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'Portraits of Pride' vandalized on the Boston Common

By Bay Windows Staff

Just as the Boston Common "Portraits of Pride" exhibit was about to close, several portraits of Massachusetts LGBTQ leaders were recently slashed.

The exhibit, which ran during October's LGBTQ History Month, features 8-foot-tall photographic portraits of 22 LGBTQ leaders in Massachusetts.

Creative Director Jean Dolin posted this statement to the exhibit's Facebook page:

"I am truly heartbroken to see that the exit exhibition has been vandalized on the Boston common.

Portraits of Pride is a labor of love and love letter to all the champions

see **PORTRAITS,** *page 5*

Balint likely to become VT's 1st woman in Congress

Would be first openly gay person to represent the state in Congress

By Lisa Rathke
Associated Press

BARRE, Vt. (AP)—In the race for Vermont's single seat in the U.S. House, Democrat Becca Balint could be on the verge of being elected as the first woman and first openly gay person to represent the state in Congress.

Balint, 54, president of the Vermont Senate and a former teacher, faces Republican Liam Madden, a 38-year-old Marine Corps veteran and antiwar activist, who describes himself as an independent, and who does not have the backing of the state

State Senator Becca Balint (D). Photo via legislature.vermont.gov

GOP party. Three independents and one libertarian candidate are also in the race in the largely Democratic state.

see **BALINT,** *page 4*

LGBTQ Races to Watch

By Lisa Keen
Keen News Service

Many political analysts will be watching the November 8 election returns to gauge the health of American democracy and see which political party will control the U.S. Senate and U.S. House. For LGBTQ news watchers, there are several specific contests Tuesday night that will both contribute to that overall political landscape and make important LGBTQ history. Here's what to watch.

Three governor races: One of the more likely highlights of the evening will be the election, for the first time in U.S. history, of an openly lesbian candidate as governor of any state. (Bisexual Kate Brown was the first openly LGBTQ person to be elected governor when she won a special election bid in 2016; Jared Polis became the first gay man when he was elected governor of Colorado in 2018.)

This year, in Massachusetts, State Attorney General Maura Healey, a popular Democrat in a deeply blue state, is expected to coast to victory over a Trump-backed Republican become Massachusetts' next governor.

In Oregon, where voters have rejected Republican candidates for governor for decades, Democrat Tina Kotek, former speaker of the house, polls about one percent behind a well-funded Republican. Kotek has had to contend with a third party candidate who appears to be drawing 10 to 15 points from voters who would otherwise vote Democratic.

Meanwhile, in Colorado, Polis appears poised to win his second term as governor, with polls showing him with an 18-point lead or higher over his Republican challenger.

New Hampshire Congressman Chis Pappas (D). Photo via Facebook.

Fivethirtyeight.com gives Healey and Polis a 99 percent chance for victory; Kotek a 49 percent chance.

U.S. House incumbents: Eight of nine incumbent LGBTQ candidates in

see **RACES,** *page 7*

A Transgender Leader and Mom's Empowering Journey

by Dana Rudolph | drudolph@mombian.com
contributing writer

Ashley T. Brundage is a leadership and empowerment expert and an "open, out, proud woman of transgender experience." She's also a mom, and spoke with me recently about empowerment, parenting, and more.

"I wanted to have kids so bad," she said. When she was 17 and thinking about transitioning, she told her brother, "I always see myself as a mom." He suggested she just have children and "do all the things that a mom would do." She married her high school sweetheart and had two kids to see if that "solved" her. "Having kids was my way of still existing in the world and not wanting to kill myself. That literally was how serious it was for me," she said. She would think, "I can't leave them without me. Maybe they need me in their lives." Now, she reflected, "I would not be here if it wasn't for them."

She finally started transitioning in 2008, after she lost her job as an HR person in the restaurant industry. "I was living a double life and it was affecting my work performance," she explained. The 2008 economic crisis dealt another blow, and she and her family lost their home . She realized that in order to find a job, "I was go-

see **MOMBIAN,** *page 4*

Ashley T. Brundage, leadership expert, and former vice chair of GLAAD's board. Photo courtesy of Ashley T. Brundage.

"Well I am as hurt and shocked as if I have lost a family member. Leslie and I had a special bond. I think the world felt they had a special bond with him. I know people always say, 'Oh, they will be missed' but in this case that could not be more true. He will be missed by everyone who knew him personally and by everyone who was entertained by him."

—Dolly Parton remembers the great Leslie Jordan.

more in Billy Masters on page 6!

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Nationalbriefs

Russian lawmakers vet new bill against LGBTQ 'propaganda'

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian lawmakers gave preliminary approval Thursday to a bill that imposes tough new restrictions on activities to promote LGBTQ rights in the country.

A 2013 Russian law banned what authorities deem to be the "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" to children. It has been used to stifle debate in any public context and to prevent demonstrations or any public gatherings with pro-LGBTQ content that a child could conceivably see or hear.

International human rights groups denounced the law for creating a hostile environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer Russians.

The new bill, which the lower house of Russia's parliament unanimously approved on the first of three readings, ramps up the restrictions and expands the presentation ban to cover all age groups, not just the under-18 population.

It outlaws advertising, media and online resources, books, films and theater productions deemed to contain such propaganda.

With regards to minors, the new bill broadens the existing restrictions by banning information about gender transitions.

Violations are punishable by fines, and, if committed by non-residents, could lead to their expulsion from Russia.

State Duma speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said the proposed bill could be toughened further during on second reading, when lawmakers introduce their amendments.

Marie Struthers, Amnesty International's director for eastern Europe and central Asia, reacted to the bill's preliminary approval by saying that "in Russia's new era of repression, state-sanctioned homophobia is about to be ramped up to a whole new level."

The bill "not only brazenly deprives (LGBTQ) people of their right to freedom of expression and endorses their discrimination, but will likely also lead to an increase in violent attacks and other hate crimes against them,"she said.

If enacted, the law would have far-reaching effects and likely lead to the closing of non-governmental groups, the blocking of websites and the intimidation of activists with the threat of large fines, according to Struthers.

"The passing of this new law will be yet another disaster for human rights," she said.

Australia players call out Qatar on LGBTQ, worker rights

By Dennis Passa, AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—The Australian men's soccer team has issued a three-minute video highlighting Qatar's human rights record, including its treatment of foreign workers and restrictions on the LGBTQI+ community, and demanding genuine reform as a legacy of the Gulf country's staging of the World Cup.

In the video, 16 players read a sentence or two each from a statement. Football Australia also released a separate statement which said: "The tournament has been associated with suffering for some migrant workers and their families and this cannot be ignored."

The gas-rich emirate has been fiercely criticized in the past decade for its treatment of migrant workers, mostly from south Asia, who were needed to build tens of billions of dollars' worth of stadiums, metro lines, roads and hotels.

The Socceroos are one of 32 teams competing at the Nov. 20-Dec. 18 World Cup and have added their voices to a growing list of players from competing nations highlighting the issues.

"Addressing these issues is not easy. And we do not have all the answers," the Australian players said in the video released Thursday. "We stand with FIFPro, the Building and Wood Workers International, and the International Trade Union Confederation, seeking to embed reforms and establish a lasting legacy in Qatar. This must include establishing a migrant resource center, effective remedy for those who have been denied their rights, and the decriminalization of all same-sex relationships.

"These are the basic rights that should be afforded to all and will ensure continued progress in Qatar . . . (and) a legacy that goes well beyond the final whistle of the 2022 FIFA World Cup."

Goalkeeper Mat Ryan says in the video: "There are universal values that should define football—values such as respect, dignity, trust and courage. When we represent our nation, we aspire to embody

see **NATIONAL BRIEFS,** *page 7*

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Averting an authoritarian nightmare

"Don't boo, vote!"

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

I voted in the midterms as soon as I received my ballot in the mail. Many people do not bother. We are seeing what happens to a republic when large numbers of citizens refuse to participate.

As of this publication date, Election Day is still upcoming. If you know anyone who doesn't think their vote makes a difference, there is still time to change their mind and help prevent an authoritarian nightmare in this country.

There is burgeoning fascism at the state level, as with homophobic and transphobic laws and fear-driven bans of affirming educational materials. Congressional Republicans introduced a federal "Don't Say Gay" bill to nationalize the assault.

Some libertarian friends don't think the Supreme Court will overturn marriage equality. It boils down to the fact that, unlike abortion, same-sex marriage does not involve the destruction of a fetus. But the authoritarians are about control, not life. Look at their opposition to Medicaid, childcare subsidies, and school lunch programs.

Visceral hostility toward gay folk is not something white Christian nationalists got from Christ, any more than their fondness for semiautomatic weapons. They want not just to nullify our marriages, but to recriminalize and erase us. Members of our community who are not white men face many more threats. No one has ever tried to prevent me from voting, for example.

The Jesus of the Gospel, who teaches us to feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, is of no use to White Christian nationalists except as a thin mask for their own bigotry. In their tribalist mentality, if you do not look and live like them, you are not one of them—even if you are eagerly used by them as camouflage in the culture wars, like Kanye West spewing antisemitic nonsense. And as his case shows, black transgressions are disproportionately policed.

In my experience, the immigrants of color the nationalists despise show far more Christian love than those who label them invaders for seeking greater safety and opportunity for their children. Indeed, America's history of exploitation in Central America contributed to the migration. But the nationalists think consequences are for other people.

Republicans used to be considered strong on national security; now many have trouble naming a foreign despot they don't envy. They still poll well on the economy despite their openly stated plan to sabotage it by refusing to raise our national debt ceiling unless President Biden caves to their proposed cuts to Welfare and Social Security.

Rational, respectful people who value America's diversity are at a disadvantage. Extremists by their nature are more driven. Traditional media cannot resist giving gobs of free airtime to demagogues. Social media facilitate the dissemination of lies and loony conspiracy theories at low cost. Many who are stirred by the online sewer pipe of hatred to use voter intimidation tactics may be impotent clowns, but a few violent outliers can cause disproportionate harm.

Voting is more than a set of choices involving candidates and ballot initiatives. It sends a message that we will not passively let ourselves be overrun by fanatics.

Consider a dangerous man not on any ballot: Supreme Court Associate Justice Sam Alito. He is determined to impose his medieval beliefs on the rest of us, as if only his ilk are entitled to rule.

He has legions of helpers. Republicans spent decades laying the groundwork for the overturn of abortion rights that occurred this year. Their exploitation of the ruling has been swift and frightening. We cannot defeat the criminalization of women and medical providers (and anyone who helps them) with outrage alone. The bullies are relentless and determined. Nominating election deniers to count state vote tallies is preparation for their next coup. The brutal assault against Paul Pelosi in his and wife Nancy's home is an example of the political terror Donald Trump inspires.

Jill Filipovic identifies part of the problem: "People simply get acclimated to authoritarianism." Those of us horrified by the anti-democrat-

see **ROSENDALL,** *page 4*

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Balint

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Balint wants people who don't know her to understand that she's a middle-school teacher at her core.

"When you teach middle school, you have to understand what it is to survive a hellscape. And so I'm ready for Congress," she joked at a recent campaign rally with U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders and Rep. Peter Welch, who is running for the Senate.

"But you also have to believe in possibility and promise and potential, and you have to believe that things will get better, OK, and I do. I do. That is a value that I hold dear," she told the crowd.

Balint said she plans to take the deep listening skills she honed as a teacher to Washington to try to find common ground. And she said with democracy at stake and election deniers on the ballot in other states, she is determined to protect voter rights to uphold democracy.

Balint said she is particularly concerned about what she calls a lack of transparency within the U.S. Supreme Court, and that she would like to see term limits introduced for justices on that court, other federal judges, and members of Congress.

The rare opening in Vermont's three-member congressional delegation occurred after U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat, announced last November that he would not seek reelection this year. Welch is running for Leahy's seat, opening up the state's lone seat in the U.S. House.

While Vermont is considered to be one of the more liberal states, with a higher-than-average percentage of women serving in the state Legislature, in 2018 it became the only state to have never sent a woman to Congress.

"The really tough contest for her was the primary, where it looked like it was going to be very competitive among a number of very strong candidates, and it wound up being a situation where many of the people who had been identified with the activist left dropped out and their support gravitated to Becca Balint," said Bert Johnson, a professor of American politics at Middlebury College.

Balint, of Brattleboro, was born in a U.S. Army hospital in Germany, where her father was stationed, and she grew up mostly in upstate New York. She said she is the daughter of an immigrant, her father, and a working class mother, and the granddaughter of a man who died in the Holocaust.

She came to Vermont to be a rock-climbing instructor in 1994 and moved to the Green Mountain State permanently in 1997. She taught history and social studies in the rural communities of Londonderry, Marlboro, Guilford and Washington, as well as at the Community College of Vermont. She has a masters degree in education from Harvard University and a masters in history from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

She said she decided to run for the state Senate after seeing families struggling due to rising poverty in her county, and that her driving mission is to relieve suffering. Balint has served four two-year terms, including as majority leader from 2017 to 2020. Last year, she was elected president of the Vermont Senate, becoming the first woman and first openly gay person in that role.

"With all her passion, with all her wonderful presentations, there's another thing I want let you in on," Welch said of Balint at the rally. "In the quiet of the back rooms, this woman knows what she's doing. She gets it done."

For voter Pat Rodar, of Woodbury, Balint offers some hope.

"I like the fact that she's an independent thinker, that she's a woman, she's strong, that she'll make a difference and that she'll work well in Congress," said Rodar.

Joanne Virkler, of Waitsfield, said she likes that Balint was involved in public education, is a gay woman and is community oriented. Her husband Lyndon Virkler added that he supports Balint because she "pro-choice and pro-democracy."

Meanwhile, it's a difficult race for Republicans. GOP state Sen. Randy Brock said he likely will not cast a vote for any of the candidates. He said he has a good working relationship with Balint in the Senate but that politically they are not compatible.

"Becca is essentially largely a progressive in many ways. I'm concerned about that approach to government generally," he said.

Brock said he's also not well aligned with Madden, the Republican running as an independent, and that he does not support the libertarian candidate.

Balint, who has two children with her wife, an attorney, hopes her campaign, if successful, will inspire more people to run for office, "whether they're LGBTQ young people, people of color, people who come from working class backgrounds who never imagined that they could run for office."

"I never thought I'd be where I am right now," she said.

Mombian

Continued from page 1

ing to have to start at the bottom and work my way back up again."

She decided, however, that "I was going to do it as me." She faced harassment and discrimination in job interviews—but this led her to begin researching empowerment, looking at systems of authority and power and how they connect to human differences. From this, she developed a process for "Empowering Differences," or "[bringing] together what makes you unique with how to use that to grow in your life and empower others along the way," as she explains on her website.

Applying this leadership model to herself, she found part-time work as a teller at PNC Bank. Within five years, she had become the FORTUNE 500 company's national vice president of diversity, equity, and inclusion, bringing her family out of poverty and back into a bigger house, "all because of the will and determination to fight against oppression." She also became a board member of GLAAD, the national LGBTQ media advocacy organization, where she was vice chair for two years. Now, she owns her own company, Empowering Differences, which offers motivational speaking, leadership development, and organizational training (empoweringdifferences.com).

In living as herself, she was applying the first step in her process of empowerment, "to know yourself." This has helped her as a parent, too. She explained, "When you're navigating something within yourself and you're not right, you can't really drive empowerment for others. I was so conflicted in my own self, in my journey before transitioning, that I never even thought about what it was like to move in the world for other people."

When she began transitioning, she bought her kids the book "My Princess Boy," by Cheryl Kilodavis, about a child, assigned male at birth, who likes to wear princess dresses. After her oldest son read it, he said that its lesson was that if someone was a friend, "then they're your friend. Who cares about all this other stuff?"

She asked, "So if you had a friend that wore princess dresses, they'd still be your friend?" He said yes.

Brundage then told him that she sometimes wore dresses. When he didn't believe her, she showed him a photo. "Oh wow, you're really pretty!" he exclaimed. She didn't assume the path forward would always be smooth, but "at least we started on a good note," she said.

Her kids are both teens now. "It's like I exist in the world only when they need to eat something," she joked. "I love them so much. My oldest at 17 is the smartest human I know. My 15-year-old is like my mini-me. He has the biggest heart and already knows what he wants to do for a living."

She advises other parents of teens "to be really patient." When her kids were little, she said, "I felt so purposeful, that I was always needed. Now it's like I'm almost never needed.... For new parents, cherish those moments because they go so fast." With teens, "Eventually, they will say, 'Hey, I need something,' but it might come a lot slower than you are hoping." She added, "I'd like to think they still need us a little bit even if they don't admit it at that age."

Brundage has garnered many accolades for her work, including being named one of Florida's Most Influential and Powerful Women by the National Diversity Council and winning a Champion Award from Out and Equal, an international nonprofit working for LGBTQ workplace equality. This past June, she received the Community Spirit Award from the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. Although she has spoken out against Florida Governor Ron DeSantis (R) and the anti-trans legislation he supports, this award came with a letter of congratulations from his office, signed by DeSantis. She reflected, "Empowerment is apolitical and this is the ultimate proof point." At the same time, she said, "Gaining the recognition for my commitment to women and girls in Florida was a very ironic honor in many ways, especially considering much of my nomination was about empowerment of all people, including the trans and gender expansive community."

At a time of rising anti-trans legislation in Florida and around the country, when there is also deep division in our nation around many identities and topics, Brundage's work to view our differences instead as empowering strengths feels both timely and necessary.

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

Rosendall

Continued from page 3

ic surge need to demonstrate our own resolve that it will not be the new normal.

Another problem is self-fulfilling gloom. During the Senate debate between John Fetterman and Mehmet Oz in Pennsylvania on October 25, some Democrats cringed over the lingering effects of Fetterman's stroke. Quickly, however, Oz's statement that abortion decisions are for "women, doctors, [and] local political leaders" created new problems for Oz.

If we let ourselves become dispirited, it can spread like a virus and leave us sadder, wiser, and less free. Let's wise up now. To quote President Obama: "Don't boo, vote!"

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

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Portraits

Continued from page 1

and icons of the LGBTQ community in Boston. I have been wrestling with this vandalism for four days trying to decide whether I should give it any energy and address it. But I am at a loss for words, saddened, and hurt to my core.

Not just for the works of art for John Huet who put so much time into this project, creating these masterpieces; but also for the honorees whose portraits have suffered vandalism. I am so sorry, I couldn't protect you from such a traumatic experience. I am so sorry, that I have exposed you in this way, Derek Young Jr., Beth Chandler, Alia Cusolito and Julian Cyr.

It is gut wrenching to see you having to endure such hate and violence. I promise to do better next time, even if it means I have to protect him with my own body. This act of violence on your faces and your bodies is cruel, and I share all the sentiments of pain that you may feel."

NOPI - Nonprofit Incubator posted:

"We are heartbroken to share this news about one of our beloved programs. Portraits of Pride is a beautiful display honoring LGBTQ leaders of Boston during LBGT History Month, and we strongly condemn this vandalism.

The Portraits of Pride exhibition has positively impacted our community in Boston and beyond. To be defaced in such a violent way is upsetting and unjust. We stand with the LGBTQ+ community and will continue to work to empower LGBTQ leaders to fight against inequity and hate. We will support Portraits of Pride in returning next year and for many years to come."

The MFA Boston posted:

"We are shocked and saddened to hear about the defacement of four photos by photographer John Huet on Boston Common. Portraits of Pride is a powerful photography installation celebrating LGBTQIA+ leaders including YW Boston CEO and MFA trustee Beth Chandler. These works of art are a testament to the many people who make our community strong, show how art can bring us together, and help us all imagine and realize our future together. No artist should be the subject of violence against their work. We stand with the LGBTQIA+ community and condemn this act of violence in our city."

An investigation by the civil rights unit of the Boston Police Department is ongoing. There have been no arrests.

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billy masters

Continued from page 1

I ended last week's column mocking a friend who terms 99% of the news as "heartbreaking". A few hours later, I felt part of my heart actually break when I got a call that **Leslie Jordan** had died in a tragic car accident. I did what I always do—I tried to make sense of it. I looked for details, for answers. But there are no answers...none that would change the outcome. I find it staggering that someone who had survived everything from homophobia, alcoholism, addiction, the AIDS epidemic and a pandemic would not survive a drive to work on a Monday morning. Although the cause of his single-car collision is still unclear (popular opinion assumes a medical issue led to his losing control of his vehicle), I feel we should celebrate all he accomplished. From his scene-stealing performances, cult status, Emmy win, social media following, and FOX sitcom, he was at the peak of his powers. While he would have enjoyed all the tributes from celebrity friends, Leslie would want to be remembered for two things—for providing love and light to so many people. My heart might be a bit broken, but the light will always remain.

My friendship with Leslie made it difficult to do last week's "Billy Masters LIVE". I had planned to chat with singer-songwriter **Gabe Lopez** (who was the opening act for **Belinda Carlisle**'s mini US tour) and radio personality and voice-over legend **Ben Patrick Johnson**. But Leslie had died just a few hours earlier, so that had to be addressed. I reached out to many of our mutual friends, most of whom were too upset to appear. Special thanks to my twins, **Gary and Larry Lane**. We were all friends and they worked with Leslie many times. So I was grateful they stopped by to share their memories. I'm not sure about the details of this week's show, so I'd recommend you subscribe to our YouTube channel at YouTube.com/BillyMastersTV or just check out BillyMasters.com/TV.

If you had asked me, I would have predicted Leslie Jordan would outlive **Andy Dick**...by decades! Dick has continued to struggle with his demons—as is evidenced from numerous legal snafus. Typically these incidents involve other people. But the latest involves power tools. Alas, these were simple tools that would be readily available at your local Home Depot. According to the Santa Barbara Police, he was attempting to flee the scene of a home under construction with the tools. Bail was set at $50K—which meant he had to come up with $5K to get out. Alas, Dick was unable to raise the money and had to sit in jail for over a week.

Someone else who has dealt with addictions is **Belinda Carlisle**. That she has come out the other side was never more evident than last week at the Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills. Carlisle is in the midst of a rare US tour (well, a mini-tour), and she may be in the best shape of her life. Vocally, she's in solid form. Physically, it's as if time stood still. Watching Belinda effortlessly run through 90 minutes of her solo hits (and a handful of Go-Go's tunes), one couldn't help but notice she is constantly in motion. Maybe that's the secret of her youthful appearance. She's back in the studio with **Diane Warren** (who was at the show), so hopefully we'll have some new music soon. In the meantime, check out some fabulous footage from last week's concert on BillyMasters.com.

"Hocus Pocus 2" just made a bit of history. In three days, it had more viewers than any other movie on a streaming service for the entire month! The sequel came out on September 30th and when the rating period ended on October 2nd, it had been viewed for more than 2.7 billion minutes—apparently that's how these things are calculated. It was only beaten by multiple episodes of "Dahmer"—which, frankly, left a bad taste in my mouth!

Adam Lambert has been in the Halloween spirit with his "The Witch Hunt" concert tour. "I celebrate Halloween when I'm on tour and even when I'm not on tour. I love this holiday, and it's exciting to put together a tour especially for Halloween." We certainly know Lambert likes to dress up. "On Queen tours, I'm always trying to outdo my last look. Things are sparkling and fringe is flying!" Every day is Halloween for Adam Lambert!

While I was in LA, I went to see "The Inheritance" at the Geffen Playhouse. I missed both the London and Broadway productions, so this was my first time seeing this modernized queer adaptation of **E.M. Forster's** "Howard's End". The parallels to another two-parter—"Angels in America"—are more than structural. I was impressed by **Matthew López's** skillful script, which was aided invaluably by an extraordinarily talented cast. While I have nothing to compare it to, other reviewers say this production and cast far exceeds the previous ones. Part 1 was dominated by **Bill Brochtrup** with a lovely portrayal of two very different characters. In Part 2, **Tuc Watkins** gets to flex his thespianistic muscles and lend gravitas and humanity to a difficult role. A trio of younger actors anchor the plays. **Bradley James Tejeda** jumped into the production at the last minute and masterfully portrays Adam and Leo (he understudied the roles on Broadway). **Juan Castano** makes a strong impression as golden boy Toby. However, it is **Adam Kantor** as Eric who holds the show together with skill, charm, and immeasurable talent. Should you be in the LA area, both parts of "The Inheritance" run through November 27th. Get tickets and info at GeffenPlayhouse.org.

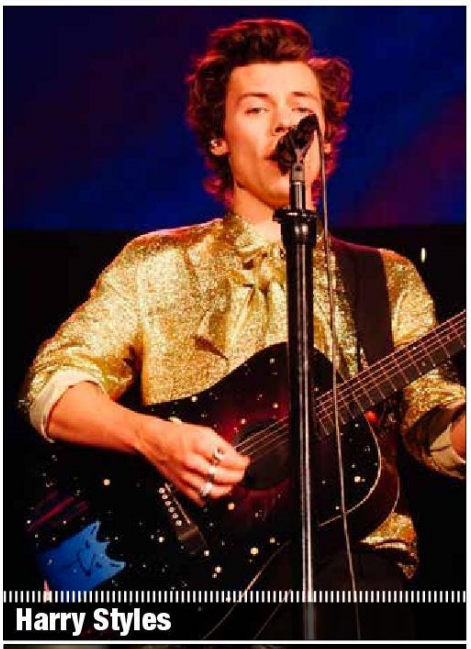
My review of **Harry Styles** in "Don't Worry Darling" was somewhat tepid. I liked the movie (derivative as it may have been) and felt Styles was completely competent. My one concern is that he never took off a stitch of clothing—well, not in front of the camera (rumors loom regarding what happened behind the scenes). So, I'm pleased to see reviews for "My Policeman" with titles like: "Harry Styles naked gives us what we came for" and "Harry Styles romps seven times with men and women in new film, 'My Policeman'". But I need more details. Two women and five men? I'm in. Five women and two men? Gimme my money back. I remind you of what Harry said in an interview: "I wasn't naked in 'Don't Worry Darling'. I was naked in 'My Policeman'. There's no peen in the final cut. There's bum bum. I don't think the peen was intended to be involved. The peen, it was pre-negotiated that would remain my own." Someone needs to get that peen a better lawyer—and I have **Gloria Allred** on speed dial!

Chakrapong "Anne" Chakrajutathib may not be a name that rolls off the tongue, but she's quite well known in Thailand as a transgender businesswoman who has appeared on such shows as "Project Runway" and "Shark Tank". And she's added a significant asset to her portfolio—she just bought the Miss Universe pageant for $20 million. She calls the pageant a "strong, strategic addition to our portfolio. We seek not only to continue its legacy of providing a platform to passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and traditions, but also to evolve the brand for the next generation." This is not the pageant's first connection with the trans community. In 2018, Ángela Ponce was the first openly trans woman to win Miss Spain. As a result, she represented Spain in the 2018 Miss Universe pageant. The next pageant takes place in January and will be held in New Orleans. Now if only they'd only bring back Thomas Roberts as the host. I'm just putting it out there.

Ryan Phillippe was recently reflecting on his role in "Cruel Intentions"—particularly the infamous shower scene. "I felt okay with my butt. Everyone has a butt, it's really not that graphic. So many guys on Twitter are like, 'That's the moment I knew I was gay.'" Alas, it didn't sway Phillippe. A few months ago, Ryan joined **Sarah Michelle Gellar** and **Selma Blair** at an art installation based on the film. One of the paintings was a rendering of Phillippe's perfect posterior. The trio posed in front of the portrait, which you can see on BillyMasters.com.

When we're waxing rhapsodically over Ryan's ripe rump, we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. Frankly, I'm not sure Phillippe's derrière needs any waxing—it looks pretty smooth to me. Before I descend into that dark hole, let me direct you to www.BillyMasters.com—the site that goes where no man has gone before. If you have a question you'd like me to tackle, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before my next heartbreak! Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Adam Lambert



Harry Styles

Ryan Phillippe

Races

Continued from page 1

the U.S. House are running for re-election, and half have a cakewalk to the next term: Mark Pocan (Wisconsin 2nd), Mark Takano (California 41st), David Cicilline (Rhode Island 1st), and first-termer Richie Torres (New York 15th). The others have a tougher road to the finish line:

Sean Patrick Maloney (New York-17th CD): Democrat Maloney is seeking his sixth term to represent a district in New York. But, because of redistricting, he had to choose whether to run in District 18, his original district, or District 17, where his home is located under the new map. The complication: District 17 was the district being represented by another openly gay representative, Mondaire Jones. Much to Jones' chagrin, Maloney chose District 17. Now polls suggest Maloney's race against Republican candidate, state Assemblyman Mike Lawler, is a toss up. And Jones' efforts to be on the 10th district ballot fell short.

Angie Craig (Minnesota-2nd CD): Minnesota's 2nd Congressional district race is always a nailbiter, including this year, as the two-term Democrat faces the same Republican opponent she beat by only two points last time. In the strangest of twists, just like during the 2020 race, a third party candidate's name is also on the ballot even though that person is dead. In 2020, the dead candidate won six percent of the vote (voters are not alerted if a listed candidate is deceased).

Chris Pappas (New Hampshire-1st CD): Democrat Pappas, New Hampshire's first openly gay member of Congress, is running for a third term in a congressional district that has been split evenly among Democrats, Republicans, and non-affiliated voters. After winning his first term by 8.6 points, he won the second term by 5.1 points. Now, former President Trump has promoted a Republican challenger, Karoline Leavitt, and fivethirtyeight.com's analysis of the polls as of October 28 suggest Pappas has a 4.8 point lead. RealClearPolitics.com says it leans Republican. Leavitt has spoken out against trans women athletes and self-accepted pronouns, and she would support Florida-like "Don't Say Gay" legislation.

Sharice Davids (Kansas-3rd CD): Democrat Davids is facing her 2020 challenger and a more Republican-leaning district this year, thanks to redistricting. The latest polling indicates Davids has a strong lead (14 points), suggesting that abortion may be more of a factor there. Kansas voters in August overwhelming rejected an effort to give the state legislature power to ban all abortions in the state. Davids supports the right of women to obtain an abortion; her Republican opponent Amanda Adkins says she's "pro-life" but thinks the issue should be decided at the state level, not federal government.

U.S. House challengers: The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund is supporting eight new candidates for Congress this year:

Becca Balint (Vermont-At-Large CD): Democrat Balint, president pro tem of the Vermont Senate, is making her first bid for the state's one U.S. House seat and is expected to win easily against Republican Liam Madden.

Eric Sorenson (Illinois 17th CD): Democrat Sorenson is given a slight odds to win this open seat previously won by a Democrat by a narrow margin.

Jasmine Beach-Ferrara (North Carolina 11th CD): Democrat Beach-Ferrara is a county commissioner, ordained minister, and LGBTQ activist in the state. She's vying for an open seat vacated by a Democrat near the more progressive Asheville area.

Robert Garcia (California 42nd CD): Long Beach Democratic Mayor Garcia is hoping to win a new congressional seat in that state. Fivethirtyeight predicts he is "very likely" to win.

Will Rollins (California 41st CD): Democrat Rollins is a former prosecutor who has worked on cases against some of the January 6 insurrectionists. He's running against an anti-gay incumbent who has a zero score on LGBTQ votes in Congress.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Oregon 5th CD): Democrat McLeod-Skinner has a fighting chance to win her first bid for Congress. Fivethirtyeight says the education, health, and clean water activist is in a "dead heat" with her Republican opponent. She's also won the endorsement of the state's biggest newspaper, The Oregonian.

Heather Mizeur (Maryland 1st CD): Democrat Mizeur, a former state legislator, is given very little chance of unseating the pro-Trump incumbent in her district, despite her impressive campaign for governor eight years agol

Robert Zimmerman (New York 3rd CD): Democrat Zimmerman has a decent chance to win his bid for this open seat, previously held by a Democrat. He's a former aide to members of Congress and political commentator.

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National Briefs

Continued from page 2

these values,"

"As PFA members, we understand the power of collective bargaining and the fundamental rights of all workers to form and join a union," Danny Vukovic adds.

Football Australia said the video follows almost two years of consultations between the Socceroos, the players' union, and Football Australia with a number of global organizations including Amnesty International, the sport's world governing body and FIFPRO, the global players organization.

Qatar's ruling emir this week lashed out at criticism of his country over its preparations to host soccer's marquee tournament, describing it as an "unprecedented campaign" targeting the first Arab nation to hold the tournament.

Qatar has repeatedly pushed back, insisting the country has improved protections for migrant workers and claiming the criticism is outdated.

In a televised speech Tuesday, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said Qatar "has been subjected to an unprecedented campaign that no host country has ever faced."

"The campaign tends to continue and expand to include fabrications and double standards that were so ferocious that it has unfortunately prompted many people to question the real reasons and motives," he said.

Last month, eight of the 13 European teams which qualified for the tournament said their captains will wear an armband with a heart-shaped, multi-colored design at games to support the "One Love" campaign against discrimination.

The gesture is a clear breach of FIFA rules. It also reflects unease at home about taking soccer's biggest event to Qatar, where homosexual acts are illegal. Qatar says LGTBQ fans won't face arrest.

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