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MAGAZINE

BE BOLD BE PROUD BE GAY



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Illustrates 'Trump
Effect' On LGBTQ
Americans

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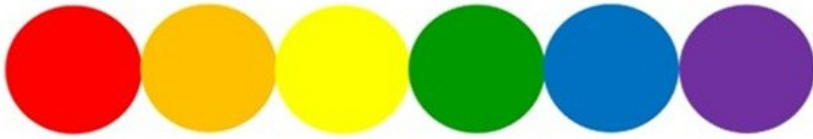
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David Vandygriff
Chief Executive Officer

ADMINISTRATION

Business Manager | Carlos Martinez
Administrative Assistant | Jean Joshlin

ART & DESIGN

Art Director | Brandon Massengill
Designer | Michael Swartz

ADVERTISING

Account Executive
David Vandygriff | 904.728.0810

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

Rivendell Media 908.232.2021 Ext. 200

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Brenda Wilson | Daniel Galbraith
Desmond Wilkerson | Joey Amato
Penelope Stricklin | David Vandygriff
Jennifer Williams | Janet Livingston
Jacqui Palumbo | Robert Conner
Drew Griffin | David Reimer

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Randy Lesson | Renee Parenteu
David Vandygriff

CELEBRITY HOST

Karrissa Wade | Brittany Moore
Sofia Andrews

LOGISTICS

Drew Davis

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HOW TO CONTACT US

MAIN OFFICE

3063 4th Street Circle
Jacksonville, FL 32254
Phone 904.728.0810
info@jaxgaymag.com

ADVERTISING

Call 904.728.0810
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Jax Gay Mag LLC is a Community Marketing and Events organization incorporating Jax Gay Magazine, Rainbow Events, and Drag Queen Aholic.

Our mission is to promote North Florida and especially in Jacksonville, as a welcoming LGBTQ+ destination through marketing and events. Jax Gay produces many events a year, including Jax Equality Festival in Jacksonville. Other events include the Rainbow Awards Show, White Party, Big Gay Picnic, Taste of Pride and Red Party. Visit www.JaxGayMag.com for more information.

Jax Gay Mag. also plans to launch our Jax Event Center & LGBTQ+ Art Gallery in Fall of 2027.

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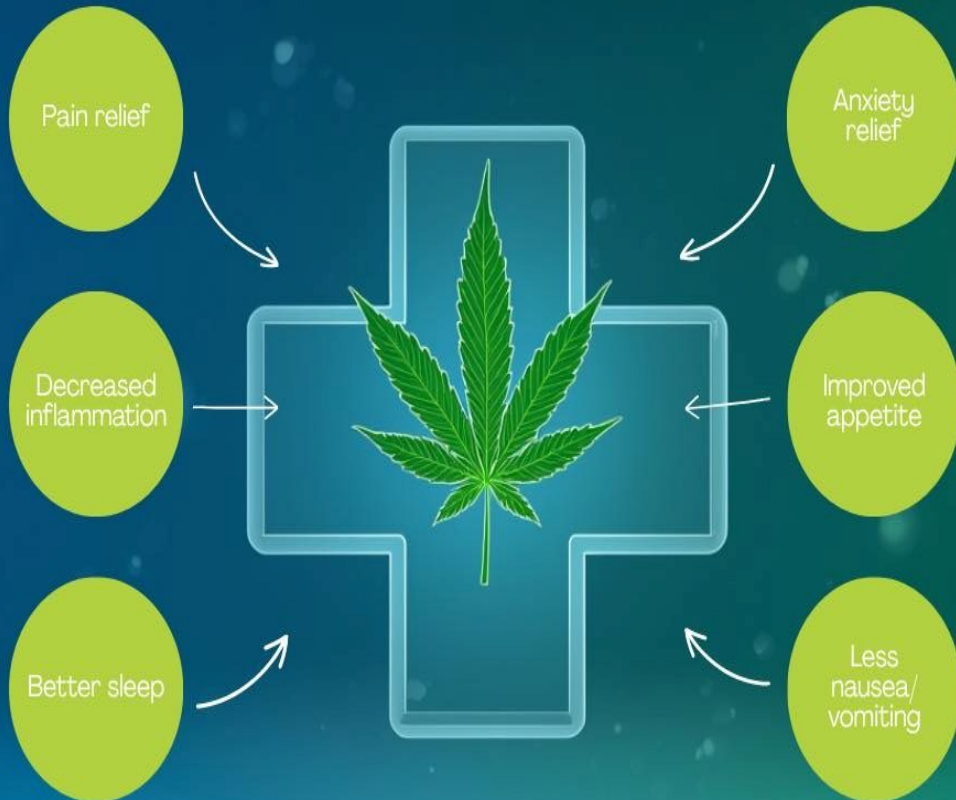


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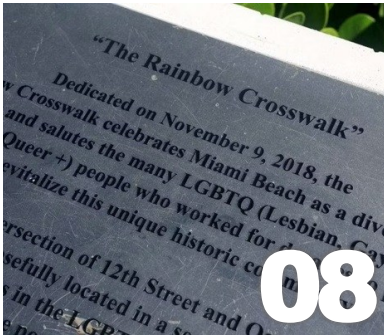
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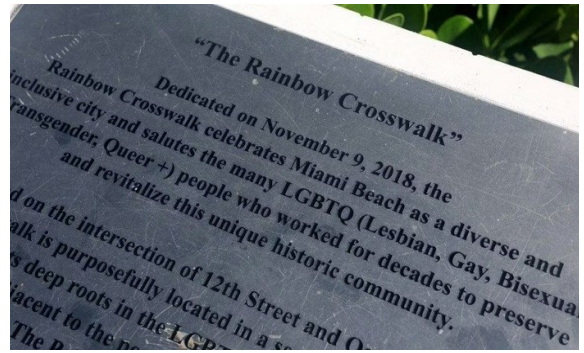
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News & Politics

Texas And Florida Install New Rainbow Walkways As Republicans Crack Down On Pride Crosswalks

By Mark Berdstien



City leaders in San Antonio plans will unveil new rainbow sidewalks as part of a Pride celebration this week. The act comes even as Texas cracks down on other decorated walkways across the Lone Star State.

The sidewalks will be unveiled in San Antonio's Pride Cultural Heritage District, which encompasses the North Main Avenue corridor and includes several historically significant establishments serving the LGBTQ+ community.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the removal of crosswalks at the intersection of Main Avenue and Evergreen Street. But officials have since completed repairs to the walkways and expanded the design to include the colors of the transgender flag, according to San Antonio CBS affiliate KENS.

Michael Rendon, chairman of San Antonio's LGBTQIA advisory board, spoke to the news station and said it remained vital to visibly represent the city's diversity.

"In 2026, there's certain individuals, certain people of our community that still feel unwelcome and unsafe," Rendon said. "This strip represents a place where people can come from the LGBTQ community and our allies and come and celebrate, build community. It's a space where we can come together, be ourselves, and welcome everyone from our community."

But Abbott's administration hasn't let up on its anti-color crackdown. Just this week, Dallas removed a rainbow crosswalk at Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Avenue, in the heart of the city's

LGBTQ+ district, following demands by the Texas Department of Transportation. Shortly after, police arrested a man who attempted to repaint the rainbow patterns in the roadway.

The elimination of that crosswalk was the first step in removing 30 Pride or Black Lives Matter-themed crosswalks in South Dallas.

Texas' actions followed directives issued last year by U.S. Transportation Secretary and former Real World cast member Sean Duffy, who has insisted decorated sidewalks represent road hazards. Shortly after being appointed to his Cabinet post by President Donald Trump, Duffy sent a letter to governors in every state urging the removal of certain "distractions" from non-arterial roadways.

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OUT & HEALTH

LGBTQ+ Americans Are Going Back In The Closet Under Donald Trump

By Ryan Adamczeski



LGBTQ+ people are going back into the closet during Donald Trump's second term as queer visibility decreases across the board, new research has found.

Nearly half of LGBTQ+ adults (47.5 percent) report being less out somewhere in their lives over the last 12 months, according to the Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey from the Human Rights Campaign, including workplaces (26.5 percent), healthcare (25.4 percent), and public spaces (28.3 percent).

Over half of LGBTQ+ workers (57.4 percent) with employers that ended or scaled back diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) reported experiencing stigma and bias at work. This stigma appears to be increasing in all areas, as 51.1 percent of queer adults report being less visible than last year, and 40.1 percent of LGBTQ+ parents with school-aged children report being less visible at schools.

"Trump and his allies made no secret about their plans; they laid it out for all to see in Project 2025," HRC President Kelley Robinson said in a

statement. "Over the past year, his Administration has pushed forward efforts to eliminate civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ Americans — with funding cuts, regulatory changes, and bullying from the bully pulpit. Now, LGBTQ+ Americans are deeply hurting."

LGBTQ+ adults were also nearly twice as likely to say that their financial situation has worsened over the past 12 months compared to non-LGBTQ+ adults. This has impacted their access to health care, as those on Medicare or Medicaid are now more than two times more likely to report barriers to HIV prevention or treatment than LGBTQ+ adults with another form of insurance.

Some first-year Trump administration policies detailed in the report as negatively impacting LGBTQ+ people include:

*Ending federal recognition of transgender and nonbinary

people by claiming they do not exist*Ordering all government entities, including the U.S. Census Bureau, to stop collecting data on LGBTQ+ people

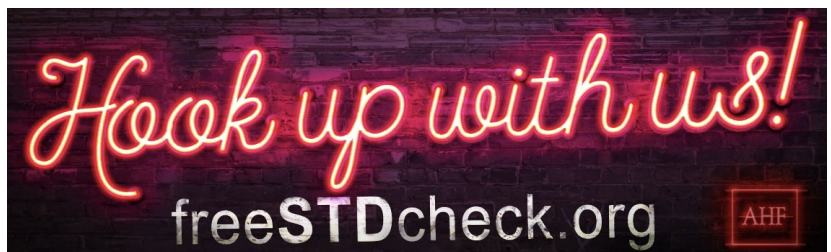
*Rescinding federal nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people through the DOJ, HHS, ED, and EEOC

*Banning trans people from serving in the military

*Cancelling hundreds of millions of dollars in research grants

*Signing executive orders targeting trans youth's access to health care, inclusion in sports, and bathroom usage

"Still, for all the pain Trump has caused, the LGBTQ+ community's resilience drives our power," Robinson continued. "Together, we continue to fight for a future in which everyone has the freedom to be who they are. I, for one, believe that, together, we will come through this stronger, more united, and victorious."





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Science & Technology

Fusion Propulsion Advances As Sunbird Engine Hits First Plasma Milestone

By Neetika Walter



Pulsar Fusion has achieved its first plasma in the exhaust system of its Sunbird propulsion concept, marking an early step toward developing nuclear fusion-based engines for space travel.

They said the test demonstrates the physical architecture of a fusion exhaust system, where charged particles are guided & accelerated using electric and magnetic fields.

Presented live at the MARS Conf in CA, hosted by Bezos, while the actual test was carried out in the UK & streamed to the audience.

The demo focused on plasma confinement within the exhaust channel, a key for a fusion propulsion system.

Fusion Engine Takes Shape

In this initial phase, Pulsar used krypton gas as a propellant because of its ionization efficiency & stable behavior during testing. The setup allowed researchers to observe how plasma behaves within the exhaust structure under controlled conditions.

They said this is only the beginning. The next stage will involve measuring thrust and exhaust velocity using instruments, including thrust balance systems & probes.

To support long-term development, Pulsar is also working with the UK Atomic Energy Authority to study how neutron radiation affects reactor materials. This is the main challenges in maintaining fusion systems.

“The Sunbird program showcased this milestone live in California at the MARS Conference, hosted by Jeff Bezos,” said CEO Richard Dinan. “There is no greater platform to share this first test than here.”

Fusion propulsion aims to solve a problem in space travel. Current systems rely on either chemical rockets, which provide high thrust but limited speed, or electric propulsion, which is efficient but slow.

Race For Faster Travel

Fusion engines could combine both advantages, offering high thrust and high exhaust velocity. This could significantly reduce travel time across the

solar system & improve the economics of space missions.

Faster propulsion could enable quicker transport of materials & infrastructure for projects such as building stations in orbit or on other planets.

Pulsar plans to upgrade its system with high-temp superconducting magnets to generate stronger magnetic fields. Allowing experiments at higher densities & pressures.

Future tests will also explore advanced heating methods and more detailed performance measurements. The company ultimately aims to move toward aneutronic fusion fuel cycles, which could reduce radiation-related challenges.

While the technology remains in early development, the first plasma milestone provides a proof point for the concept. It shows that key elements of a fusion exhaust system can be tested in a controlled environment.

The broader goal is to build propulsion systems that can support faster and more efficient movement in space, as the global space economy continues to expand.

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New Trailer For Stop! That! Train!

By Brenda Davis



In a surreal, albeit welcome, turn of events, the comically bad acting challenges of RPDR have inspired an emphatically titled feature: Stop! That! Train!. And based on the just-released trailer for the film, which is directed by Adam Shankman and stars a number of Drag Race favorites, it'll be every bit the train wreck that the challenges are — a fact we very much applaud.

Channeling scripted skits like “Good God Girl, Get Out,” “Gay’s Anatomy,” and “Drag Queens in Outer Space,” the runaway-train comedy stars RPDR regulars Ginger Minj and Jujubee as best friends and coworkers aboard the Stank Rail. The coach stewardesses, who dream of a better work life on the glitzy Glamazonian Express, are jolted into action when a catastrophic storm — Storm-ganza,” of course — threatens to derail their train and send it hurtling into Los Angeles. Putting aside their egos, sort of, the duo team up with a handful of first-class attendants (Symone, Brooke Lynn Hytes, Marcia Marcia Marcia) and

RuPaul’s President Gagwell to keep the crisis contained.

In the lengthy trailer for the zany 92-minute feature, the Drag Race alums and creator are joined by a slew of comedians and icons hailing from the worlds of film, stand-up, stage-acting, and podcasting. Las Culturistas cohost Matt Rogers plays the president’s right-hand man; Crazy Ex-Girlfriend star Rachel Bloom heads up mission control, flanked by Guy Branum and Charo; and onboard the topsy-turvy locomotive, stars like Sarah Michelle Gellar and Lisa Rinna can be seen getting in on the fun. Even in the approximately 2-minute sneak peek, the barrage of famous faces, which the trailer pokes fun at in its final seconds, causes a dizzying sensation. And that’s before you start unpacking the lengthy list of pop culture references, from 1980s & ‘90s spoof films like *Airplane!* and *Mars Attacks!* to action flicks like *Speed*, which are all strung together with a RPDR, devil-may-care sensibility.

Shankman, who also helmed 2000s rom-coms like *A Walk to Remember* and *The Wedding*

Planner, may be one of the few working directors who could make sense of it all — if, in the end, he does. After all, he clearly understands how to merge over-the-top aesthetics and biting wit, given that legendary filmmaker John Waters, who can be seen in nearly everything film-related that RuPaul does, put his faith in the director for the 2007 remake of *Hairspray*. And while the project wasn’t exactly critically acclaimed, Shankman worked with the “Cover Girl” singer on the Netflix series *AJ* and the Queen, meaning that he’s already an indoctrinated member of the RPDR crew.

Whether *Stop! That! Train!* manages to stay on track or completely goes off the rails is maybe besides the point anyway. What we’re more interested in is its potential to become a full-on theatrical event come June — because, if there has been a recent film more worthy of movie house takeovers by fans in themed ensembles, we can’t think of it. Now, if only there were a branded popcorn bowl...

Stop! That! Train! will release in theaters nationwide on June 12.



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OUT & HEALTH

Grindr Helps Send Out Over 1 Million HIV Self-Test Kits

By Martin Alsop



Grindr is helping reduce the stigma around regularly getting tested in a few different ways on the app, but one of the most impactful has been a feature that lets users order HIV elf-test kits right through the app.

Through a partnership with the program Together TakeMeHome, Grindr has reached the milestone of helping distribute over 1 million kits — with nearly half of the testing kits ordered through the app's link.

One in four of the orders were from first-time testers, According to Mohan Sundararaj, Grindr for Equality's managing director. And at the end of September, Together TakeMeHome received funding that allows another 360,000 free HIV tests to be distributed in the following year.

"Reaching this milestone is proof that digital access can close real-world health gaps and help challenge the stigma and discrimination that still surround sexual health, especially for the LGBTQ+ community," Sundararaj said in a statement. "With more than

15 million people connecting on Grindr every month, the app has the power to deliver more than just connection; it can deliver life-saving information and tools to LGBTQ+ people all over the world. By using our platform to reach users directly, we're helping bridge the gap between awareness and action, and providing safer, judgment-free spaces for care."

Sundararaj and Jen Hecht, cofounder of Building Healthy Online Communities, which created Together TakeMeHome, emphasize the importance of a program like this in the face of political uncertainty, as threats are made to HIV care and prevention measures. Earlier this year, the Trump administration slashed funding to programs not only in the United States but across the globe through PEPFAR.

Hecht is optimistic that this 1 million milestone is just the beginning for HIV self-testing. "What this milestone demonstrates is that increasing accessibility to HIV testing by creatively engaging private sector partners benefits many," she said in a statement. "As more people have easy access to HIV testing, we also see

higher engagement in other tools, whether that is PrEP for prevention or connection to early treatment and care, that lead to a healthier community overall. There's still a wide gap between knowing about prevention tools like HIV testing and PrEP, and feeling safe or comfortable enough to seek them out. Too often, stigma and discrimination — not just logistics — keep people from taking that step.

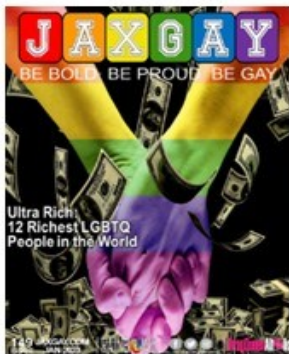
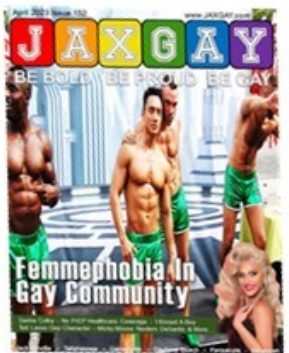
She continued, "By offering self-tests that are easily accessed at any time of day and delivered right to someone's door, we're helping break down those social and structural barriers, removing not only practical hurdles but also the silent shame and uncertainty that have long kept too many from managing their sexual health. Grindr's leadership in placing the link in a prominent location with the app is a key aspect of normalizing sexual health and de-stigmatizing testing for HIV."

Order a free self-test today at together [takemehome.org](https://www.takemehome.org).

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Life and Style

Does Caviar Go Bad? What You Need To Know *By Zach Zawila*



Caviar is the quintessential luxury food. It's a gourmet ingredient not typically found in everyday cooking, although there are ways to get great caviar without breaking the bank, like opting for varieties other than sturgeon. Still, caviar is delicate and demanding of respect. Even if you're not buying Strottarga Bianco caviar, which can cost over \$100,000 per kilogram, it's only logical that you'd want to get the most out of your purchase. That's why it's important to eat your caviar before it spoils.

Yes, caviar does go bad, but as for the question of when? There's no single answer that goes for all types of caviar. Fresh caviar sold in a tin will stay fresh for up to six weeks if it isn't opened. Pasteurized caviar, which has a firm texture, remains shelf-stable for about six months if unopened. Once you open the can, either type of caviar will begin to go bad after about three days.

Keeping your caviar at the proper temperature is key to retaining its briny, crisp taste. The best way to store caviar that's been opened is in the coldest part of the refrigerator. Between 28 and 32 degrees Fahrenheit is best (the rest of your refrigerator is probably 35 to 40 degrees, depending on your settings). We freeze all types of seafood, so it might be tempting to throw caviar in the freezer, but that's a bad idea. It'll cause the caviar to lose its textural pop.

Sure Signs Your Caviar Has Gone Bad

Caviar is made with curing salt, which slows down but does not prevent bacterial growth even in an unopened tin. An early sign that caviar has declined in quality is the loss of its signature taste and texture. Eventually, it will become unsafe to eat. Air exposure accelerates the oxidation process within the caviar, leading to spoilage. Wrapping an unsealed container of caviar in plastic wrap before storing it

in the fridge can hasten oxidation. Determining whether your caviar has gone bad is similar to checking other food products for spoilage, but you there are specific characteristics to look for.

If the tin appears bloated, the caviar has gone bad. Another visual indicator of spoiled caviar is discoloration. Now, take a whiff. Caviar should smell mildly briny, not fishy. As you take your first bites, note the texture and taste. If the roe doesn't pop as you bite it, seems mushy, or has a bitter or funky flavor, toss it.

If you're still unsure, you can use the same technique as checking eggs (caviar is fish eggs after all). Take a small number of roe and drop them into a cup of water. They should gently sink down to the bottom of the cup. If they float, they're past their prime. Unfortunately, if some of the caviar in a container is spoiled, it's safest to throw all of it out rather than try to pick out the good eggs.



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COVER STORY

New Data Illustrates 'Trump Effect' On LGBTQ Americans

By David Vandygriff



Nearly half of LGBTQ people report “being less out somewhere in their lives” — including the workplace, healthcare settings, and public spaces — since President Donald Trump returned to office a year ago, according to a new survey first shared with JGM.

The data, released Thursday, comes from the Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, an advocacy organization.

The survey of more than 14,000 Americans — two-thirds of whom identified as LGBTQ — paints a bleak picture of their lives in Trump’s first year back in office. The president and other federal

officials have, among other actions:

- **moved to end** federal Recognition of transgender and nonbinary people;
- **sought to ban** transgender troops from the military;
- **cancelled hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth** of research focused on LGBTQ peoples’ experiences;
- **announced a slate of actions** aimed at eradicating gender affirming care for trans youth;
- **shut down a hotline for LGBTQ youth at risk of suicide;**

- **and ended gender-affirming care coverage** for federal workers.

The survey findings suggest these actions are having major impacts on the climate of acceptance for LGBTQ Americans and their everyday lives. Nearly 30% of LGBTQ adults said social acceptance has declined over the past year.

When it comes to health care, two-thirds of trans and nonbinary adults reported difficulty accessing health care due to policies imposed by the Trump administration. About a third of LGBTQ adults who have experienced health care discrimination said their health has worsened over the past year.

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Despite the significant role LGBTQ people play in the American economy — spending more than \$1 trillion annually and starting businesses in records numbers — the survey suggests they are being further marginalized in the workplace following Trump’s executive orders seeking to ban diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Nearly 40% said their employers made at least one DEI-related change in the past year, and more than 57% of LGBTQ workers at those companies reported experiencing stigma and bias at work.

LGBTQ Americans have also

been disproportionately impacted by some of Trump’s economic policies, including cuts to food stamps, which 15% of LGBTQ adults, or nearly 2.1 million people, rely on, and Medicaid, which LGBTQ people are nearly twice as likely to use for health insurance compared to non-LGBTQ people, according to the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law. The survey found that LGBTQ adults were nearly twice as likely as non-LGBTQ adults to say their financial situation worsened over the past year.

The data provides rare insight into the experiences of LGBTQ

people under the second Trump administration, given that the federal government has pulled back on collecting data on LGBTQ peoples’ experiences following an executive order Trump signed on his first day back in office.

“LGBTQ+ Americans are deeply hurting,” Human Rights Campaign President Kelley Robinson told JGM. “Still, for all the pain Trump has caused, the LGBTQ+ community’s resilience drives our power. Together, we continue to fight for a future in which everyone has the freedom to be who they are.”

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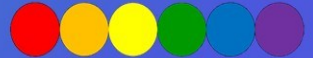


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Science & Technology

US' Largest Offshore Wind Farm: 2.6-GW Facility Delivers Its First Power To Grid

By David Vandygriff



An offshore wind farm in the U.S. has delivered its first power to the grid. Deemed as the largest offshore wind farm in the U.S., Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project delivered power right on schedule.

A major milestone for Dominion Energy's Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Today, CVOW delivered its first power to the grid—right on schedule,” said Dominion CEO Robert Blue.

“This achievement marks another important step forward, adding much needed electricity to help meet the fastest-growing power demand in the country. This project is a critical part of Virginia's all of the above energy strategy.”

CVOW Will Continue Delivering More Power

Blue also highlighted that as additional turbines are installed, CVOW will continue delivering more power on the path to full completion early next year. “I am so proud of the team making this progress possible—and excited about what's ahead,” added Blue.

26 www.JaxGayMag.com

CVOW is a critical part of Dominion Energy's all-of-the-above diverse energy supply strategy, providing a renewable energy source that generates affordable electricity for homes and businesses.

CVOW consists of a pilot and a commercial-scale project. The pilot, which became operational in October 2020, consists of two offshore wind energy turbines generating 6-MW each — enough to power up to 3,000 homes.

First Offshore Wind Farm Installed In Federal Waters

The pilot represents a series of firsts for Dominion Energy and the United States. It is the first offshore wind farm installed in federal waters & the first offshore wind project developed & owned by an electric utility company.

The commercial project builds on the success of the pilot and will consist of 176 offshore wind energy turbines generating a total of 2.6-gigawatts — enough clean, sustainable energy to power up to 660,000 homes. From offshore wind turbines to onshore transmission, CVOW paves the

way to a clean energy future.

The 2.6-gigawatt (GW) CVOW, 28 miles off Virginia Beach and under construction since 2024, is about 70% complete, with 176 monopiles installed. Two Siemens Gamesa 14 MW wind turbines have been installed, and power is currently being generated from one of them. The turbines will be turned on gradually throughout the rest of the year. The project is to be finished in early 2027.

The facility helps avoid carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to removing more than 1 million cars off the road each year. It also diversifies the company's customers' energy supply, which is essential for energy security, reliability & low fuel costs.

The project also attracts manufacturing and service companies to support the offshore wind industry in the United States.

The company also claimed that all components – turbines, foundations, and offshore substations – are appropriately designed to withstand all anticipated weather conditions, including extreme weather.



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FRI
06

MADAM PLATINUM'S HOUSE OF SEX

FANTASIA ROYALE GAGA, MISS PARKER, TAINO, ALYX WYLD
MUSIC BY BEBE DELUXE | 10PM

SAT
07

BEEF—HEATED RIVALRY PARTY

TALL DAD, SHORT DAD, HONEY NUTT, LUCAN
MUSIC BY JUST THE TIP. SPORTSWEAR ENCOURAGED | 10PM

SUN
08

SAPPHIC SUNDAY | DJ TWINN

A NIGHT FOR THE GIRLS WITH LES VIXENS BURLESQUE | 6PM

FRI
13

HOT GIRL LINEUP | NICKFRESH

MEG THEE STALLION PARTY FT. TEYONNA, GEMINI, REMINI MOGUL,
ARABIAN NIGHTS, BEE BABY LINDO | 10PM

SAT
14

SNL W. DIVA CLICHÉ | OMY THE DJ

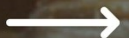
ICONS FOREVER PARTY FT. SOFIA ANDREWS, CHIQUI D'LORENK,
ALEXIS GABRIELLE SHERRINGTON, TAINO, HEX | 10PM

TUESDAYS | \$5 TITO'S
KARAOKE | 8PM
HOST | BEBE DELUXE

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THURSDAYS | 7PM
FOOD | NARIO'S NUCK

HOTSPOT HEROINES
THURSDAYS | 9PM
HOST | DIVA CLICHÉ

DRAG RACE
WATCH PARTY
FRIDAYS | 7:30PM



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FRI
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BLACKLIGHT | DJ TEEZY
TEYONNA CLICHÉ, RACHEL BOHEME, TAMARA LOVE DUPREE,
KEN, AMIR CARTER | 10PM

SAT
21

LATIN NIGHT | JERY GARCIA
GEOVAN CLICHÉ, KANDY HO, SOFIA ANDREWS,
TAINO, HEX | 10PM

FRI
27

SLUT POP | JERY GARCIA
WOMEN'S ONLY RED ROOM. FT. GEOVAN, KANDY HO, A MAN DUH,
CARLITOS, ARABIAN NIGHTS | 10PM

SAT
28

HOUSE OF CLICHÉ | OMY THE DJ
DIVA CLICHÉ, GEOVAN, TEYONNA, AYSHA BC DUPREE | 10PM

TUESDAYS | \$5 TITO'S
KARAOKE | 8PM
HOST | BEBE DELUXE

NAME THAT TUNE
THURSDAYS | 7PM
FOOD | NARIO'S NUCK

HOTSPOT HEROINES
THURSDAYS | 9PM
HOST | DIVA CLICHÉ

DRAG RACE
WATCH PARTY
FRIDAYS | 7:30PM



BUSINESS & TRAVEL



What's The Top-Selling Beer In Germany?

By Brent Bennett

When it comes to beer, few countries hold the same global reputation as Germany: Oktoberfest and big steins filled with pilsner are built into the culture. Out of all the breweries, according to data from Accio in 2024, one brand is consistently the top-selling beer: Krombacher. Brewed according to the German Purity Law (which sets German beer apart from American beer), Krombacher has remained the country's most popular beer for years.

The brewery is named after the village where it started, Krombach, and the first pilsner (the company's flagship beer) was reported to have been brewed here in 1890. To this day, it uses soft water that comes from a natural rock spring as the base for its beer. Like many classic German beers, Krombacher uses a straightforward ingredient list of water, Hallertau hops, malt, and yeast. Pilsner beers are a

type of pale lager, and are the style most downed in Germany. Krombacher is clean and crisp (key characteristics of pilsners) and the 4.8% beer also has a fruity aroma, balanced malt, and light bitter finish.

Germany has surprisingly seen a dip in beer drinking in recent years, with younger crowds turning towards nonalcoholic options. This has affected Krombacher, too; according to Just Drinks it sold 5.9 million hectolitres (a hectolitre = 100 liters) of beer in 2024, which was a 1.4% decline from the previous year. Yet as one of Germany's largest breweries, Krombacher is business-savvy too, and offers a 0.0% option.

How To Enjoy A Krombacher Pilsner

Wondering how you can enjoy Germany's top-selling beer stateside? Krombacher might not be at the average dive bar, but it can easily be found at a Total Wine store or likely at your local craft beer store.

But before you crack one open, you should know that serving temperature does matter. For Krombacher, the brewery recommends 43 to 46 degrees Fahrenheit. This range allows the malt flavors and hop bitterness to come through; if it's too cold and you won't be able to taste these notes. In terms of what to pour your beer in, there is a specific glass made for pilsners, and it's the tall one with a narrower base and a wide top.

Now for the fun part: Pairing. Pilsners like Krombacher go well with German comfort foods like pretzels and mustard or one of the many types of German sausages. Something as simple as crispy fries with a creamy aioli dipping sauce is also an excellent choice. The light refreshing body of the beer cuts through starchy and salty dishes, so you should have no shortage of food pairing options.

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Netflix Announces First 'Bridgerton' Season With A Gay Lead

By Tom Frank



Warning: Bridgerton (season 4 and book) spoilers ahead.

Dear Reader, the next season of Bridgerton promises to be a gay one indeed.

Netflix announced that season 5 of the hit Shondaland show, which rotates the siblings of a high-society London family as leads, will focus on Francesca Bridgerton.

Played by Hannah Dodd, Francesca is the sixth and most introverted Bridgerton sibling, who had previously married Lord John Stirling (Victor Alli) in season 3. Her inability to reach a "pinnacle," or sexual climax, was a plotline of season 4, which ended with Stirling's surprise death and Francesca widowed.

In a new teaser clip released by Netflix, Francesca is seen in the company of Michaela Stirling (Masali Baduza), her dead husband's cousin, in Scotland, which is where the Stirling family had lived before they had traveled back to London. They went there for "the season" — the height of social activity and matchmaking for British society, where Bridgerton (and

gossip columnist Lady Whistledown) has historically found its main material.

A Netflix rep informed Out that Scotland will be a major setting for season 5. The rep also shared that queering Francesca — whose character did not have this identity in Julia Quinn's Bridgerton novels — was a creative choice made by out showrunner Jess Brownell. (In the books, Michaela's character was a man named Michael.)

"It's hugely important to me to be able to tell queer stories in Bridgerton," out showrunner Jess Brownell told Out prior to the release of season 4, which focused on the Bridgerton brother Benedict, a character who is sexually fluid but whose same-sex romances were mostly sidelined.

"I feel like Bridgerton made its name in many ways on being an inclusive universe, and for queer stories to be left out of that would not feel right," Brownell added. "So, to be getting to tell Benedict and Francesca's stories over the next couple of seasons is really thrilling."

Dodd had previously told

Deadline that either Francesca or her sister Eloise would center the next season; expect the latter to headline season 6.

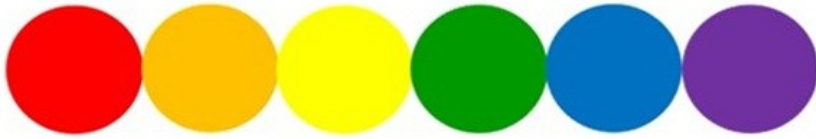
The actress who portrays Francesca also addressed the possibility of same-sex romance during that season 4 junket. "It's tricky with Francesca's story because we don't know what our writers are going to do," Dodd told Out. "The series is based on a series of books, and so people who have read the books have an idea of what might happen."

"We've had our writers really change things up. I never want to confirm or deny anything because I don't [know]," she added. "But if that does ever happen, I'd be really, really grateful and honored to tell that story."

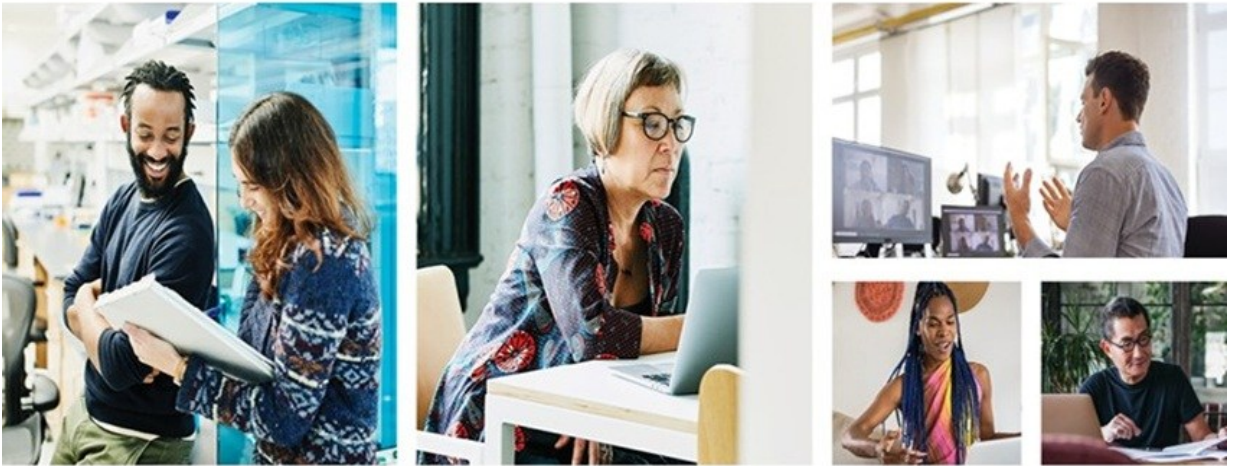
"We've just dipped our toe into that relationship, so I think it needs a little more time to breathe, but when Michaela does show up, she's someone who brings with her quite a lot of chaos," Brownell said. "And I think for better or worse, she'll shake up the dynamics between Fran and John."

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Life and Style

This Liquid Takes Pot Roast From Good To Unforgettable

By Meghan Tatum



Pot roast is one of those wonderfully comforting, ubiquitous dishes that has no single "correct" way to make it, but a ton of ways to make it even better. You'll find just as many tips on improving your pot roast as there are mistakes to avoid, but everyone should try at least one piece of advice once: Add beer to the braising liquid. As it turns out, the right brew can make your roast downright unforgettable.

Beer allows a pot roast to develop several layers of flavor complexity while also adding balance, depending on the kind of beer used. There's so much diversity in beer that the liquid can bring sweet, sour, fruity, caramel-y, chocolatey, and even coffee-like notes to your roast. Knowing what makes each style of beer different will help you understand what it'll bring to your braising liquid.

While some sources say beer breaks down proteins and tenderizes meat, others claim it

doesn't. Either way, the best method for getting it melt-in-your-mouth tender is to cook it low and slow and use the right cut of meat for your pot roast. Something collagen-rich like chuck works best because prolonged heat will reduce the connective tissue to gelatin that helps soften the meat.

What Types Of Beer To Use In Your Roast

Needless to say, some beer styles go better in a pot roast than others. Brown or amber ales are a good place to start. Speaking with Mashed in 2024, chef Rich Parente said these are the best types of beer for braising a roast because they have a malty, caramel-like flavor that complements beef. You can also try English porters, which have a more robust flavor profile but use similar malts. If you want deep, intense flavors with a hint of chocolate, go with an Irish stout — it's what makes this Guinness stew recipe so

complex and indulgent.

If you're feeling a little more adventurous, you can also explore fruit lambic beers, which are traditionally fermented sour beers infused with fruit. The beer can help balance out the richness of the beef with its acidity, while the sweetness from the fruit adds depth — much in the same way adding red wine to your braising liquid does.

Framboise, a lambic made with raspberries, can impart a subtle flavor that takes your pot roast over the top.

If you're not a fan of hoppy beers, it might be best to keep IPAs far away from the pot. While a little bitterness from beer can temper flavors in your roast that might be too strong, IPAs can end up overpowering the dish. IPAs typically clock in at 40 to 100 international bittering units (IBUs); for comparison, brown ales usually fall between 20 and 30 IBUs.

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Mandy Mango Wants Drag Race Run To Elevate HIV Care Advocacy

By James Massengill

Introduced as "Philly's favorite fruit," Mandy Mango's journey came to an untimely end on RuPaul's Drag Race season 18 episode 3, titled "RDR Live Returns," after somehow landing in the bottom 2 during the three first episodes of the season — a point of contention that the Drag Race fandom is still debating.

Mandy, who played a character named Barbara Johnson in this "Tuckahoe County Fair" sketch of "RDR Live," appeared alongside Darlene Mitchell and costarred with queens like Discord Addams and Mia Starr portraying the cohosts of the event. Yet, Mandy's performance wasn't necessarily praised by the judges, who critiqued her for doing too much (and losing sight of the character she was playing).

During an exit interview with JGN, Mandy discusses how it felt to land in the bottom in all three episodes of Drag Race that she's competed in, why she's surprised by the very positive reaction from fans, and how her daytime job as a nurse specializing in HIV and sexual health for people in the LGBTQ+ community is a really important message for a

platform like Drag Race to feature — no matter what her placement in this competition series turned out to be.

JGM: You had a short and intense journey on RuPaul's Drag Race season 18. What has been the most surprising thing about this experience so far?

Mandy Mango: Honestly, all of the love given and sent my way. Just how much they love my kindness and my personality. When you get ready for the competition, you really just focus on your package, and your drag, and making sure you're polished, and you have everything.

But I didn't expect people to be like, "Oh my god, there's just like something about her soul." I'm like, "Oh my god, you guys like my soul?!" I didn't even consider that to be a likable thing. But thank you. I love that.

It's never happened on Drag Race (U.S. flagship series) for a queen to be in the bottom (and eligible for lip sync for her life) in all three first episodes of a season. At least two of your bottom placements felt confusing to me, but we have to go by the actual critiques and

placements. What was going through your head, three episodes in, being in the bottom for all three episodes?

It's such a rollercoaster. There's ups, and downs, and it kind of shakes you up so you're not really sure if you're seeing clearly. The first episode, you know, I still like my look. I don't think it was totally bottom, but I also see why it belonged in the bottom. So that one... I kind of understood that one.

The girl group challenge, I really thought I ate! But we also hadn't seen the girl groups — and they really ate it up. Jane Don't's "test positive for slaying"? That was really good. And Mia's singing voice is beautiful. I'd like to think that I did well for my girls group, but I think the other girls definitely took it out of the water.

I'm really glad though... Like, it's so funny hearing it back, because it brings back all the memories. I really liked my verse; I thought it just spoke to who I was. It might not have been disco... But, at that point, I was just focused on making sure that my stamp was made on that stage.

The "RDR Live" challenge

didn't work as well as it did, for me, this time around. I felt like no one really did as poorly as we've seen before, so I understand that it was hard to pick a bottom 2. But, again, I was surprised to see you having to lip sync for your life. Did you see that, at the time, and maybe went into this lip sync feeling kind of defeated? Did you have any hope that like you would stay? What was the vibe?

I was hopeful. I really trusted and had faith in my ability to lip sync. But, you know, at that point, I am like emotionally and physically drained. If you ask me what I did in that lip sync, I can't really tell you. [Laughs.] I feel like I blacked-out for a little bit there.

I remember seeing Briar in the corner of my eye, kind of kicking her leg, and she was in a bra and panty. It was really like a fever dream. Overall, I like what I did. Looking back, I'm like, "Why did I choose the old lady character? But I think it all just uh tracks with me being a high-energy, too-much girl at the end of the day.

Your entrance look in episode 1 was a reference to Nurse Joy. Can you talk about that reference? Is Pokémon something that has influenced your drag?

Yeah, of course. I feel like I've given so much of my life growing up with Pokémon. I wanted to make sure I had a "nurse" look walking into the werk room. I really wanted to like show off that brand and that perspective right off the

bat. I was just kind of like, "In what way should I showcase a nurse?" I thought of other iconic nurses, and [Nurse Joy] just felt perfect. It shows off that playful, soft side. And like, obviously, my interest in anime and video games, which are huge influences to my drag.

I always say that the main adjectives for Mandy Mango are "animated" and "energetic," and I think Nurse Joy — and that look — definitely lent to that playfulness.

Overall, this cast has been very well received in comparison to other recent seasons. Beyond that, you've also had one of the best receptions from fans out of this entire group. What's been your relationship with the fans so far?

It's been so healing, honestly. You know, you have this experience, and you have your own sort of perception and impression of it all. You sit with it for a few months, and then you finally see it on TV, and you finally see the reaction to it.

It's been pleasantly surprising to see how much people really see you, and see your drag, and understand your point of view, and just see you as a person. That's been so... I don't know, I just want to say that it caught me off guard in the best way. I didn't expect for Drag Race fans to be applauding me, you know, beyond just my drag.

Editor's note: Out of drag, Mandy Mango is an RN (Registered Nurse), has a BSN (Bachelor of Science in



Nursing), and is an ACRN (HIV/AIDS Certified Registered Nurse).

Casting a drag queen who works as nurse — and whose work centers people in the LGBTQ+ community specifically — is a really poignant casting choice for Drag Race season 18. Since last year, politicians are trying to limit medications like PrEP for queer people, not to mention gender-affirming care for trans people. Given that you work in healthcare with our community, can you take a moment to discuss your experiences that are beyond this TV show?

Working as a nurse in this field — no matter what angle you're in — working with HIV and sexual health has become harder. We've had resources taken away from us. Webpages with resources that were

available online have now been taken down. It has placed a lot of the work on local leaders, who have had to step up and provide these resources for our communities. I think it feels very timely to be have given this platform on Drag Race because this is exactly what I want to do.

I want to be a drag queen who's a symbol of knowledge and advocacy for HIV care and sexual health — especially

now, when it is being taken away. Knowledge is power. When they take away knowledge, they're trying to take away our power. I don't want to see that for our community. I don't want to see that for our people, as we can only take care of ourselves if we know how to. Hopefully, this platform allows for more opportunities to educate and advocate for causes and resources that are being taken

away from us.

RuPaul's Drag Race season 18 airs new episodes every Friday on MTV. Keep up with Mandy Mango on Instagram, X/Twitter, TikTok, and YouTube. You can also support the Drag Race star by buying her merch on MandyMango.com and/or booking a personalized video on Cameo. During the next few weeks, Mandy Mango will star in Nymphia Wind and Plastique Tiara's The Serpents Tour.



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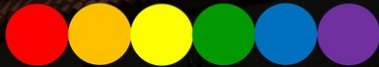
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News & Politics

Trans Kansans, ACLU File Lawsuit Against State Invalidating Driver's Licenses

By Glenda Rutherford



Two anonymous trans Kansans and the ACLU filed suit against their state on Friday over a new transphobic law. The law takes trans Kansans' driver's licenses away if they have the correct gender designation, and also allows them to be sued by random citizens if they use the correct bathroom.

Earlier this week, many trans Kansans received a letter from the government warning them that, effective immediately, their driver's licenses were null and void. The news was first reported by Erin In The Morning. Those who drive with an invalidated license could be hit with six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

The suit was filed in Kansas' Seventh District Court in Douglas County by two anonymous transgender men, identified as Daniel Doe and Matthew Moe. It takes aim at Kansas State Senate Bill 244, an anti-trans bill blocking people from correcting the gender marker on their birth certificates and other legal documents like driver's licenses. Trans Kansans are directed to surrender their

license in exchange for one that has a gender marker aligned with the one assigned to them at birth. The bill made no allowance for a grace period for the change.

In addition, it allows anyone who sees a trans person in the bathroom matching their gender identity to sue that trans person—even if the bathroom is in a private business. The law was originally vetoed by Governor Laura Kelly, a Democrat, but the veto was overturned, according to Erin In The Morning.

The lawsuit says that the bill forces people to either face lawsuits for using the correct bathroom or out themselves to potential harassment and violence. Even then, the lawsuit alleges, they "may still be sued by individuals who are 'aggrieved' because they think they're in the wrong restroom."

The plaintiffs are both from Lawrence, Kansas and say they work in government-owned buildings and are not publicly out as transgender. Doe is an administrative associate at the University of Kansas, while Moe is a Ph.D student at the University. Doe

has to drive a university vehicle as part of his job, and also has to fly periodically as part of his duties.

"Presenting identification that does not align with his gender identity would subject him to heightened scrutiny, potential harassment, and invasive questioning during security screenings. Such encounters would be humiliating and degrading and would forcibly disclose his transgender status without his consent," the lawsuit says.

"Prior to updating his license, Daniel experienced precisely this type of mistreatment when a bartender questioned the authenticity of his identification and subjected him to prolonged interrogation. Since his driver's license has reflected his male gender marker, he has not experienced similar incidents," it continues.

The plaintiffs are asking the court to overturn the law on constitutional grounds. They're also seeking a temporary restraining order and injunction to keep the law from going into effect while the lawsuit is heard.

2020 election, which Trump lost, was stolen.

Grenell's influence over the Kennedy Center's programming and artistic direction remains unclear. The

institution does not have an official "executive director" position, leaving many wondering whether he is replacing current Kennedy Center President Deborah

Rutter or if Trump simply created a new title for his loyalist, the Washington Post reports. The White House and the Kennedy Center have yet to clarify.



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BUSINESS & TRAVEL

How To Experience London Like A Bridgerton Queen

By William Sappington

In London, I'm a flaneur, admiring the marquees of various West End theater productions, peering into bookshops, and happening upon queer bars and pubs. I love meeting up with friends in the United Kingdom's capital city for a pint or a show, and I once visited with a girlfriend who was from Brighton, England. Discovering London, whether solo or with someone else, is an activity I've romanticized. I imagine my younger self immersed in the National Theatre or the British Film Institute on the South Bank or dancing at Heaven, where queer '80s musicians from Erasure, Soft Cell, and Bronski Beat once convened. I've visited this international city more than any other — six times now over decades. In 2025 alone, I wandered the banks of the Thames during two different seasons.

Last summer, I tacked on a three-day sojourn on my way home to Los Angeles from Stockholm Pride (and a Swedish fling). I flew into Heathrow in August to loll at the Corinthia London luxury hotel and decompress. As a queer person, traveling outside

of the United States gave me a sense of calm I hadn't felt since the 2024 election, and I was not eager for that to end.

Since I'd gone viral for "holding space" with Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande several months prior, the staff at Corinthia greeted me by name upon arrival, as if I were a celebrity. Though I heard that I missed an actual celebrity, Mariah Carey, by mere hours that day. That afternoon, beneath a chandelier with 1,001 Baccarat crystals, I was greeted by the hotel's general manager, Charlotte Weatherall, a history-making queer woman who is the first female GM of a luxury hotel in the city.

There, in my deluxe junior suite, I enjoyed a sitting room, a tub that could accommodate several people, a walk-in rain shower I never wanted to leave, and an inviting king-sized bed, where I fell in for a nap before a long stroll to the South Bank and back over the bridge to Covent Garden.

Each morning, I dined downstairs at Kerridge's Bar & Grill, which offered plenty of vegetarian/vegan options. Following a day out with an old friend visiting Carnaby Street

(though it's no longer the singular mod spot featured in films like *Blow-Up*), we caught up over dinner at Corinthia's alfresco restaurant, The Garden. A short walk away from Corinthia, we hit up the Hadestown production in the West End for a steal at about £32 per ticket.



For my final full day at Corinthia, I visited the multifloor spa, Biome, where I lounged in the hotel's lush terry robe on a heated marble chaise before desultorily swimming a few laps in a heated pool. That night, I crossed the street to the Kit Kat

Club for an immersive experience seeing Cabaret. I'd planned to head straight to the airport the next day, but one more artistic event awaited me. I'd seen a sign for an exhibit on the queer performance artist Leigh Bowery (who inspired the musical Taboo), so I rushed to the Tate Modern to learn more about his life, career, and death from AIDS before heading home.

Just over four months later, I returned to London with Netflix to interview the Bridgerton cast at London's funky Ham Yard Hotel, although we stayed at the Radisson Blu in Leicester Square, where I watched the ice skaters in the Christmas market from my room. For the full Bridgerton experience, we

enjoyed high tea at another of London's five-star hotels, The Langham in Marylebone. A day trip to Bath, rolling along the English countryside, included a tour of Bridgerton locations and warm mulled wine from the massive holiday fair there.

Since I'd flown 11 hours to England, I opted to make the most of it and stayed on for two more nights at Hyde London City near Mayfair, Kensington, and Knightsbridge, though I did not go on this part of the trip alone. My Swedish friend from the summer joined me for two days of romance at the boutique hotel located in the Victorian-era Spiers & Pond building with a view of Holy Sepulchre Church from the bohemian-inspired room.

From the hotel, we ventured through the city over London Bridge to the famed Borough Market, where we grabbed halloumi wraps and strolled the Thames on a chilly December day before eventually ending up back in the West End to peruse the shows that were playing. That evening, Hyde London City's Turkish restaurant, Leydi, hosted us for dinner (the hummus with c hilli butter is still on my mind).

My most recent trip to England's premier city took me to a neighborhood new to me, but a seven-mile stroll with a paramour landed me back in the spot another queer '80s group, the Pet Shop Boys, sang about. I guess I'm forever a "West End Girl."

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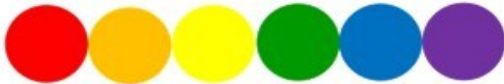
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