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## Federal Bill Uses Old Fears to Try and Ban All LGBTQ+ Books and Programs in Schools

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com  
contributing writer

As a queer mom who started my family via assisted reproduction in a doctor's office, I'm tired of my son being exposed at school to stories of heterosexual families, most of whom were created via sexual intercourse. I'm uncomfortable having conversations with him about sex yet, and I don't want him to end up in therapy

for being exposed to such topics at a tender age.

Ridiculous? Yes (and to be clear, satire). But that's the attitude, in reverse, that some people have towards LGBTQ+ people: that talking about us requires talking about sex. That false viewpoint, furthermore, is driving a federal bill that would ban

books, activities, and programs that mention trans people—and potentially all LGBTQ+ people—from K-12 public schools nationwide.

U.S. Representative Mary Miller (R-IL) and 17 Republican colleagues introduced the "Stop the Sexual-

see MOMBIAN, page 7

## Boston Pride Parade and Festival Set for June 6

By Bay Windows Staff

Boston's largest LGBTQ+ celebration will take place Saturday, June 6, 2026, when Boston Pride For The People hosts its annual Pride Parade and Festival.

The event, which drew more than one million attendees in 2025, will take place one week earlier than usual this year to accommodate World Cup activities scheduled in Boston the following weekend, organizers said.

The parade will begin in Copley Square, travel through the South End and Back Bay, and end at Boston Common, where an all-ages concert and fes-

tival will be held.

"This June will be full of excitement in Boston and we are thrilled to kick things off one week earlier than usual as we host the largest pride event in New England for the fourth consecutive year," Boston Pride For The People President Adrianna Boulin said in a press release.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, also quoted in the release, said the celebration reflects the city's long history of supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

"The City of Boston has long celebrated love, resilience, and belonging,"

see BOSTON PRIDE, page 4

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



## Shirley Chisholm Was My Congresswoman

by Rev. Irene Monroe  
contributing writer

During Women's History Month I pay homage to all women, but especially my sistahs. When Maya Angelou wrote her famous 1978 poem *Still I Rise*, she reminded us Black women that we come from a long lineage of movers and shakers—women who triumphed not in spite of their challenges, but because of them.

The profound contributions of Black women to American society were also acknowledged by Barack Obama in his keynote address at the

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 45th Annual Legislative Conference in 2015. He reminded the audience that all of us are beneficiaries of a long line of strong Black women who helped carry this country forward. One of those remarkable women—and someone I personally knew—was my congresswoman, Shirley Chisholm (D-NY), who helped form my activism.

see MONROE, page 2



Shirley Chisholm. Photo by Adam Eerden, public domain.

## Civil Rights Group Raises Alarm Over Anti-LGBTQ+ Bullying in Massachusetts High School Hockey



Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie on 'Heated Rivalry'. Photo by Sabrina Lantos/HBO Max.

By Bay Windows Staff

A Boston civil-rights organization is calling on state officials to investigate what it says is a rise in anti-LGBTQ+ bullying in Massachusetts high school hockey programs.

In a March 3 letter to the Massachusetts Attorney General, the group Lawyers for Civil Rights said it has received

a growing number of complaints from student-athletes describing harassment connected to school hockey teams.

The organization wrote that "in recent weeks, we have observed a noticeable spike" in bullying and harassment in school-affiliated hockey programs, particularly targeting students "who

see HOCKEY, page 7

## Harvard's Schlesinger Library Acquires Papers of Black Lesbian Feminist Pioneer Barbara Smith

By Bay Windows Staff

The Schlesinger Library at Harvard Radcliffe Institute has acquired the papers of Black lesbian feminist writer, activist, and publisher Barbara Smith, according to an announcement from the institute.

Smith is widely recognized as a pio-

neering voice in Black feminism and Black LGBTQ+ political thought, and her work helped shape modern conversations about race, gender, sexuality, and intersectionality.

"Barbara Smith is a remarkably influential American scholar and activist—one who deserves far greater recognition than she has ever received," Harvard Radcliffe Institute Dean

Tomiko Brown-Nagin said in the announcement. She said the collection will be made available to students, researchers, and the public with support from the Mellon Foundation.

Smith participated in the civil rights movement as a high school student, later helped teach some of

see SMITH, page 5

"Sean Penn couldn't be here this evening or didn't want to. So I'll be accepting the award on his behalf."

— Kieran Culkin accepts Penn's Best Supporting Actor Oscar. Look, he was married to Madonna and Robin Wright Penn—hasn't he suffered enough?



Photo by Bryan Berlin, via Wikimedia Commons.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### Monroe

*Continued from page 1*

#### Unbossed and Unbought

Shirley Chisholm represented my Brooklyn congressional district for seven terms, from 1969 to 1983. In our neighborhood, we kids affectionately called her Miss C. Al Sharpton—whom I grew up with—served as director of the youth division of her campaign, and I was proud to be part of it.

As Brooklyn's native daughter, Chisholm understood our plight. She was a grassroots insider whose multiracial coalition and multilingual approach resonated deeply in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood, which at that time comprised mostly disenfranchised African American and Puerto Rican residents. Chisholm connected with everyday people and the bread-and-butter issues that shaped our lives—childcare, education, unemployment, housing, food security, and opposition to the Vietnam War. She addressed these concerns in both English and Spanish while visiting our housing projects, churches, parks, and street corners—shaking hands and listening carefully to residents.

As the people's candidate, she branded herself "Fighting Shirley Chisholm." Throughout the neighborhood—and in the halls of power in New York City—she was known as a force to be reckoned with: "unbought and unbossed." Her campaign slogan and motto "Unbought and Unbossed"—also the title of her 1970 memoir—captured her fierce independence and integrity. With it, Chisholm presented herself as a bold alternative to a corrupt and moneyed political establishment.

#### Backbone of the Democratic Party

Black women voters are lauded as "the backbone" of the Democratic Party. Shirley Chisholm was instrumental in bringing Black women into the DNC, national politics, and getting us to the polls. Chisholm co-founded the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971, and the National Political Congress of Black Women in 1984 with Dr. C. DeLores Tucker.

As a voting bloc, Black women have long exercised agency and developed powerful voter-mobilization strategies to support our candidates. Our strong voter turnout is rooted in a long history of confronting voter suppression—barriers that the Nineteenth Amendment, which granted women the right to vote in 1920, did not fully protect us from. Jim Crow laws and other discriminatory practices meant many Black women in the South were still prevented from exercising that right for decades. Even after the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, tactics designed to suppress minority voting persist to this day.

Black women are a powerful voting bloc in both local and national races. Our representation in leadership roles must be supported with funding and resources from the DNC—support that Shirley Chisholm herself struggled to secure during her campaigns.

Chisholm insisted that our voices must be essential in political debates and in shaping government policy. We are issue voters, and we vote for the world we hope to see. Because our votes matter, our concerns must be addressed—

among them reproductive justice, health disparities, gang violence, educational equity, urban environmental racism, and police brutality, to name just a few.

#### The Politics of Being the First

Chisholm inspired generations of Black women in politics, including Kamala Harris.

When I heard the news that Vice President Kamala Harris was running for president, I immediately thought about how Chisholm would be proud of this moment. Within hours of the announcement hitting the newswires, enthusiasm surged. A national Zoom call organized by the Washington, D.C.-based Black women's organization #WinWithBlackWomen drew more than 40,000 sistahs. In just three hours, these women raised over \$1 million to support Harris.

In 1972, Shirley Chisholm became the first Black candidate and the first woman to seek the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Confronted with fierce racist and sexist opposition, she ultimately lost the nomination. In 2024, Kamala Harris did as well. Yet Harris ran a superb 107-day campaign that injected hope and excitement about what might be possible. It is the way Black women have always moved through history—"making a way out of no way." And it was Chisholm who paved the path for those who followed.

In her 1973 book *The Good Fight*, Chisholm explained why she ran for president. She wrote:

"The next time a woman runs, or a Black, or a Jew, or anyone from a group that the country is 'not ready' to elect to its highest office, I believe that he or she will be taken seriously from the start... I ran because somebody had to do it first."

And those "next times" came. In 1984, Queens Representative Geraldine Ferraro became the first woman nominated for vice president by a major party. In 1984 and 1988, Jesse Jackson ran for president. In 2008, both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama sought the Democratic nomination. In 2016, Clinton ran again. And in 2024, Kamala Harris carried the torch forward.

Today, Representative Ayanna Pressley—who represents my district—occupies Shirley Chisholm's old office in Washington, D.C. Pressley is the first Black woman elected to Congress from Massachusetts, another milestone in the long arc of representation.

Black women have helped change America even as the nation remains mired in its Original Sin and the enduring legacy of injustice. Time and again, Black women have stood at the forefront of social change—leading coalition building, organizing communities, and modeling intersectional activism.

From Shirley Chisholm, I learned that democracy cannot remain an abstract ideal proclaimed in campaign slogans. It must be grounded in the bread-and-butter issues of the day that connect us to the promise of the American dream—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Democracy begins to work only when those relegated to the margins of society—people Chisholm tirelessly fought for—can begin to experience the rights and opportunities that others take for granted as inalienable. Chisholm taught me that the path toward that democracy begins at the ballot box.



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## Resisting a Tyrant's Deadly Madness

The idea of America is in peril

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

Openly gay Democratic Maine congressional candidate Jordan Wood was confronted at a town hall on March 12 by a man who repeated lies about undocumented immigrants voting in American elections. After Wood refuted his claims, the man called him a homophobic epithet and stormed out after saying, "I'm not finished with you, jackass."

Two members of Wood's campaign team followed the man to the parking lot where he told them he had guns in his car. Instead of fleeing, they spent 15 minutes listening to him and his concerns. Eventually, he apologized.

Wood writes, "That's a human being who has been fed rage by people in power who will never have to stand in that parking lot."

President Trump deliberately stokes hatred and paranoia for his own gain. He incited an insurrection at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. He has weaponized the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security against his opponents. Antifa and trans activists are baselessly labeled domestic terrorists.

Without strong pushback, more will suffer from the hate being stirred up by Trump and his allies as they seek to deflect attention from the administration's wrongdoing.

For example, House Oversight Committee Chair James Comer said, regarding the Jeffrey Epstein child sex trafficking scandal, "Every time more documents are released... it seems like more cans of worms are opened." Does he sound eager to hold pedophiles accountable?

The damage extends globally. Two weeks after launching an illegal war against Iran, Trump could not articulate a coherent purpose or strategy. He denied growing reports that the U.S. was responsible for a bombing that killed upwards of 160 schoolgirls and their teachers.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth decimated the



Photo via Adobe.

Pentagon office responsible for minimizing civilian deaths. He spoke of giving "no quarter, no mercy to our enemies," thus confessing a war crime. Regarding Iran blocking the Strait of Hormuz, he said, "The only thing prohibiting transit in the Strait is Iran shooting at us, otherwise it's open."

That is about as lucid as Trump's comment that people killed by roadside bombs were "walking around with no legs." On March 13, Trump said the conflict with Iran will end "when I feel it in my bones." Bring back Nancy Reagan's astrologer.

Late last year, Senator Lindsey Graham cheerfully said of the Gaza conflict, "We're killing all the right people."

Trump is sticking to his vow not to sign any legislation until the SAVE Act, his voter suppression bill, passes. Congress passed a bill to increase the supply of affordable housing, but Trump said he wouldn't sign it because "No one gives a f\*\* about housing."

It is time to see Trump for the sociopath he is. He will not take his hat off for dead service members. He will not respect legitimate journalistic questions. He will not do or say the proper and decent thing.

He cannot be reformed, only removed. That will be hard enough.

There is some good news. Judge James Boasberg of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia rejected two subpoenas for Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell as thinly justified efforts to pressure him into lowering interest rates. "White replacement theory" advocate Jeremy Carl withdrew his nomination for a State Department post

after rough treatment at his Senate confirmation hearing.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker says, "After we've discriminated against, deported or disparaged all the immigrants and the gay and lesbian and transgender people, the developmentally disabled, the women and the minorities... when the problems we started with are still there staring us in the face, what comes next? All the atrocities of human history lurk in the answer to that question. And if we don't want to repeat history, then for God's sake in this moment we better be strong enough to learn from it."

Trump and his pack of overgrown juvenile gamblers are racing toward a wall of resistance they are not prepared for.

Our mentally deteriorating president is dishonoring our increasing war dead and trampling on the principles for which they died. In the process, Trump is wrecking international alliances that America led in building, and neglecting needs here at home.

Generations of activists have worked to help build a better America, based on principles espoused by founders who did not live up to them.

We need not claim perfection to recognize that decades of progress to achieve those aspirations are under grave threat. As Gov. Pritzker says, we must be strong to counter the authoritarian playbook being advanced.

Richard Rosendall is a writer and activist who can be reached at rrosendall@me.com.

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**"That's a human being who has been fed rage by people in power who will never have to stand in that parking lot."**

- JORDAN WOOD  
OPENLY GAY DEMOCRATIC MAINE  
CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE

## Boston Pride

Continued from page 1

Wu said, adding that the city is proud to stand with the LGBTQIA+ community and celebrate "visible acts of inclusion, unity, and joy."

Wu also highlighted the legacy of Rita Hester, the Boston woman whose 1998 killing helped ignite the modern Transgender Day of Remem-

brance movement.

Boston Pride For The People revived the city-wide Pride parade in 2023 after a three-year hiatus. Organizers say about 15,000 marchers took part in last year's parade.

"As we continue to grow Boston Pride for the People, we are more encouraged than ever before by the support and excitement for what we are building together," Parade Co-Chair Gary Daffin said in the press release.

Organizers are inviting the public to submit ideas for the 2026 Pride theme and encouraging volunteers and sponsors to participate.

Boston Pride For The People is a volunteer-led nonprofit working with Boston's LGBTQ+ communities to empower, celebrate, commemorate, and educate through the city's annual Pride programming.

More information is available at BostonPrideForThePeople.org.

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## LGBTQ+ CALENDAR

### Friday–Saturday, March 21–22, 2026

#### Boston Gay Men's Chorus: *She Persisted*

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus presents a powerful musical tribute celebrating the voices and achievements of trailblazing women in history. The program features music by female composers, contemporary choral works, and the Male Chorus premiere of *Washington Women* by composer Judith Clurman, honoring leaders and activists who shaped political and cultural change.

Location: Huntington Theatre  
 Host: Boston Gay Men's Chorus  
[bgmc.org](http://bgmc.org)

### Tuesday, March 24, 2026

#### Runway of Resilience & Healing

Fenway Health hosts this community celebration highlighting LGBTQ resilience through storytelling, performance, and recognition of community leaders.

Host: Fenway Health  
[fenwayhealth.org/upcoming-events/](http://fenwayhealth.org/upcoming-events/)

### Saturday, March 28, 2026

#### Hope Gala RI

A fundraising gala supporting Haus of Codec, a Providence-based organization providing emergency housing and support services for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. The event brings together advocates, community leaders, and supporters from across Rhode Island.

Host: Haus of Codec  
 Location: Providence  
[hausofcodec.org](http://hausofcodec.org)

### Thursday, April 3, 2026

#### History Project Community Archive Open House

The History Project hosts an open house featuring LGBTQ archival materials and opportunities to learn about preserving community history.

Host: The History Project  
[historyproject.org](http://historyproject.org)

### Thursday, April 10, 2026

#### GLAD Law Virtual Community Update

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders provides a public update on current litigation and LGBTQ legal advocacy efforts in Massachusetts and nationally.

Host: GLAD Law  
[www.glad.org/events/](http://www.glad.org/events/)

### Friday, April 10, 2026

#### Handel's Water Music – Pride Celebration Concert

The Handel and Haydn Society celebrates Pride during its performance of Handel's *Water Music*. LGBTQ organizations will host infor-

mation tables and community outreach activities before the concert, followed by a reception bringing together community partners.

Location: Symphony Hall  
 Host: Handel and Haydn Society  
[handelandhaydn.org](http://handelandhaydn.org)

### Sunday, April 12, 2026

#### Handel's Water Music – Pride Community Reception

A second Pride-themed performance of Handel's *Water Music*, followed by a larger community reception where LGBTQ organizations, musicians, donors, and supporters gather to celebrate Pride and community partnerships.

Location: Symphony Hall  
 Host: Handel and Haydn Society  
[handelandhaydn.org](http://handelandhaydn.org)

### Wednesday, April 15, 2026

#### PFLAG Greater Boston Pride & Passion Gala

PFLAG Greater Boston hosts its 24th annual Pride & Passion fundraiser supporting LGBTQ families and youth advocacy programs across Massachusetts. The event includes community awards, dinner, and remarks from local leaders and activists.

Location: Boston  
 Host: PFLAG Greater Boston  
[pflag.org](http://pflag.org)

### Tuesday, May 7, 2026

#### Boston Spirit Executive Networking Night

Boston Spirit Magazine hosts its annual networking event connecting LGBTQ business professionals, corporate leaders, and entrepreneurs across New England.

Host: Boston Spirit  
[bostonspiritmagazine.com](http://bostonspiritmagazine.com)

### Wednesday, June 3, 2026

#### MassEquality Advocacy Day at the State House

MassEquality organizes a day of meetings with lawmakers and advocacy training focused on advancing LGBTQ protections in Massachusetts.

Location: Massachusetts State House  
 Host: MassEquality  
[www.massequality.org/events](http://www.massequality.org/events)

### Saturday, June 6, 2026

#### Boston Pride for the People Parade and Festival

Boston Pride for the People hosts Boston's major Pride celebration featuring a parade through downtown Boston and a festival on Boston Common. Thousands of participants and community organizations from across New England are expected to take part.

Location: Boston Common  
 Host: Boston Pride for the People  
[www.bostonprideforthepeople.org](http://www.bostonprideforthepeople.org)

# Nominations Open for BBJ LGBTQ Business Awards

Nominations are now open for two LGBTQ business awards hosted by the Boston Business Journal (BBJ), with a submission deadline of March 27, according to the publication's nomination announcements.

The awards are part of the BBJ's annual Business of Pride event recognizing leadership and advocacy within the LGBTQ business community.

The LGBTQ Corporate Ally Award honors a Massachusetts company that has demonstrated commitment and innovation in promoting awareness of and solidarity with the LGBTQ community.

The LGBTQ Trailblazer Award recognizes an LGBTQ business leader whose work has made a significant impact in the business world.

Both awards highlight individuals and companies advancing inclusion and visibility in Massachusetts workplaces.

Nominations are being accepted through Friday, March 27.

- Corporate Ally Award: [bizjournals.com/boston/nomination/88941/2026/2026-lgbt-corporate-ally-awards](http://bizjournals.com/boston/nomination/88941/2026/2026-lgbt-corporate-ally-awards)
- Trailblazer Award: [bizjournals.com/boston/nomination/88940/2026/2026-lgbt-trailblazer-award](http://bizjournals.com/boston/nomination/88940/2026/2026-lgbt-trailblazer-award)

**CORPORATE ALLY AWARD:**



**TRAILBLAZER AWARD:**



## Smith

*Continued from page 1*

the earliest academic courses on Black women's literature, and became a key architect of Black feminist scholarship and Black women's studies, according to the institute.

She also helped challenge homophobia and rigid gender roles within both the women's and Black liberation movements. Smith was a founding member of the Combahee River Col-

lective, the influential Black feminist lesbian organization whose 1977 statement became a cornerstone of intersectional feminist theory.

Her activism and writing helped lay foundations for the modern Black LGBTQ+ rights movement and the Black LGBTQ+ cultural renaissance of the 1980s and 1990s, the institute said.

The newly acquired papers will be housed at the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Harvard Radcliffe Institute in Cambridge.

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# billy masters

These Oscars will go down as “The Night They Drove Old Timmy Down”. Although, to be fair, voting was done long before the **Chalamet** scandal broke. But, still, it brought a smile to my otherwise bored face. As to the awards themselves, when you don’t care about the movies nominated, they kinda meander on by.

That said, I do have a few observations. While I was sad that “A Friend of Dorothy” lost for Best Live Action Short Film, I was heartened when a hot guy who tied went up to accept the award. Then he mentioned a girlfriend. He had me, then he lost me. Those KPop girls ripped off “Charlie’s Angels”. Along those lines, I think **Demi** was molting. I think we can all agree—**Anna Wintour** is not a laugh riot. I question the wisdom of using precious satellite time to make a **Basil Rathbone** joke. Speaking of dead people, a few notables were missing from the In Memoriam. Sure, **James Van Der Beek**, **Eric Dane** and **Malcolm-Jamal Warner** are mostly known for television, but they also made films. So did **Olivia Hussey** and **Alain Delon**. They went on and on about **Claudia Cardinale** (who I adored), but what about **Brigitte Bardot**? Aside from that, I thought it was handled well. And I had a brilliant idea—perhaps **Barbra**’s next film could be a biopic about **Sylvia Miles** (look it up).

Speaking of Barbra, it has just been announced that she will receive an Honorary Palme d’Or from the Cannes Film Festival. She’s gonna need another shelf for all these “honorary” awards.

The Golden Globes didn’t let a little thing like the Academy Awards steal their thunder. It’s been announced that **Nikki Glaser** will return next year to host her third Golden Globes. The funny lady said, “I’m thrilled to host the Golden Globes for a third time, not only because it’s the greatest gig I’ve ever had, but because my sister has three kids and now we will be equal in the eyes of my parents and the Lord.” In terms of hosting the Globes, Nikki is only bettered by **Ricky Gervais** (five times) and the dynamic duo of **Tina Fey** and **Amy Poehler** (four times).

Speaking of “Saturday Night Live” alums, we have a truly special announcement to make. **Maya Rudolph** will be the latest person to take on the role of Mary Todd Lincoln in “Oh, Mary!”. “Oh, Mary!” is the funniest play I have ever seen, and I have seen a lot of plays, you’d be surprised. It’s such an honor to play the role of Mary, especially after so many iconic Marys have come before me. So making my Broadway debut in the role of a lifetime—is a miserable, suffocated, alcoholic woman—is a real dream come true,” said Maya. She begins her run on April 28th and will stay with the show for eight weeks, ending on June 20th.

Not to be outdone, “Chicago” has announced its latest cast changes. Currently in the revolving door of Roxie Hart is **Whitney Leavitt**, from “The Secret Lives of Mormon Wives”. She will soon be reunited with her partner from “Dancing with the Stars”, **Mark Ballas**. He will take on the role of Billy Flynn for a limited four-week run starting on April 5th. Ballas previously played **Frankie Valli** in “Jersey Boys” on Broadway and for portions of the national tour, and returned to the Great White Way playing Charlie in “Kinky Boots”. I actually think “Chicago” will be his sweet spot—especially if they give Billy a tad more dancing than usual.

A bunch of “luminaries” (for lack of a better word) will find themselves in the unemployment line. NBCUniversal is leaving the first-run syndication business, which means the end of “Access Hollywood”, “Access Live”, “Karamo” and “The Steve Wilkos Show”—a show I never ever heard of. Curious that after Karamo skipped promoting the final season of “Queer Eye”, he ended up out of work just like the rest of the guys.

Well, not exactly. **Antoni Porowski** is showing off his new gig as model for SAXX Underwear—once again, something I’ve never even heard of. Nonetheless, he looks quite fetching in his scanties—or, more to the point, they look good on him. The variety of wrapping of his package is quite appealing, as seen on BillyMasters.com.

**Carson Kressley** was recently a guest on “Today with Jenna & Sheinelle”. They asked him for his take on the turmoil surrounding the outgoing “Queer Eye” cast. Aside from calling the experience of making that series “very intense”, he added this: “I don’t know the circumstances. There is such a great cast. It’s a great show. And I think the quality of the show and the great work they do transcends any little drama that might have happened.” Then he dropped a little bombshell of his own. When the original “Devil Wears Prada”

movie was being cast, he claims to have been asked to audition for a role. But, when push came to shove, they went in a different direction. “They said, ‘Oh God, you’re great, we love you, but we can’t have somebody who’s never been in a movie in the scene with **Meryl Streep**. That might be too big of a gamble.’ So I didn’t get it...Damn you, **Stanley Tucci**! Thanks for ruining my career.” And you wonder why we’re still talking about Carson Kressley 25 years later?

Before we leave “Queer Eye” behind (for now), former Fab-Fiver **Bobby Berk** weighed in on the controversy. “It’s sad that clearly stuff was going on, but yeah, I decided to leave at a time that was right for me. And, of course, I’m sad that there was any drama surrounding the show because the show, I think, has such a great legacy of helping people.” It should be noted that Berk is hosting HGTV’s “Junk or Jackpot?”, which makes him the only “Queer” still on the air.

You think you’ll never mention someone ever again, and then a story about **Richard Hatch** pops up. The winner of the first “Survivor” was speaking to **Tim Murphy** on “The Caftan Chronicles” (I won’t say it), and discussed his 34-year-old boyfriend—and, for those of you interested, Hatch is 64. You’d think the fact that his boyfriend never saw “Survivor” would be the lead, but no. “He’s 100% versatile, so he’s constantly wanting me to fuck him, but I’m a bottom. Yeah, totally bottom. He teases me about that.” Far be it from me to add to that!

I wish I could tell you I’ve ever seen “Finding Mr. Christmas”. I know what it is, having a best friend who is a Hallmark aficionado, but I simply never felt inclined to tune in. However, I’m told that **Robbie Simpson** was a contestant on season 2 (some call him a breakout star). He’s engaged. Again, not the lead. Where did they meet? In line to get tickets for “Broadway Bares” in June of 2023! His fiancé, **Kyle Pollak**, explained, “Saying yes to marrying him was the easiest decision I have ever made. I asked Robbie to be my boyfriend, so it was his turn to pop this next question.” Robbie proposed in Australia overlooking Sydney Harbour and somehow “People” magazine was there to cover the blessed event. Funny how that happens.

In other romantic news, **Chaz Bono** married his childhood sweetheart—a statement that I cannot even begin to unpack. Chaz met **Shara Blue Mathes** when they were teenagers studying at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute. They reconnected in 2017 and began their romance. “I think it’s safe to say that not many grooms ultimately end up marrying the very first girl they ever kissed so many years later.” Most grooms can’t say a whole lotta things this couple can. And, despite what other less reputable scribes predicted, Chaz’s mother **Cher** did indeed attend the ceremony—sporting a big diamond ring on her so-called “ring finger”. And, being Cher, she just happened to photobomb the couple as they cut the cake, the video of which can be found on BillyMasters.com.

Our “Ask Billy” question comes from Kip in Chicago: “I’ve heard for several years that **Kelly Ripa** and **Mark Consuelos** are trying to resurrect ‘All My Children’. Any update?”

You are correct—the daytime duo has been trying to get a network deal to bring the show back, with no luck. But, they’ve pivoted. As Ripa revealed on her podcast, “Mark and I and our production company, we are developing two ‘All My Children’ movies for Lifetime. Woo. We are so excited.” While I’m always leery of any venture that attempts to come back in a different format, this sounds like it could work—especially since they’re courting the services of **Susan Lucci**. “Well, certainly with Mark and Kelly producing, I know that I would be in good hands, and being in good hands is central to my answer to this question, because the writing is so important...And of course, if everything was in place, if they were really going to do this, I would certainly want to be part of it.” So that sounds like a tentative “Maybe”. And I think we all know, if Lucci says no, the films won’t get made.

When Richard Hatch being a bottom is news, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. I was just thinking—Chaz’s wife’s name is Shara Blue Mathes. Chaz’s brother’s name is **Elijah Blue Allman**. Interesting, n’est ce pas? For more insights like this, check out www.BillyMasters.com—the site that’ll never make you blue. For your gossip needs, dash off a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Barbra replaces Maya in “Oh, Mary!”. Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.



Carson Kressley

Photo by Carson Kressley via Wikimedia Commons



Chaz Bono & Shara Blue Mathes

Photo by Chaz Bono, Facebook



Kelly Ripa & Mark Consuelos

Photo by Philip Romano, via Wikimedia Commons

## Mombian

*Continued from page 1*

ization of Children Act” (H. R. 7661) on February 24. If passed, the legislation would prohibit public schools from using federal funds “to develop, implement, facilitate, host, or promote any program or activity for, or to provide or promote literature or other materials to, children under the age of 18 that includes sexually oriented material,” including material with “nude adults, individuals who are stripping, or lewd or lascivious dancing.”

“Sexually oriented material” is further defined as that which contains “any depiction, description, or simulation of sexually explicit conduct”—or that involves “gender dysphoria or transgenderism.” And since almost every public school receives federal funds of some type, the legislation would impact almost every public school.

Equating the mere mention of trans people with sexually oriented content is offensive and wrong. And while books and programs with trans representation are the most obvious target of this legislation, the impact will likely be much wider. For starters, the bill’s reference to “lewd or lascivious dancing” seems intended to be a reference to drag performances and drag storytimes—even though such events for children, unlike some for adults, are not lewd or lascivious.

Additionally, the bill could pressure schools to remove books or programs with any type of LGBTQ+ representation for fear of how they might be perceived. One need only look at last year’s U.S. Supreme Court case *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, in which several parents successfully sought the right to opt out their children before LGBTQ+-inclusive books were read in public school classrooms. The plaintiffs implied in court filings that such books had a sexual, even kinky, nature—claims that Justice Neil Gorsuch repeated during the hearings, but that have no basis in fact.

Such accusations have a long history. Two early LGBTQ+-inclusive picture books, “Heather Has Two Mommies,” by Lesléa Newman, and “Daddy’s Roommate,” by Michael Willhoite, were suggested readings in the New York City Public Schools “Rainbow Curriculum” in the early 1990s, created to teach first-graders respect for all. In response, Mary Cummins, president of a school district in Queens, said in a 1992 “60 Minutes” interview that she “will not expand her curriculum to include materials that promote sodomy.” Neither book, of course, contains anything sexual.

Despite the trans-targeted language of the new bill, then,

the broad language about keeping sexual content from children, along with the fact that LGBTQ+-inclusive content has been incorrectly sexualized for decades, could be enough to scare schools into removing all LGBTQ+ materials and programs, including not only books, but also support groups for LGBTQ+ students and allies.

Let’s be clear: There is indeed sexual content that is not appropriate for children (although this varies by age, a nuance the bill does not recognize). But the mere inclusion of trans or other LGBTQ+ people does not make content sexual.

The bill does make exceptions for “standard science coursework” and classic texts of literature, art, and religion—but it defines the literature exceptions based on a nearly 40-year-old list published by Encyclopaedia Britannica, which skews heavily White and male, and on several lists developed for Christian homeschoolers by Compass Classroom, a company whose “Statement of Faith” includes an assertion of Biblical inerrancy.

Will the bill pass? It’s unclear at this point, but these days, it’s hard to rule out anything entirely, especially since it’s indicative of ongoing, misinformed attitudes. In another recent example, Pixar Chief Creative Officer Pete Docter told the *Wall Street Journal* (3/6/2026) that the company removed content from its 2025 movie “Elio” that indicated the protagonist was gay. The paper reported, “Docter said Pixar found some parents didn’t want entertainment to force them to have a conversation they weren’t ready for with their children. ‘We’re making a movie, not hundreds of millions of dollars of therapy,’ he said.”

What exactly aren’t they ready to discuss or that would send children to therapy? Children of LGBTQ+ parents typically know about LGBTQ+ identities from very early ages, and decades of research shows they are as well-adjusted as any others. And again, more LGBTQ+ families are created without sex than cisnet families (though there are exceptions on both sides), so what exactly is the problem here?

As I’ve said many times before, banning books and programs with LGBTQ+ representation sends the message to LGBTQ+ children and those with LGBTQ+ parents that they can’t talk about themselves or their families. It tells them that they and their families don’t matter. This bill isn’t about protecting children from sexual content. It’s about promoting a dangerous, narrow worldview that doesn’t have LGBTQ+ people in it. Please contact your members of Congress today and ask them to oppose it.

*Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a two-time GLAAD Media Award-winning blog for LGBTQ+ parents, plus a searchable database of 1,900+ LGBTQ+ family books.*

The group is asking the office of Andrea Joy Campbell to examine whether schools and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association are adequately enforcing anti-discrimination rules in athletics programs.

Campbell’s office said in a statement: “Homophobia and hate of any kind has no place in our locker rooms, ice rinks, or playing fields, and I am committed to ensuring that all young people feel safe and supported in their classrooms and on their sports teams.”

The Attorney General’s office did not immediately say whether a formal investigation has been opened, but said it takes allegations of harassment and discrimination in schools seriously.

Lawyers for Civil Rights says it hopes the state will clarify expectations for school districts and athletic programs to ensure LGBTQ+ student-athletes can participate safely and without discrimination.

## Hockey

*Continued from page 1*

are gay or perceived to be gay.”

According to the letter, incidents reported by students include homophobic slurs, locker-room intimidation, hazing, and exclusion from team activities. The group also described reports of coaches using homophobic language during practices and games.

Advocates say the behavior can discourage students from participating in school athletics and may violate state civil-rights protections.

“Students should never have to risk humiliation or retaliation just to participate in school sports,” said Jillian Lenson, a senior attorney with Lawyers for Civil Rights, in comments accompanying the complaint.

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