

JULY 2014

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VEGAS

THE **BUSINESS** ISSUE

Corbin Fisher's
The Business of **SEX**

Gay Marriage
The Business of
WEDDINGS

Dal Toro at The Palazzo:
EATING OUT

Stitched:
The Business of
LIFESTYLE


GARRETT'S
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DJ Morningstar.

August 3: J.Son 5.0

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Birthday with DJ Axis and more!

August 17: Pistol Pete Fashion Show

1PM – 7PM Heat up with a poolside fashion show hosted by J.Son.

September 7: Las Vegas PRIDE

1PM – 7PM Celebrate with PRIDE and Gay Days Las Vegas with guest DJ Diesel.

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Photography by: vsphotphoto.com | Swimwear provided by: Pistol Pete

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ON THE COVER

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Editor's Note

Thank you for picking up this issue of QVegas. July is our Business Issue and we've covered some fun topics including the Business of Gambling. Could you make this a profitable lifestyle?



For the cover we enlisted the help of stylists at STITCHED the ULTIMATE men's boutique, with custom clothing and carefully curated ready to wear. Located inside the luxury shops at The Cosmopolitan Las Vegas STITCHED celebrates the notion of gentlemanly sophistication and looks to be the constant reminder that style never goes out of style.

The business of writing today has new face. With self-publishing the becoming the most viable option for most authors, how do you market yourself in a more competitive market? Self-promotion and using social media platforms seem to work for author Jeremy Scott Blaustein. Check out his article about the business of writing.

This month Las Vegas welcomes the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce as they meet for their annual Business & Leadership Conference. NGLCC is the business voice of the LGBT community and is the largest global not-for-profit advocacy organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunities and advancements for LGBT people. Over 700 participants are expected to come together for educational sessions, networking, and special events, the conference will offer incredible exposure and opportunities for LGBT-owned and -allied businesses to build relationships with more than 140 corporations, federal government agencies and each other.

Janise "Noah" Henderson
@NOAHSARTARK

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

Do you have something on your mind?

Do you have something to say about an article in QVegas or any topic of interest to our readers?

Do you have an idea for a future story?



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2 STEPS FORWARD...

[by Cameron Catton]



"End the Bi-Ban"

A petition asking Google to stop its ban on "bisexuality" in predicative searches has garnered over ten thousand signatures. When someone types "gay" or "lesbian," Google will automatically suggest support groups, counseling, activities, clubs and travel ideas for gay and lesbian people. "Bisexuality" currently produces no automatically suggested sites. "End the Bi-Ban" has been pushing for a long time to have bisexual resources made more readily available, and it looks as if that time is approaching. The ban was put in place with other content safeguards to prevent access to inappropriate content for minors. Advocates to end the ban note that Google users are being inadvertently sent the message that bisexuality is a bad or shameful word. As the petition grows and Google makes new decisions, it is likely that bisexual resources and support will soon be as easy to access as gay and lesbian content.

New to TIME's

Laverne Cox, star of the Netflix original series *Orange Is The New Black*, became the first transgender individual to appear on the cover of TIME Magazine in June. Cox's interview stated truths to which many of TIME's estimated 3.3 million readers may never have been exposed. Cox called out transphobic thoughts and practices, suggesting, "...If you are uncomfortable with it, then you need to look at yourself." Laverne Cox's tremendous social influence in the last year has extended far beyond her amazing acting performance, encompassing a broad range of transgender activism actions, including bringing awareness and support to unfairly incarcerated trans people.



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Wilson High School in Washington D.C. held its second annual Pride Month celebration during lunch hour early in the month of June, and Principal Pete Cahall made a special announcement during the proceedings: he is gay. Cahall said that the recent coming out stories of professional athletes Jason Collins and Michael Sam inspired him to share the truth he had been hiding for fifty years. Cahall said only close friends, and no family, knew his sexual orientation, but that he felt hypocritical hosting events encouraging students to be themselves when he was not doing the same. Response from the student body of the school was overwhelmingly positive, with students proclaiming their respect for Cahall. Openly gay D.C. Council member and education committee chair David Catania, who has actively supported Cahall's coming out process, referred to the principal's actions as, "...An incredible lesson in integrity and courage."

Roland Emmerich, well known for his big-budget films Stargate, Independence Day and The Patriot is prepping for a lavish film adaptation of the 1969 Stonewall Riots. Directing Stonewall as an openly gay man, Emmerich plans to delve deeply into the intricate details that encompassed the broad spectrum of LGBTQ participants in the riots through a script penned by gay author Jon Robin Baitz. Emmerich has expressed an interest in exploring the cross section of diversity in the story, highlighting drag queens, homeless LGBTQ youth, and the corruption of the police involved. The film Stonewall does not yet have a release date, but the historical events of the Stonewall Inn celebrated their 45th anniversary this year.



Nabisco released another pro-LGBTQ ad campaign, this time paying tribute to the blue and yellow Human Rights Campaign (HRC) equal sign. The ad shows two Honey Maid Graham Sticks laid in the shape of an equal sign followed by the text, "This is wholesome." The company also tweeted that, "Pride is family," again showing support for the millions of LGBTQ Americans seeking marriage and adoption rights. Their continued inclusion in the corporation's advertising demonstrates the unwavering respect Nabisco has for all families, as well as their dedication to increasing the visibility and acceptance of LGBTQ people in the world.

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Language is still powerful.

Actor Jonah Hill of the upcoming film *22 Jump Street* was recently chased down an LA street by paparazzi, and lashed out at the goading photographer, eventually calling him a faggot. Hill has apologized through multiple media outlets, proclaiming his sincere apologies and citing his passion for support of the LGBTQ movement and activism for athletes at the recent Olympic Games in overtly homophobic Russia. Suggesting to people that they use his example as something to avoid, Hill claims to have meant his words out of context, calling them simply the most hurtful words that he could think of. These actions sadly characterize how easily hate speech still flows, and how it is still common to use harmful words about sexual orientation to mean dislike or disgust.

Peter LaBarbera, a representative of the group Americans For Truth About Homosexuality, recently launched a gender role media attack he referred to as, "The Death of the American Male." Claiming that Chicago gay leather pride events promoted a fake sense of masculinity, LaBarbera stated that, "*masculine men do not have sex with other men.*" Without any evidence or data to back up his claims, LaBarbera was left to draw on misogyny, the Western subversion of femininity and scare tactics to develop the message that masculinity is somehow inherently opposed to gay sexual behaviors. LaBarbera is no stranger to anti-LGBTQ remarks,



calling for Michael Sam, the NFL's first openly gay athlete, to renounce his sexual orientation.

Republicans press for reparative therapy for homosexuals in Texas

The American Psychological Association (APA) has claimed reparative therapy, or gay conversion therapy, can pose critical health risks in patients. Why, then, are Texas Republicans constructing a party platform that includes support for voluntary psychological gay conversion therapies? Cathie Adams, president of the Texas Eagle forum, and who is spearheading the measure, stated plainly, "I do not think homosexuals are born as homosexuals." Despite outright legal bans on conversion therapies in California and New Jersey, Adams is convinced that Texas' plans to make treatments completely optional will allow for people to, "choose their lifestyles." The APA has found that conversion techniques can lead to depression, substance abuse, decreased self-esteem and thoughts of suicide.

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Brian Brown, President of The National Organization for Marriage, has proudly announced that the former Presidential candidate Rick Santorum has returned to take an active stance against marriage equality in America. Santorum marched and spoke at "March For Marriage" on June 19 in Washington D.C. Brian Brown's announcement of Santorum's involvement stated that, "...Santorum has never hesitated to stand for marriage and make the argument that the social values of our nation are of primary importance to the well-being of our families and children." Rick Santorum has long been outspoken in his efforts to defeat equity for the LGBTQ community, taking stances against gay adoption, stating firmly that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" should be reinstated, and blaming marriage equality, which he likened to a gangrene in infection, for his own divorce.



Jack Phillips, owner of Colorado's Masterpiece Cake Shop, caught national attention in 2012 when he refused, on the grounds of personal belief and faith, to create a wedding cake for a gay couple. Colorado courts have decided to uphold a ruling that Phillips discriminated against the couple in his refusal. In response, Phillips has decided to stop producing wedding cakes altogether. Richard Land, retired president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, claimed that Phillips' situation was similar to forcing black Americans to serve the Ku Klux Klan. Land's comments in support of Jack Phillips deflect the discussion of one issue to focus on another, a derailing tactic often applied when challenging equity. As the movement strives to unite in racial and social justice, anti-LGBTQ arguments that attempt to compare, divide and conquer allies in their causes are incredibly hurtful.

1 STEP BACK



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THE BUSINESS OF WRITING

[By Jeremy Scott Blaustein]

It's hard to imagine, but the life of an author is more than just cigarette breaks and self-loathing. Gone are the days when our chief responsibility was to turn a phrase. Now we also have to know how to sell one.

Like most industries in post-2008 America, the business of books has changed. Self-publishing has become an increasingly more viable option. E-book sales continue to soar while paperback sales seem to promote forest regrowth. The cross-country book tour has been replaced by the stay-at-home-in-sweatpants blog tour. All this while independent bookstores remain for safekeeping in an iron lung.

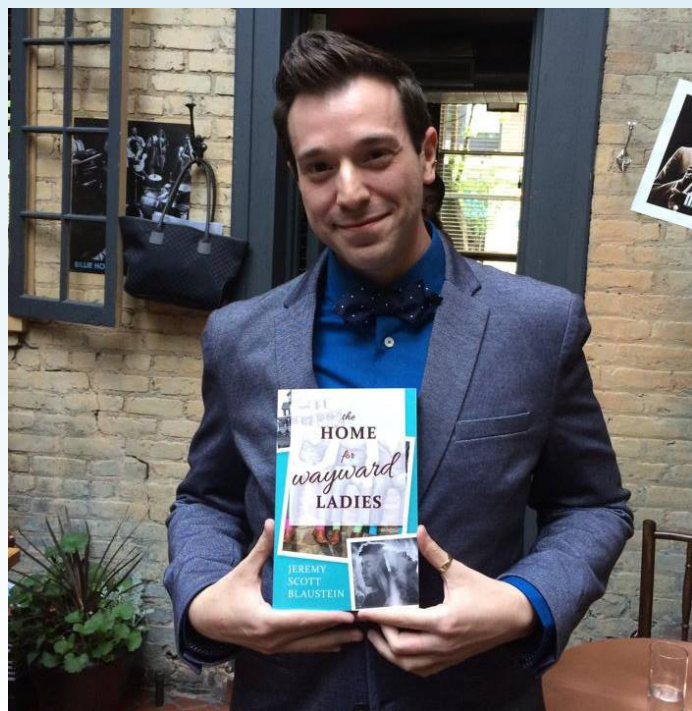
So much has changed that when I sat down to write my debut novel—*The Home for Wayward Ladies*—I was surprised to hear that my prologue would have to go. Apparently, they've become less fashionable than socks with sandals. And, why? Nowadays, when a potential reader is interested in your book, they check your preview on Amazon.com. Since they're only granted access to the first ten pages, you can't piss that impression away on a meatless prologue. If you do, you can kiss that sale goodbye.

Attention spans have dwindled. (Even as I write this, I've methodically checked Facebook every seventeen seconds. Seriously, even that passing reference to Facebook has me

worried because you're now undoubtedly wondering if you've got any new notifications. Go ahead and check; I'll wait.) That's why my book is not the sweeping epic it was originally intended to be. Instead, we made the decision to cut its plot into thirds. Thankfully, this was the right decision; I keep hearing how easily my book goes down with a cocktail by the pool.

Marketing, however, has remained a game of shameless self-promotion, only we have new tools. With the advent of social media, it's easier than ever for an author to promote him or herself as a unique brand (hit me up on Twitter @JSBlaustein). The key now is to know your audience. Luckily, I'm a gay author that writes gay books, so if it's jokes about smoking pole that the masses want, then jokes about smoking pole the masses shall receive. It's my responsibility to use that platform to promote the idea that I'd be the perfect addition to your next dinner party. By the way, do you prefer red or white?

All that being said, none of these changes took me much by surprise. After all, I made my name as a Broadway producer, so if anyone knows how to pick carrion from a corpse, it's me. And just like books, you can't eat



Broadway. So, as familial purse strings tighten, the luxury of art is always the first expenditure.

But here's the thing: escape is not expendable. There is simply no replacement for being transported to a world where characters like us live and breathe. The joy of losing yourself in someone else's problems is what makes our existence (slightly) more bearable. When it comes down to it, it's a relief to be reminded that there are people in this world that are more fucked up than you.

And that brings us to our constant variable. Not everything has changed in the life of the author. It will always be our business to enlighten and entertain. For that, we still put pen to paper and hold that funhouse mirror up to society as we ponder, "What if...?" Writing has never been a business that people enter to make money. Rather, it's one that we hopeful wordsmiths are too stupid to refuse.



GARRETT'S
GAY GUIDE.COM

Garrett Pattiani
garrett@garrettsgayguide.com

July 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

4 Betty's 4th of July Pool Party

4PM

Come out and celebrate Independence Day by the pool with The Bettys at Liz's gorgeous house just off Hollywood Blvd on Sunrise Mountain. Enjoy a wonderful day in the pool, live DJ, door prizes and a BBQ lunch with all the fixings for only \$10! The fun starts at 4pm and is limited to the first 50 women who RSVP! The only thing you need to do is BYOB, a towel and a lawn chair. Space is limited so hurry! Please RSVP to bettyts@bettytsout.com to save your spot and get directions.

[f bettytsout](#)

9 A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

July 9-26

Come out and enjoy an evening with Super Summer Theatre! Super Summer Theatre is more than a show, it is an experience. This outdoor venue, just 10 miles out of Las Vegas, is 10 degrees cooler than the city. Bring a light jacket, pack a picnic dinner and experience the outdoors with your family and friends in our meadow prior to the performance. As the sun goes down, the curtain goes up and patrons can settle in for some great theatre under the stars. Meadow seating is first come first seated.

<http://supersummertheatre.org>

11 National Gay Blood Drive

3PM Blue Ox Tavern

There is a constant need for blood & donors are essential in replenishing the supply. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bans gay & bisexual men from donating blood. On July 11th, a nationwide blood drive will take place to bring attention to the ban & help save lives. Gay & bisexual men will show their willingness to contribute by bringing allies to donate in their place. This grassroots effort to create change cannot happen without YOU.

<http://gayblooddrive.com>

12 PRIDE OUTside

10AM Calico Basin

Las Vegas PRIDE OUTside is a new LGBT hiking group in Las Vegas that meets the 2nd Saturday of each month to go hiking at Calico Basin. Limited parking is available at the Kraft Mountain Loop parking area. Bring your own snacks and plenty of water to stay hydrated.

<http://lasvegaspride.org>

17 HRC+QVegas 3rd Thursdays

6-8PM Jaleo at The Cosmopolitan

Be sure to stop by Jaleo, socialize and learn of what is happening in the movement for equality here in Nevada and across the US. Hear the latest on the status of the Nevada Court Case in the

9th Circuit, as well as the steps to push SJR13 through again in the next legislative session. In addition to Marriage Equality Issues, we will touch on ENDA and other protections for LGBTQ Americans as well as upcoming HRC events and opportunities."

[f HumanRightsCampaignLV](#)

18 San Diego Pride

July 18-20

San Diego celebrates 40 years of Pride. The annual Pride weekend festivities include the Spirit of Stonewall Rally, the Pride of Hillcrest Block Party, the Pride Parade, and the two-day Pride Festival.

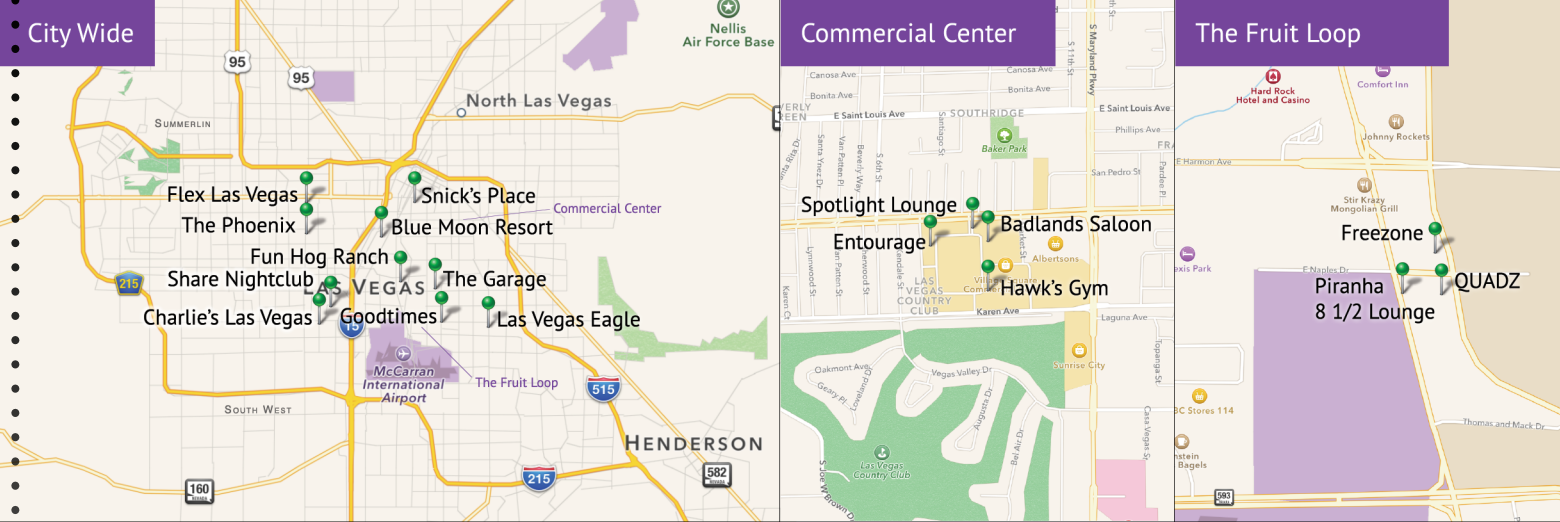
<http://sandiegopride.org>

18 Summerland

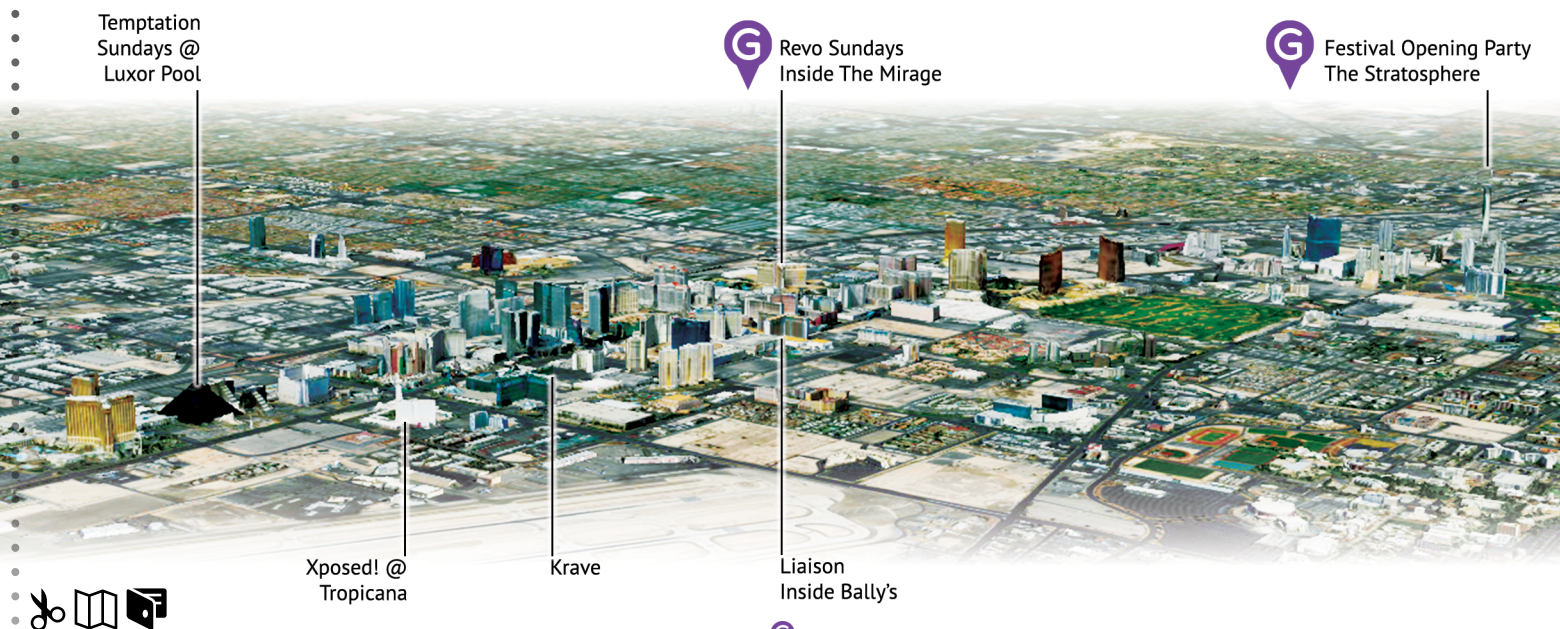
7-10 PM Fremont St Experience

Be sure to stop by Jaleo, socialize and learn of what is happening in the movement for equality here in Nevada and across the US. Hear the latest on the status of the Nevada Court Case in the 9th Circuit, as well as the steps to push SJR13 through again in the next legislative session. In addition to Marriage Equality Issues, we will touch on ENDA and other protections for LGBTQ Americans as well as upcoming HRC events and opportunities."

<http://vegasexperience.com>



Garrett's Gay Guide fits right in your pocket! Just tear out, fold in half length-wise, and fan-fold to create a handy pocket-sized guide to Gay Las Vegas. Or, download the QVegas iPhone® app for these events, get on Garrett's guest lists, and more.



The G-Spot indicates an event hosted or sponsored by Garrett's Gay Guide.

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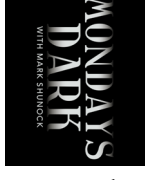
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- Rehab at Hard Rock Hotel
Get on my Guest List
bit.ly/RehabVIP
- Temptation Sundays at Luxor Pool
- Service Industry Night at Flex Lounge
- Amazing Drag Review at Charlie's
- Ladies Night at FreeZone
- BBQ at Blue Moon Resort



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- Mondays Dark at Hard Rock Hotel
(3rd Monday)
- Martini Mondays at Flex Lounge
- Liquor Bust at Spotlight Lounge
- Karaoke at Charlie's Las Vegas
- S.I.N. Mondays at The Garage
- Pigs on Broadway Video Night with
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- Drag Queen Bingo at Charlie's
- Karaoke Night at FreeZone
- Trashy Tuesdays at Hawk's Gym

- Grand Tea Room at Hookah Palace
- Executive Wednesdays at Indigo
- PRIDE Family Bingo at The Center
(1st Wednesday)
- Karaoke Wednesdays at Flex Lounge
- Skin Mens' Underwear Night at
Charlie's
- Game Night at FreeZone
- Wild Wednesdays with India Ferrah at
Piranha Nightclub
- #WomanCrushWednesdays at
Stratosphere

Sundays

Mondays

Tuesdays

Wednesdays

Saturdays

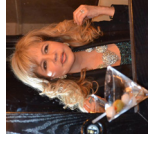
Fridays

Thursdays



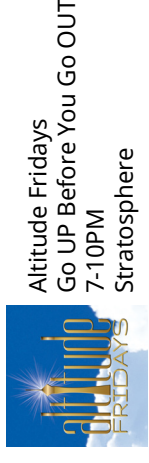
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- Xposed! Pool Party at Tropicana
Rehab at Hard Rock Hotel
Get on my Guest List
bit.ly/RehabVIP
- Goddess with India Ferrah at Piranha
Ladies Q Social at Lady Sylvia's
(Every 2nd Saturday)
- Drag Madness at FreeZone
- Sin Sity Sisters Fundraiser at Fun Hog
(3rd Saturday)
- Volleyball/BBQ Social at Sunset Park

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- Pia Zadora at Piero's Italian Cuisine
- Stripper Circus at Share Nightclub
- Blame it on the Alcohol Fridays at
Krave
- Dance Party at Flex Lounge
- F*ck It Fridays at Piranha Nightclub
- Drag Madness at FreeZone



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7-10PM
Stratosphere

Level 108 at Airbar
\$5 Cocktails • [f](https://www.facebook.com/AltitudeFridays) /AltitudeFridays

- HRC/QVegas 3rd Thursday
Foreplay at Share Nightclub
- Boys Night at FreeZone
- Tat Thursdays at Entourage
- Karaoke at The Phoenix
- Line Dancing Lessons & Beer Pong at
Charlie's Las Vegas



HRC/QVegas 3rd Thursday
Every Month

[f](https://www.facebook.com/HumanRightsCampaignLV) /HumanRightsCampaignLV



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THE BUSINESS OF GAY MARRIAGE

[by Janise "Noah" Henderson]

The legal system has been a very powerful agent for social change. More states evolve to recognized marriage equality and more LGBT couples are securing that universally recognized cultural right. Marketing for same-sex weddings aren't prevalent but couples are still planning some spectacular weddings. Economist say that extending marriage to Gay and Lesbian Nevadans would add nearly \$52 million to state economy. In fact the same-sex marriage industry could contribute nearly \$17 billion in revenue of the wedding industry if it were legalized in all states. More can be done to serve this new market but for now most of us are left to serve ourselves. This a brief overview of what it takes to have a successful wedding to celebrate your marriage.

Set the Date

Choosing a day for your wedding is a decision that requires wonderful consideration, accommodation and ideally significant. Not only does it allow couples to set a desired engagement period to gauge the survivability of the marriage but it fosters significant time to prepare for the wedding. Weather will influence your wedding's style and location and so will your budget. The most popular times to marry are June, August, and September; a Saturday night carries the largest price tag.

Select an Officiant

If you're getting married in a house of worship, selecting an officiant is pretty straightforward. You'll want to be sure that you can get married even if you aren't current members. It's recommended you meet with that person and examine how comfortable you are and ask questions to be sure this person can accommodate your ceremony. You could also contact your county clerk's office where you'll get the marriage license and they should have a list of the local Justice of the Peace, who are willing to perform wedding ceremonies. Other matters to consider while selecting an officiant is your state's marriage license requirements and who ever you choose make sure they are legally certified to marry you. If you wish to prepare your own vows just keep in mind they can be unique or as traditional as you prefer. Catch a rerun of

Beverly Hills 90210, the episode where David Silver and Donna Martin finally tie the knot with an epic wedding and words of love.

Choose a Venue

It's ideal to book a venue 10-12 months in advance. At this point you'll need to have an idea of the number of guest that will attend because you'll need this information to book the venue of your choice. Many couples explore venues that offer full packages (ceremony, reception, caterer, music and photographer). If you decided to tie the knot in Las Vegas you have several resorts that offer packages designed for LGBT couples. When selecting your venue you may want to also consider arranging rehearsals and booking any transportation for the wedding participants.

The Food and Cake Reception

Nearly 50% of your wedding budget is likely dedicated to the reception. Be sure to peruse a list of LGBTQ-friendly vendors when selecting your cake provider. Since more LGBTQ couples are getting married, more options for custom cake toppers are available.

The Florists

At minimum you'll need bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages and centerpieces for the reception tables. You'll need to coordinate your choice according to the season and your budget, so find a florist you can work with. Perhaps you go with a full-service designer or a standard florist, either way you'll want to start looking for

professional 3-4 months before the wedding—the earlier the better. Be prepared to provide the full view of your entire wedding and discuss as many details to help set the perfect mood. You can make the most of your flower budget if you keep in mind that flowers in season or locally grown will price far less and holidays that increase demand will also increase cost. The more elaborate the arrangements you select the more money will go toward labor rather than the flowers.

The Entertainment

Besides the food, the entertainment is another feature of your occasion that you can make exceptional and worth remembering. When booking a DJ be sure they a performer with experience performing to a diverse crowd. Can he or she read the crowd and build up the energy and keep the party going? A DJ that performs weddings should be accommodating to a variety of tastes.

Wedding Bands and Attire

Consider renting your wedding attire to save a few bucks. Many local vendors provide an array of options and many have additional services such as hair and make up as well as on-site alterations. Don't forget to order your wedding bands! Many LGBT couples opt to customize their rings with gems for their spiritual and symbolic qualities. Think carefully about your selection because this will be jewelry you'll be wearing everyday.

There are several other factors to consider when planning the perfect wedding, perhaps you might consider a wedding planner? Once your guests have responded to your wedding announcements you'll want to arrange a seating plan, prepare wedding favors and sign up for gift registry.

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The BUSINESS of LIFESTYLE

[by Russ White]

The first time you walk into Stitched you know you are about to experience something different. The atmosphere is distinctly masculine. But not in a macho sports bar or locker room kind of way. You feel comfortable. You feel grounded. You feel in touch with what it's like to be a gentleman. Ricci Lopez, General Manager of Stitched at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, refers to the store as a modern day haberdashery.

Stitched is a lifestyle destination shop. They provide a bona-fide consultation and gentleman's experience. Much more than just

suits hanging on racks, Stitched stylists educate their clients on everything from proper fitting, art, and cocktail selections. Original works of art, limited edition photography, even a custom motorcycle are for sale in this boutique.

This isn't a "Hi, can I help you?" kind of store. You are being styled head to toe. Stitched believes that every man should have a custom suit in their wardrobe. "When you're dressed appropriately, I feel like you are that much more successful," says Lopez. Stitched provides the confidence to wear immaculate clothing.

The cornerstone of the Stitched business are the custom hand-

stitched suits—hence the name "Stitched."

The store attracts a diverse customer base and staffs accordingly. Gay, straight, male, and female stylists steward customers through the shopping experience. "It's a place where all stereotypes go out the window. Our clients mesh well together. Guys feel so comfortable," explained Lopez. "Even our gay clients can feel that the experience we provide makes them feel comfortable. It's a utopia of fashion and international clients."

Stitched is located on the second floor shops at The Cosmopolitan.



Style

Location and Wardrobe: Stitched
Photographer: Felix Eduardo - FelixEduardo.com
Photo Editor: David Centurioni on behalf of FelixEduardo.com
Hair & Makeup: Shayla Perez using TaliMakeup.com
Makeup provided by TaliMakeup.com
Models: Jack Eller, Eric Barker, Ryan Cardona, Curtis Goodman

The Consultation

Stitched stylists provide a personal and educational consultation to ensure the perfect fit.





The Bespoke Lounge

Furnished with leather sofas, a big screen TV, and a fully stocked bar, the lounge provides a secluded space for custom styling, fabric selections, measurements and fittings.

The back wall houses 72 scotch lockers gifted to clients. Locker owners can entertain their own guests in the lounge for business or leisure.



The Final Fitting

Once garments are complete, a final consultation and fitting ensures that you are ready for business.

On-site tailors are ready for any last-minute alterations, and the tailor shop provides walk-in service for any garments, not just those purchased at Stitched.





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-Dr. Azimi D.D.S



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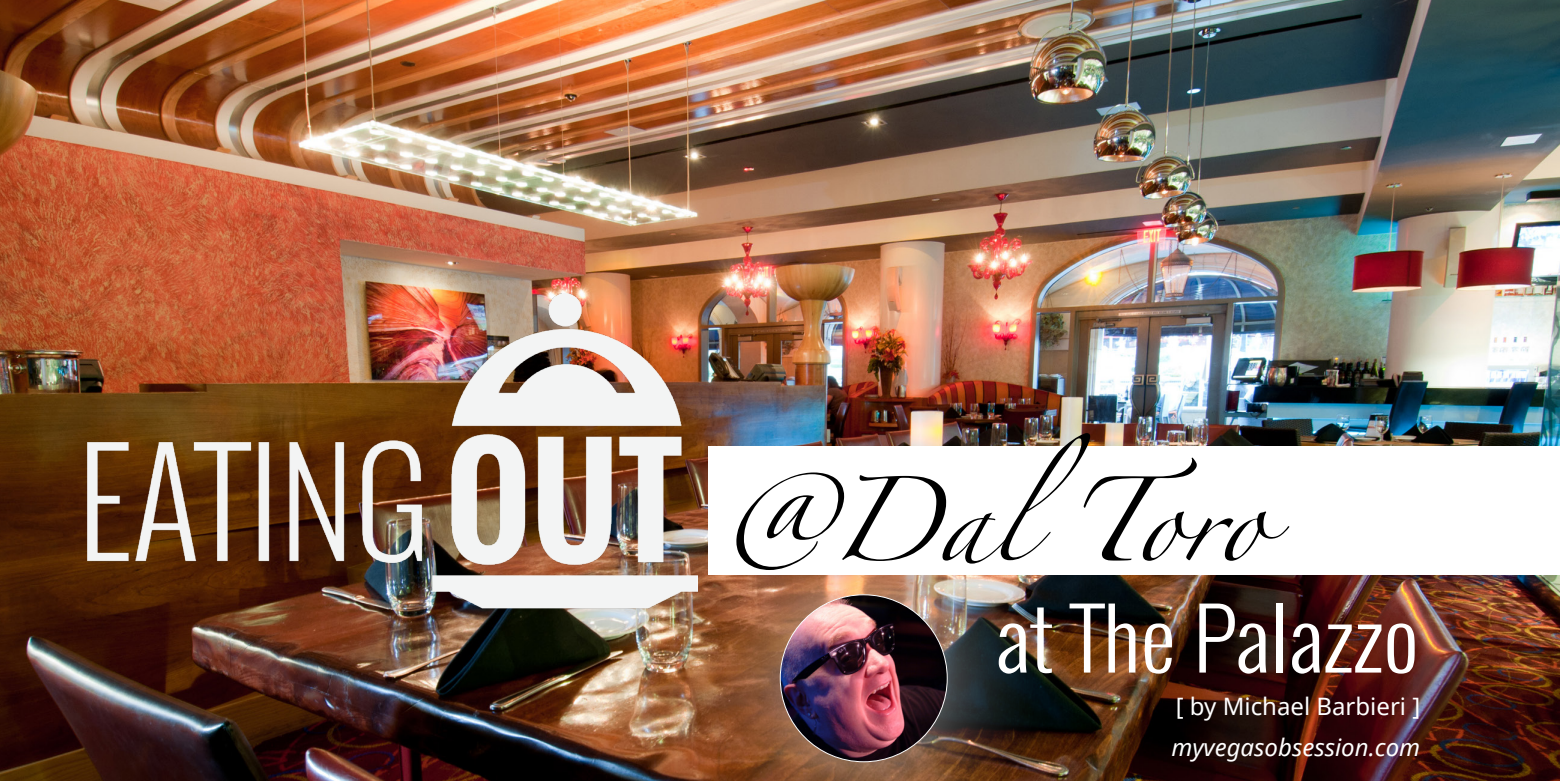
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EATING OUT *@Dal Toro* at The Palazzo

[by Michael Barbieri]
myvegasobsession.com

Are you tired of the usual catering halls or sterile hotel ballrooms for your business luncheons? Well, hidden away beneath the main lobby of the Palazzo Hotel Resort Casino, is Dal Toro, a truly unexpected Italian eatery. At Dal Toro, the decor is a combination of contemporary elements mixed with marbled archways, tiled fountains and cheery, striped satin banquettes that take you back to Italy of yesteryear.

Serving traditional Italian dishes with a modern flair, and open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, this elegant, flexible space functions not only as a restaurant, but as six distinctive reception areas capable of handling a variety of private events, be they corporate or festive.

Got a group of 8 for a working lunch? The glass enclosed Wine Room has a flat screen TV for visual presentations. Having a send-off for a favorite colleague? The hand-carved Chef's Table can accommodate 25! Need a space for a company-wide holiday reception? Dal Toro is connected to a two-level Exotic & Classic Car Showroom, which can be arranged to your specifications, handling groups of 200, 400 or more. Sit down meals or buffet-style receptions, dinner with cocktails and dancing, even test drives of Ferraris or Lamborghinis; Dal Toro can make it happen for you!

Of course, what unifies events like

these is the food, and Dal Toro offers much from which to choose.

I arrived early for lunch, and while waiting for my friend, I chatted with the lovely hostess. Soon she led us to a nice corner table and introduced us to Juan Carlos, our server. After studying the menus a while, we began making our selections.

We began with cocktails: I tried a Passion Fruit Julep, a summery combination of Southern Comfort, passion fruit vodka, mint, lime, soda, and ginger ale. My friend decided on the Rosemary Martini, made with rosemary infused vodka and a hint of garlic - ice cold and bracing, the garlic was just a subtle aftertaste; not overpowering.

We were both interested in sampling a variety of dishes, so in the interest of not wasting food (or expanding our waists too far), our server arranged for us to sample tasting portions of three appetizers: the Polpettine al Granchio - delicate little crab

cakes with lobster sauce and a tart balsamic reduction, the Meatballs Sfiziose - a juicy little Naples-style meatball with perfect texture, topped with pesto and mozzarella cheese. The Tartar Di Tonno, or tuna tartare, was easily our favorite - rough-cut ahi tuna with avocado, topped with micro arugula and a dash of Tabasco for a bit of heat.

Neither of us had seen Ostrich Carpaccio listed on any menu before, so we were intrigued. Unfortunately it was wildly popular and sold out, so we settled for Kobe Carpaccio instead - slices of raw Kobe beef, pounded flat and topped with arugula, capers, lemon olive oil and shaved grana-style Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese. The light, lemony dressing was the perfect complement to the fresh, flavorful beef, the capers added a touch of acid, and the cheese was deliciously sharp. We decided to split one of the pizzas, all of which sounded excellent. Our choice, the Prosciutto E Tartufo was absolutely outstanding - thin, crispy crust topped with fresh

mozzarella, parma prosciutto, arugula, mushroom, shaved Parmesan cheese and white truffle oil. The creamy mozzarella was the perfect gooey base, and the salty prosciutto and peppery arugula played perfectly off each other. The musky truffle oil was the perfect finish to the pizza, providing an earthy punch of flavor, with the aroma hitting not just the nose, but the back of the palate as well.

The pasta dishes were tempting, as were the steaks, so once again, Juan Carlos provided an excellent compromise. He prepared each of us a half-and-half platter featuring the popular Ravioli D'Aragosta (Lobster Ravioli) and slices of steak with a sampling of their sauces. The ravioli - large round pockets of lovely al dente pasta decorated with a stripe of squid ink and stuffed with shrimp and lobster, were dressed with a masterful saffron cream sauce - light, yet you could really taste the saffron: sweet and grassy, with a wonderful, warm spiciness.

Of the steak options, three are NY Steaks, differing only in the sauces with which they're presented: Roquefort; a fairly standard, but still very good bleu cheese sauce, Bordelaise; a sauce with red wine and caramelized onions - sweet, but not cloying or overpowering in the least. Very nice. The last choice - the Pepe Verde, a brandied peppercorn sauce, was the standout, with the subtle flavor of brandy adding a lusciousness and the green peppercorns bringing out the natural juiciness of the steak.

At this point, Juan Carlos was way ahead of us, so he simply fixed a sampling platter of desserts: one Profiterole - a delicate pastry



puff filled with Crème Chantilly and covered in chocolate. There was a single Cannoli, cut in two for sharing, a slice of Torta Della Nonna - a traditional Italian "Grandmother's Cake", made with a simple crostata-style crust filled with lemon flavored pastry cream and topped with pine nuts and powdered sugar. Lastly, the Tartufo Al Cioccolato - another classic Italian treat - a ball of chocolate ice cream surrounding a center filled with Zabaglione cream, covered in dark chocolate and cocoa powder. The desserts were all very nice and had the advantage of being sweet, but not too sweet. Just right to end the meal.

As we left, we checked out the one party space we hadn't yet seen, the 3,600 square foot, partially covered patio. It occurred to us that a simple breakfast meeting could become something very special, done buffet-style out there amidst the Palladian fountains, just off the Las Vegas Strip. But again, with the ability to handle up to 1500 guests, a large, flexible menu featuring reliable Italian favorites, and an accommodating staff ready to work with you to create the perfect function, Dal Toro seems the ideal space for any corporate event!

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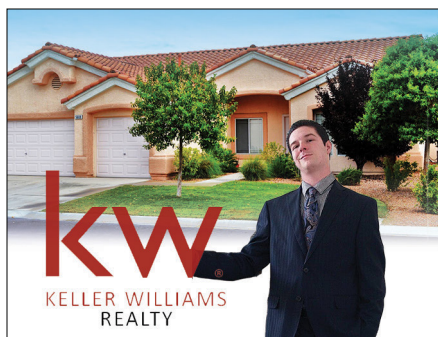
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Nothing Says Home like BRAND NEW!

[by Chris Mason]

Las Vegas' young hotshot real estate broker you need to know: Steele Tucker.

I want to spend a bit of time helping everyone get introduced to someone who I myself admire and am continuously amazed and always impressed with. I am lucky enough to call this guy my friend and he is turning the real estate market of Las Vegas on it's ear. Steele Tucker, a broker for Keller Williams, is buying and selling houses left and right and is not slowing down. He is on a constant grind. How he has the energy to maintain his pace I will probably never understand, but he is definitely making it happen. This being the business issue I felt it would be a great opportunity to give my friend a quick shout out and let Las Vegas know about the awesome work that Steele is doing. This kid shows houses Monday through Sunday. He is buying and flipping houses. Networking and contributing to the LGBT community, and oh yea...did I mention he is only 21 years old? This dude seriously is a rock star. Born and raised in Las Vegas, Steele has been a broker since the age of 18. When I was 18 I was busy failing my freshman psychology class. Whether you need a starter home, an established family home, or a retirement home, Steele can make it happen. I am still somewhat taken back when I think about everything this kid has already done and thinking about what else he will do. Damn though. He is doing the most.

Dedicated to his clients 24/7, like literally the phone is always on. If you decide you want to make an offer at 3:47 AM, he will be there. No doubt. He isn't at all greedy or all about the money. He has helped countless families in

the community struggling through foreclosure. So don't tell anybody, but this guy has a heart on top of talent and business smarts. When I asked Steele about how he formulated his mentality he was quick and simple. "My old boss Frank Napoli Sr taught me, "If you help people get where they need to go, you'll have no problem getting where you need to go", and this is a motto I live by."

An example told from his own mouth :

"I had a case once, single abandoned mother with 3 young children, and she was denied for the 3rd time for her loan modification, and to make matters worse, her house had a foreclosure date a week away. Not only did I get the foreclosure suspended, I was able to get her payment reduced to only \$783.00 per month. But best of all, she was able to avoid foreclosure, keep her home, FOR FREE!"

Steele has a pretty cool vibe about him and that is something I absolutely love about him. As he says, "I take care of people, I'm a Cancer, that's what I do!"

Steele's marketing skills are top notch. "The last listing I took last week, listed \$10,000 more than the highest model match that sold. Three days on the market, I received multiple offers and got my sellers above list price for their home!" I guess this dude knows what he is doing right?

If you are looking for anything in any market regarding real estate I encourage you to hit this guy up. He has a Q Vegas stamp of approval for sure. Oh yeah, I promised I would also mention... he is single. GET AT IT!



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The BUSINESS OF

Gambling

[by Dave Larson]



Las Vegas lives off the dream of easy money, but few people make gambling a career. Dave Larson moved to Vegas to become a poker pro. We asked him what it's like to make gambling a business.

How did you decide to play poker for a living?

Three years ago I felt trapped in my job. I was working on a software project that was plagued with issues. I would wake up anxious to check my email to see what new crisis I would have to face. Meanwhile I was playing poker as a hobby on weekends. One Friday I had a really great night. I counted my chips and realized "that's a two week paycheck." Soon after I made plans to quit and play full-time.

Did you have a business plan?

It wasn't a completely capricious decision, but I wouldn't say I had a business plan. I had a history as a

winning player. I had saved up a gambling bankroll, a savings account to cover living expenses, and retirement funds that I could draw on in an emergency. I cut my expenses to a minimum, set a budget and watched my spending carefully. I had a marketable skill to fall back on if poker didn't work out.

What's the most you have made in one day?

The best way to win a big score is to play a tournament. First prize can be 30 to 50 times the entry fee. My biggest tournament score was just under \$10,000 for one day of poker. [However, I had to split the winnings with some friends who had invested in me.

Is that common?

Tournaments are highly volatile. They only pay the top 10%. That means 90% of the time you will lose your entry fee. If a professional wants to focus on tournaments he will

either need a large bankroll or investors to spread out the risk]

Do you pay taxes?

You are required to report gambling winnings on your 1040. Casinos only file with the IRS if you make more than \$5,000 in a tournament. I keep records of every cash game and tournament I play and try to report accurately.

Can you really make a living playing poker?

I've been lucky that for three years, poker was my only source of income. I took a pay cut compared to consulting, but I was able to meet my expenses, and get out of a life I was not enjoying. Very few people can sustain poker as their sole source of income indefinitely. Players keep learning. The game continues to get harder to beat. It's not a career I would recommend to my nephews.

What's the hardest part about making poker your business?

Dealing with the swings and unpredictability of income has been the greatest challenge. While skill wins in the long run, luck is a big factor. You can outplay your opponents and still lose. You can also get into situations where both players get a very strong hand like kings vs aces. Neither player is making a mistake in building a big pot, but half the time you will lose. These sudden, unpredictable, and mostly unavoidable losses can be a big

hit to your profit and mess with your confidence. There are definitely days I have felt cursed.

Do you play every day?

I have an earnings target for every month to meet my expenses. Sometimes I take time off if I'm ahead of my goal. However, the best time to take a break is when I'm on a losing streak. Those days I will focus on getting enough sleep, improving my diet and exercise, and connecting with other people. It is easy to get into a losing mindset and negative spiral.

What's the best part about being a poker pro?

I get to set my own schedule and do something I love that I'm good at. I don't have to iron.

Do you ever meet hot guys?

One perk of the job is that my competition is 95% men. Unfortunately, most are retired or out of shape. It's rare that I'm distracted by an attractive opponent. My ex teases me that whenever a hot guy sits at my table I knock him out of the tournament.

Have a question for a poker pro? Find Dave on Twitter @PocketRckt



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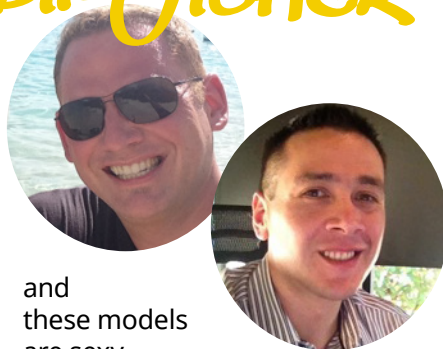
Corbin Fisher™

[by Chris Mason]

Just in case you didn't know... Corbin Fisher is the end all be all of gay porn in America. Jason Gibson founded the company and with the help of Brian Dunlap built Corbin Fisher into the empire it is today. Just so everyone is clear right off the bat, YES, Brian and Jason are both gay, but that doesn't define them. Above all they are smart, successful business people.

A lot of people would jump to the assumption that a porn business is trashy but this is not the case. These guys have taken this country by storm and are showing no signs of slowing down any time soon. This is their 10-year anniversary and we are all looking forward to 10 more years. If you are like me maybe 30 more years.

Corbin Fisher has been able to branch out and feature models that were not necessarily gay and that is part of their appeal. We all know we love to watch straight boys do gay things. The boys have been at work for 11 years even though this is the 10th anniversary. There was a lot that went into it in the beginning. Focusing towards a demographic of 18 to 25 gay men, Corbin Fisher has pretty much taken the market share of said demographic. They feature the classic masculine fraternity-ish guys



and these models are sexy enough to make ANYONE join a fraternity!

When I asked Jason how he would rank Corbin Fisher amongst other porn studios within the USA, he said "one". It is safe to say these guys feel that they are the best, so they are going to act like it. I can't see a reason to question them either. Very confident, but I also don't blame him because as long as I try to come up with a reason, I can't figure out why they aren't the best, so apparently, they are.

Corbin Fisher along with BEL-AMI have definitely taken over porn production in the world as we know it. Don't be mad, be happy...you're welcome. I don't see Corbin Fisher going anywhere anytime soon and will continue to maintain that number one rank for as long as I can imagine. Jason and Brian are as dedicated as anyone could be so I don't doubt them at all, and can not wait to see what they have in store for us in the future. PS. BTW...I got an inside scoop about the new hottest models...their names are Jacob and Colt...look them up.





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* Casino worker rear-ended in motor vehicle accident where insurance company argued the force of impact could not have produced the injuries. Client had injuries to one disc in neck and one disc in lower back. 40% Contingency Fee.
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40% Contingency Fee. *** 29 year old healthy client rear-ended by a corporation's driver. Disc injury in neck. No Legal Fee.

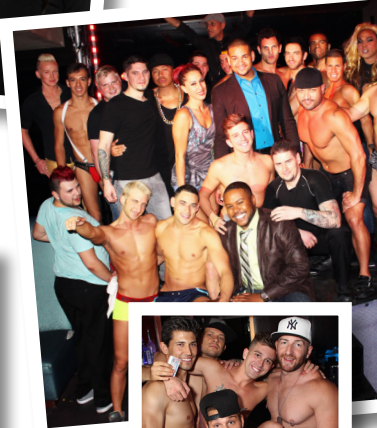
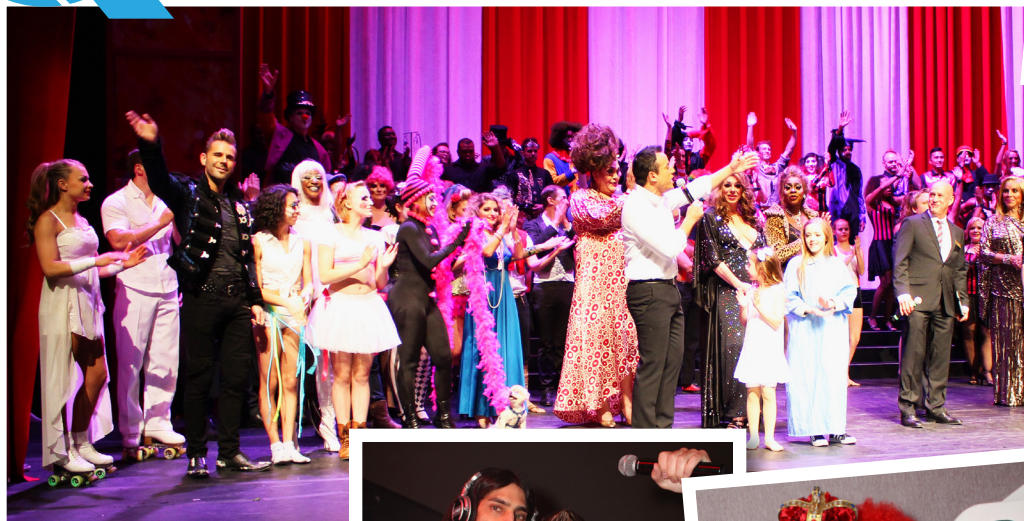


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last word!



The **BUSINESS** of QVEGAS

[by Russ White, Publisher]

Two years ago last July, my software company launched a new version of the QVegas iPhone app. Little did I know that would soon usher in a new era for me, my career, and the magazine. Just 7 months earlier I had left my Silicon Valley job and relocated to Las Vegas to pursue entrepreneurial dreams. With over 20 years of digital publishing experience I knew I had the technical expertise it takes to evolve a print magazine into a new media company.

But here we are, almost two years later. Print is still our core business, but we have an evolutionary digital path that embraces web, mobile, social media, and events. QVegas isn't just a magazine anymore, and our advertisers can benefit from the technology advances that position us as an emerging provider of digital promotions.

Technology

In January, we launched QVegasMagazine.com, a new digital version of the magazine featuring content from the magazine—separate from QVegas.com which provides timely, curated LGBTQ content from around the web.

In March, we launched an upgrade to the QVegas iPhone app that now includes push notifications, along side our new text blast system.

In May, we launched QVegas Social Media edition by uploading

and annotating each page of the magazine on Facebook. Our advertisers receive additional exposure to our large Facebook following.

Also in May, we partnered with Garrett's Gay Guide to provide our events calendar and tear-out pocket guide. In June, we re-launched yellow.qvegas.com and GarrettsGayGuide.com to provide a new and improved online events calendar. Event listings are free for any local organizations.

Sponsorship

QVegas continues to support LGBTQ organizations through annual and event sponsorships. Our sponsorships include 501c3 organizations, including the Center, HRC, Sin City Sister, Golden Rainbow and AFAN. These sponsorships are made possible by our advertisers that continued to support the publication.

In addition, any non-profit organization or political candidate receives discounted rates for their advertising, and are eligible to receive matching dollars when their other sponsors advertise in QVegas.

Events

In partnership with our sister company, VGM, QVegas sponsors events including Social Tuesdays, a weekly social held at various venues around town, Altitude Fridays, gay pre-gaming atop the Stratosphere, and Festival, a fun-filled weekend of activities and

events that closes out the summer tourist season in Vegas on Labor Day Weekend.

Distribution

One of the many changes that has happened over the past 2 years is a dramatic change in our readership. We've grown our print readership in Los Angeles, Palm Springs, San Diego, and Phoenix and expanded into San Francisco as well making QVegas the most broadly distributed LGBTQ publications in the Southwest and the second largest by volume. QVegas serves the local LGBTQ readers, but has also made great strides in reaching the LGBTQ tourist market.

The Gay Dollar

In 2013, spending on LGBTQ advertising increased 18.2% nationally, and 9 out of every 10 dollars spent in the gay press continues to be spent locally, with LGBTQ press consisting primarily of trusted community-owned businesses that reflect the specific need, interests and tastes of its readership. Las Vegas and QVegas continue to be affected by local economic factors, so please be sure to visit our advertisers, let them know you saw their ad in QVegas, and that you appreciate their support of the magazine and the LGBTQ community by supporting them.

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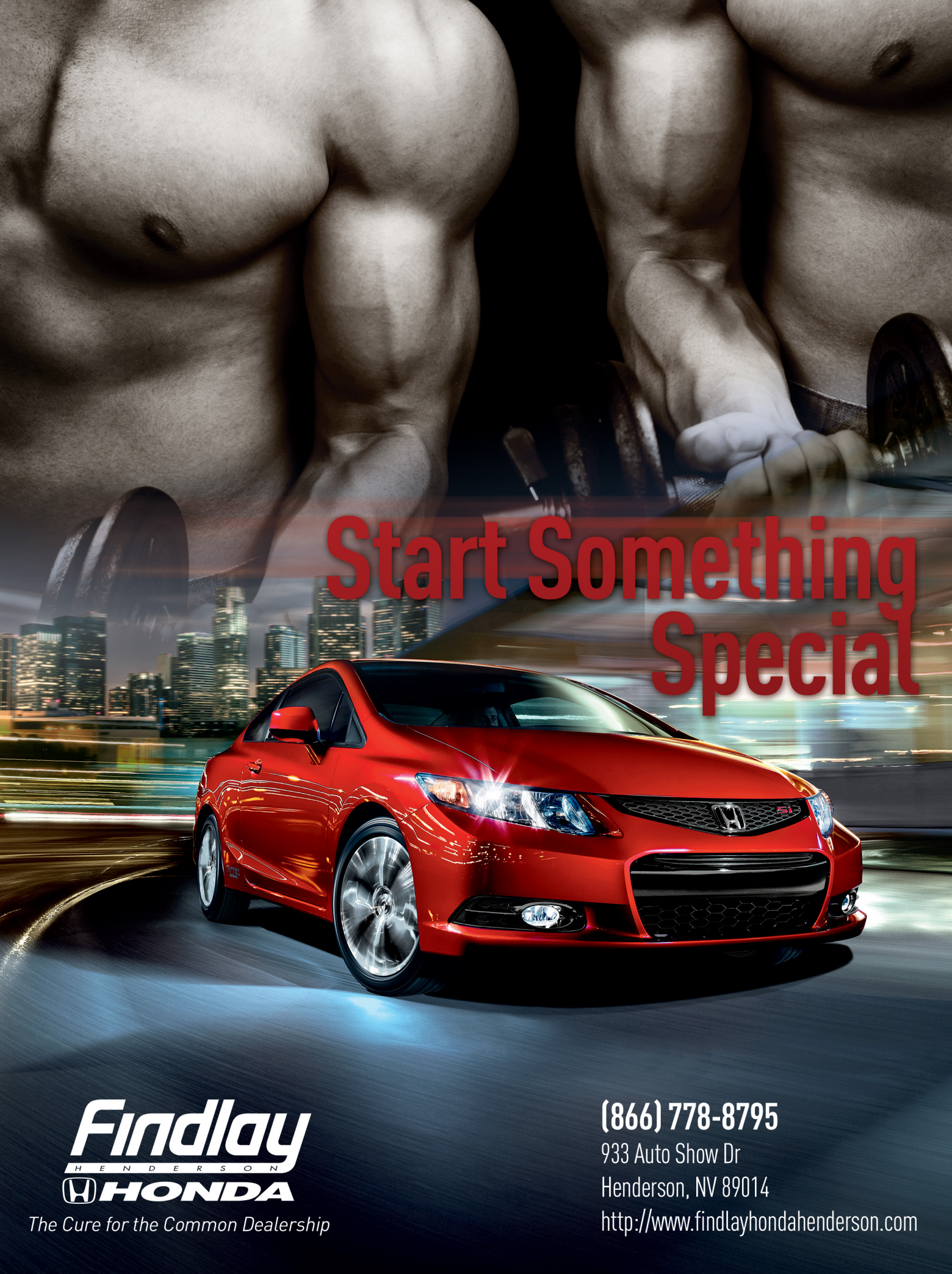


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