

Nazis march into Seaport, disrupt drag-queen story hour

Courtesy Adam Gaffin
www.universalhub.com

Our local brigade of basement-dwelling Nazis got out of their clown cars somewhere in the Seaport on Sunday, August 7 and succeeded in shutting down a drag-queen story hour.

Patty Bourée has been leading one of the story times for kids every other Sunday this summer in the Seaport's Paseo on Harbor Way, but Sunday, August 7th's, after she saw neck-gaited Nazis outside, separated from

the venue by a line of Boston cops: "I really hate that I cancelled a story hour today because two protest groups were present, but I can't put myself (and the kids!) in a potentially violent situation especially when I don't trust that the BPD will protect me in a worst case scenario."

She added, though: "I want it to be known though for the losers who I know creep on my social media that Drag Queen Story Hour Boston is actively planning to offer story times to the families that are asking for them in ways that will

be safer for the performers and the kids"

Waltham Night's Watch, which follows the brownpans, reports they took to Telegram to cackle about their success in actually getting to an event on time, unlike last month in Jamaica Plain, when they showed up just as a similar event was ending and then their obersturmbannführer got arrested.

Just last week, US Attorney Rachael Rollins announced a new hotline to report hate acts, at 1-833-END-H8-NOW (1-833-634-8669).

DECISION 2022

Progressive and centrist Dems battle for Vermont House seat



Molly Gray (left) photo via mollyforvermont.com and Becca Balint (right) photo via beccabalint.com.

By WILSON RING
Associated Press

STOWE, Vt. (AP)—Lt. Gov. Molly Gray and Senate President Pro Tempore Becca Balint are the leading candidates in a Democratic U.S. House primary that could make either of them the first female member of Vermont's congressional delegation.

Gray has the backing of the centrist lane of the party, with endorsements from former Govs. Madeline Kunin and Howard Dean. Retiring U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy donated \$5,000 to her campaign and cast a ballot for her.

Balint has been endorsed by an all-star list of progressive leaders, including the state's other U.S. senator, Bernie Sanders; Rep. Pramila Jayapal, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; and Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, the founders of Vermont's famously progressive ice cream company, Ben &

Jerry's.

The winner of Tuesday's primary is expected to cruise to victory in November in deep-blue Vermont. Despite the state's liberal credentials built up over the last half century, the lack of turnover in the congressional delegation has made Vermont the only state in the country that has never been represented in Washington by a woman.

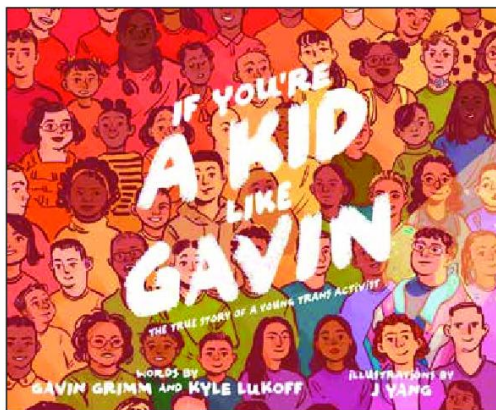
Leahy's retirement after 48 years in office set the stage for the history-making moment. U.S. Rep. Peter Welch, who has been in Congress since 2007, decided to run for Leahy's Senate seat. That opened up his House seat for Gray or Balint, who would also be the first openly gay person to represent Vermont in Congress if elected.

It's the first open seat in the state's three-person congressional delegation since 2006. And given Vermont's pen-

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LGBTQ-Inclusive Picture Books for Back-to-School

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer



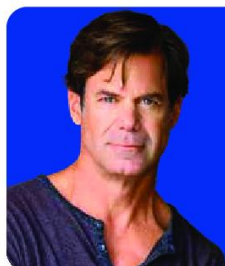
Back-to-school time is here, so why not get your kids in the mood with some LGBTQ-inclusive picture books set in schools? There are now many such books, but here are a few of my favorites, across a variety of identities, that focus on first days of school and other moments of being welcoming, supportive, and inclusive. "Calvin," by JR and Vanessa Ford, illustrated by Kayla Harren (G.P. Putnam's Sons). Calvin has always known he's a boy. In this gentle first-person story, he transitions with the support of his parents, brother, grandparents, friends, and teacher. Although Calvin worries about what will happen

see MOMBIAN, page 4

"I wasn't trying to have his career, because he sings, he dances. I'm barely a single threat. I'm just an actor."

—Tuc Watkins, explaining how he emulated the career trajectory of Kevin Kline—

to the best of his modest abilities. I believe his modesty is overstated. Tuc surely has his own sizeable attributes.



more in Billy Masters on page 6!

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The 2022 HistoryMaker Awards



Arline Isaacson. Photo via historyproject.org.

Submitted by The History Project

The History Project, Boston's LGBTQ archives, is pleased to announce Arline Isaacson as our 2022 HistoryMaker Awards honoree. Since 2009, the HistoryMaker Awards recognize community members and organizations who make history every day.

Arline Isaacson is a familiar figure on Beacon Hill. As Co-Chair of the Massachusetts GLBTQ Political Caucus (formerly the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus), she has lobbied every major LGBTQ+ issue in Massachusetts. She advocated for the groundbreaking 1989 gay and lesbian civil rights bill and domestic-partnership benefits for Massachusetts public employees.

Her fights have included LGBTQ+ parental rights, anti-bullying bills, hate crimes bills, transgender rights, HIV/AIDS legislation, and banning conversion therapy for minors. Arline also led the legislative battle for marriage equality, making Massachusetts the first state in the nation to defeat a marriage equality ban.

"Arline's work to support equal rights for all is inspiring. We look to the past to inform our future, and we must learn from LGBTQ+ leaders like Arline how to continue the fight," says Executive Director Joan Ilacqua. "Our community has fought against attacks on protections and rights for LGBTQ+ people, and we've won. We'll continue to fight to protect

the families, health, wellbeing, and bodily autonomy of all people."

The History Project is pleased to announce K.J. Rawson as our 2022 Lavender Rhino Award honoree. Named after one of the early symbols of the Gay Liberation movement, the Lavender Rhino Award is presented to an activist or organization whose current efforts are making history for the LGBTQ+ community.

K.J. Rawson is the Director and Founder of the Digital Transgender Archive (DTA). The DTA, launched in 2016, virtually merges disparate transgender history archives collections, digital materials, and independent projects and makes these rich primary source materials available to researchers and LGBTQ+ community members worldwide. We recognize and celebrate K.J.'s tireless efforts to share transgender history and collections.

K.J. also serves as Chair of the editorial board of Homosaurus, an international LGBTQ+ linked data vocabulary. He is an Associate Professor of English and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Northeastern University, and Co-Director of NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks.

The History Project will celebrate the 2022 honorees with an early evening reception at the St. Botolph Club, featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, on September 8, 2022.

More information can be found at historyproject.org



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Unleashing the dogs of intolerance

There is no neutral ground when hate is a party's brand
by Richard J. Rosendall | rrosendall@starpower.net
contributing writer

Walking home from the bakery on a Sunday morning, I encounter a young man with two pit bull puppies. He stands in the street with them to avoid a passing Newfoundland. I walk over and greet the pit bulls and say how handsome they are. They happily jump on me, which is not the owner's fault since he has them leashed and I provoked them.

Some dogs are high-spirited, and not everyone loves them, so it is important to obey leashing laws. This is the middle ground between letting dogs run in packs through the streets on one hand, and banning them (or particular breeds) altogether on the other. They are descended from predators, however. Those sweet puppies slobbering on me have powerful jaws. It isn't just their coats but their facial bone structure that contributes to their particular beauty.

Shakespeare wrote in Julius Caesar, "Cry havoc, and let slip the dogs of war." We don't need a lot of effort to get into bloody conflicts; we can simply let go of the leash. I just watched Republican gubernatorial nominee Kari Lake of Arizona on television stoking intolerance with the lie that massive voter fraud resulted in a stolen 2020 election.

School officials in southeastern Wisconsin have decided they can remove politics from the classroom by censoring expressions like pronouns and flags that make people uncomfortable. (Granted, they are banning MAGA banners as well as rainbow flags.) If they had faced discrimination, they might realize that going about your business as if you have a right to exist is inherently political.

The trouble is that for those whose identities and views

are the default, the political aspect is invisible. It is only differences which cause them discomfort that they regard as political.

How can this suppression affect children whose very existence is labeled political and undesirable, other than to cause harm?

When no room is allowed for diverse expression—when those who think, pray, or love differently are regarded as enemies—we end up with insurrections and people insisting that only elections they win are legitimate. To posture as a patriot while opposing the right to speech and religious practices different from yours is a contradiction. Diversity is a fundamental feature of this country. It cannot be eliminated even if we go after it with fire, blood, and terror. We must at least tolerate one another or die. Alas, the demagogic predators among us do not care.

Last week, attendees at the Conservative Political Action Conference cheered Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán for his racist, transphobic, and fascist provocations. He could not have felt more at home. The GOP has become a party of bullies who portray themselves as victims.

Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene claims most Americans are Christian nationalists. If so, why must she and her fellow fanatics go to such lengths to predetermine election outcomes? And on what Gospel passage do these loudly self-professed Christians base their cruelty?

Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves celebrates the overturn of Roe v. Wade while showing no interest in feeding, educating, or providing healthcare to the poor children

in his state. He rejected \$600 million in Medicaid funds. Mississippi conservatives appear proud of their last-place ranking in every measure of social welfare. This is pro life?

The Senate held a marathon weekend session to pass healthcare, climate, and tax legislation via reconciliation, bypassing the filibuster. Democrats achieved compromise among themselves. Passing the bill with a tie-breaking vote by Vice President Harris proved they can do big things even in an equally divided Senate.

Late in the "vote-a-rama," Sen. Marco Rubio proposed an amendment to limit federal pregnancy resources "to biological females." When you've got nothing, you fire another volley in the culture war. A great nation doesn't have to pretend that it is threatened by a small minority of gender-variant people. Fortunately, Rubio failed.

In the next few elections, Democrats must defeat Republicans to prevent national disintegration. In the longer term, we have something greater at stake than competing policy preferences: we have a republic, which requires adherence to norms of mutual respect.

An anguished Rodney King pleaded thirty years ago amid riots in Los Angeles, "Can't we all just get along?" Not easily. We are a varied and contentious lot. There are times when we need to put a leash on it, and times when we need to fight despotism and demagogic appeals to ignorance. A pivotal election is less than three months away.

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

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Mombian

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at school, he feels "safe and happy" when on the first day, the principal calls him "Calvin." He then finds the name "Calvin" already on his classroom cubby and "everywhere it should be." He introduces himself to the whole class and spells his name with pride.

The Max and Friends series, by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Luciano Lozano (Reycraft). In the first book of this series, "Call Me Max," transgender boy Max shares his realization that he is trans and navigates his first day of school. He tells the teacher the name he wants to use, makes friends, and even learns from them about his own gender assumptions. Max encounters some obstacles around bathroom access, but this tale is not entirely about his challenges; much of the book centers on Max playing with his friends and being supported by his parents. In "Max and the Talent Show," Max helps his friend Stephen, who likes to wear dresses but identifies as a boy, prepare for the school talent show. In "Max on the Farm," Max and his friend Teresa get into (minor) mischief during a class trip to a farm. While Max's trans identity is not a focus for the second two, nor is it ignored completely, and sometimes impacts Max's responses to certain situations.

"If You're a Kid Like Gavin: The True Story of a Young Trans Activist," by Gavin Grimm and Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by J Yang (Katherine Tegan Books). Grimm, a transgender boy, successfully fought his high school in federal court for the right to use the boy's bathroom. Lukoff, a two-time Stonewall Award winner, Newbery honoree, and trans man, was the perfect partner for this story

of Grimm's experience, a powerful true tale of choices and resilience.

"A Princess of Great Daring," by Tobi Hill-Meyer, illustrated by Eleanor Toczynski (Fleming Rampant). A transgender girl (who happens to have two moms) spends her first day at school after transitioning. While her friends are unfailingly supportive and happy to have her play the princess in a game, they then assume that she wants to be rescued—an assumption she challenges, defying those who assume a trans girl (or any girl) will necessarily adhere to traditional feminine stereotypes.

"What Riley Wore," by Elana K. Arnold, illustrated by Linda Davick (Simon & Schuster). On the first day of school, Riley wears a bunny outfit. Rather than making Riley an object of ridicule, Riley's soft bunny ears comfort a classmate who was crying. We then see Riley, who is never gendered, wearing various outfits that elicit praise from students and teacher. When another child asks, "Are you a girl or a boy?" Riley simply answers, "Today I'm a firefighter. And a dancer," and several other fanciful things. The other child responds, "Want to play?" A refreshing message of acceptance.

"The Little Library," by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by G. Brian Karas (Schwartz & Wade). Part of the creators' popular Mr. Tiffin's Classroom series, this is the tale of a boy who "is a slow and careful reader" and a librarian (who uses they/them pronouns) helping him find just the right book for his interests and the way he reads.

"Timid," written and illustrated by Harry Woodgate (Little Bee Books). Timmy, who uses they/them pronouns, loves to dress up in sparkly costumes and perform—in their room. In front of an audience, however, a giant lion appears to "ROAR their confidence away." Timmy fears the upcoming

school play until he partners with a shy classmate and they help each other overcome their fears. Woodgate's prose is lovely, but it is their illustrations, expressive and colorful, that make the book really shine.

"Aaron Slater, Illustrator," by Andrea Beary, illustrated by David Roberts (Abrams). A boy who struggles with reading (and happens to have two moms) learns how to use art to express the stories he wants to tell. Part of the bestselling "The Questioners" series that includes "Ada Twist, Scientist," this volume's lyrical rhyming text, colorful, sketch-like illustrations, and dyslexia-friendly font give it wide appeal.

"All Are Welcome," by Alexandra Penfold, illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman (Alfred A. Knopf). A group of children, diverse in many ways, interact and play during their day at school as they hear the affirming message "All are welcome here." We see their different kinds of parents, including ones with two moms and two dads, at the beginning and end of the day.

In the list above, I have steered away from books focused on bias or bullying, since for far too long, those stories dominated LGBTQ-inclusive children's books and shouldn't be the only tales we tell. (I have made an exception for the compelling true story of Gavin Grimm.) For more school-themed, LGBTQ-inclusive picture books, early chapter books, and middle-grade titles with a range of storylines, visit my database at mombian.com/database and filter by the tag "School."

May the school year be full of joy, friendships, and learning for all our children.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, with a searchable database of 1000+ LGBTQ family books, music, and more.

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Vermont

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chant for reelecting incumbents, it's likely that the winner of the Democratic primary will be able to hold the seat as long as she wants.

The ads on television and social media, and the flyers that are showing up in Vermonters' mailboxes every day, remain positive, focused on what the candidates see as their qualifications. But the high stakes of the contest—and the ongoing battle between the centrist and progressive wings of the Democratic Party—have laid bare the intensity of the campaign.

During a debate Thursday, Gray called Balint out for a critical comment she made while seeking the endorsement of Vermont's Progressive Party. Balint had denounced Gray as a "corporatist and a catastrophe for the left."

"How can Vermonters expect that you will act any differently in Congress than you have on this campaign where you've launched negative attacks?" Gray said. "Isn't that the problem that we see in Congress today?"

Balint apologized to Gray for the comment, "if you found it hurtful." But Balint used the opportunity to note the source of many of Gray's campaign contributions.

"I said at the time the reason why I was concerned was because of the funds that you're raising from Washington insiders," Balint said. "You have raised a tremendous amount of money from lobbyists in D.C. and not as much money from people back here in Vermont."

Despite this tension, the two candidates hold similar views on most issues. Both support abortion rights and want to boost affordable housing, increase access to inexpensive child care and expand broadband internet services in rural areas.

Gray, a 38-year-old attorney, grew up on a farm in the Connecticut River town of Newbury and now lives in Burlington. She has touted her experience working as a Welch staffer in Washington, in Europe for the International Committee of the Red Cross, her time as an assistant attorney general and, for the last two years, her job as lieutenant governor.

Balint, a 54-year-old former middle school teacher from Brattleboro, first came to Vermont in 1994 to teach rock climbing and settled in the state permanently in 1997. She was first elected to the state Senate in 2014. Two years ago, she became the first woman chosen as Senate president pro tempore, which means she oversees the

chamber's legislative work and presides over the state Senate if the lieutenant governor is absent.

Disputes about the source of their donations—Vermonters versus out-of-state donors or spending by outside groups—have helped drive some of the acrimony in the race.

A number of outside groups are supporting Balint's candidacy, including the LGBTQ Victory Fund, which has spent nearly \$1 million supporting her. By law, those groups are prohibited from coordinating their efforts with the campaigns.

Before the ads started, Gray had asked Balint whether she would condemn outside spending. Balint agreed.

Now that the outside spending has started, Gray says those outside groups are interfering with the conversation she is trying to have with voters.

"All of a sudden, someone else is coming in and telling Vermonters who to hire. That's not the Vermont way," Gray said. "Outside groups are unelected. They're unaccountable. They're not representing us in Congress."

Balint said she doesn't think the outside spending will make a difference in the race. In any event, she said, she has no control over it.

"I feel really great about the fact that we've run a really excellent campaign," Balint said. "I wish they weren't involved because I want my team to get the full credit for everything that we have done here."

There are four Democrats on the ballot Tuesday for U.S. House; one has dropped out and the fourth is a South Burlington physician. Three candidates are vying for the Republican nomination.

Voter Christy Hudon of Stowe said she hadn't decided whether to vote for Balint or Gray, though she is leaning toward Gray. In one of her ads, Gray highlights the challenges she and her family have faced with her mother's chronic health problems. Hudon said her own family is dealing with issues related to aging relatives.

"I definitely feel like she understands where people's needs are at that time a little bit better," Hudon said.

Voter Annie Greenfelder of Middlesex noted that there doesn't appear to be much policy difference between Gray and Balint. She said she voted for Balint because of the endorsements she has received from environmental activists but would like to see Gray run for another office if she loses.

"We need more politicians down the pipe," Greenfelder said.



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billy masters

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As you know, I believe people should do whatever they enjoy doing—within the limits of their local ordinances, of course. But even my laissez-faire attitude was pushed to the limit when I read a recent column by **Dan Savage**. A reader wanted to know if he should continue to date someone who previously had a threesome with his parents! Note the plural—parentS. As in both. And this is not a situation where the person had two fathers. These were parents of the opposite sex. If the letter is to be believed, the discovery was made when the writer introduced his beau to his parents. Turns out that the three of them hooked up a decade earlier, during what the boyfriend refers to as his “big bi slut phase”. Again, I am not one to judge, but no—this would be a deal-breaker. I’m sure the boyfriend is lovely, and perhaps I could get past him sleeping with one of my parents. Although I suppose it would depend which one.

Joe Manganiello made a fascinating discovery about his family. The “*Magic Mike II*” star, best known for his body of work, was having his family tree researched by **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** for “*Finding Your Roots*”. That’s when we learned that Manganiello’s fifth great-grandfather was black!

Then we have Republican Congressperson **Glenn Thompson**, a member of the House of Representatives who recently voted against codifying same-sex marriage. Three days after that vote, he not only attended the same-sex wedding of his son **Kale** to **Phil Green**, but made a speech—an audio recording of which has gone public. Not only does Thompson say, “We’re just blessed”, but also praises his son finding a man he could spend the rest of his life with.

There’s a film in the works about **Alina Fernández**, **Fidel Castro**’s illegitimate daughter. “Alina of Cuba” will star **Ana Villafañe**. And her famous dad will be played by **James Franco**—cause he’s so versatile! Needless to say, the reaction was revolutionary. One of the people expressing outrage is **John Leguizamo**. “I don’t got a prob with Franco but he ain’t Latino!” The film’s producer, **John Martinez O’Felan**, shot back by revealing that Franco is actually Latin—by way of Portugal (I don’t think that helped). Naturally, the real-life Alina is supporting the project. She points out, with justifiable pride, that “the project is almost entirely Latino, both in front and behind the camera”. As to the casting, she states, “James Franco has an obvious physical resemblance with Fidel Castro, besides his skills and charisma.” Leguizamo is unmoved. “So, no, no. Appropriating our stories—no more of that. I’m done with that.” Does this mean that only a Cubano should play Castro? Could someone from another Latin background play the role? Do actors need to submit a headshot, a resume, and a 23AndMe profile to casting agents?

John Cameron Mitchell made a casting revelation about “Hedwig and the Angry Inch”—it almost starred **Patti LuPone**! “I asked her to play Hedwig once, when we were on Broadway and we were looking for the next people. She really loved it. She would come see it a lot, but we closed before she got to a decision.” I suspect he means off-Broadway. When “Hedwig” hit Broadway, LuPone was 65 and perhaps a tad mature for the role. During the original off-Broadway run, she was a sprightly 49. Of course, the demise of that original production was hastened by the inestimable talents of **Ally Sheedy** in the title role!

Speaking of gender-bending casting, **Sandra Bernhard** (who at one point was also asked to play Hedwig) recently claimed to have been approached about joining the Broadway cast of “Chicago”. She would have allegedly appeared opposite **Pamela Anderson**—as Billy Flynn!

In some less surprising casting news, **Alyssa Farah Griffin** was named co-host of “The View”. As a somewhat moderate Republican (and former member of the Trump administration), she has proven a good fit with the ladies, and seems to play well with others. While she is the latest

co-host to get a seat at the table, she is not the newest. That honor goes to **Ana Navarro**. Wait, I can hear you cry—hasn’t Ana been on the show for the past four years? Yes, but she’s always been billed as a “special co-host”. This upgrade of status (and salary) will not change her frequency on the show. She will continue to be a floating fill-in—in addition to sitting in for **Whoopi** on Fridays.

Look for a familiar face to turn up on “*Grey’s Anatomy*”. One of the new residents joining the cast for season 19 is **Harry Shum, Jr.** We’re told there’s a good reason why the sexy “*Glee*” alum is older than all of the other residents. If it involves being naked, I’m all for it.

Filmmaker **M. Night Shyamalan** has announced that **Jonathan Groff** and **Ben Aldridge** will play a gay couple in “*Knock at the Cabin*”. In the film, the boys bring their adopted daughter to a secluded New England cabin for a long weekend. I don’t even need to read beyond that to know that nothing good will happen at this cabin.

As we went to press last week, we learned about the passing of the great **Nichelle Nichols**. Since then, her “*Star Trek*” colleague **George Takei** has made a revelation. He had asked another “*Trek*kie”, **Walter Koenig**, to be best man at his wedding. He asked Nichelle to be their matron of honor. They expected Nichols to be...well, honored. She was anything but. “I am not a matron! If Walter can be best man, why can’t I be best lady?” And so she was!

A judge has ordered **Kevin Spacey** to pay \$31 million to the producers of “*House of Cards*” for his alleged sexual misconduct on the set. **LA Superior Court Judge Mel Red Recana** explained the verdict by saying, “Here, [Spacey] fails to demonstrate that this is even a close case.”

Lady Gaga’s accused dognapper is once again behind bars. **James Howard Jackson** was mistakenly released from prison last month. Acting on a tip, the LA County Sheriff’s Department found him while searching a home in Palmdale. Phew!

In a recent interview, **Barry Manilow** spoke about his personal life. He claims that meeting his now-husband **Garry Kief** in 1978 was revelatory. “I never even thought about whether I was gay.” They met in 1978. Barry was 35, already had several hits, played the piano for **Bette Midler** in a gay bathhouse, and never thought he might be gay?

Remember **Adam Venit**? He was the agent at William Morris who (allegedly) sexually assaulted **Terry Crews**. He’s now been accused of numerous crimes by his own wife! “Over the course of their 20-plus year marriage, Adam has physically, sexually, mentally, emotionally and verbally abused and insistently stalked and monitored Trina. He has inflicted countless unspeakable acts upon the woman he professed to love,” says an 18-page suit filed in Los Angeles—which also enumerates episodes where their bed was littered with both male and female prostitutes. All in all, I’d say Terry got off easily (and I will refrain from that tasteless joke you are all anticipating).

We have time for a very brief “Ask Billy” question. Dan in Miami asks, “I just read an article about some guy called the Turkish **Timothée Chalamet**. Who is he?”

It all started with the UK reality show, “*Love Island*”. Viewers got to meet family members of some contestants, including **Ekin-Su**’s brother, **Arda Çilçilöglü**. Social media quickly noted the striking resemblance to Chalamet. Since then, people have gone crazy. While I know nothing about him, I’m happy to post some photos on BillyMasters.com.

When we’re bringing you some Turkish delight, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. Of course, more awaits you on www.BillyMasters.com—the site that’s muy internacional. As always, send your questions to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before any of my paramours even MEET my parents! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.



Joe Manganiello



Nichelle Nichols



Arda Çilçilöglü

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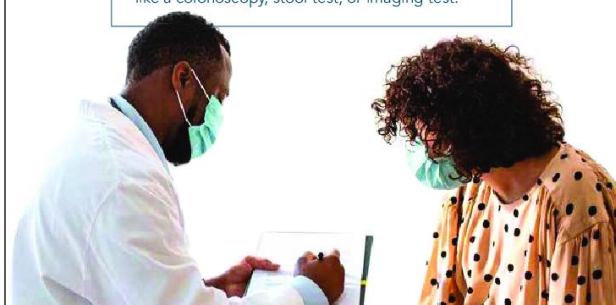
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