

outward

A portrait of Greta Gerwig, the director of 'Lady Bird', looking directly at the camera. She has blonde hair styled in a short, wavy cut and is wearing a black trench coat. The background is a solid grey.

No. 588 • November 9, 2017
outwardmagazine.com

Greta the Great Sacramento Native

Soars as Director of "Lady Bird"

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Federal Court Halts Trump's Transgender Military Ban

A federal court in Washington has blocked the Trump administration from implementing the president's directive banning transgender service members from continuing to serve in the military.

The U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia on Monday, Aug. 30 issued a preliminary injunction preventing the White House from pushing forward with the policy reversal. Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly wrote that the plaintiffs – a group of current and aspiring transgender service members – were likely to win their lawsuit against the administration, arguing the new policy was discriminatory.

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed its own challenge to the ban in Maryland. Oral arguments on the ACLU's request for a preliminary injunction to immediately halt the ban remain scheduled for November 9 in Baltimore.

"This is the first decision striking down President Trump's ban, but it won't be the last. The federal courts are recognizing what everyone already knows to be true: President Trump's impulsive decision to ban transgender people from serving in the military service was blatantly unconstitutional," said Joshua Block, senior staff attorney with the ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project. "As all of these cases move forward, we will continue to work to ensure that transgender service members are treated with the equal treatment they deserve."

In the lawsuit, the ACLU argues that the ban violates the constitutional guarantees of equal protection and substantive due process

by singling out transgender individuals for unequal and discriminatory treatment. The lawsuit argues that the ban discriminates based on sex and transgender status and that the ban is based on uninformed speculation, myths and stereotypes, moral disapproval, and a bare desire to harm this already vulnerable group.

"This judge's decision to block President Trump's shameful transgender ban gives our military families hope that justice will ultimately prevail," said American Military Partner Association (AMPA) President Ashley Broadway-Mack. "More than a year ago, the Department of Defense assured transgender service members it was safe to come out, and it's unconscionable that President Trump is now targeting them for discrimination. Any qualified American who is willing to serve should be allowed to do so."

Supreme Court Briefs Filed Defending Same-Sex Couples

Individuals and institutions from across the country representing a diverse cross-section of interests, perspectives, and concerns filed friend-of-court briefs on October 30th with the Supreme Court in support of Charlie Craig and David Mullins, a same-sex couple refused service by a Colorado bakery that claimed that selling them a wedding cake would violate the owner's religious beliefs and artistic freedom.

The case, *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, has sparked pushback and warning from civil rights leaders, legal scholars, business voices, faith leaders, and LGBT advocates across the country. The couple is being represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, which will appear before the court on December 5 for oral arguments.

The filing of friend-of-the-court briefs showcases the diversity of voices supporting the couple at the center of the case. The list of those filing briefs includes:

More than 35 national business leaders (including Citi, Marriott, and Apple, among many others); The nation's most prominent civil rights voices (including NAACP LDF, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights); Leading legal scholars and experts; Almost 1,300 faith leaders

More than 200 members of Congress (led by Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney); Over 150 mayors of cities and municipalities from coast to coast; Hundreds of celebrity chefs and restaurateurs (Jose Andres, Anthony Bourdain, Padma Lakshmi, and Carla Hall); The nation's leading LGBT rights advocacy organizations; Top medical and health organizations; Women's health advocates; and Impacted people.

"Nobody should be turned away from a business, denied service, fired from their job, or evicted from their home simply because of who they are," said Louise Melling, deputy legal director at the ACLU. "The issue in this case is whether there is a constitutional right to discriminate. Such a ruling would turn the constitution's promise of equal treatment under the law on its head. It would have implications far beyond LGBT people, and would put into

jeopardy long-standing laws against discrimination across the country."

The nation's leading LGBT rights organizations have also filed briefs with the court, arguing that this case is yet another example of how anti-LGBT groups are increasingly exploiting notions of religious and speech protections to justify discrimination. They also argue that these groups' efforts are part of a much larger, coordinated attack against LGBT people intended to unravel and undermine important protections that have been won in recent years.

"Imagine how you would feel if you were kicked out of a business simply because the owner didn't want to serve 'people like you.' It's shocking to realize that this kind of discrimination still happens to LGBT people today – causing humiliation, embarrassment, and fear," said Rachel B. Tiven of Lambda Legal. "Colorado is one of a number of states that protects LGBT people from this kind of discrimination, but those protections are under attack. A ruling in favor of the bakery would undermine and unravel important protections for LGBT people, and would have consequences for people far beyond the LGBT community."

More information about the case, as well as a collection of all of the briefs filed today, can be found at www.aclu.org/cases/charlie-craig-and-david-mullins-v-masterpiece-cakeshop

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FGG Picks Hong Kong As 2022 Gay Games XI Host

The Federation of Gay Games (FGG) General Assembly voted on October 30th in Paris to name Hong Kong as the 2022 Gay Games XI presumptive host city.



Site inspections of the three finalist cities took place June & July 2017 by a team of inspectors from Australia, Germany, Canada, and the USA. The team spent 3.5 days in each city, toured all venues and attended local supporter civic events.

A record number of 17 cities expressed interest in the 2022 Gay Games XI. Five of these cities made it to the semi-final round (Austin, TX, Dallas, TX, Denver, CO, Salt Lake City, UT, and San Francisco, CA). In the first phase, an additional nine cities had expressed interest: Cape Town, South Africa, Tel Aviv, Israel and U.S. cities Anaheim, CA, Atlanta, GA, Des Moines, IA, Los Angeles, CA, Madison, WI, Minneapolis, MN, and San Antonio, TX.

The impact that the Gay Games has in host cities is incredible in terms of culture, sport, economic impact, history and most importantly elevating all matters of LGBT+

equality.

The Paris 2018 – Gay Games 10 takes place August 4th 4-12th, and will feature 36 sports, 14 cultural events, academic conferences and up to 15,000 participants from 70 countries. Visit Paris2018.com for more information.

Since 1982, the FGG mission promotes equality and is the largest sport and culture event in the world open to all. Its legacy changes social, and political attitudes towards LGBT+ people through the core principles of "Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best".

The Gay Games was conceived by Dr. Tom Waddell, an Olympic decathlete, and was first held in San Francisco in 1982. Subsequent Gay Games are San Francisco (1986), Vancouver (1990), New York (1994), Amsterdam (1998), Sydney (2002), Chicago (2006), Cologne (2010), Cleveland+Akron (2014), and Paris (2018).

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And One More Question...

by Bob Herne, MSW

As a member of the LGBTQ community and the CEO of an adoption agency, I am approached on a regular basis by folks in our community who are curious about adopting from the foster care system.

Here are some of the more frequent questions:
Since the Trump Administration, has anything changed that would stop me from being able to adopt?
California and Sacramento are very LGBTQ friendly towards foster care and adoption. There are legal safeguards and adoption agencies are always actively recruiting families from the LGBTQ

You might want to become a mentor through Sierra Forever Families' Wonder Mentoring Program, which specifically serves foster children in Sacramento. You could also consider becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate or being a foster parent and providing temporary care for a child in need.
How do I know which agency to choose?



community. Anything currently being discussed in Washington DC would not affect your ability to adopt in California.

Can an LGBTQ couple adopt together?
Yes, in California you can both be listed as the adopted parent. You can also adopt if you are single.
I am not a perfect person and I am wondering if that will preclude me from being able to adopt?
It's your life experiences that make you a good person to provide a family for a child. The challenges that you have experienced are what give you the empathy to understand the challenges that a child has experienced and may come to face in the future.
I want to help a child but I am not sure if I am ready to adopt – are there other ways I can get involved?

Every agency has orientation sessions. We often recommend that you attend a couple of different orientations to feel which one is the right fit for you and your family. Many agencies will say they are LGBTQ friendly but you should ask some questions beforehand to make sure.
What about LGBTQ youth living in foster care?
LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in the child welfare system. They are the least likely to find a permanent family and are more likely to end up living in a group home. Why? Because there are not enough affirming homes to meet their needs. If you are looking to help a child in your community, then consider being an affirming family for an LGBTQ foster youth.
Bob Herne, MSW, is the CEO of Sierra Forever Families.

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Russia and Egypt Attack LGBT Protections in Olympic Truce

Over the next two weeks, a decision will be made at the United Nations (UN) on whether governments globally will accept discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation at the 2018 Olympics in South Korea.

While the UN General Assembly cannot remove the ban on discrimination from Principle 6 of the Olympic Charter itself, Egypt and Russia are leading a stealth attack on the Olympics at the UN General Assembly that is laden with meaning and must be stopped.

Every two years, member states of the UN General Assembly negotiate the "Olympic Truce Resolution," which calls for peace among nations during the Olympics and the one week preceding and one week following the games. Since 2015, Principle 6 of the Olympic Charter has banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Now, Russia and Egypt are aggressively trying to remove all reference to Principle 6 from this year's Olympic Truce Resolution.

In recent weeks, Egyptian authorities have arrested 60 people perceived to be members of the LGBT community, and last week, a member of parliament introduced a bill that would criminalize life, speech, and activism for LGBT Egyptians and their allies. Likewise, in recent months, the Russian government has turned a blind eye to the one hundred plus gay men in Chechnya

arbitrarily arrested and tortured.

"Egypt and Russia are not simply fighting over symbolic language but over the levels of violence governments are allowed to use against LGBT people," said Jessica Stern, Executive Director at OutRight Action International. "After systematic attacks on LGBT people in their own countries, they are now setting their sights on promoting violence and discrimination in every country of the world. The Olympics Games are supposed to be a time for sport, technique, pride and community, not for politicking, hatred and

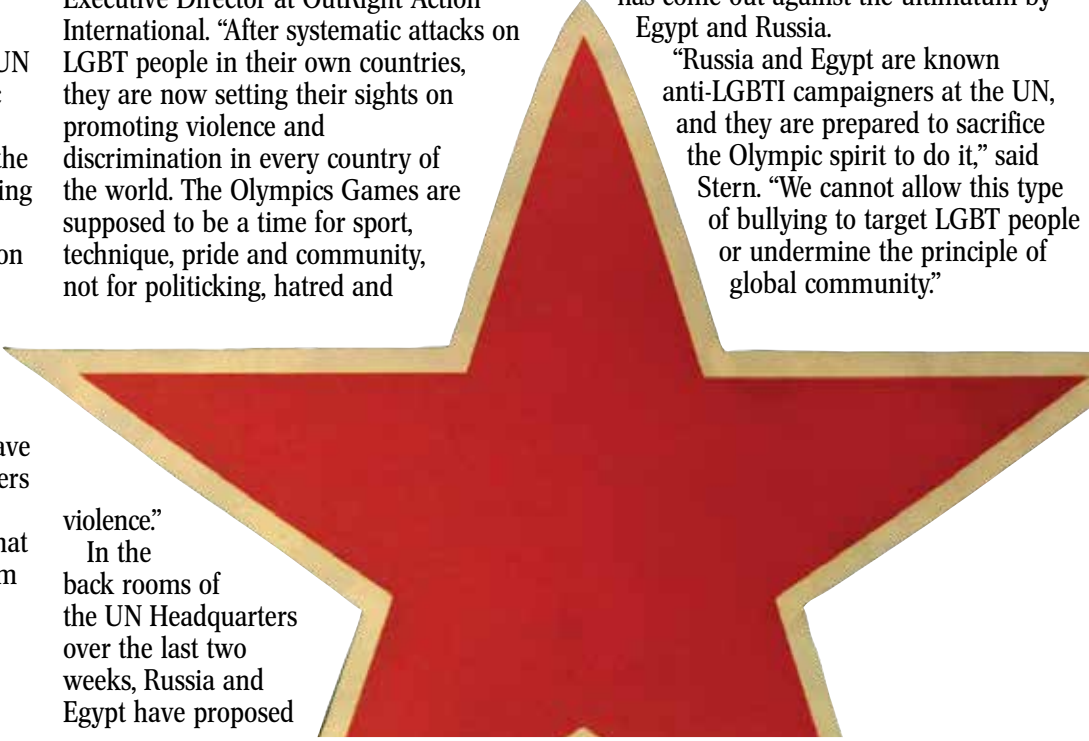
violence."


In the back rooms of the UN Headquarters over the last two weeks, Russia and Egypt have proposed

an ultimatum: remove explicit reference to Principle 6, or they will not sign the Truce. Their ultimatum has put South Korea, leader of the negotiations as the 2018 Olympics host, in a precarious and difficult position.

As in the style of UN negotiations, the removal of reference to Principle 6 from the Olympic Truce Resolution this year could mean never seeing these protections in the peace agreement again. Recognizing the high stakes, a cross-regional group of States has come out against the ultimatum by Egypt and Russia.

"Russia and Egypt are known anti-LGBTI campaigners at the UN, and they are prepared to sacrifice the Olympic spirit to do it," said Stern. "We cannot allow this type of bullying to target LGBT people or undermine the principle of global community."





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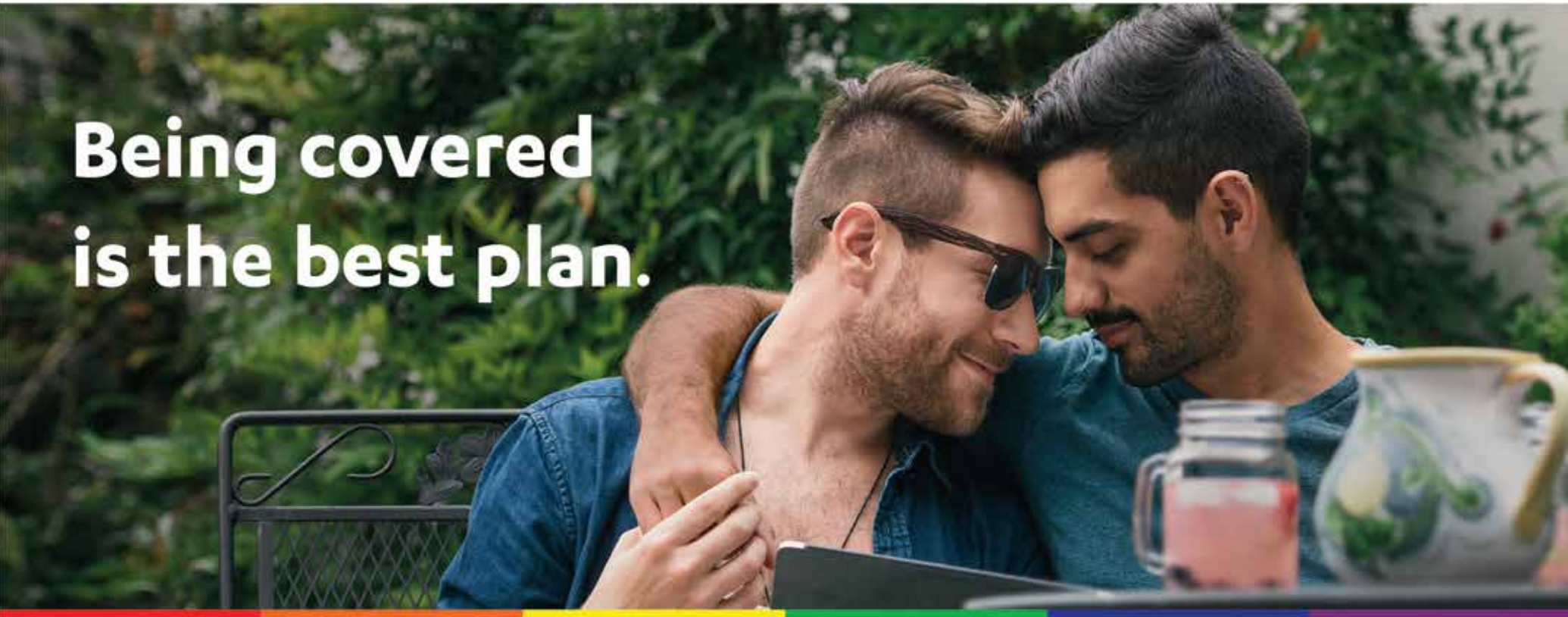

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Briefly Put

ACLU Files Supreme Court Brief Arguing That Public Businesses Cannot Discriminate Against Customers

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed a brief in the Supreme Court in a case in which a Colorado bakery refused service to a same-sex couple seeking a cake for their wedding reception.

The case, *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, will be heard at the Supreme Court on December 5.

"This is not about the cake. Charlie and Dave walked into the Cakeshop and were turned away because of who they are," said Louise Melling, deputy legal director of the ACLU. "The stakes could not be higher. A ruling against them at the Supreme Court will not just encourage other businesses to engage in similarly discriminatory practices: It will enshrine a constitutional right to discriminate."

Scotsman Jamie Harron Sentenced to 3 Months In Dubai Jail For Brushing Up Against Man In Crowded Bar

Jamie Harron was sentenced to three months imprisonment for accidentally brushing the hip of an Arab customer at the Rock Bottom bar in Dubai. Key witnesses to the incident were not called upon to testify to discredit the allegations brought by Emad Tabaza, the Managing Director of Neuman & Esser.

Harron will appeal the verdict, though this will prolong his increasingly difficult circumstances in Dubai, and compound the enormous financial losses he has suffered as a consequence of the ongoing case.

Harron is yet to be sentenced to two other charges stemming from the case; that of consuming alcohol, and for allegedly making a rude gesture against Tabaza.

Senators Urge AG Sessions to Protect Transgender Workers from Discrimination

U.S. Senators Kamala D. Harris (D-CA), Patty Murray (D-WA) and Al Franken (D-MN) led a group of 44 Senators on Nov. 4th calling on Attorney General Jeff Sessions to rescind an October 4th memo that stated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act does not prohibit discrimination based on gender identity.

The memo puts transgender individuals further at risk of discrimination in the workplace, and reverses efforts by the Department of Justice under the Obama Administration to affirm Title VII legal protections for the transgender community.

"This most recent action by the Department to roll back protections for transgender persons is anathema to the Civil Rights Act's purpose," the Senators wrote. "When President Johnson signed the Act into law on July 2, 1964, he wisely observed, 'those who founded our country knew that freedom would be secure only if each generation fought to renew and enlarge its meaning. Your Department has repeatedly undermined those very words.'"

The full letter can be read at www.harris.senate.gov/sites/default/files/Letter%20on%20Title%20VII%20Transgender%20Protections.pdf

California State Board of Education Poised to Make History by Adopting LGBT-Inclusive Textbooks

The FAIR Education Act Implementation Coalition will urge the California State Board of Education (SBE) to reject two proposed history and social studies instructional materials that ignore LGBT content and approve ten LGBT-inclusive textbooks at the SBE's Public

Hearing on Thursday, November 9, scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. at the California Department of Education, 1430 N Street, Room 1101, Sacramento.

"Students need to feel self-confident and safe, both emotionally and physically, in order to learn and thrive in school," read the Coalition's statement. "Studies have shown that including the contributions of LGBT people in instructional materials is linked to greater student safety and lower rates of bullying."

The FAIR Education Act Implementation Coalition supports the Instructional Quality Commission's recommendation to reject the programs submitted by Houghton Mifflin, which failed to accurately reflect the LGBT content in the History-Social Science Framework and include diverse and proportional representation of LGBT people.

M. Jane Pearce

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eQuality Scholarship Helps Students Succeed

The eQuality Scholarship Collaborative awards more than \$100,000 in scholarships annually to deserving LGBT+ graduating high school and community college transfer students from northern and central California.

One of the 2017 eQuality Scholars, Hannah Manoucheri, was co-president of the Queer Alliance club at El Dorado Hills' Oak Ridge High School. She is using her scholarship to study journalism at Chico State. In accepting her scholarship, Hannah wrote:

"I have had the amazing opportunity over the past three years to help students on my campus build a safe space for the queer community and show the younger kids that no matter how dark the world may seem, there are always people willing to hand you a light. We saw the number of kids in our club jump from eight to 36. I am excited to see what work I can continue to do in the future."

eQuality began in 1989 as a scholarship program by Pacific Gas & Electric Company's LGBT employee resource group, now PG&E PrideNetwork. eQuality's member organizations now include PG&E, Kaiser Permanente, Genentech, KPMG, Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, the GSA (Gender & Sexualities Alliance) Network, and the Horizons Foundation. eQuality has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships, which now include medical

and nursing scholarships. Applications are now being accepted, and the deadline to apply will be in early February. For complete eligibility requirements and the link to the online application, visit

www.equalityscholarship.org/apply. On receiving their scholarship, 2017 eQuality Scholar Jo Call said: "The greatest gift this scholarship has given me was the acknowledgment that what I have and continue to overcome is



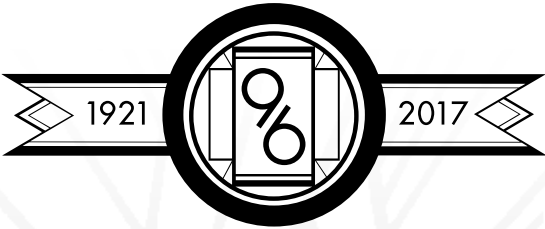
2017 Scholars at the 2017 eQuality Awards Diner

and nursing scholarships. eQuality scholarship recipients are selected based on an applicant's LGBT+ community service (e.g., participation in their LGBT+ student club, political work, volunteerism), leadership, hardship/special circumstances, and academic achievements. eQuality Scholarships are open to LGBT+ students as

well as allies. Applications are now being accepted, and the deadline to apply will be in early February. For complete eligibility requirements and the link to the online application, visit www.equalityscholarship.org/apply. As a volunteer-run organization, eQuality welcomes any further involvement whether in applying for a scholarship, volunteering, or sponsoring a scholarship. eQuality is also eager to accept new member organizations. For more info, visit www.equalityscholarship.org.

something to be proud of. Organizations like eQuality Scholarship [Collaborative] save lives and give people the education they need to pass this community's tradition of charity and unconditional love to many others. What you do for queer and trans youth has a ripple effect, and I have been affected by it in more ways than one."

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SWC Celebrates 30 Years of Song and Community

Any women who might be searching for a musical home should consider joining The Sacramento Women's Chorus (SWC) to sing selections that blend meaning with fun and to become part of a remarkable and welcoming group.



The Sacramento Women's Chorus at their 2017 Birthday Bash

The Sacramento Women's Chorus (SWC) is a vibrant and exuberant chorus that, for the past 30 years, has entertained the Sacramento region with music that makes a difference, providing a safe and open place for women from all walks of life to join in song and community.

Its mission reads: "We sing to honor peace, justice, social equality and celebrate the lives of all women" and SWC lives up to its goal by presenting programs that are a skillful blend of entertainment, message and meaning.

The chorus has a following that spans a broad range of individuals from throughout the region, both near and far, who know that they can count on SWC for wonderful music, presented enthusiastically. They know they are in for a treat when this group puts on a concert.

"No one could have dreamed of a better 30th Jubilee year than the one that we are having," says Board President Lily Andrews. "In the spring we invited internationally known Cris Williamson, a leader of the singer/songwriter genre, to be the featured guest at our first ever

concert at the Crest Theater. Then we filled the house in mid-October with our Birthday Bash party-themed concert.

"It has been a banner year from singing from the steps of the Capitol at the Sacramento Women's March in January to having just been honored with an invitation to be a part of the World AIDS Day commemoration on December first."

Not only has SWC sung in a variety of places and put on two amazing concerts, but this year marks the return of its very popular Holiday Concert and Community Sing-along. This family friendly, fun evening will be held on Monday, December 11, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's United Methodist Church near Watt and El Camino in the Arden-Arcade area.

Additionally, SWC is once again partnering with Maryhouse this holiday to provide much needed supplies and services for homeless women and their children. Tickets for the holiday event are a \$5 donation at the door and guests are encouraged to bring tangible donations of personal hygiene supplies for women, infants and children.

For more information about how you can support the SWC, please go to their website at sacramentowomenschorus.com

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Celebrate Sacramento's LGBTQ community with Drag Queens on Ice! Presented by *Outword Magazine*, this special event benefits NorCal AIDS Cycle, Davis Pride, and Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Foundation.

Featuring DJ Jammin Jo and Sacramento's most colorful drag personalities, don't miss this evening of laughs, skating and lipstick on Thursday, November 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink, 701 K St. Admission is \$12 which includes skate rental. It is \$6 for children 6 and under.

The Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink is produced by Downtown Sacramento Partnership and wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors: DOCO Sacramento, Western Health Advantage, Sacramento Regional Transit District, and Sacramento Kings.

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Visit godowntownsac.com/icerink for more details.

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In order to highlight the concerns and challenges faced by LGBTQ elders and their caregivers, AARP is asking local artists to create a visual artwork (e.g. painting, sculpture, etc.) that illustrates one or more of the responses we received. Artworks will be evaluated by a panel of judges that will choose a winner, who will receive a *\$5,000 prize* and whose work will be widely publicized by AARP.

To view listening post answers, contest rules, and details about how to submit your artwork, go to www.aarp.org/ca. Listening post answers are also available to view at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center at 1927 L Street in Midtown Sacramento.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 17.

WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN DECEMBER.

For further information, contact Kris Ritualo at (916) 556-3025



Gift Giving for the Creativity-Impaired

We've all been there. The shake weights. The toilet seat with a nightlight. The t-shirt that says, "I'm not a gynecologist, but I'll take a look."



Many river cruises visiting Budapest do a night cruise past the incredible riverfront palaces.

Coming up with innovative Christmas presents when you've been with your partner for a while can be a challenge akin to turning down a makeout session with Chris Hemsworth. So, I'd like to suggest a gift that's a little more costly, but will never, ever end up buried at the bottom of a sack headed for the local gay thrift store. Travel.

An all-gay river cruise or land tour can give you and your partner something to look forward to for months. It can rekindle your relationship. And you get to bask in your incredible generosity while knowing that this gift benefits you just as much as it does them.

How about a cruise through the Adriatic Sea in Europe?

Or down the romantic Danube?

Or on the exotic Amazon, with a trek to Machu Picchu?

When I give my husband the gift of a trip, I combine his birthday, our anniversary and Christmas, so I'm knocking out three holidays with one present. I call it "gift amortization". (Just not to his face.)

Then, each holiday, I give him some little

thing for the trip: a travel guide, a travel power strip, a sleep mask so he doesn't have to see the "comfy" clothes I put on for overnight flights. (I call that one the relationship saver.)

Travel gives you incredible memories. And photos you can use as screensavers to invoke envy in perfect strangers. And traveling with an all-gay group gives you the opportunity to make new friends and have free places to stay around the world – a big bonus when those friends live in cities where hotel prices are equivalent to a Bentley payment.

This Christmas, I'm giving my husband a summer river cruise down the Rhine in Europe, from Amsterdam to Prague. It's a Brand g Vacations cruise, so everyone on the boat will be a 'mo. The great thing about river cruises is that the group is small – river ships generally hold 200 or less – so you can really get to know people.

And since river cruise ships essentially dock right downtown, you walk off the ship and you're right in the middle of the city. None of the two-hour bus ride BS you encounter on ocean cruises, where you dock in some industrial port a hundred miles from nowhere.

Giving a trip isn't, of course, in everyone's budget. But if you want to win brownie points, or you have a special birthday or anniversary coming up, consider my "amortization" concept. Your partner might even turn a blind eye to those dinosaur slippers you insist on wearing on the plane.

Eric Poole is Director of Marketing for Brand g Vacations, the leader in all-LGBT river cruises and land tours.

Amador Winefest to Showcase Feather Sculpture

Lorra Lee Rose is perhaps the only artist in the world creating life-size human-like sculptures totally in feathers. Her work is internationally known and for this year's 20th annual Winefest in Amador County she will show her recently created life-size feather sculpture of a fairy.

Global collectors have discovered and fallen in love with her art. One look on November 11 in the Sutter Creek Auditorium and you'll see why Lorra Lee Rose's feather works are so much in demand.

In her studio outside of Jackson CA in the Sierra foothills she's been creating for three years the Feather Fairy, and she calls it her "monumental passion project." The concept began in Oakland when she came upon a high-quality female mannequin that was in a sitting position, a rare find.

She's created male torsos, mermaids and even elaborate masks for the Seattle Museum's Black and White Ball. She knew it was a no-brainer to transform the mannequin into a fairy using her vast 30-year collection of feathers.

Her earliest works were begun in Livermore in 1986 when she was just 23. They were small, but now her life-size human figures, masks and crystals, which form the base for her smaller works, can be

seen in museums, prestigious arts festivals and in a limited number of galleries, such as in Palm Desert, Sedona and Sutter Creek. She uses only natural, top quality, legally sourced feathers of varieties that most people don't see every day.

At Winefest you can even help artist Rose give the fairy a name. When asked if she has a motto, she replied with a laugh, "glue, time and patience."

The November 11th Winefest is the annual popular walk-about wine-tasting that takes place in Sutter Creek in Amador County.

Over 20 Amador County wineries will each be pouring in the unique shops on Main Street. Check-in starts at 4:00 pm in the Sutter Creek Auditorium, 18 Main Street where you can pick up your wineglass and wristband and start bidding on the silent auctions of art, wines, and premier offerings of gifts and event packages. At 4:30 you can begin walking Main Street, sipping and shopping, but returning to the auditorium at



Lorra Lee Rose of Amador County used thousands of feathers for this sculpture of a fairy. Rose took three years to create this feather masterpiece. The wings are comprised of rare Great Argus Pheasant feathers and the hair is made from saddlehackle feathers, in Rose's inventory for 15 years. If the fairy was standing it would be 5 feet, 8 inches tall.

7 p.m. for live music, tastings of desserts and after-dinner wines, and final auction bidding.

Winefest is a benefit for the acclaimed arts education programs of the non-profit

AmadorArts, established 35 years ago.

Advance tickets of \$40 may be ordered using PayPal at www.amadorarts.org At the door, if still available, \$45.

Tina, Donna & Cher On Broadway? A Trio Of Divas Head To The Stage

by Chris Narloch

The success of *Beautiful*, the blockbuster Broadway bio-musical about singer-songwriter Carole King playing through Nov. 12th in Sacramento, has produced the latest trend in the theater. I'm calling it Divas on Broadway.

Recently, producers have announced three new stage musicals coming soon to London, Chicago and La Jolla that will celebrate the lives and musical legacies of Tina Turner, Cher, and

rock concert.

Producers have assembled an amazing team for the new musical, including director Des McAnuff and his *Jersey Boys* choreographer Sergio Trujillo,

TINA: The Tina Turner Musical will make its world premiere in London on March 21, 2018. For more information, visit www.tinathemusical.com.

The Cher Show



Donna Summer, respectively.

If the shows are successful, the plan is to transfer to Broadway after their out-of-town tryouts – news that is catnip for queer theater queens like me. Read on for more details.

SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical

The late, great Queen of Disco is the first up, with a bio-musical that opens this November at La Jolla Playhouse in Southern California.

This world-premiere musical charts the incomparable life of Donna Summer, from her modest childhood in Boston where she sang gospel music in church, to international stardom as the sultry singer of “Love to Love You, Baby.”

Told through the dramatic lens of her final concert, *SUMMER: The Donna Summer Musical* presents the complexities and conflicts the iconic songwriter and singer faced as a born-again Christian who provided the soundtrack for the sexual revolution of the ‘70s.

Featuring three actresses as Summer and a score with more than 20 of the artist’s classic hits including “I Feel Love,” “Bad Girls” and “Hot Stuff,” the musical aims to combine touching drama with the propulsive, kinetic heart of a

with LaChanze (*The Color Purple*), Ariana DeBose (*Hamilton*) and Storm Lever (*Freaky Friday*) sharing the title role.

Tickets are going fast for *SUMMER*, which was extended before it even opened and plays Through Dec. 17. For more information, visit www.lajollaplayhouse.org.

TINA: The Tina Turner Musical

From humble beginnings in Nutbush, Tennessee, to her transformation into the global Queen of Rock ‘n’ Roll, Tina Turner didn’t just break the rules, she rewrote them.

This new stage musical reveals the story of a woman who dared to defy the bounds of her age, gender and race.

One of the best-selling artists of all time, Tina Turner has won 11 Grammy Awards, and has sold more concert tickets than any other solo performer in music history.

Featuring her much-loved songs – “Proud Mary,” “Private Dancer,” and “What’s Love Got To Do With It?” to name just a few – *TINA* is written by Olivier Award-winning playwright Katori Hall and will be directed by Phyllida Lloyd.

The Cher Show is based on the incredible life story of Cherilyn Sarkisian LaPiere Bono Allman, better known as Cher. The hippie chick half of Sonny & Cher; the Oscar-winning actress; the glamorous fashion icon; the badass rocker turned Vegas headliner.

All those women and more are the stars of this new musical, a concept show that will reportedly feature three actresses playing Cher at different points in her life.

Cher’s life certainly has enough drama to fill a musical biography, including her rise from a backup singer in Los Angeles where she met Sonny Bono in 1962, her popular television variety shows in the ‘70s, her much-publicized divorces, and her remarkable solo success as a singer and an actress.

Featuring her many chart topping hits, such as “I Got You Babe,” “Half-Breed,” and “Believe,” the musical will feature a book by Rick Elice (*Jersey Boys*) and direction by Jason Moore (*Avenue Q*).

The Cher Show is currently scheduled to play from June 12, 2018 – July 15, 2018 in Chicago, prior to a planned Broadway opening in the fall of 2018. Visit www.thechershowbroadway.com.



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Director Greta Gerwig Soars with *Lady Bird* Plus *Taxi Driver* at the Crest & *Thor* in IMAX

by Chris Narloch

There's something about seeing a movie downtown that makes a night out even more special. The screens are usually bigger, and there are many excellent restaurants to dine at before the film.

Check out these three movies now playing at (or coming soon to) a theater in downtown Sacramento.

Lady Bird

If you see one movie this month, I recommend you check out the fantastic first solo feature film from actress-turned-director Greta Gerwig, who has written a wonderful coming of age story that is also a terrific tale of the relationship between a mother and daughter.

Lady Bird, which could find itself nominated for multiple awards early next year, is also a love letter to Sacramento, Gerwig's hometown and the city that provides the backdrop for the story, which was filmed here as well.

Gerwig (*Frances Ha*, *Maggie's Plan*, *20th Century Women*) has always been such a smart and funny actress in her movies, that I should not have been surprised by what a smart and funny director she is with *Lady Bird*.

The revelation is how fully formed and confident she is as a screenwriter and also behind the camera on her first solo feature. It's not easy to write joke lines that are insanely funny yet also sound like things people would actually say.

In *Lady Bird*, Gerwig gives her remarkable cast, including Lucas Hedges as the teenaged heroine's closeted crush, many funny things to say and do without ever compromising the truth and the drama in between the laughs.

The prodigious Irish-American actress Saoirse Ronan, who is only 23, could find herself nominated for her third Academy Award for

Laurie Metcalf, as *Lady Bird*'s frazzled mother, is also excellent, giving her exasperated, sarcastic line readings real bite. The third major star of *Lady Bird* is Sacramento itself, which is showcased in a way that I've never seen before in a major movie.

You'll have fun spotting many familiar local landmarks during the

riveting drama about urban alienation and loneliness that features amazing performances by DeNiro, Jodie Foster, and Harvey Keitel.

See it on the big screen at Sacramento's Crest Theatre, at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12. Visit www.crestsacramento.com.

Thor: Ragnarok



Actress Saoirse Ronan and director Greta Gerwig on the set of *Lady Bird*.

film, which may wind up being my favorite movie of the year.

Lady Bird is scheduled to open at Sacramento's Tower Theatre on Nov. 10.

Taxi Driver

It should be fascinating in the age of Lyft, mass shootings, and PTSD to revisit this classic film from 1976 about an emotionally

Perhaps I have reached my limit of Marvel movies, but I fell asleep a couple of times during the third *Thor* movie, despite the fact that the film has been getting rapturous reviews from many critics.

Chris Hemsworth again brings the brawn, and Cate Blanchett is equally delicious as the fashion-forward villainess, but *Thor: Ragnarok* misses the mark by aiming for the sort of wacky, satirical style that worked much better in the first *Guardians of the Galaxy*.

After two-plus hours of watching actors that aren't all that adept at comedy strain to be funny, I just got tired of the whole thing, especially the intentionally cheesy-looking sets and Jeff Goldblum's costume, which looks like something you might find in the Halloween section at Dollar Tree.

If you must see this big, dumb movie, by all means go for broke and watch it on the largest screen in town – six stories high and 80 feet wide – at the Esquire IMAX Theatre on K Street. Visit www.imax.com/imax-esquire-oo.



Chris Hemsworth returns as Thor, seen here with The Hulk in *Thor: Ragnarok*.

playing *Lady Bird*, who is one of those distinctly memorable teen characters that stay in moviegoers' minds, like Tom Cruise in *Risky Business* or John Cusack in *Say Anything*...

unstable Vietnam vet turned cab driver who becomes dangerously disturbed.

One of Robert DeNiro's and Martin Scorsese's finest collaborations, *Taxi Driver* is a

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Trevor Noah Live Coming to Sacramento & Santa Rosa

Trevor Noah, the most successful comedian in Africa and the host of the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning *The Daily Show*, will be bringing his unique and hilarious take on the nation and the world to Santa Rosa's Luther Burbank Center for the Arts (The Center) on Nov. 22 and the Sacramento Community Center Theater on Nov. 21.

Noah joined *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* in 2014 as a contributor and this year *The Daily Show* has been nominated for a Writers Guild Award (Comedy/Variety Series).

Noah debuted his 9th new comedy special *Afraid of the Dark* in February 2017 on Netflix. The special was shot before a packed house in New York City at the Beacon Theatre on November 5, 2016.

Last year, Noah debuted his one-hour stand-up special, *Trevor Noah: Lost in Translation*, on Comedy Central. Noah was the subject of David Paul Meyer's award-winning documentary film *You Laugh But It's True* which tells the story of his remarkable career in post-apartheid South Africa.

His Showtime comedy special, *Trevor Noah: African American* premiered in 2013. He was nominated for "Personality of the Year" at the 2014 and 2015 MTV Africa Music Awards and won the award in 2015. Trevor's success has also spanned to sold out



shows over five continents.

Born in South Africa to a black South African mother and a white European father, Noah has hosted numerous television shows including South Africa's music, television and film awards, and two seasons of his own late night talk show, *Tonight with Trevor Noah*.

Tickets are available at lutherburbankcenter.org and for Sacramento, purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase

Kesha, Kelly, Fergie, Shania, Miley & P!nk

by Chris Narloch

Every year, the record companies release a boatload of CDs just before the holiday shopping season, and this fall seemingly every famous pop diva put out a new record. Here are my thoughts on who hit and who missed the musical mark.



Kesha from her video for "Praying."

Kesha – *Rainbow*

I was never a fan of this formerly troubled party girl when she was recording with the infamous producer Dr. Luke, but her new CD is another story entirely. An ambitious and fascinating mix of ballads, rock, country and pop music, *Rainbow* almost completely steers clear of the sleazy club music she made with Dr. Luke.

Whatever happened between Kesha and her former producer, she is charting her own course now, and fun, freaky cuts such as "Spaceship" and "Godzilla" are the proof.

The singer-songwriter successfully collaborates with an eclectic bunch of fellow artists that includes Dolly Parton, the Dap-Kings, and Eagles of Death Metal, and her devastating single "Praying" is a total winner.

Kelly Clarkson – *Meaning of Life*

The former (and first) *American Idol* winner scores on a sensational CD that eschews her power pop past for up-tempo soul and displays the best that her big, beautiful voice has to offer.

Clarkson can really sing, and she finds all of the emotion in catchy R & B compositions such as "Didn't I" and "Would You Call That Love." The title of the disc promises lyrical depth that never fully arrives, but who cares when the songs are this soulful and well sung?

P!nk – *Beautiful Trauma*

The badass pop princess P!nk has another huge hit with her radio-friendly single "What About Us," the first single from her seventh studio album, which also includes a humorous collaboration with rapper Eminem on "Revenge."

P!nk's fans should love this disc, which kicks off with the upbeat title track and peaks with its penultimate song, the spunky "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken."



Miley Cyrus – *Younger Now*

Like Lady Gaga, Miley Cyrus must have needed to take a step back after the career-changing success of her hit CD, "Bangerz." The more modest, less commercial material on "Younger Now" reminded me of Gaga's relatively low-key *Joanne* album.

Cyrus duets with Dolly Parton on the sugary sweet "Rainbowland," which is fun but not as good as Dolly's duet on Kesha's CD. The singer gets thoughtful on the title track, and the groovy vibe on "Malibu" is appealing, but overall the disc's laid-back California-country sound is underwhelming.

Shania Twain – *Now*

A 15-year absence from recording finds this former country-pop superstar stuck in a time warp, seemingly unaware that even mainstream country radio has evolved to include hip-hop swagger.

Twain is a pleasant but not a brilliant singer, and most of the tracks on *Now* sound just like music she recorded twenty years ago. I'm happy for the artist that "Life's About To Get Good" – as the CD's first single asserts – but I wish that the talented songwriter in Twain had dug deeper in to the personal turmoil that led her to take so much time off from recording.

Fergie – *Double Dutchess*

The year isn't over yet, but this CD will be hard to beat when it comes time to list the worst major records of 2017. The Black Eyed Peas singer goes solo here on a mediocre and misguided disc that tries way too hard to position Fergie in the party girl pop slot formerly occupied by Kesha.

Trashy tracks such as "M.I.L.F.\$" and embarrassing lyrics in which Fergie directs ladies to "rub your boobies" signal a desperate attempt by the now 42-year-old singer to remain current in the youth-obsessed music market. Only the lovely (and incongruous) lyrics of "A Little Work," which is beautifully sung, keep the CD from being a total loss.

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Luna Gale Compels at Capital Stage

by Chris Narloch

If you want to witness dedication, check out local actress Amy Resnick's superb performance in Capital Stage's current production, *Luna Gale*.



Amy Resnick, Lauren Hirsch and Ian Hopps in Capital Stage's *Luna Gale*. Photo by Charr Crail.

Resnick tripped over her character's briefcase on opening night and almost literally 'broke a leg.' Yet the actress rebounded, came up with a funny in-character ad-lib, and finished the rest of the play to thunderous (and well-deserved)

applause. Resnick is the best, but by no means the only reason to see this absorbing adoption drama, which hinges on a custody battle over the baby whose name gives the play its title.

A strong ensemble breathes life into a premise that could have been a preachy left-wing lecture but is instead a complex exploration of the challenges involved in sorting out motives among well-meaning folks who all think they can provide the best future for a child in need of stability.

Should baby Luna stay with her recently meth-addicted young parents, or should her evangelical Christian grandmother get custody?

Rebecca Gilman's smart script and Michael Stevenson's taut direction keep the audience aware that there are rarely easy solutions or perfect people where a custody battle is concerned, and even a well-meaning social worker (Resnick) may be hiding secrets and prejudices of her own. Don't miss *Luna Gale*, which plays through Nov. 19 at Capital Stage on J Street in Sacramento. For more information, visit www.capstage.org.

DMTC Staging Rock Opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*



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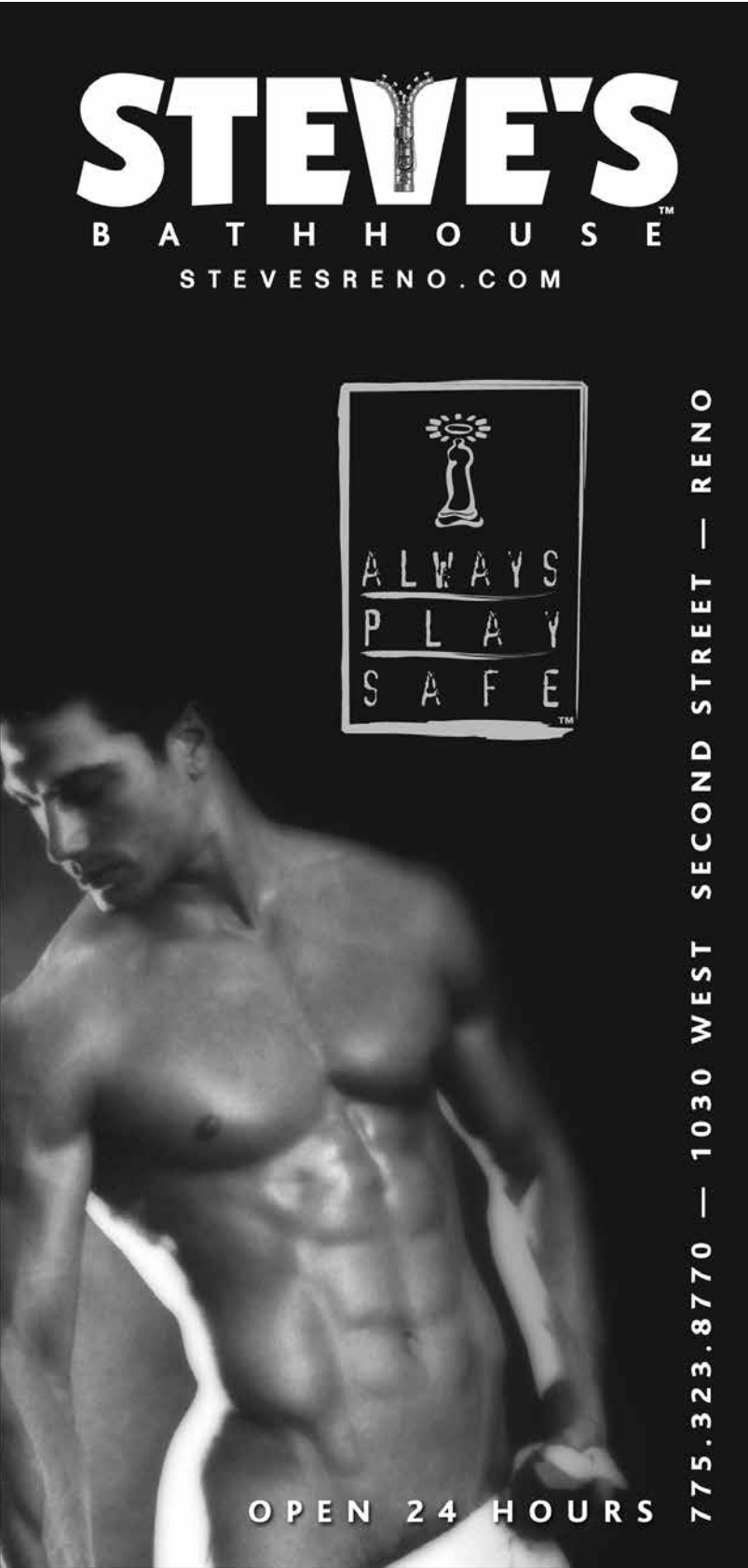
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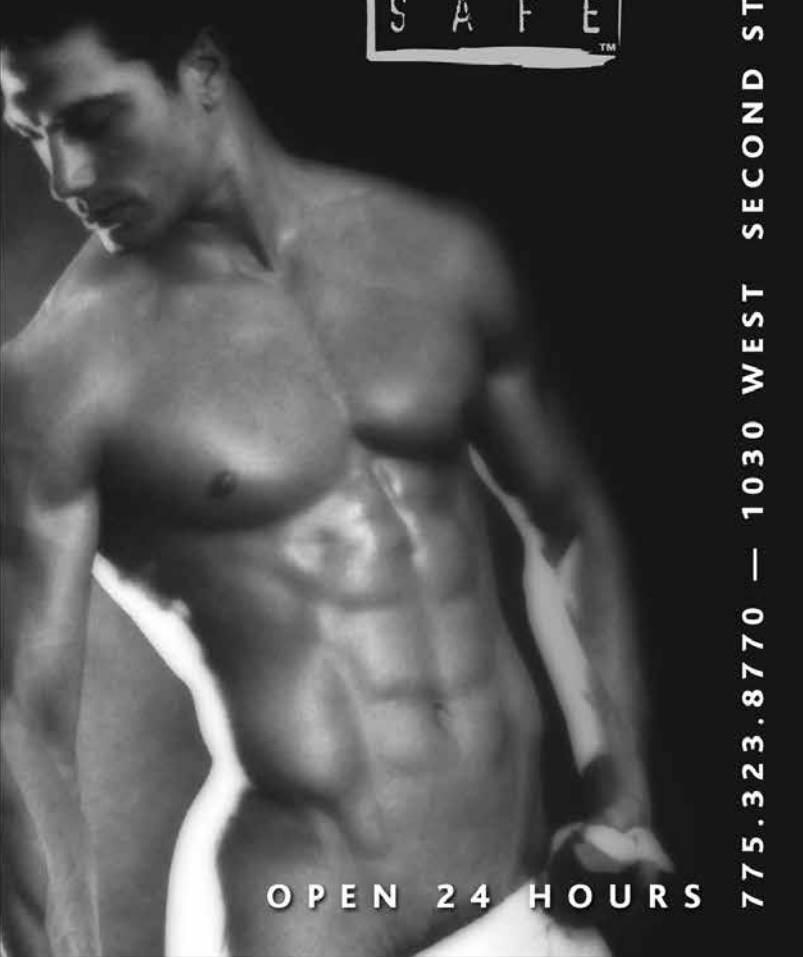
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Paisley Park Comes To Sacramento

The Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera Pops Series will once again commence on Thanksgiving weekend with an unforgettable evening of *The Music of Prince* in honor of the late, great musical genius.

Collaborating alongside conductor Brent Havens and the Sacramento Philharmonic will be a rock band to perform Prince's greatest hits, including "Purple Rain," "When Doves Cry," "Little Red Corvette" and many more.

This is a symphonic tribute you won't want to miss, so get your tickets before they're gone and "party like it's 1999" to all the classic Prince hits.

The Music of Prince will rock Sacramento's Community Center Theater at 8:00 p.m. on Nov. 25th. For tickets, call 916-808-2000.

Out & About

From Scary to Sexy: Midtown's Halloween 2017

The corner of 20th and K in Midtown Sacramento came alive with ghosts, goblins, lumberjacks, nurses and the undead on Saturday, October 30 for Halloween - or was it just another night in the Graveborhood? Here are some of the people we found out howling around. You can see more photos, and download them for free at www.outwordoutabout.shutterfly.com - Photos by Charles Peer





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