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MLB warned players about altering Pride Night caps, and Republicans took notice. Here's what to know



San Francisco Giants pitcher Landen Roupp. AP photo by Scott Marshall.

By Will Graves
AP National Writer

Efforts by Major League Baseball teams to promote LGBTQ+ inclusivity during Pride Month haven't been embraced with open arms by some of its rank-and-file players, and the league's response is prompting criticism from prominent Republican politicians.

Several members of the San Francisco Giants added Bible verses or opted not to wear the themed cap at all during the club's Pride Night on June 12.

A few nights earlier, two Los Angeles Dodgers players did not wear rainbow-themed caps with their teammates.

MLB warned Giants players that writing on the caps is a violation of league policy, though the league added its issue was not with the content of the respective messages but the act of modifying the cap itself.

The fallout has included criticism from notable politicians, including Vice President JD Vance and Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley.

see **PRIDE NIGHT**, page 8

AMERICA 250



Celebrating LGBTQ+ Americans With 10 Biographies for Kids

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

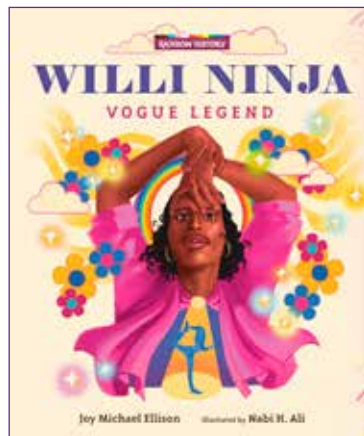
Pride Month is nearing its end, and July 4 is approaching, so my thoughts are turning to all that has made our country great—including queer people. These new biographies for kids offer insights into LGBTQ+ history and famous LGBTQ+ Americans who have made their marks in dance, sports, fashion, activism, music, and literature.

All are picture books except as noted. "Willi Ninja: Vogue Legend," by Joy Michael Ellison, illustrated by Nabi H. Ali (Candlewick), follows the energetic dancer—known as the grandfather of

vogue and star of the film "Paris Is Burning"—from his childhood in New York City to his first performance at a Harlem drag ball. The text focuses on Willi's character and spirit, his mother's support, and how he found community—aspects of his life that should resonate with young readers. The spinning, kaleidoscopic illustrations are the perfect match for Willi's style.

"A Place to Dance: How Richard Lamberty Brought Change to the Ball-

see **MOMBIAN**, page 2



NEW ENGLAND BRIEFS

By Bay Windows Staff

BAGLY receives \$750,000 Cummings Foundation grant

The Boston Alliance of LGBTQ+ Youth says it has received a \$750,000 grant from the Cummings Foundation, adding long-term support for one of Massachusetts' best-known LGBTQ+ youth organizations.

youth organizations.

Boston Spirit reported that BAGLY announced the grant this month. The Cummings Foundation says its 2026 local grant program will award \$30 million to 150 nonprofits in Greater Boston, with multiyear grants paid over either three or 10 years.

BAGLY, based in Boston, provides

free programs for LGBTQ+ young people, including health and wellness services, stabilization support, leadership development and advocacy.

The grant comes as LGBTQ+ youth-serving organizations continue to face increased demand for services, particu-

see **NE BRIEFS**, page 10

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SEE ALL OF THE LISTINGS ON BAYWINDOWS.COM

BOSTON

FRIDAY JUNE 26

IT'S RAINING QUEENS

Do-Kwa Productions | Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St, Arlington

Legendary vocalist Martha Wash and acclaimed comedian and actress Marsha Warfield co-headline a dual-headline show blending iconic music with razor-sharp comedy and cultural commentary. A 75-90 minute seated, theater-style production.

SPOTLIGHT: THE ELECTRIC CHAPEL

The Huntington | Maso Studio, Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave.,

Boston A drag night dedicated to Lady Gaga, hosted by local drag icons Lulu Levity and Silva and featuring RuPaul's Drag Race season 15 contestant Luxx Noir London alongside a roster of drag performers. 7:30 p.m. Tickets from \$27.50. huntingtontheatre.org/whats-on/spotlight-the-electric-chapel/

SATURDAY-SUNDAY JUNE 27-28

HONEY HONEY MOON MOON

The Huntington | Maso Studio, Huntington Theatre, 264 Huntington Ave.,

Boston Comedy band and married couple Couplet bring their award-winning Edinburgh Fringe hit to Boston — an hour-long musical comedy, directed by Chris Grace and Eric Michaud, about the queer Jewish wedding that almost didn't happen. Sat at 7:30 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m. Tickets from \$40. huntingtontheatre.org/whats-on/honey-honey-moon/

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY JULY 1-5

BOSTON BLACK PRIDE 2026

LesBiGay Urban Foundation | Various locations across Boston

Multi-day celebration of Black LGBTQ+ joy, culture, and community. Now in its 7th year, featuring live performances, parties, wellness events, and a signature Parade & Music & Arts Festival. The Music & Arts Festival is on Sun, July 5.

lesbigayurbanfoundation.org/facebook.com/bostonurbanpride

MASSACHUSETTS

SATURDAY JUNE 27

HOLYOKE PRIDE FEST |

Noon-6 PM | Holyoke Pride | Veterans Park, Dwight and Maple Streets, Holyoke

Annual outdoor Pride festival, part of a month-long series of events. Date shifted from June 21 (2025) to June 27 this year. holyokeypride.org

QUINCY PRIDE

Noon-5 PM | Quincy Pride | Pageant Field, 1 Merrymount Pkwy., Quincy

Annual South Shore Pride festival. quincypride.com

SALEM — NORTH SHORE PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Time TBD | North Shore Pride Inc. | Salem Common, Salem

Annual parade and festival at Salem Common serving the entire North Shore LGBTQ+ community. northshorepride.org

SUNDAY JUNE 28

PLYMOUTH PRIDE

11 AM-5 PM | Plymouth Pride Inc. | Nelson Park, Plymouth

Annual South Shore Pride festival. plymouthprideinc.com

REVERE BEACH PRIDE

Sun, June 28 | City of Revere | Waterfront Square (400-500 Ocean Ave), Revere, MA.

A full afternoon of DJ spinning tunes, dancing, drag performances, shop vendors. Strike a pose with our pride photo booth, face painting, and nonstop summer vibes right across from the ocean. Whether you're coming with friends or showing up solo, this is the place to celebrate, connect, and be part of it. RAIN OR SHINE. revere.org/reverepride

see **PRIDE LISTINGS**, page 2



“Are you his interpreter or are you his Vice President? Come on!”

— Joy Behar to Vice President JD Vance after he tried to explain El Presidente's comment, “I love the inflation.”

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

Photo via abc.com.

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Pride Listings

Continued from page 1

SUNDAY JUNE 28

THE NETWORK/LA RED PRESENTS: WILD TONGUES - UNTAMED AUTHENTICITY
11am-2pm | *The Foundry* | 101 Rogers Street, Cambridge, MA 02142

Wrap up Pride month with The Network/La Red at Wild Tongues, where LGBTQ+ survivors of partner abuse share their experiences through art among a community full of support. Please note, this is a free, mask required, substance free event.

RSVP: <https://www.tnlr.org/en/wild-tongues/>

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

WORCESTER PRIDE

Time TBD | *Queer Coalition of Greater Worcester* | 50 Franklin St., Worcester

Annual Pride festival coordinated by a collaborative LGBTQ+ community initiative. prideworcester.org

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

LONGMEADOW PRIDE

Sun, September 13 | Time TBD | *Longmeadow Pride* | Longmeadow Town Green, Longmeadow
Annual Western Massachusetts Pride festival. longmeadowpride.org

NEW HAMPSHIRE

SATURDAY JUNE 27

MANCHESTER — QUEEN CITY PRIDE FESTIVAL

10 AM–6 PM | *Manchester True Collaborative* | Veterans Park, Manchester, NH

Annual Pride festival in New Hampshire's largest city featuring live entertainment, interactive art, youth activities, food trucks, and local vendors. manchestertrue.org

LITTLETON — NORTH COUNTRY PRIDE RIDE

Time TBD | *TLC Family Resource Center* | Riverfront Commons, Littleton, NH

Second annual Pride Parade and Festival in downtown Littleton, serving the rural North Country LGBTQ+ community. tlcfamilyrc.org

Mombian

Continued from page 1

room,” by Eric Rosswood and Richard Lamberty, illustrated by Vincent Chen (Charlesbridge), traces the story of the two-time world champion ballroom dancer and co-founder of April Follies, the longest-running and largest queer-partner dance competition in North America. His is a tale of dedication, creating inclusive spaces, and the importance of belonging and finding joy. (Out August 4.)

“Brave New Ballet: The Story of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo,” by Robyn McGrath, illustrated by Alexander Mostov (Penguin Workshop), tells of the ballet dancers who came to New York City in the early 1970s looking for their big break—and created something groundbreaking. The members of the all-male “Tocks” did not confine themselves to traditional male roles, but combined hard work with a touch of drag and a dash of humor for unforgettable performances. McGrath perfectly pitches the story for young readers by emphasizing the emotions of the dancers and their audiences rather than simply retelling historical events.

“What Kind of Queen? A Royal Biography of Drag Queen and Activist José Sarria,” by Kyle Casey Chu and Andrew W. Shaffer, illustrated by Cindy

RHODE ISLAND

FRIDAY–SUNDAY JUNE 26–28

NEWPORT PRIDE

Time TBD | *Newport Out* | *Great Friends Meeting House and throughout Newport, RI*

Last weekend of June. Signature event is the Pride Ride bicycle parade through Newport, followed by the Pride Market and festival. newportout.com

MAINE

SATURDAY JUNE 27

BANGOR PRIDE

Bangor Pride | *Bang or Waterfront, Bangor, ME*

Annual Pride festival, new venue for 2026. Theme: “Color Our World With Pride.” Parade followed by vendor market, live performances, and community celebration. Free, all ages. Previously held at West Market Square and Norumbega Park. bangorpride.com

SUNDAY JUNE 28

DOWNEAST PRIDE — EASTPORT & LUBEC

Time TBD | *Downeast Rainbow Alliance* | *Eastport & Lubec, ME*
Family-friendly celebration featuring the Curbside Queens and Minor Characters, art activities, live music, drag performances, and community events serving Washington County. Vendor registration through May 31.

downeastrainbowalliance.com | downeastrainbowalliance@gmail.com

CONNECTICUT

SATURDAY JUNE 27

MYSTIC PRIDE

4 PM | *Mystic Pride* | *Mystic Museum of Art, Mystic, CT*
Annual Pride celebration in downtown Mystic. Venue listed as Mystic Museum of Art — a departure from prior downtown locations. Confirm closer to the date. mysticchamber.org

WEST HARTFORD PRIDE FESTIVAL

Time TBD | *West Hartford Pride* | *West Hartford Town Hall, 50 S. Main St., West Hartford, CT*


Annual celebration with rally, live music, drag performances, vendors, food trucks, and family activities. Part of a month-long Pride celebration. westhartfordpride.org




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The Cavity of My Loneliness

by Judah Leblang | www.JudahLeblang.com
contributing writer

I have gotten quite good at filling — or more honestly, wasting — my time in retirement. When I'm bored, aimless, and not feeling great about my latest ache, pain, or restless night's sleep.

I can re-watch episode three of Heated Rivalry (the one featuring Scott Hunter/actor Francois Arnaud, who is my main crush at the moment), and though I eschew most reality TV, Love is Blind. Truth be told I'm a romantic and even though many of the contestants seem to have the emotional intelligence of a fruit fly, the show — the hunt for love (sight unseen) and the quest for the special one I have never found — is oddly compelling. But even when I'm watching quality television, like Masterpiece on PBS, I still feel guilty for spending my evenings laid out on a couch when I could be doing something more productive, like writing.

My couch is my home ground, the place I come back to, my refuge. I am used to its soft presence in my living room, and what it represents — the safe, familiar, the known. I have my routines, my favorite positions, one of which is lying prone on my blue and white striped sofa, its overstuffed cushions worn to the contours of my form, dented from twenty years of use.

TV, movies, doomscrolling on my iPhone, soak-

ing up the endless chaos of Trump 2.0, all serve as distractions from my current reality at 69 — it's just me and Stanley, and he is stealthy, affectionate in small doses, inscrutable as only a feline can be. Stanley is 10, a ginger and white shorthair, a blend of fur and muscle, an almost silent companion who loves me when I feed him, and now, in middle age, spends most of his time sleeping or eating.

Stanley, unlike me, does not obsess about being productive, is not concerned with his inactivity. He lives in the moment; when he's well-fed and warmed by the sun that streams into my apartment, life is good, all is well.

Today, after years, decades, half a century of being single and forty years of living alone, I should be used to a solitary life. I am after all, a writer, and putting words on paper is not a group activity. Now that I have long, free days in retirement, I could always write. But filling hours with words and having something tangible to show for my efforts sounds appealing, until I actually sit down to do it. Then, it becomes as appetizing as a trip to the dentist, poking and probing into the cavity of my loneliness.

I'm envious of my friends who write fiction, who create alternate realities, characters, dramatic

scenes and resolutions. They can escape into fantasy, building new families, tribes, entire worlds in which we are not ruled by an amoral narcissist but perhaps a benevolent queen, a wizard, a gay superhero.

Unfortunately, I do not have the imagination to make things up. I'm limited by the reality of my own life, one that featured a chaotic childhood, two major accidents, (hit by a car, scarred by a fish tank), and four decades of depression; though I've let that identity go — it no longer defines me.

So I, like Dorothy Parker, hate writing, but love having written. Or maybe I, like she, exaggerate. I do not hate writing per se, but rather the resistance, the angst, the Sturm und Drang that goes along with it.

Why do I resist the words, the work, the process of getting my thoughts down on paper?

Eventually, I rouse myself, get up off the couch, and get to work. No one will accuse me of being prolific. My three books are mini-memoirs; I call them "memoirettes."

Still, the work flows through me and I step back and admire the finished product, like a sculptor who finds the figure in a block of marble. I must remember this feeling, I think, must wrap my spindly fingers around this sensation and hold on for dear life. I love writing in this moment; I do not love my couch.

Judah Leblang is a writer, teacher, and storyteller in Boston. He will be performing his one-man show, "It's Now or Never: My Life in the Late Middle Ages" at Lehrhaus Café in Somerville on Thursday April 23 at 8 pm. Find out more at: <https://events.humanitix.com/it-s-now-or-never-my-life-in-the-middle-ages-a-one-man-show/tickets>

Mombian

Continued from page 2

the world.

"Clothes to Make You Smile: Patrick Kelly Designs His Dreams," by Eric Darnell Pritchard, illustrated by Shannon Wright (Abrams), is a lively and inspiring biography whose collage illustrations echo the playfulness of the iconoclastic Kelly's fashion designs. The main text doesn't mention Kelly's gay identity, but an afterward does, along with noting "his life and business partner, Bjorn Amelan" and Kelly's death from complications of AIDS.

"Billie Jean King: A Little Golden Book Biography," by Anna Membrino, illustrated by Jen Bricking

(Golden Books), is a solid biography emphasizing the intertwined threads of King's tennis career and her work for inclusion and equality. It gives a mention to her wife, Ilana Kloss, and shows some of the many ways in which King has had an impact on the sport and the world.

"Play Proud: Fiercely Fabulous Queer Athletes," by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Izzy Evans (Beaming Books), is a cheery, rhyming ode to queer athletes that isn't a biography, exactly, but offers upbeat verses about various LGBTQ+ athletes (and a few managers, coaches, and officials) across a wide range of sports, as bold, dynamic illustrations show them in action. Backmatter includes additional biographical details for each person mentioned.

"Books Good Enough for You: The Storied Life of Ursula Nordstrom, Editor of Extraordinary Chil-

dren's Books," by Nancy Hudgins, (Cameron Kids), is a middle-grade biography of the queer woman who oversaw publication of now-classics like "Where the Wild Things Are," "Goodnight Moon," "Charlotte's Web," and more. It deftly balances insights about Nordstrom's personality, how her values informed her work, the publishing industry, and a look at book censorship, particularly around marginalized identities. (For a picture book biography of Nordstrom, try the 2023 "Good Books for Bad Children," by Beth Kephart, illustrated by Chloe Bristol (Anne Schwartz Books).

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents, plus a searchable database of 2,000+ LGBTQ+ family books.

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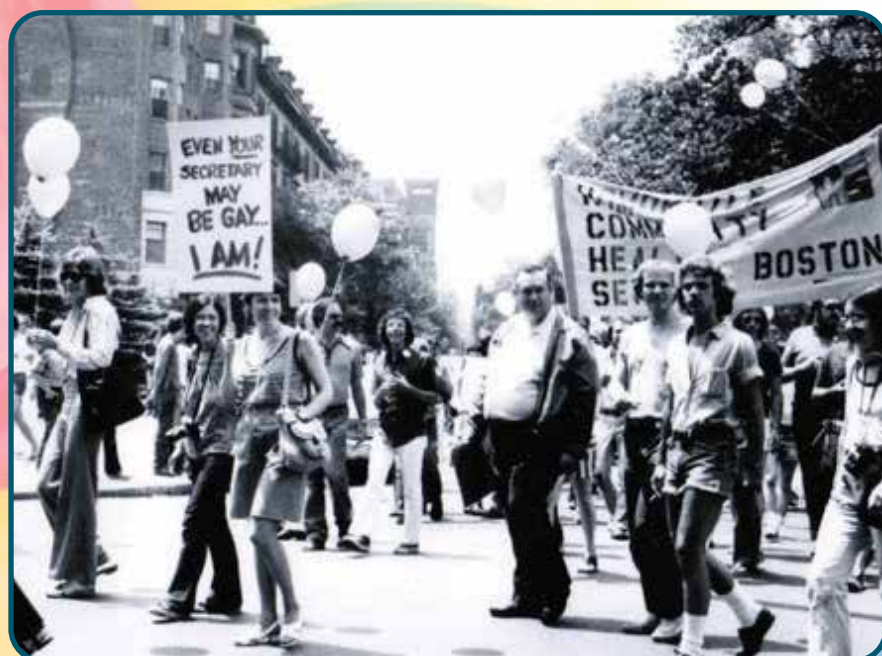
KEOLIS



The Milestones That Moved Massachusetts And Our Country Forward.

Our state has helped shape the American story, but that story has also been shaped by the ongoing expansion of visibility, representation, and LGBTQ+ rights.

Here are some of the defining moments that helped move that progress forward.



1971

Boston holds the state's first Pride march.

1974

The first openly gay person is elected to a state legislature in the United States, serving in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and advancing visibility and representation in public life.

1984

Boston passes the city's first human rights ordinance protecting LGBTQ+ rights.

1999

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court awards visitation rights to both mothers in a same-sex separation. A notable legal first for same-sex parenting rights in the state.

2016

Massachusetts extends non-discrimination protections for transgender individuals to public accommodations, becoming a national leader in full transgender civil rights.

2018

Massachusetts becomes the first state to uphold transgender non-discrimination protections through a popular vote, affirming the rights of transgender residents at the ballot box.



To learn more visit massachusetts250.org

billy masters

They say no television show sells more books than “The View”. Vice President **JD Vance** may be many things, but he’s not stupid. So into the lion’s den he went — and came out a winner. You’ll find no bigger fan of “The View” than moi, but sometimes less is more. A good host gets out a specific question, lets the guest answer, and perhaps asks a follow-up. What happened here is there were simply too many people at the table. Multiple hosts chimed in on the same question, so all Vance had to do was sit back with a bemused smirk on his face and then pivot. **Alyssa** wanted to ask about the Iran deal. Didn’t get to it. Will El Presidente ever leave office? Who knows? Is Vance planning to run in 2028? Never asked. I hate to agree with someone who gives **Ivanka** and the **Bush twins** a run for their money in the Republican nepo-baby sweepstakes, but **Princess McCain** probably summed it up best: “After all these years, they still get basic facts wrong, flub easy questions and can’t get through a segment without yelling at each other. Vance handled it all very well.”

Then JD made this confession to FOX News: “Honestly, I expected them to be absolutely vicious, and they were only a little bit vicious. It wasn’t as bad as I thought it was going to be.” He added that during a commercial break, **Joy Behar** said, “You know what? You’re pretty good...for a Republican!” Joy admitted she told him off camera that he should run for president because he has a “good vibe”. She hastened to add that she wouldn’t vote for him.

Billy Porter dropped by “CBS Mornings” to promote his run in “La Cage aux Folles”, only to find himself being interviewed by **Gayle King** and another former “View” co-host **Elisabeth Hasselbeck** was filling in! On the topic of “La Cage”, Lizzie said, “It’s funny, in that little tease you talked about not being a sports person. I’m not really a drag person, but I’m a person person, so we get to be who we are, and I love that about our world, right?” Billy laughed in that perplexed type of way. You can see this curious exchange on BillyMasters.com.

Yet another “View” alum is returning to the airwaves. As you know, **Jimmy Kimmel** often has friends fill in during his vacations. One in particular will surely make headlines. “As a special treat for our commander-in-chief, I asked one of his all-time favorites, **Rosie O’Donnell**, to be here to keep the hits coming. So, you’re welcome. And all I ask in return, Mr. President, is that you don’t do anything stupid while I’m gone.” Rosie is scheduled to host the week of August 17th. I’m sure El Presidente will be tuning in! Before that, Rosie will be performing her latest one-woman show, “Common Knowledge”, at the Daryl Roth Theatre off-Broadway July 22-August 8. It previously had sold-out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival as well as Dublin, Sydney, Melbourne, and Glasgow.

Last week, **Pete Buttigieg** shared this on social media. “Eight years married and I still can’t get enough of that smile. Happy Anniversary, my love!” Proving that there’s someone for everyone!

Meanwhile on the Left Coast, **Kamala Harris** and hubby **Doug Emhoff** popped into The Abbey in West Hollywood. “She just stopped in randomly for no reason other than to hug people, shake hands and wish everyone happy Pride,” said one patron who was there. “There was nothing going on. She just went into the dance area and walked over to the Chapel. Everyone started cheering.” We hear she stayed for about 20 minutes. Secret Service agents were there but stood far away to give her the opportunity to talk to patrons and take some selfies. I couldn’t help but think she might have made a better Grand Marshal candidate than **Kathy Hilton**!

Not to be outdone, my beloved Ptown got a quickie visit from **Kevin Bacon** and **Kyra Sedgwick**. They were in town for a sold-out screening at the Provincetown International Film Festival. Their flick, “Family Movie”, was truly a family affair. They not only co-wrote, co-produced, and co-directed the horror/comedy, they even co-starred in it...with their kids! While in Ptown, they checked out some of my favorite haunts, including Joe Coffee and the Shipwreck Lounge. And like Kamala, they even posed for photos, which you can see on BillyMasters.com.

Knowing how to wrap up a beloved series is a tricky thing. It rarely lives up to expectations. I love “Hacks”, but felt the final season kinda limped along without the fervor of previous years. That said, I did find the last episode touching and fitting. It inspired

me to revisit the series’ original pilot. That’s when I realized how PERFECT the finale was. A work of genius. While I don’t love how they got there, they pulled it off. Bravo!

Speaking of “Hacks”, it was only at the end of the run that **Paul W. Downs** showed off virtually every inch of his beautiful body on the show. We ogled his physical perfection, and wondered why he hadn’t been flaunting it forever. He heard our cries — or, more likely, decided that with “Hacks” in the rearview mirror, he could distract us. What other reason could there be for him to recreate **Marky Mark’s** iconic **Calvin Klein** undies photo shoot for “Paper”? While he doesn’t seem to possess Wahlberg’s “largess”, he certainly makes up for it with his tight and toned torso — surely wasted on a straight guy. He even indulged in a number of shots with his “Hacks” cohort, **Meg Stalter**, taking up where **Kate Moss** left off. The sizzling snaps can be seen on BillyMasters.com.

In case you wanted even more of the “Hacks” hunk, Downs mounted the stage of the “Las Culturistas Culture Awards” on Bravo. He accepted “The Shrek Award” for “Top Thing We Want to Do to That Green Guy” — in full “Shrek” regalia, including the little brown vest and green body paint. While in character, he didn’t rule out using a double-headed dildo (filing that away for future reference). You can see the entire bit on our website.

The scene-stealing Stalter is poised to make her Broadway debut in “Oh, Mary”. Could it be that, like **Maya Rudolph**, she will prove that a woman can actually play the role of Mary Todd Lincoln and do well at the box office? We’ll find out when she debuts on July 6th. She’s scheduled to stay with the show until September 12th.

If there’s a show that works with stunt casting, it’s “Jesus Christ Superstar”. You’d think it couldn’t get more stunty than last summer’s Hollywood Bowl production with **Cynthia Erivo** and **Adam Lambert**. But let me tell you about a production that already played Regent’s Park Open Air Theatre in London. After winning all sorts of awards, it just transferred to the London Palladium, where it will play until September 5th. And, kinda like “Chicago” on Broadway, there will be a rash of rotating Herods — most notably **Jesse Tyler Ferguson** (June 20-July 11) and **Boy George** (August 3-15). Due to demand, the production will then transfer to the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in the fall and feature a few fantastic fellas in the role. Even more intriguing are **Matt Bomer** (October 16-31), **Bob the Drag Queen** (November 16-21), and **Michael Ball** (November 23-December 5). Praise the Lord!

An old story surfaced in our “Ask Billy” sack a couple of weeks ago. Roger in Phoenix asks, “*What’s going on with Lil Nas X? I would think you’d have an update by now.*”

I held onto this question until there was something to actually report. Lil Nas X has finally emerged from his cocoon to let us know what’s been going on. First things first — he looks great and appears to be in good spirits! He’s somewhat tentative when it comes to his revelations — understandably so. He says that he spent a few months in rehab and, since then, has been splitting his time between Atlanta with family or in LA alone. He’s continuing therapy, which he’s finding helpful. And he’s been diagnosed with bipolar disorder (the late-night strolls in undies and cowboy boots were clearly a sign). “I feel like I had known for the past few years, but I didn’t want to admit to it because I didn’t want to have to take medication and, I dunno, have people think differently of me. I dunno — I’m already black and gay! Damn, God, I’m black, gay and bipolar! I’m like living life on like extreme hard mode. But on a serious note, I’m doing much better. I’m doing better. I’m feeling better. I’m creating freely. And there’s less fear in my heart.” If he feels as good as he looks, he’s definitely on the right path! You can see his full statement on BillyMasters.com.

When stars are showing up in “our” places, it’s definitely time for me to end yet another column. While all of these luminaries are frolicking in the States, I’m still cavorting on the Continent. But no matter where I am, the one thing that never gets neglected is BillyMasters.com — the site that tells (and shows) all. If you’ve got a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Billy Porter brings Hasselbeck to her first drag brunch! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.



Chasten & Pete Buttigieg

Photo via Pete Buttigieg, Facebook.



Adam Lambert

Photo via Adam Lambert, Facebook.



Bob the Drag Queen

Photo via bobthedragqueen.com.



Lil Nas X

Photo via lilnasx, Instagram.

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Pride Night

Continued from page 1

Here's what to know about MLB and Pride Night:

Giants pitcher referenced a rainbow-themed Bible verse

Several members of the San Francisco Giants pitching staff — starter Landen Roupp and relievers JT Brubaker and Ryan Walker — added Bible verses to their caps during a 5-1 home loss to the Chicago Cubs during San Francisco's annual Pride Night.

Roupp, a North Carolina native, wrote "Gen 9:12-16" in a silver marker on the front of the black cap, which had the team's classic "SF" logo filled in with colors of the rainbow, long a symbol of the LGBTQ+ community.

The Genesis passage includes, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth," according to the Bible's New International Version translation.

"It's just about God's covenant and a promise he makes to us and his faithfulness and his mercy," Roupp told reporters afterward. "Just kind of something I believe in and I stand firm in that and thankfully we live in a country where you know, we have freedom to believe what we want, yeah, and express what we want."

Giants reliever Sam Hentges eschewed the Pride-themed cap altogether, opting instead for the club's regular black version with the "SF" in orange.

MLB says its rules forbid writing on caps, regardless of the message

The league issued a pair of statements in response. The first noted that writing on the cap violates the league's rules, and warned players about future violations.

The league issued another statement Tuesday to clarify that the "routine verbal warning" had nothing to do with the content of the respective messages but the act of modifying the uniform.

"We have given the same warning numerous times in the past to players for messages such as, 'Dad,' 'Happy Mother's Day, I Love Mom,' and names of family members," the league said.

Conservative politicians wonder if Christian players are being targeted

Vance quote-tweeted a post mentioning MLB's warning, writing, "Trump won we don't have to do this anymore."

President Donald Trump's second administra-

tion has taken aggressive action against members of the LGBTQ+ community, the transgender community specifically.

Hawley penned a letter to MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred on Tuesday in which he expressed "grave concern" over the warning to the players. Hawley called the warning "dubious" because he feels MLB is already promoting a political viewpoint by having Pride-themed uniforms.

Hawley asked MLB to respond to several inquiries, including a list of all uniform violation fines over the last five years.

First-year San Francisco manager Tony Vitello, whose team entered Wednesday with the second-worst record in the National League, is trying to stay out of the fray.

"I didn't know about the vice president, it hasn't been in my world," he said. "My world's kind of been, 'How do we find a way to beat the Braves?' And then if we can beat them, try and beat them again. So hopefully our guys are focused on what they've got to do and handling their business the right way."

MLB has dealt with similar player resistance before, and it's not just a baseball problem

In 2022, a handful of players on the Tampa Bay Rays declined to wear rainbow-colored logos during the team's Pride Night. Reliever Jason Adam, now a member of the San Diego Padres, called it a "faith-based" decision.

"It's just what we believe the lifestyle he's (Jesus) encouraged us to live for our good, not to withhold," Adam told the Tampa Bay Times in 2022. "But we love these men and women, we care about them and we want them to feel safe and welcome here."

MLB is unique among the four major North American pro sports leagues in that a portion of its regular season falls in June, which is recognized as Pride Month in many countries, including the U.S. All but one MLB team — the Texas Rangers — schedules a Pride Night during June.

Other leagues, including the NBA and NHL, do have a majority of teams hold Pride-themed nights during their seasons. The NHL had a series of high-profile dust-ups around Pride Nights during the 2022-23 season.

Several players opted not to don Pride-themed pregame jerseys that season and at least two teams — the New York Rangers and Minnesota Wild — declined to host Pride Nights after initially advertising they would. Neither team offered a reason behind the decision.

AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/hub/mlb>

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NE Briefs

Continued from page 1

larly around mental health, housing instability and legal protections.

Massachusetts man taken into custody, cited after anti-LGBTQ slurs at Rhode Island beach

A Massachusetts man was taken into custody and cited after Rhode Island Environmental Police said he directed homophobic slurs at beachgoers at Misquamicut State Beach.

WJAR-TV reported that Environmental Police said the Milford, Massachusetts, man was part of a group drinking alcohol on the beach June 5 when he shouted slurs at a gay couple and others nearby.

Video aired by WJAR showed the man being handcuffed and escorted away by officers. He was issued citations for disorderly conduct and alcohol on state property, according to the station.

Misquamicut is Rhode Island's most visited state beach, according to the state Department of Environmental Management.

Maine group appeals ruling blocking anti-trans referendum

A group seeking to restrict transgender students' access to school sports and facilities has appealed to Maine's highest court after a judge upheld the state's decision to keep the proposed referendum off the November ballot.

Superior Court Justice Deborah Cashman ruled June 11 that Secretary of State Shenna Bellows acted properly when she invalidated the petition for "An Act to Designate School Sports Participation and Facilities by Sex."

Bellows' office found the campaign had 67,150

valid signatures, short of the 67,682 required to qualify for the ballot. More than 12,000 signatures were invalidated, including some rejected because circulators did not properly witness signatures or because signatures appeared to have been signed by someone other than the voter.

The proposal would require public schools to restrict access to bathrooms, other private spaces and sports based on the sex listed on a student's original birth certificate.

Protect Girls Sports in Maine has appealed the ruling to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Openly gay Maine congressional candidate eliminated in ranked-choice count

Jordan Wood, an openly gay Democratic candidate for Maine's 2nd Congressional District, was eliminated in the state's ranked-choice tabulation after a competitive four-way primary.

The Maine secretary of state's office said the race went to ranked-choice counting because no candidate received a majority of first-choice votes in the June 9 primary.

Former Secretary of State Matt Dunlap won the Democratic nomination after ranked-choice tabulation. Paige Loud was eliminated in the first round, followed by Wood in the second. State Sen. Joe Baldacci finished second.

Wood's campaign drew regional attention as an LGBTQ+ candidacy in one of New England's most closely watched House races. Maine Public listed Wood as a 36-year-old Democrat from Auburn whose prior work included serving as a CEO and congressional staffer.

Dunlap now faces Republican former Gov. Paul LePage in November for the open seat being vacated by Democratic U.S. Rep. Jared Golden.

Sources: Maine secretary of state; Maine Public; Boston Spirit; Associated Press.

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