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Faith-based shelter fights to keep out transgender women
By RACHEL D’ORO
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A conservative Christian law firm that has pushed religious issues in multiple states urged a U.S. judge on Friday to block Alaska’s largest city from requiring a faith-based women’s shelter to accept transgender women.

Alliance Defending Freedom has sued the city of Anchorage to stop it from applying a gender identity law to the Hope Center shelter, which denied entry to a transgender woman last year.

The lawsuit says homeless shelters are exempt from the local law and that constitutional principles of privacy and religious freedom are at stake.

Alliance attorney Ryan Tucke...
BAN ON GAY CONVERSION THERAPY POISED FOR PASSAGE IN NEW YORK

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—A proposed ban on gay conversion therapy is picking up momentum in Albany now that Democrats control the entire Legislature.

The state Senate is planning to vote on the bill Tuesday. It would prohibit licensed therapists from trying to change a minor’s sexual orientation. Fourteen states have already passed similar laws.

The measure has repeatedly passed the Democrat-controlled Assembly but died in the Sen-

SISTER OF SLAIN BRAZILIAN COUNCILWOMAN CALLS FOR JUSTICE

By PETER PRENGAMAN
and SERGIO RAMALHO
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The sister of slain Brazilian councilwoman Marielle Franco on Monday expressed concern about the conserva-

tive new governor’s commitment to solving the case.

Ten months to the day since the slaying of Franco and her driver, sister Aniele Franco said Gov. Wilson Witzel’s recent actions as a candi-
date were “worrisome.” During last year’s cam-
paign, Witzel participated in a rally where two other candidates showed off a street sign honoring Franco that they had broken.

“Oh, of course, we are worried about this admin-
istration,” said Aniele Franco, sitting by mother Mariene Silva during an Amnesty International press conference. “Our current governor took part in that act of vandalism.”

The family and Amnesty officials said they had requested a meeting with Witzel, who took office Jan. 1.

Witzel has noted that he did not participate in the defacing of the sign and did not mention it in his speech that day. The former judge, a member of President Jair Bolsonaro’s party, ran on prom-

ises to crack down on crime, including by using sharpshooters to take out suspects carrying auto-
matic weapons.

Last week, Witzel said investigators were close to solving the Franco case, the latest of many offi-
cials to make claims of progress. To date, nobody has been arrested.

Franco, who was black and a lesbian, crusaded

for black and gay causes. Hailing from Mare, one of Rio de Janeiro’s toughest neighborhoods, Franco also frequently criticized police violence.

The city’s police force is one of the most lethal in the world.

Franco and her driver, Anderson Gomes, were gunned down in their car in Rio on March 14 after Franco spoke at a meeting on empowering black women.

For many in Brazil, one of the world’s most unequal countries, Franco was a symbol of hope, in large part because such prominence for a black woman from a poor neighborhood was rare. Her slaying led to days of massive protests in Brazil and demonstrations in several other countries.

However, from the beginning, the case has been plagued by leaks, ranging from details of the shooting to names of people being investigated.

The name most frequently leaked since last year has been Rio de Janeiro councilman Marcello Siciliano, who has been accused of ties to paramilitary groups, called militias, that control large swaths of western Rio de Janeiro. Militias have traditionally been made up of former police, military officers and firefighters and have close connections with many local politicians.

Siciliano has testified several times, most re-
cently this month, but has not been charged in the crime, and authorities have refused to pub-
liscly comment on the investigation.

In an interview with The Associated Press Friday, Siciliano strongly denied involvement in Franco’s killing, and called her a “friend.”

Siciliano, 46, also denied involvement with

see BRAZIL, page 3

FAITH

Continued from page 1

to use the shelter during the day, adding there are other shelters in the city where men can sleep.

Ryan Stuart, an assistant municipal attorney, countered that the preliminary injunction sought by plaintiffs was premature because an investiga-
tion by the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission had not been concluded, largely because of the shelter’s noncooperation. The investigation is on hold.

Stuart also said there is no homeless shelter ex-
ception. If there is, he said, it is “a legal theory that cannot be described as obvious,” he said.

The city wants the federal court to abstain from the case, saying the matter should be allowed to proceed to completion by the commission.

At the end of the proceeding, Gleason said she will take the matter under advisement.

The shelter operators filed a federal lawsuit against the city and its Equal Rights Commission in August, months after a transgender woman complained to the commission that she was de-
nied housing at the shelter.

The plaintiffs maintain the person identified as “Jessee Doe” was denied inebriated after hours in January 2018 and was not turned away because of gender, a point Tucker raised again in court Friday. The shelter officials even paid for a taxi to take her to a hospital for treatment of a forehead wound from fighting at another shelter, according to alliance attorneys.

The individual showed up the following day and again was denied entry, according to the motion for a preliminary injunction. Plaintiffs say they want the federal court to make clear that the shelter is not violating the law.

Alliance Defending Freedom also represented a Colorado baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. In a limited decision, the U.S. Supreme Court sided with the baker, but it did not rule on the larger issue of whether business-

es can invoke religious objections to refuse service to gays and lesbians.

The Southern Poverty Law Center has identified the alliance as an LGBT hate group, one that seeks to push transgender people “back into the shadows.”

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MEMPHIS mother and son
run LGBTQ magazine, radio show

By ELLE PERRY
The Daily Memphian

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Gwendolyn Clem-

sons and her son Davin have a lot in common.

They both are gay.

They both work in criminal justice: she is a counseling supervisor for the Shelby County Division of Corrections, and he is a tactical unit police officer and Memphis Police Department LGBTQ liaison.

They both are ministers.

And, together, they have founded and run a nationally distributed, bimonthly multicultural LGBTQ magazine and host a weekly LGBTQ radio show. “The Unleashed Voice” radio show debuted in 2014. It airs at 5 p.m. on Saturdays on KWAM 990. “The Unleashed Voice” magazine debuted a year later.

After reading Steve Harvey’s book “Act Like a Success, Think Like a Success,” Gwendolyn was inspired to start a magazine with “empowering, engaging conversations about our community.”

“We’re able to have a media platform and edu-
cate people,” she said. “We have had people call (the radio show) and say, ‘Hey, can you describe what you mean by pansexual’? And bang up. We say we have three equal principles: education, empowerment and enrichment. . . . One big bar-
rier between prejudices and stigmas and biases is education.”

Davin said that the magazine and radio show have saved lives. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death for those ages 15 to 24. LGBTQ youth have significantly higher suicide rates than the rest of that group.

“They kill themselves because of people in so-
ciety saying, ‘You’re not worthy. You’re going to hell,’” Davin said. “If a 13-year-old picks up our magazine and reads it, they can get liberated and free from an issue that says ‘love yourself’.”

With a circulation of 20,000, print issues are distributed in mostly LGBTQ community cen-
ters in 36 cities, as well as coffee shops and gro-
cery stores. People can also subscribe for home delivery.

Davin Clemons and his mother, Gwendolyn Clemons, run a bimonthly LGBTQ maga-

zine and host a weekly LGBTQ radio show on KWAM 990 in Memphis.

The November/December 2018 issue of “The Unleashed Voice” features Academy Award win-
ning actress and comedian Mo’Nique on the cover and her interview and photo shoot inside.

Typically, though, the cover stars are regular folks.

“I’m not into who you are; I think all of us are phenomenal,” Gwendolyn said. “Even without getting the platforms. . . . We just have ordinary, everyday people on the cover of this magazine and celebrate them in their uniqueness and the things they are doing.”

The magazine has regular features from a transgender correspondent and an HIV/AIDS correspondent.

A flip through several issues shows articles on topics including literature, financial advice, an interview with a drag queen, health and fitness advice, fashion, HIV criminalization, profiles of entrepreneurs and various types of artists across the country, politics, religion, relationship advice and gay history.

There are also articles featuring local resources such as OUT Memphis, the Family Safety Cen-
ter of Memphis and Shelby County, Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi and the local Ryan White Program.

“We’re very intentional about our content,” Gwendolyn said. “We center a lot of our stories about HIV and AIDS awareness. The report came out (in December) that we’re still in the top 10 for infection rates in the city and then mostly in the African-American community and women. Women are coming up the ranks fast.”

“The mainstream media only does it when it’s a topic, but we make sure that every issue, we have a story in there, with a writer that’s from some of these social agencies around the city. We dedicate a section to community agencies to talk about what they’re doing.”

Being in the South, and specifically being in Memphis, sometimes is a challenge for the maga-

zine, Davin said.

When the radio show started, he recalled getting hate mail and hateful calls regularly.

“People are hesitant about putting their busi-

ness in the magazine sometimes, because they don’t want to be labeled as LGBT—so we, have to go and reassure people, that ‘Hey, this is not a LGBTQ publication, this is a pub-
llication that highlights this.’ Because we have other publications here in the city that are diverse
Chechnya
Continued from page 1
ports in 2017 of more than 100 gay men arrested and subjected to torture, and some of them killed, in the predominantly Muslim region in southern Russia.

The Associated Press and other media outlets have interviewed some of the victims, who spoke about torture at the hands of Chechen law enforcement officers. Chechen authorities have denied those accusations, and federal authorities conducted a probe into the earlier reports but said they found nothing to support the charges.

Abi Karimov, a spokesman for Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, told the Interfax news agency on Monday that the latest reports are "complete lies and don't have an ounce of truth in them."

Karimov insisted that no one has been detained in Chechnya on suspicion of being gay.

But the Russian LGBT Network, which has been monitoring the situation in Chechnya and helping victims, said in a statement Monday that about 40 men and women have been detained on suspicion of being gay since December and that at least two of them have died of torture in detention. The detainees are believed held at the same facility that was named in the 2017 reports.

"Widespread detentions, torture and killings of gay people have resumed in Chechnya," Igor Kochetkov, program director at the Russian LGBT Network said. "Persecution of men and women suspected of being gay never stopped. It's only that its scale has been changing."

Kochetkov said the new wave of anti-gay persecution started at the end of the year, when Chechen authorities detained the administrator of a social media group popular with LGBT people in the North Caucasus. Kochetkov said the mass detentions began after the authorities got hold of the contacts on his phone.

LGBT activists in 2017 helped to evacuate about 150 gay men from Chechnya to help them restart their lives elsewhere in Russia. Many of them have sought asylum and resettled abroad.

"News that the authorities have resumed the crackdown is spine-chilling," said Marie Struthers, director of Amnesty International's Eastern Europe section. "With lives in jeopardy, there is an urgent need for an international response to protect gay and lesbian people in Chechnya."

Russian authorities have strenuously denied that killings and torture took place in the predominantly Muslim region where homosexuality is taboo, even after one man came forward to talk about the time he spent in detention in Chechnya.

Maxim Lapunov said he was detained by unidentified people on a street in the Chechen capital, Grozny, in 2017 and kept in custody for two weeks, where he was repeatedly beaten. He was let go after he signed a statement acknowledging that he was gay and was told he would be killed if he talked about his time in detention.

Lapunov, who is from Siberia, was the first to file a complaint with Russian authorities over the wave of arrests of gay people.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe last month called on Russia to investigate the reports and cited Lapunov’s case specifically.

Kadyrov and his government in Chechnya have been accused of widespread human rights abuses against many dissidents, not just gay men.

Brazil
Continued from page 2
militias and said he was the victim of a smear campaign to derail his political career. Elected to councilman in 2016, Siciliano said he planned to run for Congress last year until the accusations began.

In leaks to the press, Siciliano was implicated in the killing by a former police investigator convicted of forcing businessmen to pay bribes for services, one of militias’ main tactics in areas they control.

Audio was also leaked in which Siciliano allegedly spoke with militia members, in one case calling the man he is speaking with "brother."

In the interview, Siciliano noted that Franco’s work was focused on sexual minorities, not on militias, and said it raised questions about what motive there may be.

He said he feared for his life, which had been turned upside down since the leaks began. For example, he said he was unable to visit Miami because his U.S. visa had been cancelled.

"I’m a dead man who is alive. They are trying to kill me with the same bullet as Marielle," he said.

Associated Press writer Marcelo Silva de Sousa contributed to this report from Rio de Janeiro.

Judah
Continued from page 1
ing the "Facebook aging challenge." This involves posting one's first profile picture, or another photo from 2008, and then following it up with one from 2018; a view of what the poster looked like then and now. As I scrolled through my feed over the past week, more and more of my friends were doing the same thing.

Friends who seemed to have come to master the aging challenge, I noticed, are often in their 60s, while I have some headshots from 2008 to 50, while my Facebook pics went from 50 to younger than me; I’d seen their passage from 40 or 40, I was struck by my youth, my full head of hair, my unlined face. Jumping forward, I came across pictures from the 2004 or ’05, when I was a young-ish 48. Then there were photos from my trip to Obama’s first inauguration in January 2009, which still reflected a certain early-middle-aged optimism.

Maybe it was a mistake to take the “challenge,” because, while I have some headshots from 2008 and ’09, I couldn’t find a comparable photo from last year. And the pictures I do have show the truth that I am 61, which beats the alternative, for the fact that I’m still here, doing the best I can with the best I know how -- which is almost the same thing.

Judah Leiblang is a writer, teacher, and storyteller in Boston. Check out his writing classes at Grubstreet.org.

About Bay Windows
Bay Windows is a Boston-based monthly publication that serves the gay and lesbian community.
Episcopal Church allows same-sex marriage in NY diocese

By MICHAEL HILL

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—The Episcopal Church on Friday cleared the way for same-sex marriages in an upstate New York diocese where they had been barred by a bishop who claimed the church had been “hijacked by the ‘Gay Rights Agenda.’”

The Rev. William Love now faces possible disciplinary action for his November directive barring same-sex marriage in the diocese for arranging or participating in same-sex marriages the option to have nil.love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@love@lo
tune designer in Hollywood.

"I think it’s going to be an amazing year of flawless change in my life," Dean texted Taddei on Jan. 3.

"He was full of life, full of goals, and full of hopes to live and love and all of that," Taddei said. "He was just a good guy."

On Nov. 1, Dean posted pictures of the sunset and a martini from his balcony, writing on Facebook: "Life is simple, life is good!"

Dean and his basketball team won a gold medal in the Gay Games in Sydney in 2002, organizers of the global sporting event said.

Taddei said Dean was a "bon-vivant" who enjoyed good food, fine wine, hiking and fashion, and never once expressed interest in or did drugs in their three years of friendship.

Taddei said he's disturbed by the circumstances surrounding Dean's death and wants answers.

"I highly doubt that he was on drugs when he got there," he said. "It wasn’t his thing."

Dean’s death renewed calls from Moore’s family for Buck’s prosecution.

"We are heartbroken. We are sickened. We are outraged," Nana Gyamfi, an attorney representing Moore’s mother said in a statement that criticized police and prosecutors.

"Instead of heeding our warnings and following the leads we presented to them, they spent our meeting time alternatively trying to convince us that there was not evidence to charge Ed Buck with a crime or that even if there was enough evidence, the charges would not be worth pursuing," Gyamfi said.

Buck has frequently supported Democratic candidates, including giving $2,000 to Gov. Gavin Newsom’s campaign and $5,000 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu, a California Democrat, said he was "deeply disturbed" by the disclosure of a second death at Buck’s home and would do so much more. Call for details.

Follow Amanda Lee Myers on Twitter at @AmandaLeeAP

Harris named first gay state House majority leader

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan has named a Chicago Democrat to be the chamber’s majority leader.

Madigan’s naming of Rep. Greg Harris as his top lieutenant makes the legislator the state’s first openly gay House majority leader.

In a statement, Madigan credited Harris with leading the effort to make Illinois one of the first states to pass marriage equality, overhauling Medicaid and taking the lead during the budget crisis.

Harris replaces Barbara Flynn Currie of Chicago who became the state’s first female majority leader in 1997.

Harris says a priority is to work with Republicans in the House and Senate as well as the governor to restore the state’s fiscal stability.

Brian Johnson of Equality Illinois says the appointment of Harris further demonstrates the Speaker’s “commitment to LGBTQ equality and representation.”

Ralston dampens Kemp pledge to sign ‘Religious Freedom’ bill

By BEN NADLER

ATLANTA (AP)—Georgia’s Republican House Speaker David Ralston says he doesn’t favor another attempt to pass a so-called “religious freedom” law that protects people acting on religious beliefs, a position that could put him at odds with fellow Republican Gov.-elect Brian Kemp.

Ralston said Thursday during a state Capitol news conference that he’s concerned a state version of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993, “has a real potential to divide us as a state.”

“It’s a much different world than it was in 1993,” Ralston said.

Kemp, who will be sworn in Monday, repeatedly vowed to sign a mirror image of the federal RFRA bill while courting the right wing of his party during his hotly contested race against Democrat Stacey Abrams. Kemp said on the campaign trail that he would only sign a narrowly drawn mirror of the federal law— “nothing more, nothing less”—and insisted such a law doesn’t discriminate.

But many Democrats and LGBT activists fear that it would allow state-sanctioned discrimination against gay and lesbian individuals by citizens, businesses and organizations on religious grounds.

“I would just ask us to pause before we get into an issue that has the potential to tear the fabric of the state,” Ralston said. He also called the proposal a “solution in search of a problem” and pointed to other states that have experienced backlash and boycotts after passing legislation seen as similarly discriminatory.

Kemp reiterated his support for a “religious freedom” bill during a pre-inauguration event Wednesday in Augusta, but declined to say whether he would push a bill as part of his legislative agenda or wait for the legislature to act.

Lawmakers from the conservative flank of the GOP have sought another chance at passing “religious freedom” legislation after a previous bill was vetoed by now-outgoing Republican Gov. Nathan Deal.

Deal took a stand against his own party and averred threatened boycotts by major corporations in 2016 by vetoing a “religious freedom” bill that enumerated actions that “people of faith” would not have to perform for other people.

“I do not think that we have to discriminate against anyone to protect the faith-based community in Georgia,” Deal said at the time.

As the leader of the House, Ralston has great sway in deciding what legislation moves forward. He said he intends to focus on issues he sees as critical and pressing, like rural broadband, access to health care and school safety.
I’m going into this year’s awards season somewhat perplexed. Not so to say I didn’t enjoy the Golden Globes—but not so to say I did. Let’s start by talking about Timothée Chalamet. Question—should we credit Adam Rippon with making harnesses acceptable awards show attire? Cause he is the first person I recall wearing a harness. And, perhaps, the last. Chalamet insists he was not wearing a harness. “I thought it was a bib,” the actor told Ellen. Which begs the question, a bib? Really, Timmy? And not just any bib, but a sequined bib. And then, there’s where I’m confused—I thought perhaps he was paying homage to “The Sound of Music” by wearing a harness lobbyist.

Days before the Globes, Darren Criss talked about how he will no longer play gay roles. “I want to make sure I won’t be another straight boy taking a gay man’s role,” says the 31-year-old. However, fellow Golden Globe winner Ben Whishaw said, “I think there needs to be greater equality. I would like to see more gay actors playing straight roles.” So, riddle me this—if gay actors are playing the gay roles AND the straight roles, what on Earth will Darren Criss do for a living? On second thought, don’t answer that.

Am I the only one who didn’t know Darren is Filipino? He proclaimed himself the first Filipino-American to win a Golden Globe. Is that true? Has someone done genetic testing on all previous winners? Are the Golden Globes in bed with Ancestry.com? Perhaps, like gays, Criss is the first OPENLY Filipino-American to win a Golden Globe. Turns out Andrew Cunanan was Filipino-American, so maybe it’s a win/win. But I’ll have to run this by Whishaw.

Apropos of being awarded the first-ever Carol Burnett Award at the Golden Globes, a friend told me of an interesting chat he had with Miss Burnett a couple of years ago. Carol claims she’s never been invited to host “Saturday Night Live”. Can we do something about that?

Days after the Golden Globes, Kevin Spacey was in Nantucket District Court pleading not guilty to charges of groping an 18-year-old busboy. It was a brief courtroom appearance, and Spacey was instructed to have no contact with the alleged victim until the March 4th pre-trial hearing. Alas, the rest of his day wasn’t luxurious. If you think you are qualified, be forewarned—the position only pays roughly $22K a year. And you wonder why QEI remains one of the richest women in the world!

Last week, gay porn impresario Michael Lucas made some news. First it was announced that he will retire from “performing” in 2020. “Porn stars come and go, but the best ones stay in our memories and on our hard drives for a long time until they fade away,” said his publicist, Len Evans. But it was the next statement which raised more than a few eyebrows. “Michael is also in search of a co-author to publish a juicy autobiography that will include a steamy chapter about a few top Hollywood celebs who paid him to have sex with them when he was an escort in the late ’90s.” Let’s gloss over the difference between a co-author and a publisher—naming names got my attention. That is, until Lucas retracted the story and fired Evans.

To fill in the blanks (something Lucas is known for), Michael Tweeted the following: “The story that ran today and attributed to me by former publicist is absolutely false. I spent 45 minutes on the phone explaining why I would never do that and they still felt the need to give it to you. Needless to say I am perplexed by their motivation and they were fired immediately. I am considering legal action against them. What is true is that I’m planning to retire in 2020. What is absolutely false is that I would ever write or consider writing a ‘tell all’ book and naming names of my clients. I consider that relationship sacred and I would never violate their confidence for my integrity. Period. I have nothing but the greatest respect and gratitude for the people who trusted me with their intimate secrets and I will take those secrets to the grave.”

I am thrilled by news of the return of “NYPD Blue”—especially since the new show will include PPA John Irvin, once again played by my dear friend, Bill Brochtrup. When he made the announcement on Facebook, I said that the time had certainly come for him to bare his bottom. I mean, if it was good enough for Dennis Franz and John Wesley Shipp, why not? Brochtrup tweeted, “Yeah, keep that rumor alive.” Darling, that’s what I do.

Next week sees the return of “Celebrity Big Brother”—and the return of Julie Chen (Moonves) to CBS. Her Tweet about being back on the set brought mixed response. Many were happy, while others asked why hubby Les wasn’t in prison. But, I know what you’re all interested in—who’s competing. I suspect my readers will be partial to Jonathan Bennett, Joey Lawrence, and Ryan Lochte. Others in the house include Tamar Braxton, Kandi Buruss, Dina Lohan, Anthony Scaramucci, and even Kato Kaelin.

This should be fun.


Since I was in Fort Lauderdale last week, I got to see Seth Rudetsky launch his seventh Broadway Concert Series at the Parker Playhouse with Tony winner Jessie Mueller. I have been a fan of Mueller’s since she really burst on the scene as Carole King in “Beautiful”, but I was completely unprepared for the range of her experience...and voice. The concert was a great way to kick off the season, which will continue on February 8th with Sierra Boggess and the insanely attractive Ramin Karimloo. Get your tix at Park-erPlayhouse.com.

BTW, Mueller’s next project is a limited run of “The Music Man” at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC from February 6-11. The show will star the fabulous Norm Lewis as the Music Man, and feature Rosie O’Donnell as Mrs. Paroo. More deets and tix at Kennedy-Center.org.

Could it be that a certain stud celebrated a bit too hard at the Golden Globes? So say my spies who say the dazzling dude (more known for TV than film) was beyond bombed and made several unwarranted passes to a bespectacled former co-star. Thanks to the quick thinking of his mouthpiece, he didn’t make a jackass of himself...again!

When men are making passes at co-stars in glasses, it’s time to end yet another column. With awards season in full swing, keep up-to-date with www.BillyMasters.com—the site known for swingers. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Darren Criss makes history at Broadway’s first male Filipino-American Glinda! Until next time, remember, one man’s filth is another man’s bible.
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