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APRIL-2012

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Vanessa Carlton

Sunday, April 22nd



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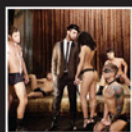
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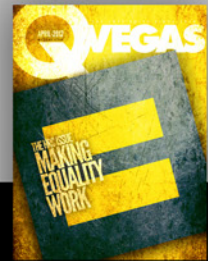
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ABOUT THE COVER:
THE LAS VEGAS CHAPTER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN GRACE
OUR APRIL COVER. THEY ARE A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF EQUALITY THROUGH OUT LAS VEGAS.

APRIL 2012 HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN ISSUE



COVER



VEGAS PEEPS - HRC VOLUNTEERS

OUR VEGAS PEEPS THIS MONTH ARE 9 PASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS WHO WORK HARD TO BRING EQUALITY TO ALL

EDIE & THE BIZ

EDIE IS HOSTING A BRILLIANT NEW WEEKLY NIGHT AT SHARE NIGHTCLUB CALLED THE BIZ, AND IT PROMISES TO BE SPECTACULAR!

MEET TIM EVANS

TIM EVANS IS THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AT LUXOR & EXCALIBUR. FOR THE LAST DECADE HE HAS WITNESSED THE RAPID GROWTH OF THE LGBT MARKET IN LAS VEGAS

HRC - 7TH ANNUAL GALA DINER MAY 19TH

THE LAS VEGAS CHAPTER OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN HOLDS THEIR ANNUAL GALA DINER MAY 19TH 2012.

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a note from our EDITOR

Spring is finally here, and I cannot think of a better place to be other than sunny Las Vegas. Sunshine is crucial to my happiness, which is why I moved here from rainy (but beautiful) Seattle Washington back in '06 when I was fresh out of college. Getting 15 minutes of direct sunlight a day will give you an optimum amount of vitamin D - an essential vitamin with invaluable benefits. So please strip down and soak up that glorious afternoon sunshine whenever you can.

April issue is dedicated to the Las Vegas chapter of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). It is a grassroots organization of more than one million volunteers (nation wide) fighting for equality for all. They will hold their annual Gala Dinner on May 19, 2012 in the Encore Ballroom at Encore at Wynn Las Vegas. The Gala will recognize members of the community and its supporters whose actions played a significant role in the quest for equality for all. Read more about it in this issue on page 26. Also, our monthly Vegas Peeps feature is dedicated to 9 hard working, passionate local HRC volunteers who spend countless hours making a difference. Read about them and what they do on page 52, and also find out how you too can become an HRC volunteer.

On a personal note I would like to announce that I am parting ways with my beloved QVegas family. It has been so rewarding to serve the Las Vegas LGBT community and meet so many incredible human beings along the way. It would take an amazing opportunity to make me leave my position here at QVegas, and that's exactly what has come my way. I hope my QVegas family and the community knows how much I love them. I will honestly miss the sweat and tears I put into working here, because it's what made everything worth it.

Before I finish my very last editor's note for QVegas, I would like to leave you all with a few thoughts. This is an election year, and there is much at stake and much to consider, not only as members of the LGBT community, but also as human beings. It is so urgent for everyone to get involved in every political process that you possibly can. History

has taught us that democracy is very rare, and only lasts as long as we serve to protect it. Your responsibilities as citizens of a republic does not stop after you cast your votes. You must continue to pay attention to legislation that our elected officials make. Hold them accountable to whether or not they stay true to their campaign promises, and even more importantly if they uphold the constitution. This document is the only guarantee that protects our fundamental human rights - and without our basic human rights, how can we continue the fight for LGBT equality? How can we protest if protesting becomes illegal? How can we raise our voices, if the government can now silence us? The very wise Benjamin Franklin said, "Those that give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither safety nor liberty, and will lose both." Forget party lines and search for truth. Truth is knowledge, and knowledge is power.

BENJAMIN LEMKE
facebook.com/benjamin.lemke1



IN MEMORIAM

Button, Lloyd - Age 57, of Henderson, NV formerly of Freehold, NJ and Middlesex, NY has passed away on Sunday, February 19th, 2012 in Irving, Texas. He worked for Citigroup in Irving, TX as a Sr. Technical Analyst for the past 5 years and as a VP of Technology for Merrill Lynch for 16 years in Jersey City, NJ. Lloyd had a passion for life, great respect for law enforcement and was a very warm-hearted, caring person. He was preceded in death by his spouse of 15 years, William J. Gaydos and his parents Lloyd A. Button and Dorothy Waterman Button. Survived by sister-in-law Jodie and husband Joseph Sammartino of Queen Creek, AZ, sister-in-law Denise and husband David Kelter, Sr. of San Tan Valley, AZ, close friends Dennis Gallagher, Kevin Fannin, David Bill Perna and Jim McMillan, and other family members. A memorial service/visitation was held for Lloyd on Tuesday, March 13th, 2012, at the Inspirada Solista Community Center.



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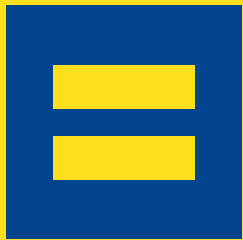
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Spring Forward with HRC This APRIL



Membership and Community Events

Join Las Vegas HRC for the 5th annual **HRC Community Picnic 2012**

Sunday April 29, 2012

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

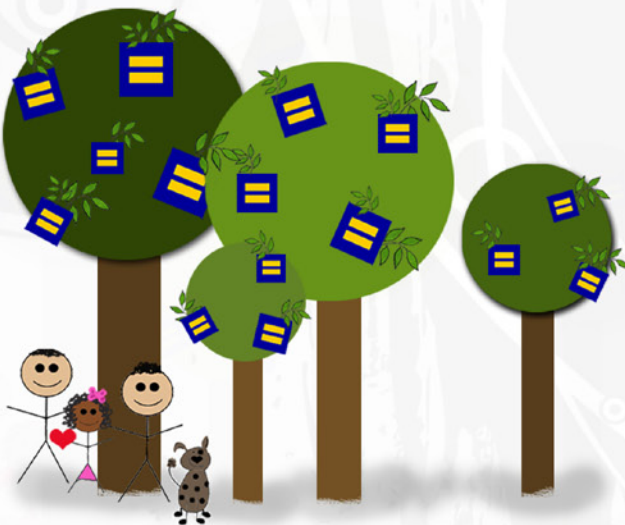
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Opening New Doors

Campaign Update

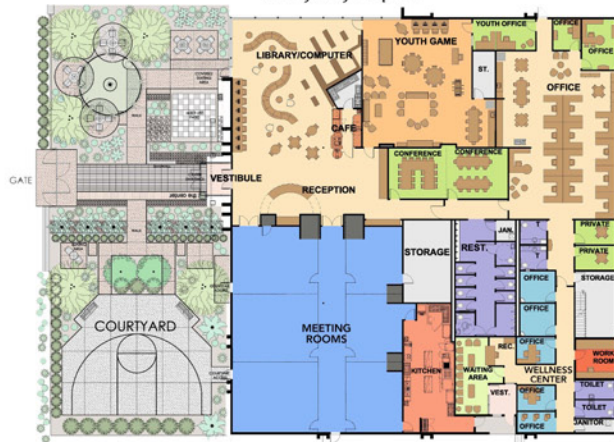
On Saturday, March 17th, The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada welcomed Cornerstone Society donors to a pre-renovation tour of the Robert L. Forbuss Building. Thank you to all Cornerstone Society donors and your families and friends for coming out and sharing in our excitement and vision for the new Center. This tour was the first of several public tours planned for this year. The buzz of enthusiasm, pride, and anticipation was palpable.

Guests were greeted by Stephanie Rosol, President of the Board of Directors; Thomas J. Kovach Jr, Board Member and Capital Campaign Chair; Jon Sparer, Board Member and Lead Architect; and Candice Nichols, Executive Director. Small group tours gave everyone a chance to ask questions and spend time in each space. Perhaps the most meaningful tour was with Bob Forbuss himself. Bob arrived after many guests had departed. We rolled up the garage door and Bob's car was driven into the building so he could have his own first peek at the building that will carry his name for generations to come.

Save the Date! The Center will host a Community Open House of the Robert L. Forbuss Building on Sunday, May 20th from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Join us at 401 S Maryland Pkwy to see the "before" of your new Center. For questions or to RSVP, contact Diana Morgan, Director of Development, at diana@thecenterlv.com or 702-733-9800.



Updated renderings of the exterior of the building and of the floorplan



(clockwise from top): Senator David Parks and Ward 3 Councilman Bob Coffin; Candice Nichols, Executive Director of the Center, and Lead Architect Jonathan Sparer of YWS; Capital Campaign Chair Thomas J. Kovach Jr.; Cornerstone Society Donors; Diana Morgan, The Center's Development Director gives a tour of the facility to the group; Center Board President Stephanie Rosol and fellow board members welcome Cornerstone Society Members.



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VEGAS

THAT'S SO

Want to know who is doing WHAT? Visit QVegas.com every day for a complete calendar of events from nightclubs to nonprofits...if it's GAY, it's there! Sin City Sisters, Trendy Tuesday updates, Golden Rainbow, AIDS Walk updates, HRC, NGRA Rodeo, The Gay & Lesbian Center...go to QVegas.com/events.



A WEEKLY CAST PARTY ANNOUNCED AT SHARE NIGHTCLUB

It's what happens after the shows! The new Gay Hotspot Share Nightclub does it again with a new night in Las Vegas on Wednesdays, "The Biz" hosted by Edie. The night will feature live entertainment with a host of Las Vegas singers, dancers, actors, poets, and aerialists, all on stage with a very New York-type cabaret feel. Sean Dunn, General Manager said, "The 12,000 square foot nightclub is the perfect venue for us to host a cabaret show, since the club can be transformed easily and our stage and dance floor are at the heart of the club." Each week a new theme will be announced as well as a new cast of performers. The new night gets underway at 11 PM with open and reserved seating. For event photos and more information visit QVegas.com ■

"FALLEN GUARDIAN ANGELS"

Stanhope High School students petitioned to have a moderated Gay/Straight Alliance group due to rising incidents among teens due to bullying. The group formed in October. The student group is now circulating "Acceptance Pledges" for a zero tolerance policy of harassment of another student or faculty member because of differences in lifestyle, philosophy or principle.

The school was one of many who presented "Fallen Guardian Angels" by Las Vegas Pulitzer-Nominated playwright Edward D Padilla,

as a World AIDS Day benefit in 2011.

Several students have used monologues from "Fallen Guardian Angels" for various Drama Competitions throughout their city, hoping to broaden their reach to other schools and help form more Alliance Groups.

Due to the large amount raised for the Alabama ADAP Assistance Program from their World AIDS Day event, the successful mounting of another of Edward's scripts,

"The Hunger", and a visit from Edward, students voted to name their Straight/Gay Alliance Against Bullying and Ignorance the "Fallen Guardian Angels Tolerance Group". Edward is also humbled to have been named the group's "Founding Father".

Edward will attend the International HIV/AIDS Conference in June 2012 in Washington DC, where a committee will vote on including "Fallen Guardian Angels" (a docu-drama about the beginnings of the AIDS Pandemic) in the International AIDS Archives. ■

THE D LAS VEGAS

Fitzgeralds Casino & Hotel in downtown Las Vegas is undergoing a dramatic transformation to become the D Las Vegas Casino Hotel, scheduled for completion in fall 2012.

The new name is accompanied by extensive renovations that will deliver the fresh, energetic attitude and fun atmosphere synonymous with downtown Las Vegas. Upon completion, the D will introduce daily live entertainment, one of Vegas' only two-level casinos; 638 remodeled contemporary rooms and suites; and two high-energy bars – the LONGBAR and the D Bar – situated in the casino and on the Fremont Street Experience, respectively. Read more at QVegas.com ■



GENE SIMMONS WALKS THE BLACK CARPET

KISS® By Monster Mini Golf®, a unique rock 'n roll-themed amusement attraction based around the legendary band KISS® opened on March 15 with co-founding members Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons, as well as band members Tommy Thayer and Eric Singer in attendance. As part of the celebration, Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons slashed through the ceremonial ribbon with their guitars and walked the "Black Carpet" with other notable guests including Frank Marino.

Gene Simmons added, "This venue is perfect for Las Vegas. Where else can you go play a round of KISS® By Monster Mini Golf® and then renew your wedding vows in an official KISS "Hotter Than Hell" Wedding chapel, only in Vegas." For more information and photos visit, QVegas.com ■

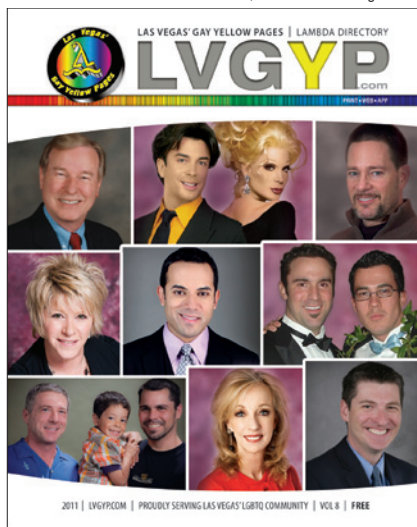




LAS VEGAS, NV - MARCH 03: (L-R) Model Ronnie Kroell, Jale Rodriguez, television personality Carson Kressley, actor Alec Mapa and television personality Madison Hildebrand arrive for the grand opening...
Steven Lawton, Contributor FilmMagic.com

MAYOR GOODMAN OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMS SHARE WEEKEND

Las Vegas officially celebrated the grand opening of SHARE Nightclub and Ultra Lounge as two great charities - NOH8 and Golden Rainbow "shared" the spotlight at the newest, hottest gay nightclub in the city that never sleeps. Hosted by E! Entertainment's Ross Mathews, the festivities included a musical performance by the UK's Luciana and a sensual sampling from Golden Rainbow's "Ribbon of Life" performers. Celebrities attending included: Carson Kressley, Alec Mapa, Jai Rodriguez, Ronnie Kroell, Josh Flagg and Madison Hildebrand from Bravo's "Million Dollar Listing," NOH8's Adam Bouska and Jeff Parshley, and Robby LaRiviere from "Tabatha's Salon Takeover." Las Vegas acts that attended and supported the night were Angel Porrino of Absinthe along with The Gazillionaire, Penny Pibbets, Melody Sweets, & Maxime, Peepshow's Josh Strickland & Laura Croft from E! Entertainment's TV hit "Holly's World," Frank Marino & the Divas, Chippendale legend Jaymes Vaughn, the "Mistress of Sensuality" Edie of Zumanity, plus KLAS-TV reporter and TV personality Chris Saldana. Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman issued an official Proclamation honoring SHARE'S commitment to the community. The two story, multi roomed complex is located near the Palms Hotel at 4636 Wynn Road and is the city's only LGBTclub with a strip club license. Visit QVegas.com for red carpet interviews and photos. ■



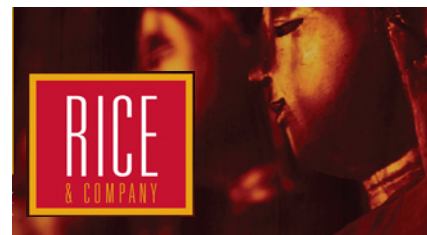
QVEGAS MAGAZINE TO PUBLISH YELLOW PAGES

The Las Vegas Gay And Lesbian Yellow Pages previously under ownership of Saint Nolan Publishing has entered into an agreement with QVegas to produce the 2012 Yellow Pages print directory, online listing and smart phone APP. "QVegas will continue to bring gay Las Vegas a choice of businesses that the LGBT community has come to trust as a source for shopping and services", said Steve Erics, Director of Operations. The 2012 directory is expected to hit the streets in July, but the online version is updated weekly. Visit QVegas.com for business listings.



MATINEE LAS VEGAS FESTIVAL

For the second year in a row Ibiza comes to Las Vegas Memorial Day Weekend for one of the largest gay dance festivals to hit Las Vegas ever! Matinee Las Vegas Festival is presented by dance party guru's Paul Nichols, Jack Resnicow, Patrick Crough and Eduardo Cordova...and they plan on bringing it again this year with some of the world's best DJs and entertainment directly from Ibiza. Get ready- May 25th through 28th will feature seven amazing parties and is expected to double last year's numbers with more than 2,000 tourists and locals expected to turn out for events at Rain Nightclub with the host hotel Rumor showcasing the sexually driven pool party. For weekend discount packages you must book at QVegas.com and use the QVegas code when checking out. CODE: QVEGAS ■



3RD THURSDAY @RICE & COMPANY

QVEGAS and HRC's 3rd Thursday, a monthly social for those who want more, will be hosted at Rice & Co. in the Luxor. Each month QVegas and HRC invite the community to come together for a couple of hours and meet new people, new businesses and just catch up with friends face to face instead of on Facebook! Join us for complimentary appetizers and a signature drink at the Rice & Company Restaurant from 6-8 PM Thursday, April 19th, ■



COMMUNITY TIES

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BEST IN SHOW

Get your dog biscuits ready for The 9th Annual 'Best In Show', presented by the Animal Foundation of Las Vegas on April 22nd, 2012 at the Orleans with special guest emcee Nathan Burton. The Animal Foundation will feature more than 50 shelter dogs to compete for the title of 'Best In Show' and to win over the hearts of potential adopters – you the audience, in an American Kennel Club-type show.

Tickets for this fun and supportive event, along with sponsorship opportunities, are available at QVegas.com. Funds raised support the more than fifty thousand lost, unwanted and abandoned animals entering the shelter annually. ■



CORKS & FORKS

Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada will be hosting a FABULOUS event! The 3rd Annual Corks & Forks "Paris Nights" is going to be a wonderful night of delicious wines, a dinner buffet, dancing and entertainment with proceeds benefiting Planned Parenthood. This year the event will be held at the exclusive Paris Hotel & Casino Chateau Rooftop, hosted by QVegas Publisher Kelly McFarlane Smith and Channel 8 Weekend Anchor Chris Saldana with special entertainment by Larry Edwards of Frank Marino's Divas Las Vegas. A night of great food, great wine and great people! For booth sponsorships and individual seats contact Judith Hantin at: (702) 878-3622 ext 204 or visit QVegas.com ■

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SNAPI SATURDAY

Las Vegas Pride "SNAPI Saturday" at Charlie's is held every 4th Saturday and is a great way for the community to come OUT, have some fun, and learn about what Las Vegas Pride is planning for this year's festival. This year, in conjunction with Las Vegas Pride, the founder of GAYDAYS Orlando is hosting GAYDAYS Las Vegas September 4 -10, 2012. Stay tuned for the exciting list of events! ■

HRC FAMILY PICNIC

It's Spring and that means HRC Family Picnic! This year it will be held Sunday, April 29th at West Flamingo Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. HRC plans on a host of outdoor games, entertainment, Las Vegas Pride Bar and tons of food. Visit QVegas.com for updates and tickets, along with a list of events and entertainment. ■

Save the Date

Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada
Presents the 3rd Annual

Corks & Forks "Paris Nights"

Friday, April 27th – 6:30 p.m.
(Paris in April is lovely!)

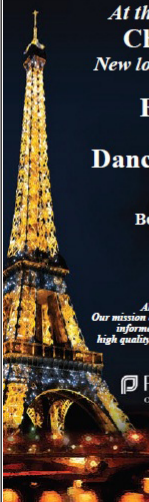
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All proceeds benefit Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada.
Our mission empowers individuals and families in the communities we serve to make
informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health by providing
high quality health services, comprehensive sex education, and strategic advocacy.

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June 16, 2012



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@ 9:00 PM

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2 STEPS FORWARD...

A JURY HAS CONVICTED AN EX-RUTGERS STUDENT OF A HATE CRIME AND INVASION OF PRIVACY IN A WEBCAM SPYING CASE OF HIS GAY ROOMMATE, TYLER CLEMENTI, THAT LEAD TO HIS SUICIDE.



"WHILE THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT WEIGH IN ON EVERY SINGLE BALLOT MEASURE IN EVERY STATE, THE RECORD IS CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS LONG OPPOSED DIVISIVE AND DISCRIMINATORY EFFORTS TO DENY RIGHTS AND BENEFITS TO SAME SEX

LAS VEGAS' OPENLY GAY FORMER HRC GALA DINNER CHAIR JAMES HEALEY IS RUNNING FOR NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY IN DISTRICT 35. IF ELECTED HE WOULD BE NEVADA'S SECOND OPENLY GAY ASSEMBLYPERSON, THE FIRST BEING DAVID PARKS. DAVID CURRENTLY SERVES IN THE NEVADA STATE SENATE AND IS UP FOR REELECTION.

MASHA GESSEN, A JOURNALIST IN MOSCOW, CALLS ON AMERICANS TO BOYCOTT ST. PETERSBURG AND CANCEL SCHEDULED EVENTS THERE OVER THE COUNTRY'S RECENT PASSAGE OF ITS GAY "PROPAGANDA" LAW, WHICH BARS (AND IMPOSES FINES FOR) GAY GROUPS FROM CONGREGATING PUBLICLY, GAY BOOKS AND PERIODICALS, LGBT PRIDE EVENTS, AND OTHER VIOLATIONS. SHE SPECIFICALLY ADVISES MADONNA, MERCEDES-BENZ, AND PEPSICO.

1 STEP ... BACK

THE U.S. SENATE VOTED 91 TO 6 TO CONFIRM LOS ANGELES ATTORNEY MICHAEL W. FITZGERALD TO A SEAT ON THE FEDERAL COURT FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA, MAKING HIM THE FIRST OPENLY GAY FEDERAL JURIST IN THE STATE.

GROWING PAINS ACTOR KIRK CAMERON PLAYED TWINK TEEN MIKE SEEVER IN THE POPULAR TV SITCOM, BUT AFTER RAPIDLY FADING INTO OBSCURITY, HE REEMERGED AS A FERVENT ANTI-GAY ACTIVIST, EVEN GOING SO FAR AS TO FORM HIS OWN MINISTRY DEDICATED TO MAKING EARTH MISERABLE AND UNSAFE FOR GAY PEOPLE. CAMERON RECENTLY TOLD TV HOST PIERS MORGAN THAT HOMOSEXUALITY WAS "UNNATURAL" AND "DESTRUCTIVE."

MASS**EQUALITY**
**BE VISIBLE.
BE COUNTED.**

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**Census
2010**



MASSEQUALITY, A GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER GROUP, WAS NOT PERMITTED TO MARCH IN THE ANNUAL SOUTH BOSTON ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AFTER TWO OF THEM RECEIVED REJECTION LETTERS FROM ORGANIZERS.



HOMOPHOBIC STATE SENATORS GOT THEIR WISH. THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES HAS REVOKED THE INDIANA YOUTH GROUP'S SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE FOR VIOLATING "STATE LAW AND INDIANA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE" BY GIVING DONORS LOW NUMBER PLATES.

Nevada Gay Rodeo Association **BIGHORN RODEO**

May 11-13, 2012

See all the action for \$5

Friday - Contestant Registration 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Horseman's Park

Friday - BBQ & Entertainment 6:00pm to 11:00pm, Horseman's Park

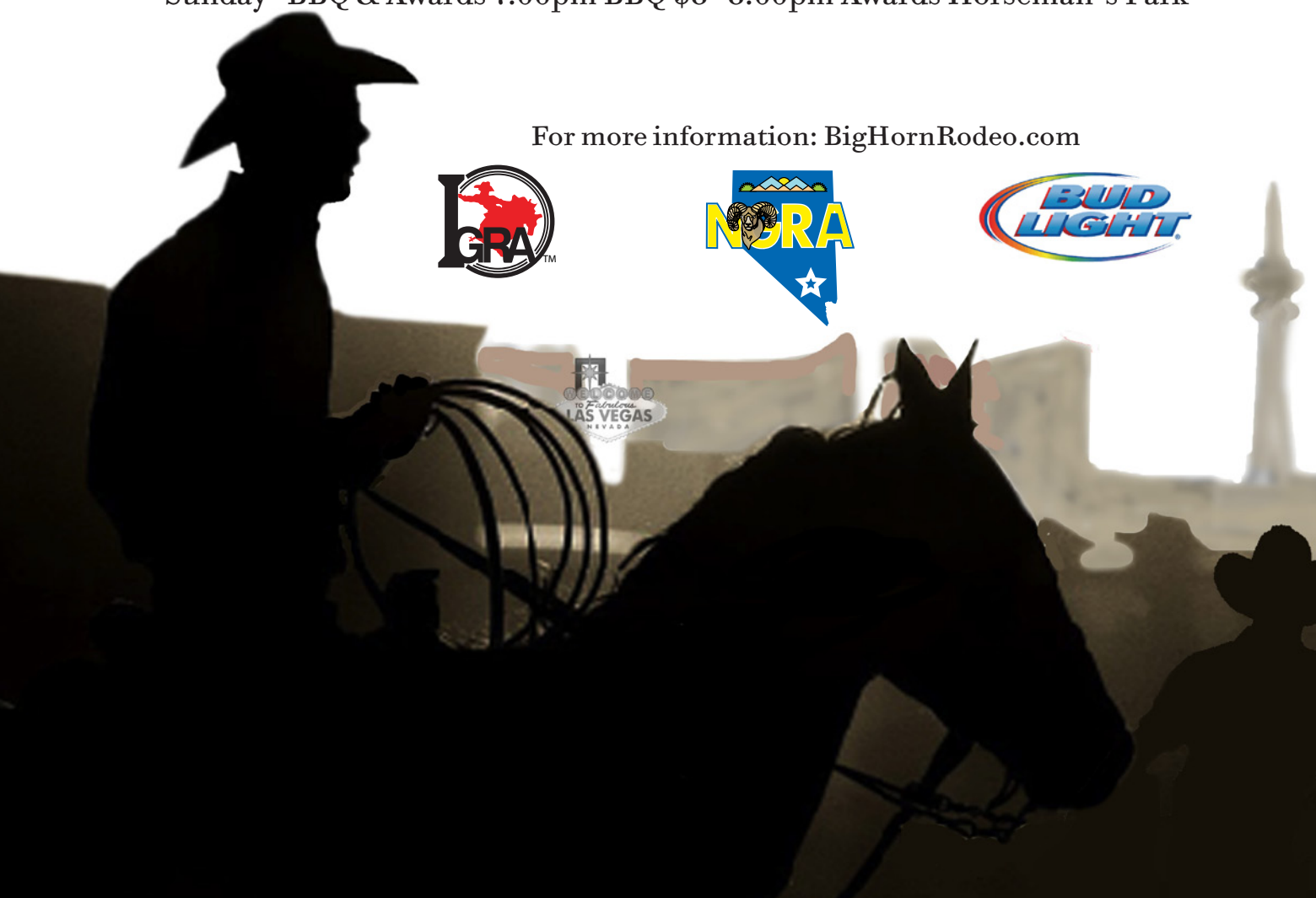
Saturday - Rodeo all day starting & 9:00am, Horseman's Park

Saturday - Bighorn Rodeo Hoedown 9:00pm, Charlies Saloon

Sunday - Rodeo 9:00am Horseman's Park

Sunday - BBQ & Awards 7:00pm BBQ \$8 - 8:00pm Awards Horseman's Park

For more information: BigHornRodeo.com





The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year. Along with 20 years as an association, NGRA is presenting "BigHorn Rodeo 15" over Mother's Day Weekend (May 11th-13th, 2012) at Horseman's Park, located at 5800 East Flamingo Road. Gay Rodeo ain't your typical rodeo, y'all! NGRA is an affiliate of the International Gay Rodeo Association, with 28 associations throughout the United States and Canada. Events in gay rodeo include "Rough Stock" (Chute Dogging, Bull Riding, and Jr. Bulls), "Speed" (Barrel Racing, Pole Bending, and Flag Racing), and "Roping Events" (Calf Roping on Foot, Mounted Break-Away, and Team Roping). Unique to gay rodeo are the camp events (Steer Decorating, Goat Dressing, and Wild Drag). The BigHorn 15 Rodeo is under the leadership of Rodeo Directors Laura Scott and Guy Puglisi and Assistant Rodeo Directors Joel Castillo and Jeffrey Neal.

This year, we have some fun and exciting events taking place over rodeo weekend. On Friday, May 11th at 9:30 AM, we will have Rodeo School at Horseman's Park. We will teach techniques in the following: Calf Roping on Foot, Goat Dressing, Steer Decorating, & Chute Dogging. In the evening, we will host the Contestant Registration and BBQ starting at 6PM, also at Horseman's Park. At 7PM, we will feature "Reverse Karaoke", featuring a \$100 Cash Prize! Both male and female singers will sing songs made famous by artists of their opposite gender. That is, girls will sing songs by cowboys and vice versa. Come on out for a cowboy and cowgirl BBQ and meet some of our rodeo contestants and visiting royalty.

Saturday morning, May 12th, the rodeo kicks off at approximately 9AM. Admission to BigHorn Rodeo is only \$5 per person. Our event is a family-friendly event, and families are encouraged to attend. Food and general vendors, along with community organizations, will be filling the Big Tent at the entrance to the grounds. During the Grand Entry Celebration, the fabulous Men of Charlie's will present flags.

We will recognize and present medallions to our Community Heroes - Arlene Cooper and Mya Lake Reyes. We are very excited to announce that our Celebrity Grand Marshal is International Recording Artist Kristine W., and she will be presented with a commemorative buckle. Also featured during Grand Entry will be the 20th Anniversary NGRA Royalty Team of Mr. NGRA Jason Jewel, Miss NGRA Sabel D' Zyre, Mr. NGRA 1st Runner-Up Curtiss Lewis, and Miss NGRA 1st Runner-Up Mormanizer. They will be joined by visiting IGRA Royalty Team Members and visiting Royalty from other associations and some local favorites. In the evening, Charlie's Las Vegas (5012 Arville St., #4) will be the host of "The BigHorn Hoedown"! Beer Bust starting at 9PM, with entertainment beginning at 10.

Sunday morning, May 13th, we do it all over again for a second day of fun-filled rodeoing! NGRA is a 501c(4) organization and works hard year-round with many fundraising events to produce BigHorn annually. The rodeo always selects a charitable organization to be a benefactor from the rodeo. This year, the Rodeo Planning Committee has selected The Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada and The Sin City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence as their charitable benefactor. In the evening, please come back to Horseman's Park for awards. All of the cowboys and cowgirls will receive their ribbons and buckles for their performance over the weekend. We will have another BBQ featuring food from Jody Maroni's Sausage Kingdom. For additional information and all updates, please refer to the following website: www.bighornrodeo.com. We look forward to seeing you in the stands!



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WHAT'S AT GAY DAYS ORLANDO

MAY 29 – JUNE 4, 2012



What started 22 years ago has grown into a full week, of special events, park hopping, pool parties, shopping, and sunning with over 160,000 attending from around the world. There's something for everyone at Gay Days Orlando, which has evolved from that original one-day walk in the park to one of the top 3 GLBT vacation events in the world.

Gay Day Comedy line up this year includes Bruce Vilanch and Julie Goldman.

There are over twenty Gay Days Orlando pool parties throughout the week for men, women, and Bears. Entertainment lineup includes DJ's David Knapp, John LePage, Ted Eiel, Wendy Hunt, Craig Gaibler, Bill Coleman, Chad Guidry, Wayne McKay, Fierce Tease, Grind, Gustavo Scorpio, Bugie, Andy Ajar, Carlos Nascimento, Sappho, Michael Tank, Ronny Boy, Grace, Corey Craig, and Mike Sniffen.

Gay Days host hotel guests, receive all the pool parties for FREE so book your room ASAP. The Gay Days Orlando Host Hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld. Book online today at QVegas.com

The Gay Days Orlando Expo is an event all by itself and is FREE to attend. Over 120 vendors will be offering a spectrum of products and services. You'll be able to sample beverages from Bud Light, our Presenting Sponsor, as well as do some great shopping by visiting the booths of Jean Paul Gaultier, Macy's, Dillards, and many others. Many travel destinations will also be there to show you where to book your next vacation after Gay Days Orlando.

There are many more events being added weekly in the Gay Days calendar. Visit GayDayS.com or GirlsAtGay-Days.com and you'll be sure to find events than you'll want to attend and don't forget Gay Days Las Vegas coming in September.



OUT AND ABOUT IN GAY LAS VEGAS
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 MARCH 15TH 2012



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HRC LAS VEGAS

7TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER

MAY 19TH 2012

The Las Vegas chapter of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) will hold its annual Gala Dinner on May 19, 2012 in the Encore Ballroom at Encore at Wynn Las Vegas. As always, the dinner will serve as a perfect opportunity to recognize members of the community and its supporters whose actions played a significant role in the quest for equality for all. "The past year has been full

victories for the equality movement," says Melissa Morgan. "We want the dinner to be a time at which we celebrate these hard-won battles. We also want to utilize this time to draw attention to the many challenges facing our community in coming months, as we focus our efforts on the crucial elections in November and on getting laws passed in favor of marriage equality in every state."

THE YEAR THAT WAS

All this may seem like a tall order indeed, but given where we were at this exact time last year, it is within the realm of the possible. At many levels, great strides have been made towards equality. In October, The Clark County Commission voted to extend health insurance coverage to county employees registered with the secretary of state as domestic partners. At the State level, landmarks bills were signed into law, notably AB211, a bill which codifies prohibitions against discrimination in employment on the basis of gender identity or expression following bipartisan support from Democrats and Republicans in the Nevada legislature, as well as both SB 331 and SB 368, which incorporate gender identity and expression into the state's non-discrimination law, one specific to housing and the other to public accommodations.

And then, there's the day in December 2011 when President Obama brought to a close the 17-year-old controversial law Don't Ask Don't Tell policy that the banned on openly gays and lesbians serving in the armed forces.

"Many organizations worked towards these great advancements for the Equality movement, and HRC is proud to be a part of that coalition. As a community, we have a lot to be proud of and it's cause for celebration" says Steve Amend, who sits on the HRC National Board of Governors and serve at its liaison on the local HRC Political Committee. "We certainly plan on celebrating these victories at our dinner. It's our hope that this celebration will further fuel the passion of our community for the battles to come".

THE ROAD TO NOVEMBER 2012

Because reelecting Barack Obama in November 2012 is a priority – and it will take a lot of work, to which HRC is wholly invested. "No other President has done more for the advancement of LGBT rights", says Amend, "and we believe that no one is as committed as President Obama is in addressing equality for all Americans, starting with his administration's decision to no longer defend the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). That will be the primary focus of the dinner, along with the issue of full marriage equality for all. And while the recent victories in New York, Washington DC and Seattle are cause for optimism, there is still a lot of work to be done considering 29 states currently have constitutional amendments restricting marriage to one man and one woman, 12 more have laws restricting marriage to one man and one woman. In addition, there are 18 states where the law or amendment has language that does, or may, affect other legal relationships, such as civil unions or domestic partnerships. Finally, many states, including Maine, Maryland, Washington and Minnesota, may have anti Marriage Equality propositions on the ballot in November. "There's so much more work to be done towards marriage equality and while we don't want to turn our dinner into a civics lecture, we definitely will utilize the opportunity to highlight the issues at hand and engage our audience to be part of the effort.

The HRC dinner is meant to be galvanizing, energizing and fun. So along with the messaging, entertainment and recognizing some of our community's best will also be part of the program.

EQUALITY IN THE COMMUNITY AWARDS

This year, HRC Las Vegas is introducing a new award category, the Equality in the Community Awards, recognizing local individuals who have made a significant contribution towards making our community a more cohesive and inclusive one. The very deserving recipients this year are Desiree Duncan, Mel Goodwin and Gaby Jurica.

Desiree has been an active member of this community for years, notably serving on the board of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada. This award is in recognition of her creating and spearheading ARTrageous Vegas, benefitting The Center. Born from her desire to elevate the annual art show to a celebration of art on its many forms, ARTrageous has quickly become a premier community event that gathers artists from a many varying mediums from fashion to hip-hop, and everything in between. "ARTrageous is really representative of Desiree's spirit and how she lives her life", said Charles Béraud, Co-chair of the local HRC Membership, Community Events and Volunteers Committee and member of the HRC National Board of Governors. "It brings together such of variety of individuals – of different races, sexual orientations, gender identification – and focuses on the that single common thread that supersedes any of these differences, a passion for artistic expression. That's how I know Des to be in her everyday as well, a person that pays very little attention to how different people are. She's much more interested in the many things that they all have in common – and at the root of it all, on their humanity".

Mel Goodwin might be the Youth and Volunteer Services Director at the Gay and Lesbian

DESIREE DUNCAN



Community Center of Southern Nevada, but her imprint on the local community far exceeds the already vital impact her work at The Center has on the community. She is a co-chair of Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and a Regional Director for Equality Nevada Community Services. She's also become the de facto voice of a generation that advocates to right to self-identify outside of the gender binary, i.e. traditional identification as man or woman. Her work with the Transgender community is legend. She herself identifies as genderqueer and by living within her true authentic self, fosters a better understanding and acceptance of all forms of gender expression. "Mel's contribution to the community is so important", says Candice Nichols, Executive Director of The Center. "There's no way of truly gauging the difference it's made in so many people's lives. And Mel comes to it with such grace, such passion – and in a very unassuming way. Mel has done more to promote the inclusion and acceptance of the transgender and genderqueer members of our community that anyone will ever know – and not just by the LGBTQ Community at large, but also on a one-on-one basis, helping many of them become fully accepting and proud of who they are."

Gaby Jurica is a force to be reckoned with. An Advertising Manager for the Hispanic publications *El Tiempo* and *Grupera*, for the last 10 years, she's a leader in her field and a graduate of the Las Vegas Review Journal Leadership Program. She utilizes the talent she has for reaching the Hispanic market in her professional life, but also in how she remains engaged in the community, including the Latin Chamber of Commerce where she first started as a volunteer and now serves on its Board of Directors, the Hispanic Advisory

GABBY JURICA



Committee for Planned Parenthood Latino Outreach and the UNR Corporative Extension Community Outreach programs. In 2010, Gaby was appointed as one of the Commissioners for the State of Nevada Minority Affairs Commission. She is also part of the *Ya Es Hora ¡Ciudadanía!* Nevada Coalition, which helps legal permanent residents of Las Vegas apply for U.S. citizenship, including assistance with completing the application, obtaining passport photos and receiving legal guidance. "The energy and the passion with which Gaby joined the *Ya Es Hora ¡Ciudadanía!* Coalition is so inspiring to me", says Dawn Christensen, member of the HRC National Board of Governors and local HRC lead on this initiative. "She has been instrumental in recruiting more organizations and individuals to join the Nevada Coalition and has truly taken on a leadership role in the event. Without her, I know that we wouldn't have been able to assist the more than 1700 people that we did through *Ya Es Hora ¡Ciudadanía!*"

BECOME A TABLE CAPTAIN

Plan to attend the dinner with friends and you could also obtain a ticket to see Le Reve. How? It's as easy as becoming a table captain. Including your own ticket to the Gala, for every five tickets purchased by your friends and family to join you at your table, you'll receive a ticket to see Le Reve at Wynn Las Vegas. Becoming a Table Captain is simple and doesn't bind you to purchasing any set amount of tickets. It's simply another way to encourage your group to attend the dinner with you and ensure that you are all seated together. For more information or to become a table captain, contact Paul at schiminsky@aol.com

MEL GOODWIN



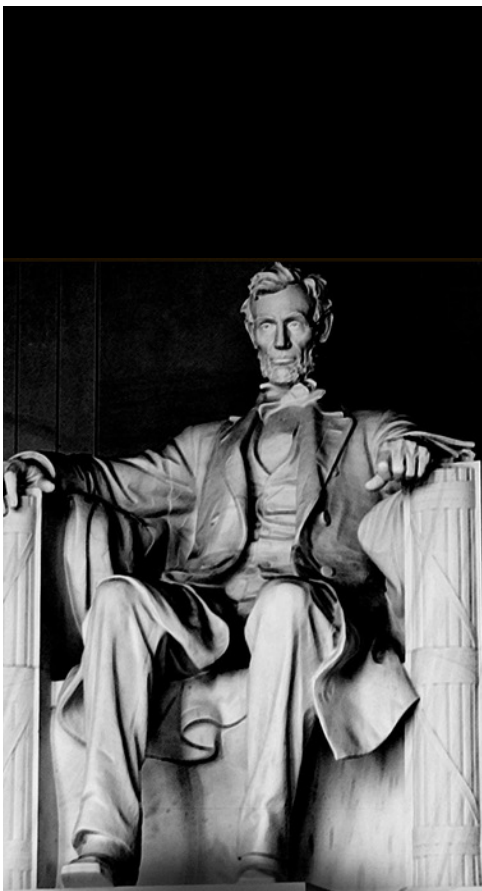
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

"We have an inspiring and dedicated core group of volunteers locally, and I'd say that it's in large part because the first exposure to HRC, for many of them, was when they volunteered for the dinner," says Ron Quinn, Co-chair of the Las Vegas Steering Committee and of the Membership, Community Events and Volunteer Committee, "and I can't think of a better, more inciting introduction to what the Human Rights Campaign stands for and the work that it does. By volunteering at this event, you get to take part in an evening that celebrates the community and the many strides made towards full equality, that honors people who have made a difference, sets the tone for the hard work still ahead. What's more, it's often a shared experience from which friendships are cemented. Adds Quinn: "I am consistently moved when I see new volunteers meet each other for the first time at an event such as the gala, and become lifelong friends as a result. It's a great evening, and volunteering at the gala is one of the ways that anyone can be part of it." Interested in volunteering? Contact us at lvgalavolunteers@gmail.com. ■

Whether as a volunteer, as a guest or even as a Table Captain, plan to attend the 7th annual Las Vegas HRC Gala on May 19th. For ticket information and more: lasvegas.hrc.org

to be of service

By Charles Béraud



I was in Washington DC recently to attend meetings. While my schedule was tightly booked, I did get an opportunity to sneak off on the morning of the last day for a brisk early morning walk. Our hotel was located a few blocks north of the White House. The late-winter morning air was crisp, the sky clear as I headed for the National Mall. I headed straight for the World War II monument, hung a left, made a stop at the haunting Korean War monument and gazed into the hallowed eyes of its soldiers there before climbing the stairs to reflect at Lincoln's feet.

And then, I visited for the very first time the Martin Luther King memorial. While I was busy taking pictures, a woman of color was standing close by with two people whom I assumed to be her son and her mother. The first was reading the quotes off the wall, and the latter, giving him context for each – and where she was at that time. I was so moved by this that I approached: “I couldn’t help but overhear your conversation and I have to say that you made my first visit here incredibly special. It’s so awesome that you’re passing all this on to him”, I said to her – to which she simply responded, in a tone that was part Maya Angelou, part Claire Huxtable, all love and nurture: “We have to”.

I sat quietly facing the imposing Dr. King carved out of stone. How incredibly small I felt in that moment. Not because the monument is larger than life, but because he himself and what he accomplished was. How significant his time on the planet, albeit cut short by violence, had been to the evolution of our society. How incredibly important had the contributions of all memorialized here had been. I wondered: What will I leave in my wake? How will I be remembered? How in my lifetime will I advance the causes that I defend? Will I affect change in any significant way while I’m here? In the grand scheme of things, the time I’ll spend on the planet is infinitely short, incredibly small – like a speck of sand in a vast desert.

I pondered what it means to be of service. Some, like Dr. King, Gandhi and many more, are called to greatness. I remain in awe of all who put their lives on the line for their country, serving in the military. I think of first

responders who ensure our safety and of the dangers they face every day. Regardless of race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation, they all have courage and veracity in common. How inspiring are they?

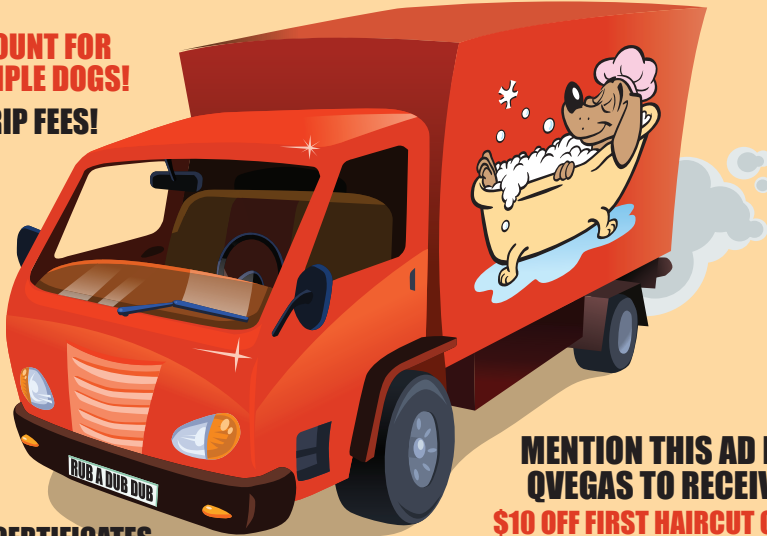
But I’ve found in my life that being inspired and being moved to action don’t necessarily go hand in hand. In fact, it can have the opposite effect and foster a paralyzing feeling of insignificance. I know I’ve been there. But the truth of the matter is that you start being of service to your community the moment you do something. Furthermore, I do believe that you are of service to your community for as long as you’re not of disservice – like we should conduct ourselves in accordance to the Hippocratic Oath: first do no harm. If you choose to smile rather than frown, be kind rather than mean, make an effort to treat others – regardless of how aggravating the situation – with the same level of respect that you believe you deserve, if you choose to rise above rather than sink to the lowest common denominator, you’re already of great service to yourself and others.

If in addition to that – with lives as busy as we all lead – you find the time and the resources to make a gesture – no matter how small – towards making your community a better place – then your contribution is immense. It’s not the amount of meals one serves at a soup kitchen that is important, it is that each is served with care, kindness and humanity. Your actions are no more valuable if you’re the tide of major change than they would be if you were the voice that brought hope, understanding or acceptance to just one person; you will have made their world a better place.

You will hear and read about a lot of people who give their time and resources to a great many causes. It’s great that we celebrate them – for they are shaping a better tomorrow for a few, many or a whole community at once. Celebrate them – yes, but also celebrate yourself for the many ways in which you are of service – regardless of breadth and reach – to your world. That’s what you leave behind. That’s how you’ll be remembered. It’s my belief that, at the end of the day, that – and how you loved and were loved in return – will be all that matters. ■

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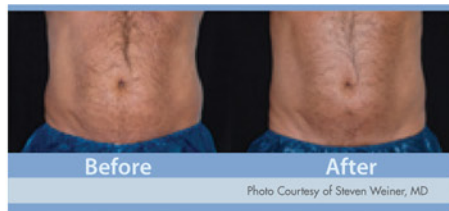
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HRC GETS NEW PRESIDENT CHAD GRIFFIN

by Chad Martinez



"As long as we have state-sanctioned discrimination, HRC will be here defending human rights."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Began Work in the Clinton White House for LGBT causes at age 19**
- **Co-founded the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER)**
- **Instrumental in overturning California's Prop 8 Law**

In August Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign, announced that he was moving on to work full-time as a national co-chair for President Obama's re-election campaign. Then early in March, he announced that long-time activist

Chad Griffin would be taking over as president of the organization after he steps down. Griffin, a native of Arkansas, is no stranger to the plight of the LGBT community. When he was just 19, he worked in the Clinton White House fighting for LGBT causes. Griffin later helped co-found the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER), and was instrumental in overturning California's Proposition 8, a law that sought to permanently enshrine the second class citizenship status of LGBT people in California. He sees his new appointment as the next step in the "natural evolution" of his career. A career spent fighting for the rights of LGBT people. "My motivation is not for me, not for my staff, but for the thousands and thousands of people negatively impacted every day by discrimination," said Griffin. "I want HRC to be the voice of those people that can't be in the courtroom defending themselves."

Although Griffin is still transitioning from his old job as a political consultant and doesn't officially take over until June, his sense of urgency is obvious when it comes to the fight for equality. "My weakness is a lack of patience for things to change, and I look forward to the day when we can eradicate all the discriminatory laws on the books" said Griffin. When asked the biggest challenge facing LGBT people today in America, Griffin says that there are so many laws on the books (and

currently in the pipeline), that discrimination has to be confronted on all fronts. "As long as we have state-sanctioned discrimination, HRC will be here defending human rights," said Griffin.

At 38 years old, Griffin already has plenty of experience to draw on and his time as a political strategist will no doubt come in handy in his new appointment. Perhaps because he started so young fighting for the cause of LGBT equality, Griffin exhibits a strong empathy for young gay people struggling with their role in society. He knows that LGBT people face constant discrimination in all aspects of their life. Going to the hospital or school can be a terrifying experience for some LGBT people. Which also makes it difficult for young people to accept themselves. "Every night there are thousands of people, young people, who lie awake at night unable to sleep because they fear waking up to another day full of hate and discrimination," said Griffin.

With such a daunting task ahead and at such high stakes, it is no surprise that Griffin is fully dedicated to the challenge. He sees little distinction between his personal life and his professional life. "Balance is important but it's a great thing when you are passionate about your job, which makes it easy to move forward and achieve good things," said Griffin.

He acknowledges the "great and strong" work that the Las Vegas chapter of HRC is doing and is no stranger to Sin City. He plans on visiting Las Vegas again soon, but does not know exactly when that will be. Understandably Griffin will have his plate full for quite some time, but it is comforting knowing that such a dedicated and energetic person is at the helm in the fight against the injustices that many LGBT people are all too familiar with.



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“

I wanted to do a weekly event that would bring all the entertainers together with their friends. Entertainers from every show on the Strip and everywhere around the world

”

EDIE

enjoying
the BIZ

by Chad Martinez



Edie the Entertainer has dazzled Las Vegas showgoers for over four years now. Her role as a 60's-inspired emcee a-go-go in the popular Cirque du Soleil show Zumanity has been performed to a combined audience of over two million people. Despite her already full schedule, the energetic and leggy Edie has launched a new Wednesday night event at Share Nightclub, billed as a weekly cast party for everyone.

“I wanted to do a weekly event that would bring all the entertainers together with their friends. Entertainers from every show on the Strip and everywhere around the world,” Edie said.

The night is called *The Biz*, and promises to be one of the most eclectic entertainment spots for locals and visitors alike. A place to unwind and enjoy the wealth of talent that we have in Las Vegas as one of the entertainment capitals in the world, with a mix of new music, classic 60's pop and Broadway tunes.

“I want people in their twenties to people in their eighties to have a really good time” Edie said.

No doubt the night will be popular with entertainers looking to remedy the monotony of performing the same show night after night. For non-entertainers, it's a night filled with eclectic music and impromptu performances by a variety of very talented performers doing what they love, minus the constraints associated with their various professional roles. “We're going to have people come up and sing and do magic or do whatever they do,” Edie said. “If they want to try a new song or just do something outside of their show they can come play and have fun.”

To get an idea of what shape *The Biz* will take, it's helpful to understand Edie a little more. Coming from the disciplined world of ballet and

dance, Edie always felt an affinity with the free-spirited 60's, and admired singers like Nancy Sinatra, Dusty Springfield and Lulu. She has always been an entertainer and comes from a supportive family with two siblings who were also involved in performance, all at early ages. After encouragement from their father, Edie started dancing at the tender age of eight. She took ballet for 11 years, performed in Broadway shows and danced with a tap company in New York City. Edie (the character) was developed in Chicago after a last minute Halloween costume change - which led to a job, then more bookings, and eventually to the highly developed and beloved Edie the Entertainer.

“Once I decided that I was going to do it, then I really wanted to do it right, so I started singing and really fleshing out the character,” Edie said. “Once I embraced it, I created a cabaret show and started traveling all around the country.” Eventually Edie caught the attention of the folks at Cirque du Soleil, and she has been at Zumanity ever since.

The well-deserved attention hasn't gone to Edie's head. She recalls the first time she was unable to find the giant billboard of herself on the New York-New York Hotel & Casino because she was looking for a regular sized poster. Even after four years, Edie is amazed to see the giant-sized advertisements.

“I noticed billboards going up and I'd almost swerve off the road cause I'm like, “Oh my God- I'm 20 feet tall!” Edie said. Soon she will be seeing herself on buses too. “I'm by the backdoor,” Said Edie jokingly. “Is there a message there? I don't know!” Edie can be found performing twice nightly Friday through Tuesday at 7:30 pm at the New York-New York Hotel & Casino, and at The Biz inside Share Nightclub every Wednesday night. ■

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own Music All Night

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DIVAS



KENNETH BLAKE

Get it! This is what you're most likely to hear out of Las Vegas Diva Kenneth Blake's lips when he sees you in passing. "It's my catch phrase. It means 'right on' or 'I like it.'" And in case you're curious the proper response is "get it". "I started saying it when I adopted my best friend Gunner." Gunner, a 6 year old Mastiff/American Bulldog mix, was rescued by Kenneth after being abandoned. "When I saw his picture and read his bio, I knew he was the one for me. He's a gentle giant." Gunner loves car rides, going to the park and playing with his K9 friends, as well as tug-o-war and wrestling. Kenneth my be "queen", but Gunner is definitely the "king" of Blake's world. Catch Kenneth as Madonna and Dolly Parton 6 nights a week in Divas Las Vegas at the Imperial Palace.

LARRY EDWARDS

International legendary celebrity impersonator Larry Edwards is an entertainer's entertainer! Larry's career has afforded him the opportunity to be featured on such programs as "Entertainment Tonight" and "Donahue". Larry says the highlight of his career was when he was chosen to make a cameo appearance in the academy award nominated movie "What's Love Got To Do With it" The Tina Turner Story. He also appeared in the movie Miss Congeniality 2 starring Sandra Bullock.



SAMMY GONZALES

When Sammy isn't on stage as Mariah Carey and Liza Minnelli, or when he isn't creating hairstyles to the stars as co-owner of Adias Salon (3385 S. Durango) the absolute joys and loves of his life are his teacup poodles Polo and Tonke, whom are bigger "Divas" than he is, and his partner Michael of 8 years. You can see Sammy strut his stuff 6 nights a week in Divas Las Vegas at the Imperial Palace.

STEVEN WAYNE

Steven Wayne portrays legendary divas Celine Dion and Cher in Frank Marino's Divas Las Vegas. He is the proud owner of two Bluenose American Pit Bulls named Toby and Bree. Wayne says that the dogs are more than just man's best friend - they are more entertainment than cable television, better than any commercial home security system, and they are his personal trainers who make "walking the dogs" a very strenuous workout! He believes that having dogs are better than any being in any relationship he's ever had because it's perfectly acceptable to put the dogs in a cage when he's not home! The secret to a perfect marriage? Maybe!



the animal foundation's 9th annual
best in show™

Sunday, April 22
The Orleans Arena - 1pm

Join Flamingo Headliner **Nathan Burton** and other local celebrities for The Animal Foundation's 2012 **Best In Show** - an exciting fundraiser to raise money for the more than 50,000 lost, unwanted, abandoned and unloved animals entering Nevada's largest shelter each and every year.

Fifty shelter dogs will compete for your applause in hopes of winning the "Best In Show" title...and your heart! All dogs will be available for adoption at the end of the show.

TICKETS:

\$12 Adults, \$5 Kids and Seniors

**For more information or
to purchase tickets, visit
animalfoundation.com**



QSTYLE

produced by Troy Patruno

BOTTOMS

Bright, bold tones are showing up everywhere this season. And while we've all thrown on a colorful T or shirt before, it is a less-familiar trend to put the color in the bottom half of the outfit.

But if you take some hints from the runways, you will definitely want to add some pop to your pants this summer. Calvin Klein Collection showed turquoise, Balenciaga and Gucci went red, and even ultra luxe Hermes did a spicy saffron. Dsquared2 had some of the best examples, showing the

sexy/preppy look in a slim, slightly cropped shape, in hot pink, lime, and purple. Denim lines J-Brand and Citizens For Humanity have versions of their own- check them out at Barneys. And if you haven't looked at Ralph Lauren's new denim line, well, wait no longer- his orange jean is one of the best.

How to keep this look from becoming a pantone overload? Leave the color emphasis on the trouser, and stay simple on your upper half. White and black will always look sharp, in solids or graphic

stripes. Try a crisp white woven for poolside cocktails, with or without a classic jacket. Your black ribbed tank will look fresh with red. And depending on the party, you may want to lose the shirt altogether, and let your trousers (and your tan) make the splash.

Look for pure cotton, in a chino or denim, and a slightly slimmer fit. With lots of accessibly priced options out there, a hot bottom is a fun trend to try for the season, no matter how you wear it. Finding the best top will be up to you.



orange slim leg chino, \$24.95.
H&M Forum Shops.

cobalt chino jean, \$58.
Gap stores nationwide.

yellow denim jean, \$195.
J-Brand at Barneys/Shoppes
at the Palazzo.

lime stretch gabardine jean,
stylist's own.



red slouchy chino, \$72.
Ralph Lauren stores.

white bootleg denim jean, \$68.
Gap stores nationwide.

aqua trouser with piping, \$495.
Valentino Uomo.

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Guest Speaker:
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Q CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

1

YIKES! IT'S April Fools DAY!

ECUTE.COM

2

BLUE MARTINI

Manic Mondays@ Blue Martini
1/2 OFF cocktails and Food Every Monday

3

TUESDAY LIGHTS OUT!

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4

QBA LUNCHEON @HUSSONGS 11:30AM

QBA Q-BUSINESS ALLIANCE NETWORKING
WED APRIL 4 11:30AM-1:00PM
HUSSONGS
SPEED NETWORKING QVEGAS DRAWING SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

8

munDO
a latin chic restaurant

Sunday Brunch
World Market Center
11 to 3 pm

9

Cottontail Mondays

Fall down the rabbit hole at SHARE Nightclub

Cotton Tail Mondays

10

The Cupcakery

BUY 1 get one FREE with QVEGAS AD

11

THE BIZ

The Biz, A WEEKLY Cast Party! @ SHARE Nightclub 11PM

15

AIDS WALK 2012
LAS VEGAS
APRIL 15 @ UNLV

16

WELCOME To Fabulous FOUR SQUARE DAY

17

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11PM - 3AM

SHARE
4636 WYNN ROAD - LAS VEGAS

22

The Animal Foundation's 9th Annual Best in Show
April 22, 2012 - 1:00pm
Orleans Arena
This event is general admission.
Adults: \$12
Seniors (65+): \$5
Children (2-10): \$5

best in show

23

Weekly on Monday
8275 Spring Mountain Road, Las Vegas, NV 89117
LVGA3 Volleyball INTERMEDIATE Drop-in Play
Weekly on Monday, and Wednesday @ Desert Breeze Community Center.
Back Gym: Mondays/Wednesdays 12:30-3:30pm (Intermediate Play) Drop-in Play.
\$2 at Back Desk

LVGA3
athletics - arts - activities

24

SINCITY Q SOCIALS

Sin City Q-Socials Every Tuesday

25

Frank Marinos Divas

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IT'S REIGNING WOMEN
Divas
FRANK MARINO
\$25 OFF
IMPERIAL PALACE

29

HRC Family Picnic
April 29, 2012
11am-3pm
West Flamingo Park (Flamingo west of Jones)

30

HRC Family Reunion Picnic

Manic Mondays@ Blue Martini
1/2 OFF cocktails and Food Every Monday

BLUE MARTINI

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

5

Smashburger Three Square Day

Dine in at any Smashburger Las Vegas on Thursday, April 5 and 20% of your bill will be donated to Three Square!



6

Stripper Circus
Share Nightclub
Starts at 10 pm



7

Donate to Three Square at the 24 Hour Food Drive!
visit: QVegas.com For more Info



12

All Male Review
@Freezone 10 PM



13

SNAPI
Nuts & Bolts
www.lasvegaspride.org

14



MCCLV Rainbow Service
Saturdays 5:30pm
1140 Almont Tree Lane
Las Vegas, NV 89104

19

QVegas HRC 3rd Thursday
6 PM @RICE & COMPANY

20

Queens of Las Vegas
@Freezone



21

Potluck Socials

@ The Gay and Lesbian
Community Center



26

Thrust Thursdays at Entourage



27

The 10th Celebration of Civil Liberties
At The Barrymore
Restaurant
The Royal House Hotel
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Tickets are \$150 and space is limited, so get
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3rd Annual Corks & Forks
"Paris Nights". An all exclusive Paris Hotel &
Casino Chateau Roof Top Garden dinner, with
wines and entertainment.

28

SNAPI Saturdays Every Fourth Saturday
at Charlies

WALK WITH
THE QCREW

April 15th
AFAN Aids Walk @
UNLV



LOOKING TOWARDS THE CURE

Community Counseling Center, Snicks and Backdoor Host upcoming Events for the U.S Conference on AIDS

LAS VEGAS (April 03, 2012) – Snicks Beer Bust from 8-11 with a Hot Dog Eating Contest \$10.00 Entry Fee. "Sometimes bigger is better" Silent Auction and drawing to benefit the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC). Snick is located at 1402 S-3rd ave 89104. NMAC is returning to where it all began, Las Vegas, NV, for the 2012 U.S. Conference on AIDS. Join us in our effort to fight against HIV/AIDS to raise funds and awareness.

Back Door Friday, April Lucky 13, Show and Edgar Ramos will be performing his vocal talents along with a female impersonator show. Doors open at 9 p.m., until 6 a.m. A donation of \$5 is suggested at the door. Backdoor is located 1415 E Charleston Blvd 89104.

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MEET TIM EVANS

by Chad Martinez

Tim Evans is the Director of Marketing at Luxor and Excalibur. For the past decade he has witnessed first-hand the rapid growth of the LGBT market in Las Vegas. Evans started with MGM International in 2001, right around the same time they implemented their Diversity Champion Initiative.

"It really helped me understand what this company was all about," Evans said. "They were pledging to create a diverse environment for everyone who works here and it was just a good feeling."

Aside from creating good feelings and a good work environment, the Initiative is good for business. Early on MGM recognized the potential money to be made in the growing LGBT market. Even before their diversity program was implemented, the New York-New York Hotel and the Luxor were advertising to GLBT audiences. Evans and the MGM Marketing team have helped define what it means to be a modern and diverse company. The initiative includes intensive classroom training that fuses leadership courses with industry specific training. All of the executive and management teams for the company have gone through the program and they have started to put their front line team through it as well.

"It's one of the first priorities whenever a new manager comes on line to whatever property," Evans said.

The wonderful thing about the Initiative is that the lessons learned are carried with the participants beyond the classroom and workplace. Evans explains that in many cases the participants experience life changing emotions and form deep bonds with each other.

MGM also seeks to widen the positive influence of the program by offering it to LGBT and veteran businesses owners. There are plans to expand it even further by offering it to military groups and schools.

"Diversity training doesn't mean we all have to think the same," said Patty Coaley, who heads up the diversity program for all the properties. "It just means we all have to agree to be tolerant of differences," Coaley said.

In addition to the diversity program, the hotels offer generous room packages geared toward LGBT guests. Like their Girls Night Out and Guys Night Out packages (which include tickets to Thunder Down Under).

"We frankly are still trying to figure out how we can best understand and better service the LGBT customer when they check in," Evans said.

Some of the ideas currently being kicked

around include having an identifiable LGBT concierge at the front desk to help visitors navigate the gay waters of Vegas.

Evans admits that the effects of marketing are tough to measure, but if their popular gay pool-party Temptation Sundays is any indication, MGM was wise to start courting gay audiences early. The pool party is now in its fourth year and outgrew its original location. The party was moved to Luxor's north side pool to accommodate the larger number of attendees. Evans was initially worried that the new, less secluded, location might discourage LGBT pool-goers but soon realized that was not the case.

"Actually, I was completely wrong on all accounts; our LGBT crowd loved it," Evans said.

There are some programs scheduled for the summer but in general, it's more about enjoying the sun poolside with cocktails, surrounded by other gays. The LGBT landscape is changing for the better in Las Vegas and Evans, along with his team, are determined to make it a safe and fun destination for LGBT travelers and locals. Temptation Sundays is hosted by J.Son of Naked-BoyNews.com and resumes on May 20th and running through Sept. 9th, 1-7 p.m. daily. ■



Tim Evans

Director of Marketing at
Luxor and Excalibur

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IS YOUR PET OVERWEIGHT?

As we all know obesity has become an epidemic in the U.S. A. with 1/3 of our population considered obese or overweight. Well, it looks like our bad habits are now affecting our pets as well. According to the Association for Pet Obesity, out of 77.5 million dogs in the U.S.A., an astonishing 35 million of these dogs are considered overweight and 6.7 million are considered clinically obese. How do these statistics affect your pets? A study was performed by Purina Lifespan and reported that pets that are overweight live 2 years less than pets that maintain a healthy weight. In addition there are several other risk factors that are most common, including poor joint health, Type 2 Diabetes, Heart & respiratory disease, kidney disease and cancer (courtesy of the Association of Pet Obesity Prevention).

QUICK TIPS FOR A HEALTHY PET:

PORTION CONTROL

One of the most important factors in keeping your pet at a healthy weight is managing the amount of food they eat daily. Instead of allowing your pets to graze, break their eating times up 2-3 times a day and remove the bowl when they are. This will help prevent overeating

EXERCISE

20 minutes a day of walking, running or even tossing the ball in the park is a great way to burn extra calories and keep your pet youthful and healthy!

FOOD TYPE

Preferably you should be feeding your pets All Natural and holistic pet food. Canidae is a great brand to try!

SUPPLEMENTS

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JUSTIN J. MCCOY



SPRING FEVER

The Healthy Side of

SEX

The pool covers are finally coming off and spring break is in full swing here in Vegas and across the nation. Say good riddance to that thermostat heat setting, and get ready to heat some things up on your own!

As we all know, sex is enjoyable. But would you believe it can be a critical component for your health? As it turns out, according to the latest research, there are some surprising health benefits to sex that can not only put a spring in your libido, but help you to achieve better health overall.

So (as if) you needed yet another reason to increase your sexual appetite, here are several health benefits of sex you may not yet be turned onto:

1. Sex Can Boost Your Immune System

Recent studies show that having sex once or twice a week has been linked with higher levels of an antibody called immunoglobulin A or IgA, which can protect you from getting colds and other infections.

2. Sex Burns Calories - It turns out, thirty minutes of sex burns 85 calories or more. It may not sound like much, but it adds up: 42 half-hour sessions will burn 3,570 calories, more than enough to lose a pound. Doubling up, you could drop that pound in 21 hour-long sessions. Longer is better in this case.

3. Sex Reduces the Likelihood of Depression

Studies show that those individuals who engage in regular sex are far less likely to suffer from depression. This is due in large part to the fact that certain hormones and endorphins are released during sex that can leave a person feeling happier and satisfied. So the more frequently one engages in sex, the happier they are overall, and the less likely they are to feel any sort of depression in the long run.

4. Sex Can Help with Pain Relief

Along the same lines as a reduction in feelings of depression, sex can act as a sort of pain relief. During sex, certain endorphins and hormones are released and go to work on relieving pains within the body. So if you are suffering from any sort of minor ailment, sex can help aid in relieving it. And.... it's more fun than taking an aspirin.

5. Sex Helps You Sleep Better - The oxytocin released during orgasm also promotes sleep. And getting enough sleep has been linked with a host of other good things, such as maintaining a healthy weight and blood pressure.

In addition to sex, engaging in regular physical exercise also acts as an immunity booster as well as producing similar endorphins which combat depression. So, combining sex and physical exercise regularly is not only fun, but can also do amazing things for your health, well being and longevity.

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Retro Night

2-4-1 Drinks
10am-12pm

2-4-1 Drinks
10am-12pm

2-4-1 Drinks 10am-12pm
Karaoke 12pm
\$3 Well & Domestics

2-4-1 Drinks
10a - Noon
Ladies Nights

2-4-1 Drinks
10a - Noon
Ladies Nights

2-4-1 Drinks
10a - Noon
Latin Nights

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953 E. Sahara Ave.
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\$5.0 Beer Bust
9p - Midnight

Happy Hour
2-4-1 Drinks
4p - 7p

Happy Hour
2-4-1 Drinks
4p - 7p

Happy Hour
2-4-1 Drinks
4p - 7p

Happy Hour
2-4-1 Drinks
4p - 7p

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9p - Midnight

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2am-10am
\$5 Beer Bust 4pm-7pm

Dance Lessons 7p-9p
\$1.75 Well 2am-10am
2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm

Drag Queen Bingo 9p
\$1.75 Well 2am-10am
2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm

Underwear Night
\$1.75 Well 2am-10am
2-4-1 Well 10am-6pm

1/2 Price 9p-12am
Dances Lessons 7p-9p
\$1.75 Well 2am-10am

Dance Lessons 7p-9p
\$1.75 Well & Domestic
2am-10am & 7pm-9pm

\$1.75 Well & Domestic
2am-10 & 7pm-9pm
\$5 Beer Bust 9pm-12am

CREWS'N
1000 E. Sahara, Ste. 105
702-731-0951

Happy Hour 2-7p
2 for 1 Well and Draft

Sing along with pianist
Piermarini 4-7p
Happy Hour 2-7p

Happy Hour 2-7p
Karaoke 8-11p
Every other Tuesday

Happy Hour 2-7p
2 for 1 Well and Draft

Happy Hour 2-7p
2 for 1 Well and Draft

Happy Hour 2-7p
Kitty Litter Show
11p & 1a

Happy Hour 2-7p
2 for 1 Well and Draft

ENTOURAGE VEGAS
953 E. Sahara Ave.
702-650-9191

Open 24 Hours
Movie Star Night

Boys Night
4PM. to Midnight
\$5 locker Under 25

Open 24 Hours
Dark Night
All Lights Outs

Open 24 Hours
Wise Wednesdays

THRUST Thursday
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RuPauls Drag Race 8:30pm
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Pizza & Pitcher \$15

2-4-1 Happy Hour 4pm-7pm
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2-4-1 Happy Hour 4pm-7pm
flamBOYance Drag 11pm
Liquor Bust 10:30p-1:30a

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Pizza & Pitcher \$15
Hot GoGo Boys

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TemptASIAN 10pm w/ DJ
Ricoche \$10 Liquor Bust &
\$7 Tokyo Teas

Boys Night
No Cover

Cirque Du Macabre
Axiom 10pm w/DJ Panda
Live Circus

FREEZONE
610 E. Naples Dr.
702-794-2300

Karaoke
Free Beer Bust 8p - 1a
w/ Shot Purchase

Karaoke
Free Beer Bust 8p - 1a
w/ Shot Purchase

Ladies Night
Lick-Her-Bust 8p - 1a

Risque Bingo 8pm
INTOXXXICATED w/
Diva Toxxx Drag Revue
11pm

BUSTED
\$7 Liquor Bust
\$5 Beer Bus
8-1am

Queens of Las Vegas
Drag Revue 1-pm
DJ BC 11pm

Queens of Las Vegas
Drag Revue 10pm
Beer Bust 4-8pm

FUN HOG RANCH
495 E. Twain
702-791-7001

\$5 Beer Bust
6-9pm

Happy Hour 3-7p
\$1.50 Long Islands 9p-2a
\$3 Smimoff 8pm-12a

Happy Hour 3-7p
\$5 Beer Bust
\$10 Liquor Bust 9p-2a

Happy Hour 3-7p
\$1.50 Margaritas
9p-2a & \$1 off Call Sho

Happy Hour 3-7p
\$5 Beer Bust
\$10 Liquor Bust 9p-2a

Happy Hour 3-7p

\$5 Beer Bust 12pm-4pm

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Beer Bust 5P-9P/Li-
quor Bust 9P-12A

8P-11P \$4 Absolut/ Beer
Bust9p-12P

8P-11P \$2.50 Jager
Shots/Liquorbust 9P-12A

8P-11P \$3 Jack Shots/
Beer Bust 9P-12A

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8P-11P \$3 Cherry/
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8P-11P Half Price Long
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Comedy Show
8p-midnight

Karaoke With Will
9pm-1a

Carpe Noctem
10:30p-4a
NO COVER

Vaquero Night
with \$10 Liquor Bust
10p

Noche Caliente
"Hot Night"
10p

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702-458-8662

\$5 Well or Draft Bust
12 - 5p and 10p - 2a

Slot Tournament
8p-10p

Karaoke with
Johnathon

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

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3rd St. off Las Vegas Blvd.
702-385-9298

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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

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957 E. Sahara Ave.
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\$1.50 Bloody Marys
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Noon - 4p
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\$5 Beer Bust
Noon - 4p
2-4-1 9p - Midnight

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Margaritas 8a - 4p

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\$5 Beer Bust 8 - 11p

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Happy Hour 6-8, 12-2a

Ultra Lounge
6PM-2AM
Happy Hour 6-8, 12-2a

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OPEN BAR 12-2a

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EMPIRE

THE 90'S NEVER SOUNDED SO GOOD!

Ah, the 90's. It was a unique and glorious time when the American uniform was plaid, its Anthem -Rock and it's God -a holy trinity consisting of Cobain, Vedder and Hetfield. It was a time of grunge -MTV's Beavis and Butthead, Clueless and music, Oh yes, music from such legends as Green day, Morisette, Garbage, and Sublime.

Now the music of the 90's has come back reincarnated. The band is called Empire Records - the music is the 90's -it's a cover band that will make you feel like a "man in a box", leave you "chasing waterfalls" and dance like "the prince of Bel Air" as they take the local Las Vegas music scene by storm- "Oh baby, baby!"

Empire Records is the brain child of creator, Robbie Wingfield, who is no stranger to the limelight, as one of the featured piano players and performers at downtowns, Don't Tell Mamma(517 Fremont St.)it only seemed natural to take it to the next level and Wingfield did creating a band for anyone looking to let loose and have a great time.

"It's something I've been planning for a long time. This is the music I grew up with," says Wingfield.

"I saw how every working cover band seemed to center around the 80's or hair metal and I wanted to stay ahead of the curve-When we perform I see guys singing along to Britney and The Backstreet Boys who probably grew up listening to Alice and Chains and Nirvana. Its cool to mix everything together and relive some of our youth."

Thus Empire Records was born, but an idea is just an idea until you bring together some of the best young talent this town has to offer, then, it becomes a reality.

Wingfield did just that enlisting fellow band members: Lead singers Mark Langberg and Jessenia Paz, Lead guitarist

Aaron Archer , Bass player James Matthews and Matt Bennett on the drums.

"I have known everyone in the band for a long time," says Wingfield. " James was the best man at my wedding. Matt, Mark, and Jessenia work as gondoliers at the Venetian and Jess I also worked with at Mama's- i met Aaron singing drunk karaoke at Dino's."

Only in Vegas Folks.

With the band assembled - Empire Records took on Downtown where the band developed a cult following with various venues around Vegas drawing in people from the streets of Fremont into Henney's and the LV Country Saloon every weekend with their furiously divine vibe.

Lead vocalists, Mark Langberg and Jessenia Paz reek of charisma and undeniable chemistry as they take to the stage- like a match made in hot chick meets homo heartthrob heaven, and for Langberg, there's nothing better then performing live.

"Just putting yourself out there is exciting... so many people keep coming back, and first timers will stay for the entire night. I have always wanted to perform live and it has proved to be amazing, fans come out and really get what we are trying to do. We have fun and don't take ourselves too seriously, but by no means does that imply that we are not melting peoples faces off."

Paz agrees with her yummy leading man but insists it's a team effort and ultimately friendship that makes the band stand out.

"Each member of the band holds a huge responsibility in that, we have all agreed to be business partners and friends. Mark and I specifically have a solid understanding that if one of us lacks the energy at the start of the night, the other over compensates until the energy is met

RECORDS

By Jill jRoth

and balanced. It's effortless to feed off of one another because we're close off stage. We know how to lead each other through support, love and effort in everything we do."

When it comes to performing night after night the music has to be good- not just for the audience but also for the band members.

With Wingfield leading the way, the band came together and compiled a list of hits that leaves the audience salivacious from singing along and the band energized with a love of the songs which that are the epitome of days gone by.

"I love singing 'Jeremy', by Pearl Jam, because I can just kind of lose myself in that song. Aaron is such an amazing musician and he plays the guitar so well that the song really shows how good he is," says Wingfield.

"Man in the box" by Alice in Chains, I like for the same reasons too. "I want it that way" (The Backstreet Boys) is fun because we play it exactly like the original but we do a tongue in cheek performance too it and people seem to have fun with that."

Langberg picks a song that most musicians would find a lyrical nightmare.

"I love performing 'One Week' by Barenaked Ladies because it's proving to get me laid each night. Aside from that, it has to be singing back-up for Jessenia on 'You Oughta Know' by Alanis Morissette. Traditionally a solo, but we figured out

some super sexy harmonies that make the song even more awesome. And to get to sing with her is, well...the best part of my night."

As for Paz, it isn't just one song but every song that gets her up there crooning for the masses.

"Empire Records is a party band that provides nostalgia, eclecticism and good energy to prevail. We've carefully selected

each song as a group to get that surprised and excited reaction- and it has yet to fail! As long as we feel the high energy and support, we know what we're doing is a success."

Wingfield lets his fans know that whether

you are a first timer to the Empire Records experience or a devout follower, there is so much more to come.

"We will always be looking to expand. There is so much music, too much music really, that we will always be adding new songs and rotating them in to keep the show fresh for our growing fan base. We will be adding video to the show, as well as some medleys and parodies of songs. I want to add content that isn't just straight up covers but rather familiar things done in a somewhat new way, it's all about seeing people enjoying themselves, seeing the light bulbs turn on when people go, "Shit I totally forgot about this song!"

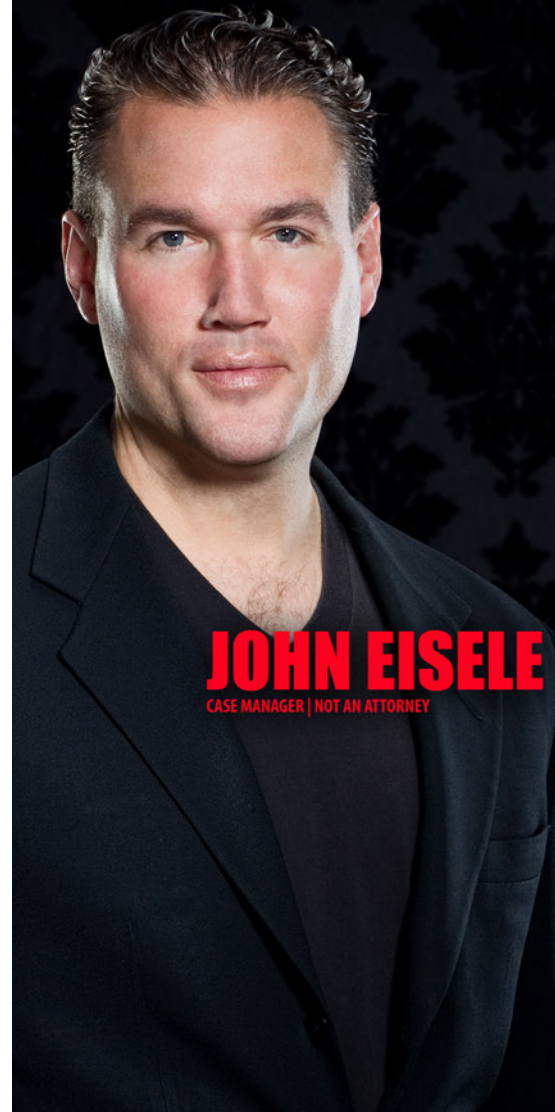
For more information on Empire Record show times and locations visit facebook.com/empirerecordsband ■



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HRC volunteers

SOFIA TORRES

I have been volunteering for HRC for over three years, with my first introduction being at an HRC 101, to find out more about HRC locally. Volunteering for HRC gives me a fulfillment that keeps me rooted to my community. Human Rights are rights you are born with. I enjoy volunteering in the community and I am able to support our community and meet new people that become my friends and famil, giving me a sense of unity. I am currently a member of the Volunteer Sub-Committee, and I volunteer at our community events, Gala, and in support of our community partners and local organizations.

ANTONIA SMITH

Currently, I hold the role of administrator on the HRC Las Vegas Steering Committee. I have been actively volunteering with the Human Rights Campaign since February 2011, and have been a supporter of the organization and its endeavors for many years prior. After attending an HRC 101 I was more convinced than ever to become involved with the organization on a greater scale, due to its role in the community and the welcoming atmosphere of the Las Vegas group. I am proud to be involved with HRC as we work towards equal rights and look forward to the events of 2012!

RON QUINN

I was first introduced to the Human Rights Campaign in 2006 as an attendee at the inaugural Gala. After attending several annual Galas thereafter, and various HRC social events, I became an active volunteer about four years ago because I knew the importance of this work. We are truly in the middle of the Gay Civil Rights Movement. I not only wanted to be a part of the movement, but my goal was to make a difference. I sought to surround myself with like-minded individuals from our community and our allies. I first volunteered at the HRC Picnic, and was in charge of volunteers. Subsequently I was elected to the Steering Committee as Volunteer Co-Chair and developed a core group of volunteers, setting an example for our community and HRC nationally. Currently I am the Co-Chair of Membership, Community Events and Volunteers, as well as the Co-Chair of the Las Vegas HRC Steering Committee. I love volunteering in support of HRC and our community, and I am very proud of our volunteers and consider them my family.

ZELKIN MONROY

Equality should be a basic human right that every human being should be entitled to. It doesn't matter who you are, where you're from, or who you love, everyone should be treated the same and given their fair share of rights in this life. As a gay male, I have been stripped of some of my rights simply because of who I choose to love. I joined HRC because I wanted to make a difference in the community. I have been a part of HRC for about 4 months and I have really taken a shine to this wonderful group. As an active member, I strive to give hands where hands are needed so that one day, everyone can love who they love and enjoy life, equally!

PAUL SCHIMINSKY

My involvement as a volunteer began 7 years ago. I had attended the Gala Dinner in LA and was familiar with the organization. I went to the very first dinner planning meeting and have been involved ever since.

I liked the idea of creating something new for the gay community in Las Vegas. It was and continues to be exciting to see our residents new and old come together. It has also been a wonderful way to meet people. After 7 years here in Las Vegas and being involved in HRC, I can trace many of my friendships to HRC meetings and events.

I serve on the Steering Committee and am Tri-Chair of the Gala for the second year in a row. This year I'm co-chairing with Missy Morgan and Tom Kovachs.

HERGIT "COCO" LLENAS

I have been actively volunteering with HRC for 3 years. I had the pleasure of meeting two incredible women who were already involved, Dawn Christensen and Gwen Migita. Dawn invited me to some of the HRC events as a guest, which allowed me to learn more about the mission and mingle with members of the local Steering Committee. I soon realized that as a woman, an immigrant and a lesbian, equality was not just my fight. HRC showed me I was not alone; that its mission was mine as well.

WARNING! The passion and dedication of the Steering Committee is very contagious!

HRC nurtures women by creating opportunities for leadership. It expands our networks, generating fresh ideas and powerful connections. It reforms legislation, bringing solutions

and improvements to all aspects of our life: work, health and education, among others. HRC also helps by adding an immense wealth of resources that helps us understand what decisions are made and how they affect us, but more importantly what we can do to change or influence those decisions.

HRC gives us a sense of belonging. A place in common for our struggles, at the same time that it gives us the satisfaction of doing something bigger than ourselves, something that will also change the live of others. To mention one, there is "Ya Es Hora, Ciudadania!," which is the largest and most inclusive effort to incorporate immigrants into the American political process. This multi-layered campaign provides a comprehensive approach, linking naturalization to voter participation and Census enumeration under a single message: "It's Time."

About 8 million immigrants in the U.S. are eligible for naturalization, yet only a small percentage of these people seek citizenship. More than half the immigrants who are eligible for naturalization come from Latin America, according to the Pew Hispanic Center. As one of the leading agencies, HRC along with Caesars' Entertainment and Mi Familia Vota, has assisted over 1,000 Nevadans in their path to citizenship. And that is one of the many initiatives that makes me love HRC, as well as our Woman of Color stories and our HerHRC event.

JAMIE LEE SPRAGUE

I just started getting involved with HRC, as for the past 4 years Latoya Holman and Rev. Moore have offered to help me in the hosting of the Transgender Day of Remembrance, which I have been hosting for the past 6 years here in Las Vegas. The event is held around the 20th of November each year. Because of their support for the past 4 years, I in return decided to start getting more involved within the community by volunteering for HRC.

With Latoya reaching out to me so much with HRC, and helping me with the hosting of the Transgender Day of Remembrance, I felt it necessary to move from the past of HRC and its history with the Transgender community here in Las Vegas, and start bridging the gap to help bring about some sort of unity within the community, and start working together, with those who are willing to reach out to the Trans community, even if it means letting go of the past.

Currently I am learning the different aspects of



the HRC organization, and exploring what part of HRC would benefit my outreach to the Las Vegas Transgender Community.

JOHN WILLEY

I have been involved with HRC for just under 2 years, having served on the Las Vegas Steering Committee for the last year. I got involved with HRC about six months after moving to Las Vegas. I have always volunteered for organizations in both New York City and Los Angeles, where I lived and worked as an attorney prior to moving to Las Vegas. My volunteer work in those cities leaned toward working with HIV/AIDS charities as a volunteer lawyer for individuals living with the disease. I was looking for a different type of volunteer opportunity here in Las Vegas and I met several members of the HRC Steering Committee at an HRC/Q-Vegas

3rd Thursday event a few months after relocating here. I was impressed with the individuals and the work they were doing. I resolved to get involved and it has turned out to be one of the best decisions I have made in some time. The level of professionalism and commitment put forth by all of the local HRC volunteers has led to what I believe is the best overall volunteer experience of my life.

I currently serve as the Co-Chair of the Political Committee and serve on the Las Vegas Steering Committee. This being an election year, we will be extremely busy working toward the election of fair-minded candidates for both national and state office whose political positions are favorable toward the LGBT community and general issues of equality for all people in all aspects of our lives. We will be holding educational opportunities for the LGBT community in order for them to meet the candidates and under-

stand the issues, conducting phone banking and canvassing on behalf of candidates, as well as fundraisers to assist those candidates in their election process. I welcome any members of the community that are interested in the political aspect of HRC's many interests and goals to contact me directly if they wish to be involved in the exciting and fun election process as one of our outstanding volunteers.

SEAN VAN GORDER

I have been Volunteering for HRC for 3 months. I began volunteering for HRC because they give me the most opportunities for causes I believe in. I am a Sub-Committee Volunteer and Co-Chair for the HRC Community Picnic. ■

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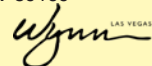


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VIBRATIONS

Aries (March 20-April 19) The restless side of your nature shall be in full bloom on the 4th and 5th. Planetary influences shall be on your side for most of the month. However, this doesn't mean that you should take any major financial risks. It'll really help your long range goals to become more of a team player. Some people think you "lord things" over others. This won't win any new allies. The 25th looks best for an incredibly passionate romantic encounter. Please dress appropriately sexy!

Taurus (April 20-May 20) A major legal/contractual victory between the 7th & 9th sends your "personal stock" soaring. Everybody does love a winner. Though it could take practice weeding out those "air weather friends" from your true "band of brothers". There'll be lots inter city driving at mid month, so make sure that vehicle (or should we just say chariot?) is in tip top condition. Don't even try to explain/justify a difficult decision that you were charged with making. The truth will come out in time.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Many of your key ideas are very close to becoming realities. But, now more than ever it's essential to be patient and resist making what could be expensive mistakes. Watch those lower back muscles from the 11th-13th, or risk a major flareup like last summer. The 20th-24th look incredible for a much needed getaway. Take the i phone, but keep all other work related "toys" at home. The month ends on a relatively calm note, involving good news from a distance.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Don't be tempted to take on the problems of others, no matter how much they need your help. This simply drains you in the long run and this can be physically draining. Most work projects come off without a hitch. This happens when a serious "team effort" is in play. There looks to be little drama in your personal life and that works just fine. Make sure to have that presentation 100% proofed before displaying it for the "money guys". It'll be another "feather" in your career cap.

Leo (July 23-August 22) Rarely is perfect balance achieved throughout life. However, much in your life will run as "smooth as silk" for much of this month and next. Sometimes, it's more than enough to simply let things occur, without taking any initiative. Not easy for you, since you're far more comfortable giving commands/barking orders. This is where the ultimate tests of faith tend to come into play. treat yourself to a night on the town for the 21st. It's time you splurged a bit.

Virgo (August 23-September 22) That delightful Libra full moon shall illuminate so many areas of life from the 5th-7th. You may feel much like a "kid in a candy store". It's a wonderful place to be in. Just try not to sample too many of the goodies at once. Make arrangements for a "designated driver" (not you this time) to carpool everyone to that terrific bash on the 20th. A long held ambition that's been on the back burner should come reignite "piping hot" before the end of next month.

Libra (September 23-October 22) New partnerships currently forming look as though they could last for a lifetime. It's great having people to trust and rely on. Treat these sweet souls like "gold", because they're surely worth it. Avoid highway driving on the 11th if at all possible. If not, then be home before the dreaded "rush hour" peaks. Your "cuisine" skills have gotten to be quite famous. Why not show them off at an intimate dinner party? You'll be the "talk of the town" for quite some time.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21) That financial rebound you've been experiencing looks as though it'll be around for a few more months-at least. awesome news for you Scorp. Now, if you watch that habit of "impulse buying", a nice financial nest egg will seem as if to appear by magic. This happens sooner than later, providing you make a budget and stick with it. This doesn't mean you can't still have some fun. Simply look for freebies & coupons. There are many more than you know.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21) Much of Scorpio's message also applies to you. But, you'll actually have some spare cash to have some serious fun with (how long since anyone has told you that?). Still, a spending budget should be set and stuck to. That lease renewal on the 10th comes off without a hitch, as it should. That weight loss is quite evident. Go shopping for some "form fitting" clothes. In other words, show off and shake that "booty" all over the dance floor. Yay!

Capricorn (December 22-January 19) After a rather "topsy turvy" March, this month ends up like a relative "romp". Many more things go right for you, than not. Take those occasional off days (9th, 13th & 27th) in stride and laugh them off. Major incoming financial "shot in the arm" at mid month does wonders for your morale and wardrobe (it's about time too). Don't let out of town guests rub you the wrong way on the 23rd-27th. Have your homes' security system checked and upgraded.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18) As you continue to take life's "high road" (which we know isn't easy), that reputation continues to grow and simply shine. This "goodwill" is worth more than any amount of gold. For it is a treasure that's been nurtured by you for years. As to that love life or the lack thereof, well, you can't have everything at once. so, please don't go looking for love in all the wrong places. That's where you go for hot "one night stands". There's a big difference.

Pisces (February 19-March 19) By nature, you don't particularly care for boundaries or limits of any kind. We empathize with you, but some of these are quite necessary. Think what would happen if there were no red lights or stop signs? complete chaos would ensue. When one of life's speed bumps or stop signs comes upon you, slow down and read the "natural signs". That idea of going back to school, which you've been nurturing, it's time has come. No more excuses. Sign up, Pisces!

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WHERE DO I FIT IN?

by Latoya Holman

As a straight black woman with a fierce belief and expectation of equality for all people, where do I fit in? I have struggled for years finding my place in the LGBT community. The reason for my struggle is pretty basic, yet complicated at the same time. As a human being, I feel that it's my duty to work towards being the best individual that I can be, which will ultimately strengthen my family and my community. I was raised with this understanding and with a very clear expectation and respect for service.

As a straight ally for LGBT equality I originally was a little lost about how I could have a strong impact on our community resulting in strides towards equality for all. Then I met Judy Sheppard and all bets were off. When I asked Judy over dinner, "I'd really like to help you Judy, but I'm not sure what it is I would say to make people understand that I have the right intentions and a real perspective." To which Judy responded, "Latoya, speak your mind. Speak for Matthew who can no longer speak. Speak as if you are his friend and want people to truly hear what you have to say. Speak for what's right and for equality and use the uniqueness of your voice." And so I did. And it's easier than I thought.

I am an educated black woman. If you prefer African-American, I'm good with that too. I am the daughter of two black people who suffered prior to, during and after the civil rights movement. I come from a place of humility and power that I've inherited from my ancestors and in particular, my mother.

I remember having a conversation with my mom when I started volunteering for the Human Rights Campaign as an ally. In one way or another, like many of us "kids" do, I asked her if she approved. My mother held my face and said, "Baby, I couldn't be prouder. Use your voice like I was unable to." And with that, I was off!

I am a founding member of the Human Rights Campaign - Las Vegas. Thus far in my life, this is one of my prouder accomplishments because it is an effort

that will benefit all people. Specifically in terms of the rights that I am fighting for, because it does not directly impact me. It's hard to explain the level of joy that you can receive when you are serving to benefit others. But I can assure you it is one of the most fulfilling things in life.

My journey with HRC has been an exciting one. Lobbying in Carson City and Washington D.C., organizing and volunteering at pride events, building relationships with organizations such as the Black Caucus Foundation and the LGBT Pride Center of Southern Nevada, and creating events like Color Stories (a safe space for storytelling by women of color in an effort to achieve equality). It has been quite a ride.



So, what do I want people to know about the Human Rights Campaign? I want them to know that HRC - Las Vegas is a family. We work together when we are tired. We give money when we have it... and when we don't. We are not all LGBT. We are not all rich white men. We start every initiative with the intention of collaboration and achieving what's right for all. We do our best to represent the organization with pride, professionalism, and at its core: love. We encounter conflict just like every other advocacy group does, but strive to rise above it all - sometimes successfully and sometimes not. We are just volunteers who want our kids to be cared for and respected. We are community members who want our families to be treated with kindness and

acceptance regardless of how many moms or dads are in them. We want to go to work in any state we choose, and not have to worry that we will be fired if someone "perceives" us as Transgendered. We want Jamie Sprague to go to work and not worry that her child is being bullied because she is Transgendered. We want my godson, Caden, to know that no matter how long it takes, his fathers will fight to ensure the public schools he attends include anti-bullying and diversity in a curriculum through which he can see a reflection of his family.

I promised my mother and my father that I would use my voice as they were unable to. My father reminded me a couple of months ago when I was preparing for an interview with HRC's current president Joe Solmonese, how he remembers walking alone along a long road to get to school before the sun came up while a bus capable of stopping and giving him a ride, refused to do so because he was black. He remembers to this day how that felt. Being excluded and viewed as a less-than. My father told me to go on that radio interview with Joe and tell the world that people within the LGBT community are silenced no longer, as African-American people are silenced no longer.

The Human Rights Campaign works to improve the lives of LGBT Americans in the workplace, to be fairly represented in healthcare, and at home. I challenge anyone who, in reading this, understands, agrees or supports what I have experienced in working on these initiatives at a local and national level, to join me. We need your perspective and unique voice and I'm particularly interested in hearing it. Moreover, I'm excited to ignite the fire that is inside of you. ■

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