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LGBTQ Families: Setting a Good Example

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

More than 420 anti-LGBTQ bills have been filed in state legislatures this session, according to the ACLU. Many are being framed as promoting "parents' rights" and protecting children—but the reality, and the hypocrisy of the bills' supporters, is far different.

On March 15th, the Kentucky legislature passed a bill originally intended to ban school curricula on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, (i.e., a "Don't Say Gay/LGBTQ" bill). It included provisions about notifying parents and allowing them to opt their children out of sexual education lessons, and affirmed that no student information would be kept from parents (which many LG-

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 4*

Wellesley College students call for admission of trans men

By Mark Pratt
Associated Press

A fierce debate at Wellesley College over who should be admitted to the women's school has intensified with students approving a referendum to allow the admission of transgender men and nonbinary people who do not identify and live as women.

While Tuesday's vote is nonbinding and the administration has already said it has no plans to change its current admissions policy, the issue has roiled the campus just west of Boston.

College president Paula Johnson, senior leadership and trustees acknowledged the vote in a statement and said, "the college will continue to engage all students, including transgender male

see **WELLESLEY COLLEGE,** *page 3*

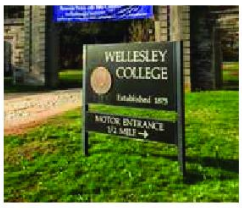

Photo by Todd Van Hoosear, via Wikimedia Commons.

Wellesley College won't admit trans men

by Rev. Irene Monroe
contributing writer

Wellesley College students voted overwhelmingly to pass the Gender Inclusivity Ballot Question, allowing transgender men and nonbinary people who were assigned male at birth to be eligible for admission. Also, the Ballot Question requested the language used at the college be inclusive of its nonbinary and transgender students, thereby bridging the communication gap over gender-inclusive language between the administration and the student body. The college agreed to train and teach its staff and faculty about gender identity and pronoun use. However, the college administration's position on admitting trans men flatly stated, "there is no plan to change

see **MONROE,** *page 2*

New Hampshire Senate passes GOP—backed parents' rights bill

The New Hampshire Statehouse. photo by AlexiusHoratius, via Wikimedia Commons.

By Holly Ramer
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — A "parents' bill of rights" that critics say is designed to target transgender youth passed New Hampshire's Republican-led Senate on Thursday.

Much of the debate among lawmakers focused on provisions to require school officials, when asked by parents, to disclose that a child is using a differ-

see **NEW HAMPSHIRE,** *page 5*

Boston is getting a new gay bar

By Rachel Andriacchi

A new location for queer-centric nightlife, Dani's Queer Bar, will be coming to Boston according to LGBTQ Nightlife Events' Jan. 8 announcement.

"LGBTQ Nightlife Events really started post-pandemic," Co-Founder Thais Rocha said in an interview. "We used to have events prior to that, but they were really all over the place. Post-pandemic it really became more of a serious matter."

Since announcing Dani's Queer Bar, its Instagram account has gained nearly 4,000 followers.

Rocha shared that the bar will be located somewhere on Boylston Street in the Back Bay On Jan. 28 at LGBTQ Nightlife Events' 18+ Sapphic Nights event at the House of Blues Boston.

see **DANI'S QUEER BAR,** *page 7*

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Monroe

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Wellesley's admissions policy or its mission as a women's college."

Wellesley is one of the premier women's colleges in the country with noted alums like First Lady of the Republic of China, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, filmmaker Nora Ephron, television broadcast journalist Diane Sawyer, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and 2016 Presidential candidate Hilary Clinton, to name a few. However, Wellesley, like the few remaining women's colleges in this 21st century, will have to rethink its mission—"to provide an excellent liberal arts education to women who will make a difference in the world"—in a society that no longer adheres to the traditional gender binary of male and female.

Today more people are identifying as transgender and nonbinary. According to a 2022 Pew Research Center, American young adults under 30 are more likely to identify as transgender or nonbinary than older adults, underscoring changing gender norms. And 44 percent of Americans now say they personally know at least one person who is transgender, and 20 percent know someone nonbinary, underscoring these are not invisible demographic groups in society any longer, especially on college campuses these days.

College should be a safe space and atmosphere that engenders a positive sense of self for all students, which is the basis of educational achievement and personal growth. Too often, transgender students on college campuses have to cope with being misgendered, and non-binary students have to cope with the annoyance of gender binary labeling. I cannot imagine what it must feel like for transgender and nonbinary students to evolve into their authentic selves at Wellesley and not be acknowledged or affirmed, and how "the College's use of the words "women" and "alumnae" -and feel that their individual identities are not embraced."

However, as an African American lesbian, I do know what it is like to feel uncertain in a space as an individual and part of an identity group and be made invisible or erased because of—intentional or unintentional—institutional and cultural biases, like the Black Church and black community.

I, too, am a Wellesley College graduate. I was a student there when it was academically and socially unsafe to be openly lesbian. Because of both— intentional and unintentional—institutional and cultural biases, I stayed closeted for fear of stigmatization and discrimination. I didn't want to be disrespected or treated as an unvalued and unwelcome part of the college community. I remember those years as if they were yesterday. When I returned to Wellesley College as a Head-of-House, much had changed since my undergraduate years. For example, the freshman class was now called first-year students, and House Mothers, who were administrators of dormitories, were now called Heads-of- House. Having African American Heads-of-House was no longer unbelievable because I was one, and so, too, was Michelle Porche.

In 1991 as the Head-of-House at Stone-Davis dormitories, the country had evolved further in understanding the fluidity of gender identities and sexual orientations, and the college took a giant step in hiring two out lesbians to run dormitories—Porche, a graduate student at the Harvard School of Education, and me, a doctoral student at Harvard Divinity. Porche arrived on campus with her white live-in partner, and some disdained interracial couples. I came with my mixed-breed dog, Heaven.

Our hiring was controversial. The Campus Life section of The New York Times that year wrote, "To the administration, it was a "great step forward" to hire a lesbian with a live-in partner as a head-of-house, but not a good idea to assign her to a dorm with a lot of first-year students" in the article "Wellesley; Counselor's Switch Prompts a Debate About Gay Rights." Wellesley survived our hiring, the then Board of Trustees didn't disband, and alums who threatened to withhold their donations didn't.

The idea of admitting trans men is controversial, too. However, one of Wellesley's values is gender equality. "As a women's college, we have always been committed to gender equality as foundational to societal progress," it states on the college website.

In an open letter to the Wellesley College Community titled "Affirming our mission and embracing our community," President Paula A. Johnson wrote, "Wellesley is a women's college that admits cis, trans, and nonbinary students—all who consistently identify as women. Wellesley is also an inclusive community that embraces students, alumnae, faculty, and

see **MONROE,** *page 3*

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Wellesley College

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and nonbinary students, in the important work of building an inclusive academic community where everyone feels they belong."

Wellesley's current policy allows for the admission of students who live and identify as women, and since 2017 the school has admitted transgender women.

Johnson in a March 6 email to the campus community expressed support for the current policy, writing that it aligns with the college's long term mission of providing "an excellent liberal arts education to women who will make a difference in the world."

The school, with about 2,500 students that counts Madeleine Albright, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Diane Sawyer among its alums, will continue to be "a women's college that admits cis, trans and nonbinary students—all who consistently identify as women," she wrote, while promising to support the entire diversity of the campus community.

But the email sparked a backlash, in part because nonbinary people do not strictly identify as male or female.

The editorial board at the student newspaper, The Wellesley News, wrote on March 8 that "we disapprove of and entirely disagree with President Johnson's email."

Hundreds of faculty, staff and alumni signed an open letter to Johnson and the trustees supporting the student referendum.

"We find it frankly offensive to suggest that Wellesley's long and valuable tradition of advocacy for women could be undermined by extending the most basic institutional courtesies and protections to trans and nonbinary students," the letter said.

Sexual Health Educators, a peer sex education group that supports the presence of trans lives on campus, in a statement said it was "outraged" by Johnson's email.

Johnson's message "carries with it an implication that the administration believes students who do not align themselves with womanhood do not belong on this campus," the organization said.

Co-editors-in-chief of the student newspaper, Andreea Sabau and and Micol J. Zhai, said in a separate statement Wednesday that the administration's response to the referendum was inconsistent with the college's values.

"We are disappointed at college administrators' refusal to listen to student voices, especially in the face of mounting attacks against trans rights across the United States," they said. "This decision stands in opposition to Wellesley's founding values, which encourage students to 'make a difference in the world.' "

While the college did not release vote counts or percentages of the referendum, which also asked administrators to use nongendered language in its communications, such as using "students" or "alumni" instead of "women," Sabau and Zhai said the student support was overwhelming, with an exit poll showing more than 90% supported it.

Johnson and Trustees Chair Debora de Hoyos were not available for comment, a school spokesperson said.

Wellesley is not the first women's college to engage in a debate over transgender admissions, said Genny Beemyn, who uses they/them pronouns and is director of the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, a resource group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

"This has definitely been an issue at other women's colleges," they said.

Of 28 women's colleges Beemyn tracks in an online database, just three admit transgender men, including Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

The Wellesley administration is likely fighting a losing battle, Beemyn said.

"I imagine the Wellesley students will continue to protest, and at some point the administration will change their policy," they said.

Monroe

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staff of diverse gender identities. I believe the two ways of seeing Wellesley are not mutually exclusive. Rather, this is who we are: a women's college and a diverse community."

Wellesley College was founded in 1870- five years after the Civil War and 50 years before women were allowed to vote—with the understanding that "women," as defined in that era, were a marginalized group and should have access to higher education. As women, we are a marginalized group still today. And, so, too, are transgender and nonbinary students.

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Fresh water from an old well

The struggle to live by our national creed

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

The International Criminal Court last week issued a warrant for the arrest of Vladimir Putin for war crimes in Ukraine. That's nice, except the U.S. does not recognize the court. Maybe we could make an exception and arrest Putin when he comes to America next year to give the keynote speech at the Republican National Convention. (I am just guessing.)

Setting aside foreign despots, Donald Trump could be arrested before you read this. He has urged his supporters to "protest, take our nation back!"—which need not worry you unless you're a police officer assigned to protect the courthouse in New York City where he would appear.

The twilight of our republic looms when a major political party regards beating up cops in defense of a wannabe dictator as the highest form of patriotism.

On the bright side, our former grifter in chief has avoided prosecution for a long time. His luck may be running out at long last.

This, however, avoids dealing with America's dark underbelly—the ugly sentiments with a long pedigree to which the twice-impeached former president appealed and still does.

Just as there is not a finite number of marriage licenses, there is no limit to the number of journeys and stories that can inspire us, unless we stop our ears and arbitrarily insist that only one demographic group can win and all others must be subordinated to it.

Our diverse views and interests cannot be understood as stark dualities. They fall along a spectrum. Our politics cannot be reduced to far right versus far left. It is not accurate to portray every progressive as part of a "woke mob," nor to claim that both parties pose an equal threat. Only the far right tried to overthrow our government.

Republican rhetoric notwithstanding, neither Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez nor Ilhan Omar was Speaker of the House in the last Congress. President Biden's legislative accomplishments were and are broadly popular.

The right pretends that Democrats are all radical socialists. The traditional definition of socialism is collective ownership of the means of production. Most Democrats do not support that. We want capitalism with guardrails, and we support social welfare programs. That is not socialism even if you scream it from now til doomsday.

Trump has claimed that Democrats want to turn America into Venezuela. There is considerably more evidence that Trump wants to turn America into Hungary or North Korea. Trump in the White House again would be bent on revenge and destruction of our constitutional republic. You don't have to believe me; just listen to Liz Cheney. A President DeSantis would likely be worse, since he is vicious and ruthless but not insane.

The problem for the GOP is not that Americans have abandoned the free markets Republicans have long championed, but that those markets are increasingly diverse and are challenging the exclusive control long taken for granted by white males.

The equality our Founders raised as a guiding principle was never meant to apply, for example, to the more than six hundred human beings owned by the man who wrote the most liberating words in history—the people whose unrequited toil supported Mr. Jefferson's wealth and lifestyle on Monticello.

The Enlightenment values that stirred pride in many of us as children have always had a gaping hole through which millions of Americans have fallen since our nation's birth, whose descendants are being targeted anew for erasure in our textbooks as we approach our semiquincentennial in 2026.

The white nationalism that calls itself Christian despite bearing no resemblance to the teachings in the Gospel—like feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and welcoming the stranger—is designed to exclude large portions of our population from the freedoms that demagogues like DeSantis endlessly crow about.

An answer presents itself if we would only open our eyes and look. The younger generation confidently insists on being granted the birthright of equality that our na-

see **ROSENDALL,** *page 5*

Mombian

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BTQ advocates fear will lead to LGBTQ students being outed). It also said that teachers and students may ignore a student's chosen pronouns if they do not conform to the student's "biological sex."

As if that wasn't bad enough, several additional vicious anti-trans provisions were added at the last minute and the bill was rushed to a vote. The legislation is now not only a "Don't Say Gay/LGBTQ" bill, but also bans gender-affirming care for trans youth, prohibits trans children from using bathrooms or locker rooms consistent with their gender identities, and more. It also states that if a child is already using puberty blockers or hormone therapy, a health care provider may "systematically" reduce them if stopping them immediately would cause harm—ignoring the harm that even a gradual decrease would cause.

That's right: The same bill that expresses concern about parents having full knowledge and control over what their children learn and do in school also rips away the ability of parents with trans children to direct their health care and means LGBTQ parents will never see their families in the curriculum. Governor Andy Beshear (D) is widely expected to veto it, but the Republican-led legislature could override him.

Across the country, other anti-LGBTQ bills are variously attempting to ban affirming healthcare for transgender youth, stop trans youths from playing on sports teams consistent with their gender identities, deny trans people access to bathrooms consistent with their gender identities, ban LGBTQ-inclusive curricula and books in schools, and allow discrimination against LGBTQ people in adoption, foster care, and marriage, among other things.

Yet a new analysis of research on children of LGBTQ parents has found that the very things these bills are promoting lead to poorer outcomes for children and families. The paper, by researchers in China and the United States, is a peer-reviewed synthesis of 16 previous studies, mostly from Western Europe and North America, that "compared family outcomes between sexual minority and heterosexual families" in countries and regions where same-sex relationships were legalized. "Family outcomes" included children's development, education, and substance use; parental mental health, stress, and relationship satisfaction; family functioning and social support; parent-school relationships; and more. ("Family outcome disparities between sexual minority and heterosexual families: a systematic review and meta-analysis," Zhang Y, Huang H, Wang M, et al., BMJ Global Health 2023;8:e010556.)

The researchers concluded that "most of the family outcomes are similar between sexual minority and heterosexual families, and sexual minority families have even better outcomes in some domains," More specifically, they found "better psychological adjustment in children raised by sexual minorities, especially in preschool age children," which "may be due to better preparedness in the face of strong anti-gay stigma" and "more egalitarian parenting roles." Children with LGBTQ parents may also be "more tolerant of diversity and more nurturing towards younger children." Many previous studies have concluded essentially the same, but most were done before legal relationship recognition became widely accessible; this new study confirms that the conclusions hold after relationship recognition, too.

At the same time, the researchers remind us, "Sexual minority families may experience some additional stressors related to their sexual minority status. Community context and climate have an impact on the health and well-being of sexual minority parents and their children." They identified various social risk factors, such as stigma, discrimination, and poor social support, which can lead to poor family outcomes. They also suggested what might lead to better outcomes for LGBTQ families, including marriage equality; establishing diverse pathways to parenthood; prohibiting discrimination in adoption and employment; raising public awareness and understanding of LGBTQ families; promoting inclusive public facilities; preventing anti-LGBTQ stigma, discrimination, and bullying in schools; and providing school curricula on gender identity and sexual orientation.

The wave of anti-LGBTQ bills, as well as recent court rulings such as ones in Oklahoma and Pennsylvania that took away parentage from two nonbiological queer mothers, emphasize the detrimental factors above and hinder the positive. At the same time, we see that some of the practices used by many LGBTQ parents—like more egalitarian parenting roles, being more tolerant of diversity, and preparing our kids for challenges—can help our children do particularly well and may offer useful examples for all families (though we should never pressure ourselves or our children to achieve perfection). Additionally, I have rarely seen greater examples of devoted parents than those standing up right now for their transgender kids. Instead of being persecuted, our families should be emulated.

It's going to be a rocky few months as bills continue to percolate through state legislatures. We LGBTQ parents and parents of LGBTQ children need to keep telling our stories (if we safely can), writing to our elected officials, speaking out, and making it crystal clear that our children and our parental rights matter, too. Ultimately, not only our children, but all children, will benefit.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, plus a searchable database of 1200+ LGBTQ family books.

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New Hampshire

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ent name or being referred to as being a different gender.

Supporters said the bill would strengthen family relationships, while opponents argued it violates the constitutional right to privacy and the state's anti-discrimination laws.

Many states with Republican-controlled legislatures have enacted similar measures, fueled by some parents' frustration with schools that boiled over during the coronavirus pandemic. And in the U.S. House, a parents' rights bill was the first legislation that House Speaker Kevin McCarthy formally announced — fulfilling a major part of last year's GOP campaign platform.

New Hampshire Sen. Donovan Fenton, a Democrat from Keene, said the bill approved Thursday "will further drive the transphobic and homophobic narrative that has begun to infiltrate our state from national interest groups."

"The attacks and targeting of the LGBTQ+ community has increased across the country, and New Hampshire is no exception to that," he said.

The state Senate bill was approved 14-10 along party lines and now goes to the 40-member House, which has a razor-thin Republican majority.

"We must value and support the loving relationships that exist in our New Hampshire families," said Sen. Denise Ricciardi, a Bedford Republican. "Senate Bill 272 stands up for truth, for love, for family."

Bradford Republican Sen. Dan Innis, who is gay, said if a student is "visibly transitioning at school or is visibly gay," parents should hear that from teachers, not gossipy neighbors.

"I think this bill will create a situation where it's less likely that a student will be outed by his or her peers, and more likely that it will happen in a way that supports that child," he said. "I can tell you at age 13, I, too, was very confused, and parental support would have been very helpful."

But Democrats pushed back, questioning who determines what is "visibly gay."

"That is not the job of the teacher to determine for the individual. That's information for the individual to reveal or not reveal, when they are ready and when they are comfortable," said Sen. Becky Whitley, a Hopkinton Democrat. "Who gets to decide when someone is moving towards a different gender based on clothes, or just likes pink?"

The New Hampshire House, which is considering its own parental rights legislation, killed a similar bill last year after Republican Gov. Chris Sununu promised to veto it. He hasn't taken a position on the new bills.

The House had been set to vote Thursday on a bill that would require multi-stall bathrooms and locker rooms in public K-12 schools to be same-sex, but it was tabled over concerns about building codes.

Rosendall

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tion has long claimed as its creed.

This fresh water from an old well is exemplified by charismatic state representative Malcolm Kenyatta of Philadelphia. He is the subject of a new documentary film, "Kenyatta: Do Not Wait Your Turn," covering his profile-raising campaign for the US Senate last year, and his loving marriage to Dr. Matthew Jordan-Miller Kenyatta.

The opportunities facing us are too great, and the threats too serious, for us to be complacent. We must seize the moment, daring to see and be inspired by one another and electing leaders to serve our vision. As Kenyatta says, do not wait your turn.

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

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"I'm sure I've gotten a blow job from a guy before. For sure. I don't know if it's gay unless you make eye contact while there's a blow job happening."

—**DJ Diplo** answers a question about having gay sex, which leads to a completely different question. Where is Diplo that he cannot keep track of who is sucking his dick? Unless he's at one of "those" places.

Idris Elba recently made a statement: "Me saying I don't like to call myself a black actor is my prerogative. That's me, not you. So for you to turn around and say to me, I'm 'denying my blackness,' on what grounds? Did you hear that? Where am I denying it? And what for? It's just stupid." I identified with this. Back in the 90s, most gay clubs had a "gay comedy night", and trust me when I say most of those other "gay comedians" were not very funny. I told one interviewer that I was just a comedian—being gay had nothing to do with it. There are loads of gay men who've had sex with me and never laughed once. To be fair, their mouths were otherwise occupied.

One of the most brilliant comedians around is **Judy Gold**—and she happens to be a member of the LGBT-whatever community. Back in 2020, I kvelled about her book "Yes, I Can Say That"—subtitled "When They Come for the Comedians, We Are All in Trouble". At the time, the war on free speech from the stage was eerily prophetic. Alas, in these divisive times, it's more relevant than ever, which is why she's adapted it for the stage. "Yes, I Can Say That!" is opening off-Broadway at the 59E59 Theatre on March 21st. We planned to have Judy back on "Billy Masters LIVE" but, needless to say, her schedule is a bit full. She'll turn up sooner or later, but you should go to JudyGold.com and grab tix for her show sooner since it closes on April 16th.

I didn't mention this last week, but I'm mad at the Academy Awards all over again. Last year, they let **Will Smith** sit there without any repercussions for his actions. This year, it was Tems and her big white dress. As someone who has been to the Oscars, lemme tell you I would not be having it. You would not see me poking my head up from behind her tule—I would have pushed it down! Of course, I'd probably be the one thrown out.

I've been asked repeatedly if the denials that **Lady Gaga** would perform at the Oscars were just the Academy misleading us. Nope. Gaga turned down the opportunity to sing her Oscar-nominated ditty due to the filming demands of "Joker—Folie à Deux". She still planned to attend, but felt being rushed would not allow her to give a performance up to her standards. I'm told that it was the personal call from Oscars' producer **Glenn Weiss** and the idea of a stripped down rendition which led to what you saw. Apparently stripped down also meant hosed down.

Lukas Gage recently gave a lengthy interview to "The New York Times" where he scuttled questions about his relationship with celebrity hairdresser, **Chris Appleton**—but invited the speculation. Then the twosome showed up a deux at the Vanity Fair Oscar party. In case there were any lingering questions, Chris told **Drew Barrymore**, "I'm very happy. Very much in love. And I feel very grateful to be able to share my time with someone very special. Love is a really special thing and I think meeting someone that you really connect with is really, really special." He then showed the infamous Mexico pics and identified Lukas by name. Asked and answered.

Given recent events, I predict that **Cher** will re-release one of her classics: "Romanis, Tramps and Thieves".

The original Broadway cast of the musical "Ragtime" will reunite on March 27th for a one-night-only benefit for the Entertainment Community Fund, formerly known as The Actors Fund (how long will we have to reference its better-known name?). One of the participants will be **Lea Michele**, who was in the original cast as "Little Girl". Obviously she will be appearing in a different role. I believe "Little Girl" will now be played by **Barbra Streisand**.

A BBC reporter is in hot water after being filmed in a taxi and not wearing a seatbelt. Before anyone asks, I always wear a seatbelt—even when having sex in the car. You can never be too safe.

Aussie actor **Ingo Rademacher** claims that ABC didn't fire him from "General Hospital" because he refused to get vaccinated; it was because he endorsed **Donald Trump**. You know how to prove you're right? Get vaxxed!

And now, my favorite story of the week. I met the striking and sexy **Forbes March** through **Jerry verDorn** many years ago. I haven't thought of the former soap stud in eons, but he returned to the headlines last week after being arrested for stealing used cooking oil! Oh, yes—you read correctly. I must confess, I know nothing about used cooking oil, except I believe **Willie Nelson** uses it to fuel his Winnebago. We're told March purchased a used oil collection route to help supplement his income. He was seen siphoning used oil out of a container at a diner in Ulster, New York. Problem is that oil was earmarked for a competitor. March's attorney claims that the container was improperly marked and that it "appeared abandoned and contained mostly dirty rainwater." So, Forbes was stealing rainwater? The pilfered amount of oil has a street value of $1,000. His main business is a firewood delivery company, and I would be mighty happy to pay Forbes March $1K to deliver wood to me anytime.

The Osundairo brothers are back in the news. You remember them—the Nigerian bodybuilders who were allegedly hired by **Jussie Smollett** to stage a racial hate crime. FOX Nation has a 5-part docu series called "Jussie Smollett: Anatomy of a Hoax", and the buff boys are happy to tell all. While I do not have FOX Nation (for obvious reasons), I was shocked to see the bros reenact the crime on the streets of Chicago! My favorite part is when they say Jussie directed the sequence to include him fighting back. "Hey, don't just beat my ass—make it look like I'm fighting back and whatnot." When they recreate what they did with Jussie's ass in that gay bathhouse, call me.

Hot ass play leads to this week's "Ask Billy" question. Robert from DC writes: *"Wow! It looks like **David Geffin** (sic) just married one of the hottest men on this planet! Got any nudes of **Donovan Michaels**?"*

Well, who doesn't? I guess many of you—because this was a very popular question. While the nuptials haven't been confirmed by the happy couple, here's a tidbit that the mainstream press has missed—Donovan Michaels is gay porn actor **Brandon Foster**, who worked for Randy Blue. I don't believe he's done any celluloid stuff in close to a decade, but at the time he was billed as a "power top" – quelle surprise! Of course, the 80-year-old Geffen was previously linked with gay porn pup **Justin Matthews**, who was known for a similar specialty. You know what I always say—stick with what you know. And if you'd like to see him stick it in, check out BillyMasters.com.

When Donovan can carry Geffen across the threshold without using his hands, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And a pretty racy one at that. What can I say? I know my audience, because you're all checking out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that is always safe. If you have a favorite position, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Keanu sues for palimony (a nod to our very first column). So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

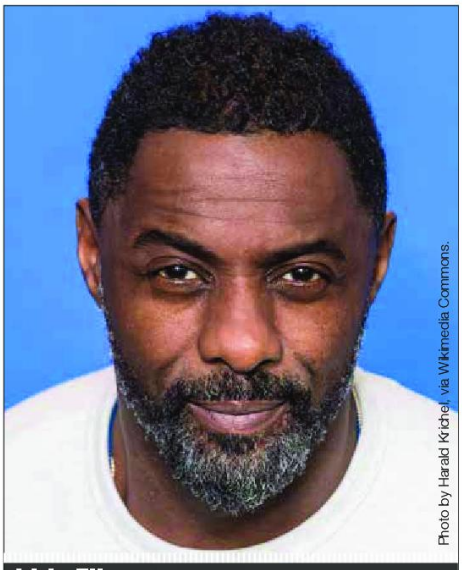

Photo by Harald Krichel, via Wikimedia Commons.

Idris Elba

Photo via Barbra Streisand Facebook

Barbra Streisand

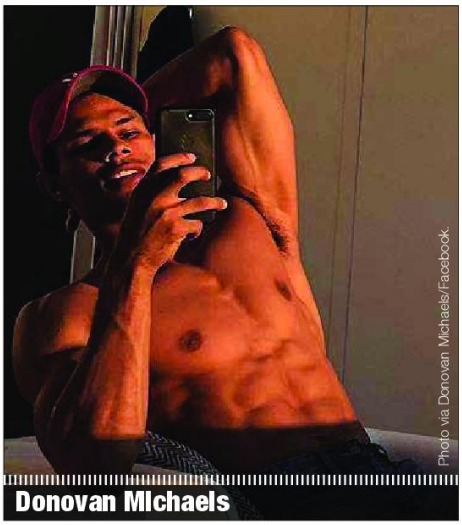

Photo via Donovan Michaels/Facebook

Donovan Michaels

Dani's Queer Bar

Continued from page 1

It was "not quite the announcement that I wanted to make, but legalities put us where we are right now," Rocha explained. She said that LGBTQ Nightlife Events is in the process of finalizing the lease details, which was anticipated to be completed by the end of February.

Dani's Queer Bar initially aimed to open by March. "We don't want to keep delaying it," Rocha said. There has not since been any information about the bar's opening date or location.

Renovations will be ongoing as the bar opens. "What we plan on doing is what we call, instead of a renovation, a beautification," Rocha explained. "We're going to make it pretty–give it a new coat of paint, clean it up, and dress it up the best we can. Hopefully, with it doing well, we can give it the proper renovations it needs and make it an even nicer place."

The amount of open gay bars in the United States has decreased significantly over the last 15 years, including the loss of Fenway's own Machine Night Club, which closed its doors as lockdowns for the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"We hope to see more [queer bars]," Rocha stated. "I don't see it as competition–it's about creating spaces for the community. We look around and we see thousands of bars for straight people–why can't we have the same thing?"

There are less than 30 open lesbian bars in the United States, according to The Lesbian Bar Project. Massachusetts recently saw the opening of another queer women's bar, Femme, in Worcester's Canal District on March 10.

LGBTQ Nightlife Events has made it their mission to open Boston's "first queer bar for women and non-binary LGBTQ+ community members who feel like [they] have no place."

"All the gay spaces we have now, they're great," said Rocha. "But you look around and all you see is gay men. Which is fine, it's fun, but it's not somewhere you can go and see a sea of people that look like you in one way or another."

In Rocha's opinion, there are not enough spaces for women and nonbinary queer people. "It's important to have these spaces because people will be able to look around and see different generations of the community. We hope we can offer that," she said.

Rocha emphasized that LGBTQ Nightlife Events intend to keep all of their events, including Sapphic Nights, Issa Vibe QTBIPOC Mixer, Pity Party, and more. "Dani's is really just about having our home bar," she said.

"The 18+ crowd," as Rocha described it, will still be catered to. "There are limitations with that in terms of what we can do with the liquor license." LGBTQ Nightlife Events will continue to work with venues such as the House of Blues and the Paradise Rock Club for 18+ events.

LGBTQ Nightlife Events are working out what security systems at a smaller venue will look like. This has become a community effort, Rocha explained. She has talked to guests and patrons about what forms of security would make them feel most comfortable. "We don't want to focus safety around cops," she said.

Those interested in learning more are encouraged to message Rocha via LGBTQ Nightlife Events' website contact form: https://lgbtqnightlifeevents.com/contact

As Bay Windows went to press, Dani's Queer Bar posted this:

We are in the final stages of opening Dani's Queer Bar and will have more updates as it becomes available.

We will no longer be hosting events at Vera's in Somerville for reasons beyond our control.

That's why events like Sapphic Nights at the House of Blues, Yacht parties, everything in between and your donations will help us cross the finish line!

In the meantime Pity Party is still on at the Union Tavern in Somerville every second Saturday .

Our goal is to be open June 1st.

We love and appreciate each and every one of you. Thank you for your continued support!

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