

outward

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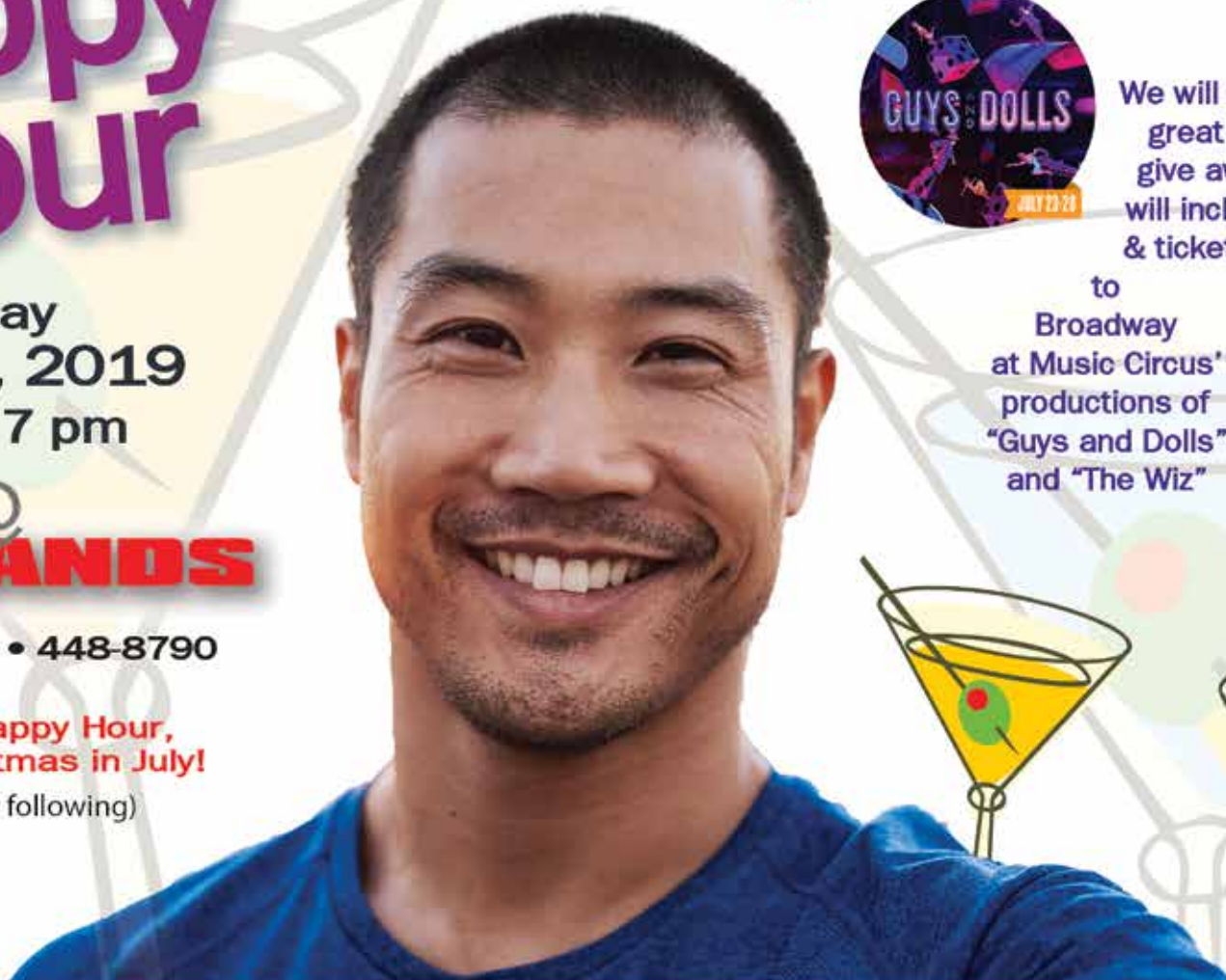
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Pride Bashing Over Who Started Stonewall

by Joyce Mitchell

Reading the back-and-forth on Facebook, watching the news about the controversy over the 2019 Sacramento Pride March, I'm surprised no one else has taken the time to write an Op-Ed in space so generously offered by *Outword*. If people really have something to say – say it! Use all channels available – not just FB bashing. People – please!

Having been an AIDS Activist since 1986, an award-winning journalist for nearly 50-years, I made myself a conduit to the media for people living with HIV/AIDS during the early days. That's how I became an accepted straight ally in the community. And NO ONE – and I mean NO ONE – is ever going to take away my place in the LGBTQ community.

I co-founded Capital City AIDS Fund (CCAF) in 1995. Thursday before Pride weekend, we were asked to – and donated nearly 20-thousand condoms for the two-day

collective understanding of the riots comes largely from oral histories. Truth is – we may never know exactly what happened at the Stonewall Inn on the night of June 27, 1969. It was an event that represents the culmination of an entire community's frustration over discrimination and exploitation.

When people say things like, 'we celebrate Pride because Marsha P. Johnson threw the first brick at police to fight for our rights' – it erases the work of LGBTQ people and straight allies who've risked their lives for



The Stonewall Inn screenshot from PBS' documentary, "Stonewall Uprising"

event. We focus on saving ALL lives and protecting the sexual health of EVERYONE. No political agenda here.

Having interviewed numerous activists including Cleve Jones, Randy Shilts - who wrote *And the Band Played On* – and the list goes on and on – I've come to know that we're all in this life together, that is, those of us lucky enough to have survived the AIDS pandemic. I've learned together we are strong.

When I hear the 2019 Pride March is different because it marks 50 years since Stonewall, I agree, we need to recognize that horrible moment in history. But all the ruckus over who started the rebellion has me turning to the following quote, "that to attribute the Stonewall riots to a singular person erases the efforts of countless people who put their lives on the line from LGBTQ+ Liberation," said Chrysanthemum Tran.

An article entitled *It Doesn't Matter Who Threw The First Brick* documents that the

the collective future of the community. It's re-writing history.

No question, Johnson was a hero and prominent icon at the riots. As an African-American Transgender woman back in the late 60s, she was a fighter. She wanted equality for all people. However, Marsha P. Johnson, herself, said that she didn't arrive at the bar until rioting was underway.

By the way, the "P" in the name Marsha P. Johnson stands for – "Pay-it-no-mind." We've always stood arm-in-arm with our brothers and sisters – holding up one another. We don't tear people down. Pride is a celebration of how far we've come. The fight for equality is far from over. But don't try to divide us. Join us. We were here first. All for the same cause. Equality.

I highly recommend watching attached link below for a comprehensive understanding of what really happened at Stonewall.

Watch "Stonewall Uprising" at: <https://www.pbs.org/video/american-experience-stonewall-uprising/>

Dear Community Member

by David Heitstuman, MPPA Executive Director, Sac. LGBT Community Center

This message is a follow up to our 2019 SacPride Festival on two important topics: listening to feedback that will assist in planning for SacPride 2020; and interaction and engagement with the Sacramento Police Department. We want to hear from you, so please share your feedback through the survey link at the end of this message.

SacPride 2019 saw some big changes that came with big challenges, including the expansion to a two-day festival, increasing accessibility, and diversifying programming through 8 Pride Initiatives. This year we achieved the highest festival attendance ever with close to 22,000 people and global LGBTQ advocate Lizzo as our headliner.

Even with more than one thousand volunteers, SacPride's record-breaking turnout re-sulted in the festival being understaffed. Lines were long and we did not have enough water available on a hot, busy day.

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience and discomfort caused by these challenges and promise to improve our staffing plan and logistical details in 2020.

The issue of off-duty, uniformed police officers participating in SacPride raised strong feelings and resurfaced trauma because despite 50 years of progress since Stonewall, including the ability of LGBT officers to serve openly in law enforcement agencies, queer and transgender people of color--particularly Black and Brown communities--continue to experience disparate treatment by law enforcement. Community members protesting these issues and festival guests found themselves in conflict when gates were blocked for a part of the day Sunday. Our highest priority

for SacPride is safety. The Center strongly condemns all acts of violence that occurred and we believe that violence has no place at SacPride events.

Though uncomfortable, the public debate and the Center's discussions with the Sacramento Police Department resulted in a set of commitments to action. We will keep you informed as these initiatives are implemented and ensure the community has opportunities to engage in the process of systemic change.

Through our ongoing work to support direct health and wellness services, advocate for equality and justice, and build a culturally rich LGBTQ community, we strive to elevate the voices of the most marginalized in our community, including queer people of color and transgender individuals. Our staff and volunteers work hard to meet the needs of thousands of community members who seek help at the Center each year. To that end, our board of directors would like to increase its diversity in order to better represent and serve our community. Please check out our website at <https://saccenter.org/about-us/board/> to learn more.

Thank you for your support of the Center and the LGBTQ+ people we serve.

With humble gratitude,
Sacramento LGBT Community Center

Take the 2019 Pride Survey
www.surveymonkey.com/r/SacPride2019Survey

Beto O'Rourke Unveils Plan for LGBTQ+ Equality

Beto O'Rourke unveiled a robust plan to protect LGBTQ+ rights and finally secure comprehensive legal protection for members of the LGBTQ+ community. The proposal would leverage executive power and call for congressional action that ensures LGBTQ+ people have full equality and opportunity. O'Rourke's plan includes actions to immediately reverse the Trump Administration's discriminatory policies, and also calls for action to ensure equal treatment for LGBTQ+ individuals. Additionally, the plan prioritizes America's role in protecting LGBTQ+ people around the globe.

The full plan is built around a three-part framework:

Protect the LGBTQ+ community by using executive authority to reverse the Trump Administration's discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, protect transgender individuals--in particular transgender women of color--from violence, include LGBTQ+ immigrants fleeing persecution as a "vulnerable population" for purposes of immigration enforcement, protect LGBTQ+ youth from conversion therapy, and appoint

judges and executive-branch officials, including openly LGBTQ+ appointees, who believe in the full civil rights of every single person.

Ensure full equality by working with Congress to enact legislation such as the Equality Act to make sure LGBTQ+ Americans have full equality and opportunity in all 50 states, ensure that

BETO
continues on page 22



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Leading the Way in the Cannabis Industry and Community *by Patrick Harbison*

The Sacramento Cannabis Industry Association is leading the way here in Sacramento for the cannabis industry and is helping pave a path to ensure the industry works for operators, consumers, and our communities. At such an important time for a booming industry that is undergoing sweeping changes, the SCIA serves as a unified voice, and a reliable source of information and education for our elected officials, businesses, and communities. Sacramento is setting a standard for the nation in cannabis policy and enforcement, and the SCIA is committed to doing the hard work that this moment demands.



We are here to not only tell the story of the cannabis industry – a story of economic development, jobs and local hiring, safety and security, and of corporate social responsibility, but to actuate it.

The SCIA is launching right here in Sacramento a first in the nation Employment Resource Center to help source local hiring, and ensure that our communities benefit from the opportunities that the industry has introduced. With learning and certification opportunities at the SCIA Job Training Center, and with the help of online placement services and a late summer job fair, the SCIA will aid in ensuring that the industry's workforce reflects the professionalism and sophistication that the industry demands.

The SCIA has also launched a first in the nation industry association internship program to develop young and diverse leaders in an increasingly corporate and professional industry, and to attract more top tier talent to Sacramento. With an externship program with Sacramento's McGeorge School of Law, the SCIA is providing valuable experiential learning opportunities for students interested in cannabis law.

It is our commitment to community though that makes the SCIA most unique. We have launched the SCIA Cannabis Cares Program in order to foster a culture of corporate social responsibility in Sacramento's cannabis industry. In partnership with the Downtown Streets

Team, the SCIA is committed to having a positive impact for those experiencing homelessness in Sacramento by committing to raise \$100,000 from cannabis businesses and consumers. Consumers can purchase Cannabis Cares stickered products from a participating dispensary and have part of their purchase go to help those experiencing homelessness. With so many of our LGBTQ youth impacted by homelessness, the SCIA is determined to make a difference. Additionally, the SCIA also supports Sacramento's Cannabis Opportunity Reinvestment and Equity (CORE) Program and is committed to fostering the equity and inclusion so important to making the industry something of which we can all be proud.

The LGBTQ and cannabis communities are married in their mutual histories as the AIDS epidemic asserted a profound influence on the growth and support of the medical cannabis movement. Our stories are intertwined in our efforts of overcoming disease and a scarred history of using cannabis as medicine. The shared history, though, is both past and prologue to a shared future that is expectant in the hope of acceptance by both the institutions and government that assert their power over us and of the communities with which we work.

To learn more, to participate, to contact us, to share your stories, your ideas, your passion for Sacramento's cannabis industry visit us at <https://saccannabis.org/>.

Out & About photos by Chris Allan

Here are some photos from Steve Hansen's Re-election Kick-Off mixer, located at Urban Roots Brewing and Smokehouse in Midtown Sacramento, on June 20. The event was hosted by Steve Hansen for City Council 2020 and included a sample beer and a buffet with delicious BBQ'd meats, mac and cheese, grilled veggies and more. It drew a large, enthusiastic crowd, there to show their support for Steve's re-election.



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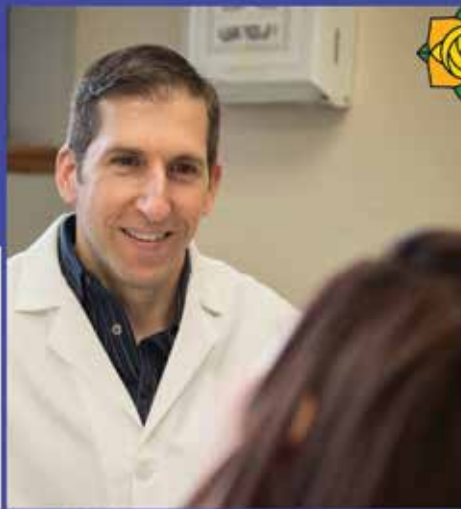
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Five Ways to Help Transgender Children

It's completely natural for parents of transgender children to feel some degree of confusion or doubt. However, accepting and supporting your child's gender identity can be the difference between a happy child and one who is struggling.

GI Collection is a transgender clothing, beauty and support services brand that is committed to empowering and helping the transgender community. Found Carmen Liu shares five ways to help transgender children.

1. Research – do plenty of research and seek advice from people with experience. The Internet is an invaluable resource for connecting with others and learning about things you previously had no understanding of. It might also help to connect with LGBT alliance groups or societies as they can offer advice.

2. Don't assume it's a phase – you may have gone through a phase of blond hair and rebellion in your youth, but that doesn't mean that what your child is going through is a phase, too. Don't discredit the child's feelings, as there's always a reason behind the emotions. Listen and keep an open mind even though you may not completely understand.

3. Clothes – don't force your child to wear things in which they feel uncomfortable. If they identify as a boy, making them wear a dress to school may be jarring and humiliating. Society is becoming more and more free from gender-norms, and you should be, too!

4. Provide support – connect your child to the right support services where needed. This might be a therapist, support group, or a network of other trans children who can help them feel less isolated. Remember that being trans is still relatively rare in society, so you'll need to be extra supportive to prevent feelings of loneliness and isolation.

5. Be your child's advocate – call out transphobia when you see it and ask that others respect your child's identity. Nobody has the right to discriminate or cause harm, and it's not always easy for trans children to stand up for themselves.

For more information about GI Collection, visit <https://gicollection.co.uk/about>.



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Out & About With Matt

by Matthew Burlingame

It's hot, it's cold, it's hot again—Sacramento is a Katy Perry song. Time to rekindle friendships with those who have pools and start fishing for summer party invites!

Summer is also time for the Sacramento Shakespeare Festival. This year's productions include Twelfth Night, the romantic comedy about a young woman who disguises herself as a man, and Shakespeare in Love based on the screenplay by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. The Festival runs June 28 - July 28 with plays alternating weekends. sacramentoshakespeare.net

This month's Drag Queen Bingo is July 11 at Mango's Sacramento, 1930 K St. starting promptly at 7 p.m. Come early for burgers and beat the crowd. Just \$20 to play until 9 p.m. There are prizes for every game plus two special prizes courtesy of Broadway Sacramento. This month's event will benefit the Alzheimer's Association: The Longest Day! The Longest Day sees participants from across the world come together to fight Alzheimer's and raise funds in support of the Alzheimer's Association. Rainbowchamber.com

Badlands welcomes RuPaul's Drag Race's Season 11 Finalist Yvie Oddly on July 5 at 8 p.m. The extravaganza will be hosted by Taryn Thru-U and Apple Adams while featuring Mercury Rising, Faye Mennon, Sasha Devaroe and Camryn Nichols. Grab your advance tickets for this 21 and up only, jaw-dropping drag show! badlandssac.com

The Stonewall Riots are heralded as the turning point in the modern LGBTQ rights movement and on June 27 award-winning author Gayle Pitman will be at Barnes & Noble, 3561 N Freeway Blvd at 3 p.m. to celebrate Pride Month with her newest book The Stonewall Riots: Coming Out In The Streets. The book is about the 50th anniversary of Stonewall and the riots that sparked the LGBTQ movement. All ages are welcome!

Come escape the summer heat with Outword's Monthly Happy Hour "Liquid Therapy at Badlands." Great drink specials, amazing music and a chance to win dinner and Music Circus ticket packages. Join us on July 12 at 5:30 p.m. at Badlands Sacramento, 2003 K St. badlandssac.com

Join local agencies like Golden Rule Services and One Community Health on June 27 for a National HIV Testing Day collaboration with Walgreens and Greater Than AIDS to offer free testing and education to the public regarding HIV/AIDS. greaterthan.org

Broadway At Music Circus is truly an institution for Sacramento and those of us who love theater. Each summer the series features new productions of classic musicals with some of the most talented professional actors available. This summer kicks off with a new production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's groundbreaking OKLAHOMA! which set the standard for American musical theater. The show runs through June 30. The Drowsy Chaperone which won five Tony Awards follows from July 9-14. Remember, tickets go fast! Broadwaysacramento.com

Take a trip in time back to the days when roller skates were all the rage! CGNIE is hosting and all ages gay skate night at The Rink, 2900 Bradshaw Rd. on July 2 from 7-10 p.m. The \$15 price tag includes entry to rink and skate rental with all proceeds going to charity. Some skate sizes are limited so arrive early.

Fancy an old fashioned beer bust? The Bolt, 2560 Del Paso Blvd. has two coming up! The Sacramento Valley Bears Beer Bust on July 6 followed by the Bare Chest Calendar Men Beer Bust on July 7. sacbolt.com

Happy birthday to Jayna Anderson, Gary Wilson, Craig Cannon, Allen Schmeltz, Kacen Maples, Jackson Harris, Bonnie Osborn, Val Specht, Michelle Aulisio, Sean Allen Murray, Patricia Meier and all the late June-early July babies.

Got events, birthdays, anniversaries, or did something awesome happen to you recently? Let Matt know at matthew.burlingame@gmail.com. Check out his books at JustKissTheGuy.com

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Toast Pride With Signature Skyy Cocktail

During the month of June, SKYY Vodka is excited to continue the celebration nationwide and invite consumers to participate in their local Pride festivities, and to add to the festivities would like to offer up this signature Pride cocktail, "Colors of Love." The recipe has been crafted by a New York City based beverage and hospitality consultant Mark Murphy, and SKYY's Colors of Love embodies the bold colors of the rainbow while mixing sweet and savory flavors that result in the perfect celebration in a glass. Below is the signature recipe.

Colors of Love

1.5 oz SKYY Vodka
.5 oz Grand Marnier
.5 oz Lavender syrup
1 oz Lemon juice
1-2 pc. Strawberry
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Vegas Goes Gaga!

by Chris Narloch

The one and only Lady Gaga is giving two very different master classes in how to entertain an audience with her current residency at The Park MGM hotel and casino in Las Vegas. I was lucky indeed to score tickets to one of her “Jazz & Piano” shows there this June.



Lady Gaga and her orchestra perform in Las Vegas during the “Jazz & Piano” show.

It was a hot summer night that got even hotter as Gaga turned up the temperature inside The Park Theater with a two-and-a-half-hour-plus showcase of jazz and pop standards from the Great American Songbook, performed with a live orchestra.

I had seen Lady Gaga on tour with her pop hits in the past and so opted to see her try her hand at a solo jazz concert, rather than attend “Enigma,” her pop show at The Park. (The singer is not new to jazz, having recorded and toured with the great Tony Bennett a few years back.)

We all know that Lady Gaga has a big voice and can hold an audience in the palm of her hand, but I wondered how she would fare on her own in the subtler world of jazz and standards.

Well, to put it mildly, she just about blew the roof off The Park Theater with a dynamite display of love between audience and performer that sets a new bar for superstar entertainment in Las Vegas.

The star made her entrance Gaga-style, in a long, low-cut gown with cleavage for days,

and a spiky headdress that looked like something Cher would wear.

She wasted no time tearing into the ultimate Vegas song, “Lucky Be A Lady,” and followed up that classic with “Anything Goes” and an especially fine rendition of “Call Me Irresponsible.”

One of the things that make Gaga’s “Jazz & Piano” show so fascinating is how the performer once again transforms herself – this time in to a big band jazz chanteuse – without sacrificing her own style.

Everything about the show is deliciously retro, from the white piano and band shell to the sequined curtain at the back of the stage and the performer’s glittery gowns, and yet there is no mistaking the fact that you are at a Lady Gaga show in 2019.

The time travel look and feel of the evening take you back to a Las Vegas from half a century or more ago, but Gaga keeps the show current with her refreshingly unpolished personality.

Whether she’s dropping frequent, hilarious f-bombs, giving Pride Month a

shout out, kissing a woman onstage, or taking off her high heel and using it to crash a cymbal – all of which she did the night I saw her show – she is always unmistakably Gaga.

It also wouldn’t be a Gaga concert without costumes changes, and Lady G did not disappoint, with a series of fabulous wigs and dresses that were less wild than her pop get-ups but no less sexy.

(If you make it to Vegas, definitely check out Haus of Gaga, the entertainer’s museum-quality survey of some of the wildest out-fits, shoes and wigs from her career – including a replica of the meat dress – that is currently on display adjacent to The Park Theater.)

Gaga included four of her own songs in the “Jazz & Piano” show I saw, with varying degrees of success. A fiery, slowed-down version of “Born This Way” at the piano was gorgeous, but when she tried to pull off the same thing with the inferior “Poker Face” it fell flat. (“Bad Romance” was more successful, and a new arrangement of “Paparazzi” with killer horns was fantastic.)

For me, the evening’s highlights were Gaga’s superb renditions of “What A Difference A Day Makes,” “I Can’t Give You Anything But Love,” “Orange Colored Sky,” and “La Vie En Rose” (which she sang in “A Star Is Born”).

The singer dedicated “Little Coquette” to one of her jazz idols, the late, great Dinah Washington, and dedicated a terrific “Fly Me To The Moon” to her friend Tony Bennett, who actually appeared out of the wings (at 92!) to duet with Gaga the evening I saw her show.

For the first time since opening night of “Jazz & Piano,” the pair performed “Cheek to Cheek” and “The Lady is a Tramp.” Hearing those two enthralling voices together, a hush fell over the crowd, and it felt like time had stopped.

Note: On Friday, June 28, Lady Gaga will release tickets for additional Las Vegas dates at The Park MGM, extending her two-year residency into 2020 and including a New Year’s Eve show. For more information, visit <https://vegas.ladygaga.com>.

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Two New Gay-Friendly Books Are "Out"

If you still have any Barnes & Noble gift cards from the holiday season burning a hole in your pocket, check out one or both of these new queer books: a very interesting biography of the late singer Karen Carpenter, and a gay-friendly guide for young men coming out.



Yay! You're Gay! Now What?

By Riyadh Khalaf -- \$14.99

In this personal, funny and heartfelt guide for young gay men, a broadcaster, YouTuber and LGBTQ+ advocate from Ireland shares frank life advice about everything from coming out to first relationships, as well as emotional support for those suffering from bullying or unsupportive parents.

Through voicing his own difficulties, such as coming out to his Iraqi-born, Muslim father, Riyadh shares valuable life lessons that he wishes he had known sooner.

The book has many funny, embarrassing and moving stories from gay boys around the world and inspirational content from gay men who share the advice they would give to their younger selves.

Why Karen Carpenter Matters

By Karen Tongson -- \$16.95

USC professor Karen Tongson (whose Filipino musician parents named her after the pop icon) interweaves the story of Karen Carpenter's rise to fame with her own trans-Pacific journey between Manila – where imitations of American pop styles flourished – and Carpenter's home ground of Southern California.

Tongson reveals why the Carpenters' chart-topping, seemingly white-washed musical fantasies of "normal" love can now have profound significance for her, as well as for other people of color, LGBTQ+ communities, and anyone outside the mainstream culture usually associated with the Carpenters' legacy.

This fascinating hybrid of memoir and biography excavates the destructive perfectionism at the root of the Carpenters' sound, while finding the beauty in the singer's flawed, all too brief life.



Queer Eye Returns For Fabulous Fourth Season

Queer Eye will be returning for a fourth season on Netflix on July 19 with all new episode immediately ready for watching. In season four, the hosts of Queer Eye return to the BBQ capital of the world, Kansas City, with a new roster of eight heroes. Netflix has, additionally, ordered a fifth season that will start production on June 24, where the Fab Five will be headed to Philadelphia, and will debut in 2020.

LPGA Golfer Is Out And Proud

by Chris Allan

Newly out pro-golfer Melissa (Mel) Reid is hungry for change. The 31-year-old Brit has been in a tremendous period of flux, professionally and personally, since last year when she switched her caddie and coach and moved to Florida.

Besides being an outspoken critic of the disparities that exist for professional female athletes, she also garnered international headlines last December when she became the highest-ranking openly lesbian golfer in the world. Reid, born and raised in Derby,

that's really how close it is." Reid speaks intensely about the hard work she put in last winter, and while she sees some of it paying off, knows she's not there yet. "It's a work in progress. I'm just waiting for it all to fit together again."

take this step. "People definitely did tell me not to do it, but people are scared of things that haven't been done before, and they're scared of the reaction that you're going to get," she reflects. "But I felt confident in myself and I'm comfortable in my own skin and comfortable with the people around me that are in my circle and know and love me."

As part of her newly-out striding into the public eye, Reid has agreed to be an ambassador for Athlete Ally, an organization founded in 2011 by All-American wrestler Hudson Taylor, who was so dismayed by the rampant homophobia within the sporting world that he started wearing a Human Rights Campaign sticker on his headgear in support of his friends who were coming out.

Reid says that Athlete Ally helps create a safe space for athletes like herself wanting to be true to themselves. "They're just a great company to be part of," says Reid. "They're basically very supportive, they help athletes tell their own story and they do it in a very protective way."

Meanwhile, the LPGA still has not embraced Pride Month, or any other overt way to support the LGBTQ+ community, unlike multiple international women's soccer, basketball and tennis organizations.

"I personally think they need to do something," Reid says, noting that she hopes that her coming-out story has made them more aware about the need for a public presence of support.

Reid speaks about the positives that have taken place but observes that there is still a pervasive culture of closeting on the tour.

"People are scared about their image," Reid says. "We get sold on our image. People are scared [about losing] sponsorship and fans. There are a lot of closed-minded people still in the world, more so than not, so I do understand it, but sometimes to make a change, you have to be brave enough to take that leap of faith...and just trust what you're about and that's how change happens isn't it?"

Note: Outword would like to congratulate Mel, who tied for third place with 6 under par at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship in Minnesota just before we went to print.



Mel Reid. Photo by Chris Allan

England, is currently rated 325 (out of 1315) in the Rolex women's world golf rankings. She joined the LPGA tour in 2017, is currently ranked 115, and played through the final rounds in three tournaments with a best 50th place tie at the Carlsbad Kia Classic.

However, May wasn't off to a good start for Reid when Outword caught up with her in Daly City after her first round of play in the Bay Area's Mediheal Golf Tournament, where she was cut after her first two rounds, finishing seven over par.

The tour is the last one on the West Coast for the ladies, and while she had two birdies early on and then an eagle on the 15th AON challenge hole in the more difficult afternoon slot, she's clearly frustrated.

"It's tough out here... an inch here and there means missing the cut or finishing in the top ten and

Reid's home course is now in Jupiter, Florida, where she's seeing someone new after ending a relationship last year. She knows transitions can be challenging, and has already made tremendous gains since the tragedy she experienced when she was just 24, losing her mother in a head-on car crash.

Her parents were following Reid on her tour in Germany and for years after the crash, numerous publications reported on the very difficult time she was having. Today, it's clear that she's been finding her way and is very close to her father, Brian Reid.

Besides her move to Florida, after a six-month discernment process with the help of her best friend, Reid officially came out as a lesbian last December.

She says the process has gone well for her, but notes that not everybody was eager for her to

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The Director of “Angels in America” Speaks with *Outword*

David Garrison, former Artistic Director of The Alternative Arts Collective, is directing the Pulitzer Prize winning *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes* at Roseville Theater Arts Academy. The two-part show opens on July 5, with a VIP preview on the 4th of July. This is the third time Garrison has directed *Angels*.

What drew you to *Angels in the first place*?

The arresting and highly entertaining dialogue pulled me in when I saw the HBO mini-series. I was obsessed with the way in which the characters were communicating. It feels realistic and honest, but there is a style and rhythm to the words. Both parts of *Angels* are nearly three hours, yet they go by in an instant, because you truly are on the edge of your seat. After the initial wave of awe over the dialogue has subsided, you fall madly in love with these characters. Even the ones you hate take up residency in your heart and are nearly impossible to evict.

What made you decide to direct it again?

Working with Nate Lynn and Tara Henry on “*Titus Andronicus*” last summer planted the idea in my head. The Angel and Prior are challenging roles: absurd and over the top, but you mustn’t play them that way. They need sincerity and conviction to allow the absurdity to be genuine. I saw that capability in both of those actors.

Additionally, we are in a very weird political time -- as though the social progress we gained with presidents like Clinton and Obama is being erased. As a storyteller, you want to comment on that and wake people up to these toxic cycles. Hate and fear didn’t work back then and won’t

work now. I want audiences to walk away with the idea that while change can be scary and painful, it’s absolutely beautiful -- and out of that naked courage to be open minded can come real growth.

What do you bring from your past experiences with the show to this production?

Calm! This is two entire plays. It’s a lot of planning, rehearsal and moving parts to make everything come together. It’s understandable that the cast and crew may even panic. Having directed the show twice before, I know where the challenges are and compensate for them. From my past experiences with this play, I bring a sense of calm and knowing that it will come together. I can share that with the cast and crew. And often do!

What is new for you this time?

The cast size of this current production is double what I’ve done in the past. The show is traditionally performed with eight actors playing all the roles, but we have almost every small character assigned its own performer. It’s created this really special ensemble working together to tell this larger than life story. It does introduce more challenges- but I believe we are up for the challenge and the end result will truly be unspeakably beautiful.

Actress’s Role In “Angels In America” Hits Home *by Rachel Hoover*

In “*Angels in America*,” I play Hannah Pitt, the Mormon mother who sells her house in Salt Lake City and flies to New York to “set things straight” after her son comes out to her. The role called to me because it makes me think of my Catholic grandmother, and her life after my father came out to her.

My grandmother grew up Catholic, and was the apple of her father’s eye. She fell from grace when she got pregnant. She had a shotgun wedding, and then became more religious, trying to get back in her father’s -- and her Father’s -- graces. When my father, her son, came out to her, she could not handle the news. She couldn’t find a way to stay within the framework of her life and accept her son. Her inability to accept him hurt both my dad and herself: over time, she became an agoraphobic alcoholic.

Largely because of my grandmother, I have long been interested in bridging the worlds between conservative religion and the LGBTQ+ community. Years ago, I interviewed the pastor of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament about the concept of “respecting life” in the context of the gay community. He told me of going to give last rites to a man who was dying of AIDS. The man asked for forgiveness of his sins, and the priest asked for forgiveness for the Church for their treatment of the gay community and those with AIDS. That priest’s actions and his sharing them made a big impression on me. The acknowledgement of imperfection - seeking what

was most essential and letting go of what was destructive.

Hannah starts out very closed off. As life unfolds for her, she is called to go beyond what she has known. She does not abandon all her beliefs -- it is her faith that leads her to believe in angels, which is key in the play -- but she goes beyond her original understanding of the world and her place in it. My favorite line of Hannah’s is “An angel is belief, with wings and arms that can carry you. If it lets you down, reject it” When asked what to do then, she replies, “Seek something new.”

I absolutely agree with director David Garrison that while change can be scary and painful, it can also be beautiful -- and that out of the courage to be open-minded can come real growth.

In the epilogue, Hannah says “You can’t live in the world without an idea of the world, but it’s living that makes the ideas.” I wish that my grandmother had been able to have her experience of life and the people that she loved change her ideas about the world, expand her world rather than shut her down. In Hannah, I find hope, the possibility of change.

“RENT” & “Angels In America” + “Gilligan’s Island The Musical”

by Chris Narloch

There is truly something for everyone on local stages this summer, including two masterworks dealing with AIDS and – for a complete change of pace – a musical version of “Gilligan’s Island.”



The cast of “Gilligan’s Island The Musical” at Fair Oaks Theatre Festival.

Fair Oaks Theatre Festival

“Gilligan’s Island The Musical”? C’mon! How can I resist? Especially since I used to rush home from grade school every afternoon to watch reruns of that iconic TV program when I was a kid.

Fair Oaks Theatre Festival presents a family-friendly stage version of the silly ‘60s comedy about seven castaways shipwrecked on a remote Pacific island. The wacky musical includes original tunes and the TV show’s memorable theme song: “Just sit right back and you’ll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip...”

There is no use fighting it since every movie and TV show ever made must eventually be turned in to a musical, and “Gilligan’s Island The Musical” should be dumb summer fun in Old Fair Oaks, under the stars.

“Gilligan’s Island The Musical” plays through July 15 at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater in Fair Oaks. Visit <https://www.fairoakstheatrefestival.com>.

RENT

If you’ve never seen “RENT” live, you can enjoy “Seasons of Love” and “La Vie Boheme” in Davis through July 7, courtesy of Davis Musical Theatre Company.

Winner of the Tony Award for Best Musical and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, “RENT” is the finest musical to deal with HIV/AIDS, and it was as important to theater fans back in the day as “Hamilton” is to this generation.

For more information, visit <https://dmtc.org>.

Angels In America

Another great work of theater about AIDS – probably the greatest play on the subject actually – “Angels in America” is being presented in Roseville this July, with both parts alternating in repertory between July 5 and July 21.

Tony Kushner’s ambitious masterpiece is being undertaken by Roseville Theatre Arts Academy and will be staged in their theater on Vernon Street.

Visit <http://www.rosevilletheatreartsacademy.com>.

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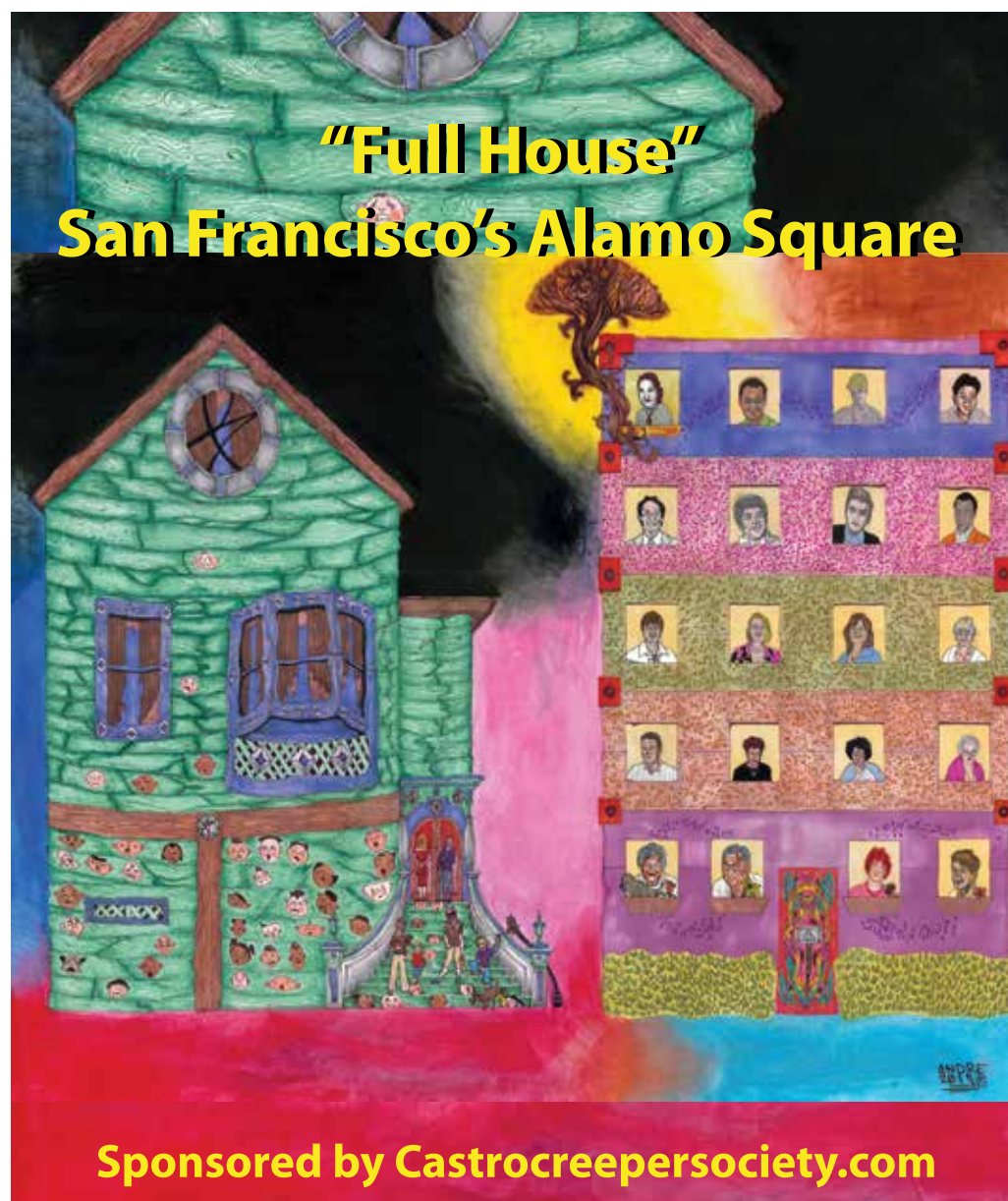
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SCDT Is Set To Dance "OUT"

Sacramento Contemporary Dance Theatre (SCDT) is proud to present a one-night-only encore performance of "OUT," an original dance show created to tell the story of what it's like to come out as LGBTQ+.

The first act showcases two families: one that supports their child's coming out journey and one that does not. This juxtaposition shows how important family support is for queer/questioning youth.

The second act features LA-based drag queen Jonnie Reinhart as MC, as she transforms into her fabulous and glamorous alter ego. Act Two also showcases the joy and fellowship that living your truth can bring to the LGBTQ+ community.

SCDT is a non-profit that partners with other non-profit groups to create unique dance shows that address many important societal issues. Past shows have benefitted the UC Davis Cancer Center, Camp Grizzly and charities to prevent human trafficking.

SCDT will perform "OUT" on Sunday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m. inside the Cordova High Performing Arts Center in Rancho Cordova. Please visit <https://www.scdtheatre.org>.



Jonnie Reinhart will appear with SCDT in "OUT!"

Hugh Jackman Brings His World Tour to NorCal

by Chris Narloch

Movie star, Broadway performer, and former Wolverine Hugh Jackman will bring his 2019 World Tour to Northern California this July with a live concert at SAP Center in San Jose.



The Academy Award-nominated, Golden Globe and Tony Award-winning performer recently announced his first world tour, entitled "The Man. The Music. The Show."

The concerts feature Jackson performing hit songs from "The Greatest Showman," "Les Miz," and "The Boy from Oz," accompanied by a live orchestra.

Jackman has made an impression on audiences of all ages with his multi-hyphenate career persona, as successful on

stage in front of live crowds as he is on film.

From his award-winning turn on Broadway as the 1970s singer/songwriter Peter Allen, to his metal claw-wielding character Wolverine in the blockbuster X-Men franchise, Jackman has proven to be one of the most versatile actors of our time.

You can see Hugh Jackman in San Jose on July 17, or in Las Vegas on July 13. For ticket information, visit <https://www.hughjackmantheshow.com>.

Taylor & Katy Bury the Hatchet With Pro-Gay Video

Pop princesses Taylor Swift and Katy Perry have turned their former feud into a musical love-fest with their first collaboration -- the fabulously queer video for Swift's new single, "You Need To Calm Down."



Katy Perry and Taylor Swift hug it out in Swift's new music video.

The colorful, LGBTQ-friendly clip shows Swift taking on homophobes and features a host of gay "faves" including Ellen DeGeneres, Laverne Cox, Adam Rippon, Todrick Hall, Billy Porter, Adam Lambert, RuPaul, Ryan Reynolds, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, and the new "Queer Eye" guys.

The video also includes a clever climax in which Perry and Swift hug it out while dressed as a burger and fries. (Perry recycles her burger dress from this year's Met Gala, while Swift dons the freedom fries outfit.)

The song's lyrics are as gay-positive as the video, with Swift singing "why are you

mad when you could be GLAAD?"

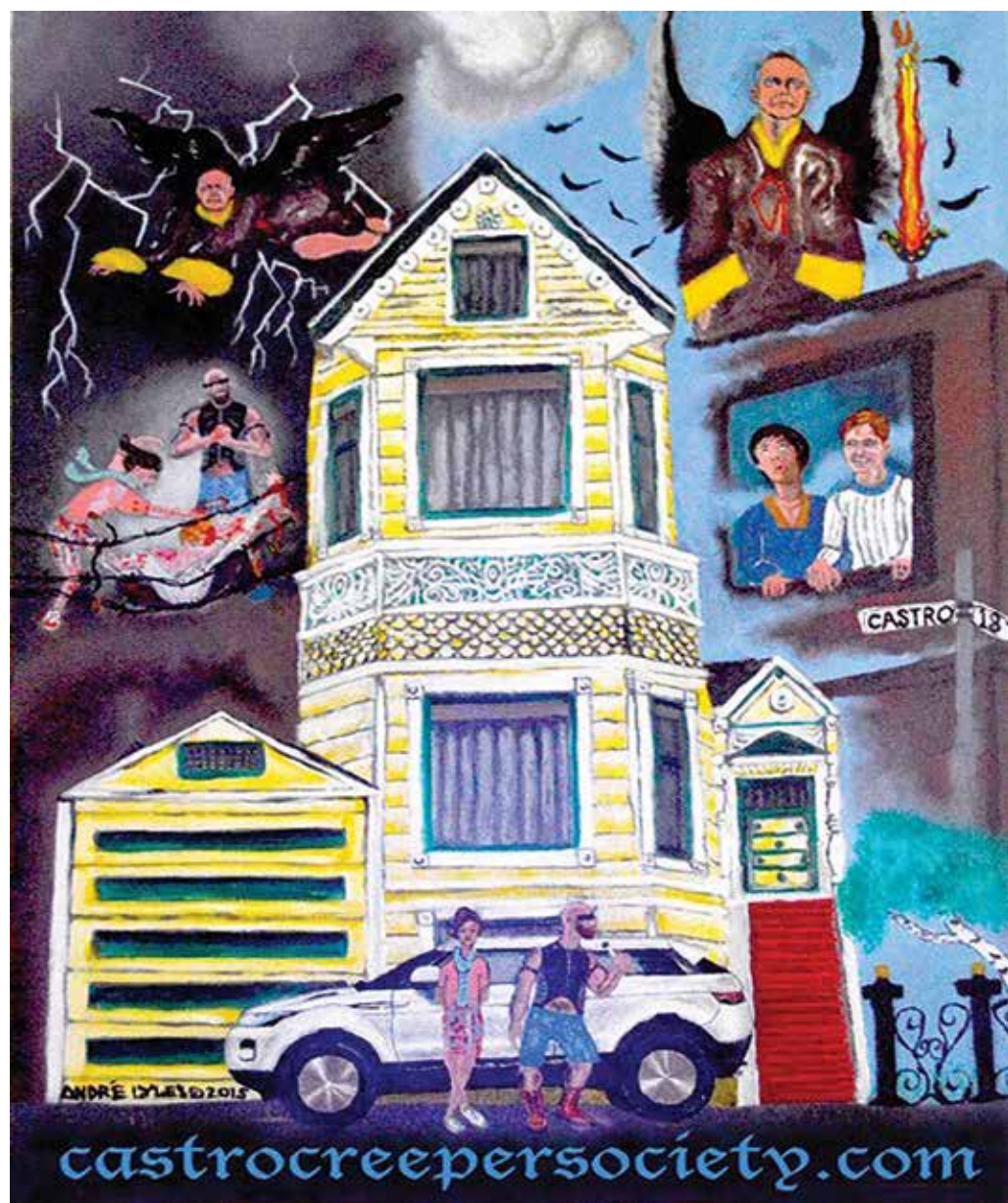
Swift's music video ends with a postscript urging fans to contact their senators in support of the Equality Act, a bill by Congressman David Cicilline that, if passed, would amend the Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public education, federal funding, credit, and the jury system.

If you haven't already seen it, you can watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkk9gvTmCX>

New Photo Book Of Fire Island Honors World Pride & 50Th Anniversary Of Stonewall Riots

In honor of Pride Month this June and "World Pride" in New York City, photographer Alex Geana has released the publication of his full-color photography book FIRE ISLAND: PHOTOGRAPHS. The 224-page book is an homage to one of the first places that gay culture was encouraged and flourished and is the only book to document Fire Island today. With the culmination of four years of work by Geana, it brings awareness to not only the theme of love, but also to the climate crisis that is impacting The Pines community of Long Island, New York currently. The book can be ordered on Amazon (<https://tinyurl.com/y6ah7ism>) as well as purchased at the General Store in The Pines by calling 631-597-6500.



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Out & About

Natomas' first Big Gay Event went down on June 23rd without a hitch. There was a fun, friendly crowd, lots of vendor booths to check out, and appearances by the Sac. Gay Men's Chorus and it was MC'd by Taryn Thru-U! Very much looking forward to next year's event!

photos by Ron Tackitt



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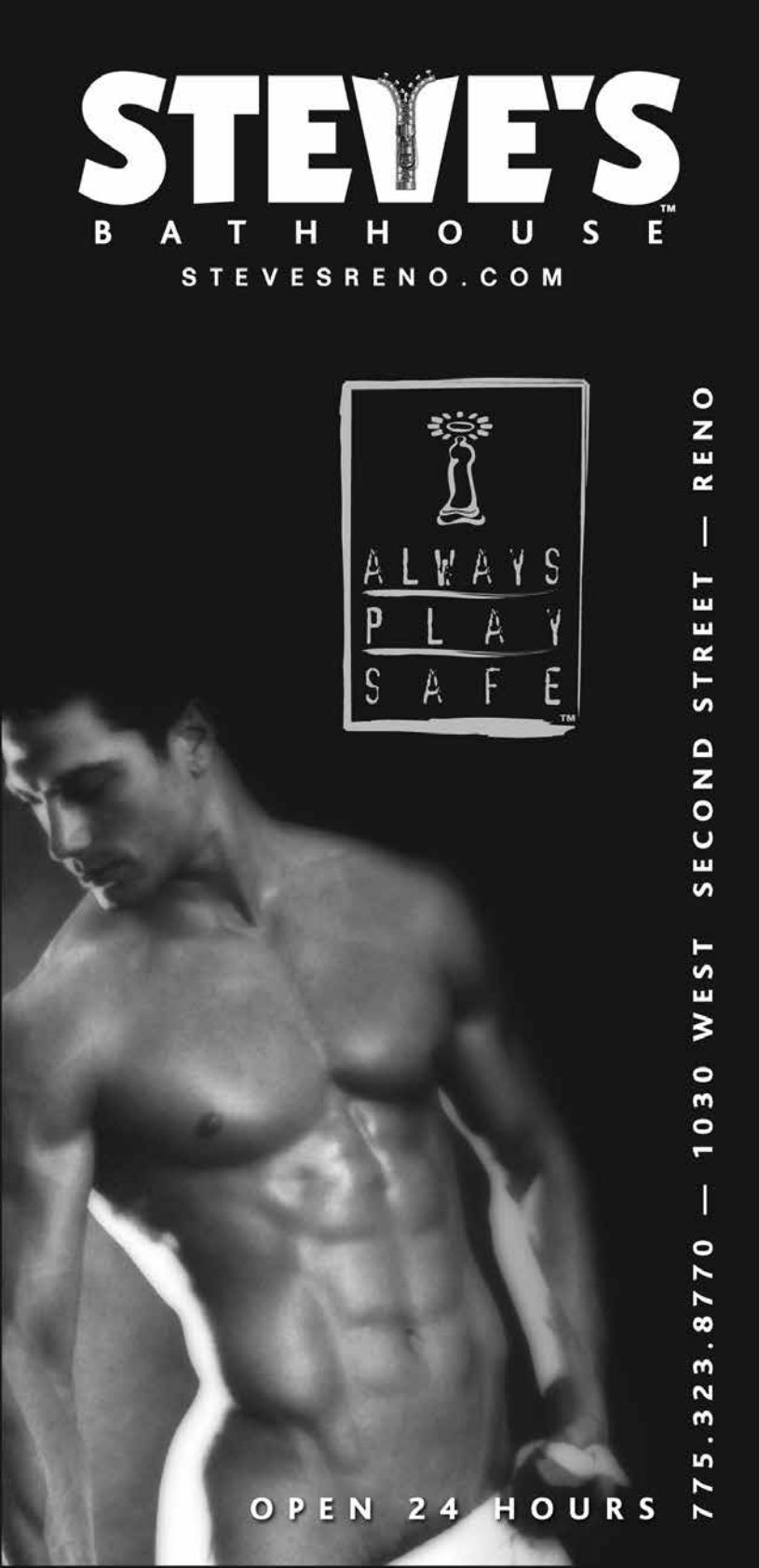
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Beto

continued from page 5

LGBTQ+ people have equal access to health insurance and health care, including critical treatments like PrEP, and reform our criminal justice system.

Strengthen global safeguards for the LGBTQ+ community by working with allies to improve the process for LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum seekers, secure a global treaty explicitly protecting LGBTQ individuals from persecution, invest in the Global Equality Fund, and establish a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQ+ people.

“LGBTQ+ Americans have made incredible progress over the past

decade, thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of activists and advocates, but too many LGBTQ+ people still lack protection under many states’ laws and the current Administration is encouraging rather than stamping out discrimination,” said O’Rourke. “We must ensure all Americans are treated equally no matter who they are or who they love.”

Throughout his career, O’Rourke has been a fierce advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. As a member of Congress, O’Rourke received 100% ratings from the Human Rights Campaign and supported marriage equality, non-

discrimination legislation, and important protections for LGBTQ+ individuals serving in the military. He co-sponsored the Equality Act that provided consistent and explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people across key areas of life. He also co-sponsored the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act, which sought to officially classify the provision and advertising of conversion therapy in exchange for monetary compensation as a fraudulent practice.

Additional details about this plan can be found at:
www.betoorourke.com/LGBTQ.

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