

# Sizzling Fall Entertainment

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# The Advocate

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

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## The Bubble

LESBIAN SCANDAL  
ROCKS RADIO  
Sexual harassment  
suit hits lefty L.A. station



# Fast track

Alex Randolph, San Francisco's liaison to the LGBT community, is a multiracial 24-year-old wunderkind who's being positioned for greatness By Rod McCullom

Ask 24-year-old Alex Randolph to describe his week and he responds with a who's who of California's political movers and shakers. "We just came from a meeting in Washington, D.C., with Sen. Barbara Boxer and Speaker [of the House Nancy] Pelosi's office," he says. "Then there's the governor's office..."

Welcome to the life of a rising San Francisco political star: Randolph is Mayor Gavin Newsom's liaison to the LGBT community and the city's district 8, which includes the Castro gayborhood.

The up-and-comer has been at City Hall since January. One of his first tasks? Organizing an event to celebrate the third anniversary of Newsom's decision to order city officials to perform same-sex marriages. "He made it clear we should have the right to get married and have equal standing in society," Randolph says. "Few public officials have been willing to take that stand."

Randolph came to Newsom's attention through Bevan Dufty, the out member of the city's board of supervisors representing district 8. Last summer, at the tender age of 23, Randolph managed Dufty's reelection campaign. At the time he was already a veteran of a half dozen campaigns and interning at a political consulting firm that represented Dufty.

"Both of us attended Berkeley," he says, re-

fering to the nearby University of California campus. "Both of us had participated in student government. I was going to be graduating soon. Right on the spot he offered me the campaign manager job." Randolph was still taking his finals when he started with Dufty, and only days after receiving his bachelor's degree in political science and public policy, he was on the campaign trail, managing staff, recruiting volunteers, and strategizing.

Born and raised in Hamburg, Germany, by a German mother and an African-American father, Randolph became a high school exchange student in San Diego at 16, where he completed his senior year. Then it was on to Berkeley, where he eventually met another student who is now his boyfriend, Trevor Nguyen. Visiting his mom back home, he decided to come out.

"I just showed her a picture of Trevor," he remembers. "And she asked, 'Why are you carrying around a picture of him in your wallet?' So I said, 'He's an important friend.'" The response was totally unexpected: "She ran in the kitchen and returned with a bottle of champagne, saying, 'We have to celebrate!'"

"I'm privileged to have that family background," he adds.

As for San Francisco, he says the city's famed LGBT community is at a crossroads:

While HIV/AIDS cases have increased, funding for prevention and treatment has decreased. And affordable housing? Not in this pressure cooker of a real estate market. Race, always the third rail of American society, is also a problem; many black gay men have criticized the Castro as unwelcoming. "That's changing," Randolph says, noting a new monthly social

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GENQ

# Poll

**Q:** Could Alex's story happen only in San Francisco?

Sign on to *The Advocate's* Web site before **September 4** to cast your vote and leave your comments. Results will appear on [Advocate.com](http://Advocate.com).

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[www.advocategenqpoll.com](http://www.advocategenqpoll.com)

In the **August 14** issue we asked:

**Q:** What do you consider "losin' it"?

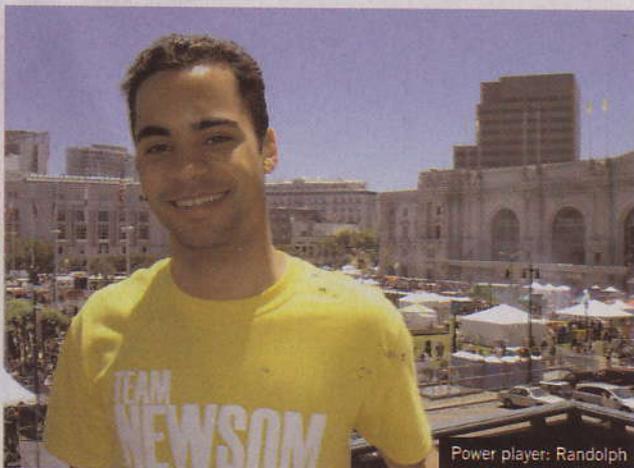
**THE RESULTS:**

**29%** Sexual contact with any person

**51%** Penetration with anybody

**6%** Hooking up with the same sex

**14%** Penetration with a same-sex partner



Power player: Randolph

TREVOR NGUYEN

for black gay men in the neighborhood. "For us to have a space in the Castro, we need a presence in the Castro," he says.

Term limits will prevent Dufty from running for another term in 2011, and his former campaign manager has already come up as a viable candidate. Randolph has conceded it's a "possibility" but says it's certainly not his priority now. "Two years ago I was still in the closet and afraid to come out," he says. "Now I'm visible and proud. Hopefully, I'm a role model."

That he is, and he's in good company. "San Francisco is the ideal place to be an out professional," he says. "There are openly gay elected officials and CEOs of Fortune 500 companies. Everywhere you look there is a powerful LGBT professional." ■