Thanks, Randy

The 2012 Interpride Media Interface Panel, Sue O’Connell, David Foucher, Randy Price, “Fast Freddy” Murphy, Jim Clerkin.
Photo courtesy “Fast Freddy” Murphy

By Sue O’Connell

These days, when you surf the nightly news broadcasts you’ll see plenty of queer people sitting at the anchor desks—with Anderson Cooper, Don Lemon, Rachel Maddow, and Robin Roberts among the most prominent. Even Fox News had Shep Smith up until he quit the network late last year. This was not the case in the 1990s, when, for most of the decade there were only two openly gay news anchors: San Francisco’s Hank Plante and Boston’s Randy Price. In 1993, when Price became the first anchor in the country to publicly acknowledge he was gay in the pages of the now-defunct local LGBTQ paper In Newsweekly, coming out was a risky proposition for anyone in a high-profile job. Where now celebrities and other public figures casually and confidently come out in social media posts, it wasn’t always so simple. Back then, LGBTQ VIPs often came out in a carefully-crafted PR blitz designed to soften the blow of the revelation for a largely unenlightened public, then waited anxiously to see if their career would survive the revelation.

Or, they avoided that risk altogether and saved the truth for late-in-life, post-career memoirs—thus preserving their prime money-earning years while diminishing the power of their visibility by coming long after their influence had waned.

In an interview with Bay Windows in 2000, Price acknowledged the media industry’s reticence to be vocal about openly LGBTQ employees, shedding the blow of the revelation for a largely unenlightened public, then waited anxiously to see if their career would survive the revelation.

By Troy Masters

Larry Kramer died Wednesday, May 27 at 84 years old during a pandemic that today reached a milestone 100,000 death count in the US. The cause was neither the AIDS crisis he so passionately fought nor the Covid-19 crisis he watched aghast as it unfolded. Kramer died of pneumonia, according

Remembering Larry Kramer

Larry Kramer. Photo by Donald Traill/Invision/AP

By Sue O’Connell

Even though we won’t be able to be out in the streets together this June, Pride exists in all of us.

Submitted by Boston Pride

After the City of Boston announced that all large public gatherings would be halted during the spring and summer in an effort to protect the well-being of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pride Committee got creative. Boston Pride has organized a series of virtual events for the month of June that will bring LGBTQ people together to commemorate 50 years of Pride in Boston, to honor the network of care that comprises the LGBTQ community and to celebrate the always fabulous and multi-faceted expressions of LGBTQ culture.

SHOW YOUR PRIDE! Everyone can participate in virtual Pride, and not just online. Boston Pride encourages

guestopinion

100+ LGBTQ Organizations Unite to Combat Racial Violence

Signers include MTPC, MassEquality, BAGLY

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” Those words, written over 30 years ago by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, remind us that indifference can never bridge the divide of hate. And, today, they should serve as a call to action to all of us, and to the Movement for LGBTQ equality.

This spring has been a stark and stinging reminder that racism, and its strategic objective, white supremacy, is as defining a characteristic of the American experience as those ideals upon which we claim to hold our democracy — justice, equality, liberty.

• We listened to the haunting pleas

By Sue O’Connell

“'When the doctor came out and said, 'I need a bigger clamp,' when he was being circumcised, it really helped me not continue to cry. I got excited. I went, 'Oh, that's SO great!'”

– Goldie Hawn tells Andy Cohen about finding out her son Oliver was born with a rather large penis. So we’ve learned two things: a) Oliver Hudson is circumcised; and 2) he has a large penis...for a newborn infant. Next.

find Billy Masters on page 6!
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more light on the professional risk he had taken when he chose to be one of the first seven years earlier: “While they are free and open internally,” he said of media companies, “they think in the safest ways when it comes to the public. That’s why to this day you don’t see too many openly gay anchors. I know of no others besides Hank [Plante] and me.” Plante reportedly called Price after the news broke to ask how it went, likely gauging his own prospects for a public coming out.

Price never advocated directly for any cause or law in violation of journalistic ethics. But he certainly maximized his visibility in courageous, strategic, and effective ways whenever he could and for that we should all be endlessly grateful.

In 2007, the day after the Massachusetts Legislature advanced a measure to roll back the hard-won right to marry for same-sex couples in the state, Price and Steffen celebrated their 30th anniversary as a couple by getting married on the steps of the Statehouse.

Price candidly told reporters that he and Steffen chose the location for “symbolic reasons.”

“We’re certainly not defiant people, but we believe that we should have the right to marry like anyone else,” Price told the Boston Herald. “Right now, it’s right for us. And we’ve got as much media and so much more

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Kramer
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to his husband David Webster. Kramer was often soft-spoken, almost shy, and, at least the first time you met him, was unfailingly polite. But when he spoke in public his voice became a Moses-like lightning rod, parting the waters — some would say the nation — demanding respect and dignity for the lives of a people that were being decimated by a then hidden plague, AIDS. He turned his audience into an army that was unafraid to confront the evils of prejudice, hatred and ignorance. They created ACT UP.

In March 1983, Kramer wrote in his famous essay “1,112 and counting,” published in the Native, then New York City Gay publication: “If this article doesn’t scare the shit out of you, we’re in real trouble. If this article doesn’t rouse you to anger, fury, rage, and action, gay men may have no future on this earth. Our continued existence depends on just how angry you can get.”

That essay was a call to arms. “Larry was asked to speak at the LGBT Community Center in a writers speaking series after,” according to ACT UP founding member Eric Sawyer. ”Nora Ephron cancelled with the flu.”

Kramer called a number of friends and asked them to come to the speech. He planned to call for the formation of a civil disobedience group to protest governmental, drug company and society’s refusal to take appropriate action to respond to the needs of people living with AIDS or to find a cure for the disease, which was killing gay men at an exponentially growing rate.

“Larry asked me to bring a bunch of my pretty boy Fire Island friends and to stand up and volunteer to help,” Sawyer said. “All of you standing up. He then said “All of you standing will be dead within 12 months unless we get off our asses and get into the streets to demand a major research project to find a cure for AIDS.”

The actor Martin Sheen, a friend of Kramer’s, also spoke, implored the room that government inaction was not acceptable and that the community must demand a cure.

The first demonstration was planned in front of Trinity Church at the base of Wall Street where a handful of people demanded drug companies and the government begin responding to Sawyer, “an emergency project to cure AIDS.”

The event amassed massive media coverage: having a group of patients demanding a cure from the government was unheard of at the time.

Kramer was a noted author and playwright who began his career at Columbia Pictures and United Artists. His screenplay for the 1969 film “Women in Love” (1969) earned an Academy Award nomination. Among his many accomplishments and awards, he was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for his play “The Destiny of Me” (1992), and a two-time recipient of the Obie Award.

Even before AIDS, Kramer was known as a critic of his own community: his novel “Faggots” (1978) depicted gay male relationships of the 1970s as hedonistic, destructive and unrepresented.

He co-founded the Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC), which has become the world’s largest private organization assisting people living with AIDS. But Kramer felt the agency had frozen and become reactive. His highly acclaimed 1985 play “The Normal Heart,” produced at Joseph Papp’s Public Theater reflected on Kramer’s highly visible battle against the disease.

His highly acclaimed 1985 play “The Normal Heart,” produced at Joseph Papp’s Public Theater reflected on the failures of a bureaucratic approach to combating an epidemic and honored his belief in the power of collective political provocation.

He was known for his rage and brazen behavior and New York City Mayor Ed Koch was among his favorite targets for his disregard of the emerging AIDS crisis.

Kramer’s 2015 novel “The American People, Vol. 1: Search for My Heart,” was a behemoth — nearly 800 pages that tells variously of prehistoric monkeys, the Puritans, the American Revolution, the Civil War and also the abundant — in Kramer’s vision — homosexual proclivities of the U.S. Founding Fathers with a dizzying cast that includes Washington, Hamilton, Lincoln and even John Wilkes Booth.

Kramer, a D.C. native, is widely known for his grumpy demeanor and searing play “The Normal Heart,” adapted into an HBO Emmy-winning film, and other works. He lived in New York’s Greenwich Village with his husband, David Webster (they wed in 2013) and their Cairn Terrier, Charlie, a rescue dog Kramer, a dog person, said is “very good natured.”

Kramer spoke to the Blade in 2015 about his husband.

“I first started dating David in the mid-’60s. We dated for many years but he didn’t want to be pinned down. We finally got together permanently in 1995 or so and got married just a year or so ago. I promptly got very sick and spent almost a year in and out of hospitals. He saved my life several times when doctors were not helping; he found the right ones. It is certainly not the marriage one wanted to have, lover and caregiver. His own career as an architect has suffered as he worries for me. We have both certainly been put to the test and it has brought us even closer together.”

Kramer could be cantankerous to say the least. Of that reputation, he told the Blade, “I am not bitter. I am angry. Anger is a wonderful motivator for me!”

US: Transgender sports inclusion violates others' rights

By PAT EATON-ROBB
AP Sports Writer

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut’s policy allowing transgender girls to compete as girls in high school sports violates the civil rights of athletes who have always identified as female, the U.S. Education Department has determined in a decision that could force the athletic conference and the school districts of its members to suspend, terminate, or refuse to grant prior approval, for 50 cents each by contacting see the Bay Windows business office.

The event amassed massive media coverage: having a group of patients demanding a cure from the government was unheard of at the time.

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Sports

Continued from page 4

meets, which were later canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were also seeking to erase all records set by the transgender athletes.

Connecticut is one of 18 states, along with Washington, D.C., that allow transgender high school athletes to compete without restrictions, according to Transathlete.com.

Several other states have polices barring the participation of transgender athletes, and Idaho recently became the first to pass a law banning transgender women from competing in women’s sports.

The ACLU and Legal Voice filed a federal lawsuit contending that law violates the U.S. Constitution because it is discriminatory and an invasion of privacy.
DESCOVY for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a once-daily prescription medicine for adults and adolescents at risk of HIV. It helps lower the chances of getting HIV through sex.

**DESCOVY for PrEP is not for everyone:**
- It is not for use in people assigned female at birth who are at risk of getting HIV from vaginal sex, because its effectiveness has not been studied.
- You must be HIV-negative before and while taking DESCOVY for PrEP.

**POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY FOR PrEP**
- **Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death.** Tell your healthcare provider if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

**Start Here:**
- Talk to your healthcare provider about all the ways to help reduce HIV risk.
- Practice safer sex by using latex or polyurethane condoms.
- Get tested for other STIs. Some STIs make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners. If your partner is infected with HIV, practice safer sex by using latex or polyurethane condoms.
- If you have HIV-1 and take only DESCOVY, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat now and in the future.

**ABOUT DESCOVY FOR PrEP**
DESCOVY for PrEP is a once-daily prescription medicine for adults and adolescents at risk of HIV who weigh at least 77 pounds. It helps lower the chances of getting HIV through sex.

**DESCOVY for PrEP is not for everyone:**
- It is not for use in people assigned female at birth who are at risk of getting HIV from vaginal sex, because its effectiveness has not been studied.
- You must be HIV-negative before and while taking DESCOVY for PrEP.

To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

**Do NOT take DESCOVY for PrEP if you:**
- Already have HIV infection or if you do not know your HIV status. If you have HIV-1, you need more medicine than DESCOVY alone to treat HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only DESCOVY, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat now and in the future.

**Ask a healthcare provider if DESCOVY for PrEP is right for you.**
To learn more, visit [AboutDescovy.com](http://AboutDescovy.com).

**IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT DESCOVY (des-KOH-vee)**
This is only a brief summary of important information about taking DESCOVY for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis). This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

**MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY FOR PrEP**

Before starting and while taking DESCOVY for PrEP:
- **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested for HIV immediately before and at least every 3 months while taking DESCOVY. If you think you were exposed to HIV, tell your healthcare provider right away. They may want to do more tests to confirm that you are still HIV-negative.
- **Many HIV tests can miss HIV infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or while taking DESCOVY.
- **DESCOVY does not prevent other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).** Practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to reduce the risk of getting STIs.
- **DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1.** Do not take DESCOVY for PrEP unless you are confirmed to be HIV negative.
- **DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:**
  - Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check or give you HBV medicine.
  - Worsening of hepatitis C (HCV) infection. Your healthcare provider will check your HCV status before starting your treatment with DESCOVY. If you develop hepatitis C while taking DESCOVY, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY.
  - **Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
  - **Severe kidney problems, which in rare cases can lead to death.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
  - **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death.** Tell your healthcare provider if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
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POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY FOR PrEP (cont’d)

Common side effects in people taking DESCOVY for PrEP include:
- Diarrhea
- Nausea
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Stomach pain

These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY for PrEP.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with DESCOVY for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:
- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:
- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY FOR PrEP

• Take 1 tablet once a day, every day, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
• Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
• Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking DESCOVY for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

• Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners. If your partner is living with HIV, your risk of getting HIV is lower if your partner consistently takes HIV treatment every day.
• Get tested for other STIs. Some STIs make it easier for HIV to infect you.
• Practice safer sex by using latex or polyurethane condoms.
• Talk to your healthcare provider about all the ways to help reduce HIV risk.

GET MORE INFORMATION

• This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
• Go to DESCOVY.com/prep or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
• If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com/prep for program information.

*Advancing Access® co-pay support is available for commercially insured eligible patients only. Subject to change; for full terms and conditions, visit GileadAdvancingAccess.com.
Boston Pride hits 50

by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer

Boston Pride hits 50. I am both shocked and awed that the most exciting parts of my activist years have been in Boston from the 1990s to the present. As I look back now, there are two historical events I could not have fathomed in my lifetime — the nomination of an African American president and residing in the first city, Cambridge, to issue a marriage license to same-sex couples.

I remember the event vividly. I was one of the speakers at Cambridge City Hall on the evening of May 16. Thousand had gathered in and out of the building, waiting for the clock to strike midnight with more than 10,000 lining Massachusetts Avenue. I told the audience that, to appreciate this historical moment, let us remember that the marriage debate here in the United States did not begin with LGBTQs.

Instead, the marriage debate began when African American slaves were forced to marry, so they “jumped over the broom” — an African American tradition — in front of their slave masters to concretize their nuptials until the end of the Civil War in 1865. A century later, the debate concerning interracial marriages between African Americans and white Americans ended in 1967. The Supreme court case of Loving versus the State of Virginia declared marriage laws that prohibited marriage between people of different races to be unconstitutional.

BLM

Continued from page 1

of George Floyd for the most basic of human needs — simply, breath — as a Minneapolis police officer kneed with cruel indifference on his neck.

• We felt the pain of Breonna Taylor’s boyfriend as he called 9-1-1 after plainclothes Louisville police kicked down the door of their home and shot her eight times as she slept in her bed.

• We watched the shooting death of Ahmaud Arbery by white vigilantes in Brunswick, GA, aware that they evaded the consequence of their actions until the video surfaced and sparked national outrage.

• We saw the weaponization of race by a white woman who pantoimed fear in calling the police on Christian Cooper, a Black gay man bird-watching in Central Park.

• We have heard and read about the killings of transgender people — Black transgender women in particular — with such regularity, it is an exaggeration to describe it as a epidemic of violence. This year alone, we have lost at least 12 members of our community: Dustin Parker, Neulisa Luciano Ruiz, Yampi Méndez Arocho, Monika Diamond, Lexi, Johanna Mengert, Serena Angelique Velázquez Ramos, Layla Peña Sánchez, Penelope Díaz Ramírez, Nina Pop, Helle Jae O’Regan, and Tony McDade.

All of these incidents are stark reminders of why we must speak out when hate, violence, and systemic racism claim — too often with impunity — Black Lives.

The LGBTQ Movement’s work has earned significant victories in expanding the civil rights of LGBTQ people. But what good are civil rights without the freedom to enjoy them?

Many of our organizations have made progress in adopting intersectionality as a core value and have committed to be more diverse, equitable, and inclusive. But this moment requires that we go further — that we make explicit commitments to embrace anti-racism and end white supremacy, not as necessary corollaries to our mission, but as integral to the objective of full equality for LGBTQ people.

We, the undersigned, recognize we cannot remain neutral, nor will awareness substitute for action. The LGBTQ community knows about the work of resisting police brutality and violence. We celebrate June as Pride Month, because it commemorates, in part, our resisting police harassment and brutality at Stonewall in New York City, and earlier in California, when such violence was common and expected. We remember it as a breakthrough moment when we refused to accept humiliation and fear as the price of living fully, freely, and authentically.

We understand what it means to rise up and push back against a culture that tells us we are less than, that our lives don’t matter. Today, we join together again to say #BlackLivesMatter and commit ourselves to the action those words require.

Visit www.baywindows.com for the full list of signers.

Jasper J. Lawson, PH.D.
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In quelling the tension between black civil right activists of the 1960s who stated that marriage equality for LGBTQ Americans is not a civil right, one of the organizations that spearheaded the Loving case, the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., marked the 40th anniversary of Loving by stating the following: “It is undeniable that the experience of African Americans differs in many important ways from that of gay men and lesbians; among other things, the legacy of slavery and segregation is profound. But differences in historical experiences should not preclude the application of constitutional provisions to gay men and lesbians who are denied the right to marry the person of their choice.” And in April of 2006, NAACP LDF filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case brought by New York same-sex couples challenging their exclusion from marriage.

A movement for some time now has been afoot in state legislatures across the country to disenfranchise LGBTQ Americans. These bills are called “Religious Freedom Restoration Acts” (RFRA). They are a backlash to the growing acceptance of same-sex marriage and the increasing fear of when the Supreme Court legalize it nationwide. Lawmakers used them to codify LGBTQ discrimination to justify denying us services.

I am immensely thankful as a married lesbian that I reside in Massachusetts, especially if Trump tries to overturn “Obergefell v. Hodges,” the historic U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in all 50 states. With Trump having potentially three Supreme Court seats to fill with Antonin Scalia-like justices I can exhale knowing that Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court legalized same-sex marriage in the 2004 “Goodridge v. Dept. of Public Health” landmark case, and it’s sticking.

However, that may not be the case for many LGBTQ married couples outside of Massachusetts. For example, in a Trumped-up Supreme Court, there is talk among Christian evangelicals of walking “Obergefell v. Hodges” back without disrupting other precedents on marriage,” Rebecca Buckwalter-Poza wrote in the article “The End of Gay Rights” in the June issue of Pacific Standard Magazine.

“The Supreme Court can significantly undermine LGBT rights even without reversing a single case. Right now, the federal prohibition against sex discrimination doesn’t bar discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity; the Equal Protection Clause affords no specific protections for LGBT people, as it does for members of groups defined by race or nationality. The Court can strip the rights to intimacy and marriage of their meaning, carving away gradually and masking the magnitude of changes by phrasing them in arcane legal terms.”

I share this story with you because Trump has and continues to do everything in his power to erase the presidency of Barack Obama. Let us not let this global pandemic and now race riot going on across America to let Trump use these incidents as distractions to erase same-sex marriage.
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With some assistance from loyal readers and other businesses in the community, we will keep reporters on the job to provide resources and information that our community needs.

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Ever since I came out—in 1986—Larry Kramer has been saying he’s dying. 34 years later, he did just that. At the age of 84 (a respectable age for anyone to die), a man who changed the world passed away. I suspect he didn’t go peacefully—nothing Larry did was peaceful. He fought to start the Gay Men’s Health Crisis in NYC, he fought to start ACT UP, he fought to get his play “The Normal Heart” produced, and he fought Barbra Streisand to regain the rights when she couldn’t make a film of the play. By all accounts, Larry was a man who was hard to be around. But you’d sure want him in your corner when the chips were down. In a very few short months, we’ve lost three pivotal voices for our community: Larry Kramer, Terrence McNally, and Mart Crowley. Throw in Jerry Herman and Roy Horn, and you’ve got a mighty dramatic musical with an animal act! Rest in peace.

One of the people who remembered Larry Kramer was Dr. Anthony Fauci. Here is an extended quote: “This is a very sad day, not only for me, but for many people who’ve had the opportunity to deal with Larry Kramer. He was a most unusual figure in a very positive sense, he was a firebrand. He had extraordinary courage to speak out and challenge the system that was in place at the time of the early years of HIV/AIDS. As a government official who was trying to do a job to address this, he saw me as the face of the federal government. And we became adversaries. I wasn’t an adversary to him, but boy, he was an adversary to me. He attacked me, he called me a murderer, he called me an incompetent idiot—I mean publicly. But then, as I got to listen to what he had to say, I realized that he was making some important points that we in the establishment needed to listen to. We became, gradually, friends. And then we became very good friends. And then we became colleagues in the struggle. So it turned out that, you know, I loved the guy. And I think he loved me back.” Once again, wise words from Dr. Fauci.

Kathy Griffin: simply cannot help herself. CNN’s Jim Acosta Tweeted, “Trump at diabetes event at WH: ‘I don’t use insulin. Should I be?’” Kathy Tweeted back, “surgery with nothing but air inside it would do the trick. FUCK TRUMP”. When people questioned if she was advocating an act with fatal ramifications to El Presidente, she responded, “I SURE DID, FUCKER #TrumpLiedPeopleDie.”

Those One Million Moms (or, to be more accurate, a few thousand moms) are protesting Disney for airing Pixar’s short film, “Out”—about a young man struggling to tell his parents that he’s gay and in a relationship with Manuel. His parents that he’s gay and in a relationship with Manuel.

Oh, God, I hope I didn’t just ruin it for any of you. Anyway, Disney’s doing the smart thing—ignoring them.

NBC and “America’s Got Talent” just wrapped up an investigation into Gabrielle Union’s claims about being fired due to her race. “Through the investigation process, it has been revealed that no one associated with the show made any insensitive or derogatory remarks about Ms. Union’s appearance, and that neither race nor gender was a contributing factor in the advancement or elimination of contestants at any time. The investigation has shown that the concerns raised by Ms. Union had no bearing on the decision not to exercise the option on her contract.” I wonder if an independent investigator would have come to the same conclusions. Eh...

It was a big week on “Billy Masters LIVE!” Throughout the pandemic, we’ve been doing live shows on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3PM Eastern (noon Pacific). Last week, a staggering number of people took a little time to enjoy Billy Masters...LIVE! Of course, I can’t take all the credit. On Thursday, two of my favorite funny people were guests—Judy Gold and Wendy Liebman. But it was Tuesday’s show that really grabbed the fans’ attention. My guests were Emerson Collins, Blake McIver, and Scott Nevin—who, collectively, possess roughly half my body fat. They couldn’t have been nicer...or drier. Emerson was producing an all-star reading of Del Shores’ “Sordid Lives” to benefit small theatre companies (you’ve already missed that one); on June 5th, Scott Nevin will host “Voices of Hope: Together We Thrive”, a live streaming glittering event to benefit the Desert AIDS Project; the following night, Blake McIver brings his Barbra Streisand tribute concert to the web. You can find more details and watch the shows on BillyMasters.com/TV or on our YouTube channel.

As to the shows this week, we celebrate our 16th wedding anniversary to porn superstar, Kurt Young. We’ll also have Frank DeCaro, who wrote the book, “Drag: Combining the Big Wigs of Show Business,” Lady Bunny will hop in to talk about her upcoming special. You never know who’ll pop up on “Billy Masters LIVE!”

We’ve wondered why Ruby Rose left “Batwoman”. She’s now speaking out, but she’s as cryptic as ever. “Thank you everyone for coming on this journey. If I mentioned everyone it would be 1000 tags...but thank you to the cast, crew, producers and studio. It wasn’t an easy decision but those who know, know. I didn’t want to not acknowledge everyone involved and how big this was for TV and for our community. I have stayed silent because that’s my choice for now but know I adore you all. I’m sure next season will be amazing also.” In other words—nothing.

One person has thrown his hat in the ring as a potential replacement. And, yes, I did say “his” hat. Billy Eichner Tweeted, “Just finished cleaning my apt again so...can I play Batwoman”. He followed that up with, “Any update on this? Just disinfected the soles of my shoes, would love to play Batwoman now if possible, thx’. I dunno—do they really wanna go with someone with that much estrogen!”

Cheyenne Jackson recently said something that shocked even me. The dashing and debonair dude revealed that over the course of 14 years, he’s had FIVE hair transplant procedures. Not only that, but he posted photos showing the scars! “I started losing my hair around 22. My older brother was balding too, but was way braver & cooler & just shaved his off. It was really emotional for me to watch it fall out & I felt less attractive & truly less like myself as the days went on, so I saved up and got my first surgery at 28.” That led to several more procedures. “Why did I care so much? What does that say about me? Being a vain actor in an industry that rewards beauty, I vowed to keep this my secret forever. I feel SO stupid saying that but it’s my truth.” He would take hair and makeup people aside and share his secret. Their response? “Um...ya...so?” Cheyenne sums it up by saying, “I’m sharing because maybe this will inspire someone out there to share a secret they’ve been hiding, or show a scar that they’ve been afraid of anyone seeing. Let it go. What I’ve learned during this pandemic is that shit like this just doesn’t matter.” Of course, it’s easy for him to say that now with a good head of hair—to say nothing of a career and a hot husband. Would he feel the same with wisps of hair or a shaved head? Who knows? That’s beyond my pay grade.

Our “Ask Billy” question comes from Paul in San Diego. “Is it true that Steve Grand is designing underwear and swimwear?”

After years of showing off in others’ wares, it’s high time Grand winched himself into his own. He’s designed a collection of various styles of swimwear, underwear, activewear, and even a thong under the moniker Grand Axis. Alas, with factories being closed, he has no products to ship out and his hands are tied. Hmmmm...Steve Grand, in a thong, hands tied. There’s a photo you likely won’t see on BillyMasters.com—but we’ll show off the rest of his assets.

When an all-American boy is giving us something to sate, it’s definitely time to end another column. With summer upon us, check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that keeps it hot and steamy. And be sure to watch “Billy Masters LIVE!”—and subscribe to our YouTube channel, BillyMasters.TV. For anything else, drop a note to Billy@ BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Cheyenne gets cast in “The King and I”! So, until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
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