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Spring into non-profit season



This is, by far, my favorite time of the year. Spring began just five days ago, but I've been unable to truly enjoy it much since it's been deadline week. Now that it's the weekend and every other page of this issue is off to the printer, I can't wait to get out and enjoy the mild temperatures and beautiful sunshine. I know it won't last long, since the dreaded heat of a Vegas summer will be upon us before we know it. Perhaps that's why so many local non-profit organizations hold some of their grandest fund-raising events during this time.

Just four short weeks from today, Aid for AIDS of Nevada will hold its annual AIDS Walk, again with its starting point at the World Market Center. Personally, I miss the opening ceremonies being held downtown next to the Lady Luck, but it's still a fun time nonetheless. I look forward to this year's event since my partner was largely unable to do the walk the past couple years, yet this year we definitely plan to enjoy every foot of the roughly two-mile route.

The Vegas chapter of the Human Rights Campaign is again holding its Family Re-Union Picnic immediately after the AIDS Walk. I'd like to applaud the genius who decided it just makes sense to stay put and hold the event on the same site as the Walk.

Brilliant! Piggybacking one fund-raiser on another in this manner could either work in HRC's favor or against it. I hope it's the former. The majority of walkers don't seem to return to the starting point, so I hope they realize there's another fun event to follow.

The biggest and gayest event of the month (and the year, actually) is PRIDE Week. In Las Vegas, it's not just a parade. It's not just a festival. It's several days of activities that numerous people have spent countless hours planning. Kicking off the week is the upgraded art show that The Gay and Lesbian Community Center always hosts, this year relocated to the Aruba Hotel and Spa and renamed to ARTrageous Vegas to reflect its increased focus on multiple art forms. Heck, it's a twelve-hour party this year and should be a blast! Then the week draws to a close with the outdoor festival, which the Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc. board has worked hard to improve and expand. I really look forward to the festival this year but pray we don't quite yet evolve into the blistering Vegas summer I dread.

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Do you have something on your mind? Do you have something to say about an article in QVegas or any topic of interest to our readers? Do you have an idea for a future story? We want to hear from you! Simply send an e-mail to Editor@QVegas.com. Letters to the Editor may be printed in a future issue if signed.

READER LETTERS

Dear Editor,

In my opinion, many Gay men can be excellent teachers of children. Why? Because they are people of the gentle heart.

Sincerely Yours,

Leland Mellott
Mount Vernon, Washington



One of the most important factors in a relationship is communication (sincerity and honesty) and our own favorite: never go to sleep angry at each other. In our humble history we have learned that life together is fraught with ups and downs (mostly small speed bumps as we like to say) but nothing is as important as our life together. No matter what ripples crop up, we believe that our life together is more important than trying to prove who is right, who may be wrong and who wins/who loses the argument.

Sincerely,

Jeff W and Bobby S
Las Vegas, Nevada
*Faithfully and happily beginning our
23rd year together as of last month*

READER SURVEY

We appreciate the continued participation in our Reader Survey, which we request you fill out and submit either online at www.QVegas.com, by postal mail, or by fax. The survey serves a two-fold purpose, allowing us to learn the demographics of our readers and also find out what you need and want from the magazine. Only one per reader, please.

CORRECTIONS

In last month's featured artist profiles, we had a dyslexic moment and misspelled the last name of the painter behind the Mikel Patrik brand, Michael P. Thieme. We apologize for the error and hope all our readers will learn more about him and his art at www.mikelpatrik.com.

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Prime Timers hold third annual Western Regional Gathering

The Las Vegas Prime Timers, a social organization for adult men, male partners, and their admirers, will be holding their third annual Western Regional Gathering May 2-6. Last year's event at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino attracted 100 men from all over the country. The gathering includes both scheduled events and free time. Hotel rooms are available at the Imperial Palace and Harrah's at discount rates. Attendees do not have to be a member of the Prime Timers. All male men are welcome to register.

A registration/hospitality room will be available for information and socializing throughout the event. Guests are invited to drop in, obtain information on activities, network or enjoy the card and board games available. Special activities and seminars will also be available.

Scheduled events begin on Sunday evening, May 2, with a continuous shuttle bus to the Spotlight Lounge so participants can attend the events there. This will be a chance for the visitors to meet men of Las Vegas as well as get to know each other.

The opening event will take place Monday evening with a meet and greet reception, with food and cash bar, at the famous Imperial Palace Auto Collections. This is the world's largest and finest classic car showroom with \$100 million worth of inventory on display and for sale. Participants

will stroll among more than 250 antique, muscle, famous, historically significant, and special interest vehicles.

Tuesday evening, after the food and cash bar reception, will be a visit to the theater see the popular show featuring Human Nature, an Australian Motown-style singing group sponsored by Smokey Robinson.

The big event on Wednesday evening, after the cash bar reception, will be an all-you-can-eat buffet Farewell Banquet in the Royal Hall. This banquet is right next door to the hospitality room. Special entertainment will be provided to enhance the evening's experience. A deejayed dance, after the banquet and open to the public, with a cash bar, will let the local LGBT community mingle with the attendees.

During the daytime, guests are free to participate in some special tours including a Red Rock State Park and Bonnie Springs tour, Erotic Heritage Museum tour, and Liberace Museum tour and show. Many will visit other casinos on the strip or simply relax around the pool, or visit the hospitality room and socialize with other attendees.

Complete information and registration are available online at www.lasvegasprimetimers.com. For more information e-mail events@lasvegasprimetimers.com, or call (702) 553-5713 and leave a message. •

Royal Court divests \$42,000+

The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire distributed nearly \$43,000 to the community at its annual divestiture ceremony on Friday, January 30 at Badlands Saloon.

The Monarchs of Reign XI (Emperor XI, Christopher the 1st, and Empress XI, the Darling Ginger Grant) distributed the funds raised throughout their reigning year (2009) at the evening's event. In total, the Court distributed \$42,889.48 to the Southern Nevada region and the not-for-profit organizations that work hard to support our community, locally and nationally.

The Sin Sity Sisters AIDS Drug Assistance Program received \$12,250, and the Gay and Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada (The Center) received \$7,750.60. The Monarchs remained impressed throughout the year at the support these two organizations provide for the gay and lesbian community in our region.

Other not-for-profit organizations receiving funds at the January 30 divestiture were:

- The Delphi Foundation — \$2,500
- The Nevada Society for the Prevention of Cru-

elty to Animals — \$1,500

• The Erotic Heritage Museum — \$1,218.46

• The Matthew Shepard Foundation — \$1,127.56

• Street Teens — \$1,000

• Golden Rainbow — \$938.89

• St. Therese Center — \$568

• Community Outreach Medical Center — \$378

In addition, the monarchs made donations to the T-n-T Scholarship Fund (\$4,250) and the Juan Ochoa Memorial Benevolent Fund (\$5895.22). The Monarchs represented the Imperial Court in presenting two scholarships to deserving students at Coronation XII in December, and the Monarchs' donation to the Memorial Benevolent Fund will assist with the funeral expenses of those in need in our community. The Imperial Court also made donations to fellow not-for-profit fundraising organizations like NGR and courts in other cities in the amount of \$3,512.75.

For more information on the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, visit www.desertempire.org. •

Right Pride represents Nevada gay conservatives and straight allies

A new political group has emerged in Nevada, giving gay conservative Americans a voice within the community. Right Pride represents gay Republicans, independents, and their allies here in Nevada and is committed to those who believe in limiting government, protecting free markets, encouraging prosperity, promoting individual responsibility and defending liberty for all.

Right Pride's goals include reaching out to gay and straight Nevadans, to open the lines of communication and find a common ground on traditional conservative issues. Here in Nevada, Right Pride focuses on issues pertaining to education and the economy. "The local response and interest in Right Pride has been better than expected," said Mark Ciavola, President of Right Pride. "We've met several candidates and community leaders who have been very supportive and look forward to working with Right Pride in the

upcoming mid-term elections."

Right Pride is the only local affiliate of GOProud, the nation's single organization representing gay conservatives and their allies who made news in February when they co-sponsored the Conservative Political Action Conference. Membership in Right Pride grows every day, now welcoming more than 35 attendees at each gathering.

"We are thrilled to welcome Right Pride to the GOProud family," said Jimmy LaSalvia, executive director of GOProud. "GOProud's grassroots membership continues to grow every single day as we continue to fight day and night for the issues our members care about."

Right Pride was launched October 1, 2009, the same day LGBT relationships received legal recognition under the state's domestic partnership law. For more information, and upcoming events, visit RightPride.org. •

Gay Games sign-up event to be held at FreeZone

On Thursday, April 8, the FreeZone nightclub in the Fruit Loop will host a special sign-up event for the upcoming Gay Games VIII. Meet representatives from the games, ask questions and view a short presentation and movie, all beginning at 7 p.m. Discounts will be extended to anyone who signs up to participate in the Gay Games at this event.

Gay Games VIII Sports & Cultural Festival will take place from July 31 to August 7, 2010, in Cologne, Germany. The Games will begin with an exciting Opening Ceremony at RheinEnergie Stadium, the city's soccer stadium, where participants will be joined by up to 34,000 spectators.

The Federation of Gay Games is the international governing body that perpetuates the quadrennial Gay Games and promotes the event's founding 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 with 1,350 participants. Subsequent Gay Games were held in San Francisco (1986), Vancouver (1990), New York (1994), Amsterdam (1998), Sydney (2002), and Chicago (2006). The 2014 Gay Games will be in Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

Registration ends May 31. Full details are online at www.games-cologne.com. •

Attention athletes

Las Vegas HRC wins national honors

The Las Vegas Human Rights Campaign Steering Committee won top honors at the 2010 fiscal year-end national Human Rights Committee (HRC) Board Meeting and Equality Convention held recently in Washington, D.C.

The Las Vegas HRC Steering Committee received the following honors: Highest Lobby Day Participation, Achievement in State Legislation, Web Content Manager of the Year, and HRC Gala Dinner of the Year.

In addition to the awards ceremony, Las Ve-

gas HRC members participated in the annual Human Rights Campaign Lobby Day on Capitol Hill. The team met and discussed key legislation items with Nevada's Congressional delegation including Representative Shelley Berkley, Representative Dean Heller, Representative Dina Titus, Senator John Ensign and staff from the office of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

To view photos of the Equality Convention or for more information on Las Vegas HRC, please visit <http://lasvegas.hrc.org>. •

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Hot new
play

A Mormon boy confesses soon at Onyx Theatre

Confessions of a Mormon Boy is Steven Fales' compelling, humorous and inspiring true story about how he went from being a Mormon boy in Utah to a high-priced call boy in New York City. His provocative tale takes the audience through his excommunication from the Mormon church, marriage, having children, divorce, prostitution and drug abuse, as he struggles to reclaim himself, his children and his "Donny Osmond smile." The play was written to help end spiritual violence against gays and lesbians in churches, synagogues and mosques.

Confessions has toured extensively across the country and received the 2008 Oscar Wilde Award Nomination for Outstanding New Writing in the Theatre at the Dublin International Gay Theatre Festival; a New York Outer Critics Circle Award Nomination for Outstanding Solo Performance; and an Overall Excellence Award at the 2004 New York International Fringe Festival. The book of the play, *Confessions of a Mormon Boy* (Alyson Books) was a recent finalist for a Lambda Literary Award.

Steven Fales grew up in Las Vegas and graduated from Clark High School. His mother graduated from Las Vegas High School and his father is a respected LDS physician in Las Vegas. A classically trained actor with an MFA in acting from the University of Connecticut. He turned to writing and stand-up when his perfect Mormon world fell apart. Born in Provo, Utah, Fales began performing as a young boy singing solos in church. Credits include leading roles at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Pioneer Theatre Company, Coconut Grove Playhouse, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Sundance Theatre and has worked in film and television. Other solo shows include *Missionary Position*, *Who's Your Daddy?*, and *Mormon American Princess*.

Fales' former mother-in-law is celebrated Mormon poet Carol Lynn Pearson whose autobiography *Good-bye, I Love You* (Random House 1986), poignantly recounts her relationship with her gay ex-husband who died of AIDS in her home. Fales married their oldest daughter, Emily, and together they have two children whom they raise in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Off-Strip Productions/Onyx Theatre is in its fourth season of programming. In 2008 and 2009 the Onyx Theatre was voted best performing arts group in Las Vegas by the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. In its recent "Best of Las Vegas" issue, *Las Vegas Weekly* named Onyx Theatre as number three in their top ten list of things to do in Las Vegas.

Partial proceeds from opening night on Thursday, April 22, will benefit the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. A special question and answer period with Steven Fales will follow.

For additional information, visit www.mormonboy.com. Tickets are \$25 and available at www.onyxtheatre.com or by calling (702) 732-7225. Onyx Theatre is located 953 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. 16 in Commercial Center. ●



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Elton John/Billy Joel tribute opens

The Ultimate Tribute to Sir Elton John & Billy Joel starring veteran tribute artists Jeffrey Allen and Michael John opened for a limited engagement at the Las Vegas Rocks Café's Embassy Theatre on Thursday, March 25. They headline on Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 p.m.

Allen and John have joined forces to create a highly successful show that has audiences raving. Just like the original tour, each artist performs a solo set with a killer five-to-six piece rock 'n' roll band, and then culminate the show with a face-to-face set featuring both of them playing together on two pianos and trading off lyrics on each song they perform.

This true rock 'n' roll show provides a night of hit songs, energetic performances and outra-

geous costumes. In addition, the dynamic duo sprinkles the show with funny performance bits, sing-along parts, and spontaneous humor.

Tickets for *The Ultimate Tribute to Sir Elton John & Billy Joel* are \$19.95 plus tax for general admission, \$29.95 plus tax for premium seating, and only \$49.95 plus tax and gratuity for a three-course salmon or chicken dinner and premium seating. For show tickets and reservations, call the Las Vegas Rocks Café Box Office at (702) 227-5872 (LVRC).

The new Las Vegas Rocks Café, downtown at Neonopolis (450 Fremont St.), has easy access parking on Fourth Street between Fremont Street and Ogden in the underground Neonopolis Parking Garage. ●

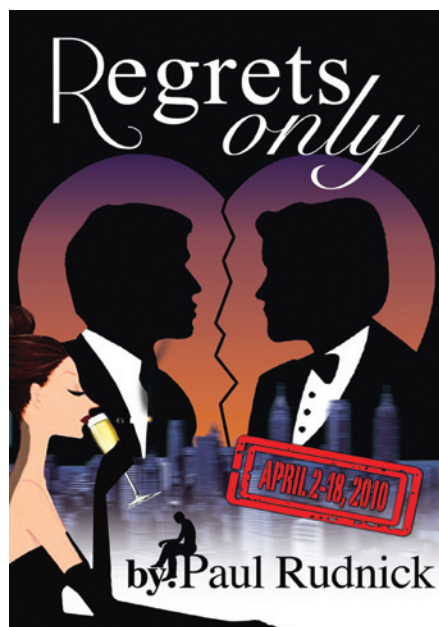
LVLТ presents *Regrets Only*

The wedding invitations have all been sent. The wedding gown has been chosen. The bridesmaid's dresses have been fitted. The tuxes have been tried on. The flowers have been arranged. The band and caterers are ready to go. And then....everyone vanishes. It's not an alien invasion. It's a Day Without Gay!

Las Vegas Little Theatre continues its tradition of quality entertainment with their latest play, *Regrets Only*, a witty and hilarious drawing room comedy by Paul Rudnick, American playwright, screenwriter and novelist. His other plays include *Valhalla*, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, *I Hate Hamlet* and *Jeffrey*, for which he won an Obie, an Outer Critics Circle Award and the John Gassner Playwriting Award. His novels are *Social Disease* and *I'll Take It*, both published by Knopf. His articles and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair* and *The New York Times*. Rudnick also wrote for *Premiere* magazine under the pseudonym Libby Gelman-Waxner, whose collected columns have been published under the title, *If You Ask Me*. His screenplays include *Addams Family Values*, the screen adaptation of *Jeffrey*, and *In & Out*.

The plot of *Regrets Only* revolves around the issue of gay marriage. World-famous fashion designer, Hank Hadley, whose longtime partner has recently died, is a long-time friend with the sophisticated and wealthy McCulloughs. Hank is the frequent escort of Manhattan socialite Tibby McCullough, whose husband, Jack, a high-powered lawyer, has been personally asked by the president to help draft a constitutional anti-gay-marriage amendment. Daughter Spencer McCullough, a high-powered attorney in her own right, breathlessly announces that she is about to enter into matrimony, much to the delight of her parents, and her ditzzy grandmother ("Ah...her first marriage.").

Hank, who professes to be politically askew, begins to wonder if his relationship with his friends has been equitable, or whether he is being treated as a second-class citizen. He also questions his own feelings about marriage, both gay



and straight. So, to make a point, Hank makes a few phone calls and organizes a gay strike, involving every hairdresser, florist, dressmaker, party planner (and even a few elected officials) that wreaks havoc on Spencer's wedding preparations.

Regrets Only stars Brian Scott as Hank; Gillen Brey as mischievous maid Myra Kesselman; Marlena Shapiro as socialite and professional event-attender Tibby; Peter Vitale as power lawyer Jack; Stacia Zinkevich as lawyer/daughter/bride-to-be Spencer; and Barbara Costa as Tibby's loopy mother Marietta Claypoole. Helming this fabulous production is Walter Nijadlik.

Regrets Only, by Paul Rudnick, will be presented at Las Vegas Little Theatre (3920 Schiff Drive), from April 2 through April 18. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night performances begin at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinees start at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$19 for students and senior citizens.

For more information, and to purchase tickets, please visit www.lvlt.org or phone the theatre box office at (702) 362-7996. •

New exhibit coming soon to BGFA

Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art (BGFA) is pleased to announce the opening of "Figuratively Speaking: A Survey of the Human Form" May 1 (continuing through January 9, 2011). Organized in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD) and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MFA), "Figuratively Speaking" will present figurative works by such artists as Pierre-August Renoir, Pablo Picasso, Alberto Giacometti, Joseph

Cornell, Roy Lichtenstein, David Hockney, Judith Shea, Bill Viola, Yoshitomo Nara, Vanessa Beecroft and many others.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for Nevada residents and seniors 65 and older, \$10 for students, teachers and military with valid ID. Children 12 and younger are free. Tickets and information are available by calling (702) 693-7871 or (877) 957-9777, or online at www.bellagio.com or www.ticketmaster.com. •



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Pride Week kicks off with revamped annual art show

For years now, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada has kicked off Las Vegas Pride Week with its annual art show, and this year will be no exception. However, when the event returns on Friday, April 2, it will be with a new name—ARTrageous Vegas!—an art extravaganza and a new attitude. “Traditionally, our art show has focused on local artists and was held at The Center” said Candice Nichols, executive director of The Center. “This year, as we’re revisiting all our fund-raising events, we decided to give our little event a face lift, growing it to explore art in its many forms.”



The event will be moving from The Center to The Aruba Hotel and Spa and will showcase art from local talents as part of a program that will include visual and performance art, culinary art, body painting, music, food and much more. “Moving to The Aruba provides us with the great opportunity of creating different areas and moods through which we’ll invite all in attendance to take in different forms of art and

to challenge how it’s defined,” explains Desiree Duncan, one of the event coordinators. “We’ve got a full evening planned, which includes not only the art exhibit but various performances, demonstrations, and will go well into the wee hours of the morning with a cabaret featuring some of the talent that can be seen nightly at one of the many Las Vegas Strip shows. One thing’s for sure: we are expanding the realm of art, and there will be something there for everyone!”

While Duncan remains guarded about the details of the evening’s program to preserve the element of surprise, she confirms that the event will remain as accessible and inclusive as possible. “This is a community event,” she says, “and will remain representative of the great talent that exists right here in Las Vegas.”

Duncan sums it best: “We’re very excited about the direction that ARTrageous Vegas! is taking. Of course, it’s always a little daunting to take an event in a new direction, but we’ve got a solid team, a great theme and an amazing slate of talents lined up—so we’re very confident that we will have a great event this year, a great foundation on which to build in the future.” ●

ARTrageous Vegas! will be held at the Aruba Hotel and Spa (1215 Las Vegas Blvd. S.) from 6 p.m. on Friday, April 23 until 6 a.m. on Saturday, April 24. Admission is \$20 per person at the door.

Staying silent in solidarity

The Day of Silence is the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Students across the country—from middle school to college—participate in the Day of Silence to bring attention to anti-LGBTQ name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. In solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of students who will take a vow of silence during this year’s Day of Silence, The Center will host a rally on Friday, April 16 from 5:15 to 6:30 pm. The rally will feature speeches and performances (including music, poetry and spoken word) by local LGBTQ youth and their allied peers as well as information and community resources on the prevention of suicide and sexual violence. Please join us as we take action to create safer schools for all students. What will you do to break the silence? Please contact Mel Goodwin at (702) 733-9800 or mel@thecenterlv.com with any questions about this event. ●

Save the
Date

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, serving our LGBT population for more than 15 years, is conveniently located in Commercial Center at 953 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. B-31. To learn more about The Center and its many services, visit www.thecenterlv.com or call 702-733-9800.

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"Simply Sinsational"

BY J.SON

NAKED BOY NEWS

An inspirational day in our nation's capital

Hello, all my naked people. I had an exciting March and spent two weeks on the east coast, visiting New York and Washington, D.C. I was in our nation's capital on March 9, the day the first gay couple was legally married under the new marriage law that took effect there.

The city itself is very inspirational, and I

wanted to share these photographs with you and the experience of being in our nation's capital on that historic day.

If you've never been to D.C. or haven't been in a while, I recommend a spring or summer getaway there. Soon it will be scorching hot in Vegas, so what better place than D.C. to go and explore. ●



◀ LINCOLN MEMORIAL

This memorial dedicated to the president who freed the slaves is one of the most inspirational spots in all of D.C. I talked to several people while at the Lincoln memorial and most were very supportive of same-sex marriage and were glad the nation's capital was leading the way when it comes to equality for all.



SUPREME COURT BUILDING ▶

I had to stop by the Supreme Court since Chief Justice John Roberts—even with pressure from some groups—would not overturn the same-sex marriage bill, therefore helping make same-sex marriage legal in D.C. Although he is a conservative man, he realized that overturning a local matter was not up to the Supreme Court. God Bless America and our political and legal system.

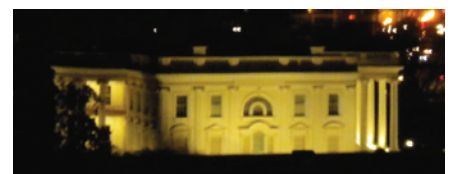


◀ WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Built in honor of our first president and as the tallest structure in D.C., the Washington Monument is a sight to see. Washington may have been our first president, yet D.C. was not the first to legalize same sex marriage. However, since it's our nation's capital, it is a great marker in the way the country is feeling on equal rights.

POV AT THE W HOTEL ▶

I wrapped up my tour of the city with a stop at the famous POV lounge on the rooftop of the W Hotel. POV stands for Point Of View, and wow what a view POV has. On one side, you get a view of the White House, and on the other side you have a view of the Washington Monument. If you get a chance to stop by for dinner, I'd highly recommend it; from the tasty drinks to signature tapas, it is a taste treat for your mouth.



J.Son is the host of the popular web series Naked Boy News and has been seen on CNN, MTV and A&E. For the latest Naked Boy News visit www.NakedBoyNews.com

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PRIDE Idol ^[21+]

FreeZone Las Vegas
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Finals April 18 | 10pm - Midnight

PRIDE's Youth Pageant

The Center
Saturday, April 10 | 7pm to 10pm

PRIDE Sin City Q Social ^[21+]

Brett Wesley Gallery
Tuesday, April 20 | 7pm to 10pm

PRIDE Kick-Off Party ^[21+]

Charlie's Las Vegas
Thursday, April 22 - 9pm

ARTrageous Vegas

The Aruba Hotel & Spa
Friday, April 23 | 6pm to 4am

PRIDE Women's Picnic

Lone Mountain Park, Group Area "A"
Saturday, April 24 | Noon to 5pm

NGRA's Salute To The Grand Ole Opry ^[21+]

Badlands Saloon
Saturday, April 24 | 9pm

PRIDE Family Skate Night

Boulder Crystal Palace Skating Center
Monday, April 26 | 8pm to 10pm

Men's Entourage PRIDE Party ^[18+]

Entourage Vegas Spa & Health Club
Monday, April 26 | 10pm

PRIDE Sin City Q Social

Fashion Show Mall
Tuesday, April 27 | 7pm to 10pm

PRIDE Girl's Party ^[21+]

Piranha Nightclub
Wednesday, April 28 | 10pm

PRIDE Boy's Party ^[21+]

Piranha Nightclub
Thursday, April 29 | 10pm

LVL Connection Women's Mixer ^[21+]

Bugsy's
Thursday, April 29 | 6pm to 10pm

PRIDE (& Prejudice) Exhibit

5th Street School
Thursday, April 29 | 5pm to 7pm
Friday, April 30 | 7pm to 10pm

PRIDE Parade

Grandstand at 4th St. & Bridger Ave.
Friday, April 30 | 8pm

PRIDE Festival

Clark County Government Center
Saturday, May 1 | Noon to 10pm

Heaven

PRIDE Festival Afterparty ^[21+]

Bare Pool Lounge
Saturday, May 1 | 10:30pm

Men's T-Dance ^[21+]

Blue Moon Resort
Sunday, May 2 | Noon to 8pm

Women's Pool Party

Luxor Hotel & Casino South Pool
Sunday, May 2 | 2pm to 6pm

Sin City Sisters PRIDE Bingo ^[21+]

Goodtimes
Sunday, May 2 | 5pm to 7pm

Closet Sundays

PRIDE Closing Party ^[21+]

Revolution Lounge
Sunday, May 2 | 10pm

Buy Tickets Online At: www.LasVegasPRIDE.org

green



blue



violet



we walk **until our services** **are no longer needed**

BY SHANE COLLINS



In 2003, Denise Amlie's brother lost his battle with AIDS. However, Amlie only felt more inspiration to continue his legacy and fight for a cure.

Every year, a group affectionately dubbed "Team Winos" gears up with wild shirts and off the wall banners. Throughout the year they set aside their glasses of Pinot Noir and opt for fund-raising yard sales, "dinners with a cause" and selling trendy wine-related doo-dads. However, don't expect this money to go toward cases of imported French Bordeaux. Instead, Team Winos prepares for the annual AIDS Walk Las Vegas, taking place April 25 at World Market Center downtown.

"While walking the Las Vegas AIDS Walk alone [the year my brother died], I vowed to always keep this issue close to my heart," Amlie explained. "The following year, Team Winos was born."

Amlie, a long time supporter of Aid for AIDS of Nevada (AFAN) and captain for Team Winos, said the idea to form the team came over a couple glasses of red wine with some friends. Over the past two years her team raised more than \$6,000, and Amlie expects the same this year.

"I couldn't fathom not being part of this yearly [walk]," Amlie said. "Participation in the AIDS Walk is an important part of my life. I realize that the contributions raised from the AIDS Walk are vital to AFAN to continue their essential services for those who desperately need their help."

This marks the 20th anniversary of the walk, and Jared Hafen, client services supervisor for AFAN, said the walk grew over the last seven years he has been working for the organization. The number of walkers increased from 5,000 to 8,000 in the years Hafen has worked the walk, with a major increase in corporate teams. This year's new teams include Jason's Deli and Fiji Water, among others.

Last year, the walk raised more than \$550,000 and had more than 250 teams participate. Hafen said that during tough economic times, the encouragement and money raised is still expected to exceed last year's total, demonstrating the strong support for AFAN's goals and a tight-knit community.

"The AFAN AIDS Walk Las Vegas is our largest fund-raising event of the year," Hafen said. "Although we receive some state and federal funding, we try to leverage that by 50 percent. The walk really helps."

The energy on walk day is extremely high, as the teams are geared up for a great cause. In addition, Penn and Teller are the Grand Marshals for the 2010 walk and liven up the event with a little comedy before the walk begins. Walkers can also take the Penn and Teller Challenge, in which the comedy duo will match 100 percent of whatever money is raised.

Last year, the walkers participating in the Penn and Teller Challenge raised \$60,000, which meant the Challenge brought in more than \$120,000 for AFAN, Hafen explained. He added the team

grows every year.

"The people [coming out to show support] are so diverse—gay, straight, old, young," Amlie explained. "All people, all coming together to show their support. It's an awesome day!"

Chris Saldaña, general assignment reporter for Channel 8 Eyewitness News, will be hosting and walking in the walk for the second year. Saldaña is a strong supporter of the gay and lesbian community.

The walk is just less than two miles and starts at the World Market Center. The route goes through the downtown area and ends where it began.

The AFAN AIDS Walk inspires hope that one day a cure will be found. "The perception of AIDS goes up and down. Some years it seems that people don't even realize it's still around. The reality of it is that more than one million men, women and children are infected with HIV in the United States, and there are 40,000 new cases every year," Hafen said.

AFAN was founded in 1984 and is the oldest and largest AIDS service organization in Nevada with just over 3,000 men, women and children in Las Vegas and parts of the surrounding Mohave and Nye Counties seeking their services. The organization offers food programs, prevention and education, community outreach and housing programs to help those infected. They help the clients stay on medical compliance through partnerships with University Medical Center's Wellness Center and the Southern Nevada Health District, Hafen explained.

The annual AIDS Walk helps fund all these programs. However, as Hafen put it, this is the organization whose main goal is to eventually disappear, meaning when a cure for AIDS has been found. "We will continue to walk until our services are no longer needed," he said. ●

To sign up to participate in the AFAN AIDS Walk Las Vegas, visit afanlv.org





GET MOVING. INVOLVED.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Las Vegas is proud to once again partner with Aid for AIDS for Nevada (AFAN) to host the annual HRC Family Picnic. This year's picnic will immediately follow the AIDS Walk, taking place conveniently at the World Market Center downtown. The HRC Family Picnic will feature events such as a BBQ, kids play area, softball and face painting. Become involved in the walk and enjoy an afternoon of fun while showing your support for two very important Southern Nevada organizations.

"It's the second year now that we've partnered with Aid for AIDS of Nevada, scheduling our picnic immediately after the annual AIDS Walk. Our initial joint effort proved to be an incredible success and we are confident that our ongoing relationship will make our events this year even more successful," said Eric Sharp, HRC Las Vegas Membership and Community Events Co-Chair.

During last year's picnic, the the HRC Nevada Government Leadership Award was presented to the Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) in recognition of their dedication and tireless work to place adoptive children in safe, loving homes regardless of the parent's sexual orientation or

gender identification.

While HRC is widely known for political and legislative work, the Family Picnic features many aspects of HRC's proactive involvement on a local level. The event shows how diverse and extensive community support is among the Las Vegas Valley while also giving a venue to educate on the programs HRC supports. The Family Picnic also allows an opportunity for HRC to take a pulse of the constituents it represents and whose rights they assert and defend.

"It's really thrilling for all of us to be back for a third year with this picnic and to see how this event has grown, in large part thanks to our partnering with AFAN. We always wanted this to be a fun community event, but that we can take full advantage of it to articulate our support for a valued community partner such as AFAN means a lot to all of us. We hope that once again this year, people will come walk for the cause, and then join our family picnic," said Ramiro Martinez, who's also a membership and community events co-chair.

"This is our third year and again, we couldn't possibly pull this off without the support of our returning and new sponsors, and

of our tireless volunteers who always answer the call with enthusiasm. They make this day simply spectacular," added HRC Las Vegas Event Co-coordinator Steele Haney.

So grab your friends, family and a pair of walking shoes then head down to the World Market Center on Sunday, April 25. Enjoy a morning of walking and an afternoon of picnic fun. Admission to the HRC Family Picnic is \$7 or pre-sale tickets can be purchased for \$5 by visiting hrc.lasvegas.org.

Join the HRC team at the AFAN AIDS Walk

Once again this year, HRC is happy to partner with AFAN and to hold its annual family picnic immediately following the AIDS Walk. Please join our team of walkers and help us exceed our fundraising goal of \$5,000. For more information on the AFAN AIDS Walk, please visit www.afanlv.org.



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A PRIDE WEEK TO REMEMBER

BY ANI BIESIADA

ON APRIL 30, Las Vegas PRIDE's 27th year will commence. This year, the pride committee is shaking things up by breathing new enthusiasm into the event. They hope to stand united with seasoned supporters as well as garner new advocates from the Las Vegas community by reaching out to LGBT-friendly businesses.

With the PRIDE Parade opening up the weekend's activities, it is pushing for ample support from the Las Vegas community.

"The parade is the energy that kicks off the festival," said SteveEric, entertainment coordinator.

The nighttime parade will light-up Fremont Street as it weaves through the streets of downtown Las Vegas, making the LGBT community's presence known.

Cox cable is partnering with Las Vegas Pride to broadcast the event live. It is going to capture the trail of businesses that are participating, and make the parade accessible to every single home in Las Vegas with cable, said Ernie Yuen, parade coordinator.

The parade is expecting about 100 businesses to join the effort in making the city a more tolerant place for the LGBT community.

"We still have lots of room in the parade. And one of the nice things about this event is that if we need more space, we just take over another road," said Jake Naylor, president of Las Vegas PRIDE.

Mixed in the parade is a possibility of a sneak preview of the entertainment acts for the week.

SteveEric has created a list of noted performers, both mainstream and gay. "We try to outreach to a lot of other organizations and nonprofits that want to showcase their talents," he said. "We have a full lineup this year and a

lot of random surprises. There's a ton of amazing featured performers."

The genres of entertainers range from live music to performance arts, dance troupes and drag queens. From MTV's popular show, *America's Next Dance Crew*, Fanny Pak is on this year's pride circuit, as well as the talented Broadway star and former *Peepshow* lead, Shoshanna Bean.

Hosting this year's Las Vegas PRIDE week is the invaluable Worthie Meacham a.k.a Momma. The well-known drag queen merges singing, dancing and comedy and delivers it without flaw to her audience.

Las Vegas PRIDE week also caters to families. Amidst a backdrop of neon lights, where everything goes, the pride committee has made it a top priority to make choices that are kid-friendly. Many of the entertainment choices were made deliberately in an attempt to keep the cursing to a minimum, and is not overly provocative.

"We showcase family-oriented acts that encompass LGBT families," SteveEric said.

The choices that were made in the line-up of performers attempts to break the mold of any stereotypes. SteveEric said that he hopes that by trying to diversify the entertainment options, it will display a different side of the community.

Extending the family-friendly tone, PRIDE has expanded the festival ground.

"More vendors, entertainment, and larger area for family. So, LGBT families with children will have art projects to do and can take their kids for face painting and story time. And those type of activities for younger children," Naylor said.

The mission of the event is to create an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming, and accommodates many subsets of the LGBT community. This environment does not always extend its support to the LGBT community, so it is PRIDE Week's goal to melt away any reservations at-

tendees might have. This event is where they can feel safe and free from judgment, Naylor said.

"PRIDE Week is about pulling together the community. We don't have very many opportunities throughout the year where the entire LGBT community can get together and be united at a common event," he said.

PRIDE in Las Vegas usually flies under the radar within the pride circuit. However, SteveEric said that the PRIDE committee has ambitions aspirations that Las Vegas PRIDE will eventually become an international destination.

Many local non-profits are also rallying in support of the event, and this will be an opportunity for the LGBT community to cross-pollinate with the non-profits and interact with their organizations.

"It's a great way for us to meet all these different organizations that support and help our community and find out ways that they can help out," Naylor said. "Everyone is so different, and the event has so many different facets, that we try and accommodate so many parts of the community and so many different tastes."

Every day of PRIDE Week will be something new that provides both guys and girls with fun activities to do. It is by and large an event that thrives off the support of the community and has fueled the awareness of the LGBT community within the Las Vegas community.

"Las Vegas PRIDE is about showing our community to the rest of the Las Vegas community," Yuen said. ●

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO LAS VEGAS PRIDE 2010

Pick up an advance copy of *The Official Guide to Las Vegas Pride 2010* at most QVegas distribution points throughout April so learn the full details behind the phenomenal week of activities the Las Vegas PRIDE board has planned this year. If you can't find one in your area, view our digital edition online at www.QVegas.com, available in early April.

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THIS AIN'T YOUR ORDINARY HEALTH I * S * S * U * E

Get off your duff and do something about your social health

BY ANN FEISTER

In Las Vegas it's easy to sometimes forget that there are options other than going to the Strip if we want to have fun and socialize. Being socially healthy has strong positive effects not only for each of us individually but also for our community as a whole.

"As a risk factor for premature death, social isolation is as big a risk factor as smoking," Harvard professor, Robert D. Putnam stated in his speech at Harvard's annual Mental Health Awareness Week. So interpret that as you will, but being social is something that we all need in our lives to be happy and complete individuals.

In light of recent economic slumping and belly bulging, people are looking for less expensive and healthier recreational activities. Luckily we are not confined to our cubicles and carpool lanes all day, every day. Getting involved may take away from some of our precious "me" time, but otherwise it's easier than ever, thanks in part to social networking sites like Meetup.com. Meetup is a rare breed in the social networking realm; instead of counting how many virtual friends you have, you're given the opportunity to go out be active and actually make new friends.

Meetup has options for a plethora of activities. If you're the outdoors type, the LGBT Friends Hiking group may be your cup of tea. They meet a few times every month and have varying levels of difficulty for new to experienced hikers posted on their site. Children and dogs are allowed to come on some of the hikes depending on the terrain and most of the hikes are only a 15 minute drive to get to your meeting point.

If you're more politically minded, then LV Equality may be what you're look-

ing for. This group puts their energy into fighting issues like Prop 8, protesting injustices, fund-raising, etc. for the LGBT community. Currently they're working on a letter writing campaign on Constance McMillan's behalf.

These are just a couple of the groups that are open to anyone and are free to join. Just remember that everyone who you're going to meet with in these groups felt exactly how you did at some point and that's what led them to the group. And if the first group you try isn't what you're looking for, who cares! You probably missed out on a few hours of watching TV or running errands. Try again next week and eventually you're going to find one that fits. ●

Enhanced performance and sexual health readily available

Male sexual health is intimately linked to overall health and life contentment, says Dr. John J. Pierce, an anti-aging and men's sexual health expert. He's the medical director of a Las Vegas clinic that gives a medical option to men troubled by sexual performance. The clinic is also committed to serving the gay community and helping men find sexual fulfillment in their intimate partnerships.

When men age they often struggle with changes, which some experts compare to menopause in women, such as erectile dysfunction and premature ejaculation. Pierce says men struggling with these problems don't have to retreat into loneliness. Men can have a healthful life and be confident in their sexual needs and desired performance.

"Male Medical Clinics can give men a sense of confidence and

medical security," he says. "Our affordable medications include FDA-approved ingredients for men of all ages, even those with health difficulties, such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, prostate problems or men taking nitrates."

The clinic can also prescribe testosterone treatments following an office consultation, diagnostic tests, medical evaluation and test dose. Testosterone is identified by many experts as a catalyst to increasing libido and returning a youthful vigor to men's sexual lives. The Mayo Clinic researchers describe testosterone as a hormone that helps maintain many vital functions in the male body, including bone density, fat distribution, muscle mass and strength, red blood cell production, sex drive and sperm production.

According to Mayo Clinic studies, testosterone deficiency begins after the age of 40, when the testes produce less of the hormone. This can have several effects on the body. In addition to the loss of libido, men also report other challenging health concerns, such as increasing fat and declining energy. They also find decreases in muscle mass and bone density. Many men are further aggravated by a loss in mental focus and concentration.

So, what can men do to overcome this? Pierce cites several studies showing testosterone therapy helps more men in clinical trials over the placebo. One study, conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, found that patients given the medication experienced statistically significant and clinically relevant improvements in erectile functioning.

Many men cannot take prescription drugs like Viagra, Levitra and Cialis because of preexisting medical conditions or because of unacceptable side effects, yet the problem of erectile dysfunction is expected to dramatically increase. In 1995, 11.5 million men experienced erectile dysfunction, according to the 2002 study "Issues in the Assessment and Treatment of Erectile Dysfunction: Individualizing and Optimizing Therapy for the 'Silent Majority'" published by Dr. Gerald B. Brock. By 2025, the number of men suffering from erectile dysfunction is expected to increase to 21 million.

Researchers find that even men with heart disease can enjoy a healthful sex life. The treatment program for erectile dysfunction has a high success rate in patients with cardiovascular disease. Overall, nearly 99 percent achieved a sufficient erection immediately after the trial, 92 percent on follow-up, with 11 percent achieving spontaneous erections, according to a *Journal of Urology* study.

Pierce, a Nevada-licensed physician, is medical director for Male Medical Clinics and Ageless Forever, an age management clinic located in Las Vegas for more than 10 years. He draws on his knowledge as a competitive athlete, with special interests in weight training and nutrition, to treat his clients. Pierce embraces all aspects of age management and wellness issues. He dedicates himself to broadening his expertise in the sexual-health field. One of the things the doctor enjoys most is helping men who prefer not to visit a traditional medical doctor for performance problems. The hospital environment can be intimidating, Pierce says. Many men prefer to see a specialist for a convenient 60-minute appointment, rather than waiting a long time to see their general practitioner. When the men come to the clinic, they receive tests that could help determine if their erectile dysfunction is linked to an existing medical condition. In cases such as these, Male Medical Clinics could help expedite a diagnosis.

"I enjoy helping men reach their full life potential," he says. "In addition to prescribing medications to benefit the patient, I also advise men to begin a healthful exercise and eating regimen, which could also maximize their health and increase sexual satisfaction."

In a tough economic time, many men wonder how much they should budget for such therapy. After the \$199 office visit at Male Medical Clinics, which includes a medical evaluation, medication costs vary, Pierce says. All medications are priced reasonably, he says, so the clinic can serve the greatest population of patients who need its treatments. ●

For more information on Male Medical Clinics, go to 7455 W. Washington Ave., Ste. 280, call (702) 541-5490, or visit www.malemedicalclinics.com.

It's amazing all the trouble your mouth can get you into

BY AFSHIN AZIMI, DDS

Periodontal disease, commonly referred to as gum disease, is an infection of the structures surrounding and supporting teeth in the mouth, including gum, bone and ligaments around the tooth. It is estimated that 90 percent of the population has some degree of gum disease ranging from slight inflammation of the gum to varying degrees of bone loss.

Against common belief that tooth decay is responsible for people losing their teeth, periodontal disease is the number one cause of tooth loss. Like any other infection, bacteria are the causative agents in this process.

Out of approximately 500-700 different types of bacteria that exist in the mouth on average, only about a dozen or so contribute to gum disease in the mouth. Unlike other infections, however,

and due to the exposure of the oral cavity to the outside world, the possibility of complete eradication of these bacteria in the mouth for any length of time does not exist. Add to this the fact that these bacteria feed off the same nutrients and that the oral cavity is the first place of entry for food, and you realize why complete elimination of these bacteria is an impossibility.

All we can do to control and/or cure gum disease is to keep the number of these bacteria in the mouth to a minimum, hence minimizing or practically stopping periodontal disease. That is why proper oral hygiene and professional support are extremely important in controlling this condition. One should brush at least twice a day and floss at least once a day. Ideally, one wants to brush and floss after each meal, to make sure that the nutrients that supply food for bacterial growth and proliferation are removed immediately from the oral cavity, therefore minimizing their access to food.

Some people are under the wrong impression that brushing alone takes care of all or most their dental needs. While brushing is very important, the critical contact areas between our teeth are not reached and cleaned by a tooth brush. The dental floss is the right tool to clean these areas. In fact, most gum disease is detected in these contact areas where food particles and subsequently bacteria reside and cause damage. ►



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◀ Bacteria causing periodontal disease can be transferred to another person through kissing and sharing of utensils. This puts couples and sexual partners at risk for exposure to these bacteria. This reinforces the importance of proper oral hygiene practices and professional maintenance dental visits.

Another aspect of periodontal disease and why it should not be ignored is its link to several systemic (whole body) health conditions. Systemic conditions that gum disease has been linked to, and are exacerbated by uncontrolled periodontal disease, include increased chances for heart attack and stroke, kidney and lung conditions, worsening effect on diabetes and vice versa, pregnancy complications, premature birth, pancreatic and colon cancer.

While gum disease can have severe consequences both in the mouth and the rest of the body, it is relatively easy to prevent, control and maintain. Proper home oral hygiene combined with appropriate treatment and regular maintenance by your dental team result in a healthy mouth and body. ●

For more information or an appointment with Afshin Azimi, DDS, visit www.drazimi.com or call (702) 759-0005.

Hooked on hookahs?

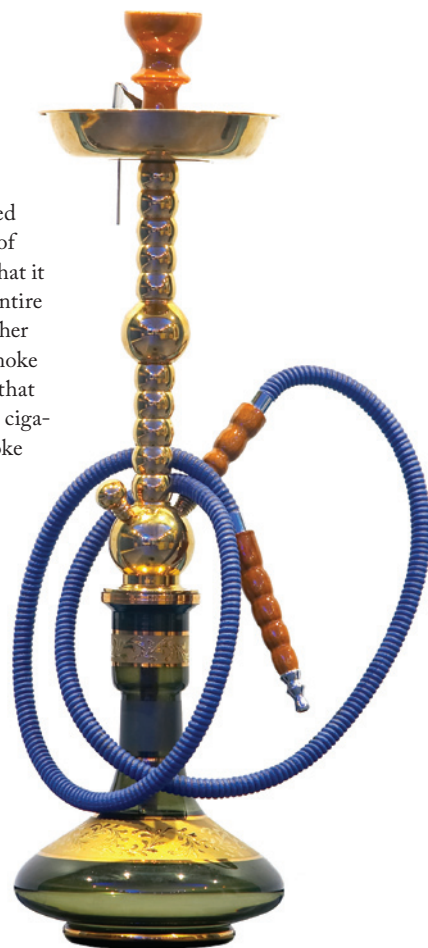
BY JEFF ECKER

The notion that smoking hookahs is as harmful to your body as ciga-

rettes has little scientific data to substantiate the claim. The “experts” compare hookah and cigarette smoke using varying sets of data. One frequently posted evaluation compares the volume of inhaled smoke. One problem is that it uses a single cigarette versus an entire hour of smoking a hookah. Another is that hookah smokers do not smoke hookahs 20 times per day, while that rate of consumption is typical for cigarette smokers. Those who do smoke hookahs do it occasionally, not every day, and many don’t even inhale, or inhale very lightly. Who can say the same for cigarette smokers?

Hookahs are generally used in social settings by groups. Customers at Paymon’s Hookah Lounges come in, on average, a few times a month, and the hookahs last about 30 to 40 minutes before they burn out.

Nor does anything show that hookah smoke is ►



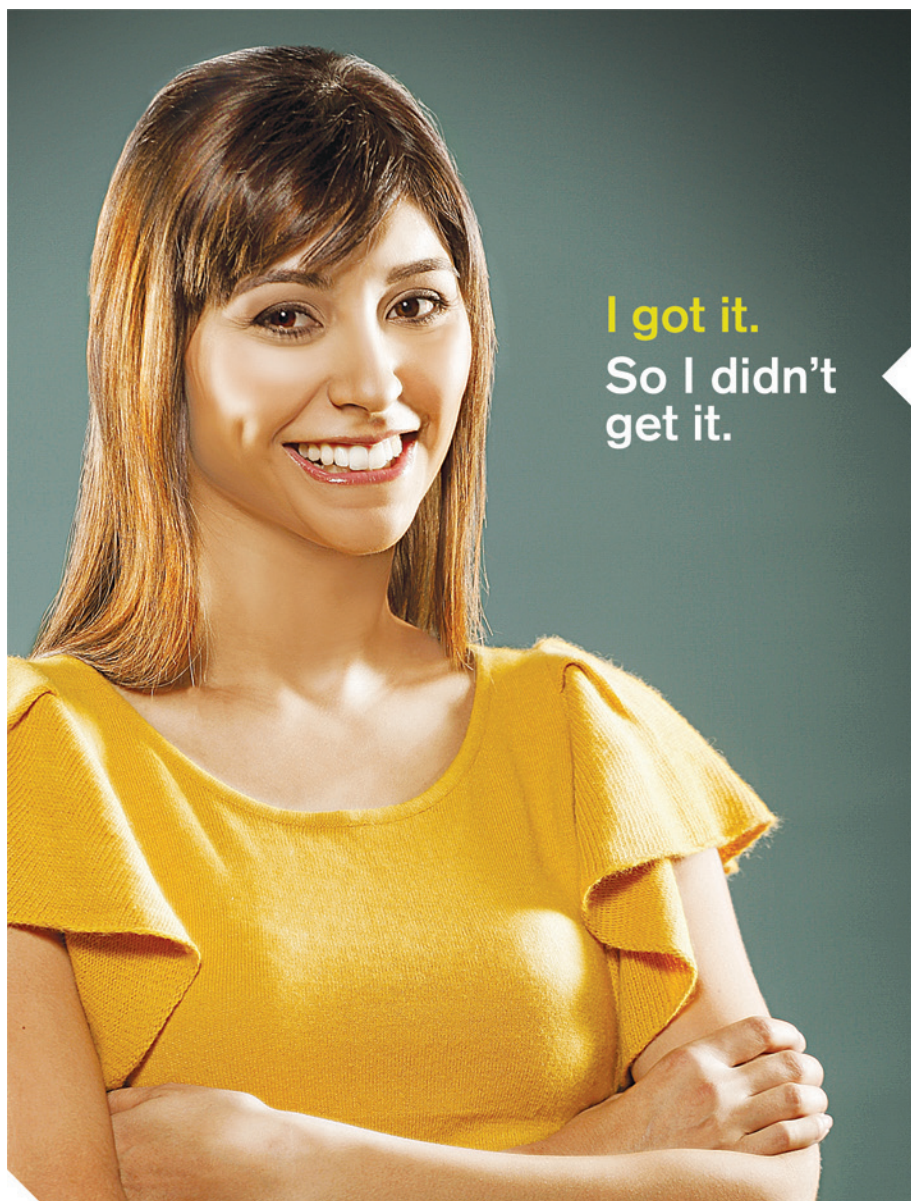
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- > Health care workers

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◀ equally as harmful as cigarette smoke, since the compounds and quantities are not published from a legitimate, scientifically controlled study.

The Mayo Clinic makes claims such as, "Hookah smoke poses dangers associated with secondhand smoke," without citing studies. On its Web site, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states that, "Hookah smoking is typically practiced in groups, with the same mouthpiece passed from person to person." It is common knowledge that hookahs in public or private are used with plastic, single-use mouthpieces.

The CDC also says hookah smoke delivers the same addictive drug, nicotine (shown in bold lettering, even!), as found in cigarettes. However it fails to mention the quantity of nicotine in a hookah versus a cigarette. As the operator of America's first official hookah lounge, which opened 10 years ago, I have yet to see someone carrying around their hookah to get a fix.

On Cancer.org, it states, "Several types of cancer, including lung cancer, have been linked to hookah smoking." Yet again, no scientifically controlled studies supporting this claim are cited.

The International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health does cite a recent review in the *Journal of the International Union of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease*, that "it openly declares that hookah smoking might well be a ploy of the tobacco industry." Apart from various misquotations, errors and underlying paranoia about Big Tobacco, it also presents a selection of studies with no comments on the fact that the participants were simultaneous or former smokers of cigarettes or other products.

So, what is the reason for these recent, unsubstantiated attacks on hookah smoking? Let's look at some possible sources. Tobacco companies are always averse to competition, despite what some conspiracy-minded journals believe, and hold incredible political influence. Insurance companies support any information, no matter how flawed, that may lead to hikes in premiums. Intolerance or plain ignorance to Middle Eastern culture may also play a role.

There is a multitude of possible reasons explaining the smoke and mirrors being used against hookah smoking and the false comparisons of it to cigarette smoking. If this trickery continues, rest assured a movement will soon follow to stop hookahs as we know them.

I urge all hookah smokers to do the research and take a stand against the propaganda of those with hidden agendas. Let's not let the government dictate our rights based on flawed and subjective information. ●

Jeff Ecker is Corporate General Manager of Paymon's Hookah Lounges, Paymon's Mediterranean Café's and Paymon's Mediterranean Bistro, the most highly awarded restaurants in Las Vegas.

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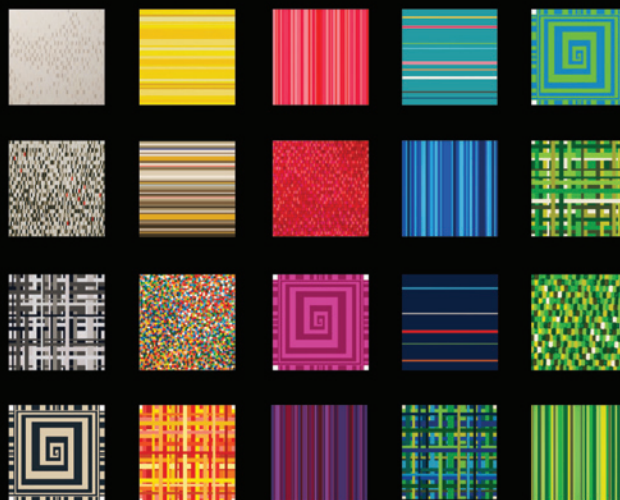
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BALLS TO THE WALL

BY
MARK ADAMS

It is a comfortably sunny day and you're driving down Santa Monica Boulevard. Before you know it, rainbow flags dominate the Los Angeles cityscape. You are in West Hollywood, the famed LGBT village of the southern California city. New York's Chelsea neighborhood has gained prominence in this arena as well. Most noted for this is the San Francisco village of The Castro. Unlike the named metropolitan areas, the City of Sin currently lacks a district devoted to the LGBT umbrella.

"We don't have a true LGBT neighborhood that many other cities our size have," stated Larry O'Halloran, member of LVGA³ (Las Vegas Gay Athletics, Arts and Activities). He also commented that Las Vegas has been lacking something to make the city the community it could be.

O'Halloran and several other LVGA³ participants and enthusiasts contend their organization is bridging this gap. The non-profit is now sponsoring three sports leagues: softball, basketball and volleyball.

"It's something different than the bars, it's athletic. Exercise is really important in my life," stated Kevin Smith, volleyball league enthusiast. "It's a nice change from going out."

Fellow league member Skai Vance agrees with Smith. "It has brought the gay community a lot closer. A lot of these people I've seen out and about in the club scene," said the S*KORTZ team captain, adding, "It definitely brought a unity in our scene."

Some might say that LVGA³ is doing their job right then, as the organization's mission is to "create new programming that inspires interest, promotes interaction and increases involvement through communication, cooperation and friendly competition."

LVGA³ triple-threat Jeff Brick is one of many who enjoys the friendly competition. He is a team member in all three active sports.

"I'm from San Diego. There wasn't really anything out here in Vegas for the LGBT community before LVGA³ came," Brick said. "And ever since they've come, I've been as active as I can." Although the Fun Hog Ranch softball team member admits to enjoying the competition, he divulged that the leagues are all for having fun. "It's for all different skill sets, all different levels. It isn't about the win, it's really about having a good time for all of us," he said.

Evidence of this can be witnessed in the attire many of the athletes choose to wear. "We're able to dress up, wear booty shorts and knee highs and really give it our own flair and really have fun and enjoy the sport," Vance said about the alternative athletic wear.

Those interested in joining a league need not worry; the flair could be fun but is not mandated. O'Halloran commented the softball players, too, accessorize their uniforms in various ways. "As long as it does not interfere or cause injury," O'Halloran said. "Seeing a wig come off during a play is not always pretty."

Want to strut your athletic skill for the community or just have a good time with new faces? This is what LVGA³ is for. "It's nice to have the community work together for something," Smith said. "Anything where people are organizing themselves and promoting health and fitness, then it's a good thing." ●

The next season of volleyball begins April 5. For more information on all current sports, visit the three LVGA³ sites (www.lvga3.com, www.lvga3softball.com and www.lvga3volleyball.com) or read the QSports page in this issue.

EVERYONE WALKS



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Run away to the Bay

With so many things to see and do during a trip to San Francisco (the "City by the Bay"), there's no way to list them all, but here's what we suggest if you can take an April weekend getaway.

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Fisherman's Wharf

This is a great way to spend a couple of hours walking around, shopping or sight-seeing. Plan to have lunch or dinner at the wharf where you will enjoy the freshest fish. Even if you are on the move, at least stop by to try a quick bowl of chowder.

Theater

The threesixty° Theater at Ferry Park presents J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*, April 27–May 7. Tickets are priced at \$45–125. Orpheum Theatre on Marks Street is now playing *Wicked*, tickets starting at just \$30.

Tours

If it's a beautiful day, the best tour to take is an Electric Bike Tour over the Golden Gate Bridge with a ferry ride back.

Alamo Square

One of the best-known groups of "Painted Ladies" is the row of Victorian houses at 710–720 Steiner Street, across from Alamo Square park. It is sometimes known as "Post-card Row." The houses were built between 1892 and 1896.



Union Square

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Haight Street

Haight Street is a Hippy headquarters gone vintage. Whether you want to reminisce the old days of the '60s or are just intrigued with the era gone by, Haight Street is worth a quick visit and good for some vintage shopping.



Castro Street

Known as "Gay Village" or "Mecca" to some, Castro Street is one of the first organized gay villages in the U.S., forming in the late '60s. The whole street is lined with bars, shops and theaters.

Photos courtesy of San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau except Hotel Frank. Fisherman's Wharf photo by Jerry Lee Hayes. Haight Street photo by Jack Hollingsworth.

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The Queers of Comedy are coming to Vegas

"Move over Siegfried and Roy! Three queers are coming to town."

With that, I think Teddy Margas said it all. The three-man comedy act, *Queers of Comedy*, is coming to town and will be performing May 28 and 29 at Onyx Theatre.

Teddy Margas, Mikey Scott and Cory Schneider, also known as the *Queers of Comedy*, have two things in common: they're funny, and they're gay. But that's about it.

Margas is the "older sister" of the group. He's the oldest and has that attitude of, "Ugh, I'm so over this." Not comedy of course, but life situations. Scott is the baby of the group—not only in age, but also in the number of years that he has been doing comedy. The guys claim that Scott's a bit ditz. "Let's just say he's like a queer in the headlights," Schneider endearingly explained. And Schneider, he's the middle child. "I'm Jan Brady with a little Charlotte York mixed in," he described himself. But all jokes aside, he is not only a comedian but an actor as well. "Cory is super funny, but he does his comedy with a serious approach," Scott said.

The differences in their personalities are what make these guys funny. They feed off each other. They make fun of each other, endearingly of course, and they offer three different perspectives on just about everything.

The *Queers of Comedy* started just three years ago. The guys were at a bar Schneider worked at during comedy night, they performed together and it was just clicked. "The chemistry was just spot on," Scott said.

Since then, the three guys, plus their "Queer of Comedy Mystery Van," have performed all over Los Angeles and the surrounding areas, all the way down to Palm Springs. And soon they'll be able to add Vegas to that growing roster.

When the three of them are together, the mix could not be funnier. "The funniest part is just

how we interact with each other," Scott said. Unfortunately, in comedy it's not just about making your friends laugh, it's about making strangers laugh. But the guys have that down as well.

"Before [we perform] we'll assess the venue and assess the type of crowd it typically gets. Then we're ready for anything," Margas explained.

The Vegas show is titled *Bitches, Rants and Raves*—maybe because the guys like to bitch, rant and rave or maybe because they're bitches who *will* rant and rave. Nonetheless, the guys said audiences can expect some stand up and story telling, some audience interaction, perhaps a couple special musical numbers and maybe a video or two as well.

The guys are nonstop. Not only do they regularly perform onstage together, they perform individually and all have jobs at restaurants and bars. "We would love [comedy] to be our full time gig, and we're working on it," Schneider said.

But no matter how big or small the *Queers of Comedy* get, they keep their priorities straight (no pun intended). "We always feel that you have to give back to the community. Period. End of story," Margas proclaimed. They have given countless hours and comedy to charities in California, and they will do just that with their Vegas proceeds as well. The *Queers of Comedy* have decided to devote a portion of the earnings of their show to the QVegas Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises funds for various causes, and Golden Rainbow, a non-profit that provides housing and assistance to those living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada.

The *Queers of Comedy* will be performing on Friday, May 28 and Saturday, May 29 at The Onyx Theatre. Visit www.onyxtheatre.com for more information. ●

BY KATHERINE FERNELIUS

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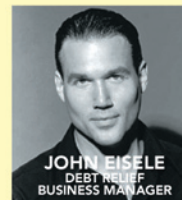
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Rich Rizzo and the *Las Vegas Follies*

BY
WILLIAM
BESSETTE



Longtime local entertainer and choreographer Rich Rizzo introduces himself and his dance troupe, the Las Vegas Follies.

Tell me about the Las Vegas Follies.

Well, there's a Palm Springs Follies and a Florida Follies; I did the Florida Follies for a season, but they needed one here, so we are doing the Las Vegas Follies. It's a show for seniors and I've got six beautiful, incredible, senior women that are in shape and having fun. My choreography is very stylized, I've worked on it for many years to get it to where it's at right now, and I have the best company. There is so much love and harmony, we all believe in each other and that's what it's all about. I call it the four D's: determination, desire, discipline, and dedication. If you have those then you can make something work, and with these women there is so much love. I am at a total comfort zone with these women in my life.

What brought you to Las Vegas?

I was in New York trying to audition for Broadway shows when I was seventeen. I was also... working for Eartha Kitt and her lounge act; I was part of the audience and she would bring me up on the stage and use me as a prop. Then I saw an audition in the paper for a show here in Las Vegas, so I came here and I've been here ever since.

How has being a gay man had an impact on your career, for better or for worse?

I've never hidden who I am and I've been gay ever since I can remember. When I came here I was a bit flaming, so I kind of had to tone it down. I was a party animal so I had to tone that down, too. My life's story was on the back of my hand, you know, it's still out there... being gay never really hurt me, but the fact that I had a black lover, did. My first lover when I came to Vegas was Winston Hensley, he was a star from Broadway, and he was black. Now here in Vegas, back then, they were very prejudiced and, really, they still are prejudiced. So when they wanted me, Winston and I became a team; if they wanted me then they had to take Winston too, and that enabled him to get a good career here... but in 1989 he was brutally murdered while I was at a dance convention in Boston.

My God, I'm sorry.

Oh, it's a whole other story, but thank you.

It must have been difficult being gay and being with a black man back then. Had you always been attracted to black men?

No, I just happened to fall in love with one... I have been fighting for their rights since I have been in Las Vegas and really for all my life. I get involved with the black community here at the West Las Vegas Library. I teach summer camps over there and I've taught the children there. Back in 1986, I was the first one to integrate the mime in *Jubilee!*, black and white. Hello, '86 is a little late. I've been very involved with African-American entertainers like Gladys Knight, Tina Turner, Patti LaBelle, Dionne Warwick... I've just been really involved with the black community.

Tell me about the feeling that you get from helping seniors and teaching them dance.

To see them work so hard and to light up—to see the look on their face when they are doing my style—is wonderful. They relate, and we relate, not just because of our age, but because they make me teach them, they bring out something in me, as a teacher. I love to teach, but they make me dissect it and diagnose it much more than I ever would simply because of their experience. They demand more, they get it from me, and I'm so glad they do because it just makes me grow. We are all growing and we're elated. Sometimes your face hurts and you can't get that shit-ass grin off of it because you're so happy. We're a bunch of old glowing divas in there. ●

There is not enough room in this article to list the biographies and achievements in dance and entertainment of the cast of the Las Vegas Follies. Combined, they represent over a century of experience, have traveled the world over, and worked with dozens of stars throughout the decades. They range from 56 to 75 years in age, and include two men beautifully performing in drag.

The Las Vegas Follies are (in alphabetical order): Ann Vizzaccaro, Frankie Kein, Carol Cravens, Jackie McDaniel, Jodi Walker, Joni Sailon, Ruda Lenska, Sal Angelica, Sonja Irina Swenson and Suzanne Jipson.

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Craig P. Kenny learned the importance of the law and how lawyers treat their clients at an early age. Born of immigrant parents, he suffered the loss of his two older brothers in separate personal injury accidents. His first experiences with the legal profession were with lawyers more concerned with the financial rewards of the cases than with the trauma their clients had endured. These lessons served him well early in his law career and, as he opened his own firm, instilled in him the ideal that each client was of the utmost importance and that service would be the hallmark of the firm. Craig earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from UNLV. He then earned a Masters in Public Administration from UNLV after



CRAIG P. KENNY

which he earned his Juris Doctorate from Tulane University.

Craig P. Kenny & Associates practices primarily in the areas of car accidents, work accidents, criminal defense, products liability, mass torts, medical malpractice, and traffic tickets. ●

QVEGAS BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JEREMY TYLER BLOMGREN
JPG INSURANCE

Jeremy Tyler Blomgren has been an active member of the Las Vegas LGBT business community since changing careers in 2004. After working in the hospitality industry, including five years as an employment representative with the Bellagio, he found a new passion in insurance. "Working with individuals and businesses to find affordable solutions to their insurance needs is deeply rewarding," he said.

As an account executive with JPG Insurance, Blomgren has found a company that is dedicated to both business and the community. Looking for his own way to become more involved in the community, he joined the Lambda Business and Professional Association in 2005 and was elected to the board of directors in 2006. From 2007 to 2009 he served as President. "For me, Lambda has been more than a business networking group, but an outlet to get involved in the community at large and to create new friendships."

Currently, Blomgren serves on the advisory committee for the recently-formed QVegas Business Alliance. "I'm excited about another opportunity for businesses to get involved in the Las



Vegas LGBT community. QVegas has always supported LGBT businesses and with QBA they are able to bring that support into focus."

In 2010, Jeremy launched a new Web site allowing individuals to compare insurance rates and apply for coverage online. The new site makes it simple to find affordable insurance, and professional advice is still just a phone call away. For more information, visit www.agenttyler.com or call (702) 897-4400. ●

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Wild weekend in softball

This season will be one to remember as teams compete to earn the right to go play in the Gay World Series in Columbus, Ohio, August 17-21. I was out of town for the first round of games on March 14, but I heard they were very exciting, to say the least. If you have not been out to watch a game at Doc Romeo Park (located at West Cheyenne Avenue and Ronemus Drive) you are missing out.

The weekend of March 21 was a weekend for teams to check themselves. The most anticipated game of the day was between Fun Hog Ranch and Las Vegas Mafia. After a back and forth game, Fun Hog had the Mafia chasing three runs at the end of the inning in order to tie the game. With a runner on first and second bases and two outs, the Mafia lost due to an automatic out due to a player having to leave early. Final score was 8 to 5.

Fun Hog had yet another close game with an outstanding performance by Blue Moon Resort. A complete reorganization of new players from last season caught Fun Hog by surprise. With Blue Moon coming back to tie the game at 7-all, it sent them into an extra inning. Fun Hog

scored their game-winning run with Jimmy running home and the Blue Moon pitcher tossing the ball at the last minute to the catcher, who dropped the ball. It made for an exciting ending to a great game. Both teams put on a great show of sportsmanship and team spirit.

If you are interested in playing softball, we have three teams that need a few more players. Players can be added to a team through April 18. Softball is a great way to get out and meet a great group of men and women in our community. That is how I met my husband. For more information on joining a team, e-mail Larry O'Halloran at lohalloran@lvga3.com. For a complete list of games and times, visit www.lvga3softball.com.

Come out and support our LVGA³ Athletics on Monday nights at Charlie's Las Vegas, off Tropicana and Arville, for Jock Mondays. The Las Vegas Mafia softball team has t-shirts for sale to raise money for traveling to the Phoenix Softball Tournament being held April 9-11. There will also be a softball league fundraiser held at Blue Moon Resort on Sunday, April 11. ●

Congrats to the Kokonuts for a 14-0 season

What a fantastic ending to the second season of LVGA³ Volleyball.

The season ended with the Kokonuts winning and finishing out the season 14-0. The Fantanas tied for second place with She-Nannigans with a 9-5 record. Third place was shared by Pounders and S*Korts with an 8-6 record. The following teams finished out as follows: PWP's 5-9, Hot Sets 2-12 and Lebries 1-13. We would like to thank all the teams and fans who made season two a huge success.

Season three is set to start on April 5 and has moved to Mirabelli Center. The cost is \$170 per team plus \$10 per match or \$20 per night of play. Currently there are five teams registered and three open seats for new teams. All teams must be registered by April 5. For more information about putting a team in the volleyball league, please visit www.lvga3volleyball.com or e-mail lohalloran@lvga3.com.



Basketball returns to recreation league play in late April

The Fun Hog basketball team is schedule to start playing in the Clark County Recreation League on either Monday, April 26 or Wednesday, April 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. Games will be played at Paradise Recreation Center located off Topaz and Tropicana Avenue. For a complete schedule and game times, visit www.lvga3.com on April 21 for complete details. Fun Hog Ranch hosted the first basketball fund-raiser on March 17 where we raised \$1,182 to help pay for new uniforms. The team also has basketball t-shirts for sale. You may purchase them at Fun Hog Ranch. All proceeds raised will go towards league play in Las Vegas as well as traveling to other cities to compete in gay basketball tournaments. It is not too late to sign up for basketball. We will continue to play on Wednesday nights, 6-8 p.m. at Cambridge Recreation Center until April 26. For more information on playing, please contact me at tbogle@lvga3.com.

ABOUT LVGA³

LVGA³ stands for Las Vegas Gay Arts, Athletics & Activities. LVGA³ is an initiative to build community through social programming. It's one of the newest community resources in Las Vegas, specifically aimed at improving the quality of Gay life in Nevada. www.lvga3.com.

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If you were handed \$1,000 right now, what would you do with it? First, I would grab a couple of my girl friends and take them to a great lunch and then we would hit the malls. I would love to go out and go crazy buying new clothes, etc., but right now I am unemployed and reality kicks in. I still need to pay the bills. You really know how to hurt a girl!

With whom did you share your first gay kiss? Lesbian kiss? Please share details! I was in FreeZone and a beautiful woman came up to me and said that I probably didn't remember her. She was right. I didn't remember her. She was effing gorgeous. I would have remembered her because she was so *hot*. She said that about a year ago she was sitting on the bar stool next to me crying and I was a great comfort to her in listening to her story of how she was abused by her husband. My advice to her was to get away from him as soon as possible, press charges and start over. She said she took my advice and divorced the S.O.B. She then said the reason why I didn't recognize her was that she took the divorce settlement money



and had a nose job, boob job and now she was on the road to better things. Then she pulled my head toward her and planted the most sensual kiss on me that I had ever had. It was one of those I-see-stars kisses and then she said, my name is Maria and I owe this all to you. We talked and danced and kissed some more. We had a few more drinks and we were mesmerized by each other. I was in heaven. We then went to Gipsy where we met up with the rest of the girls that she had come out with that night. They were celebrating one of the girls birthdays. Thinking that I had finally found my soul mate I was on cloud nine until she introduced me to her girlfriend. Can't win them all!

What is your definition of love? Love is finding a *best* friend, someone that you want to be with from the minute you get up in the morning, until you go to bed with each night. Someone hopefully that feels the same way toward me. Then you know you have found the one that you want to spend the rest of your life with and *love*!

While eating a chocolate bunny, do you start at the head or the tail? Definitely the head first.

If you were handed \$1,000 right now, what would you do with it? I would pay back the people that I owe and then treat myself to something fun.

What is the most spontaneous thing you have done in your life? Spontaneous... hmmm...riding the roller coaster at the Circus Circus. I love roller coasters.

Tell us the craziest way someone broke up with you. That has been years, let me think. Oh, one dude told me we had to break up because he was going away to school but I found out later he never even left town, so he just lied.

With whom did you share your first

gay kiss? Please share details! Amy... Oh, gay kiss. That would be Giovanni. Nothing special about the kiss at all.

If you were a pet, what kind would you be and why? Chinchilla, because they are really cute.

What word describes how you would feel on a camping trip? Why?

Camping... I don't do camping. But if I did go camping I would feel free just by getting out of the city.

What is the most important character attribute you want your partner to have? Why?

Personality. Because personality is everything.

What is your definition of love? Being close to that special person without having any doubts.



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE QSINGLES?

If you like what you see here and want to know even more about this month's QSingles, visit www.qvegas.com. If you'd like to be considered for a future issue, contact matchmaker Chris Miller at www.engagingintroductions.com.





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CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS 5012 S. Arville St. 702-876-1844	\$5 Beer Bust 4-7p \$2 Long Isl. 7p - Mid Sunday Show 9pm	Beginner Dance Lessons 7-9pm and Ginger Grant 10pm	Happy Hour 4-7p FREE Drag Queen Bingo	Happy Hour 4-7p \$1 Mini-Pitch. 7p-2a Retro Night w/Trivia	Happy Hour 4-7p Line Dance Lessons Bear/Bare Chest Nite	NGRA Apprec. Night 75¢ Happy Hour 7-9p \$10 Liquor Bust 9p-1a	75¢ Happy Hour 7-9p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-1a
ENTOURAGE VEGAS 953 E. Sahara Ave. 702-650-9191	Open 24 Hours Salsa Sundays Latin music & videos	Open 24 Hours Boys Night Ages 18-21 in free	Open 24 Hours Dark Night All lights are off	Open 24 Hours Wise Wednesdays Ages 40+ get in free	Open 24 Hours Inked Show off your tats	Open 24 Hours Freebie Fridays Exciting giveaways	Open 24 Hours Packed House Our busiest night
ESCAPE LOUNGE 4213 W. Sahara Ave. 702-364-1167	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a/5-7p Karaoke 9p-1a	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p	\$2 Wells/Dom 8a-4p Happy Hour 3-5a and 5-7p
FLEX 4371 W. Charleston Ave. 702-385-FLEX	Football Drink Specials and Free Food	Football Drink Specials and Free Food	Underwear Island with DJ Nutzz 10p-2a	Welfare Wednesday Desirae Penda'vis Midnight	2 for 1 Budweiser All Day Long	Confessions with JewDi Vine and DJ Ricoche 11pm	Ntoxxicated with Diva Toxxx 11p
FREEZONE 610 E. Naples Dr. 702-794-2300	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Karaoke Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Ladies Night Happy Hour 4 - 8p Beer/Lick-Her-Bust 8p - 1a	Beer Bust 8p - 1a Wicked Wednesdays 11:30p-1:30a	Naked Boy Frat Party Beer Bust 9:30p - 2a \$7 Liquor Bust	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8p - 1a	Queens of Las Vegas Show/Dance Party Beer Bust 8p - 1a
FUN HOG RANCH 495 E. Twain 702-791-7001	\$5 Beer Bust 6-9pm	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Long Island Iced Teas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$1.50 Margaritas 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p \$5 Beer Bust 9p-2a	Happy Hour 3-7p	Come in, drink up and just have a great time.
GIPSY 4605 Paradise Rd. 702-666-8661	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Visit gipsyvegas.com for details	Ghostmachine DJs Protokol & Romeo Romantic
GOODTIMES 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-736-9494	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Karaoke with Sheila 9p-1a	Watch sports, mingle, drink, gamble and relax	Vaquero Night \$10 Liquor Bust 10p-3a	Noche Calientes DJ Papi Chulo & DJ XTC 10p
KRAVE LAS VEGAS Harmon Ave. at LV Blvd. 702-836-0830	SINdaze: Vegas' 8th Deadly Sin hosted by JewDi Vine	Closed	Kouture DJ P.A. \$2 wells/\$5 premiums	WTF? Wednesdays DJ Earwaxx 11pm Win up to \$1000	THURSTdaze DJ Javier Alba Liquor/Beer Bust	Flesh with VJ Alpyne (main room) and sKizoFrenia (lounge)	World-class DJs in main room and Candybar in lounge
LAS VEGAS EAGLE 3430 E. Tropicana Ave. 702-458-8662	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Monday Night Football with Brett	Karaoke with Mark & Brett 7p	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a	Jock Strap and Underwear Night 7p - 3a	\$5 Well or Draft Bust 12 - 5p and 10p - 2a
SNICK'S PLACE 3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd. 702-385-9298	Open 24 Hours	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	Happy Hour 2 - 4a and 2 - 4p	\$5 Beer Bust and \$6 Liquor Bust 9p - Midnight
SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE 957 E. Sahara Ave. 702-696-0202	\$1.50 Bloody Marys 8a - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 4 - 7p	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	\$5 Beer Bust Noon - 4p 2-4-1 9p - Midnight	Hump Day \$1.50 Well Screws or Margaritas 8a - 4p	Come hang out at the Spotlight Lounge	\$5 Liquor Bust 1 - 4p \$5 Beer Bust 8 - 11p	\$5 Beer Bust 12 - 3p Couples Night 6 - 9p Jock Night Mid - 3a

WE ALSO RECOMMEND THESE MAINSTREAM NIGHTLIFE OPTIONS

BEATLES REVOLUTION LNG. The Mirage 702-692-8383	For you technology junkies, this has to be the coolest place in town with touch screen cocktail tables, great music and a couple of secret tricks to uncover. Check out Closet Sundays.	RHUMBAR The Mirage 702-792-7615	Designed in a style reminiscent of a mojito, with its white and green decor, Rhubarb is a new venue at The Mirage with a beautiful outdoor patio. Captiv8 is a gay night on Wednesdays.
BLUE MARTINI Town Square 702-949-BLUE	This new local hot spot is situated in Town Square and is always packed with great eye candy. Every night from 11 p.m. until close is hospitality pricing—half off drinks!	LAVO The Palazzo 702-791-1800	Check out the newest patio on the Las Vegas Strip by the Tao Group. Gays abound on Label Junkie Wednesdays with fashion shows taking place throughout the space.
CATHOUSE Luxor 702-262-4228	This swanky burlesque club/restaurant has hosted several gay events and is located in the Luxor. Great décor, sassy cocktail uniforms and fabulous lighting and sound.	STUDIO 54 MGM Grand 702-891-7254	A modern interpretation of the original, featuring state-of-the-art sound, video and lighting, live dancers and chart-topping dance music. 4 dance floors and go-go boys and girls.
CHRISTIAN AUDIGIER Treasure Island 702-894-7580	This renowned fashion designer turned nightclub connoisseur took over the space where Tangerine was in the Treasure Island and appointed it with some fierce bling. Check it out.	TAO The Venetian 702-388-8338	Restaurant, nightclub and ultra pool, this celebrity hang out is just hot. Found in the Grand Canal Shoppes at The Venetian.

Idol Fridays

APRIL 2

Vonzell Solomon
Idol Season 4



APRIL 9

Alexis Grace
Idol Season 8



APRIL 16

Lil Rounds
Idol Season 8

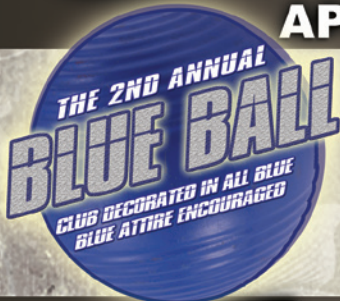


APRIL 23

Haley Scarnato
Idol Season 6



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The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Sister Roxi's Costume Contest

Charlie's Las Vegas, 8pm
www.sinsitysisters.org

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

IRSCDEI Turn About Show

Badlands Saloon, 8pm
www.desertempire.org

Naked Boys Singing

Onyx Theatre, 10pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Plus Saturday and Sunday Matinees at 3pm.

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Melissa Etheridge

Star of the Desert Arena, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Onyx Theatre, 12am
www.onyxtheatre.com
Recurr every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

First BBQ of the Season

Blue Moon Resort
www.bluemoonlv.com

IRSCDEI 4th Annual Gospel Fest

Spotlight Lounge, 5pm
www.desertempire.org

MONDAY, APRIL 5

Free HIV and Hepatitis A/B Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Stonewall Democrats General Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.sdcsn.blogspot.com

Improv Vegas

Onyx Theatre, 8pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Repeats every Monday evening.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

IRSCDEI General Meeting

The Center, 7pm
www.desertempire.org

Sin City Sisters General Meeting

The Center, 8pm
www.sinsitysisters.org

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

NGRA Fundraising Committee Meeting

Location TBD, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

Karnival: A Collection of Oddities

Onyx Theatre, 7pm
www.onyxtheatre.com

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

Free HIV and Hepatitis A/B Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Right Pride Meeting

Ricardo's of Las Vegas, 6:30pm
www.rightpride.org

Vegas HEAT Car Club

The Center, 7pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Joan Rivers

Venetian Showroom, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com
Additional shows April 9-10 and April 15-17.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

Nevada Outdoors Excursion Valley of Fire

Valley of Fire, 3pm
www.nevadaoutdoors.org

Alicia Keys

Mandalay Bay, 8pm
www.ticketmaster.com

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

Las Vegas Contemporary Dance Theater

West Las Vegas Library, 1pm
www.lvcontemporarydancetheater.org

PRIDE Youth Royalty Pageant

The Center, 7pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

NGRA Miss Cow Patty Competition

Charlie's Las Vegas, 9:30pm
www.ngra.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

HRC - Faith and Religion Group

The Center, 2pm
lasvegas.hrc.org

MONDAY, APRIL 12

Free HIV and Hepatitis A/B Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

NGRA Board of Directors Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

Betty's Outrageous Adventures Board Mtg.

The Center, 6:30pm
www.bettysout.com

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

Free HIV and Hepatitis A/B Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Nevada C.A.R.E.S. Seminar

653 Town Center Dr. Ste. 206, 6pm
www.nfcares.com

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

**Writings to Stop Violence
Against Women and Girls**

Onyx Theatre, 7pm
www.onyxtheatre.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

PRIDE Idol

FreeZone, 10pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Free HIV and Hepatitis A/B Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Betty's Outrageous Adventures Board Mtg.

The Center, 6:30pm
www.bettysout.com

NGRA General Membership Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.ngra.com

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Women's Empowerment Network

The Center, 6:30pm
www.myspace.com/womensnetworklv

SNAPI General Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

Sin Sity Sisters Meeting

The Center, 8:30pm
www.sinsitysisters.com

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Free HIV and Hepatitis A/B Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

Confessions of a Mormon Boy

Onyx Theatre, 7:30pm
www.onyxtheatre.com
Repeats on April 23-24 and a Sunday Matinee at 5pm.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Women's Picnic by the Betty's

Lone Mountain Park, 12pm
www.bettysout.com

ARTrageous Vegas

The Aruba Hotel and Spa, 6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

LVPT Cocktail Night

Goodtimes Lounge, 6pm
www.lasvegasprimetimers.com

IRSCDEI King & Queen of Diamonds

Charlie's Las Vegas, 9pm
www.desertempire.org

CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS

Submit full event details to Calendar@QVegas.com no later than the 15th of the month preceeding the event.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Titans of the Graphic Novel:

Harvey Pekar and Allison Bechdel
Clark County Library, 7pm
www.lvccld.org

NGRA Salute to the Grand Ole Opry

Badlands Saloon, 9pm
www.ngra.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

AFAN AIDS Walk

World Market Center, 9:30am
www.afanlv.org

HRC Family ReUNION Picnic

World Market Center Parking Lot
lasvegas.hrc.org

MONDAY, APRIL 26

Free HIV and Hepatitis A/B Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

PRIDE Skate Night

Boulder Crystal Palace Skating Center, 8pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

IRSCDEI Board Meeting

The Center, 7:30pm
www.desertempire.org

Entourage Vegas PRIDE Party

Entourage Vegas Spa and Health Club, 10pm
www.entouragevegas.com

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Stonewall Democrats Board Meeting

The Center, 6:30pm
sdcsn.blogspot.com

PRIDE Parade Meeting

The Center, 10pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

PRIDE Girl's Party

Piranha Nightclub, 10pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

PRIDE Boy's Party

Piranha Nightclub, 10pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Free HIV and Hepatitis A/B Testing

The Center, 1-6pm
www.thecenterlv.com

PRIDE (& Prejudice) Exhibit

401 S. 4th St., 5pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

LVL Connection Women's Mixer

Bugsy's, 6pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Las Vegas PRIDE Parade

Downtown, 8pm
www.lasvegaspride.org

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- 28** Paymons Mediterranean Café, 107 E. Charleston, 272-0020
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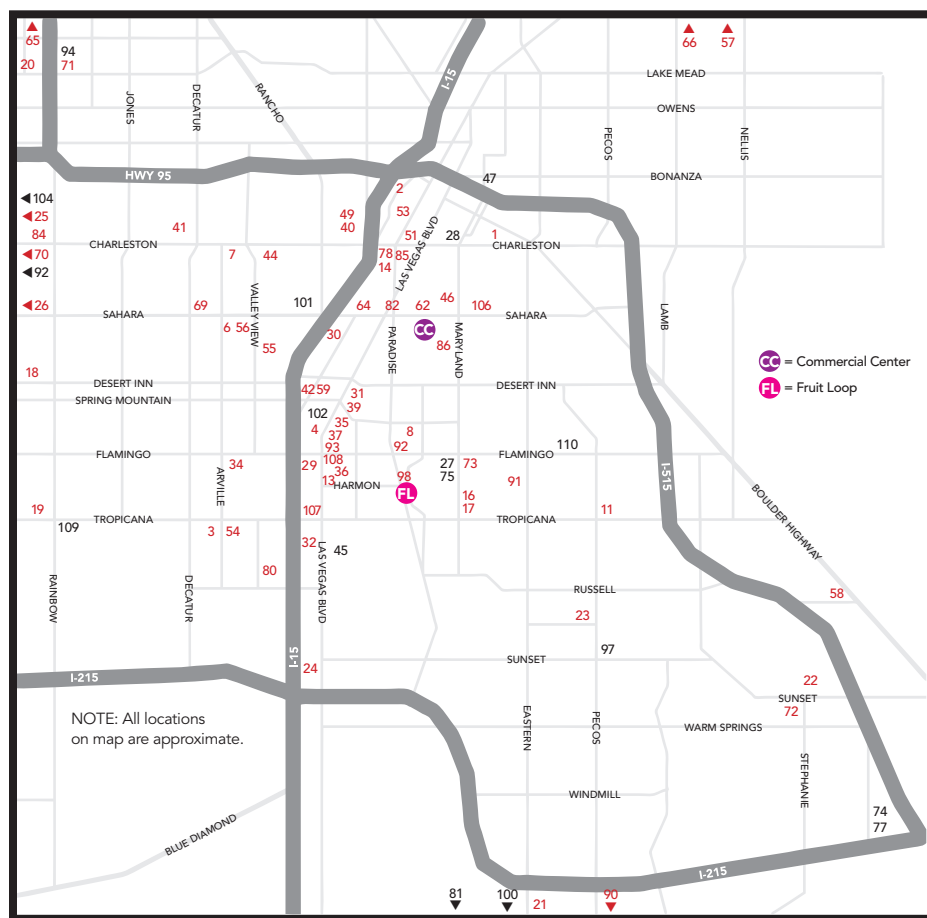
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- 44** Golden Rainbow, 2233 W Charleston Blvd, 384-2899
- 45** Imago Dei Sunday Mass, 55 E Reno, 354-2294
- 46** Metro. Comm. Church, 1140 Almond Tree Lane, 369-4380
- 47** NALA, 323 N. Maryland Pkwy, 382-6252
- CC** Onyx Theatre, 953 E. Sahara Ave, 732-7225
- 49** Southern NV Health District, 625 Shadow Lane, 759-0702
- 51** The Arts Factory, 107 E Charleston Blvd, 676-1111
- 40** Wellness Center, 701 Shadow Lane, 383-2691

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97 Blush Salon, 6360 S Pecos Rd, 851-3100
98 Bronzed, 4480 Paradise Rd, 737-8266
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101 LV Defense Group, 2300 W. Sahara, Ste. 800, 333-3673
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106 QVegas Magazine, 1380 E. Sahara Ave, 650-0636
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ARIES 03/20-04/19

With the powerful Sun in your sign until the 19th, it looks like everything shall go according to plan. Let's say 92 percent of it. We all must allow leeway for surprises, right? Lunar aspects on the 12th suggest that you keep any secrets or awesome new ideas to yourself. Not everyone can be trusted. The 25th looks best for games of chance.

TAURUS 04/20-05/20

It's been said that money is as money does. This month and right through the summer you'll have all that's needed to cover debts and even create a cash cushion. Don't let that worry wart partner of yours spoil the mood (or fun). The 15th and 16th look best for listing any real estate you may own. It won't be on the market long.

GEMINI 05/21-06/21

A complex and frustrating legal situation that reignited in late February, comes closer to resolution this month. But, you must stay rational and calm Gemmy. After the 15th, there shall be more time for some recreational pursuits and perhaps even a short trip. Full Moon on the 28th could send those emotions on a super roller coaster ride.

CANCER 06/22-07/22

Most of April will likely feel like a major endurance test. The pattern is called hurry up and wait, which no one likes to go through. Please know that by month's end, you'll be standing on stronger financial ground with a clearer perspective of life. The 19th and 25th look strongest for letting loose and painting the town red.

LEO 07/23-08/22

This month you're liable to be subject to growing pains in many areas of life. It's best not to resist these types of patterns (that's like trying to swim upstream). Businesses should be booming. We use the

plural because God forbid a Leonian has just one project to tackle. Don't take on any new tasks until mid June, please!

VIRGO 08/23-09/22

Most of the time your intentions are quite good and noble. However, this month you must step back and let a loved one fend for themselves. It'll be a lesson for both of you. Don't purchase any electronic equipment (PCs, etc) before the 10th. Avoid speaking your mind on the 24th. It'll save you embarrassment and money.

LIBRA 09/23-10/22

For most of this month it shall be necessary to let someone else take the lead. That's not a position you're used to or comfortable with, but it's oh so necessary. Social aspects brighten after the 16th. It seems you'll be invited to every event in sight. Of course, some must be declined. Even charming Libra has their limits.

SCORPIO 10/23-11/21

Sometimes things in life just seem to snap together like pieces of a puzzle. This pattern will prevail in April. Just make sure to move slowly and deliberately. Being in a hurry could end up costing you. As the old proverb goes, slow and easy wins the race (at least in your case, Scorp). Avoid real estate purchases until the 21st.

SAGITTARIUS 11/22-12/21

Unlike Scorp, taking the slow and easy route would just about do you in. The only

two speeds a Sag knows are warp drive and stop. There will be far more warp action this month, so keep those batteries charged and track shoes laced up. You'll be all over the place but that extra cash will be worth it. Don't rule out an unexpected move either.

CAPRICORN 12/22-01/19

It's been said that we learn things every day but forget 70 percent of it. That may be true with most signs, but not yours (or Scorp). Your mind is like a steel trap or even a hard drive. All that knowledge comes in handy, especially during contract/lease renegotiations. Don't back down an inch and stick to your demands, Cappy!

AQUARIUS 01/20-02/18

Making decisions can be tough for you. Stay or go, take that new job or decline it. We as humans tend to dread routine, yet fear change at the same time. Things get shook up this month, but in a good way. Remember, we don't learn lessons from comfort or success, only mistakes and failures.

PISCES 02/19-03/19

The dilemma for this month will be balancing work responsibilities with leisure time. Both are necessary for success and sanity and neither should be ignored. The 10th and 19th look strongest for sizzling romantic encounters. Be sure to look your best (like you don't always?). Be sweet and gentle with that significant other.



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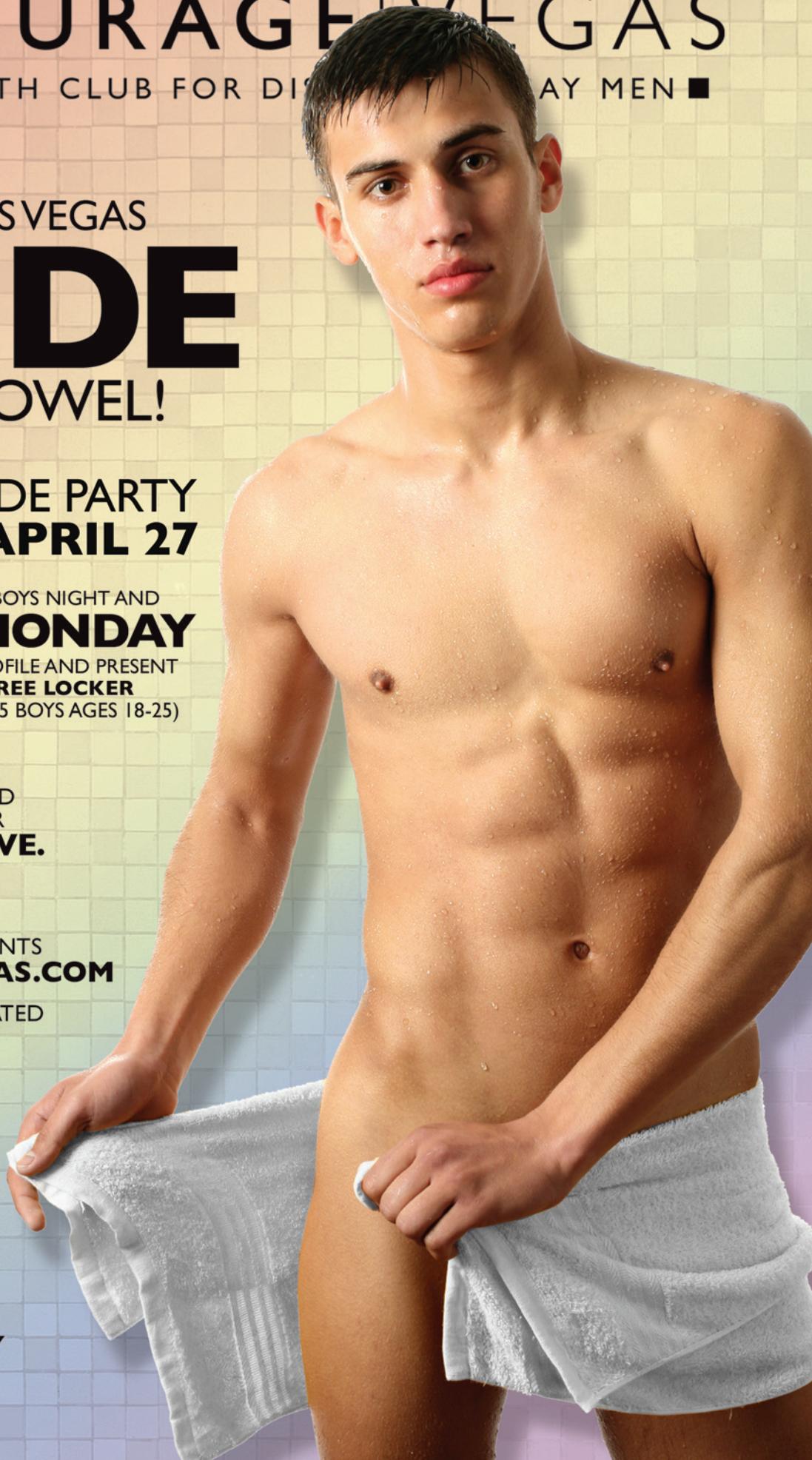
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The American nightmare

The last time I was given the opportunity to grace the final page of *QVegas* was in February 2008, two months after my partner and I had just finished purchasing our new house. Despite the grumblings of a faltering economy, we took the plunge and, riding high on life, my editor graciously allowed me to use this section to write a dedication piece for us, entitled "Two Strikes, but a Home Run." It may be the only piece I have ever published that took an inward look into how I operate; I laid out my soul onto the printed page and it was tough, but therapeutic. Now, however, I am given this section for an entirely different, more depressing, reason; though I must say that if the words within these pages help even one person then it will have definitely been worth it.

In 2007, after three years together, Lauren and I had begun looking for a house. The economic meltdown was still a year and a half out, at the time everything still looked pretty rosy, and since our current living situation was cramped and aggravating, we figured it was as good a time as any to become homeowners. Lauren had been making good money at his job and I was also working, so—like many others—we were roped in with the idea of a zero down payment and other perks that our agent brought to the table. Fortunately, the word "sub-prime" was just beginning to surface, so we knew better than to get involved with an interest-only or adjustable rate mortgage. We had done everything right, hadn't we? We were given one of the best Christmas presents anyone could ever give themselves that year: a brand new house. We carved our initials into the drywall as it was being built, one of the most romantic things I've ever done. Here it was, the venerable American dream, reached in my mid-twenties.

Then, not two months after "Two Strikes, but a Home Run" went to print, a mere five months into our fledgling trip through this so-called American dream, the economy went into a an all-out nosedive, and the unthinkable happened: Lauren was let go from his job. Though I was still working, he had been the

breadwinner, so this was devastating. Everything had primarily been built around his income, so in under six months the dream was shattered. The next thing we knew, we were one of many statistics on an ever-growing list.

By the time this all went down, April of 2008, housing values dropped as foreclosures jumped, 57 percent over the prior year. Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers were on the brink of collapse and jobs were in short supply. It seemed like the perfect time to panic, but instead fate smiled upon us, and I was able to get Lauren a job where I worked merely a month after he lost his job; albeit for a fraction of his prior wages. Meanwhile, through the haze of crisis we had been seeing and hearing about people getting loan modifications in the event that they had suffered from either a bad loan or unemployment, so surely our lender would help us, right?

The next nine months turned out to be utter hell. From hour-long waits on the phone, only to be told there was nothing they could do, to conference calls where two departments argued with each other and then hung up on me. I kept a log of the eighteen different answers we were given over the course of the year, the most egregious being "Sir, what do you want me to do about it; I can't do anything about it, so what now?"

Surely our lender must be some fly-by-night chicken shit outfit? If only that were the case. We're talking good ole' J.P. Morgan Chase, the number two bank in the country, and even they had no idea what was going on. We called and explained that both of us were working, but we couldn't afford the mortgage, could we pay them something? Of course with Lauren's dramatic drop in income we could no longer pay over two thousand dollars, but could we pay them anything? No, they would say. It blew my mind. Though I have never owed anyone hundreds of thousands of dollars until now, I could never imagine them saying "No, don't pay me."

We went through workshops, advocacy groups, mortgage brokers, loan officers, and lawyers, some of whom wanted \$4,000, half

of which would be non-refundable even if they couldn't negotiate anything with our lender. We were going on eight months now without paying our mortgage and still had not even received a notice of default or a single phone call. I felt like the world was suddenly going to go black and white and Rod Serling would appear, eerily letting me know where I had suddenly ended up.

Then my friend tells me about this group called NACA, the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America. Sounds expensive, I say. It's free, she tells me, they are a non-profit advocacy group. Oh, here we go again with another advocacy group. Too good to be true, I respond, but what the hell, what have we got to lose? We're going on a year and they still haven't even mailed us a notice of default, let alone foreclose. We met with one of their counselors and put the fate of our American dream into their hands.

Last week Chase Bank modified our loan, dropping our rate by a full percent and a half and lowering our monthly payment by seven hundred dollars. Our counselor at NACA was able to get this done in under twenty days, for free, with no hassles. Our first payment is due on April first, and although our house is still worth 60 percent less than what we bought it for, I couldn't be happier; we are fighting less and loving more. And even though they will remain the ultimate example of corporate malfeasance and criminal ignorance in my mind, Chase Bank has redeemed themselves a bit for doing the right thing in the end.

If you are about to go into, or are already in, default, either through unemployment, a sub-prime loan, inflated income, or any other hardship, skip the headache and go straight to NACA, the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America. They are guardian angels and—if your hardship is legitimate—they will help you. ●

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