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# BAY WINDOWS

Serving New England's LGBTQ Communities

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## Pope, Anglican, Presbyterian leaders denounce anti-gay laws

By Nicole Winfield
*Associated Press*

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) — Pope Francis was backed by the ceremonial head of the Anglican Communion and top Presbyterian minister in calling for gays to be welcomed by their churches as he again decried laws that criminalize homosexuality as unjust.

The three Christian leaders spoke on LGBTQ rights during an unprecedented joint airborne news conference Sunday while returning home from South Sudan, where they took part in a three-day ecumenical pilgrimage to try to nudge forward the young country's peace process.

They were asked about Francis' recent comments to The Associated Press, in which he declared that laws that criminalize gay people were "unjust" and that "being homosexual is not a crime."

South Sudan is one of 67 countries that criminalizes homosexuality, 11 of them with the death penalty. LGBTQ advocates say even where such laws are not applied, they contribute to a climate of harassment, discrimination and violence.

During the news conference on the way back to Rome, Francis specifically didn't repeat that "being homosexual is not a crime," perhaps to not antagonize his South Sudanese hosts, who had originally objected to his comments on its website that some must wait six months or longer to establish a legal parent-child relationship. Additionally, de facto parents, those who

*see* **POPE,** *page 7*

## Queer History is Made at Grammy Awards

By Bay Windows Staff

The 65th annual Grammy Awards, which took place on February 5 in Los Angeles, hosted a number of LGBTQ groundbreaking moments and wins.

Kim Petras and Sam Smith's Grammy won for "Unholy" in the Best Pop Duo/Group Performance category. Petras became the first openly trans woman to take home this award.

Petras acknowledged transgender legends who paved the way and remembered late Scottish singer Sophie.

Queer artists like Brandi Carlile (Best Rock Performance & Best Rock

*see* **GRAMMY AWARDS,** *page 5*

Kim Petras, right, and Sam Smith accept the award for best pop duo/group performance for "Unholy" at the 65th annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello) (Associated Press)

## Mass. Parentage Act Reintroduced

By Dana Rudolph
*Contributing Writer*

Massachusetts, which led the nation in marriage equality, has fallen behind in updating its parentage laws to protect the children of LGBTQ parents and others regardless of the circumstances of their birth. A bill has just been reintroduced to change that.

Current Massachusetts law does not treat children equally if they are born via assisted reproduction, surrogacy, or to same-sex parents who aren't married. The Massachusetts Parentage Act Coalition, which is spearheading the push for change, ex-

*see* **MPAC,** *page 7*

## New Resource for Donor-Conceived People with LGBTQ Parents

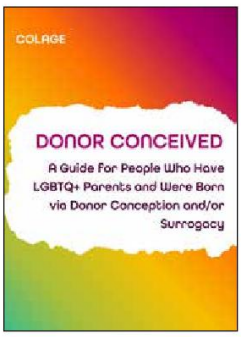
by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
*contributing writer*

COLAGE, the national organization for people with LGBTQ parents, recently released an updated edition of its groundbreaking guide for donor-conceived people with LGBTQ parents. It's an invaluable resource for youth and young adults—but also feels critical for the parents and other adults supporting them.

"Donor Conceived: A Guide for People Who Have LGBTQ+ Parents and Were Born via Donor Conception and/or Surrogacy" is a revised version of the organization's 2010 guide specifically for donor conceived people (DCPs) with LGBTQ+ parents. That focus is important. As the new introduction notes, "Although we acknowledge there are many DCP born to straight parents, the experience of DCP with LGBTQ+ parents is unique and presents specific challenges and joys. We recognize that DCP with straight parents may not agree with or understand our perspectives on these issues—this guide is for us, by us."

The new guide also expands the

*see* **MOMBIAN,** *page 4*



"I have never thrust this on someone unexpectedly. Never."

— Armie Hammer in his recent "Air Mail" interview. Makes you wanna read on, doesn't it?

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

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# Knowing What I Don't Know

by Judah Leblang | www.JudahLeblang.com
*contributing writer*

Back in the fall of 2021, after almost two years of living in Covid-induced isolation, hunkered down in my one-bedroom apartment with only my cat and my TV for company, I moved into a 20-resident communal house in downtown Boston. Suddenly, after living alone for 20 years, I was surrounded by Millenials and Gen-Zers; my housemates ranged from 21 to 57, and I was the senior resident by almost a decade.

Six years ago, shortly before I turned 60, I left my day job at Endicott College on the North Shore. Though semi-retirement was an adjustment, I was out and about, teaching memoir writing at GrubStreet in Boston, hitting the gym, and meeting friends for lunch or dinner. Living alone suited me until it didn't; once Covid appeared and my modest social life withered to nothing, I hungered for connection, for something beyond faces on a screen. But when Covid hit, my teaching migrated online, and much of my social contact took place over Zoom, a pale replacement for the real thing—in person contact.

Now that I've lived at the Beacon Hill Friends House, a Quaker-affiliated residence for more than a year, I can say that the pros have outweighed the cons —my housemates are generally friendly, considerate, and fun to be with. Still, when I'm reminded that I am older than some, if not most, of their parents, it's hard not to feel like the Junior-Senior Citizen I am, and to confront the reality that I am (much) closer to the end of my life than to its beginning.

The Friends House is designed for people in transition—one can stay for a maximum of four years, and since I lived here, with a totally different cast of characters in the mid-1990s, (before some of my housemates were born!), I can only stay at the House for one more year.

Many of my housemates are going to graduate school, becoming engineers or IT professionals, or taking on their first real jobs after college. Meanwhile, I'm a part-time teacher and storyteller, a semi-retired writer who is collecting social security and has no idea where he'll be living a year from now.

Back in the 1980s, when I was in my 20s, I thought most folks over 40 had figured things out and had the answers to who they were and what they wanted. And maybe some did, and still do. But now, on the other side of that great divide, I'm still in transition, and still trying to figure out who and what I want to be when/if I grow up.

In some ways, I can relate to my housemates, who are figuring out what to do with their newly-minted degrees, or where to look for work once their time at the house comes to an end. But one difference is that their lives seem to be about unlimited possibilities, full of the promise of unfulfilled dreams and the luxury of time. Meanwhile, I'm aware of the ticking clock, and know that some doors are closed to me and cannot be reopened.

Maybe that's a small bit of wisdom I've gathered in my six-plus decades on the planet:

I've come to realize that I'll never have the answers to life's big questions. And I'll never have a road map or a sense of certainty for what comes next, not even at the end.

*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 the Assemblage Art Space in the Seaport on Thursday December 29 at 7 PM, as part of Boston's Pop-up Fringe Festival. Get your ($10) tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/its-now-or-never-fpac-pop-up-fringe-festival-tickets-465955775267*

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# *Hamilton* Gets The Job Done

**Hamilton,** tour presented by Broadway in Boston at Citizen Bank Opera House, through March 12. BroadwayinBoston.com

The Company with Pierre Jean Gonzalez as American founding father Alexander Hamilton. Photo: Joan Marcus.

**By Jules Becker**
*Contributing Writer*

Alexander Hamilton was as great in his own way as any of the Founding Fathers. The primary author of the Federalist Papers also played a crucial part in the establishment of America's strong financial status—particularly as the first secretary of the treasury. In 2015, Lin-Manuel Miranda captured his amazing achievements in a landmark Tony Award-winning musical fittingly entitled "Hamilton." At a time when many polarizing so-called leaders threaten democracy and politicize the national debt, a second strong Hub visit of this show—more timely than ever—is providing a powerful reminder of its subject's impact.

Miranda sees Hamilton as a diamond in the rough, and the description is more than apt. In giving the curious title "Ten Duel Commandments" to a first act number, he may have known that Nevis-born Hamilton actually studied the Ten Commandments in Hebrew at a Jewish school on that Caribbean island (recent research suggesting he may have actually been Jewish). The musical's smart book does portray its complex hero as a man who defied easy labeling among both admirers and detractors.

Even his reserved nemesis Aaron Burr—probably better known for killing him in a duel in 1804 than for serving as vice president under Thomas Jefferson—recognizes Hamilton's writing and speaking talents in the vivid first-act closing number "Non-Stop." Envious of Hamilton's position as a kind of right hand man for Washington, Burr also marvels at his ability to enlist the likes of John Jay and James Madison to collaborate on the Federalist Papers. The Hamilton-Burr conflict may call to mind the Mozart-Salieri face-off in Peter Shaffer's imaginative drama "Amadeus," though Mozart actually died from tuberculosis, not at the hand of the

*see* **HAMILTON,** *page 5*


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For a more complete list of employment opportunities and job descriptions, and to apply for any of the above positions, applicants should visit:

**www.governmentjobs.com/careers/andoverma**

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# Erasing people is no path to freedom

**United, we can defeat intolerance**

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

The 2024 Republican presidential primary race can be seen in microcosm in the DeSantis administration's ban on Florida public schools teaching an Advanced Placement African American studies course.

PBS NewsHour said it was "a pilot course by the College Board focused on Black history, arts, science and culture."

The right-wing governor whose name sounds like Rhonda Santis said scornfully, "What's one of the lessons about? Queer theory. Now, who would say that an important part of Black history is queer theory?"

Correct answers include James Baldwin, Bayard Rustin, and Audre Lorde.

In related news, Daily Kos reported, "Florida teachers are told to hide books or face felony prosecution." In Manatee County, only books approved by certified media specialists can be accessed by children.

DeSantis said, "Florida is where woke goes to die!" Setting aside his peculiar promotional pitch, what is the radical "woke" agenda he wants to stamp out? It is, simply, any teaching about the struggles of non-straight and non-white people. This suppression is done in the name of protecting the very children it is robbing of the truth.

Millions of white voters, it appears, are seething with rage at the prospect of having to share what Baldwin sardonically called "the glittering republic" with anyone who doesn't look and think and love like them.

A few years back, people like homocon Andrew Sullivan raged against The 1619 Project, which Nikole Hannah-Jones developed for The New York Times. Donald Trump, noted fan of dictators, created the 1776 Commission to develop a "patriotic curriculum." The commission included no specialists in American history.

Patriotism means different things to different people. For some of us, loving our country means striving to make it live up to its creed. For others, it means jealously banishing any portrayal of our past except as a stately march to Mt. Rushmore—carved, mind you, into the Black Hills, which are sacred to the Lakota Sioux, who want them returned in accordance with the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868.

Black History Month is a perfect time to discuss what Michael Harriot of The Grio calls Wypipoing. He explains, "Wypipoing is calling oneself a 'patriot' while waving a confederate flag. Wypipoing is whining about widespread voter fraud while rubber-stamping gerrymandering, voter suppression and felon disenfranchisement. Wypipoing is screaming about freedom of speech while outlawing critical race theory."

I suppose I am not the most loyal member of the Wypipo, since I enjoy Mr. Harriot's sharp commentaries. Behind the wit is a profound outrage. When the stories of entire portions of our population are denigrated and delegitimized, it should not surprise us that they are the targets of official violence. The disenfranchisement of black voters is part of a system that denied the humanity of Tyre Nichols and took his life one terrible recent night in Memphis. As to the race of the arrested cops, Elie Mystal writes in The Nation, "The race of a cop is 'cop.'"

When a governor eyeing the White House punishes Disney Corporation for LGBTQ-affirming policies, bans the teaching of black history, and threatens teachers with prison for giving a child a book, he is the one bent on indoctrination.

One wonders what surveillance this purportedly freedom-loving governor plans to impose on children's electronic devices to ensure they are not exposed to the growing list of ideas he is determined to keep from them.

DeSantis will not easily reverse the social progress opposed by the white Christian nationalists he is courting. Black voters who know what is at stake defied efforts to suppress them. Gay people are integrated into marriage and the military. Trans people facing persecution and hate crimes show far more courage every day than those who feign fragility over the slightest gender variance.

As Steven Beschloss writes, "It's no show of strength to deny people the ability to think for themselves and learn their own history. It's an expression of fear."

What sells in the reddest states will not sell in the rest of America. Hundreds of January 6 insurrectionists are still facing trial. The fascists' refusal to learn any lessons could be their undoing—like shooting straight up at a Chinese surveillance balloon without realizing that bullets that go up will come back down at 150 miles per hour.

If those of us who embrace our nation's diversity stand together, we can beat back the bloody and boneheaded forces of reaction and write a different, worthier page in our history.

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

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# Mombian

*Continued from page 1*

scope of the earlier version, which only included people born via sperm donation. COLAGE National Program Director Angel Martin explained to me, "We know that donor conceived people have very diverse experiences and conception stories so we wanted to include language about and perspectives from those born through egg donation and surrogacy as well."

The new guide has also updated terminology. "In the past decade, awareness and terminology around gender has evolved towards more inclusive terms that recognize that gender is not binary," Martin said. "A lot of the guide references reproduction so this updated guide uses medical vocabulary rather than gender-based vocabulary."

There are separate chapters for DCPs who know their donors, for those with unknown donors (either completely anonymous or "open identity," allowing contact when the child turns 18), and for those born through gestational surrogacy. Each chapter is packed with the varied experiences of DCP COLAGErs in their own words, sharing their differing thoughts about the relationships they have or want to have with their donors. One said, for example, "I don't know who my donor is, and while I have been curious at times, it isn't something of any importance to me or my family"; in contrast, another said, "I was extremely curious to know who my donor was, why they had chosen to be a donor, and their medical history. Finding out who he was had been on my mind for years."

The guide stresses, "There is no right or wrong way to feel about these topics," but notes that the examples provided may help readers "take comfort in the fact that you are not alone in your experience." The emphasis is on what DCPs themselves may be feeling and empowering them to make decisions that are right for them. The guide even suggests ways that they can discuss donors with their (the DCPs') parents—sometimes an easy thing, but other times complicated by parents' differing considerations.

Other topics covered include the pros and cons of trying to contact a donor or half siblings; deciding whether to try and find the identity of an unknown donor; how to build relationships if you do, and where to get support.

Another useful chapter covers "Talking to Others About Your Family," looking in detail at some of the hurdles DCP COLAGErs might face, from concerns about using sexual terminology ("sperm," etc.) to dealing with people's incorrect assumptions. It offers sample language that people may wish to use, depending upon their specific type of donor conception, but also importantly notes, "It is okay to not tell everyone how your family was formed or who your parent(s) are."

A section of "Advice for Prospective and Current Parents" is a must-read for any LGBTQ parent who (like myself) has used or is considering donor conception. (I suggest that parents read the whole guide—but especially this section.) If you've ever wondered whether or how to talk with your kid(s) about their donor(s) or pondered some of the feelings your kid(s) may have about being donor conceived, this is for you.

Aimed at DCPs, but also useful for parents is a section titled, "'What Are My Rights?' A Legal Resource for People with LGBTQ+ Parents Born via Donor Conception," which discusses vital questions like "Who is legally considered my parent?" "If my parents are separated, do both my parents have rights to parenting time?" "Can I find out who my anonymous donor is?" and more.

A section of "Advice for Teachers, School Administrators, and Others Working in Schools" suggests ways to normalize different family structures in classrooms; how to communicate with DCPs and their families about who the student considers their parent(s); why Mother's/Father's Day projects and family tree exercises can be challenging for DCPs and how to find alternatives; and other ways of being respectful and inclusive without divulging more than a student wants known about their family.

There is information here, too, about opportunities to get involved with COLAGE and where to find relevant books, films, and more.

"We view this as a living document and are excited to add even more stories to this guide in the future," Martin said. "We are grateful for the original author's efforts in spearheading this guide and hope that donor conceived COLAGErs find the updated version useful."

COLAGE also recently updated its People with Trans Parents resource guide and is working on a guide for adopted COLAGErs. Download all the guides free from the COLAGE website (colage.org).

*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 and more.*

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## Grammy Awards

*Continued from page 1*

Song) and Steve Lacy (Best Progressive R&B Album), and Wet Leg (Best Alternative Music Album & Performance) also brought home trophies.

Beyoncé broke conductor Georg Solti's record by taking home her 32nd Grammy Award. She is now the most awarded artist in Grammy history. She thanked LGTBQ community "for inventing genre" during her acceptance speech.

GLAAD's Anthony Allen Ramos said in a statement."Tonight, queer artists from so many parts of the LGBTQ community representing so many unique musical genres became Grammy winners, and because of this Recording Academy reminded the world just how impactful LGBTQ people are when it comes to creating music...From Sam Smith and Kim Petras' breaking barriers for non-binary and transgender people in music by winning the Grammy for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, to Brandi Carlile and Wet Leg dominating the Rock and Alternative Music categories with multiple wins, and Steve Lacy's win for Best Progressive R&B album the Grammy Awards were dominated by more openly LGBTQ artists and musicians than ever before."

## Hamilton

*Continued from page 3*

court composer.

The other major contrast in Miranda's play emerges with the second act return of Jefferson from his ambassadorial post in France—wonderfully evoked in the jazzy opener "What'd I Miss." When Jefferson complains about the sizable financial needs of Hamilton's New York, the latter tellingly points to the slavery profits of Jefferson's Virginia. Hamilton also speaks of a black regiment. Even so, he will eventually side with Jefferson rather than Burr at a pivotal political moment. If Hamilton's life--political and personal—is admittedly messy, the same proves true for independence.

Still, Hamilton proclaims, "Immigrants—we get the job done." To emphasize the ideal of American diversity, the New York and touring companies have purposely included many African-American and Hispanic actors. Pierre Jean Gonzalez may not be quite as riveting as Miranda himself in the Broadway original, but he does capture Hamilton's energy and self-assuredness—especially on the fiery "My Shot." Gonzalez also does full justice to Hamilton's vulnerability with regard to personal failings. Jared Dixon has all of Burr's caginess and attitude. He sings with robust intensity—most notably as Burr presses to be in "The Room Where It Happens."

In this richly sung and strongly danced tour—under the sharp direction of Thomas Kail and sporting Andy Blankenbuehler's inspired choreographic combination of modern dance and ballet, some of the best performances come in support. Marcus Choi catches Washington's remarkable humanity as he fights British forces and later becomes a leader among equals. Nikisha Williams brings great heart and caring to Hamilton's intrepid wife Eliza—especially as she demonstrates uncommon understanding for her very busy husband in "That Would Be Enough." Ta'Rea Campbell has her sister Angelica (Schuyler)'s wit and insight about her brother-in-law and herself.

Jared Howelton—as eye-catching in his own way as Daveed Diggs on Broadway—captures both Lafayette's bravery and Jefferson's grandiose demeanor and body language. Neil Haskell is a big-voiced hoot as buffoonish King George deluding himself about the return of the revolutionaries on "You'll Be Back." Conductor Emmanuel Schvartzman brings out the exuberance and wide-ranging musicality—rap, hip-hop, rhythm and blues, jazz, pop and folk—of Miranda's memorably eclectic score.

Hamilton speaks of "smashin' every expectation." Miranda's wide-sweeping musical more than lives up to that description as brilliant stagecraft and an exciting history lesson.


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# billy masters

*Continued from page 1*

While I was hunkered down during this arctic blast, I warmed up by reading an interview **Armie Hammer** gave to "Air Mail". In explaining his bizarre behavior, Armie broke his silence by trotting out that old chestnut—he was sexually abused as a child. I am not questioning the abuse. But it's such a familiar story—the abused becomes an abuser. He was 13 years old, and his abuser was his youth pastor. It continued for about a year. He doesn't go into detail, but says, "What that did for me was it introduced sexuality into my life in a way that it was completely out of my control. I was powerless in the situation. I had no agency in the situation. My interests then went to: I want to have control in the situation, sexually." Whenever I hear the word "agency", I feel like a lawyer was consulted.

One of the sexual abuse accusations against him is shot down with documentation that Armie had torn his pectoral muscle lifting weights, which left him in a sling—and not the good kind! In general, he doesn't deny most of the acts, but goes to great lengths to say they were consensual. Regarding an alleged rape, he says, "She planned all of the details out, all the way down to what Starbucks I would see her at, how I would follow her home, how her front door would be open and unlocked and I would come in, and we would engage in what is called a 'consensual non-consent scene'." This reminds me of that scene in "For Pete's Sake" when Barbra plays "Take a Nap". "Bed, sleep, touch, struggle, not too hard." My God, to think Barbra could have been having sex with Armie Hammer!!

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the account of a Colombian man named Daniel, who says he was sexually violated by Hammer. He claims that Armie told him, "Guys could endure more pain." Allegedly, Hammer "cut him with paper and glass and then sucked his blood"; he also "inserted a condom wrapper into him"—none of which sounds appealing to me. One of Hammer's female paramours claims that he "stuck objects into male victims". Armie denies having met Daniel, and also says he has never had sex with a man.

Then there's **George Santos**. He's finally admitted that he actually has done drag—funny how the story changes once a videotape surfaces. And isn't it convenient that the one time he's ever done drag, someone videotaped it? "No, I was not a drag queen in Brazil, guys. I was young and I had fun at a festival." He may not be a drag queen, but he certainly picked up enough tips. I recently saw him on the news wearing more concealer than **Dolly Parton**!

When it comes to Santos, the problems keep mounting (so to speak). Enter **Christian Walker—Herschel Walker's** son, who never met a pair of tweezers he didn't like! He Tweeted the following: "George Santos had told me I had a good ass in my jeans (not kidding). Now I'm just worried that HE WAS LYING ABOUT THAT TOO!?!?!?" Christian went into more details on Instagram Live, saying they met "on several occasions" and calls Santos "so funny, truly hilarious". Well, you know, some of the funniest people alive are drag queens!

Then there's **Derek Jeter**. This story came right from the horse's mouth, courtesy of "True Confessions" on "The Tonight Show". "I had a new teammate that I played with in 2002 who always had a gold thong hanging from his locker. He told me, 'Anytime you struggle, wear the gold thong—you're guaranteed to get a hit.' In 2004, I went through the worst offensive stretch of my career. Every day I'd walk in and he'd point at the thong. So finally, I wore the thong. First pitch, home run." Jeter was quick to clarify he wasn't into "thong swapping". "It wasn't thong to skin. I had shorts on underneath. So I put the thong over the shorts." Yeah, like I believe that!

Should acting be judged by gender? If not, **Katharine Hepburn and Frances McDormand** would have everything, and **Daniel Day-Lewis and Jack Nicholson** would be trophy-free. In soap operas, they even break it down by ages. Is it fair to compare **Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep**? Ask **Rita Wilson**! I like multiple categories because it allows more people to win. But what do you do about trans actors? Or non-binary actors? This was an issue regarding last year's Broadway production of "Macbeth". **Asia Kate Dillon** identifies as non-binary, and was playing the role of Malcolm. Asia didn't feel comfortable in either category and withdrew from Tony consideration.

A similar case has occurred this year with the Broadway musical "& Juliet". One of the stars, **Justin David Sullivan**, had to make a decision—to be submitted as an actor or an actress. "I was told that I had to choose where I felt more comfortable, and in that process, I struggled a lot. There's nothing more that I want to empower than non-binary people, to show that it's possible to be non-binary on Broadway, play a non-binary character on Broadway and be nominated, and possibly potentially awarded. I felt like I couldn't choose. I didn't feel right being in either category because it didn't resonate with me. I decided the only thing that felt right to me would be to abstain from nomination consideration." Justin added, "I hope that award shows across the industry will expand their reach to be able to honor and award people of all gender identities".

The Tony people issued a statement of their own: "We recognize that the current acting categories are not fully inclusive, and we are currently in discussion about how to best adjust them to address this. Unfortunately, we are still in process on this and our rules do not allow us to make changes once a season has begun. We are working thoughtfully to ensure that no member of our community feel excluded in future seasons." If one is to make a change, there are only two possibilities—make more separate categories, or lump them all together. Since I don't approve of either option, I'm abstaining from future nominations.

Which leads to a perennial question: does an actor have to be gay to play a gay part? **Adam Lambert** thinks so. He was not happy to hear that sexy **Theo James** (from "White Lotus") is being considered to play **George Michael**. "Yay another straight man playing a gay icon," Lambert posted on Instagram. Of course, that makes the assumption that Theo James is straight—something I'm not willing to do. While at the Sundance Film Festival promoting his feature film debut in "Fairyland", Adam was asked to elaborate on his post. Suddenly, he was singing a different tune. "I think my comment in no way suggests that I feel straight actors can't play gay roles, because I think they do it really well." What caused the about-face? The lead in "Fairyland" is a gay character. And the role is played by Scoot McNairy—who, despite his name, happens to be straight!

Could it be that someone in this column has been showing up at some discreet "house parties"? While most of the guests find him repulsive, he is willing to share party favors. Still, it ain't so pretty when you awaken and realize what you've done...and with whom! If you think that's gross, wait till you see the video!!

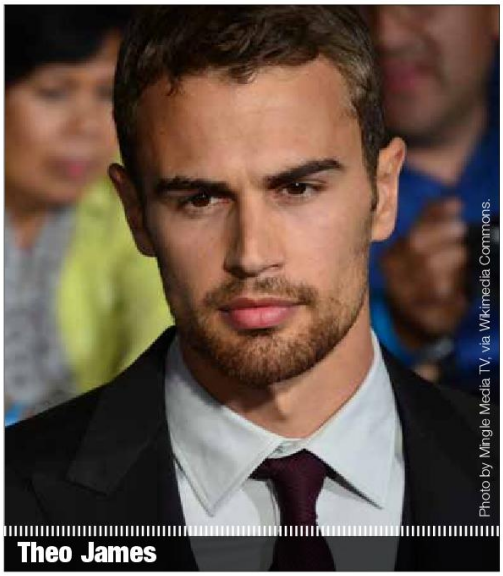
When I'm asking you to turn off the dark, it's definitely time to end yet another column. We ran long, so I barely have time to tell you to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that likes to keep you guessing. But I'll also answer questions, so write to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Armie comes near me with a condom wrapper! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Photo by Keith Allison, via Wikimedia Commons.

**Derek Jeter**

Photo by Billions, official YouTube channel, via Wikimedia Commons.

**Asia Kate Dillon**



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**Theo James**

## MPAC

*Continued from page 1*

have functioned as full parents with the consent of the legal parent, are not treated as equal parents under the law. And overall, there are standards in need of clarification and precedents in need of codification so that courts can have greater consistency and efficiency in establishing parentage claims. Massachusetts is now the only New England state that has not comprehensively reformed its parentage laws to account for the diversity of family forms today.

An Act to Ensure Legal Parentage Equality (HD.2348/SD.1088), also known as the Massachusetts Parentage Act (MPA), was filed at the end of January by lead House sponsors Rep. Sarah Peake and Rep. Hannah Kane and lead Senate sponsors Senator Julian Cyr and Senator Bruce Tarr. The bill clearly asserts who can be a parent and the many ways to establish parentage; clarifies that a de facto parent has equal rights and responsibilities to any other type of parent; removes gendered language from parentage statutes; and adds protections for children born through assisted reproduction, including surrogacy. It also expands access to Voluntary Acknowledgments of Parentage (VAPs), simple, free forms that can be completed at the hospital immediately after a birth to establish legal parentage.

The MPA is based on the 2017 Uniform Parentage Act (UPA), model parentage legislation developed by the Uniform Law Commission, a non-partisan body of state lawmakers, judges, scholars, and lawyers. Several states have already adopted provisions of the UPA, including Connecticut, which enacted a comprehensive update to its parentage laws in 2021, and Maine, which in 2021 extended VAPs to LGBTQ parents.

A version of the MPA introduced last session had bipartisan support and gained a hearing before the Legislature's Joint Committee on the Judiciary in November 2021, where legal and child welfare experts, LGBTQ advocates, children of LGBTQ parents, and LGBTQ parents testified to the need for updating parentage law. It was, however, unable to move to the next stage of the legislative process during a busy legislative session.

The MPA Coalition, led by LGBTQ legal advocacy group GLAD and fertility education and advocacy group Resolve New England, now includes more than 40 legal, health care, social service, and LGBTQ organizations. Those endorsing the bill last session also included the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office under now-Governor Maura Healey, the City of Boston, the Boston Globe Editorial Board, and Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.

In an e-mail to supporters on February 1, the coalition said it is "more determined than ever" to pass the bill. It is now urging Massachusetts residents to ask their state representatives and senators to co-sponsor the MPA and encourages people to visit its website at massparentage.com to find tools for doing so, to learn more, and to see how else they can get involved.

## Pope

*Continued from page 1*

ments to the AP.

"If he (Pope Francis) is coming here and he tells us that marriage of the same sex, homosexuality, is legal, we will say no," Michael Makuei Lueth, South Sudan's information minister, said after the pope's AP interview and before his visit.

On Sunday, Francis referred to his Jan. 24 comments to the AP and repeated that such laws are "unjust." He also repeated previous comments that parents should never throw their gay children out of the house.

"To condemn someone like this is a sin," he said. "Criminalizing people with homosexual tendencies is an injustice."

"People with homosexual tendencies are children of God. God Loves them. God accompanies them," he added.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recalled that LGBTQ rights were very much on the agenda of the Church of England, and said he would quote the pope's own words when the issue is discussed at the church's upcoming General Synod.

"I wish I had spoken as eloquently and clearly as the pope. I entirely agree with every word he said," Welby said.

Recently, the Church of England decided to allow blessings for same-sex civil marriages but said same-sex couples could not marry in its churches. The Vatican forbids both gay marriage and blessings for same-sex unions.

Catholic teaching holds that gay people must be treated with dignity and respect, but that homosexual acts are "intrinsically disordered."

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