight—Hasselbeck actually attempted to pray the gay away?

Since Elisabeth was writing her own book, she is not included in the “View” tell-all. To the best of my knowledge, every co-host participated except for Hasselbeck and Jenny McCarthy. There are loads of juicy stories in the book—but we’ll get to those another time. And most of them involve BW...but don’t tell her (well, first you’d have to tell her that she’s BW!).

Women around the world were excited by news that a historic all-female spacewalk at the International Space Station was scheduled for the last Friday of Women’s History Month. And then, poof, it was cancelled. The reason why might surprise you. NASA announced that they didn’t have enough spacesuits in women’s sizes! And you women complain how hard it is to find a bathing suit—try shopping for a spacesuit sometime!

Of course, some people look better the less they wear. Take Mark Consuelos, who enjoys walking around the set of “Riverdale” with as little clothing on as possible (note to self—get a job on the set of “Riverdale”). Most recently, he was carrying a Nespresso machine and said to KJ Apa, “KJ, have you seen my Nespresso machine?” KJ said, “I think you’re holding it, bro.” At the risk of objectifying the willing, check him out on BillyMasters.com.

Since I had to zip out of LA, I missed the GLAAD Media Awards. And apparently what I missed was Shangela bringing down the house with a tribute to Beyoncé that included “Baby Boy”, “Single Ladies”, “Bootylicious” and “Independent Women”. Knowing Shangela, the only thing she remembers from the night was getting a standing ovation from Queen Bey herself! Naturally, we’ll run the video on our website.

Beyoncé was there to receive the Vanguard Award with hubby Jay-Z. An emotional Mrs. Carter dedicated the award to her Uncle Johnny, “the most fabulous gay man I’ve ever known, who helped raise me and my sister. He lived his truth. He was brave and unapologetic during a time when this country wasn’t as accepting. Witnessing his battle with HIV was one of the most painful experiences I’ve ever lived. I’m hopeful that his struggles served to open pathways for other young people to live more freely. LGBTQI rights are human rights.” Brava!

I get oodles of “Ask Billy” question each week. Although I answer each and every one, sometimes they aren’t fit for print. And sometimes I simply don’t have an answer. Those unanswered letters sit in a pile and haunt me, awaiting the perfect reply. After waiting a month, Gary in Detroit is finally getting his answer: “Who was Adam Lambert’s hot date at the Oscars? Young, curly hair, cute. Lots of pics online but no one named him.”

And that’s because nobody had his name...until now. The boyfriend in question is 24-year-old model/customer service rep Javi Costa Polo from Mallorca, Spain, but currently living here in the States. When someone asked if they were finally official, Lambert quipped, “Honey, we have been official for months. IG isn’t the gatekeeper of our truth!”

When “View” co-hosts are praying the gay away, it’s time to end yet another column. I don’t know how to break it to Hasselbeck, but her prayers aren’t working. She hasn’t prayed any gay away—she’s just prayed the paying jobs away! I think she better change her prayers—or perhaps change denominations...especially if she wants to bring in a few denominations! No such problems at www.BillyMasters.com—the site that will answer all of your prayers, both big and small. And if you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you as soon as I have an answer! So, until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
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Thursday during its 30th annual media awards ceremony in Beverly Hills, California. The group says the award honors “allies who have made a significant difference in promoting acceptance of LGBTQ people.”

Jay-Z honored his mother, Gloria Carter, a lesbian whose story was featured last year in his song and video “Smile.”

Beyoncé told the audience one of her most beautiful memories about respect was on her tour and video “Smile.”

She said witnessing the battle of her uncle Johnny was a painful experience.

Police: 75-year-old man says gay slur led to fatal stabbing

GARY, Ind. (AP)—A 75-year-old man who described himself as a retired drag queen told authorities he fatally stabbed a 64-year-old man who allegedly used a gay slur during a dispute.

Police responded Tuesday night to an apartment building in Gary and found Carlos Johnson, who had multiple stab wounds. Police say he was taken to a hospital and died. Officers followed a trail of blood from a hallway and found Edward Miller, who was arrested.

An affidavit says that Miller told police he and Johnson were drinking and arguing when Johnson used the slur and called him a “whore.” It says Miller told police both of the Gary men grabbed knives and Johnson was stabbed.

Miller is charged with murder and voluntary manslaughter. Court records don’t indicate whether he has a lawyer.

Police investigate slaying of transgender woman in Maryland

FAIRMOUNT HEIGHTS, Md. (AP)—Police are investigating the shooting death of a transgender woman in suburban Maryland.

Fairmount Heights Police tell news outlets that they were called to the area of Aspen and Jost streets Saturday around 6:30 a.m. on reports of gunshots.

The woman, who has not been identified by police, was found dead at the scene after being shot multiple times.

The case will be turned over to Prince George’s County Police for investigation.

WJLA-TV in Washington reports that the area, which borders the District of Columbia, has seen an influx of transgender prostitution.

Pastor to be tried for murder in transgender woman’s death

DETROIT (AP)—A judge has ordered a Detroit-area pastor to go to trial in a transgender woman’s death.

The Detroit News reports a judge Friday ruled 46-year-old Albert Weathers of Sterling Heights be tried for murder in the December shooting death of 36-year-old Kelly Stough of Detroit. The judge also denied a reduction in Weathers’ $1 million cash bond, citing that Weathers left Stough after he shot her.

Weathers’ defense attorney, David Cripps, asked the judge for lesser charges and said it was an accidental shooting. Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Jamia Powell Horowitz said the shooting happened due to an argument over money and that Weathers’ priority was “getting to work and not getting caught.”

The Wayne County medical examiner’s office said Stough died of a single gunshot to the left underarm. Her body was found on a Detroit street.


Lawsuit: Comments on transgender treatment led to demotion

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Louisville, Ky. (AP)—A medical professor is suing the University of Louisville saying he was demoted over his comments on how to treat transgender children.

The Courier Journal reports Dr. Allan Josephson says in the federal suit filed Thursday that university officials retaliated against him for exercising his First Amendment rights.

Josephson was demoted in 2017 after 15 years as chief of the medical school’s Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology. He says it happened after he spoke at an event for the conservative, nonprofit Heritage Foundation. His comments included advising parents to listen empathetically to their transgender children while guiding them to align with their biological sex.

University spokesman John Karman said the school doesn’t comment on pending litigation.


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