



EIGA Exceptivo Director Steps Down

Dives for Days This Mines Anding the Parteent

From Military Brute to Vamulie Slaver

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Letters & Announcement

Help Make Advent 2010 Equally Blessed

This Advent season, join the progressive Catholic movement in wearing a rainbow ribbon to church as a public symbol of justice and solidarity with LGBT youth in this time of increased awareness about youth suicides.

Do you feel called to do more for our youth? Here are some other wavs vou can make a difference:

Pledge to have a conversation about LGBT justice issues with a family member, colleague, neighbor, member of your parish or faith community, or with a public official

Volunteer for an LGBT organization, maybe one that works with LGBT or questioning vouth.

Help create a safe space or anti-bullying policy to support LGBT youth in your local school or faith community.

If you know a Knight of Columbus, ask them if they know how their money is being spent on anti-gay campaigns.

Help pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act.

Adopt a bishop this season and make a contribution in his name to an LGBT rights organization and then send a letter to the bishop letting him know of your gift.

To stay connected, order ribbons or learn more, visit The Trevor Project or DignityUSA.org.

Sacramento Theatres Need Your Help

Dear Outword,

You have probably noticed the empty seats in the theatre - at Music Circus, Broadway Sacramento and Cosmopolitan Cabaret.

For the first time in our 60-year history, these empty seats and unsold tickets mean we face critical decisions about how we will continue to provide musical theatre this coming year.

Bringing musicals to life requires not only hard work and energy, but a significant financial investment. Tickets sales cover only a portion of this expense. Fewer tickets sold

means we must rely on your tax-deductible donations even more to close the ever-widening gap.

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Please donate online or call us today at (916) 446-5880, ext. 123, so that you and your family can enjoy musical theatre in 2011!

Help Keep Theatre Arts In Our Community Alive and Thriving! Sincerely,

> Richard Lewis **Executive Producer**

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The Sacramento coalition for Working Families is offering tax returns prepared for free for income-eligible families.

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EQCA Executive Director Steps Down

eoff Kors, who has been at the helm of one **→** of the most successful LGBT lobbying and advocacy organizations in the nation for the past nine years, has announced that he is resigning from the group, effective March 31, 2011.

Kors has led EQCA almost since for the many accomplishments of the organization, including more than 70 pieces of LGBT legislation.

He worked closely with the Legislature's LGBT Caucus and other legislators on issues as varied as domestic partnerships, transgender rights, Harvey Milk Day, insurance discrimination, protection for LGBT youth and seniors, and twice helped shepherd marriage equality bills through the legislator, only to have them vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

Kors, and EQCA, also fought against Prop 8, perhaps the group's most stinging defeat which led to considerable second-guessing and criticism of the organization.

Kors will help EQCA with its search for a new executive director and will continue to press for LGBT legislation in the meantime.

"For me, after nine years," Kors told LA's Frontiers, "it seems like a good time to leave since we just had our most successful legislative session in the history not just of

Equality California, but of any its beginning and is largely credited LGBT group in the nation – having passed 25 pieces of legislation through the legislature in the 2009-2010 session."

> Kors' departure comes at a time when EQCA is facing financial hard times. Like most non-profits. financial support for the organization is waning, and the



Equality California's Executive Director Geoff Kors speaking at the Sacramento EQCA Awards in

loss of revenue has caused belt tightening in the organization.

Contributions to the group, according to tax records, plummeted after the passage of Prop 8. However, Kors told the Bay Area Reporter that "We're in a sound and healthy financial situation." That may be a very rosy depiction though, as contribution in 2008 of \$14 million have dropped to just over \$5.8 million so far this year, according to Kors.

The losses are taking a toll on the organization though. EQCA plans to continue to lobby for LGBT issues, including marriage Equality in California. It will do so with fewer staffers, and with fewer offices statewide.

Plans are for EQCA's Sacramento, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Los Angeles and San Diego field offices to remain open. However, many of the organization's canvassing offices, including the office in Sacramento. which has already been closed, will be shuttered. The canvassing offices brought volunteers together for phone banking, training and door-to-door canvassing. Also in Sacramento, Chris Moore, who led EQCAs political action arm has been let go. Moore is the President of Sacramento's Stonewall Democratic Club.

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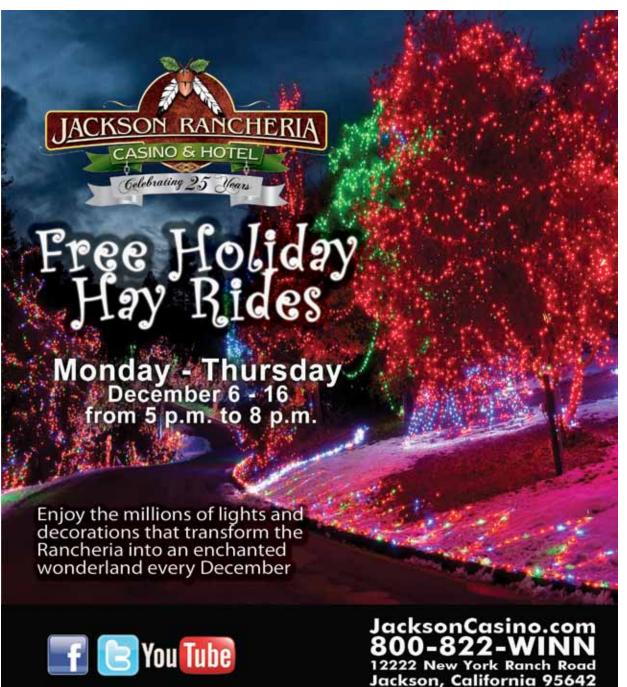




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ADVERTISING SALES

Northern California (916) 329-9280

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National Advertising Representative Rivendell Media (212) 242-6863



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1722 J Street, Suite 6 Sacramento, CA 95811

PHONE: (916) 329-9280 FAX: (916) 498-8445

www.outwordmagazine.com sales@outwordmagazine.com

ISSN # 1084-7618 United States Library of Congress



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HIV/AIDS: U.S. Reports Progress in Saving Lives

eflecting America's commitment to saving lives affected by HIV/AIDS, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has announced encouraging new results achieved by its efforts to support countries in providing HIV prevention, treatment and care to their people.

Among these results, the U.S. is directly supporting life-saving antiretroviral treatment for more than 3.2 million men, women and children worldwide as of September 30, 2010, up from less than 2.5 million in 2009.

In the coming years, the U.S. has committed to directly supporting more than four million people on treatment, more than doubling the number of people directly supported on treatment during the first five years of PEPFAR.

Combating HIV/AIDS is a shared global responsibility. In addition to PEPFAR's direct impact, many also benefit from programs supported by the U.S. and other donors through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS. Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Of the estimated 5.2 million individuals in low- and middleincome countries who currently receive treatment, nearly 4.7 million receive support through PEPFAR bilateral programs, the Global Fund or both.

The U.S. is the first and largest donor to the Global Fund, having provided more than \$5.1 billion to date, and announced an historic multi-year pledge of \$4 billion for 2011-2013, a 38 percent increase in U.S. support.

Support for prevention of new HIV infections, and for care and support for those affected by HIV. are other areas in which PEPFAR

programs show encouraging progress. PEPFAR directly supported antiretroviral prophylaxis to prevent mother-tochild HIV transmission for more than 600,000 HIV-positive pregnant women in fiscal year 2010, allowing more than 114,000 infants to be born HIV-free.

Through its partnerships with more than 30 countries, PEPFAR directly supported 11 million people with care and support, including nearly 3.8 million orphans and vulnerable children, in fiscal vear 2010 alone. PEPFAR directly supported HIV counseling and testing for nearly 33 million people in fiscal year 2010, providing a critical entry point to prevention, treatment, and care.

Building on these and other global health successes supported by the American people, President Barack Obama put forward an ambitious U.S. Global Health Initiative to support countries as they improve the health of their own people.

The Initiative seeks to save the greatest number of lives in a sustainable way by building upon what works. The U.S. will continue to work with the global community to build on success to date by making smart investments to save more lives.

For more information, visit the newly redesigned PEPFAR web site, www.PEPFAR.gov.

Minois Senate Approves Civil Unions

he Illinois State Senate has approved legislation that extends civil union rights to gay and Lesbian couples by a 32 to 24 vote, with several Republicans voting for the bill, including Sen. David Koehler (R-Peoria), the bill's chief Senate sponsor.

Likewise, several Democratic senators voted against the bill, including State Sen. James Meeks (D-Chicago) who is a mayoral candidate, the pastor of Salem Baptist Church and a past critic of gay rights.

The legislation, SB1716, the "Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act,"

had previously passed the Illinois House, and will now go to Gov. Quinn for his signature. The Governor has pledged to sign the bill, and in fact, in a show of his support for the bill, he came onto the floor of the Senate during



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DADT Report Says Letting Openly Gay Troops Serve Won't Hurt Military

by Boyce Hinman

→ ven as Senators and staffers were still reading through the Pentagon's newly released review of the controversial "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy, they began hearings on the policy in Washington with support and opposition for the policy solidly split along partisan lines.

"Today's report confirms that a strong majority of our military men gay, in general, unit performance and women and their families more than two thirds – are prepared to serve alongside Americans who are openly gay and lesbian," said President Obama in a released statement. "This report also confirms that, by every measure – from unit cohesion to recruitment and retention to family readiness – we can transition to a new policy in a responsible manner that ensures our military strength and national security."

The U.S. Department of Defense released two documents on Nov. 30, concerning the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy. One is a report of the results of a survey of members of the U.S. armed services. This survey asked whether or not service personnel think allowing LGBT people to serve openly in the armed services would be disruptive to those services.

The second document outlines a proposed way of implementing an end to "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (DADT).

The report notes that the survey was sent to almost 400,000 service members and their families, and 215,052 people responded to it. It notes that the Department of Defense made affirmative efforts to have a positive effect. reach and get the opinions of present and former gay and lesbian service members. 296 self identified gays or lesbians took part in the survey.

Surveyors also used individual interviews and group discussions among service members, and other methods, to get as much accurate information as possible.

The report states that, "We conclude that, while a repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell" will likely, in the short term, bring about some limited and isolated disruption to unit cohesion and retention, we do not believe this disruption will be widespread or long-lasting, and can be adequately addressed by the recommendations we offer".

The report went on to say, "Both the survey results and our own engagement of the force convinced us that when Service members had the actual experience of serving

with someone they believe to be was not affected negatively by this added dimension."

One of the most fundamental objections to ending DADT has been that it would prevent unit cohesion and thus impair the military's ability to complete its mission.

One finding in the report directly challenges that assertion. The report notes that, 69 percent of Service members reported that they had served with a Service member whom they think was a homosexual. Of those, 92 percent stated that the unit's "ability to work together" was "very good," "good," or "neither good nor poor." Only eight percent of them said that the effect of having a homosexual in the unit was poor or very poor.

Here are some other survey results found in the report:

- 70 percent of Service members predicted ending DADT would have a positive, mixed or no effect.
- 74 percent said the end of DADT would have no effect on their decision on whether or not to re-enlist. Only 12 percent said it would effect that decision.
- 15-20 percent said repeal would
- Only 30 percent of Service members overall expressed some concern about the repeal of DADT. However, 40-60 percent in the Marine Corps and in various combat arms specialties said ending DADT would have a negative impact on the armed services. The report notes that this percentage of negative responses should be taken seriously, but says the plan they propose addresses that issue.

The document proposing a plan for the end of DADT is very comprehensive (it's 95 pages long). It describes several stages to implementing the change:

Stage One would begin prior to the enactment of the law to end DADT. In this stage, "the Department of Defense and the Services would continue to review existing policies and issuances affected by repeal, and prepare new or revised issuances based on the recommendations in the report".

If the Secretary of Defense approves these issuances, "The Department of Defense and the Services would also develop education and training materials and communications plans that would be used in the implementation stage."

- Stage Two, the implementation stage, would begin once Congress passes legislation ending the DADT policy. Once that happens, "Education and training programs necessary to prepare the force for repeal and to communicate the upcoming policy changes would be executed." And "Upon the effective date of repeal, the Department of Defense and the Services would put any new or revised policies into effect.

Stage Three would be the "sustaining stage." In this stage, follow-up would be done in order to monitor implementation and make adjustments to the policy as needed.

The plan describes, in great detail, what would be done in each of the above stages.

These two documents provide a giant step forward towards the goal of ending the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy. Further action, however, hinges on Congress ending the policy.

With our nation at war and so many Americans serving on the frontlines, our troops and their families deserve the certainty that can only come when an act of Congress ends this discriminatory policy once and for all," said the President in his statement. "The House of Representatives has already passed the necessary legislation. Today I call on the Senate to act as soon as possible so I can sign this repeal into law this year and ensure that Americans who are willing to risk their lives for their country are treated fairly and equally. Our troops represent the virtues of selfless sacrifice and love of country that have enabled our freedoms. I am absolutely confident that they will adapt to this change and remain the best led, best trained, best equipped fighting force the world has ever known.

You may see copies of the two documents discussed here by clicking here, and then clicking on the links at the bottom of the web based version of this article.

Boyce Hinman is the founder of the California Communities United *Institute. He can be reached at b.* hinman@calcomui.org or calcomui.org.

Anti-gay Rapper Draws Protesters at Harlow's



About 30 protestors, led by Equality Action Now, demonstrated outside of Harlow's on Sunday, Nov 28 at a performance of Jamaican dancehall performer Capleton, who is known for his songs and comments from the stage during past performances calling for LGBTQ people to be killed. With the help from the Lavender Angels, and their friends from the Guardian Angels, the safe and relatively quiet protest was concluded around 10:15 p.m. **Photos by Kati Garner**





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New Legal Guide Shows Irrational Treatment of HIV+ Persons

new comprehensive analysis of HIV specific criminal laws and prosecutions in the U.S. shows that people are being imprisoned for decades, and in many cases have to register as sex offenders, as a consequence of exaggerated fears about HIV.

The publication, *Ending and* Defending Against HIV Criminalization: State and Federal Laws and Prosecutions, covers policies and cases in all 50 states. the military, federal prisons and U.S. territories and was released by The Center for HIV Law and Policy on Nov. 17.

"In the United States there are many shocking cases of persons being prosecuted for otherwise legal conduct solely based on their HIV status," said René Bennett Carlson, CHLP's Managing Attorney, and one of the authors of the manual. "This singling out of people with HIV for arrests and punishment without consideration of the responsibility of all parties in a sexual relationship, the actual risk of HIV transmission and whether transmission even occurred is based on intolerable ignorance about HIV. These laws

and prosecutions have no positive impact whatsoever on HIV infection rates or risk behavior."

Most of these cases in the study involve consensual sex or conduct such as spitting and biting that has only a remote possibility of HIV exposure. For example, a number of states have laws that make it a felony for someone who has had a positive HIV test to spit on or touch another person with blood or saliva.

We hope that this resource will put a spotlight on this terrible injustice and make it easier for advocates to defend against these discriminatory prosecutions," Bennett Carlson added.

Some examples of recent prosecutions discussed in CHLP's manual include:

• A man with HIV in Texas is serving 35 years for spitting at a police officer;

• A man with HIV in Iowa, who had an undetectable viral load, received a 25 year sentence after a onetime sexual encounter during which he used a condom; his sentence was suspended, but he had to register as a sex offender and is not allowed unsupervised contact with his nieces, nephews and other young children;

- · A woman with HIV in Georgia received an eight year sentence for failing to disclose her HIV status, despite the trial testimony of two witnesses that her sexual partner was aware of her HIV positive status:
- A man with HIV in Michigan was charged under the state's anti-terrorism statute with



Ending and Defending Against HIV Criminalization

A MANUAL FOR ADVOCATES

possession of a "biological weapon" after he allegedly bit his neighbor.

Ending and Defending Against HIV Criminalization: State and Federal Laws and Prosecutions is intended as a resource for lawyers and community advocates on the laws, cases and trends that define HIV criminalization in the United States. Thirty-four states and two U.S. territories have HIV specific criminal statutes and 36 states have reported proceedings in which HIV-positive people have been arrested and/or prosecuted for consensual sex, biting, and spitting. At least 80 such prosecutions have occurred in the last two years alone.

"We support the work of the Center for HIV Law and Policy's Positive Justice Project. This manual is a tremendous achievement and provides a desperately needed resource for the HIV community," said Vanessa Johnson, Executive Vice President of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA).

The manual can be accessed and downloaded at www. hivlawandpolicy.org/resources/ view/564.

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LGBTs Included in Health Policy Blueprint

he U.S. Department of Health and Human Services took an important step as they **L** unveiled policy goals that for the first time acknowledged that LGBT individuals experience health disparities that affect their health status.

Healthy People 2020 (HP2020), the blueprint for national public health prevention and policy goals for the next decade, was released

on Dec. 3 LGBT health appears as a special topic area among the 42 listed within HP2020, and transgender people are included in the document.

Previous versions of *Healthy* People referred only to lesbian, gay and bisexual people. This success follows a decade of national community effort to document the health challenges confronted by LGBT persons.

Information on the recommendations can be found at www.healthypeople.gov. The goals set forth in *Healthy People 2020* will guide the allocation of federal public health resources for the next ten years.

The LGBT topic area page speaks strongly about issues affecting the health of LGBT people, such as the impact of discrimination, the importance of widespread cultural competency, the LGBT community's

> **BLUEPRINT** continues on page 26



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(8) Outword Magazine

Gays Most Targeted for Hate Crimes

ay men and lesbians are far more likely to be victims of a violent hate crime than any other minority group in the United States, according to a new analysis of federal hate crime statistics in the latest issue of the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Report, released Nov. 22.

The SPLC's analysis of 14 years of hate crime data found that homosexuals, or those perceived to be gay, are more than twice as likely to be attacked in a violent hate crime as Jews or African-Americans: more than four times as likely as Muslims; and 14 times as likely as Latinos. The findings are based on FBI hate crime statistics from 1995 to 2008, the

"As Americans become more accepting of homosexuals, the most extreme elements of the anti-gay movement are digging in their heels and continuing to defame gays and lesbians with falsehoods that grow more incendiary by the day," said Mark Potok, editor of the Intelligence Report. "The leaders of this movement may deny it, but it seems clear that their demonization

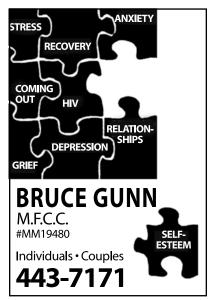
These findings come as a wave of anti-gay attacks have washed across the country.

period for which there is complete data. The basic pattern also holds true in individual years.

The analysis is being released to coincide with the release of the FBI's hate crime statistics for 2009.

These findings come as a wave of anti-gay attacks have washed across the country. In New York, for example, ten suspects were arrested for brutally torturing three gay victims. And in Covington, Ky., a neighborhood was hit by a series of violent anti-gay attacks. Most dramatically, four teenagers committed suicide in September after being bullied, taunted or outed as homosexuals.

This analysis of hate crime data can be found in the Winter 2010 issue of the Intelligence Report, which also explores how the hard core anti-gay movement in America is becoming more extreme in the face of gay rights advances. The complete issue can be read at www.splcenter.org.



of homosexuals plays a role in fomenting the violence, hatred and

Even after the recent string of teen suicides, which brought national attention to the issue of anti-gay bullying, leaders of these groups blamed those seeking to protect students from bullying.

bullying we're seeing."

Eighteen anti-gay groups are profiled in the Winter 2010 issue, which also contains an article debunking ten key claims spread by the anti-gay movement to demonize homosexuals. These claims - ranging from the myth that homosexuals don't live nearly as long as heterosexuals to the utterly bizarre claim that gays helped orchestrate the Holocaust - are examined in detail.

Anti-gay "murder music," a style of music that features lyrics advocating the murder of homosexuals and is growing in popularity far beyond its native Jamaica, is also described. The music has sparked an effort by gay and lesbian activists in Jamaica and throughout the Western world to stop its growth.

The law enforcement edition of Intelligence Report, which is being sent to about 55,000 officers, also contains a training DVD to help officers recognize the threat when dealing with extremists from the "sovereign citizens" movement. This past May, two officers in West Memphis, Ark., were murdered when they stopped two sovereigns.

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit organization that combats hate, intolerance and discrimination through education, litigation and advocacy. The Intelligence Report is the SPLC's quarterly investigative journal that tracks the activities of hate groups and monitors militia and other extremist activity. For more information, visit www.splcenter.org.

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Sac. Valley Bears Spread Holiday Joy



The Sacramento Valley Bears donated \$1,000 each to three deserving charities at their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 1. Pictured presenting the checks is Bear-at-Large Steven Pera with Kurt Kurtis, Technical Director, from the Lambda Players; Judith Argall Dalziel, Board President, of Avalon House; and Tabitha Stout, Board Vice President, of the Lavender Library. Photo montage courtesy the Sacramento Valley Bears. Learn more about the Bears at SacBears.org.



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Tips for Transgender Travelers

s transgender people and their families prepare to travel for the holidays, many have expressed concern about the various new invasive equipment and procedures at the airport announced by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

The National Center for Transgender Equality opposes the routine use of full-body scanners and the new invasive patdown procedures, continues to work with the TSA to minimize privacy intrusions and ensure respectful treatment of transgender travelers.

Here are some ideas and information to help you have safe and uneventful travel this season.

- Both travelers and TSA personnel have the right to be treated with dignity, discretion and respect. If you encounter any issues, politely ask to speak to a supervisor immediately. Remain polite. Do not raise your voice or threaten TSA staff; this only results in additional delays.
- You have the right to opt out of a full-body scan in favor of a manual patdown. It is your choice.
- You have the right to choose whether a pat down is conducted in the public screening area or in a private area, and, if in a private area, whether to be accompanied by a travel companion.
- You have the right to have manual search procedures performed by an officer who is of the same gender as the gender you are currently presenting yourself as. This does not depend on the gender listed on your ID, or on any other factor. If TSA officials are unsure who should pat you down, ask to speak to a supervisor and calmly insist on the appropriate officer.
- You should not be subjected to additional screening or inquiry because of any discrepancy between a gender marker on an ID

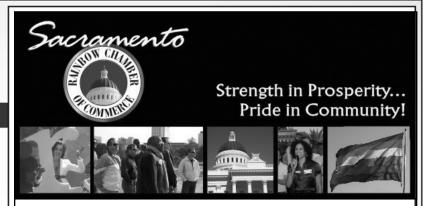
and your appearance. As long as your ID has a recognizable picture of you on it, with your legal name and birth date, it should not cause any problem.

- Foreign objects under clothing such as binding, packing or prosthetic devices may show up as unknown or unusual images on a body scan or patdown, which may lead TSA personnel to do additional screening. This does not mean that you cannot fly with these items, only they may lead to further screening. Be prepared to give a brief description of what they are or check them in your luggage so that you can minimize scrutiny and delays.
- Items containing liquid, gel or powder substances will trigger additional security screenings and therefore we strongly recommend that you pack these items in your checked luggage or leave them at home.
- Wigs or hairpieces may require additional screening if they are bulky or not form-fitting. If you have gone through a metal detector or body scanner and TSA personnel want to do additional screening of a wig or hairpiece, you may request that a patdown be limited to your hairpiece or that you be permitted to pat the area down yourself and have your hands swiped for chemical residue.
- If you are carrying medically prescribed items, such as syringes for hormone injections or vaginal dilators, it is very helpful to have proof of the medical necessity of the item(s). Ask your doctor for a letter stating that he or she has prescribed the item or keep medical devices in their pharmacy packaging that includes a prescription label. Be prepared to briefly explain the purpose of the item if asked.

For more information, visit nctequality.org

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Word on the Street

Who Is Your Favorite Person to Visit with During the Holidays - and Why?



Martha Pollauf

My darling daughter of course, because she needs me but makes me feel like she wants me.



Jackie Cuneo

My parents because there is always beer and whisky in the house.



Linda Petersen Hmm, "Pacific Grove," just because ...



Vinny, my long lost boyfriend, I miss him so.

Aunt Ellen, she gives me cheese.



Megan Lawrence

My family in Ohio, especially my mom, because I don't get to see them all the time.



Dave West

My boyfriend because I love him very much ... or maybe Santa, because I like older guys.









December 9, 2010 - December 23, 2010 • Volume 23 • Issue 23 • No. 422

Out & About















The Pocahontas Promenade

The Capital City Squares, Sacramento's LGBT square dancing club, celebrated their 29th anniversary with a dance on Nov. 22. Titled Pocahontas Promenade, the dance drew dancers from San Francisco and the Bay Area, and was a great kick off for the start of the oldest LGBT square dancing club in the nation's 30th anniversary. The club holds weekly lessons with plenty of time for dancing at all levels. Come dance with them, visit www.capitalcitysquares.com. Photos by Larry Lauszus, Photography by Larry.

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Food

A Gay Man's *Eat, Pray, Love* Experience

fter a trip to Italy in 2001 with his partner, author Mark Leslie reluctantly returned to his home in Alabama. He couldn't get the splendor of the country out of his head though, so in 2005 he returned alone to Viterbo, Italy, and immersed himself in a cooking and intensive language course where he would live and study with his teachers.

Each day, Nonna a charming Italian grandmother taught him to cook authentic Italian recipes while her daughter, Alessandra, taught Leslie colloquial Italian.

In Beyond the Pasta: Recipes,
Language & Life with an Italian
Family, Leslie shares his experience
in a day-to-day journal format and
offers his charming story in English
with enough translated Italian
woven throughout that, by the end,
even non-Italian speakers will feel
as if they have learned the language.
(It is also perfect for those looking
to refresh their Italian.)

Readers get to know and love this kind-hearted, generous, and often dramatic Italian family and with Leslie's artful description of every meal, conversation and experience, they feel as though they are actually there, eating and laughing along with Nonna and the entire family.

In the book, Leslie also shares what it was like to come out of the closet with his host family and the fears he had about how they would accept him knowing he was gay.

The book includes photographs of the sights, food, and people he

encountered, along with 29 authentic, delicious family recipes Nonna shared with him.

Passing on the favor, here is one of Leslie's favorites that he would like to share with you.

Pollo al Pomodoro e Olive (Chicken with Tomato and Olives)

1 (4 pound) chicken, cut into 8 or 10 pieces (cut into 10 by dividing the breast into quarters)

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to season the chicken.

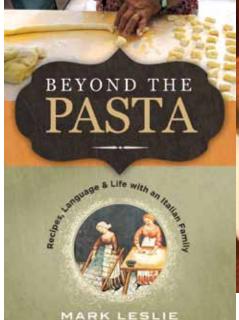
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive

- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 large cloves garlic, minced
- 3 /4 cup strained tomatoes, such as Pomi brand *

 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups (5 ounces) whole green olives, pitted

¹/₄ teaspoon salt, or more to taste ¹/₄ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, or more to taste

Dry the chicken pieces with paper towels to remove any excess moisture and liberally season with salt and pepper on both sides. Heat the oil in a large skillet on medium



heat, and when the oil is hot, add the chicken pieces, skin side down and fry until nicely browned, turning to brown both sides, 3 to 5 minutes on each side.

When the chicken has browned, transfer to a plate and set aside. Add the white wine and garlic to the pan, scraping the brown bits off the bottom of the pan. After the wine has reduced by half, about 3 minutes, add the strained tomatoes, olives, salt and pepper. Stir until combined. Return the chicken to the skillet with its juices. Cover, turn the heat down to low and simmer for



Pollo al Pomodoro e Olive is one of author Mark Leslie's favorite recipes. He also shared with Outword that one of his favorite Italian restaurants is in Sacramento - Biba. "Biba Caggiano is a most enthusiastic fan of my book and she wrote an 'Advance Praise' blurb for the back of the book. I hope you'll go to Biba and give it a whirl. E' buonissima!"

20 minutes. Remove the cover and cook another 10 minutes, until the chicken is done and the sauce has thickened slightly.

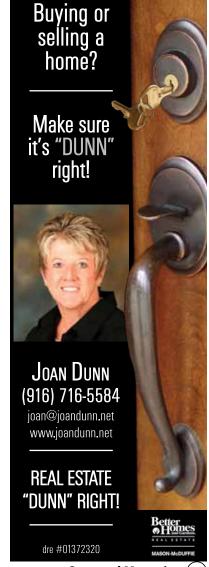
Remove the chicken to a warmed platter. Adjust the seasoning of the sauce with salt and pepper, and pour the sauce and olives over the chicken. Serve hot. Serves 6.

*Note: Strained tomatoes can be readily found in most supermarkets in either the canned tomato or pasta aisles. Sometimes the product may be referred to by its Italian name "passato" and can be found either bottled or cartoned, as is the case with the Pomi brand.

Recipes, Language & Life with an Italian Family, by Mark Leslie, is available at your favorite bookstore or online.











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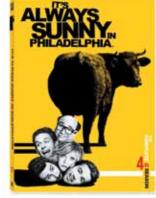
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Theatre by Chris Narloch

The Stars Are Out In New York City Four Broadway Musicals Reviewed

Seeing talented new performers succeed on stage is one of the primary pleasures of attending the theater on a regular basis. The other joy I find in regular trips to New York City to see shows is witnessing established performers stretch themselves (and at times reinvent themselves) on Broadway.

Currently doing just that are a diverse group of familiar faces (and names), including Patti LaBelle, Sean Hayes, Kelsey Grammer, and Levi Kreis, who are all wowing Broadway audiences in hit shows this season. The four musicals they star in are reviewed below.

Million Dollar Quartet

Our own Levi Kreis is officially a Broadway star. His queer fans have known how talented Kreis is for years, thanks to a successful string of solo records from the openly gay singer/songwriter. Now theater fans have joined the club as a result of his stunning success in the new-to-Broadway musical, Million Dollar Quartet.



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Kreis plays a young Jerry Lee Lewis at the peak of that legendary piano man's powers, and he gives the

role everything he's got. The result is

The story of Million Dollar Quartet involves a legendary, one-time recording session between Lewis, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins that occurred on Tuesday, December 4, 1956 in the Sam Phillips-owned Sun Record Studios in Memphis, TN.

Talk about a super-group (and a super hook for a musical). There isn't much of a book to speak of, however, beyond the somewhat awkward narration by Phillips' character and



Million Dollar Quartet

a riveting, bravura performance that deservedly won Kreis a Tony award earlier this year.

Playing the piano in just about every conceivable position. Kreis all but makes love to the instrument during the show, and he also has Lewis' cockiness down pat. He pretty much blows the other three leads off the stage, which is saying something because they are all excellent as well. the joking around among the fearsome foursome in between

Despite that weakness, Million Dollar Ouartet is the best new jukebox musical since Jersey Boys and a terrific tribute to the pioneers of rock and roll. The four men jam on each others hits – including "Blue Suede Shoes," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Great Balls of Fire," "Hound Dog"



and many more - and the audience eats it up like the musical feast it undoubtedly was.

Million Dollar Quartet is currently playing indefinitely at the Nederlander Theatre on W. 41st Street

Promises, Promises

This red-hot revival stars Sean Hayes and Kristin Chenoweth in a story of office romance that was based on the Oscar-winning Billy Wilder film *The Apartment* from 1960. The musical features a book by Neil Simon and songs by Burt Bacharach and Hal David, including the familiar hit "I'll Never Fall in Love Again."

This production of Promises, Promises also includes two other recognizable songs by Bacharach and David not in the original score: "I Say a Little Prayer" and "A House Is Not a Home." They are both performed by Chenoweth presumably to beef up her role

Hayes, in his Broadway debut, has to do a lot of singing as well, and he succeeds admirably, displaying a surprisingly strong voice to go along with his well-known, expert comic

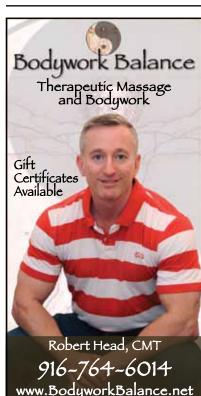
The problems with *Promises* include its depiction of sexual politics in the office during the 1960s, which feels dated and sexist now, and a heavy sub-plot involving a suicide attempt by one of the main characters which is jarring next to the comic hijinks that constitute most of the action.

If you can overlook those flaws, the performances in the show are fun, and the music is definitely winning.



Patti LaBelle in Fela!

Promises, Promises plays through Jan. 2, 2011 at the Broadway Theatre on Broadway at 53rd Street.



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Fela!

This fascinating new musical was inspired by the true story of the legendary Nigerian musician, Fela Kuti, whose fiery Afrobeat rhythms ignited a generation. Inspired by his mother, a civil rights champion, Kuti defied a corrupt and oppressive military government and devoted his life and music to the struggle for freedom.

If this sounds like the recipe for a "PC" history lesson, think again. Fela! is one of the most original and exciting new shows to open on Broadway this season (or any season). Featuring the dazzling direction and choreography of Bill T. Jones, the show is a captivating musical biography of a complex, challenging performer.

Two actors perform the role of Fela on different nights, and I saw Kevin Mambo, who alternates with Sahr Ngaujah. The show is staged as a live concert inside the Nigerian nightclub where Fela regularly performed, with the audience as Fela's fans. Although entirely scripted, the musical feels like a spontaneous, free-form event that could explode at any moment.

This seeming unpredictability is appropriate to Kuti's music and to his life, which was marked by violence and tragedy. Mambo is mesmerizing in the role, and Patti LaBelle plays his mother, Funmilayo, with the same regal authority we have come to expect from this R&B superstar.

Even before she appears, LaBelle's soaring, supernatural singing voice is heard from off-stage, an appropriate



Douglas Hodge and Kelsey Grammr in La Cage aux Folles. Photo by Joan Marcus.

and very effective device since she is playing the ghost of Fela's mother, who died from injuries she suffered after being thrown from a window of her son's compound by armed military personnel.

To its credit, Fela! doesn't shy away from those disturbing aspects of the singer's story, even as it celebrates his life with some of the most magnetic music, singing and dancing ever presented on a Broadway stage.

Fela! plays through Jan. 2, 2011 at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre on W. 49th Street.

La Cage aux Folles

I may have to see this one again since the producers recently announced that none other than Harvey Fierstein, who wrote the book for *La Cage*, will be stepping into the role of Albin come February 15 of next year. I saw Tony-winner Douglas Hodge in the role, who will

continue to co-star in the show with Kelsey Grammer through February 13.

The stars are icing on the cake in this sparkling revival of the classic musical comedy about the long-standing love between Georges (Grammer) and his husband, Albin, who moonlights at their Saint-Tropez hotspot as the glamorous chanteuse Zaza.

The key to this production's success - it was directed by Terry Johnson – is in the way it balances the broader comic elements such as Albin's tantrums and his swishy 'maid' with realistic, heartfelt scenes between Grammer and Hodge, who are both terrific as an entirely believable gay couple.

La Cage aux Folles is currently playing an open-ended run at The Longacre Theatre on W. 48th Street.

12 Men of Christmas on DVD

ow can you go wrong with Kristin Chenoweth and twelve naked men? The search for "Mr. December" begins, with the holiday-timed DVD release of 12 Men of Christmas.

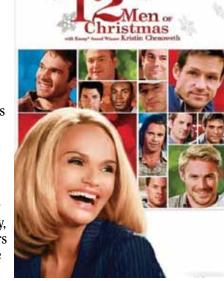
This cheeky, romantic comedy is a holiday must-have and stars Broadway superstar, Emmy-winner and gay-fave Kristin Chenoweth as a big-city girl who must get

creative in order to save a small town.

When die-hard New Yorker and publicist E.J. Baxter (Chenoweth) loses both her high-powered Manhattan job and her lawyer-fiance at her office Christmas party, she winds up taking a job and moving to Montana.

To help the local search-andrescue station raise desperately needed funds, she convinces the male rescue workers to pose for a naked calendar. Along the way, she discovers what really matters to her and wins the heart of one of the pin-ups while she's at it.

Twentieth Century Fox Home Entertainment has even created a fun, interactive special feature for the 12 Men of Christmas DVD which gives viewers the opportunity to create their very own special calendar using images from the film.





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NEWS 10 Outword Rainbow Pages





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HIV/AIDS services



Theatre

Shrek the Musical Opens in S.F.

Plus Lemony Snicket & Coraline

The current trend towards stage works based on movies has spawned a subset of projects inspired by movies and books aimed at children of all ages.

Three of the hottest such shows are currently playing in the Bay Area during this holiday season.

Shrek the Musical

Based on the 1990 book *Shrek!* by William Steig as well as the 2001 DreamWorks film of the same name, *Shrek the Musical* has a distinguished pedigree compared to most movie-to-stage adaptations.

The fairy-tale misfit musical features a book and lyrics by Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire (*Rabbit Hole*), music by Tony Award-winner Jeanine Tesori (*Caroline, or Change*), and direction by Jason Moore (*Avenue Q*) and Rob Ashford (*Promises, Promises*).

The original Broadway production opened in December

2008 and ran for over 12 months, receiving mostly positive reviews. Featuring a clever score with 19 all-new songs, spectacular scenery, dancing and lots of laughs, the show brings the hilarious story of everyone's favorite ogre to life on stage.

Shrek the Musical plays through January 2, 2011 at the Orpheum Theatre in San Franicsco. Visit www.shnsf.com for more information.

Lemony Snicket's The Composer is Dead

The show must go on? But the actor is mute, the director is crying, the dancer is lazy – and the composer is dead!

This holiday show is a wacky



world premiere from beloved Bay Area artists Lemony Snicket, Nathaniel Stookey and Geoff Hoyle that includes classic clowning and 100 or so puppets from the pioneering folks at Phantom Limb.

Lemony Snicket's The Composer is Dead plays through January 15 at Berkeley Rep. For more information, go to www. berkeleyrep.org.

Coraline

Poor bored Coraline, left to rattle around her perpetually distracted, workaholic parents' house all by her lonesome. Late one night, her dreams of a better reality come true as she passes into a perfect replica of her own world.

But as the rats start to creep from the floorboards, and the way home becomes increasingly unclear, Coraline begins to suspect that, perhaps, all is not as perfect as it seems.

This off-kilter new musical, with a book by David Greenspan and music and lyrics by Stephin Merritt, is based on the same Neil Gaiman novel that inspired the recent hit animated movie.

Coraline is currently receiving its West Coast premiere at The SF Playhouse in San Francisco through January 15, 2011. Visit www. sfplayhouse.org.





Nusic by Chris Narloch

Divas For Days This Xmas Four Holiday CD Reviews

T's a diva-heavy Christmas this year, at least where new holiday music is concerned. Read on for my thoughts about 2010's high-profile seasonal CDs from Mariah Carey, Annie Lennox and a pair of girl groups.

Annie Lennox A Christmas Cornucopia **Decca Records**

For fans of this former Eurythmic, any new release is a cause for celebration, and her first holiday CD is a Christmas present they can open early and enjoy for years to come. This is a lush, classy collection of immaculately produced songs with Annie's spectacular voice right out front on every track.

No mushy vocals for Lennox. The singer tears in to every title with gusto, and she enunciates every word of Christmas classics including "The First Noel," "Silent Night," and "O Little Town Of Bethlehem."

I especially enjoyed the inclusion of less ubiquitous seasonal songs, such as "The Cherry Tree Carol" and "The Coventry Carol," and her funky version of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" is a standout.

The Puppini Sisters **Christmas with The Puppini**

The Verve Music Group

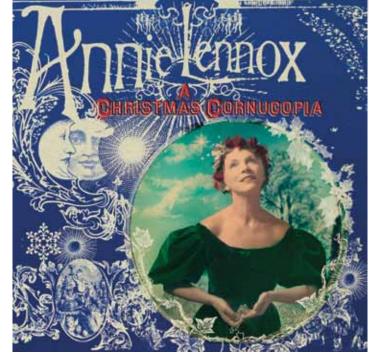
This talented trio is a sensational sham; they are not really sisters, and only one of them has the last name Puppini. They are, however, sisters in song, and their sassy girl-group harmonies are tight as a drum.

If you haven't purchased a Puppini product previously, this new holiday release is a great place to start. The ladies nail a broad range of material, including modern chestnuts originally recorded by Elton John ("Step Into Christmas"), George Michael ("Last Christmas"), and Mariah Carey ("All I Want For Christmas").

Mariah Carey Merry Christmas II You **Island Records**

outwordmagazine.com

Speaking of Mariah Carey, Mrs. Nick Cannon also has a new



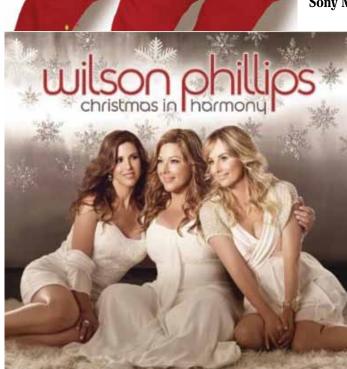
seasonal CD this year, a sequel of sorts to her gazillion-selling Merry Christmas album from back in the day. She even re-recorded the mega-hit from that superior collection, "All I Want For Christmas Is You," which is also the best song on this disc.

Unfortunately, Carey and co-producer Randy Jackson tend to slow down the arrangements on

to allow for maximum over-singing always Carey's

trademark. I did, however, enjoy a few of the up-tempo tracks, such as "Oh Santa!" and a disco version of the New Year's anthem, "Auld Lang

the traditional songs, presumably



Wilson Phillips **Christmas In Ĥarmony** Sony Masterworks

> "Christmas In Harmony" is the first release in many moons from this hit girl group from the '90s, but I can't say that I really missed their saccharine sonic "sisterhood."

The first holiday collection from Wilson Phillips is just what you would expect from the trio that originally hit it big with the smash, 'self-help' single "Hold On" - airbrushed harmonies and sappy covers of seasonal staples such as "Silent Night," "Silver Bells" and "Sleigh Ride."





Tis the Season for Holiday Lighting
Tis the Season for Holiday Lighting
Tis the Season for Holiday Lighting
To lights are a holiday tradition, and the
Unplug or turn off all
Unplug or turn off all
Unplug or turn off all
The holiday shopping season deadlines loom Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) reminds customers to practice safety and conservation when using lighting to decorate this

holiday season.

The following simple electrical safety tips should be observed when decorating with lights:

- Inspect all holiday decorations as you unpack them, looking for broken or cracked sockets and frayed or bare wires. Damaged light sets should never be
- Keep ladders away from overhead power lines and electrical service lines to your home when hanging outdoor lights.
- Only use Underwriter's Laboratory (U.L.) or Factory Mutual (F.M.) approved electrical devices, extension cords and lights. These approvals indicate the product has been tested for electrical safety and reliability when used as advertised.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when stringing lights. Most directions allow no more than three sets of lights to be plugged together.
- Use one long extension cord instead of linking several shorter ones together.
- To prevent falls, keep extension cords off of walkways.

- prior to leaving the home.
- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets have shock protecting Ground Fault Circuit

Interrupters (GFCI). Efforts to conserve energy are important all year long but shouldn't prevent

customers from enjoying holiday lights. These bright

ideas will help conserve energy and save money:

• Use low-wattage LED holiday lights. Vibrant LED lights come in a variety of colors and use 80 percent less energy than conventional lights.

LEDs are cool to the touch, fire and shatter proof.

- Put your lights on a timer so they turn on and turn off at a certain time.
- If using incandescent lights, use those that have mini-transformers within each light string's plug. The lights then operate at a much cooler temperature and use less electricity.

ardent shopper into a mall-sized frenzy. Fear not though, Lauri Martin is a much more. bit of an expert on finding the perfect gift and she's ready, and willing to help. She even started her own company to help you find that perfect gift, and not just for the Christmas Holidays, but for

s the holiday shopping season deadlines loom ever and ever nearer, finding that perfect gift

Lbecomes a quest that can lead even the most

What do you like best about owning A Perfect Present?

Creating the baskets is one of the most fun parts of my business – the possibilities are endless and I want to make my clients look good by



everything from Mother's Day to Boss's Day.

What is the name of your company? A Perfect Present

How many years have you been in business? Ten years

Why did you start A Perfect Present? I was a Mary Kay Consultant making baskets for my clients, filled with the MK products of course. Many of them asked if I could do food baskets also, and I said yes, and that led me to creating what is now A Perfect Present.

How did you perfect A Perfect **Present?** I got plenty of experience in the trade by attending national gift basket conventions and I keep on top of the newest trends and what is happening by going to gourmet food and gift shows, too.

What types of items do you create? We offer custom baskets, corporate branded gifts, balloon bouquets, stand alone gifts, wedding favors and baskets, keepsake baskets (many of our baskets are twice a gift, not only are the gourmet goodies wonderful but the container they come in is also a continues on page 26 | gift), imprinted ribbons and so

providing that perfect gift solution, whether it is one custom basket or thousands.

What is the most unique Perfect Present you have ever created?

One of my most unique gifts was for a group of women golfers (I love the game!) I made bouquets of golf sock roses that were wrapped in a golf towel with an embroidered logo. What a way to get socks! The women were on a volunteer board, so it was a recognition gift and they loved them.

What is the most challenging request you have had? My first mega order was for Java City in 2004. It was a challenge, but it taught me so much that now an order for thousands of baskets is no problem!

If you were to receive a gift basket, what would you want in it? Great question, probably a custom golf basket that would include a round of golf at one of my favorite courses, Pro V1 balls, a glove, sunscreen, - oh, and, goodies

> **PERFECT** continues on page 26

Turning Heads at the Holiday Office Bash

Keep paper and ribbon away

holiday cheer while still saving on

they have a much longer life span

wreath readily available online.

Always unplug lights and

electrical cords before stringing

and even come in battery operated versions, like this no-cords-attached

electricity costs. Bright and colorful,

The holiday season is upon us, offering challenges for LGBTs as we try to navigate through the maze of etiquette and manner dilemmas that may rear their ugly heads between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve.

LED lights

are a great

way to spread

and hanging.

A very common situation is the office Holiday party. Here is one question I recently received.

"Even though I'm completely out at my office, I always turn heads when I dance with a gent at the company bash. Sometimes there's even some giggling from my coworkers. What tips do you have when it comes to attending a workplace holiday party with a partner or date?"

First, I'd make sure that your date is cool about being part of your continuing coming out journey. There's a public dimension (20) Outword Magazine

to attending a work function as a couple and not everyone is comfortable with the kind of attention a same-sex couple may attract.

Assuming the answer's "yes," also keep in mind that it's one thing for your straight coworkers to know that you're gay; it's another to see you slow dance, tete a tete, with vour same-sex sweetie.

Honestly though, if anyone has an issue, it's theirs, not yours. As long as you keep your PDA in check - which is a good idea for anyone at a work function, you're on the right side of the line.

In case someone tries to tell you otherwise, let me tell you that the rules about showing affection publicly are the same for gay men and lesbians as they are for straigh people: Handholding, eye gazing and light kissing are perfectly fine in public; groping, tongue kissing and touching below the waist are

If there are any distinctions to be made, they're not based on sexual orientation, but according to venue or situation. What you do in a nightclub or bar is different than at a family dinner or your office holiday party.

I also want to give you a couple of snaps for continuing to be "out"

Holiday

Books Still Make Great and Thoughtful Gifts

• Games, iPods, and iApps may be garnering all the iGlamour, but for your book lover, here are four new titles that should give them hours of great reading.

Double Play: The Hidden Passions Behind the Double Assassination of George Moscone and Harvey Milk

By Mike Weiss

Harvey Milk will be forever remembered as the former San Francisco Supervisor who united the LGBT Community in life and transformed it in his death. *Double Play* provides a masterful history and analysis of the controversial trial that changed the California legal system, and unveils secrets about Harvey Milk's life and murder not available from any other sources.

A companion DVD provides television interviews and, for the first time ever, a recording of White's confession. Amazon.com

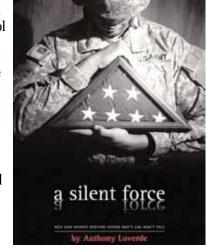
Mesmerized

By David-Matthew Barnes

While being punished for writing a controversial article in her high school paper, Serena Albright is befriended by the enigmatic loner Brodie Wiles and Lance Royal. Inspired by the love she recognizes between them she finds comfort for the grief and guilt she feels over the brutal death of her older brother, the victim of a hate crime. www.boldstrokesbooks.com

A Silent Force: Men and Women Serving Under Don't Ask, Don't Tell By Anthony Loverde

While the White House and the Pentagon continue to study gay men and women serving in the U.S. military, the gay service members



continue to fight in silence, hoping for a new law that would finally allow them the dignity to uphold the fundamental values of honesty and integrity as they continue to serve. This photo book project is meant to associate the humanity of this debate and to create a visual for those to understand what it means to serve in the closet. Amazon.com

The Truth of Yesterday By Josh Aterovis

The newest installment of the Killian Kendall mystery series, finds Killian on his first real case, a surveillance trip to Washington D.C. – and with his boyfriend Micah, no less. When Micah takes him out to celebrate the successful resolution of his case, Micah's past comes back to haunt them in a big way. www.joshaterovis.com



Esquire IMAX Opens TRON: Legacy

The latest blockbuster movie to get the IMAX treatment, *TRON: Legacy* is set to open at midnight on Thursday, Dec. 16 at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX on K Street, after *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* departs that theater.

The new film, a sequel to the original *TRON* movie from 1982, again stars both Jeff Bridges and Bruce Boxleitner, as well as newcomers Olivia Wilde and Garrett Hedlund. *TRON: Legacy An IMAX 3D Experience* is digitally

re-mastered using IMAX DMR technology.

Hedlund plays Sam Flynn, the tech-savvy 27-year-old son of Kevin Flynn (Bridges). The younger man finds himself pulled into the digital world of Tron, where his father has

been living for 25 years after disappearing.

Along with Kevin's loyal confidant Quorra (Wilde), father and son embark on a life-and-death journey of escape across a visually-stunning cyber universe that has become far more advanced and dangerous.

Tickets for *TRON: Legacy An IMAX 3D Experience* are on sale now at www.imax.com/sacramento.





Get Ready for *Dancing In The River City*

he Dancing Dorothys, The Warped Wizard and the Infamous Munckins are all coming to Sacramento to dance down the Yellow Brick Road, all part of *Dancing in the River City*, a dance competition and show that will include the California Same-sex State Championship contest.



VIMA, a Bay Area mens dance team, will be performing at Dancing In The River City, a dance competition and show set for January 16, 2011.

Dancing In The River City features world-class champions and professionals whose talents rival those of Dancing With The Stars all designed to entertain and delight. The theme for this year's show is, "Over The Rainbow In River City" inspired by music from The Wizard of Oz, The Wiz and

"This will be our third year and we are excited to be hosting the 2011 State California Championships," said Sandy

Richard, one of the organizers of the event. "Winners will receive titles from the North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association (NASSPDA)."

As part of the California State Championship, a NASSPDA sanctioned event, dancers will compete for championship titles in: International Standard Men's and Women's: International Latin Men's

> **DANCING** continues on page 25

Troy Ruptash: From Military Brute to Vampire Slayer by James Villanueva

Tt's a vampire eat vampire world in today's Hollywood, and openly gay actor Troy Ruptash has, pardon the pun, sunk his teeth into it, quickly becoming one bad mamma jamma on the silver screen.

This past fall, Ruptash released two movies. In 30 Days of Night: Dark Days, he played Agent Norris, an FBI Agent trying to rid the world of the legions of vampires that have taken over the human race and, along the way, gets to kick some vampirical ass.

The second movie, A Marine Story, tells the personal story of one woman's experience as a Marine officer and the absurdity of the military's ban on gays.

However, Ruptash is no stranger to the limelight. At the age of 13 he Salchowed, toe-looped, and doubleaxled, his way to his first national ranking as the Canadian novice men's bronze medalist. By the age of 17 his eyes were set on the ultimate goal, a spot on the Canadian Olympic team. Of course, Ruptash had other aspirations beyond the ice - acting.

Soon after leaving his figure skating career, Ruptash enrolled in the prestigious Ryerson Theater School. What followed was a slew of television appearances that included *Mad Men*, Prison Break and Supernatural. Soon, the big screen came a'callin' which brings us to Ruptash today.

Talking to me from his home in LA, Ruptash took some time out to discuss his new movies, type casting, preparing for steamy sex scenes, DADT, and -Lycra?

What can you tell me about A Marine Story and filming a movie dealing with DADT?

A Marine Story opened in theaters last weekend in New York and this weekend in LA. I am pretty psyched about it.

I'm really proud to be a part of this movie because I think what it does is spotlight and highlight this issue, and

does it through the story of this courageous woman. You can see the issue from her point of view and I'm glad to be a part of a film that has the potential to make a difference and shed some light on DADT.

You play the character Agent

Norris in 30 Days of Night: Dark Days. What can you tell me about that character?

Agent Norris is an FBI Agent who is handling vampire cases. The reason he is so involved is he is secretly working with the queen of the vampires, Mira Kishner's character When you meet Norris you find out he is dving of

some mysterious disease and the only way for him to live is if he becomes a vampire. I found the role very interesting because he starts off human and wants to become a vampire.

There has been such a positive response and, in some aspects, a surprising response to the fact that an openly gay actor is playing such a male dominant role. Do you think that's a fair response though?

You know, I understand where that's coming from, but I look forward to a time when people aren't surprised by it. I consider myself a versatile actor and one of the things I like about acting is being able to transform. I like the challenge.

Your recent characters have been far from stereotypical, i.e., best friend/catty queen/eccentric neighbor/Ducky from Pretty in Pink, although many people in the LGBT

community complain about type-casting, most of us still squeal at **lack and** Karen scenes on Will and Grace. Do you see yourself ever playing such a role?

I love the Jack and Karen scenes myself. I think they're funny. My issue is that there's more spectrum of how one's sexuality can manifest. Audience members need to see more

characters and cannot pin it to one type, the stereotypes. I like the idea of playing a gay character whose sexuality is not the focal point of the character. Joe in *A Marine Story* is definitely one of those characters. He's kind of a regular guy in some sense. Sexuality is a part of the story, but

> **VAMPIRE** continues on page 25



Calendar

compiled by Charles Peer

Dec.

Friday, 10

CLUB CHICOS @ FACES

Cristina from *Viva El Sueño* performs live with hot Latin GoGo dancers and guest dancer JC from L.A. Faces, 2000 K St. Info: Faces.net

WINTER. WINE & JAZZ

The Sacramento Philharmonic's Jazz Trio plays while you enjoy local wines and appetizers. 6 - 9 p.m. Antiquite Mason Privee, 2114 P St. Info: SacPhil.com

CHRISTMAS ORIGINS

The mixed a capella chorus Vocal Art Ensemble of Davis, will trace medieval Christmas texts to their roots, celebrating beauty and art. 7:30 p.m. Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave. Info: vae.trug.com

Saturday, 11

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Sacramento G&L Center invites you to their annual Holiday Open House. Come meet board members and staff and other members of the community. 4 - 8 p.m. 1927 L St. Info: SacCenter.org

SNOW GEESE AT GREY LODGE

View thousands of snow geese, colorful wood ducks and other migratory birds at Grey Lodge Preserve. A short walk and driving tour through the preserve are planned. 9:30 a.m. G&L Sierrans. Info: 916-737-2152

DANCE-ALONG NUTCRACKER

Join in and dance deckside as the USS Dance-Along departs with a crew staffed by Bay Area entertainers Leigh Crow, Twilight Vixen Revue, Lia Metz & the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band and captain Jadine Louie. Info: www.dancealongnutcracker.org

Sunday, 12

SACRAMENTO PRIME TIMERS

Men 50+ (and their friends/ admirers) are invited for brunch and conversation. Noon. Head Hunters, 20th & K St. Info: Ray, 916-263-9219

PrimeTimersSacramento.com outwordmagazine.com

VALLEY BEARS BRUNCH

Join the Sacramento Valley Bears for brunch and exploring Nevada City's Victorian Christmas.Brunch starts at 10:30 a.m. and then there will be a carpool for those who want to head up to Nevada City. Black Bear Diner, 2700 El Centro Rd. Info: SacBears.org

GRAHAM-A-RAMA

Leanne Borghesi, Jessica Coker & Soila Hughes in *B.O.O.B.S.!*Defying Gravity, a cabaret show hosted by Graham Sobelman. 7 & 9 p.m. \$15. The Geery Theatre, 2130 L St. Info: 916-798-6352

GrahamARama.com

POSADA NAVIDEÑA

A ballet folklorica performance celebrating the holidays by La Compañia Mazatlan Bellas Artes. 3 p.m. The Crest, 1013 K St. Info: 916-446-5133 Tickets.com

PEACE, PEACE

The Sacramento Master Singers Christmas program includes a quiet and reflective candlelight processional and favorite carols sung in traditional – and unique – arrangements. 3 p.m. \$20. St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 26th & K Streets. Info: 916-788-7464 MasterSingers.org

Monday, 13 HATS OFF TO THE HOLIDAYS

Join Sacramento Women's Chorus for a Seasonal Singalong. They will also be collecting warm hats, gloves and socks for the

homeless women and children served by Maryhouse and Wellspring. Canned/nonperishables also accepted. Free. 7 - 8:15 p.m. First Christian Church, 3901 Folsom Blvd. Info: 877-758-

7827

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

The LGBT Democrats throw their political hats into the fire and don their Santa hats for their annual Christmas party. Info: 916-441-1787 SacStonewall.org

SHREKTACULAR

Eric Petersen (Shrek) and Haven Burton (Fiona) from the SF cast of *Shrek* are joined by Deborah Gibson and Jason Brock in a benefit concert for the Richmond/ Ermet AIDS Foundation. 8 p.m. Theater 39, Pier 39 SF. Info: 415-273-1620 HelpIsOnTheWay.org

Wednesday, 15

RAINBOW CHAMBER MIXER

Join members of Sacramento's LGBT business group at their monthly mixer with a holiday flare, for socializing and networking, with spectacular views of the city and equally spectacular appetizers from The Broiler. 6 - 8 p.m. Greenburg Traurig, 1201 K St., 15th Floor Rotunda. Info: RainbowChamber. com

COWBOYS/COWGIRL SOCIAL

Join Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo for a social and soda/beer bust. 7 p.m. The Bolt, 2560 Boxwood St. Info: 916-649-8420 capitalcrossroads.org

Thursday, 16

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The SFGMC presents A Soulful Celebration, with special guests Kim Kuzma, The Lollipop Guild and Vocal Minority. 7 p.m. The Castro Theatre, SF. Info: SFGMC. org

ECLECTIC TRASH BOOK CLUB

Join this LGBT book club for a lively discussion of *The Next Queen of Heaven* by Gregory Maguire. 7 p.m. Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-492-0558 LavenderLibrary.org

Friday, 17

BADLANDS CHRISTMAS

T.J. and the Badlands crew are throwing a Customer Appreciation Christmas Party. 7 - 9 p.m. with compimentary cocktail, holiday finger foods, dancing GoGo elves and photos with sexy Santa. Plus, *Christmas with Cargo*, a holiday drag show starring Precious Cargo. 8 p.m. The Depot & Badlands, 2003 K St. Info: 916-441-6823

GLOBAL GROOVE TOUR

DJ Escape plays the newest hits from the Dancing Across America Tour. Faces, 2000 K St. Info: Faces.net

FETISH NIGHT

The Sacrametno Valley
Leathercorps hosts a night
devoted to exploring fetishes.
Plus beer bust. 8 - midnight. The
Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. Info:
916-649-8420
SacBolt.com

CHRISTMAS CRAP-ARRAY

A completely irreverent mishmash of holiday crap, debuting a piece by Jack Dubowsky (of "Magic Snow" and "Halloween in the Castro" notoriety,) and the audience favorite filthy singalong. 8 p.m. EXIT Theatre, 156 Eddy St., SF Info: lgcsf.org

Q-DEAF

An LGBT Deaf social and peer led support group that provides social and emotional support, safe-sex education, information and referrals for LGBT Deaf. 5 - 7:30 p.m. Sac G&L Center, 1927 L St. Info: 916-442-0185 SacCenter.org

Saturday, 18

NAUGHTY SANTA PARTY

Jeremy, Mr. Bolt Leather 2011, presents Naughty Santa & his Elves, with demonstrations, a silent auction for all kinds of good stuff and drink specials. Bring a new unwrapped toy or gift card for the Mama's Family Toy Drive and have your picture taken with Naughty Santa! 9 p.m. The Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. Info: 916-649-8420 SacBolt.com

A VERY MARY CHRISTMAS IV

SF's Man Dance Company presents a campy, adorable and fabulously fun twist on the Nutcracker. 7:30 p.m. SF Conservatory of Music. Info: ManDance.org

Sunday, 19

MISSISSIPPI BAR HIKE

Get out and stretch your legs on this easy five mile loop, mostly along level dirt trails through this forested gravel bar along the north shore of Lake Natoma near Hazel Ave. See the view from the top of a huge mountain of cobbles, a remnant of the historic gold mining in the area. G&L Sierrans. Info: 916-379-0724

Monday, 20

SAC VALLEY VETS MEETING

Join this LGBT veterans and active duty group for their monthly meeting and get together. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. Info: 916-436-7676 SacLGBTVeterans.org

Tuesday, 21

PFLAG SACRAMENTO

Support group for parents and friends of LGBT. 7:30 p.m. St. Marks UMC, 2391 St. Marks Way. Info: pflagsacramento.org

Friday, 24

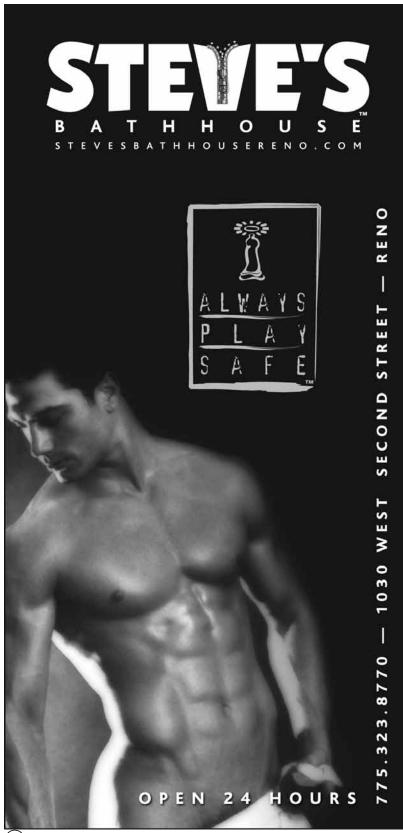
BOLT CHRISTMAS EVE

It's The Night Before Christmas and you're invited for an evening of complimentary hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. 5 p.m. The Bolt Bar, 2560 Boxwood St. Info: 916-649-8420 SacBolt.com





www.outwordmagazine.com



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and Women's; Formation Teams; and Show Dance, a new event this

The competition will be bringing some of the best dancers to Sacramento from across the country, including:

Robbie Tristan Szelei, three time Same-Sex World Champion and 2010 Gay Games Gold medalist in Men's International Latin B Division:

Emily Coles and Kieren Jameson, 2010 California State International Standard Women's Champions and 2010 Gay Games Bronze medalists in Women's 35+ International Latin A Division:

Iose Comoda and Chris Phan, 2010 Gav Games Gold Medalists in 35+ International Latin Men's A Division;

Heather Brockett and Sunny Williams, 2010 Gay Games Silver Medalists in Womens International Latin 35+ A Division;

Zoe Balfour and Citabria Phillips, 2010 and five time North American International Standard Women's Champions and 2010 Gay Games Bronze Medal in Womens Senior International Standard Division; and

Photis Pishiaras and Ron Jenkins, 2010 Gay Games Bronze medalists in the Men's 35+ International Standard B Division.

Dancing In The River City began four years ago when a group of Sacramento same-sex ballroom dancers got together to create a competition and to raise money to send Sacramento dancers to the Gay Games, held every four years in locations all over the world. Cindy Mills, who had the original vision, recruited other dance enthusiasts and an organizing committee was formed. Then in January 2009, Dancing In The River City an annual same-sex ballroom dance competition was

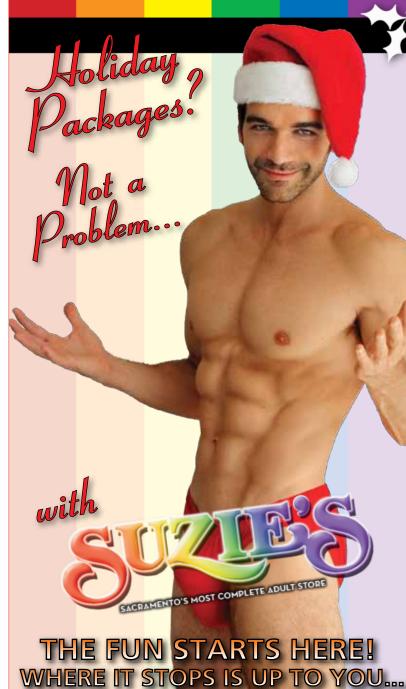
born.

"We are very proud that funds raised helped ten Sacramento area dancers go to the 2010 Gay Games in Cologne, Germany this past summer," said Richard. "The results of 2010 were phenomenal with team Sacramento bringing back several gold and silver medals in ballroom dance."

This year's *Dancing In The River* City will be held January 16, 2011, at The Ballroom of Sacramento, which has been the competition venue for the past three years, and will be transformed into the "Oz Dust Ballroom." The Ballroom of Sacramento is located at 6009 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento (between 59th and 65th Streets).

Competitive dancing, open to the public, begins at 11 a.m. and a show and dance are scheduled for later in the evening.

Tickets for the day competition and show are available at DancingInTheRiverCity.com.



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Vampire

continued from page 22

presented differently. That's really appealing to me.

So, let's cut to the chase, how did you prepare for the sex scene with Vincent Corazza in the movie Leaving Metropolis? Did you spend a lot of time in the gym and, for my personal files, what is your usual workout routine to prepare for

It's funny, because actually, yeah I have to admit, my vanity kicked in. I had three months before shooting and I knew I had time to prepare for this, not only to work on the script, but knowing I was going to be naked a fair amount of the movie. That became one of my focuses. I paid attention to my diet and hit the gym pretty hard because I wanted to look good.

Figure skating to Canadians is like cheerleading to Texans, and you were once a well-decorated nationally ranked competitive figure skater, do you ever feel compelled to just say, "Screw the world," and don

the sequins and blades one more time?

You know, for whatever reason, I don't. I think it's because skating was a big part of my early life and childhood adolescence. It was somewhat limiting creatively and I have found more rewarding ways of creativity. I do have an idea for a screenplay about figure skating ... but there are no sequins or Lycra in my future.

James Villanueva is a freelance writer and blogger and can be reached at OurBigGayborhood.com.





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debate.

Civil unions would provide legal recognition of gay couples and give them some of the same benefits automatically available to married couples including the right to visit a sick partner in the hospital, disposition of a deceased loved one's remains and the right to make decisions about a loved one's medical care.

"Today, Illinois took an important step forward in providing a measure of protections to same-sex couples and their families protections of particular importance in these tough economic times," said Evan Wolfson, Executive Director of Freedom to Marry. "With this step in the right direction, Illinois rejected arguments against fair treatment for gay people and their loved ones and acknowledged that gay couples and families exist and have the same hopes and needs as other families.

"While a welcome step, civil union is no substitute for the full

responsibilities and protection of marriage itself. States that have created civil union as a means of both giving and withholding providing legal protections while withholding the freedom to marry and all its meaning - have found that civil union falls far short of marriage with all its tangible and intangible significance in our lives. Many of those states - Connecticut, New Hampshire, and even Vermont, which first created civil union - have since pushed past civil union to marriage, recognizing the inadequacy and unfairness of a separate and unequal status.

"In five states and the District of Columbia, as well as ten countries, same-sex couples have the freedom to marry, and the sky has not fallen. Having now laid a good foundation with civil union, Illinois should move swiftly to finish the job, ending exclusion from marriage for committed couples seeking the same responsibilities, same respect and same rules."

measure of respect, clarity, security,

same-sex date. Steven Petrow is the author of the forthcoming book, Steven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners (www.gaymanners.com) and a regular contributor to the Huffington Post and Advocate.com.

Perfect

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there. And the more times you and

other gay colleagues take to the

giggle-producing such moments

will be. In fact, if you have other

lesbian or gay colleagues lean on

California state statutes exist that

workplace, in most states, you can be fired simply for being gay or

coming out at a workplace holiday

them to join you at the party.

One final note: While in

protect LGBT people in the

lesbian. Anyone considering

bash is wise to make sure that

yours is a gay-friendly company

and, if out of state, that you're not

putting your livelihood at risk by

outing yourself by bringing a

dance floor, the less novel and

for the course, of course.

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Blueprint

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resiliency, and the need for routine and comprehensive data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity.

"LGBT people face a variety of specific health disparities and federal recognition is an important first step in addressing those disparities," said Dr. Judith Bradford, Co-Chair of The Fenway Institute and Director of the Center for Population Research in LGBT Health. "Healthy People 2020 is a historic document; it moves us forward in our ability to enrich the knowledge base of LGBT Health

"This report is groundbreaking," said Masen Davis, Executive Director of the Transgender Law Center. "The U.S. government has finally recognized what we've known for quite some time – the transgender community experiences significant health disparities, and it's important that we address them. We're pleased that the report includes specific goals and objectives that federal, state, and local agencies and organizations can use to improve the health of transgender people."

home for the holidays



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