

outword

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Military Ends Transgender Service Ban

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on June 30th announced the recommendations from the working group formed last summer on the lifting of the ban on open transgender service. This announcement includes recommendations, plans and a timeline to when transgender service members will fully be able to serve openly and authentically.

The announcement comes more than a year after Secretary Carter promised that the Department of Defense (DoD) would update the outdated regulations which prevent open service by transgender service members and the launch of a working group to assess the impact of the change and work out the details.

"Words cannot express how much this announcement means to so many of our transgender service members and their families – brave men and women who have proudly served our nation in silence for far too long," said American Military Partner Association (AMPA)

Americans who are serving with distinction or who want the opportunity to serve. We can't allow barriers unrelated to a person's qualifications prevent us from recruiting and retaining those who can best accomplish the mission."

SPARTA, the largest organization of actively-serving transgender military members today celebrated the Pentagon's announcement confirming that transgender Americans will be able to serve their country on equal footing with other service members.

"Secretary Carter today fulfills his



Transgender service members from SPARTA, with SPARTA's Sue Fulton (far left) and Secretary of Defense Ash Carter (third from right). Photo by TransMilitary.

President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "We are incredibly grateful to Secretary Carter for bringing this promise to fruition. While we still have progress to make, today is truly historic and our military families will be stronger as a result of these critically important and long overdue changes."

"This historic change means that I can finally serve openly and proudly as who I am – a soldier who loves my country and just happens to be transgender," said AMPA member Nick Melvin, who is currently stationed in Hawaii. "A huge weight has been lifted off of my shoulder. I can continue serving my nation and support my family, which means the world!"

With the announcement, Secretary Carter said, "This is the right thing to do for our people and for the force," Carter said. "We're talking about talented

promise that every American who is qualified to serve will be allowed to serve," said former Army Captain Sue Fulton, President of SPARTA. "The thousands of transgender soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen – and their commanders – have one less burden on their shoulders today. We are grateful to the military and civilian leaders in the Department of Defense who worked so hard to get this right."

"Thanks to our leaders, this policy change allows transgender service members to continue to serve the greatest military in the world, fully acknowledged by their fellow troops," said Navy Lieutenant Blake Dremann, SPARTA Board member. Dremann serves in the Pentagon.

There are an estimated 15,500 transgender service members currently serving.



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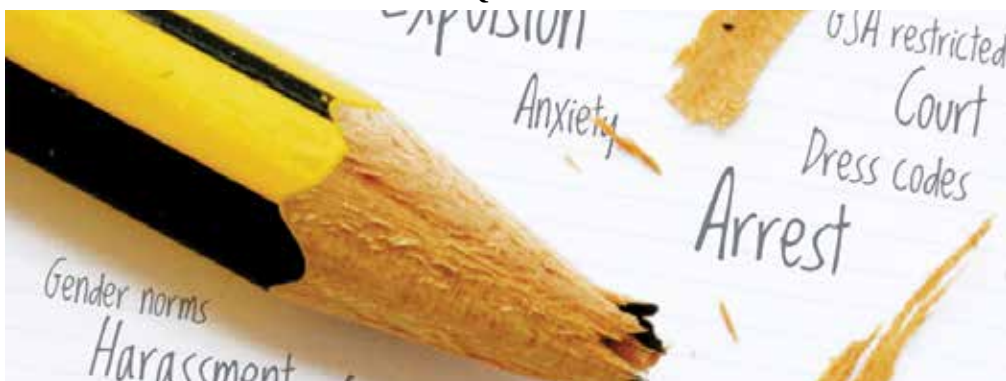
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LGBTQ Students Face Unfair School Discipline

LGBTQ students face high rates of school discipline, including detention, suspension and expulsion from school, according to a report released by GLSEN, often due to the harassment and discrimination that LGBTQ students face in school.



The report, Educational Exclusion: Drop Out, Push Out, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline among LGBTQ Youth, also found:

Two in five LGBTQ students reported receiving detention, in-school or out-of-school suspension and/or expulsion from school. LGBTQ Black/African American, LGBTQ Hispanic/Latino, and LGBTQ Multiracial students; LGBTQ students experiencing homelessness; and LGBTQ students with disabilities experienced higher rates than others.

Compared to cisgender LGBQ students, transgender students were more likely to receive school discipline and over three times as likely to report that they might not complete high school.

Among LGBTQ students, the most common reason cited for not planning to graduate high school or being unsure if they would graduate was an unsupportive or hostile school environment.

Bullying, harassment and absenteeism may contribute to high rates of discipline. Among LGBTQ students, higher levels of victimization were associated with higher rates of school discipline, potentially because bullying incidents put LGBTQ students in greater contact with school authorities.

Lack of safety resulted in many LGBTQ students missing school, putting them at risk for disciplinary sanctions for truancy. Students who had missed school because of feeling unsafe or uncomfortable were more

likely to have been disciplined at school than those who had not (54 percent *vs.* 34 percent).

Anti-LGBTQ discriminatory policies and practices may also contribute to high rates of discipline. Over half (56 percent) of LGBTQ students experienced some form of anti-LGBTQ discrimination at school, and these students were more likely to have received school discipline than those who did not experience discrimination (48 percent *vs.* 32 percent). Almost one in ten students (9 percent) even reported being disciplined specifically because they were LGBTQ.

"It is abundantly clear that LGBTQ students face disproportionately high levels of school discipline due to hostile school climates that ultimately deprive many of them, not only of their education, but also the success in life that education affords," said Dr. Joseph Kosciw, GLSEN's Chief Research & Strategy Officer. "Given the findings of Educational Exclusion, we must redouble our efforts to create supportive schools for LGBTQ students, particularly transgender and gender nonconforming students, students experiencing homelessness, students with disabilities and students of color."

The full Educational Exclusion report, including recommendations to keep LGBTQ students in school and out of the juvenile and criminal justice systems, can be found at www.glsen.org/educationalexclusion.

M·A·C AIDS Fund Awards Grant to LGBTQ Task Force

The M·A·C AIDS Fund (MAF), the philanthropic arm of M·A·C Cosmetics, has announced it will award the National LGBTQ Task Force with a grant to support HIV/AIDS advocacy on behalf of LGBT people.

"Work on HIV/AIDS has always been a vitally important priority for the National LGBTQ Task Force," said Russell Roybal, National LGBTQ Task Force Deputy Executive Director. "Today our focus is on those most impacted by the epidemic: people of color, people who inject drugs, transgender people who lack access to trans-inclusive health care, and people in the criminal justice system."

In 1990, former National LGBTQ Task Force Executive Director Urvashi Vaid interrupted President George H.W. Bush's first and only

AIDS policy speech. For decades, the organization has been advocating for support, resources, and access to health care for the most vulnerable affected by HIV/AIDS.

The M·A·C AIDS Fund works to support people of all ages, races, and sexes affected by HIV/AIDS. MAF partners with organizations who confront the epidemic in countries and communities where people are most neglected, off the radar, and at highest risk. Visit www.macaidsfund.org.



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LLACE Receives \$10,000 Grant for Film Project

California Humanities has announced the 2016 Community Stories grant recipients, awarding Sacramento's Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange (LLACE) \$10,000 for its project titled *Legends of Courage*.

The Community Stories competitive grant program of California Humanities gives expression to the remarkable variety of experiences of California's people in ways that can be shared widely. As a film project that preserves the history of advocacy by men and women of the Sacramento region who led the movement for LGBT equality, *Legends of Courage* seeks to broaden awareness and deepen understanding.

Directed by Dawn D. Deason, executive producer of 3D Media Solutions, *Legends of Courage* focuses on two outcomes: a documentary film featuring lesbian civil rights activist and attorney Rosemary Metrailler, and a collection of filmed interviews of individuals who have played significant roles in Sacramento's LGBT movement.

The Metrailler saga highlights her successful lawsuit against the late Reverend Jerry Falwell (1986), and a landmark sex

discrimination case finally settled by McClellan Air Force Base (1988) on behalf of women employees.

"We are honored that our project has been recognized from among so many extraordinary stories that enrich California," said Project Director Dawn D. Deason. "LGBT struggles for equity have traveled a path parallel to many groups fighting to secure civil rights. Our narratives help us find commonalities, appreciate differences, and learn how to live well together."

California Humanities received just over \$623,000 in requests, however was only able to fund approximately \$190,000 in awards. The demand for programs that explore issues of significance to Californians is extraordinary, and speaks to the importance of capturing and communicate them across audiences.

"California's population has such varied stories to tell – and we can all benefit from

knowing more about each other," noted Margaret Shelleda, chair of the board of California Humanities. "We are proud to award grants to those who find creative ways of sharing stories with new audiences and connecting Californians whose experiences deserve greater appreciation."

Since 2003, California Humanities has granted more than \$4 million to enable communities to document histories – many previously untold or little known. Through video, photography, murals, zines, theater, audio, and more, these collections have been shared with broad audiences, both live and virtual.

California Humanities is an independent non-profit state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For more information, please visit www.calhum.org.

For more information about the Lavender Library, visit www.lavenderlibrary.com.



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Dining Out For Life 2016 Was a Tasty Success



Besides being the best tasting fundraiser in Sacramento, Dining our For Life Sacramento 2016 raised \$7,825 to support the ongoing programs of Sunburst Project, that empower children, youth and families living with HIV/AIDS. Many thanks to these fine restaurants who participated Kupros Craft House, Brasserie Capitale, Lotus Thai (pictured), Oak Park Brewing Company, Lowbrau and New Helvetia Brewery. For more information on Sunburst Projects, visit sunburstprojects.org.

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Lasher Auto Group Embraces Role As Clean Energy Leader

For over 60 years in the Sacramento region, the Lasher name has meant a great deal on quality cars, trucks, and SUVs. But now, with the completion of one of the Sacramento region's largest solar installations, that great deal is also a great commitment to improving the community, preserving natural resources, and reducing carbon emissions for decades to come.

Installation of a 700 kilowatt solar system was recently completed at the Lasher Auto Group's Elk Grove Automall locations. On the 28 acre site, 2,728 photovoltaic solar panels now adorn the rooftops and service lots of all five dealerships, generating over 1 million kilowatt-hours per year.

In simpler terms, the Lasher solar system generates enough clean energy to power 117 homes for one year, or saves the energy equivalent of nearly 1.3 million miles driven per year.

This isn't the Lasher Group's first foray into environmental leadership. The Elk Grove Acura dealership recently received an Environmental Leadership Award for its efforts to achieve specific environmental targets by reducing energy use at the

dealership. "We have LED lighting, are recycling and now we have the solar energy system," said Mark Lasher, President of the Lasher Auto Group. In addition to the dramatic energy savings, the solar panel system also extends over the central parking lot area for the automotive service centers, providing a covered area where service technicians can perform vehicle detailing and exterior maintenance tasks. "In the long run, this reduces our long term cost and the amount of energy we buy," said group General Manager Vince Bloom, "but the real 'great deal' is the added benefit that we, in a small way, get to make our community a better place to live."



The Lasher Auto Group's Elk Grove Automall locations now feature 2,728 solar panels, enough to power 117 homes for one year.

The Lasher Auto Group is also helping to make Sacramento's LGBT community a better place to live with its strong commitment to LGBT equality and its sponsorship of many local events, including Sacramento Pride, Q Prom, SIGLFF, Davis Pride, The LGBT Wedding Expo and more.

City Parking Will Go Hi-Tech with Innovative App

The City of Sacramento continues its commitment to implement advanced technology in order to enhance the user experience when parking by partnering with Parkeon, a global leader of urban mobility technology, to design the SacPark app.



The app, which will be available early Fall 2016, will make it easier to locate a parking spot, purchase parking in advance, provide information on space availability, and obtain real-time traffic information. The launch of the new app will be integrated into a public education campaign and online navigation tool that will highlight information on various transportation options when traveling to downtown and Golden 1 Center, including: light rail, ride share and bicycles. "The collaboration with Parkeon symbolizes Sacramento's commitment to innovation and is one piece of our overall transportation strategy," said Matt Eierman, City of Sacramento Parking Manager. "The new technology will direct motorists to available parking and improve our transportation management during a time of increased activity in the Central City and the opening of Golden 1 Center." The City will be the first U.S. city to implement Parkeon's newest Path to Park Technology, which has been successfully

deployed in France and Belgium. "We are thrilled about the partnership with the City of Sacramento," said Bertrand Barthelemy, CEO of Parkeon. "Our global expertise in urban mobility and mobile device technology will provide citizens with a seamless parking experience, and will improve overall traffic management in the downtown Sacramento." The City and its partners are committed to making the Sacramento experience convenient and pleasant. The SacPark app will be available before the first event at Golden 1 Center to purchase parking in advance. Parkeon is collaborating with Parking Panda, the nation's leading app for on-demand parking. Parkeon is an expert in improving urban mobility by providing a single platform encompassing parking management and ticketing solutions for parking and public transportation. Systems and equipment provided by Parkeon facilitate management and mobility in more than 4,000 cities.

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GILEAD SCANDAL:

**Gay men, we don't care about your kidneys and bones
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In a cover story in the Los Angeles Times on May 29, 2016* it is documented that Gilead, the maker of HIV drugs that most positive patients as well as those on PrEP take, intentionally held a much less toxic version of their drug off the market in order to extend their patents and make tens of billions of dollars. Gilead stopped research on a less toxic version of its core drug tenofovir (marketed under different names in combination with other drugs) in 2004. Earlier this year AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) sued Gilead to invalidate their patents based on them withholding the updated version of the drug. Gilead's response was they "have no duty to develop, test, seek approval of, or launch the new product on any particular timetable."

Widespread reports of kidney damage and bone loss due to tenofovir have been known since 2003 and federal authorities several times warned Gilead about downplaying the risks. Nevertheless, Gilead with the assistance of the CDC is promoting the older more toxic version of tenofovir to young HIV negative men for PrEP. They never bothered to seek approval of the safer drug because they wanted to wait until the very last moment to get approval of the new less toxic version so that their patents would be extended for another twenty years.

Gilead has spent hundreds of millions of dollars seeking approval for PrEP, paying doctors to endorse it, funding governments and community groups to promote and advertise it. Yet Gilead says that they stopped the research on the less toxic drug because they needed to shift their research to other medications. However, they had \$11 billion in 2011 to buy Pharmasset, which had the rights to a drug that cured Hepatitis C. They turned around and brought Sovaldi and Harvoni to market and are charging \$84,000 and \$94,000 respectively for them. These ridiculous prices are causing rationing which prevents most Hep C patients from receiving these drugs.

AHF has fought for lower drug prices for decades. When we started treating in Africa in 2002 we paid \$5000 per patient per year for the HIV cocktail, today we pay \$100. We lobbied. We sued. We protested. That's what passionate advocates do. It is high time that the CDC and AIDS organizations cut the cord to big drug companies and return to the roots of AIDS activism which does not include feasting at the table of Pharma greed.

*<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-gilead-20160529-snap-story.html>

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Owning a Tesla Is a Cultural Change at 110 MPH

by Jason Russell

There is always a thrill and excitement to purchasing a new car, and it's even more of a thrill when the new car has changed the way the world views cars.

The Tesla line of cars has brought together three different subcultures of individuals with their revolutionary style of car. The electrical engineer nerd, the car geek and the got-to-have-the-newest-thing group have sought these vehicles since they started rolling off the assembly line in 2003.

Buying a Tesla is the greatest car event you'll ever experience, which isn't a hard bar to surpass considering most people would rather walk across burning coals to get to their dentist than car shop. To order a Tesla all one has to do is jump on the web, pick your options, give the company your deposit of \$1,000 and your car begins its life.

For those of you a little squeamish of Internet ordering items with a purchase price greater than \$100,000 there are few dealerships around. The closest one to Sacramento is the Rocklin dealership. They

first house.

The biggest, first anxiety issue all Tesla owners must overcome is what I term, fear of the battery light. On the newer model Teslas the company has hidden the odometer and replaced it with the ever more important battery gauge.

For the first several thousand miles of driving a Tesla you will watch the gauge like a hawk. The first time you get to 25 percent of the battery life your heart will race, but over time you begin to adjust your commute and driving to compensate for the consumption of energy. The car even tells you where the closets charging stations are located, not only Tesla charging stations, but almost all charging stations.

Power, we all have it in our house, how hard could it be to plug in one's car? You will need a 40amp 220V electric outlet, not

the charge. This is a safety measure to ensure the life of the batteries, but unit you've headed to your garage one morning to set off on a long day of driving only to find you have no charge will you learn to monitor the Tesla phone app to ensure your car is charging. In my case, Tesla replaced my charging cable because it kept tripping the cars circuit.

You will learn too that the Tesla is powered by two computer screens, and much like any other computer it requires rebooting. This isn't a hard task but one does freak out the first time you're driving down the freeway and the screens go blank.

With these few negative aspects of the car comes some really great benefits. Like when you valet park your car they leave it out front for everyone to see. 0-60 in 2.8 seconds becomes a necessity, why shouldn't you be doing 110 at the bottom of the freeway onramp?

In the end, for me, being part of a cultural change in a fundamental piece of machinery



are open seven days a week and always have a friendly non-commission based sales person to walk you through the car and the ordering process. You are even welcome to visit the factory in Fremont California, known as the Mecca for electric cars.

Every few days as your car is rolling through the factory you receive update emails. They don't currently send you pictures of the process, but they provide you enough information about the process to satisfy the most detail oriented person.

Finally, when it's time to pick your car up they make an appointment for you at any dealer location you desire. If you live more than 150 miles from a dealership they will deliver the car to you.

Owning a Tesla isn't all fun and games like the YouTube videos make it out to be. It's a little nerve racking driving something that cost \$8,000 more than you paid for your

too difficult to install in newer homes. Of the other Tesla owners, I've spoken with, several have had to redo their electrical panels to the tune of about \$5,000.

Tesla is really nice to you until you do any damage to your car that is your fault. Such as hit a curb at 70-80 miles an hour hypothetically speaking. In a case such as this Tesla doesn't offer the free towing or loaner car even though you are going to pay them to fix your car.

The car is very picky about quality power, if there is any change in the amperage output of your home charger the car cuts off



of human life is the coolest part of owning a Tesla. It's much like those who purchased the first Ford Mustangs or Chevy Corvettes, cars that redefined driving.

It may not seem like it today but generations from now this is how the Tesla will be viewed, and mine is SN 107677.

Should You Mac-it or Stick with Windows When You Upgrade Your Computer

by Jennifer Garland, Notes from the Helpdesk

I am often asked what to buy to replace an older machine. It's a very personal decision and one answer never fits everyone. My advice often hinges on what I know about the client and their computer skills and needs.

I was asked recently by two clients about replacing their computers. One client had a four year old Toshiba, the other a ten year old MacBook Pro. Both clients use similar applications and have similar needs. In both cases I recommended the MacBook Pro for a replacement.

My reasoning is based on my experience with Macs over the last two years. In that time, my Mac expertise has increased considerably as well as my understanding of my clients' skills. Here's my insight - if you do basic internet searches, email, down and upload photos and can move around your current Windows based computer, you can handle a Mac.

The initial investment is higher but if you look at your overall return on investment, the hassle factor related to viruses, spy and ransom ware removal, constant updates and more, the choice is clear. Buy a Mac.

Apple has a fairly high customer service ranking, especially at their Genius Bar, and their equipment lasts. The learning curve is not that great to move from one to the other and although there are some issues you need to consider, the benefits overall should outweigh any issues.

To identify any possible issues, make a table that includes the programs you have, what peripherals are attached to your current computer and how you make backups. Include a column next to those items for notes. Example, I have Microsoft Office, Roxio Creator, Adobe Acrobat Pro, VGA monitor, wi-fi printer with a USB connection and a Seagate external backup hard drive using Windows 10 continuous backup.

In the right column I make notes for what items are compatible with the Mac and what add-ons or replacements I'll need to make to have a smooth transition.

In this instance, I can do one of two things with the software - I can buy the Mac version or I can create a Windows virtual machine on the Mac and run your Windows software on the virtual machine.

Next, I'll need an adapter for your monitor - VGA to Thunderbolt - so your monitor will work on your MacBook Pro. Last, I'll have to transfer your files and either reformat your backup for the Mac or partition your backup so that you keep both the Windows backup and create a new partition for the Mac and TimeMachine.

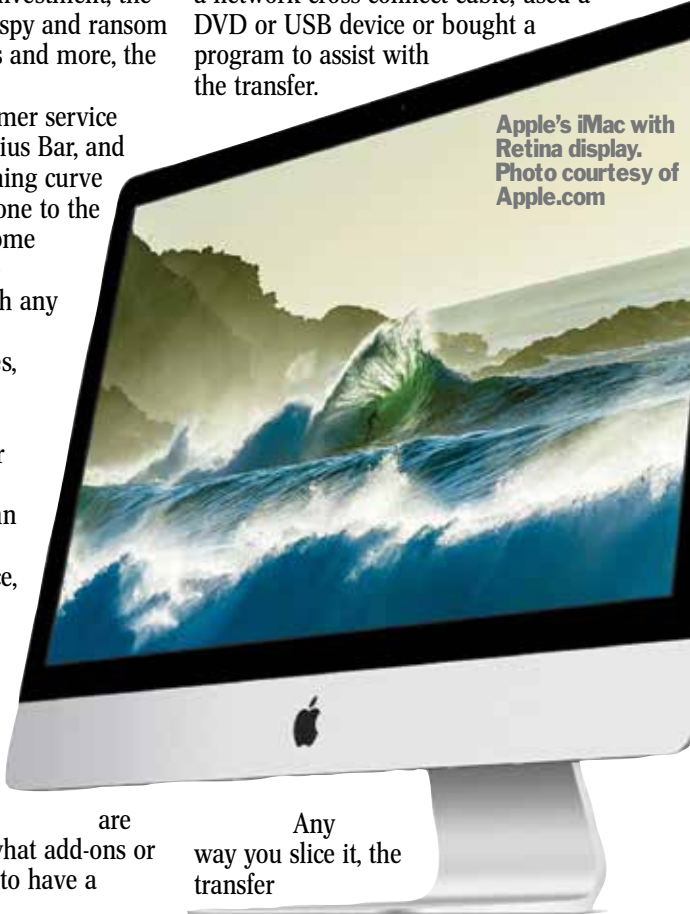
I could also skip the process above, buy the new machine and ask the Genius Bar to help with connecting peripherals, backups and upgrading software.

When you are ready to transfer your data files (and you have decided to skip the geniuses) be sure you have a backup of your current computer, copies of the all the software

you need, adapters, and a little patience.

My two clients moves went like this: The first client moved from Apple to Apple. We had a full Time Machine backup. I plugged the backup into the new machine before its first boot. The new machine recognized the backup, transferred both programs and personal files, listed incompatibilities and how to fix them and in one hour from start to finish the machine was up and ready for business.

The second client was very simple too, even though it was a Windows based machine moving to a Mac. I used Apple's migration assistant over wi-fi and it took a while because of the number of files, but it was the most efficient way for me to complete the change. However, I could also have connected them via a network cross connect cable, used a DVD or USB device or bought a program to assist with the transfer.



worked well, although I did have to purchase the Microsoft Office suite for Mac (I was not prepared for this client to work with a virtual machine and she was fine with the cost of the program.)

In the end, it really is a personal choice and the touch of a keyboard or the use of a one click vs two click mouse could make or break a decision.

Before you choose any computer, do your research on new models, read reviews from the experts including Consumer Reports, your friends and family and then go touch the machine before you buy it.

Jennifer Garland is a retired Information Technology manager and part time volunteer for several local non- profits. She loves the mysteries of IT, photography, birding, cooking, quilting, gardening and woodworking. She can be reached at spit_lube@yahoo.com

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Judge Strikes Down Anti-LGBT Bill in Mississippi Hours Before It Becomes Law

In the early hours of the morning, a federal judge struck down the entirety of an anti-LGBT measure that was slated to become law July 1. The law would have allowed public officials and businesses to refuse to serve LGBT individuals.

The ACLU and the ACLU of Mississippi challenged the constitutionality of HB1523 in a separate lawsuit, *Alford v. Moulder*.

"We are thrilled that Judge Reeves ruled on the right side of history in striking down House Bill 1523 and congratulate our allies who brought these cases," said ACLU of Mississippi Executive Director Jennifer Riley-Collins. "This is a huge victory for the state of Mississippi and the nation. The federal ruling clearly states that HB 1523 is unconstitutional, and now this discriminatory law that unfairly targeted LGBT people will not go into effect."

Rep. Chaffetz Urged to Cancel Hearing on Anti-LGBT Legislation Scheduled a Month After Orlando Shooting

The American Civil Liberties Union and over 70 national, state and local groups sent a letter on July 6 to Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) urging him to cancel a hearing on a bill that would allow taxpayer-funded discrimination against LGBT people, women, and others.

"It's outrageous that Congress would hold a hearing on legislation that would make it legal to discriminate against LGBT people with taxpayer dollars one month after the mass shooting that killed 49 people and injured 53 others at a gay club in Orlando," said James Esseks, director of the ACLU's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & HIV Project. "Congress should instead focus its efforts on protecting people against violence or discrimination, regardless of who they are or whom they love."

The bill's supporters argue that the singular intent of the bill is to prevent discrimination against "people and institutions that define marriage as a union between one man and one woman." In practice, the ACLU said, the bill will permit sweeping taxpayer-funded discrimination, based on a professed religious belief or even a legally ambiguous "moral conviction," private organizations and certain federal contractors would be empowered to refuse a range of services to LGBT people, single mothers, and unmarried couples.

Educators Double Down On Protecting Rights of LGBTQ Students and Members

In light of the recent murder of 49 Latino and Black LGBTQ people in Orlando and on the heels of escalating and unprecedented legislative efforts to pass discriminatory laws, the nearly 7,000 delegates at the NEA Representative Assembly (RA) have approved a new business item calling on the Association to join a national effort to prevent acts of violence targeted at LGBTQ individuals and to protect their civil rights.

The RA is the top decision-making body for the 3 million-member National Education Association.

"The action the delegates took today (July 4) is not only timely and right but also necessary to ensure that everyone - regardless of gender identify or expression - has the opportunity to thrive and achieve," continued Eskelsen García.

Pride Fund to End Gun Violence (Pride Fund) Registers as Political Action Committee (PAC)

In response to the nation's worst mass shooting in history and stalled efforts in Congress to implement gun reform, members of the LGBTQ community announced on July 6 the formation of the Pride Fund to End Gun Violence (Pride Fund), to support federal candidates who will act on sensible gun policy reforms and champion LGBTQ equality.

"The Orlando massacre was yet another senseless act of gun violence in America and the LGBTQ community and our allies are united in the call for action on commonsense gun reforms," said Jason Lindsay, Pride Fund founder and executive director. "We are tired of Congress' inaction, so we are adding the strength and organization of the LGBTQ community to help end gun violence."

Lindsay is a seasoned political operative with 12 years of experience working in politics, government and campaigns. He also served for 14 years in the U.S. Army Reserve and was deployed to Iraq in 2003.

Visit www.pridefund.org

National PTA Adopts Resolution on the Recognition of LGBTQ Individuals As a Protected Class

National PTA, the nation's oldest and largest child advocacy association, adopted a resolution during its 2016 Annual Convention & Expo in Orlando, Fla. on the Recognition of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Individuals as a Protected Class.

The resolution calls for federal policies that specifically protect LGBTQ youth and local practices that create and maintain safe, affirming and inclusive learning environments for all students.

"Every child deserves to go to school excited to learn in a safe and nurturing environment, without the fear of bullying, violence or discrimination. However, the vast majority of LGBTQ students are bullied, physically assaulted and feel unsafe in school because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or identity," said Laura Bay, president of National PTA. "National PTA delegates have taken a stand to push for policies and protections for LGBTQ youth to make sure they have positive school experiences."

Charity Runs Deep in the Napa Valley *by Diana Kienle*

The Napa Valley is an agricultural region, with many different types of soil running through the area (50 of the known 100+ found in the world). Mountains surround this beautiful valley, rising as high 2200 feet, but nothing is as inspiring as the charitable heart that runs deep through the residents of this region.

Charity is one of the things that Napa Valley does so well. Winery owners and winemakers all show their heart with the many events put on throughout the year to help take care of their citizens.

The HALL Cabernet Cook-Off is a great example of this charitable heart. The theme of the day was to “pop a cork and grab a fork.” There were 13 chef teams, each representing a different charity and vying for your and the judges’ votes.

The challenge: What food paired best with the 2013 HALL Napa Valley Cabernet? What a great question! It really required some drinking and eating to cast an educated vote!

This was a magnificent setting with a glorious sun-filled day. HALL Winery also hosted last year’s Auction Napa Valley (the Valley’s biggest charity event), which was a beautiful location for this event. HALL has lovely gardens, a large courtyard, and bocce ball courts – all

sitting against the east side of Napa Valley with gorgeous view of the Mayacamas Mountains.

We started the day at the Cabernet Cook-Off with a Sauvignon Blanc – cool, crisp and full of acidity to set up your palate for the ensuing delightful tastes from the chefs and restaurants participating. The challenge again was which bite paired best with the HALL 2013 Cabernet, a wine from the famous 2013 vintage. This wine is structured, well-balanced, and plush on the palate.

The tasty bites ranged from pasta to shrimp to lamb to ribs – must I go on? The wild boar bite from the Sacramento Experience & Food Literacy Team was my favorite. The offering was explosive and dynamic with spice and rich meat flavors that paired beautifully with the



Members of the Sacramento Experience & Food Literacy Center, dedicated to inspiring kids to eat their vegetables, competed in the HALL Cabernet Cook-Off. Photo by Cathy Schwamberger

Cabernet. The wines of HALL are rich and approachable, and I highly recommend a visit. You don’t need an appointment, so you can step in and step up to taste through their current offerings and see what pleases your palate best. They’re located on Highway 29, just south of Saint Helena.

HALL is known for its notable art

pieces, such as the beautiful big silver rabbit at its entrance. Art adorns the property, and it a beautiful setting. Yet nothing is as big as the heart for the fun and charitable work they do.

Enjoy!

Diana Kienle is a freelance writer and blogs about wine at www.dianaswineblog.com. She can be reached at diana@dianaswineblog.com.

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Real Housewives Writer Finds Her Kid-Lit Voice

by Bonnie Osborn

Eleven-year-old Cleo Nelson wants the same things most pre-teen girls want – to fit in, to be popular, to be well-liked – except most middle-schoolers don't have an uncle who sends them voodoo dolls and love potions for their birthdays.

If this doesn't sound like a plot ripped from a *Real Housewives* script, it's not, even if it was written by the executive producer of Bravo's racy *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* and reality TV pioneer Toni Gallagher. *Twist My Charm: Love Potion #11*, is her second middle grade book, and it came out in May.

As it turns out, story-telling is story-telling, whatever the genre, and some of the stories in Gallagher's head happen to be those of an 11-year-old girl.

"The only reason I wrote a book for this age group was the inspiration for this particular story," Gallagher says. "I wanted the character to be 11 years old, so I wrote in that genre. Apparently I have a good voice for that age."

As for her insight into the wants and desires of an 11-year-old girl, "it was just pure guess-work and luck," she says. "People are people, no matter what the trappings. I made the kid's heart the same heart any 11-year-old would have in any time frame."

"My joke is I don't teach, and I don't have kids – but I met one once. That's really all you need if you have the right voice."

Gallagher has always been a writer and still has stories she wrote as a child. She graduated with a journalism degree from Northwestern University in Illinois, then worked a series of jobs, including one reading screenplays for director Steven Spielberg's production company Amblin Entertainment. "I was a fan of documentaries and soaps," she recalls. "I wrote a cold letter to the producers of *The Real World* and said I would be interested in working on the show."

She joined MTV's *The Real World* as a story editor, even as the reality TV genre was being invented.

"Some people consider *Cops* the first reality TV show, but it doesn't have a story arc," Gallagher says. "The term 'reality TV' didn't exist at the time. Now, it's crazy; colleges give courses on it. I certainly was there at the beginning, maybe even helped invent a little of it."

A writer's job in reality TV is different from that of scripted shows. "It's more shaping the story," Gallagher says. *The Real World* was shot like a documentary and, unlike *Housewives*, filming was almost constant. "Our job as writers was to determine how to tell the story in the most entertaining way."

"Nowadays we have to make appointments to shoot with the *Housewives*. Everybody always asks, 'Is it real or scripted?' With *Housewives*, it's not scripted; it's a bit planned, in that you have to find out what's going on in the women's lives for real, plan when you're going to shoot, if they're going to be together, and then just let it happen. It still ends up being a lot of material to figure out what we're going to use."

Gallagher says she expects to stay with *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills*, now beginning Season 7, for as long as it runs. That could be a while, given that *The Real Housewives of Orange County* is in Season 11, and Bravo continues to launch new *Housewives* franchises. "There doesn't seem like an end anytime soon," she says.

As for her career as a kid-lit author, she's taking it one, or in the case of her Random House deal, two, books at a time. She had the idea for her *Twist My Charm* book series (originally

titled "Pins and Needles") in 2011, but didn't get an agent until 2013. She signed the two-book deal with Random House in 2014, and her first book, *Twist My Charm: The Popularity Spell*, came out in 2015. Random House has yet to order a third book.

She feels she is lucky to have embarked on writing for a youthful audience just as the popularity of young adult literature, fueled by Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, skyrocketed, and other YA series like *Divergent* and *The Hunger Games* are breaking box office records.

"Even adults are reading young adult novels," she says. "It's almost luck that I felt like writing for kids at a time when that genre was easier to break into or more open than if I had written a grown-up literary novel."

Her LA launch party for *Love Potion #11* was earlier this month, and in September she was guest bartender on Bravo's *Watch What Happens Live*, where host Andy Cohen promoted the books. "I'm just doing what I can," she says, "selling one book at a time."

For more about Gallagher and her writing, visit tonigallagherink.com/.

Bonnie Osborn is a writer and the owner of Writeaway Communications Services. She can be reached at 916-212-9110 or Bonnie@WriteAwayCommunications.biz.



Reality TV pioneer and writer, Toni Gallagher

GLAAD Releases Musical Tribute Benefitting Victims and Families of Orlando Massacre and LGBT Organizations



GLAAD and Interscope Records have released *Hands*, a musical tribute to the victims of Orlando, featuring Mary J Blige, Jason Derulo, Tyler Glenn, Selena Gomez, Halsey, Ty Herndon, Adam Lambert, Mary Lambert, Jennifer Lopez, the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles, Kacey Musgraves, RuPaul, Britney Spears, Gwen Stefani, and many more. The tribute will be made available at iTunes exclusively and proceeds from the sale will benefit Equality Florida Pulse Victims Fund, the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida and GLAAD. You can listen to a preview at www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3SKR1VMxTM&feature=youtu.be

Solano County Declares Pride Month



For the first time, the Solano County Board of Supervisors declared June to be Pride Month in Solano County. Supervisor Erin Hannigan shepherded the resolution to a unanimous vote. The proclamation is hanging in the Solano Pride Center. Pictured are Jesse Dale, Quentin Voyce, Kristen Loomis, Rebecca Nord, Michael Wilson and Erin Hannigan.

Constellations Is a Captivating, Gorgeous Romance



In Nick Payne's clever, eloquent and moving story, a romance plays out over a myriad of possible lifetimes, capturing the extraordinary richness of being alive in the universe. Having moved from London to Broadway (starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Ruth Wilson), *Constellations* has played to rave reviews on two continents. Starring Tom Patterson as Roland and Dana Brooke as Marianne, *Constellations* plays through July 30th at the B St. Theatre. www.bstreettheatre.org.

Girl Power Returns in *Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie*

by Chris Narloch

The two films I am looking forward to the most this summer are the all-female reboot of *Ghostbusters* and the first big-screen outing for Patsy and Edina, the booze-filled broads who made the classic British sitcom *Absolutely Fabulous* must-see TV in the '90s.



Patsy and Edina return in “*Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie*”

I wasn’t able to review either movie before our deadline, but I did uncover a teaser synopsis for the *Ab Fab* film, which reunites the sublime Jennifer Saunders (Edina) and Joanna Lumley (Patsy) for the first time in many years, while also bringing back original cast members Jane Horrocks (Bubble), Julia Sawalha (Saffron), and June Whitfield (Mother).

Apparently, our two “sweetie darlings” (Patsy and Eddy) are forced to flee to the French Riviera in an attempt to avoid the

paparazzi after they accidentally knock supermodel Kate Moss into the River Thames.

Surrounded by new money, old money and an endless supply of hard alcohol, I can only imagine the shenanigans our girls get themselves into. The movie also features gay faves Chris Colfer, Mo'Nique, and singer Lulu.

Absolutely Fabulous is currently scheduled to open at Tower Theatre on Friday, July 22.

Barefoot Wine Wins Big at State Fair Wine Competition

It’s always a great thing when good things happen to companies that support the LGBT community, so we at Outword are very happy to announce that Barefoot Wine did very well at the California State Fair Wine Competition, picking up 23 awards including two Double Golds and five Best of Class!

The gracious and generous folks at Barefoot have donated and poured wine at just about every major event in Sacramento’s LGBT community, including Sacramento Pride, Davis Pride, the Sacramento LGBT Wedding Expo and the Sacramento Pride Awards.

Some noTOEable awards were: Barefoot California Shiraz: 98 points! Double GOLD. Best of California. Best of Class of Region; Barefoot California Pink Moscato: 98 points! Double GOLD. Best of Class of Region; Barefoot California Malbec: 91 points! Best of Class of Region; Barefoot Bubbly Moscato Spumante: 91 points! Best of Class of Region; and Barefoot Bubbly Pinot Grigio: 91 points! Best of Class of Region.

Barefoot invites you to celebrate with them on July 17 at the State Fair at their Barefoot Wine Day. Stop by for a free sample of their award winners – and be sure to thank them for supporting us!



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- July 19: Matchbox Twenty Too
- July 20: The Pointer Sisters
- July 21: Lincoln Brewster
- July 22: Don Felder
- July 23: Joe Nichols
- July 24: Loverboy

SMUD Promenade Stage

- July 14: Apple Z (8 p.m.)
- July 15: Notorious (8 p.m.)
- July 16: Rock On Live Karaoke Band (8 p.m.)
- July 17: The Cheeseballs (7 p.m.)
- July 18: The Crows Rock Band (8 p.m.)
- July 19: They Went Ghost (9 p.m.)
- July 20: Remix (7 p.m.)
- July 21: Super Huey (8 p.m.)
- July 22: Pop Rocks (8 p.m.)
- July 23: Rock On Live Karaoke Band (8 p.m.)
- July 24: Lovefool (7 p.m.)

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Sacramento Choruses Shine at GALA Festival 2016

The Sacramento Women's Chorus and the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus joined choruses from all across the U.S. for GALA Festival 2016 held in Denver July 2-6. Sacramento photographer Chris Allen was able to make it to Denver for the rehearsals and early concerts, including the Sacramento Women's Chorus, but had to leave before the SGMC took the stage. But here are some of her shots from the concerts, rehearsals and even a flash mob. Photos by Chris Allan

Out & About





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Get Spirited Away by Strictly Ballroom at the Crest

by Chris Narloch

Two of my favorite films from the last 25 years or so, *Spirited Away* and *Strictly Ballroom*, are being resurrected at the beautiful and historic Crest Theatre this month, and one of them is even getting the 35mm treatment.

Spirited Away

Disney and Pixar aren't the only makers of classic animation. Studio Ghibli in Japan is also renowned for its amazing animated features, which are not just for kids.

Spirited Away is a cinematic accomplishment unrivaled by any other animated film. Directed by Hayao Miyazaki, a master of animation who is at the height of his powers here, the 2001 feature depicts a young Japanese girl's journey through a supernatural world of gods, witches and beasts.

The Crest Theatre will present this film in its original 35mm format, a unique opportunity for the hardcore anime fan and the casual viewer of animation alike.

Presented in Japanese with English subtitles, *Spirited Away* won the Oscar at the

Spirited Away



75th Academy Awards, making it the only hand-drawn animated film and Japanese animated film ever to win the Best Animated Feature award.

Spirited Away plays Saturday, July 23 at 7:30 p.m., with an encore presentation the next day, Sunday, July 24, at 4:00 p.m.

Strictly Ballroom

The following Friday, July 29, at 7:30 p.m., the Crest will present an early gem from director Baz Luhrman (*Moulin Rouge*, *The Great Gatsby*).

1992's *Strictly Ballroom* is a movie about following your dreams regardless of criticism. The kinetic and colorful dance film also showcases the acting and dancing talents of a young (and very sexy) Paul Mercurio.

Lighthearted and fun, this movie entertains from start to finish, while educating the audience on the finer points of ballroom dancing. The Crest Theatre is proud to bring this date-night classic back to the big screen.

For more information about these and other movies coming to the Crest, please visit www.crestsacramento.com.



Strictly Ballroom

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Broadway Beauty Laura Benanti Returns to Feinstein's

by Chris Narloch

If you saw Laura Benanti in the very first live stream of a Broadway musical (*She Loves Me*) last month or in her popular role as country singer Sadie Stone in the recent television drama *Nashville*, then you know that she can sing anything.

Fresh off that Tony-nominated role in Roundabout Theater Company's critically-acclaimed Broadway revival of *She Loves Me*, Benanti returns to Feinstein's at the Nikko in San Francisco with her new show, *Tales from Soprano Isle*, for three performances only, July 29 – 31.

In this humorous evening, Benanti will perform songs from throughout her celebrated career, as well as share stories and personal anecdotes from her life on and off the stage.

Benanti is a highly celebrated, five-time Tony Award-nominated stage actress, who took Broadway by storm at the age of 18 as Maria in *The Sound of Music*, opposite Richard Chamberlain.

She later earned the 2008 Tony Award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her revelatory portrayal of Gypsy Rose Lee in *Gypsy*, opposite Patti LuPone and directed by Arthur Laurents.

Laura currently performs her concerts in venues around the country and even performed for the President and First Lady of the United States at both the Ford's Theatre Gala and the Kennedy Center Honors in Washington DC. She also recently headlined the Radio City Spring Spectacular with the famed Rockettes.

Tickets for Laura Benanti at Feinstein's at the Nikko range in price from \$75 – \$95 and are available now by calling 866.663.1063 or visiting www.feinsteinsatthenikko.com.



Laura Benanti. Photo Jenny Anderson

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Little Me & Shakespeare Under the Stars by Chris Narloch

When we're not having a 100 degree heat wave, Sacramento summers can be a very nice time to sit outside and see a show. Temperatures cool off in the evening, those delta breezes kick in, and the conditions are perfect for outdoor theater.

Read on for details of several plays you can see under the stars this summer.

Little Me

Neil Simon's *Little Me* details the madcap and dizzying rise to stardom by Belle Poitrine, a no-talent beauty from the wrong side of the tracks who goes through seven husbands over the course of the musical.

Lunatics and lovers abound in *Little Me*, which is based on the book by Patrick Dennis and features music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by Carolyn Leigh.

The entire family will be rolling in the aisles and humming along to the delightful score as they watch Belle relive her life.

Directed by Bob Irvin, *Little Me* plays through July 24 at the Veteran's Memorial Amphitheatre in Old Fair Oaks.

Visit www.fairoakstheatrefestival.com.

Sacramento Shakespeare Festival

Residents of Land Park know what a treasure they have in the Sacramento Shakespeare Festival, which has been presenting plays in the amphitheatre inside William Land Park for over thirty years.

This summer you can see two of the Bard's finest plays, *Love's Labour's Lost* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The staging of *Love's Labour's Lost* will feature an Ivy League glee club circa 1916 and will include live music and original songs.

Mystical, mythical, magical Atlantis is the setting for Sacramento Shakespeare Festival's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a romp in the woods that just might all be a dream...or not.

Love's Labour's Lost plays through July 30, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* runs through July 31.

For more information, visit www.sacramentoshakespeare.net.



Deane Calvin, Dan Slauson and Brianne Hidden-Wise in Fair Oaks Theatre Festival's *Little Me*. Photo by Brian Williams

Outword Salutes Sacramento's Rainbow Chamber of Commerce

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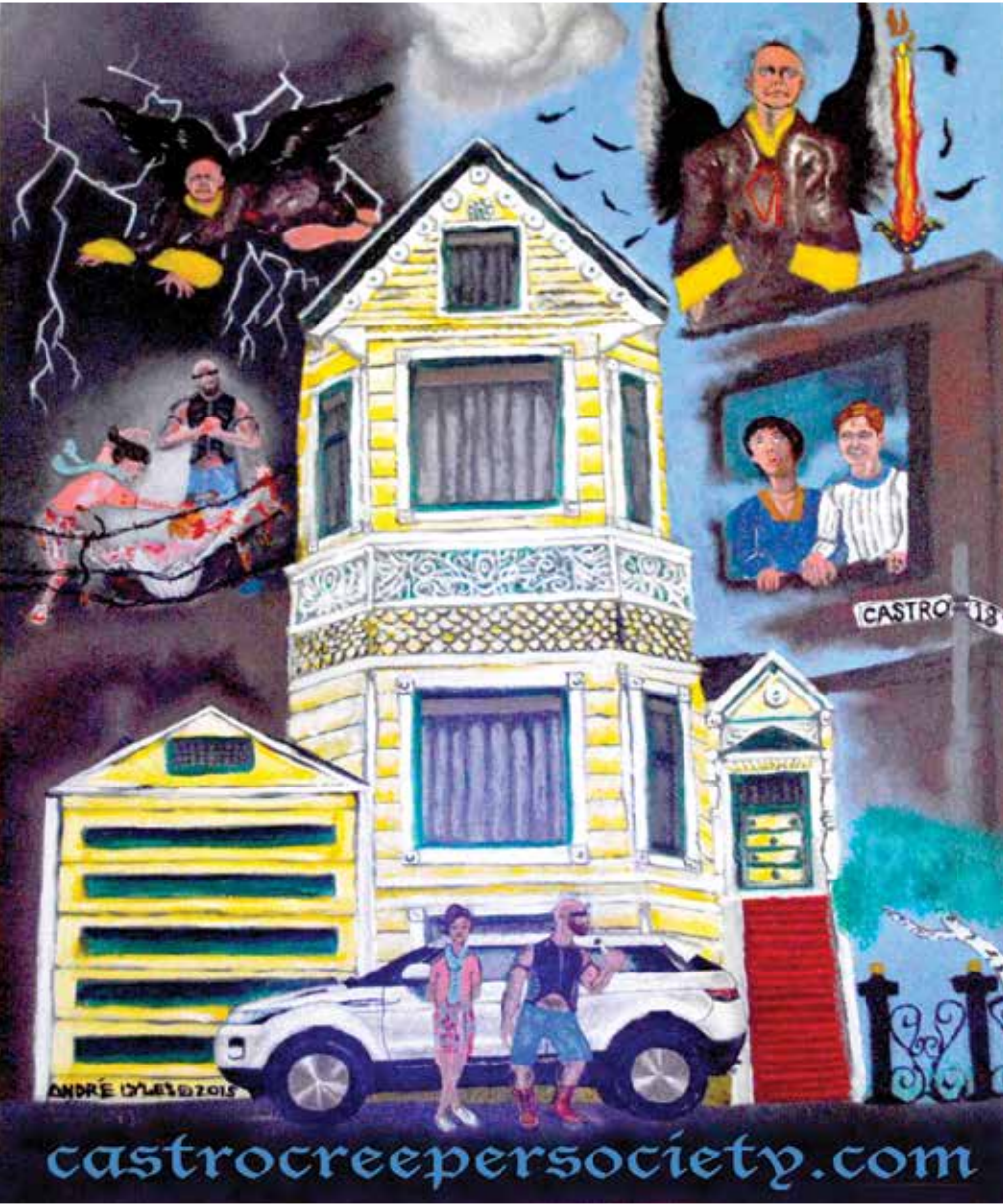
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In *Beautiful Something*, director Joseph Graham (*Strapped*) has created a retro-timeless vision of a sexually charged gay life, with men combing the streets of the City of Brotherly Love, looking for connections — though often settling for the quick and dirty. Watch the trailer at www.ariztical.com/filmsAZ/beautiful_something.html



The Men of Broadway on CD

With all of the publicity that *Hamilton* and its creator Lin-Manuel Miranda have received lately, it's easy to forget that there are other big names on Broadway.

Read on for details of new CDs featuring two of the sexiest and most talented guys in the theater world.

Cheyenne Jackson – Renaissance

It's no secret that I have a huge crush on this Broadway leading man, who has also found fame on the big and small screens. Cheyenne Jackson's stunning good looks and charismatic crooning have brought him success in such musicals as *All Shook Up*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Xanadu*, *Aida* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*.

The Grammy nominee's latest CD is adapted from his acclaimed solo concert *Music of the Mad Men Era*, which was a tribute to Hollywood's golden age and the Rat Pack era.

Jackson moves effortlessly between a wide variety of popular styles, including jazz, bolero, rockabilly and soul.

The singer really swings on such classic tunes as "Americano," "Besame Mucho," "Feelin' Good," "Somethin' Stupid" and "I (Who Have Nothing)."



Jose Llana – Altitude

This accomplished, award-winning performer recently played the King in *The King & I* at Lincoln Center, twenty years after making his Broadway debut as Lun Tha in the 1996 revival of that musical.

Llana also played Chip Tolentino in William Finn's *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* on Broadway, and he explored his Filipino roots in David Byrne's off-Broadway hit *Here Lies Love*, as Ferdinand Marcos.

The singer's new CD *Altitude* traces his Broadway career with an eclectic selection of songs from the musicals mentioned above, plus pop hits from Billy Joel ("Lullabye") and Ed Sheeran ("Thinking Out Loud").

Other highlights include numbers from the classic musicals *Company* and *On The Town* and three selections from Adam Guettel's *Saturn Returns: A Concert*.



Sacramento's Best Shine at the Pride Awards

The Sacramento LGBT Community Center, celebrating 30 years, recognized individuals and organizations whose compassion, innovation, generosity and community service created a safer, welcoming community at the Pride Awards, held Wednesday, June 29 under the stars on the Capitol Mall. Prior to the Awards, a VIP reception was held at the Wells Fargo building with a hosted bar and appetizers by Il Fornaio. The Awards ceremony featured a live auction by David Sobon Auctions & Events and a roaming feast by Empress Tavern and Mother restaurants Photos by Tia Gemmell www.phototia.com.



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Look to the Person, Not the Weapon to Keep Us Safe

commentary by Jonathan Adler

I am what I like to call a man without a party. My personal views, beliefs and actions are not dictated by party lines, but by my heart.

Last month our nation was subjected to yet another attack against what I see as American Freedoms. As with all senseless killings my heart goes out to the victims and their families. But even before one can morn The Attacks begin among us all.

I am a son, a brother, a husband and a father. Along with those titles comes personal responsibility, which I for one take rather seriously. That responsibility is to love and protect those I care for.

The SCOTUS made it very clear to me that this responsibility is on my shoulders. In their 2005 ruling that stated “Law enforcement is Under No legal or constitutional responsibility to keep you or I safe.” So as you can probably guess by now I am talking about Gun Laws/Gun

Ownership.

Let me start off by saying that I and 90 percent of lawful gun owners are not against responsible gun laws. I fully support Federal background checks, wait periods, registration and safety training/certification. As far as large capacity magazines, I have never had a use for them.

But when one talks about banning semi-automatic rifles due to the fact that they look like a military weapon, I fail to see the purpose. There are an estimated 100 Million lawfully owned rifles of all types in the United States. If we stop selling

them today, guess how many we would have out there? You got it, the exact same number.

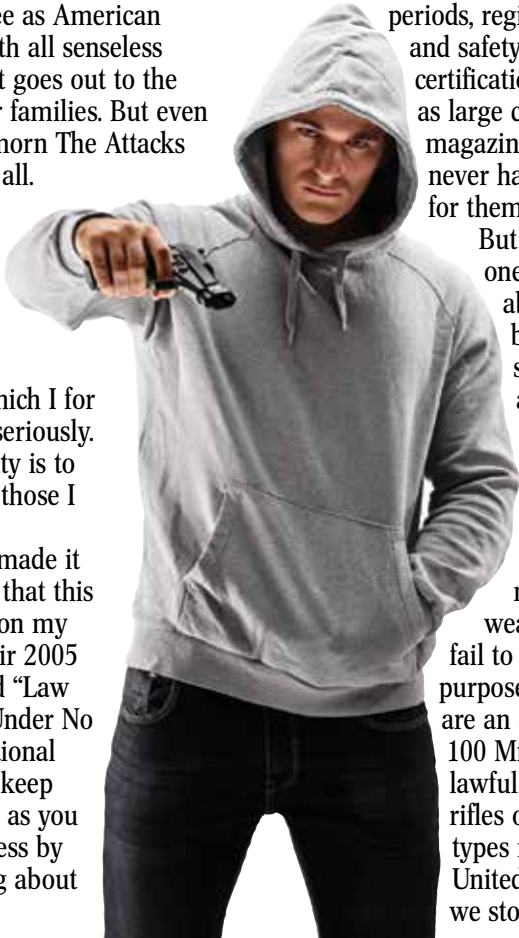
Have you ever seen a VW kit car that was made to look like a ford cobra? Looks fast, but it is still a VW. Ar-15s look scary but they are no more lethal than any other weapon. So I don’t see how a ban helps at all.

During his most recent visit to the capitol the Dalai Lama said “Ending violence requires inner disarmament and an education system that focuses on teaching moral values, compassion and what it means to be a global citizen.”

I could not agree more. Yet every time there is a tragedy in this nation we look to the tool, not the person behind it. If I for one second truly believed that any type of weapon ban would make my loved ones safer, believe me I would support it 100 percent.

Four bills were killed last month, due to the fact that even though we all want the same thing, no one is willing to budge. Each side is equally as guilty as the other. I honestly believe we as a nation need to come together else we will certainly die alone.

Jonathan Adler can be reached at rotoboy459@yahoo.com.



New Meningitis Outbreak Hits Gay Men in Los Angeles & OC

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials have issued a Department of Public Health (DPH) ‘Health Alert’ warning that a new outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease is hitting gay men and men who have sex with men (MSM) particularly hard.

According to the Associated Press, “Nine meningococcal disease cases have been identified in men living in Los Angeles and Orange counties. One patient died as a result of the infection. Six of the cases are known to have been caused by a particular strain of meningococcal bacteria.”

Four of these nine meningitis cases were found in MSM, and according to the L.A. County Health alert, three of the four MSM cases occurred within the past six weeks.

“We are calling on LA County Health officials to immediately roll out an aggressive, high profile and targeted public information campaign about this latest meningitis outbreak,” said Michael Weinstein, President of AHF. “We urge Los Angeles County and other

affected health jurisdictions to quickly ramp up their supplies of vaccines and partner with the community in vaccination efforts as well as educating the community.”

In 2013, while Los Angeles County health officials quibbled with community health providers and advocates about labeling the deadly meningitis cases a ‘cluster’ or ‘outbreak’ to describe cases that killed three MSM in Southern California and seven MSM in New York, AHF mounted an aggressive free meningitis vaccination campaign in Los Angeles. In the span of one week (April 15-22, 2013), AHF provided 3,357 free meningitis vaccines to the community.

“AHF was first on the vaccination front in 2013 and we are glad to

see that Los Angeles County has stepped up so quickly with a ‘Health Alert’; however, County health officials need to step up now and focus even greater attention on meningitis in these populations. Gay men are extremely over-represented in these meningitis case numbers in Los Angeles. The CDC and the NIH, in conjunction with local health departments, should really be studying the issue far more intensively.”

HEALTH NOTE: The meningitis vaccine provides protection for five (5) years, so any individual who may have been vaccinated during the cases or outbreaks reported in 2013 or 2014 does NOT need to get a booster shot or be re-vaccinated now.

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