November 14 - 27, 2024
50 cents at newsstands Vol. 40, No 9

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An unusual campaign season, start to finish

By Lisa Keen
Keen News Service

A majority of U.S. voters set aside all evidence of Republican nominee Donald Trump's mental decline, adoration of dictators, criminal convictions, and hostility to the U.S. Constitution and gave him a decisive victory November 5 over Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris.

Mother Jones magazine called the 2024 presidential election the "most anti-LGBTQ election in decades." And, on Wednesday morning, many post-election political analysts were crediting much of Trump's victory to the campaign's $21 million investment in an anti-transgender ad. The ad ran more than 30,000 times — especially during televised football

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Hope and Help for Queer Families After the Election

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

The election of Donald Trump to a second term as president feels like a body blow. The danger of his policies to LGBTQ and other marginalized people is real. Nevertheless, there are actions LGBTQ parents can take now to protect and support our families—and there are a few things that are giving me hope.

One thing LGBTQ parents should do immediately is make sure to have secure legal protections in place. This is especially important for nongestational and nongenetic parents, whose legal relationships with their children may still be called into question, even if they are married and on their children's birth certificates. Because of bias and discrimination, both married and unmarried LGBTQ parents are advised by LGBTQ legal experts to have the security of a court judgment, not just a birth certificate, to protect their child-parent relationships no matter where they may move or travel. Visit lgbtqparentage.org for a brief guide that GLAD Law and I created which explains the options you may have and offers straightforward answers to common questions about securing your parentage.

Wills, powers of attorney, and healthcare proxies are also critical to protect LGBTQ families more broadly. For all of the above, it is important to get advice from someone well versed in LGBTQ family law in your specific state. If you need legal assistance, the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association maintains a Family Law Attorney Directory of experienced LGBTQ family law practitioners. Additionally, several major LGBTQ legal organizations, including GLAD Law, Lambda Legal, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the Transgender Law Center offer helplines that can address questions, provide attorney referrals, and

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Information for LGBTQ People and Families in Anticipation of a Second Trump Administration

From GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law)

Photo via Adobe.

Many of us are still processing the results of the presidential election and are worried about what a second Trump Administration will mean for us and our loved ones.

At GLAD Law we have heard from parents worried about how to protect their legal relationship to their children, married couples, and those considering marriage wondering what they should do to protect each other, transgender people and families deeply concerned about access to health care at all ages, teachers, students, and families worried about what this will mean for our schools, communities alarmed by the prospect of mass deportations of immigrant family members and friends, and many others bracing for what already feels like an increase in cruelty and harassment.

While we don't yet know what exactly the next four years will bring, we do know that we are going to need to support one another, take whatever steps we can to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities, and plug in to help shape a better future whenever and however we are able. GLAD Law will continue to use the law as a tool

see **GLAD,** *page 4*

Rep. Moulton Faces Backlash Over Transgender Sports Comments

By Bay Windows Staff

Massachusetts Congressman Seth Moulton has defended controversial remarks about transgender athletes, sparking criticism from LGBTQ+ advocates and fellow Democrats.

In a recent interview with The New York Times, Rep. Moulton, who represents Massachusetts' 6th congressional district, criticized what he views as the Democratic Party's approach to identity politics.

"Democrats spend way too much time trying not to offend anyone rather than being brutally honest about the challenges many Americans face," Moulton said. "I have two little girls, I don't want them getting run over on a playing field by a male or formerly male athlete, but as a Democrat I'm supposed to be afraid to say that."

The congressman's comments prompted swift reaction from local officials and advocacy groups. Salem City Councilor Kyle Davis called for Moulton's resignation in several social media posts. Massachusetts State Democratic Rep. John Moran, who is gay, described Moulton as "weak" in a post on X. The same week, Matt Chilliak resigned, though the reason for his departure remains unclear.

MassEquality challenged Moulton's terminology in a state-

see **MOULTON,** *page 5*

Congressman Seth Moulton. Screenshot via NBC10 Boston, YouTube Channel.

25th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance to Honor Rita Hester and Transgender Community

BOSTON – The 25th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) will be commemorated with three days of events and community gatherings from November 15–17, 2024. While TDOR is officially observed on Wednesday, November 20, Boston's city-wide events will begin the weekend prior to honor the lives of transgender people lost to violence and to support those who continue to face threats of discrimination and harm.

TDOR was established following the unsolved 1998 murder of Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman in Allston, Massachusetts. Over two decades later, Rita's tragic story remains a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggles for justice, particularly for transgender people of color. This year's events, organized by a coalition of transgender-led advocates and community groups, continue to highlight the urgency of addressing the disproportionate violence and discrimination faced by the transgender community.

"We strive to create spaces for connection and healing, recognizing the emotional and physical toll that rising anti-trans violence and political hostility have on our community," said Chastity Bowick, TDOR planning

see **TDOR,** *page 4*

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Election

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games— and apparently helped win over young men of all races. In a campaign heavily divided by gender —including the possibility that the U.S. would elect its first woman president— the ad apparently helped secure the popular vote and the necessary electoral votes in closely contested swing states.

And much of the post-game commentary criticized the Harris campaign's failure to produce any response to the ad.

Fox News reporter Bret Baier tried to get some traction for the anti-LGBTQ tactic during his interview with Harris October 16.

"Are you still in support of using taxpayer dollars to help prison inmates or detained illegal aliens to transition to another gender?" asked Baier.

"I will follow the law, and it's a law that Donald Trump actually followed," noted Harris. The ads and various speeches by Trump at rallies, derided the "transgender insanity" in schools. Trump repeatedly characterized Harris' position as supporting the use of taxpayer funding for "sex-change operations" and transgender people in girls and women's sports.

The ad did not, of course, explain that a 1976 U.S. Supreme Court ruling held that the Eighth Amendment requires federal prisons to make "medically necessary" treatment available to prisoners. The American Medical Association and others have deemed "mental health care, hormone therapy, and gender-affirming surgical procedures [as] medically necessary...."

The Trump ads used a video clip showing a transgender basketball player towering over her young female teammates. (There is no way of telling whether the images were authentic or fabricated by artificial intelligence.) Another showed Harris responding in 2019 to a question from a transgender interviewer, asking her position on the availability of treatment for gender dysphoria for prisoners. In response, Harris chose her words carefully, noting that the law requires every transgender person in prison "have access" to medically necessary treatment.

But however much the anti-trans ads may have garnered Trump a margin of victory, at deadline, data available from major media outlets showed Trump with 71 million votes to Harris' 66 million. News media tallies also indicated Trump won at least four and possibly all seven swing states, finishing the race with 277 electoral votes to Harris' 224. (It takes 270 to win.)

The LGBTQ community invested heavily in the Harris bid to succeed Democratic President Joe Biden and become the first woman and first woman of color to win the presidency. LGBTQ papers, including those in the three swing states Harris had to win (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania), endorsed Harris. LGBTQ groups did, too, including the Human Rights Campaign, the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, the National Center for Transgender Equality Action Fund, and the Equality Political Action Committee.

Log Cabin Republicans backed Trump and used the transgender issue itself.

"Harris and [Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee Tim Walz] are crusaders for a small but powerful cabal of the LGBT Left which wants to erase the concept of biological sex from society, expose young children to overtly sexualized and ideological content, and strip parents of their rights to make critical decisions about their children," wrote national Log Cabin President Charles Moran, in an op-ed September 13 in Newsweek magazine.

An unusual campaign, start to finish

The 81-year-old President Biden withdrew his bid for re-election in July, after showing signs of cognitive difficulty and confusion during a debate with Trump. Biden immediately threw his support behind his vice president, Harris, creating a groundswell of support for the 60-year-old former San Francisco prosecutor and California attorney general. Biden's support, coupled with the party's obvious relief that it was overcoming concerns about its nominee's ability to serve, seemed to cure Democrats' panic. But race and gender started to play a major part in voters' thinking.

Voters in seven highly contested swing states gave Trump control of the White House and gave Republicans a decisive majority in the U.S. Senate. At deadline, partisan control of the U.S. House had not yet been determined, but the New York Times reported that Republicans were leading with 197 seats to Democrats 177. At deadline, there were still 64 seats yet to be decided, many of them in California. That leaves open the hope that Democrats might be able to take majority control of the U.S. House. If they don't, Trump will have a rubber stamp Congress with Republican majorities in both chambers.

Joe Scarborough, host of the popular MSNBC commentary show Morning Joe, said Wednesday morning he believes the anti-transgender ads that popped up during football games in the swing states "had a bigger impact that any ad that ran and that's why they ran it 30,000 times."

Washington Post commentator Matt Bai said, "Democrats dug themselves into a hole on cultural issues and identity politics."

One of the ads' closing lines was "She's for they/them, he's for you," noted Bai, who agreed that "Trump's vicious transgender ad in the closing weeks was probably the most effective of the cycle."

"I think that probably landed with a lot of traditionally Democratic voters who feel like the party is consumed with cultural issues while the economic issues don't really change," wrote Bai.

On a podcast of conservative Joe Rogan, Republican vice presidential candidate J. D. Vance said, "Frankly, I wouldn't be surprised if me and Trump won just the normal gay guy vote because they just want to be left the hell alone." (Reporter's note: Readers should consider listening to Vance's intonations to judge for themselves what he means to say.) Openly gay CNN news anchor Anderson Cooper pondered Vance's comment on his show.

"I'm curious where the line is between a 'normal gay person' and a not normal gay person is," said Cooper. "I'm assuming that wearing as much make-up as Donald Trump wears —that would be considered not normal –fine for Donald Trump but on a gay guy that wouldn't be considered normal.

see **ELECTION,** *page 3*

Fenway Health Announces Dallas Ducar as New EVP for Donor Engagement and External Relations

Sumbitted by Fenway Health

Fenway Health is thrilled to announce Dallas Ducar as our new Executive Vice President for Donor Engagement and External Relations. She will provide strategic leadership as we continue to reconnect and reengage with our patients, supporters, and community while advocating for progressive public health policies and legislation that center the health needs of LGBTQIA+ people and people living with HIV. Dallas will start on Monday, December 2.

Dallas brings with her a distinguished background as the Founding CEO of Transhealth, where she transformed a vision of equitable, compassionate healthcare into a thriving multidisciplinary center serving thousands of transgender and gender-diverse patients across rural New England. Her leadership and dedication helped Transhealth grow from a small team to a robust organization, establishing essential services, developing policy frameworks, and setting an example of inclusive, sustainable healthcare. Dallas's success at Transhealth underscores her ability to build, grow, and lead with vision.

In addition to her executive acumen, Dallas's work on the frontlines as a clinical leader and her dedication to justice reflect her profound understanding of the healthcare system and its challenges. Her experience spans diverse environments, from the University of Virginia to Mass General Hospital. Dallas's approach centers on radical candor, transparency, and building communities of trust, qualities that will bring cohesion and strength to Fenway's relationships across our stakeholders and partners.

As she leads Fenway's donor and external engagement efforts, Dallas intends to build on Fenway's legacy by connecting with supporters and advocates across all levels, fostering relationships founded on shared purpose and vision. With her deep-rooted belief in compassionate, justice-oriented care, Dallas's leadership will ensure Fenway remains a beacon of hope and change for our community.

Dallas joins Fenway Health at a unique juncture in our history, a time demanding courage and unyielding dedication to our values. In a climate where equality, freedom, and dignity are more than words but urgent calls to action, Dallas understands that Fenway Health's role is not just regional but national. Her strategic insight and experience in public policy, healthcare advocacy, and development will bolster our partnerships and bring together voices from Boston to beyond, uniting them in our shared vision for a healthier, more inclusive world.

Photo courtesy of Feneway Health.

Election

Continued from page 2

Los Angeles Times reporter Noah Bierman told ABC that, while transgender people are not a top issue for Republicans in the same way migrants are, the ads are "really intended to bring the culture wars back in."

"The Trump campaign is heavily focused on young men, and they feel like this is an issue that resonates with them," said Bierman. He said they are also intended to paint Harris as an out of touch liberal.

A national poll of 806 registered voters, conducted online and by phone in mid-October, found that eight percent (64 voters) identified themselves as LGBTQ+. While voters overall split 50 percent for Harris, 47 percent for Trump, three percent others, voters who identified themselves as LGBTQ+ preferred Harris 78 percent to Trump's 20 percent and other's two percent. (The poll also provided some interesting data on how "masculine" and how "feminine" the voters perceive each candidate to be and how that affected their votes.)

Coincidentally, three states voted on same-sex marriage laws Tuesday: California, Colorado, and Hawaii. Although the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that states had to allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses the same as heterosexual couples, very few states that had banned such marriages took them out of their state constitutions.

In California, voters approved Proposition 3 to amend the state constitution to repeal Proposition 8, which in 2008 prohibited same-sex marriage. Passed by 61 percent of the vote, Proposition 3 would also amend the state constitution to establish a right of marriage for same-sex couples. The similar measure in Colorado passed Amendment J with 64 percent and, in Hawaii, Question 1 passed with 61 percent.

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GLAD

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to slow, stop, and reverse harmful policies – and promote positive ones – and we will continue to support our community with information about your rights and what steps you can take to protect them.

Here are some resources we have compiled. Everyone's situation will be different, and this should not be taken as legal advice. We encourage you to determine what the right steps are for you and to consult with a lawyer when needed.

The following information is also available at glad.org/lgbtq-protections and will be updated as time goes on, so please check back.

If you have additional questions or are looking for a lawyer or other resource referral, reach out to GLAD Answers at GLADAnswers.org

Marriage and Relationship Protections

We are prepared to challenge any attempt to reverse the Supreme Court's 2015 marriage equality decision. Additional protections for marriage also exist at the federal level through the Respect for Marriage Act and at the state level in New England and several other states.

However, we know that many people are worried about what could happen in the future, and there are steps you can take to protect your relationship. This includes preparing important legal documents called estate planning documents, in which you designate your spouse, partner if unmarried, or another person to make decisions for you if needed or to be the caregiver for your children and beneficiary of your assets in case of your death. They include:

Power of Attorney: a legal document that empowers your spouse (or another person) to make financial decisions in case you are unable to do so.

Health Care Proxy (or similar document): a legal document that empowers your spouse (or another person) to make health care decisions in case you are unable to do so. This document may also allow you to authorize your spouse to access your medical information and to visit you in the hospital.

Will: a legal document where you describe what you would like to have happen to your children and property in the event of your death.

Typically, these documents are prepared in consultation with an attorney. They can also be prepared to protect unmarried couples.

Family Protections

While marriage and having both parents' names on a birth certificate do offer some protection for families, the most secure option is to have a court decree of parentage. This can be through a co-parent adoption or a court judgment.

New England has many protections for LGBTQ+ families, including for parents who are not married. There are steps you can take to protect your parent-child relationship, depending on which state you are in and how your family is formed.

Visit glad.org/new-england-parents and glad.org/paths-to-parentage for more information.

Health Care Access

We understand that the recent election has created real anxiety about potential changes to transgender health care access. While we cannot predict the future with certainty, we are committed to keeping the community informed as situations develop.

First and foremost, we encourage you to discuss any concerns about continuity of care with your current medical provider.

While federal policies could theoretically change in the future, multiple layers of legal and constitutional protections remain in place. Organizations like GLAD Law stand ready to challenge discriminatory laws or unfair federal policy, and LGBTQ+ and allied advocacy groups will continue working to prevent unfair legislation.

Currently, 26 states have enacted bans on health care for transgender adolescents, and Florida stands alone in having placed restrictions on treatment for transgender adults. The majority of those laws are being challenged in court.

Importantly, 14 states and DC, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont, have enacted "shield laws" to protect medical providers' ability to continue caring for transgender patients. Two additional states (Arizona and New Jersey) have executive orders protecting care.

In December, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in a landmark case examining whether states can constitutionally deny transgender adolescents access to established medical care that is routinely provided to others. The federal trial court (in that case and numerous others) struck down such restrictions as violating equal protection principles, finding no legitimate basis for singling out transgender adolescents and denying them standard medical treatments that physicians and major medical organizations have found to be safe and effective. Based on existing constitutional protections against discrimination, we are hopeful about the Court's ruling. A positive decision in that case should be a bulwark against other efforts to restrict care.

Check our website for the most up-to-date information about relevant laws and legal challenges.

Schools

We have already seen many attempts at the state and local level to reverse protections for LGBTQ+ students and censor what students can learn about themselves and others. The incoming administration has indicated a desire to broaden attacks on schools and undermine public education. We can all be prepared to get involved at the local level to protect vital access to education for all students.

Every New England state has protections for LGBTQ+ students in public schools, and many courts have affirmed that federal Title IX protections apply to LGBTQ+ students.

We encourage you to inquire about your school's policies, and to visit our state-specific Know Your Rights in School pages for more information and other organizations to reach out to for help.

Identity Documents and Name Changes

If you want to update your identity documents and/or secure a legal name change, there are resources available to you.

Visit glad.org/ID for self-directed guides for each of the New England states. In many cases, these are changes you can make on your own. However, if you have a more complex situation or need assistance, we also have an ID Project that can pair you with a pro bono attorney. Please note there may be a wait to be matched with an attorney given high demand.

Other Protections

New England states have a range of important non-discrimination protections that cover employment, housing, health care, and public spaces. Visit our state-specific pages for more information about specific protections and to understand how to work with state non-discrimination commissions if you face discrimination.

This is also a time for all of us to engage with pro-equality state and local leaders to ensure the most robust protections at the state level and to act as a barrier against harmful federal policies.

Online Safety

Some people may be considering scaling back how public they are online at this time. We have compiled a Digital Safety Guide with steps you can take to increase online security at glad.org/digital-safety.

TDOR

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committee member. "This year, we are especially focused on offering tangible resources and support, while continuing to demand justice for Rita and all trans people lost to violence."

The TDOR 2024 events aim to provide a platform for reflection, support, and collective action. Community members and allies are invited to join in solidarity and work together to foster justice, equity, and safety for all transgender individuals.

Schedule of Events:

Day 1 – Friday, November 15, 2024

Film Screening of Marsha P. Johnson Institute and Trans Ball

Location: The Pryde, 59 Harvard Ave, Hyde Park, MA 02136

Time: 6:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Day 2 – Saturday, November 16, 2024

25th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony & Vigil

Location: Episcopal Cathedral Church, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111

Time: 5:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Day 3 – Sunday, November 17, 2024

Trans Day of Remembrance Brunch & Safety Toolkit Introduction

Location: The Pryde, 59 Harvard Ave, Hyde Park, MA 02136

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM

The TDOR organizing committee is made up of trans-led, trans-informed, and trans-focused organizations and community leaders, including Chastity Bowick Consulting, TransResistance, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, MassEquality, Network LaRed, and The Theatre Offensive. The event is hosted by TransResistance and Chastity Bowick Consulting, represented by Stxph Viana and Chastity Bowick.

About Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR):

TDOR was established in 1999 by Gwen Smith, a trans woman, to honor the memory of Rita Hester and other transgender people who have been victims of violence. The event has since become a global observance to honor the lives lost and raise awareness of the ongoing violence faced by transgender people, particularly transgender people of color.

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In sorrow and hope, fight on

MAGA mayhem is not governance

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

The old adage, "Be careful what you wish for," is about to demonstrate its wisdom.

Millions of people have rewarded a racist demagogue for his provocations by electing him over an accomplished and decent woman of African and South Asian descent. To quote their God Bless The USA Bible, they will reap the whirlwind (Hosea 8:7).

It is time to stop letting people who dominate our politics get away with waving the Bible around while ignoring its wisdom. Cherry picking Old Testament passages to beat others over the head is not Christianity. They love to proclaim Jesus as their Lord and Savior, but violate his teachings at every turn.

Thus they will ignore Jeebus on welcoming strangers (Matthew 25:35) and cheer on the 47th president (God help us) as he attempts to deport millions of immigrant laborers, which will tank the economy and is unimaginably cruel.

His proposed tariffs will do further damage, for which he will doubtless blame others because he is never wrong.

This con artist who would be king took a break from golfing a few weeks ago to phone into a town hall with his running mate, whom he put on the spot by demanding to be assured of his brilliance. JD Vance promptly put down his Maybelline applicator and complied.

Permit me to list all the truly smart people who go around begging to be told how brilliant they are.

There, that's the complete list.

With all due respect, this is not a moment for solemnity and soothing words. When the abyss threatens to swallow us up, sometimes dark humor pulls us out. I recall a spate of tasteless jokes after the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded in 1986, including someone suggesting that the last words of teacher Christa McAuliffe, who died aboard, were, "What's this red button for?"

Trump will spend his entire second term looking for the red button on Spaceship America.

The president-elect has neither the inclination nor the capacity to govern. His only interests are in getting revenge and lining the pockets of his wealthy friends.

Masha Gessen wrote in 2017, "Donald Trump ran on a platform of denigrating expertise.... Militant incompetence and autocracy are not in opposition: They are two sides of a coin."

If Trump puts vaccine skeptic and conspiracy theorist RFK Jr. in charge of public health, there will be nothing funny about the resulting deaths. Refusing vaccinations might be valid if you lived on a desert island. But those who live in a populated area have a responsibility not to expose others needlessly to deadly diseases that are well-controlled by vaccines just because they've decided to reject science.

It is hard to fathom the myopia required to vote for a racist and sexist admirer of tyrants who calls immigrants vermin and talks of "the enemy from within." To say we have more work to do is the understatement of the century.

A liberal neighbor texted me the morning after the election, saying Democrats need to listen better to the concerns of Trump supporters. Seriously? A man who boasts of overturning Roe v. Wade, vows to weaponize the Department of Justice, and plans to turn the federal workforce into his personal goon squad is returning to power, and the first reflex is to blame Democrats? Can't we pause the circular firing squad to rebuke voters for electing a depraved saboteur because they're upset over egg prices?

For the sake of our children and the future of democracy, let your outrage be stronger than your despair. We cannot acquiesce in this madness.

Do what you need to refuel for the struggle ahead. Freedom is not guaranteed to us. It exists by exercising it.

Vice President Harris, who ran an admirable and valiant 100-day campaign, quoted another adage in her concession speech: "Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars." She said, "This is not a time to throw up our hands. This is a time to roll up our sleeves."

Life is a roll of the dice; but we are not in this alone. We have one another. As I write, I just learned of the death of my friend Cornelius Baker, a longtime leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS and a powerful advocate for health equity for women and people of color. The shock of his loss is a reminder that we stand on the shoulders of giants.

Night has come; I am heading to my roof to light a candle for my friend and my country.

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

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Moulton

Continued from page 1

ment, calling his characterization of transgender girls as "male or formerly male" both "harmful and factually inaccurate." The organization has reached out to Moulton's office to arrange what they hope will be "a productive conversation."

When confronted about the controversy by NBC10 Boston's Matt Prichard on Monday, Moulton stood firm. "What I said is consistent with the view of the majority of Americans, but it's shut out of the democratic party debate."

Prichard pressed Moulton on his previous support for LGBTQ+ rights, including his backing of the Equality Act in 2015: "How should constituents square the difference between that Seth Moulton and the remarks we've heard in the last few days?"

"Exactly the same Seth Moulton," the congressman responded. "Why is it not supportive of people you care about to talk about their issues? I don't understand how on earth that's not supportive."

Bay Windows has extended an invitation to Rep. Moulton to contribute a guest opinion on this matter.

Editor's note: Bay Windows co-publisher Sue O'Connell is a political commentator for NBC10 Boston.

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Sure, you're unhappy. I get it. As unhappy as you are, I guarantee you I can name someone even less happy—**Melania!** Did you see that woman on election night? "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in!" Come to think of it, where has she been? With **Ivanka**? Or **Shelly Miscavige**? Wherever she's been staying, I'm confident she's not planning on spending time in D.C. But someone better keep an eye on Trump. As crazy as he is, trust me when I say **Vance** is more dangerous.

You know someone who is happy? **Ralph Brennan**. You don't know him, but he was one of Trump's campus coordinators from Michigan State—class of 2026. Class of 2026! My God, how old does that make him? I don't have my abacus handy, but I believe I can legally give him a handy! Sure, he's also crazy. But he's also kinda crazy hot—as straight college boys so often are. But, shh, don't tell him. Eh, what the hell—go ahead and tell him. Those guys always love attention from gay men!

Then there's **Nicole Scherzinger**. Poor, crazy but talented Nicole Scherzinger—who I bet has also given a handy or two in her day. She's in the middle of a career apex—starring in "Sunset Boulevard" on Broadway and being touted as a shoo-in for a Tony. And then she sees **Russell Brand's** Instagram post with a red hat that says "Make Jesus First Again" and decides to type, "Where do I get this hat?" I don't wanna imply there's anything wrong with liking Jesus, or Ramtha, or David Miscavige. But when you see those words on a red hat—well, she's not that stupid. She knew what that meant—as did scores of theatre queens. People took to social media like they saw a video of her killing a baby...or at least killing a song. They gave away their tickets, called for boycotts, and chastised her. Clearly Nicole has some good gay friends, because someone obviously pulled her aside and said, "You in danger, girl!" She took to social media, saying she wanted to "deeply apologize for the hurt caused by my recent engagement with some social media posts. I made a mistake of not realizing that they could be easily interpreted as being politically related and I apologize to anyone who understandably reached that conclusion."

Speaking of Broadway, one of the funniest clips I've seen in ages was **Jonathan Groff** on the "Tactful Pettiness" podcast. He was asked to address the rumor started by the late **Naya Rivera** that **Lea Michele** can't read! He really couldn't talk—he was shaking uncontrollably and giggling like a schoolgirl. He then admitted that he's actually seen her read from a script, and that she does not come to set "off book". I'll post this hysterical clip, along with a video of Lea actually "reading" (unless she memorized it in advance), on BillyMasters.com.

By the by, Groff recently got some good news. He will star in a new musical about singer **Bobby Darrin**. "Just in Time" will begin previews March 28th and open on April 23rd. Groff is also a co-producer.

One of Jonathan's more notable exes, **Gavin Creel,** will be celebrated on Broadway with two special events. On Monday, December 2nd at 4PM, there will be a public memorial service at the St. James Theatre. And then on Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:45PM, Broadway will dim their marquee lights. Sure to be a magical moment.

This week, I'm leaving the Filth2Go Beach House in Fort Lauderdale to head back to Boston and tend to Big Mama and Big Daddy. I'm either gonna cheer them up, or unplug 'em! But I can't leave SoFla without telling you some hot real estate news. In addition to a $20 million condo in downtown **Miami, David and Vicki Beckham** just bought a palatial abode in a prime SoBe location for the plum price of $80 million! Yes, crazy as it sounds, the couple passed papers on this 9 bedroom / 13 bathroom home on North Bay Road overlooking Biscayne Bay. It also boasts a walk-in fridge—all the better to maintain that chilly facade, eh Posh?

I've been worried about **Kathy Griffin**. We caught up a few months ago at one of her comeback shows at the Mirage in Vegas. She was as funny as ever, but had enough rasp in her voice to play **Stevie Nicks**... or **Jimmy Hoffa**! But now, after all she's been through, she's back—and that extends to her speaking voice. She had an implant put on her vocal cord, which she describes as "a boob job in my throat." If you didn't know better, you'd never guess anything happened—aside from an oddly placed nipple! While she's getting some "dental work" done, might I suggest it's time for an overall tune-up? Sure, she broke the record for the number of times a female comedian has played Carnegie Hall (last held by **Joan Rivers**). But, why not look "refreshed" while doing it?

There's been a whole lotta celebrity deaths that I haven't mentioned. First was one of my favorites—**Mitzi Gaynor**. The epitome of glamour, sex appeal, and class (my bon ami Bob Mackie made most of her legendary looks). She was a helluva gal. Then there's **Teri Garr**. Was anyone funnier than Teri? Did you know she started out as a dancer? Hours after she passed, someone posted a video of the historic "T.A.M.I. Show" from 1964—which featured a dozen musical groups. One of the more memorable performances was done by **The Supremes**. And while they were singing "Where Did Our Love Go?", there was Teri, shimmying between **Mary and Flo** wearing what appears to be a Target tee. The video can be seen on BillyMasters.com.

The big-screen version of the musical "Wicked" found itself in an uncomfortable situation. Apparently, some of the dolls based on the film characters manufactured by Mattel were on the Target shelves. The dolls themselves were fine. But the packaging did not feature a link to WickedMovie.com, but instead Wicked.com—which is an adult porn site! Imagine parents trying to explain to kids what "Kenzie Loves Girls 2" is about—and if they can watch it without seeing the first flick! Of course, I'm pleased to see any connection between **Jonathan Bailey (Fiyero)** and porn! Mattel takes full responsibility, and the merchandise was pulled from the Target shelves. But if any of you have one, hold onto it. I bet it will be worth real money eventually.

Our last minute "Ask Billy" question comes from James in Baltimore: *"What's going on between KJ Apa and Boston Ridge?"*

Once again, you people stump me—and that hasn't happened since that night with the hot Bulgarian amputee. Sure, I know who KJ Apa is ("Riverdale"/Archie/abs), but is Boston Ridge a person or a place where you cruise men abutting Fenway Park? Turns out, Boston Ridge is a model—although I defy anyone to show me a birth certificate with that name on it. Apparently the boys have been besties since their childhood in New Zealand. KJ posted a Snapchat of them in bed together—both asleep and nude (or, at the very least, shirtless). Not really "spooning", but I'm no expert. I'm much more into forking. This led lots of people to ask if KJ is the "big spoon". It led me to a different question—who took this photo? Obviously it's staged, and good for them. I'm told it's not all that recent. But if you want to have fantasies of them spooning or forking or whatever people who don't eat do in bed, be my guest. For my part, I'm going to go get some peach cobbler—right after I post the photo on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm more interested in a hot peach cobbler than a hot nude ginger, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since we ran late (well, we didn't but I really want that cobbler), let me quickly remind you to check out a variety of savory beings on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that's sugar and spice and everything nice. I'll be checking out my pal **Christopher Titus's** new show, "Doomed to Repeat", at the Tupelo Music Hall in Derry, NH on November 16th. Feel free to say hi if you're in the neighborhood. If you want to reach out from a different locale, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before the next erection...er, election! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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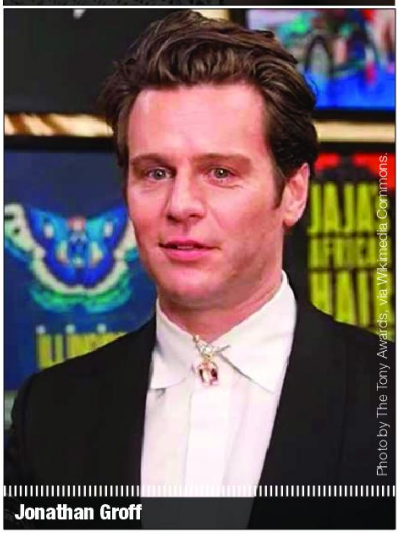
Nicole Scherzinger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Mitzi Gaynor

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Continued from page 1

direct you further. You can easily find these resources via a quick online search.

Don't forget that you're not alone. We're facing this as a community. Whether in-person or online, we can support each other and share both our challenges and joys. And every LGBTQ, civil rights, and reproductive rights organization I know is ready to assist, both in advocating for our rights and in connecting us with resources.

As parents, we can ourselves assist our kids (of relevant age) process their feelings around the election and what they may be hearing from peers, the news, or online sources. We can listen to their concerns and remind them that when bullies win, the good people try harder; that change takes time, but we will always love and support them; and that we and they are part of a strong and vibrant LGBTQ community with a history of resilience and resistance. Those with children old enough can start (or continue) age-appropriate conversations about democracy, activism, social justice, and more, helping the next generation of citizens develop core values and be informed and engaged.

We can also get involved with LGBTQ and other social justice organizations (on an ongoing basis or for individual events), volunteer for political campaigns (midterms will be here before we know it), and continue speaking out for our families in our neighborhoods, school board meetings, and other local venues. And there are more personal ways to make a difference as well, reaching out to those in our communities who may need assistance in navigating today's uncertain currents. We shouldn't try to do everything—but it is incumbent upon us to do something.

It's okay to ask for help, too. At the very least, don't forget to take a break once in a while. Spend extra time in the park with your kids, or give them some extra screen time while you read a novel. If you don't have the luxury of spare time, do what you can to catch your breath—turn off the news and turn on some music while you commute or go to the grocery store, for example.

Remember, too, that there are sparks of hope. The election also saw many wins for LGBTQ candidates across the country. Notably, Sarah McBride (D-DE) was elected to the U.S. House, becoming the first out transgender person in Congress; Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), who was the first out LGBTQ woman elected to Congress and then the first out LGBTQ person elected to the Senate, won reelection; and Sharice Davids (D-KS), who was one of the first two Native Americans and the first out LGBTQ Native American elected to Congress, was reelected to the U.S. House.

Looking just at LGBTQ parents, more than three dozen of us won election or reelection around the country, including Becca Balint (D-VT) and Angie Craig (D-MN), who were reelected to the U.S. House; Aime Wichtendahl (D), who will become the first out transgender person to serve in Iowa's state legislature; and Jack Patrick Lewis (D), who won reelection to the Massachusetts House. LGBTQ parents even won state legislative seats in several states that Trump won, and won city, county, judicial, and school board seats in several states.

Our community still has a voice. We have our families, we have each other, and we'll get through this together. Sending you love and strength for the days ahead.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog plus a searchable database of 1,700+ LGBTQ family books.

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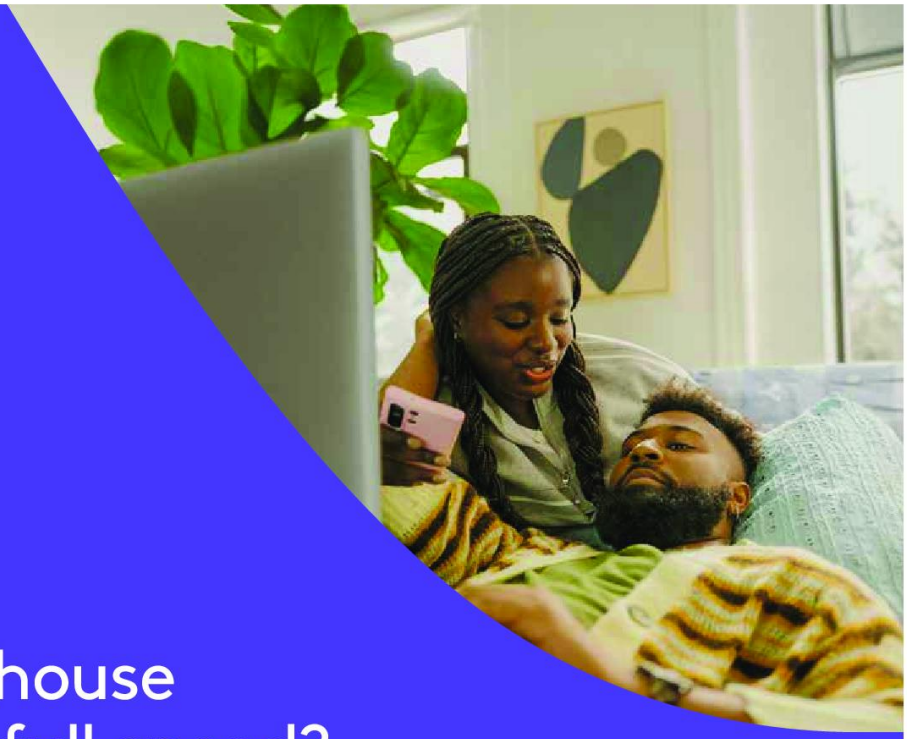

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