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# Q BUGLE VEGAS

February • 2005
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LONG TERM
**COUPLES**

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DEFERRED NO LONGER
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**THE *Love* ISSUE**

The Body Beautiful
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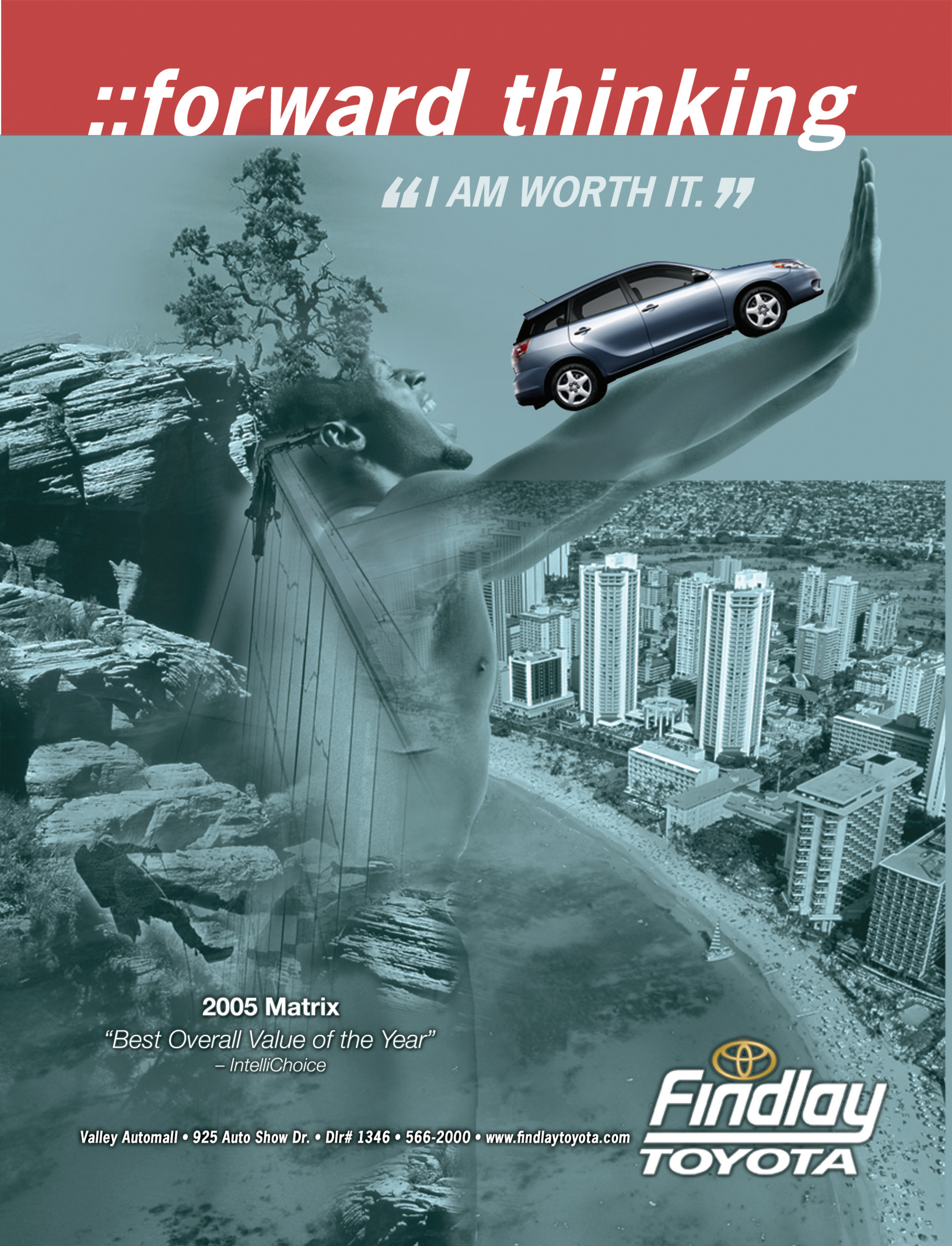
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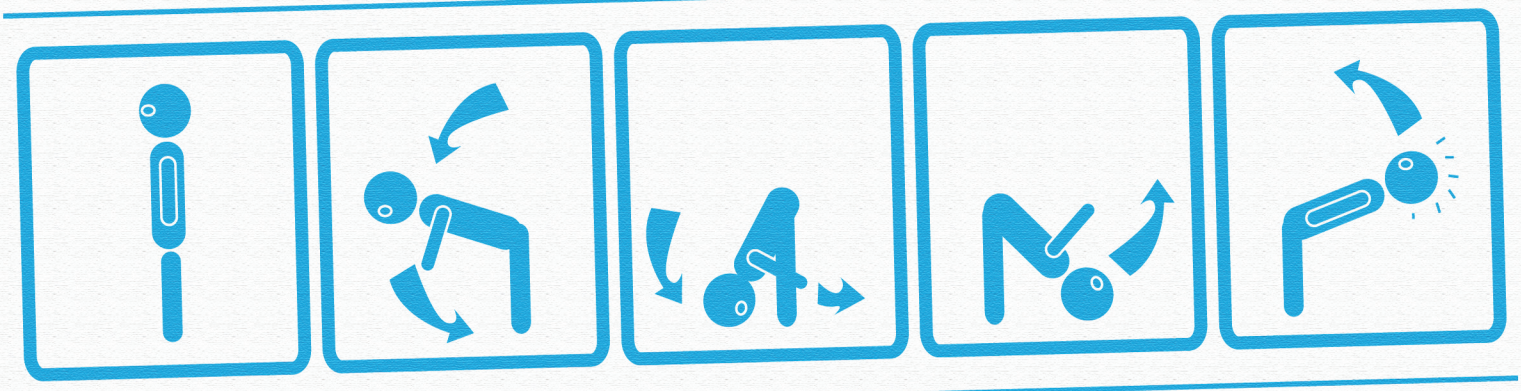

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**Step 2:** Buy cigarettes from the tobacco industries

**Step 3:** Tobacco industry uses your money for donations to **ultra-conservative politicians**

**Step 4:** Those politicians fight for an **anti-gay agenda**

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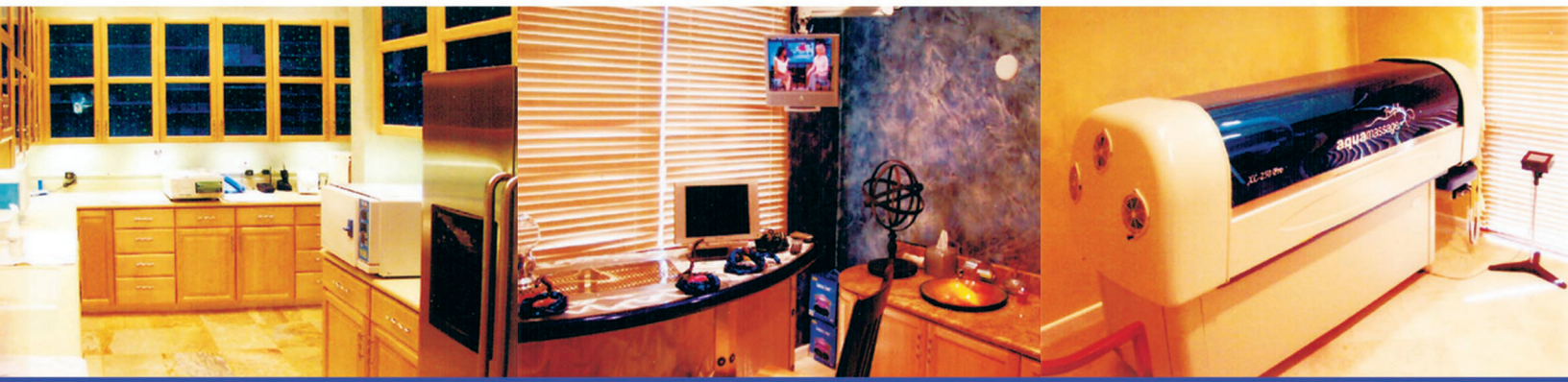

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February • 2005













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## COVER/INSET

**Cover:** The Love Issue. Model: Jonaton courtesy of eNVy Models. **Inset:** From this issue's "Carnal InstinQt: Love Bites" fashion (page 74). Model: Jonaton courtesy of eNVy Models. Inset photo by: nickcoletsos.com. Cover design by: M. Cory Burgess.


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**A Division of:**
SWP
STONEWALL PUBLISHING, INC.

A Las Vegas Bugle™ Publication
Phone: 702.650.0636
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Email: editor@qvegas.com
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Las Vegas, NV 89104


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# Qeditorial

*"In America's ideal of freedom, the public interest depends on private character, on integrity and tolerance toward others…we cannot carry the message of freedom and the baggage of bigotry at the same time…All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you."*
*— Inaugural Address of President George W. Bush*
*January 20, 2005*

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## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President:

It should come as no surprise to you that as a gay American, I did not vote for you. Nor do I support your proposal of a Constitutional Amendment banning same-gender marriage.

However, as an American, I watched your inaugural address with hope that something you might say would make me feel a part of the American landscape. You failed in that respect, because your words were political rhetoric – void of meaning and purpose.

You said that the public's interest in America's ideal of freedom depends on "private character, on integrity and tolerance toward others." I found your words shocking and incredibly hypocritical given your lack of character in light of the deception you used to invade Iraq, the deficit of integrity you have shown in dealing with minorities, and the intolerance your administration and religious base have shown towards the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender citizens of the United States.

You went on to say that "All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors." Amazing words when you consider that millions of my fellow brothers and sisters live with oppression in the workplace, intolerance of our orientation, and hatred from organized religion. Some in my community have paid the ultimate price with their lives for being different.

Mr. President, why is that your vision for liberty and freedom only seems to apply to heterosexuals? You now intend to spread your brand of liberty around the world. That, sir, would be an insult to the millions of LGBT citizens in this country who currently live without full freedom and civil rights.

I stand for liberty Mr. President. Will you stand with me?

I anticipate your response.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen D. Moore
Editor

# CONTRIBUTORS

### BEVERLY BRYAN

Beverly has written for *The Improper Hamptonian Magazine*, *The Pueblo Chieftain* and *Las Vegas Weekly*. Originally from Pennsylvania, she is most recently a refugee from New York where she briefly enjoyed her own late night talk show on public access. When not cruising the Strip blasting *Belle and Sebastian*, Beverly draws cartoons about talking animals who dress like indie rockers.



### JASMYNE CANNICK

A frequent presence on television and radio, Jasmyne Cannick has appeared on numerous media programs, including *Black Entertainment Television News* and the *Tavis Smiley Show*. Cannick at 27, is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, a board member of the National Black Justice Coalition and co-producer of the new cable series *Noah's Arc*, America's First Black Gay Series. Cannick is the Director of Public Relations for the Black AIDS Institute. She lives in Los Angeles and can be reached via www.jasmynecannick.com



### DON JONES

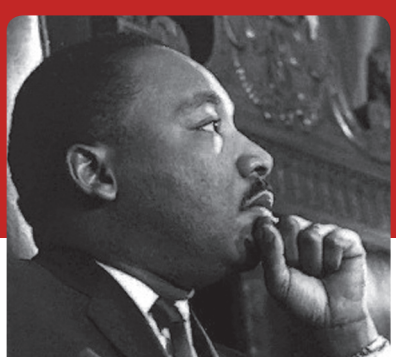
Don Jones is a technology journalist, avid food fan, and loves living in Las Vegas. He's a member of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, a columnist and contributing editor for *REDMOND* Magazine, and a speaker at several national technical conferences. For fun, Don enjoys taking in a show on the Strip or getting dusty offroading in his Jeep Rubicon. You can reach Don at donj@mailblocks.com.



## NOTABLE QUOTABLE

*"What affects one directly, affects all indirectly."*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.
*Letter From The Birmingham Jail, 1963*



# Qmail

**Have something to say? Drop us a line at editor@QVegas.com**

**Dear QVegas:**

I love the Q. Do you have lesbian writers?

***Cyndi S.***
***Las Vegas***


Qgirl

MESSAGE TO LESBIANS IN 2005:

ROCK ON!

**Dear Cyndi:**

**Thanks for the input. Of course we have lesbian writers! The *Qgirl* column is written by a lesbian for lesbians. Our national news correspondent, JoSelle Vanderhooft is also lesbian. In addition, we employ several female writers each issue.**

***Regards,***
***QVegas***

**Dear QVegas:**

As a huge fan of *QVegas*, it pains me to write this letter, but it must be done.

In your January issue, Rev. Bill has predicted that the World Series will "once again pit the New York Yankees against the Boston Red Sox." [*2005 Predictions*, Jan.'05 issue] Not only have the two NEVER met in the World Series, but since they play in the same league, it is impossible for them to ever meet in the "fall classic."

Unless Rev. Bill is predicting the restructuring of Major League Baseball, he got this one completely wrong.

***Sincerely,***
***One big, gay sports fan.***

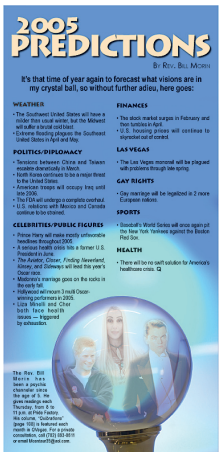
**Dear Sports Fan:**

**Oops!**

**Obviously Rev. Bill's psychic abilities are somewhat clouded when it comes to predicting sporting events. Unlike you, most gay men are repulsed by the mere mention of baseball and football — which is why none of the homos on the editorial staff caught Rev. Bill's mistake.**

**Sorry for the error.**

***QVegas***


2005 PREDICTIONS

By Rev. Bill Moseh

It's that time of year again to forecast what visions are in my crystal ball, so without further adieu, here goes:

WEATHER

FINANCES

LAS VEGAS

POLITICS/DIPLOMACY

GAY RIGHTS

CELEBRITIES/PUBLIC FIGURES

SPORTS

HEALTH

## Results from last month's QSurveys online:

**"What is the thing you desire most on Valentine's Day?"**

| | |
|---|---|
| FLOWERS & CANDY/GETTING LAID (TIE) | 4% |
| JEWELRY | 13% |
| NONE OF THE ABOVE — BECAUSE IT'S ALL COMMERCIALISM AND SAPPY CRAP | 21% |
| ROMANTIC DINNER | 25% |
| ALL OF THE ABOVE — BECAUSE I'M WORTH IT | **33%** |

**"February is Black History Month. Do you feel it is appropriate to equate the Gay Civil Rights Movement with the Black Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s?"**

| | |
|---|---|
| NO | 20% |
| YES | 36% |
| MAYBE — IN SOME WAYS THEY ARE SIMILAR | **44%** |

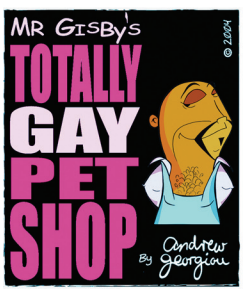
***Let Your Voice Be Heard!*** Take part in these current **Q**Surveys:

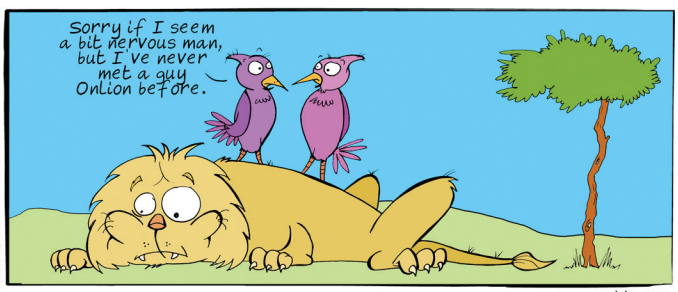
**Does a musician's sexual orientation affect your listening/buying habits?**

• • •

**How much do you spend monthly on health and beauty products?**

Cast your vote online at **QVegas.com** (select *Polls*).
Surveys run until February 15. Results will be published in our March issue.

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The album features sultry renditions of some of the 70's most celebrated love songs including the album's gorgeous first single and Regina Bell classic "You Are Everything." Other selections include rerecordings of hits from The Jackson 5, Melissa Manchester, Ohio Players, Isley Brothers and Stevie Wonder.

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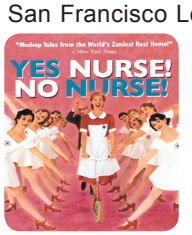
Author Beth Kimmerle explores the origins of chocolate from the ancient Aztecs to Western Europe all the way to the multi-million dollar business that it is today.

**Available from your local bookstore • ISBN:** 1-933112-04-2 (Hardcover) • **Release Date:** Out Now • **Retail Price:** $39.95.

## YES NURSE! NO NURSE!

*Yes Nurse! No Nurse!*, which won the Audience Award for Best Feature at the 2003 San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, is an unusual and endearing musical about a sweetly non-nonsense nurse, her rest home for wayward souls and the evil landlord determined to close her down.




With big production song and dance numbers and a hilarious cast, this film, based on the beloved hit Dutch television series of the 1960's, is a sure-fire cult favorite.

**Available from your local video retailer or at wolfevideo.com • Release Date:** February 22 • **Retail Price:** $24.95.

### INSIGHTOUTBOOKS Winter Bestseller List

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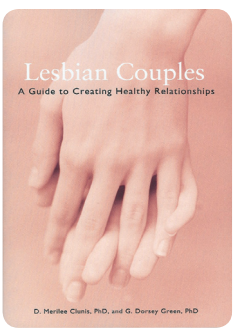
2. **LOOKING FOR IT** by Michael Thomas Ford
3. **ISHERWOOD: A LIFE REVEALED** by Peter Parker
4. **OFF THE CUFF: THE ESSENTIAL STYLE GUIDE** by Carson Kressley
5. **THE YEAR OF ICE** by Brian Malloy




## LESBIAN COUPLES: A GUIDE

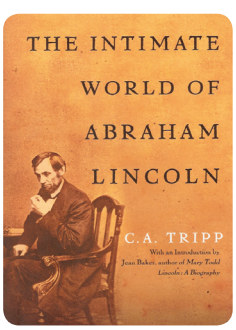
With the current national climate and a new generation of young women redefining what it means to be a lesbian, *Lesbian Couples* is as an important text today within the lesbian community as it was when first released in 1988. This fourth edition includes a new introduction by the authors as well as an updated resource section. *Lesbian Couples* seeks to reach women of all ages, especially young women, who are at the center of evolving lesbian communities.




**Available from your local LGBT bookstore • ISBN:** 1-58005-131-6 • **Release Date:** Out Now • **Retail Price:** $16.95.

## WAS HONEST ABE QUEER?

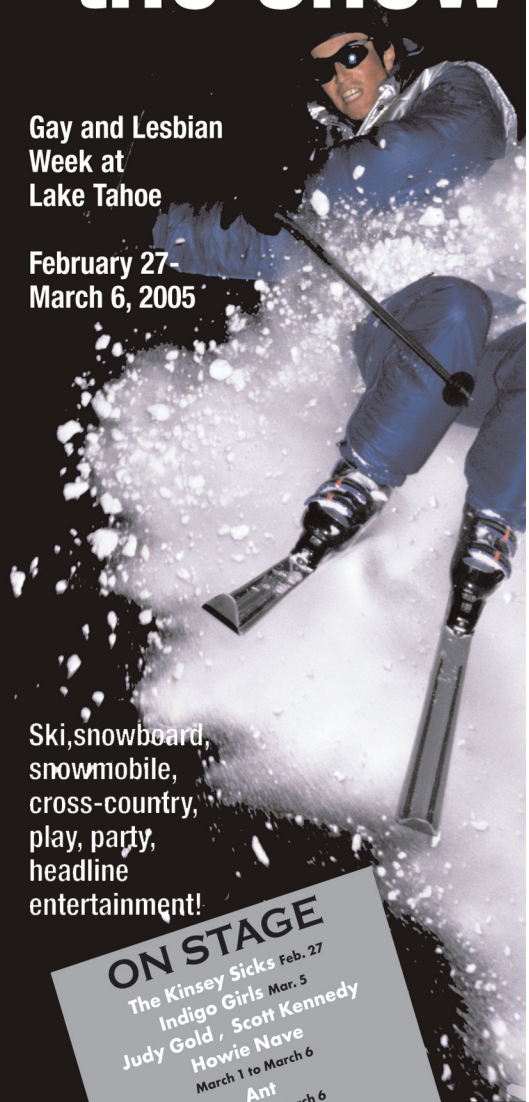
For years, whispers about Abraham Lincoln's sexuality have circulated among Lincoln scholars and the public. In *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*, the late C.A. Tripp, a highly regarded sex researcher, offers a first-ever full look at Lincoln's sexuality.




Focusing on key facts underplayed or overlooked by previous historians, and analyzing other episodes that have been hidden in plain sight, Tripp concludes that Lincoln was predominately homosexual. He argues that this fact helps explain Lincoln's unconventional beliefs about religion, slavery, and even ethics and morals.

**Available from your local bookstore • ISBN:** 0-7432-6639-0 • **Release Date:** Out Now • **Retail Price:** $27.00

play in the snow



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# on the Q-T

## Music

Reviews By Arjan Timmermans

### KYLIE MINOGUE




After 2004's disappointing *Body Language*, Kylie Minogue rebounds with ***Ultimate Kylie***. The double CD is a collection of greatest hits from the Australian pop kitten who has become one of the world's top selling female artists. The set features 32 of her international hit singles from 1987 to the present day, such as "*Locomotion*," "*Celebration*," "*Can't Get You Out Of My Head*" and "*Come Into My World*." Also included is the catchy new single "*I Believe In You*," which Kylie wrote and recorded with Jake Shears and Babydaddy from Scissor Sisters, plus one other previously unreleased track. Forget about those other Kylie albums, this is the only CD you'll need to keep your pop music collection up to date (at a reasonable price).

***Ultimate Kylie*** • Kylie Minogue • Capitol • Available Now

### TORI AMOS




Tori Amos once said that she has always been drawn to beekeeping, the culture of honey and the sensuality of how it is created. She puts this fascination into music on her eighth studio album ***The Beekeeper***. In ancient times, bees were associated with feminine spirituality and the singer emphasizes this sentiment in her lyrics. Musically, the CD incorporates vintage organs, Afro-Cuban drums, Gospel choirs and of course the crooner's idiosyncratic vocals. *The Beekeeper* once again exhibits Amos' limitless talent and versatility that will surely please fans and make many new ones.

***The Beekeeper*** •Tori Amos • Sony • Available February 22

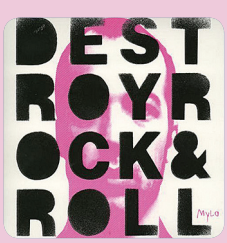
### LOVE ROCKS




An impressive slew of artists sound off about gay rights on a new double CD released by the Human Right Campaign. Produced in partnership with Centaur Records, ***Love Rocks***, features a cross-section of straight, gay, lesbian and bisexual artists who joined together to celebrate love and commitment regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The album features contributions from singers like Christina Aguilera, Mandy Moore, Dido, Melissa Etheridge, Pink, Dixie Chicks, BT, Emmylou Harris and others. Kudos to so many mainstream artists for publicly speaking out in favor of gay rights.

***Love Rocks*** • Various Artists • Centaur • Available Now

### MYLO




If Madonna and Moby would have a baby his name would be Mylo. On his instantly infectious debut ***Destroy Rock & Roll***, the 24 year-old Scottish DJ/producer presents a sleek hybrid of '80 inspired pop, downbeat house and electronica. He cleverly cuts and pastes musical ideas from Prince (on "*Guilty Of Love*"), Kim Carnes' *"Bette Davis Eyes"* (on *"In My Arms"*) and Daft Punk (on *"Otto's Journey"*). Mylo successfully knocks down rock & roll's crystal tower, and he might well be the phoenix that rises from its ashes.

***Destroy Rock & Roll*** • Mylo • Breastfed • Available Now

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# on the Q-T

## Out On The Town With JL



By JL Jordan III

It's a new year and I am excited that things are calming down after a festive New Year's Eve in the forbidden city. Many top celebrities from sports, music and movies were sighted spending their dollars bringing in the new year in Las Vegas. However, the most memorable was **Anna Nicole Smith**. Trying to out perform her Oscar worthy introduction of Kayne West at the Grammy's last year, Anna rang in New Year's 2005 at the Aladdin Resort and Casino. She spent more than a few minutes rubbing up on musical sensation **Lionel Richie**. Lionel only had a few minutes for the cameras. He was busy trying to keep an eye on his off the circuit daughter, **Nicole Richie** (co-star of *The Simple Life 2*). Noteworthy, for some reason Nicole kept disappearing and reappearing. While Lionel was busy looking for Nicole, I was busy searching for Anna's son Daniel. He is YUMMY.









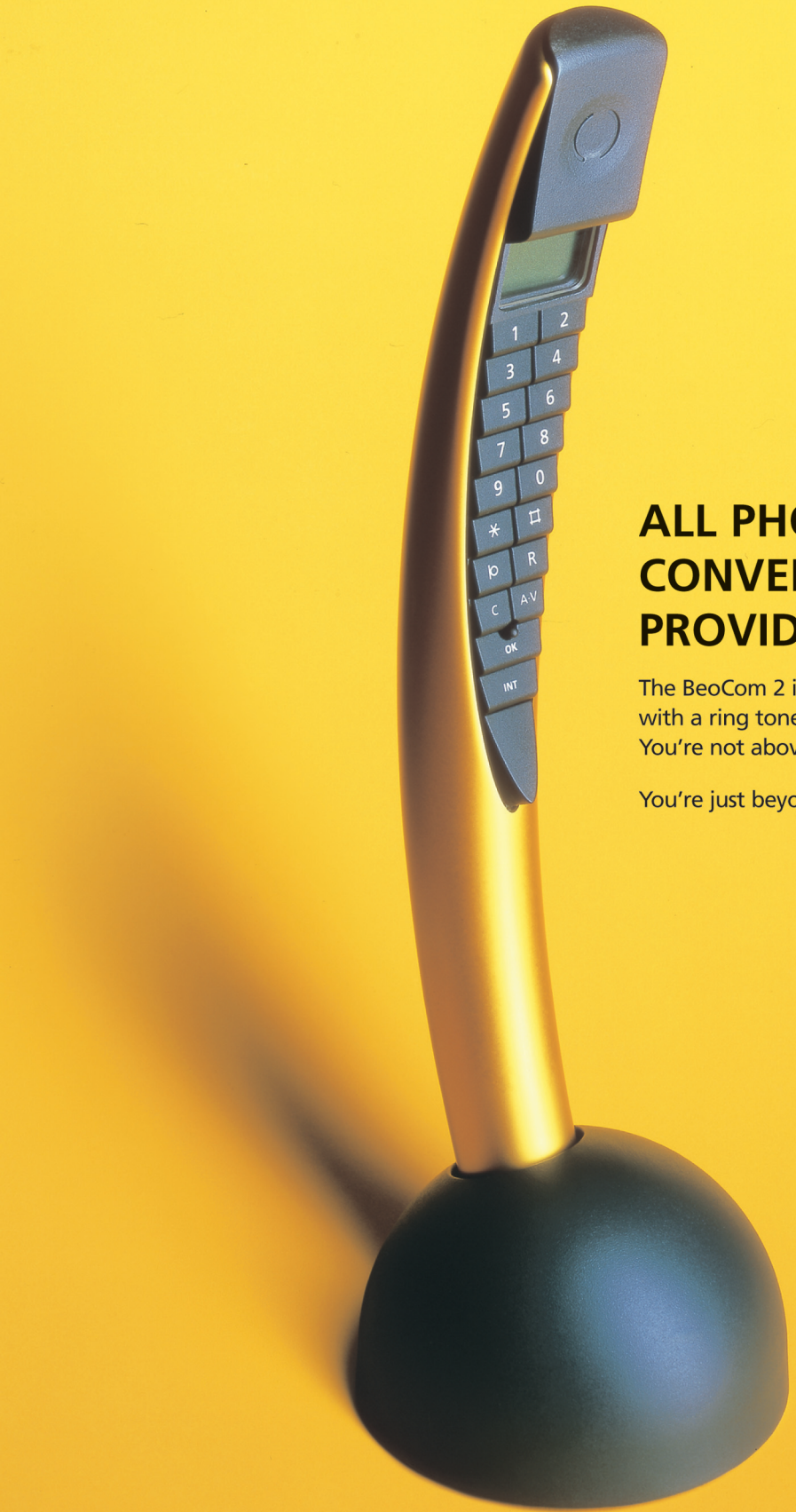
Speaking of yummy, you should check out the VIP catering services from **Prepared By Bonnie**. She was just voted Best Caterer In Las Vegas. I tasted her food at a few celebrity parties and the food was incredible. Now she's doing weekly dinner deliveries to my home, packed perfectly with directions for a non-chef like me to understand. E-mail her at bonniesmithlv@aol.com for menu options.

Diva duel or not? Is this really a rivalry? The legendary female impersonator **Kenny Kerr**, a Barbara Striesand impersonator, vs. the media mogul female impersonator **Frank Marino**, a Joan Rivers impersonator. Hands down Kenny Kerr is a great entertainer. However, after celebrating a 20-year run on the strip headlining as the star of **LaCage** at the Riviera, this diva award goes to the undisputed queen of female impersonation, Frank Marino. Frank, undoubtedly you deserve the second star on the **Walk of Stars**. While we are on the subject of men who make a living dressing up as women, Note to **Shannel** (the star of Illusions Cabaret and Seduction at **Gipsy Nightclub**): please keep giving it your all. Your hard work and dedication to the profession of female illusion will get your name in neon lights one day very soon. Until then, continue hosting those memorable holiday parties.

I had the honor of spending a few minutes in line at Starbucks with his Excellency **Daniel Ayalon**, Ambassador of Israel to the United States of America. I asked Mr. Ayalon his opinion on the World Pride 2005 being hosted in Jerusalem this year. He replied, "if we have prospects for peace in the Middle East, we have prospects for individuals surviving being openly gay in the Middle East as well." Not exactly an award winning response. However, he did order the award winning peppermint mocha!

Forum Shops at Caesars Palace recently added a dining gem. **Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak & Stone Crab** is the culmination of a partnership between Lettuce Entertain You, ICON and Joe's Stone Crab, the legendary seafood restaurant of Miami Beach. Originally opened in Chicago in the fall of 2000, Joe's features an extensive selection of seafood, flown in fresh daily, to complement the world's finest Florida Stone Crab claws. Joe's has quickly built a reputation as a top steakhouse in the city of sin, featuring their signature 16 oz. Bone-In Filet Mignon and 22 oz. New York Strip Steak. Matched with Joe's famous side dishes, dinner only gets better when capped with a slice of key lime pie. Enjoy a generous cocktail in the bustling lounge or the tuxedo-clad service of the clubby dinning room and you'll understand why dinner at Joe's has quickly become one of Las Vegas' favorite social engagements. However, if you are looking for mouth-watering eye candy waiters, don't go during lunch. FYI…they seem to only appear during the dinner shifts.

Underwear models? Well, rest assured your chances of finding them at the Eagle are slim to none. This venue is not one that regularly appears on my social calendar. However, **Chris Saldaña** (weekend anchor/field reporter for Channel 8 and voted *QVegas'* Sexiest News Reporter), **John McCoy** (show entertainment publicist), and I paid a late night visit one Wednesday night for their long-time running men's underwear night. We had a lot of fun and laughs. It is amazing what people will do for discounted well drinks and draft beer. Hey, John, thank you for saving me from that self proclaimed make-up artist to the strippers. Wait, what happened to the dark back room at the Eagle? **Q**

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## Dennis Rodman Strips for PETA

Dennis Rodman has just become the first man to pose nude for PETA's "Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" campaign.

Rodman met openly gay PETA VP Dan Mathews in a Miami nightclub when Dennis invited Dan and his friend—Miami drag scenester Elaine Lancaster-to take refuge in his booth when he saw that Elaine was drawing some homophobic taunts from club-goers.

When Dennis discovered who Dan was, Dennis said that not only has he always refused free furs that were pushed on him, but that he was embarrassed whenever his ex-wife, Carmen Electra, wore them.



PETA's Dan Mathews with Dennis Rodman

## IS C.J. GAY?

The January 5 episode of *West Wing* dealt with the issue of same-gender marriage and a tabloid rumor that Chief of Staff, C.J. Cregg (Alison Janney) is a closet lesbian. The subject matter was presented in an informed and delicate manner, exploring the debate over gay marriage and the outing of political officials.

In the end, when reporters pressed C.J. for a response on her sexual orientation, she simply replied, "It's none of your business."





## QUEER EYE GAL PALS HIT BRAVO

Bravo's spin-off to the Fab Five, *Queer Eye for the Straight Girl* premiered in January to rave reviews and a stylish cast from the West Coast.

The team of make-better mavens includes, Robbie Laughlin who specializes in the look, Danny Teason, the life specialist, Damon Pease, the locale specialist, and Honey Labrador, the first lesbian "Queer Eye."

Queer Eye for the Straight Girl airs each Wednesday at 10 p.m. ET on the Bravo Channel.

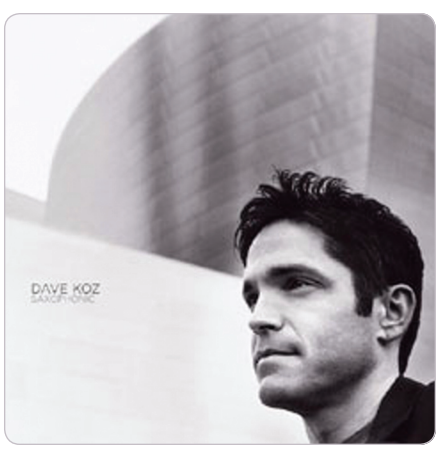
## Are You Desperate?

Gay men have become obsessed with ABC's runaway hit *Desperate Housewives*. This darkly comedic primetime soap harkens back to the heyday of over-the-top dramas like *Dynasty* and *Knotts Landing*. There's suicide, sex, scandal, murder, arson, more sex and gorgeous women playing with the lives of the men they love or barely tolerate.

The series stars regulars Teri Hatcher (Golden Globe winner for Best Actress), Felicity Huffman, Marcia Cross, Nicollette Sheridan, and the seductive Eva Longoria.

*Desperate Housewives* airs each Sunday at 9 p.m. on ABC.






## Hunky Dave Koz Nominated For Grammy

Jazz saxophonist and composer Dave Koz has been nominated for a Grammy for his album *Saxophonic*. Dave is openly gay and was voted one of *People* magazine's Sexiest Bachelors of 2004.

The Grammy's will be telecast on Sunday, February 13. Check your local listings for station and time.

## ANTI-GAY LICENSE PLATES?

Virginia lawmakers are planning to introduce legislation that would amend the state's constitution banning same-gender marriage.

But, the state legislature is also considering a measure that would call for the words "Traditional Marriage" to be placed on car license plates. If passed, the plates would have interlocking gold wedding bands superimposed over a red heart over the words "Traditional Marriage."

*Photos: Queer Eye—Chris Cuffaro/Bravo; Desperate Housewives—Moshe Brakha/ABC; West Wing—David Rose/NBC.*

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## Center Holds Annual General Membership Meeting To Elect New Board Members

On January 19, The Center held its annual general membership meeting and election of new board members. After a brief introduction of all candidates, ballots were distributed and prospective members waited patiently outside. After a slight voting mishap, ballots were recast, and the votes were in.

Filling nine positions on The Center's board of directors are: Kenny Baker, John Bianco, Steve Moore, Anthony Polimeni, Joe Raba, Randy Reinoso, Earl Shelton, Anthony Wagner, and Launa Wilson.


The Center's Board of Directors

Despite the moderate turnout, there was an incredibly enthusiastic and overwhelming response from the community for candidates who ran this year. Many expressed their appreciation and best wishes for 2005's new dream team.

"Our main goal is to continue to transition The Center as a hub of resources for the community," said Board Vice President, Ken Smith. "We are going to develop additional programs to touch as many community members as possible. The goal here is to encourage people to get involved and to take action. After all, this community center is exactly that, a center for the community." Q

## Royal Court Divests $28,000 to Local Charities

Hamburger Mary's was the hotspot on January 7 for a night of glitter, decadence, and a whole lot of heart. The Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire (Royal Court) presented its 7th Annual Divestiture, distributing more than $28,000 raised in 2004. The funds benefit various local charities including Street Teens, The Center, Golden Rainbow, and the Las Vegas Humane Society. A generous donation was also made to aid the victims of the recent tsunami devastation in Southern Asia.

"We've been raising money all year," said outgoing Emperor Tracy Shinsel. "We're going to continue helping the city, assisting the Royal Court in future endeavors and increasing our local community awareness."

Some highlights from the evening included a $6000 check to Street Teens for their housing assistance program, a $500 check to the Las Vegas Humane Society, and $1000 to Child Haven and Saint Therese centers. Ida Slapther, Kitty Litter, Emperor VII YG and Empress Carlotta Stollengoodz were just a few of the musical spectacles on stage that evening.

However, aside from the flamboyance and raw talent, the Royal Court Divestiture proved to be a positive example of what a few queens, a lot of local support, and a genuine care for the people of this world can do in stirring up some waves of change. Q



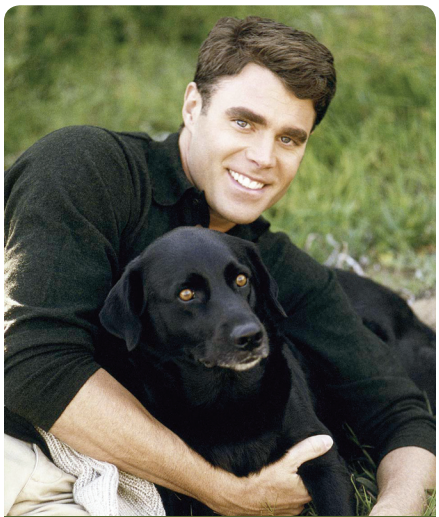
Aunt Betty & Tracy Shinsel

# QVegas Foundation Holds Second "Evening With" Fundraiser to Benefit Community

February is the month of love, and with Valentine's Day right around the corner, you may find yourself alone and dateless. Well, not to worry because the Qvegas Foundation has the solution for you. The 2nd annual *An Evening With* fundraiser is guaranteed to tickle your fancy, and even give you a chance at love.

"Our first event raised over $15000," said Earl Shelton, Director of Community Relations at *QVegas* magazine. "We had several community leaders participate last year including Major Oscar Goodman and Congresswoman Shelly Berkley."

The auction will take place on February 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Hamburger Mary's. The winning bidder gets a fabulous dinner with their favorite entertainer, politician or community leader, and all proceeds benefit the QVegas Foundation, a local nonprofit charitable organization established to raise and distribute funds to clubs and organizations that help to serve the greater Las Vegas community. Participants in the community are either chosen or they volunteer themselves to be auctioned off. After the auction, Chip Arndt, CBS's hunky *Amazing Race* winner makes a special guest appearance at Krave for a special VIP meet and greet. A small donation of $100 gets you into Krave and also includes a photo with Arndt. For additional information, please contact Earl Shelton at earls@qvegas.com. **Q**



CBS' *Amazing Race* Winner Chip Arndt

# Kander and Ebb Musical Cabaret Set to Benefit Golden Rainbow

Golden Rainbow, devoted to providing housing and financial assistance to men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS presents *The World Goes 'Round*, a special cabaret musical featuring hits by Kander and Ebb whose musical resume include such masterpieces as *Chicago*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *Funny Lady*. This one time only performance is staged for Sunday, February 27 at 2:00 p.m. on the Pharaoh's Theather stage inside the Luxor Casino.

GOLDEN RAINBOW

The show's theme celebrates life and all the complexities of it, but more importantly the internal fighting spirit that keeps us chugging along in this ever-changing world. *World Goes 'Round* features 29 songs from many of Kander and Ebb's shows including *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *New York, New York*.

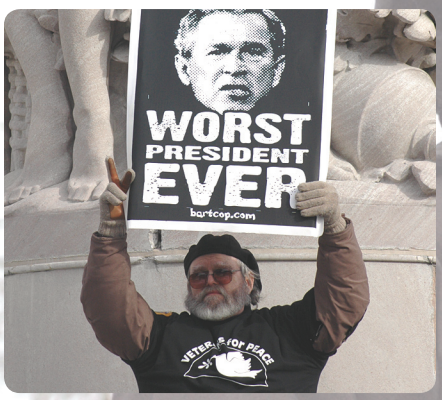
Tickets are available now by calling the Golden Rainbow Office at (702) 384-2899. General admission is $25 and reserved VIP tickets are $40. All proceeds from the show go towards Golden Rainbow's housing and financial assistance goals, and also funding for HIV/AIDS prevention education. So if you're in the mood for some romance, drama, and laughs, *The World Goes 'Round* is bound to tickle your fancy. Plus, with such an amazing cause backing it, how could you resist? For additional information, please visit www.GoldenRainbow.org. **Q**



A QVegas Special Report

# SILENCING THE OPPOSITION: A REPORT FROM THE INAUGURATION

By C.S. Muncy




Crossing between the supporters and protestors at the Presidential Inauguration had all the appearance of an illegal border crossing, like the dangerous venture between East and West Germany before the wall fell. The shift in culture between the two couldn't have been any more polarized; the background and social upbringing was unmistakable as both groups exchanged insults and jeers. On all sides, Bush supporters lined the route; specially invited Republicans, young and old, held their invitations above their heads like an Olympian runner holding the torch, proclaiming to all their select status. Mixed between, in little pockets of sedition were the sign waving, chanting protestors; who eventually congregated towards the small section of Pennsylvania Avenue assigned to them by the Presidential Inauguration Committee.

Who were these people? These cocksure, giddy Bush supporters and angry, disenchanted youths who mixed so uncomfortably together?

Protestors included people from all ends of the political spectrum, from anti-war organizers to ex-politicians to LGBT activists. Noted guests included Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General to President Johnson, who asked for a moment of silence "for all the victims of George Bush 's illegal actions." Preston Wood, another guest speaker, stated that the current administration "wants to use the subject of same sex marriage to divide the progressive Democrats from the moderates."

The issue of LGBT rights came up often in

**"...those eleven states passing Protection of Marriage laws, were just a prelude to the shock and awe campaign this administration is going to wage on us."**
**—Inaugural Protestor**

the protest area-bitterly named a "Free Speech Zone" by some in attendance. One black clad youth stated that "all the losses of the last election, [such as] those eleven states passing Protection of Marriage laws, were just a prelude to the shock and awe campaign this administration is going to wage on us."

Among the President's supporters were men like Steve Murphy, a Bush campaign staffer from Wyoming who managed to get an invitation to the ceremony on Capitol Hill. According to Steve, "Pretty much only people who brought in serious money and support got tickets. Everyone else had to buy them."

After inquiring with the Presidential Inauguration Committee, this reporter learned that only pre-approved supporters were allowed to buy tickets on his or her own. This meant






that only Bush supporters were allowed to line the Parade route. While protestors managed to secure a space along Pennsylvania Ave, they had perhaps a five second view of the President as his motorcade sped by delivering him to the Capitol Building, and a momentary and all too brief exchange with the Parade itself. Contact with his supporters was raucous, as they were forced to run through the crowded event via concrete barriers set up by the Police (though this didn't prevent shoving matches between the two groups from breaking out.)

Protestor and supporter alike fell under the watchful eye of several security agencies, including-though not limited to-the Washington D.C. Metro Police, the Capitol Police, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. National Park Police, several out of state police units, military police from all branches of the service and the U.S. Marshals. Of the uniformed members in attendance, almost all were attired in full riot gear; combat boots oiled and polished to military precision, meter long batons, and beetle-like gasmasks hanging from their belts.

Despite the heavy security, even the Presidential motorcade couldn't escape a few snowballs hurled amidst an even larger storm of screamed insults as it rocketed past the reviewing stands. At one point, a security gate leading into the event was torn down and overrun, an act the police responded to with gas and pepper spray. Several people managed to get through before the gate was replaced and the crowd was forced back. Q

Photos: C.S. Muncy.

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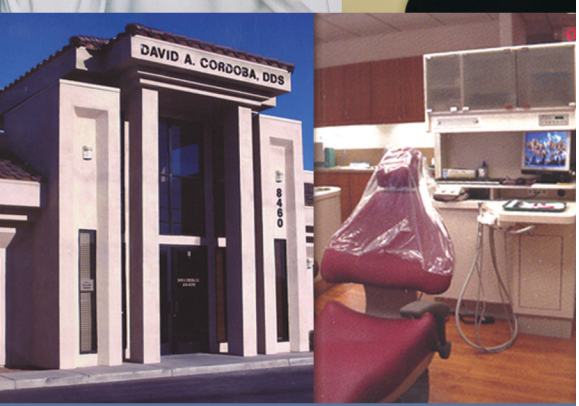


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# Arizona Faces Gay Marriage Constitutional Amendment

On January 5, Arizona lawmakers decided to put a measure on the 2006 ballot asking voters to consider an amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions and forbidding cities and counties from providing benefits to their workers' domestic partners.

If approved, the measure would strike down the practice in Tempe, Tucson and Pima County of extending benefits to the partners of municipal workers. Tucson's domestic-partner registry would also be nullified. Further, the amendment would prohibit state courts from ruling the denial of benefits to domestic partners unconstitutional or from permitting civil unions. This happened in Vermont in 1999, when the state Supreme Court ruled that though not required to permit gays to marry, the state had to offer them similar rights. The amendment would not prohibit privately owned companies from extending such benefits.

But the bill's broad language may spell its doom at the polls, as Arizonans continue to be sharply divided on the issue of same-sex marriage. A 2004 state wide survey found that while voters opposed gay marriage by an almost 3-2 margin, 57% supported civil unions.

Steve May, co-chair of the gay and lesbian group Arizona Human Rights Fund, said voters may draw the line at amending the constitution, particularly one worded so harshly.

"A majority of Arizonans support a ban on gay marriage and would vote for it at the polls," he said. But he added that he did not think Arizonans would vote to take things like health insurance away from domestic partners. His opinion seems to be reflected in a recent Arizona Republic Poll in which 54% of surveyed voters opposing the measure and 7% were undecided, according to a January 9 *Arizona Central* article.

May added that his organization may also be able to challenge the measure on grounds that it violates a state law mandating that constitutional measures deal with only one subject. He said one could argue that this proposal deals with both marriage and domestic partnership.

Arizona law already defines marriage as the union between a man and a woman. **Q**

# Lesbian Author Susan Sontag Dies

Famous for her novels and essays on subjects as eclectic as cancer research, literary criticism, and photography, Susan Sontag died of complications from leukemia December 28 in New York City. She was 71 years old and a previous survivor of breast cancer.


Susan Sontag

Born Susan Rosenblatt in 1933, Sontag spent much of her childhood in Arizona and Southern California. A precocious student, she graduated high school at age fifteen and attended the University of Chicago two years later. There, she married Philip Rieff, one of her instructors, at age 17. The couple had one son before their divorce in 1952. She later received master's degrees in English and philosophy from Harvard University.

In 1960, Sontag moved to New York City. There she would write some of her most celebrated works, including the 1966 book *Against Interpretation*. The book's core essay "Notes on Camp" became one of the first essays in the discipline later termed "gay studies". In all, she published 17 books including, most recently the novel *In America*, which received the National Book Award in 2000 and 2004's *Regarding the Pain of Others*, Sontag's second work reflecting on the medium of photography.

Noted for her outspokenness on several issues, particularly those relating to human rights, Sontag was never far from controversy. Shortly after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, she publicly praised the Al Qaeda hijackers in *The New Yorker*, saying the attacks were the fault of American foreign policy.

"Whatever may be said of the perpetrators of Tuesday's slaughter, they were not cowards," she said. Though Sontag later retracted the statement it was the last in a long line of her often controversial opinions, which included calling "the white race" the "cancer of human history" after a visit to Hanoi during the Vietnam War.

However, Sontag is also remembered for speaking up against intellectual and political persecution. In 1989 she helped rally the support of intellectuals against the fatwa placed on *The Satanic Verses* author Salman Rushdie by then-Iranian dictator Ayotallah Khomeini.

Shortly after her death, several gay and lesbian publications including *The Washington Blade* called attention to media coverage that sought to "straight wash" Sontag's life by failing to acknowledge her relationships with women. In a January 4 *Los Angeles Times* opinion piece, author Patrick Moore also called attention not only to Sontag's long-standing relationship with photographer Annie Liebovitz but her past relationships with several other artists including choreographer Lucinda Childs and playwright Maria Irene Fornes. **Q**

Photo of Susan Sontag — © Annie Liebovitz.

By JoSelle Vanderhooft
QVegas National News Correspondent



## Arkansas Court Strikes Down Gay Foster Care Ban

A state circuit court struck down an Arkansas regulation barring gays and lesbians and anyone living in a household containing a gay adult from being a foster parent on December 29. The decision ended a 1999 suit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union against the state on behalf of three prospective foster parents.

In his findings, Circuit Court Judge Timothy Fox wrote that the state had been wrong to make claims against gays' suitability as parents, saying that his ruling was based on knowledge and information "as opposed to assumption". Additionally, Fox ruled that no evidence existed to suggest that being raised by gay or lesbian parents behavioral or psychological problems or that children's well-being might be compromised in such households. Perhaps most importantly, Fox also said that the ban, instigated in 1999, hurt children in need of foster care by limiting the number of foster parents.

Rita Sklar, Executive Director of the Arkansas ACLU chapter, said she was "very pleased" with the decision.

"Throughout this case, the state has relied on ugly stereotypes to deny children in the Arkansas foster care system the chance of having the widest possible pool of foster families available to them," she said. "We're very pleased that the court saw through these arguments and has recognized that gay and lesbian people can provide homes just as loving and stable as anyone else's." Q

ACLU
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## Transgender Officer Sues Police Department

A transgender police officer filed a sexual harassment suit against the Oklahoma Police Department on December 20 and has been placed on paid leave while she and her employers attempt to resolve the situation.

The lawsuit, filed by Paula Schonauer in Oklahoma County district court does not detail any specific incidents of harassment and her attorney, Doug Friesen declined to discuss the suit's details in a December 23 press conference. Last September, Schonauer also filed a wrongful termination lawsuit despite not having been fired. In late October, Schonauer was removed from patrol and given an interim clerical role before being placed on paid leave. Currently, her abilities are being evaluated to determine her future role in the department, Friesen said.

Friesen also said his client filed the suits in order to prevent her claims from being negated by Oklahoma's statue of limitations. She also made them, he said, as a precautionary measure, in case she and her employers could not reach an agreement on handling the situation.

"I am certainly hopeful this can work out," a December 28 *Advocate* story quoted Friesen as saying. "It has always been her goal to continue to serve as a police officer working with the public." He also added that his client had successfully improved community relations programs between the police department and the local Hispanic, Asian and gay and lesbian communities.

In 2001, Schonauer, a Gulf War veteran, decided to become a woman and change names from Paul to Paula after serving on the force for nine years. At that time, police officials told her she would be treated the same as others in the force provided she continued to perform well on the job. Q

## Majority of Montanans Oppose Civil Unions

A recent poll indicates that almost two-thirds of Montana voters reject the idea of granting civil unions to gay and lesbian couples, according to a December 28 *Billings-Gazette* article.

In the poll, conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research for the Gazette State Bureau on December 13 and 14, 62 percent of 625 registered Montana voters said they opposed civil unions which would grant gay and lesbian couples some of the same legal benefits afforded to married straight couples. Thirty-four percent supported the idea while 4 percent said they were undecided. Of these, male voters were more likely to reject the idea than female voters, with 66% of men opposed to civil unions compared to 58% of women. An even number of voters of both sexes reported being undecided.

The poll comes a month and a half after two-thirds of Montanans voted to amend the state constitution to ban gay marriage. But due to the amendment's wording, civil unions could still be legalized, and Democratic lawmakers have proposed legalizing civil unions in the 2005 legislative session. Q





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# Community Mom

By Erica Grimaldo

Susan Fowler might be a good person to know if you are hoping to attract some attention from cupid this month.

This 50-year-old Las Vegas native takes beauty very seriously. Fowler said she competed in, and won, several national hair design competitions throughout her 32 years as a professional hair stylist. She is also a master hair colorist since 2000, a title Fowler explained she earned after a test that only three out of 60 applicants passed during the year she applied.

"I'm honored to provide beauty services for all of the local gay organizations," Fowler said during a recent interview at her Henderson salon. "I'm at every event that SNAPI puts together, I support the leather group, the Royal Sovereign Court, the Gay Chorus, QVegas Foundation, The Center…"

"If I'm not out there attending one of the events, I'm behind this (salon) chair making money to go out there and support the next one," she added.

Fowler has proven to be a savvy businesswoman who in two years of networking and contributions has made Park Avenue Salon a well-known and respected presence in the Las Vegas gay community.

"My clients now are about 50-50 male and female," she added. "That is what is so great about all the gay boys …they all want color!"

Fowler said her gay customers are more likely to take risks and follow the latest fashion trends, which keeps her work interesting.

"The more I contribute to the gay community, with courage and acceptance, the more I get back from them," Fowler said. "I'm the eccentric, 50-year-old straight woman among them during these events and I'm the lucky one getting all this love and acceptance back."

Last year Fowler's donations included beauty-product gift baskets for fundraisers benefiting Aid for AIDS of Nevada, The National Lesbian and Gay Journalist Association and Southern Nevada's Association of Pride Inc.



**"I have developed some wonderful relationships in the gay community with the people I see at all the different events. I get invited to almost everything and I always have a blast."**

Daughters Holly, 26, and Heidi, 23, followed mom's footsteps into the beauty academy and now work with her. All three of them donated their time last June during a haircut-a-thon to raise funds for The Center.

"We went down there and raised about $650 charging $50 per haircut," Fowler said about the fundraiser. "We also donated our tips."

For SNAPI's Summer Splash 2004 at Wet-N-Wild last August, Fowler said she printed 600 coupons for the bags of goodies SNAPI gave each attendee on the way out. The $5 coupons usually resemble dollar bills with Fowler's face in the middle, but for Summer Splash they featured the face of an attractive male model.

"We changed the face just because we have a lot of cute gay boys who are good friends," Fowler explained. "We figured the boys would like that."

Fowler said her involvement in the gay community originated from her work as a hair designer but grew from the personal relationships she developed.

"Chris Garnier grew up in my household," she said. "He is like a son to me and he's gay so that's also how we were introduced to the community, he would bring his friends around the house for us to meet."

Fowler's family has grown over the years to include other gay members.

"My husband's daughter is gay," Fowler said. "And I feel like I helped mend their relationship because he wasn't educated about the gay community when I first met him."

Now her husband is used to interacting with people from the gay community, she added.

"Christmas dinner at my house this year was five straight and five gay folks," Fowler said. "We had a wonderful time."

Park Avenue Salon also participated in a Christmas fundraising effort by mailing about 400 Sharing and Caring postcards to raise toys, Fowler said.

"We announced to all our customers that we were a drop-off site and we ended up donating 18 boxes of toys," she explained while pointing to the area surrounding the manicure stations in her salon. "All of this was filled with toys."

Fowler said it was difficult to decide which one of her contributions was most satisfying.

"Seeing SNAPI turn around was especially rewarding because I was part of the problem before," Fowler said. "Last year Sasha was keeping things that should have gone to the organization, and I was among the people who gave her stuff. I provided Sasha with beauty products and services."

Fowler said she is glad the matter was solved and is already gearing up for this year's Pride events.

"I have developed some wonderful relationships in the gay community with the people I see at all the different events," Fowler said. "I get invited to almost everything and I always have a blast." **Q**

**The Business of Being Gay**

# The Love Boutique

By Lea



Well, it's that time of the year again! No, not Christmas silly, Valentine's Day! A time when sweethearts exchange diamonds and other baubles. I've got an idea to spice up your romantic life that a diamond will only do for a few days, or months, depending on the size of the diamond! The solution to this year's Valentine gift is Déjà Vu Love Boutique.

As a kinkster, I was in hog heaven when I walked into what is one of the cleanest and nicest alternative boutiques in Las Vegas. The moment I arrived, a smiling clerk was at my side, asking if she could be of help. "I have an appointment with Andrea", I told her. She promptly fetched Andrea, who greeted me as if I were the only person in the world that mattered.

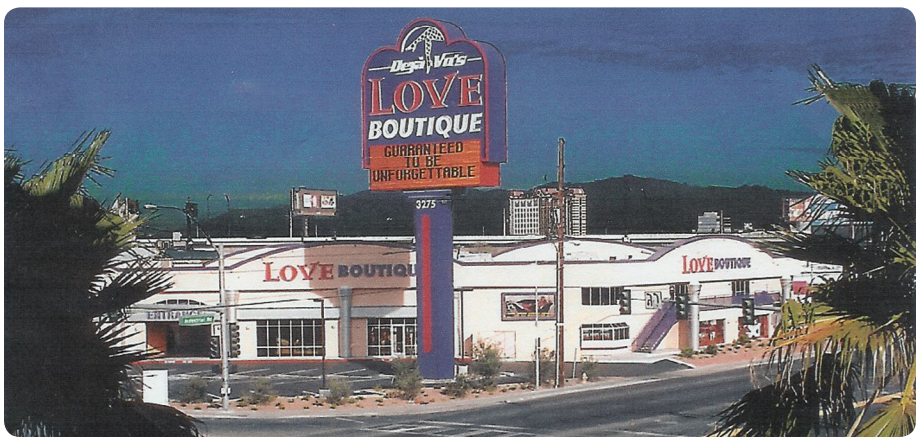
Not a typical Fredrick's of Hollywood or Victoria's Secret, The Love Boutique caters to all sorts and sizes of people. It provides a comfortable atmosphere that welcomes Gays, Lesbians, Heterosexuals, Transvestites, and everyone in-between. All that enter are treated the same, without prejudice or judgment. "I won't tolerate any rudeness towards anyone, just because they are different", Andrea adamantly states.

From lingerie, books, and leather items to other wonderful paraphernalia, this boutique has a myriad of items to spice up the romantic side of your relationship. Andrea proudly tells me, "Anything we can do to make their romantic life better, we will!" Andrea explains. "We take pride in catering to women of size" she continues, "All women want to feel beautiful and sexy and we desire to encourage that sexy goddess within all women, that is just waiting to come out and be". She smiles as she lets me in on what feels like a secret, "Kids get to go to Circus Circus, Déjà Vu is the Circus Circus for grownups".

Déjà Vu opened up Oct 23rd, 2003 and has been going strong since. "We wanted to focus on where the money is," says Andrea, "A woman's wallet", she laughs with me, both of us knowing how very true that can be. Averaging approximately 175-200 people a day, Déjà Vu has been profiled on the MTV show "One Bad Trip", a reality show on SpikeTV and has had several celebrities visit, such as Penn and Teller, Robyn Leech and Vince Neil.

At their grand opening, Channel 8 news profiled Déjà Vu; in an attempt to smear what they thought was another adult superstore. The next day, due to their coverage, the store was packed with customers. With 70 locations throughout the United States and Canada, including gentleman clubs, adult stores and other boutiques, Déjà Vu enjoys the luxury of having customers from all over the world come in and purchase various items.

A boudoir is how Andrea describes the huge and beautiful dressing rooms to me. They look like they were imported from a fine, French department store. While the Love Boutique does not sell adult toys, behind the steel beaded curtain, they have a display of assorted items. Should a customer desire one of those items, they are escorted by an employee next door to Déjà Vu Showgirls, where they can be purchased. **Q**




Déjà Vu Love Boutique is located at 3275 Industrial Road, Las Vegas, NV. 89109.

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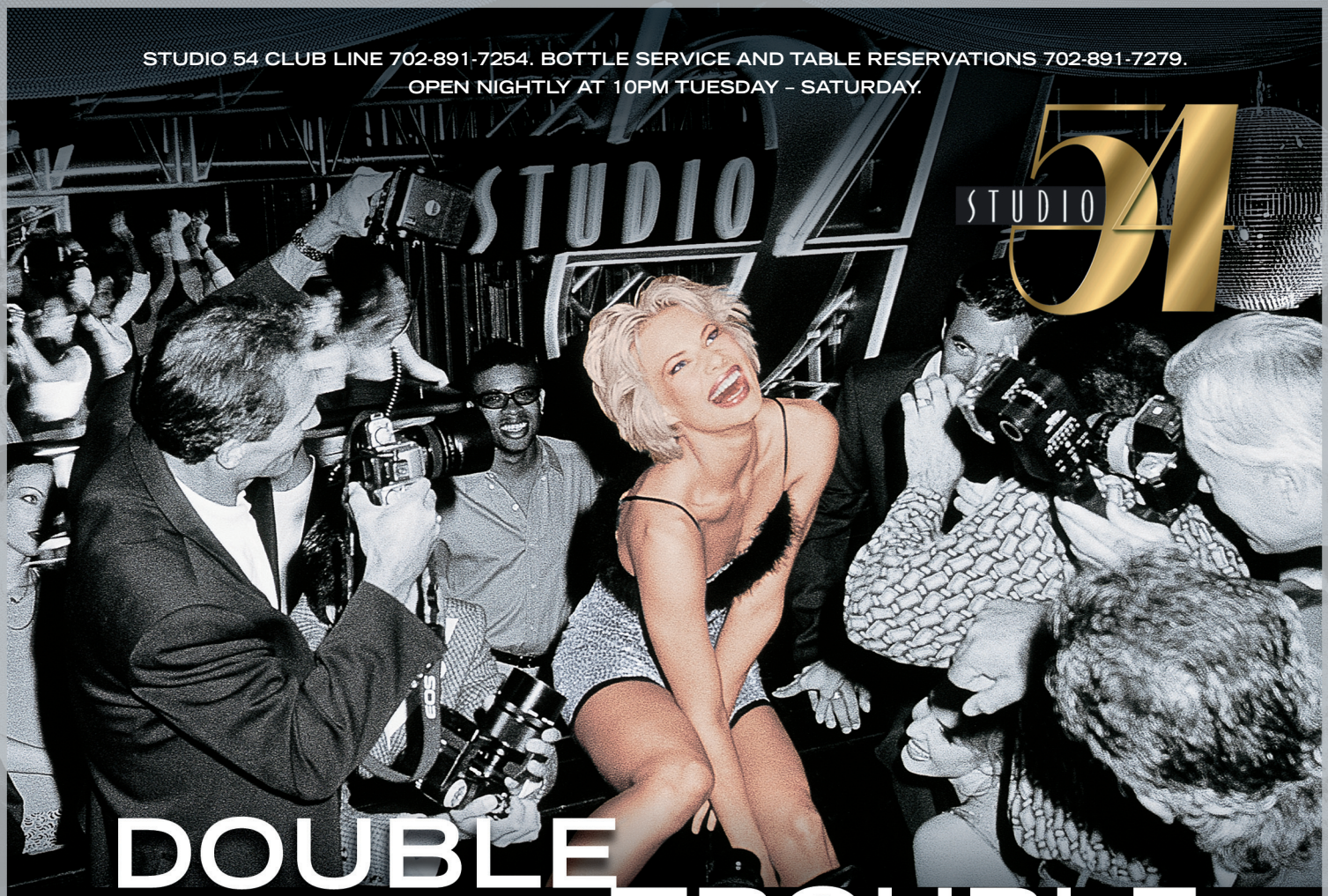


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# SPOIL ME ROTTEN

By Shannon Stevens

Ah, February. The season of pinks, reds and maybe even the blues.

Flowers. Romance. All that candy.

Frankly, I find it makes me a little sad. Not because of a lack of love around me, but because of our limitations as Las Vegas lesbians to actually express our affection for one another.

I hear people around the office chit-chatting about their breeder plans — I envision all the best scenes in Hollywood romance: holding hands over a candlelit table, not under it; kissing before some astonishing backdrop, not on the couch while watching a video of it; requesting another's hand in marriage on a marquee, not presenting a set of matching rings to illustrate commitment.

Perhaps rather than trying to find a way to function within the confines of our restrictive city, it may be time for a romantic red-eye to Logan International.

Yep, I'm talking about a romp in Massachusetts to cure those lesbian Valentine blues, an idea in no small way encouraged by a January visit from my Cape Cod darlings, Rita and Bob.

For the record, they find the term "breeder" most offensive. And why not? Where they live, in their Unitarian Universalist, Yankee, Provincetown-influenced little world, there would be no need to make such a defensive comment. In their world, we can hold hands and smooch and do whatever they can do.

Including getting married.

It seems like, if a lifetime commitment is what you have in mind, why not take this opportunity to pull a traditional Valentine's Day and pop the question?

Don't misunderstand. It is not my belief that we should all hop the nearest flight to Boston and marry the nearest lesbian at hand – it would not do the movement good to have a higher divorce rate than straights a year or two down the road.

And marriage, of course, is not a romantic gesture but a contract to love and care for one another, even when it sucks.

So once those pesky details are out of the way, I must say, those folks back East make it quite plausible to plan a June wedding on the ocean.

My favorite source for information on how to achieve such a once-impossible task is right on Provincetown's Web site, www.provincetown.com.

But let me save you the trouble. First off, despite the battle going on, Provincetown continues to marry out-of-state couples who intend to reside in Massachusetts. If you follow this debate in the news, this may change — although I believe if there is one place right now where the right can survive it is in that bastion of intellectualism and freedom, Massachusetts. Oops. Off the soapbox. Anyway, check the town government Web site frequently to keep up on the latest. (www.provincetown-ma.gov)

If you do want the added romance of a beachside wedding (and the fabulous activity of Provincetown in the summer — from the ever-present leather to the international film festival to sisters raising dough for AIDS), make sure to plan ahead. Often the best properties in town are reserved as early as December, so call now!

Once you've figured out when, as those of you who accidentally got married to the opposite sex already know, you have to figure out where. City Hall, a church, the beach, or something else you definitely won't find in Vegas? Captain Carla's Adventures at Sea, perhaps? (www.captaincarla.com)

Don't forget to figure out *who* you want to perform the ceremony. Again, Provincetown's Web site has a full listing of people happy to pitch in — though I'm sure many of them are paid advertisers. It might just be best to head to town and stop in at the Post Office Café and Cabaret for lunch. Tell them Rita and Bob sent you and I'm sure they'll be happy to give you tips on the best preacher for the job — and probably the best photographer, too.

I swear, the Provincetown tourism district does not employ me. If it sounds that way, it's because, I guess, after spending a couple of weeks with the folks from back East, I'm just a little homesick for the freedom. They were astonished when they found out how restrictive our environment here can be.

Spoiled rotten, they are.

Hopefully in the lifetime of our 30-something generation we, here in Las Vegas and everywhere, will be spoiled rotten too. **Q**



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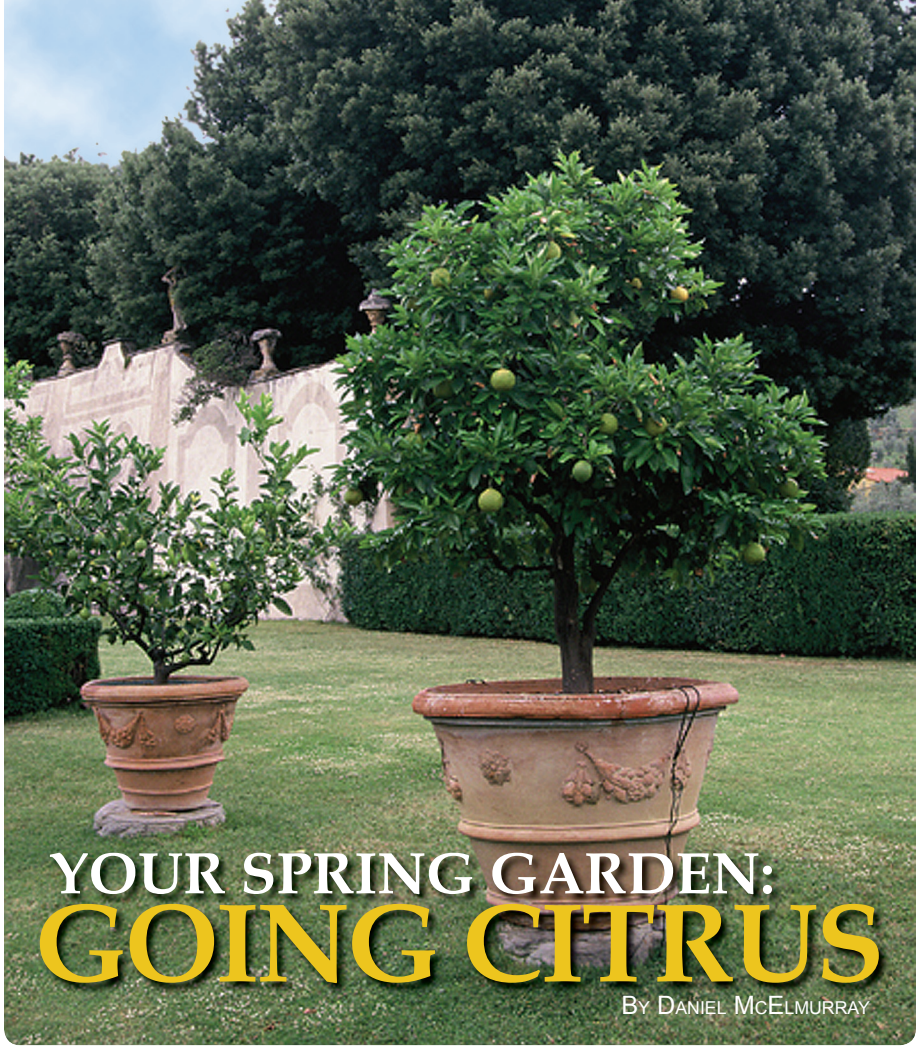

# YOUR SPRING GARDEN: GOING CITRUS

By Daniel McElmurray

Think of exterior improvements as an invitation to turn your desert garden into a water-wise Mediterranean oasis, creating a memorable garden experience for a wonderful selection of diverse guests. Go beyond ordinary gravel and scattered yuccas by inviting two or more citrus trees — they bring their own decorations and their blossoms sweetly perfume the air during every season. Citrus love it hot, need less water the older they get, and produce edible fruit suitable for garnishing drinks. Best of all, they're clean growers and don't throw trash in the pool.

In your well-drained existing garden soil, be sure to cluster your trees so they can hold each other up when the wind makes them tipsy; they'll thrive best in areas with lots of sunshine and protection from cold northern winds. When deciding which varieties to plant, remember they will grow bigger than you think and need at least six to ten feet between each tree. Any fruit they produce should be something you like to eat or don't mind picking up off the ground.

Once you've decided on their placement, start digging. Make sure you get past the caliche, that hard rock layer found throughout the Vegas valley that keeps the soil from draining. Make each hole two to three times as big as you think it should be sized, but at least three feet wide. Once your hole is prepared, mix enhancements — organic matter, sulphur, and ammonium phosphate — into the soil pile and refill the hole. After making your late February purchase, you'll have an easy chore of planting your trees into ready holes; as an added bonus, you can skip the citrus fertilizer until yellowing leaves indicate your tree could use a little pick-me-up.

At your neighborhood nursery, buy container-grown trees with lots of small fibrous roots that aren't circling around the container. If the nursery doesn't have a particular variety, they can always order it for delivery within a few days. If they can't order it, or won't split the container so you can see the roots, go somewhere else with better service and selection.

Control their size and have the ability to move your citrus trees into protected areas during cold weather by placing them in real terra cotta lemon pots. They'll stay smaller while producing enjoyable, full-sized fruit. Select a pot with a 22" rim diameter for smaller leaved trees, up to 30" for larger leaved trees. These pots will be quite heavy; you may want to invest in a pot caddy. Although they'll need water more frequently than trees planted directly in the ground, our mineral rich water will create an authentic white frosting on your citrus pots which can be enjoyed or easily scrubbed off.

Personal grooming habits aside, keep those clipped balls out of your Mediterranean garden — who needs the extra work? Citrus branches drape naturally to protect the lower trunk from sunburn and make it easier for you to harvest their fruit, ever the polite and productive guest at your Mediterranean garden party. **Q**

*Daniel McElmurray is a licensed landscape architect with a Las Vegas firm. He and his partner moved to Las Vegas last year from New Orleans.*

## RESOURCES & RECOMMENDATIONS

**Plant In Pots:**

**Kumquat** (*Fortunella margarita 'Meiwa'*) — sweet skin, tart flesh; good for patio & pool.
**Calamondin** (*Citrofortunella mitis*) — long fruit season; good for patio & pool.

**Plant in Pots or in the Ground (with wind protection):**

**Lime** (*Citrus aurantifolia 'Bearss'*) — seedless Persian lime; good for cocktails.
**Lemon** (*Citrus Lemon 'Lisbon'*) — vigorous grower; good for cocktails.
**Bouquet Orange** (*Citrus aurantium bergamia*) — superior fragrance, marmalade; use as hedge.
**Blood Orange** (*Citrus sinensis 'Sanquinella'*) — seedless with red pulp; good for juice & eating.
**Grapefruit** (*Citrus paradise*) — pink selections are sweeter, easy to grow accent trees; good for juice & eating.

The best Italian terra cotta in the US is available at www.tuscanimports.com

Use garden soil and organic mulch rather than potting soil, which dries out too quickly in the heat of summer; citrus trees like an even amount of water, not too dry, not too wet.

The plant grower Monrovia has excellent images and information at www.monrovia.com

Photo: Lemon garden, Villa Gamberaia, Settignano, Italy.



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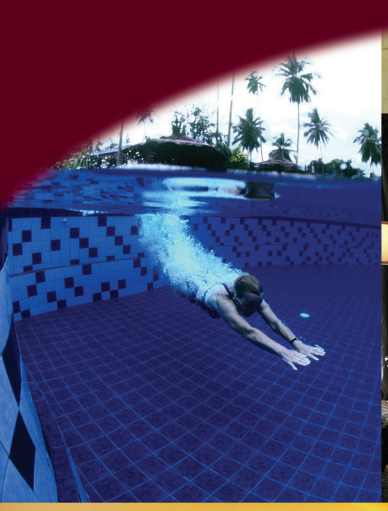

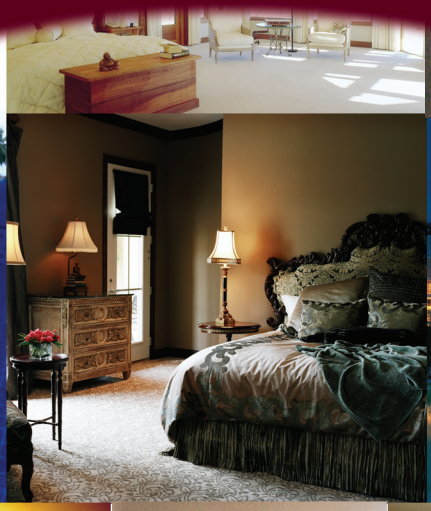



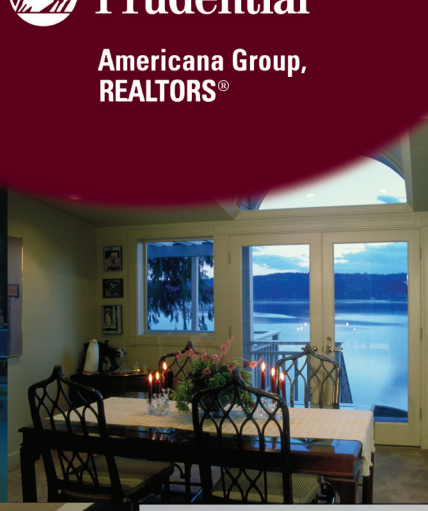










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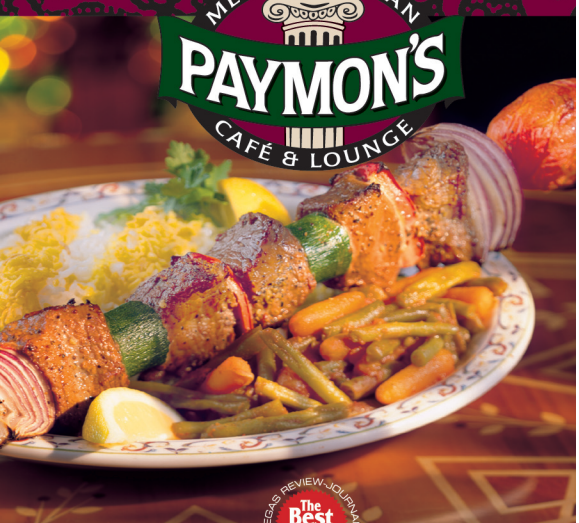

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# Envy Steakhouse

At the Renaissance Las Vegas
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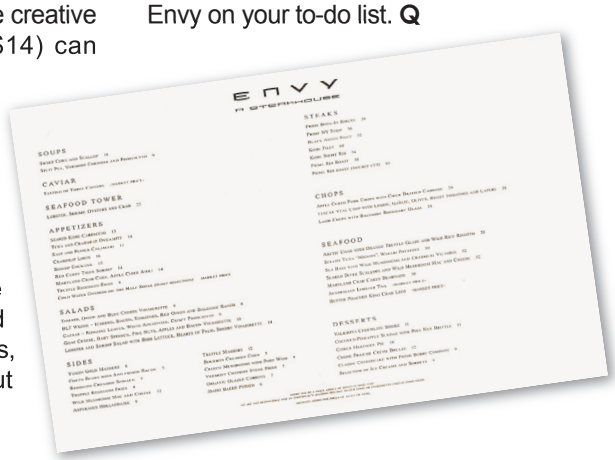
Eat in enough hotel restaurants and they all start to look the same, and it isn't pretty. But the new Renaissance Las Vegas *is* pretty, and its restaurant, Envy Steakhouse, isn't at all the usual fare. The décor is updated contemporary: Muted reds and oranges, wood and stone. The staff is upscale, too, and both professional and plentiful: The water boy, bread boy, waiter, and servers are something you'd expect from a high-end French restaurant. The restaurant is only about two months old, and the staff is still coming into their own: Some of them seem a bit skittish. But their service is efficient, courteous, and pleasant; confidence will come in time.

The menu is broad. If you don't like one of the seven cuts of steak (including a Kobe Filet, $60), you'll find pork, veal, lamb, and seven kinds of seafood. The sweet corn and scallop soup ($11) is especially good, with well-balanced flavors. Be sure to try the seared Kobe carpaccio appetizer ($15), which comes raw, sliced in thin strips, with a hot stone on which you cook the meat to your liking. The truffle reggiano fries ($8) are salty with the dark flavor of truffles, and thoroughly addicting. Most other appetizers come from the sea, such as the obligatory shrimp cocktail ($15) and the creative tuna and crabmeat dynamite ($14). Salads are mostly standard fare: A BLT wedge ($8) and Caesar ($8); a somewhat more creative lobster and shrimp salad ($14) can serve as an entrée if you're not starving.

Bring your appetite to the entrees, though, because they're huge. My prime bone-in ribeye ($36) was possibly one of the best I've had, although half of it came home with me. Steaks are prepared fairly plain, without fancy crusts, rubs, sauces, or mustards, but they're packed with flavor. The Black Angus filet ($32), for example, had a consistently smooth, melt-in-your-mouth texture, with a much meatier flavor than a filet usually has. Other cuts include prime rib ($38) and an insane double-cut prime rib ($65). Steak alternatives include apple-cured pork chops ($28), a veal chop ($36), Artic char ($28), sea bass ($32), and Australian lobster tail (market).

Like most steakhouses, sides are a la carte. Traditional favorites include Yukon gold mashed potatoes ($6), steak fries ($7), and organic carrots ($7); more creative items include green beans with applewood bacon ($7), wild mushroom mac and cheese ($12), and the truffled mashes potatoes ($12). For dessert, dig into the incredible Valrhona chocolate smorz ($11), a pot of melted chocolate covered with caramelized marshmallows; other desserts include a fairly standard crème brulee ($12) and cheesecake ($9) with fresh berry compote.

In addition to an extensive and well thought-out wine list (which is regrettably lacking in ports, my after-dinner fave), Envy sports a full-service bar with friendly and, in at least one case, very cute bartenders. If you're looking for a classy night on the town in a relaxed, upscale atmosphere that's away from the crowds of the Strip, be sure to put Envy on your to-do list. **Q**



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The difficulties faced by gay and lesbian couples on Valentine's Day can at times mirror those of their heterosexual counterpart. More often than not, their problems are magnified by the commercial nature of a holiday that often excludes them; very few Hallmark stores have a section devoted to life partners. What's already an arduous holiday for most couples can be exaggerated for LGBT partners by the commercial exclusion of the holiday, where sales are directed more towards the majority than the minority, and the societal pressures that often keep gays and lesbians from forming lasting, committed relationships.

Two Las Vegas couples have managed to rise above the complexities of being out in today's world, and found each other.

# NATIONAL FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY

For the last six years, activists across the country have joined in celebrating National Freedom To Marry Day (NFMD). Nearly every major city will mark February 12th by celebrating and bringing attention to the cause of same-gender marriage.

NFMD is a massive, all inclusive effort that consists of many different organizations from all over the country putting on individual events to promote the importance of LGBT couples having access to marriage and equal rights under the law.

Public attention has been focused on the debate surrounding marriage rights for same-gender couples for some time, as politicians on both sides of the isle continue to use their positions to define both themselves and their opponents. Because several states have passed anti-marriage laws, which narrowly define the institution, NFMD is considered by many to be an important way to fight back. Last year in Las Vegas,

# Weathering The Storm:

## LONG-TERM COUPLES

**For any couple, the true test of love is whether you can survive those little storms.**

By CS Muncy

### HOLLY & SUSAN

Holly and Susan Carratelli, both Vegas natives, met eleven years ago through the Las Vegas Metropolitan Church. Both came from professional backgrounds; Holly helped to organize and produce the 1996 summer Olympics, while Susan worked the graveyard shift for over 22 years at Sunrise Community Hospital.

"When we first met, we knew we wanted children, we knew we wanted them to be a part of this relationship." Their son and daughter are both born from artificial insemination, the biological father himself part of a committed same-gender relationship.

Like many other professional couples faced with the prospect of children, Holly and Susan knew they had to change directions. Holly took on a job with a more predictable schedule, and Susan left the Hospital to work with a Physicians group, a job that wouldn't keep her away from home so many hours out of the day.

On February 12th, 1999, Holly and Susan traveled to Vermont, where their relationship was officially unified, insofar as the law was concerned. While it may not have been coincidence that their anniversary came on National Freedom to Marry Day, the added media and personal scrutiny only helped cement their affection for one another. Where other couples may have withered beneath the harsh glare of public scrutiny, Holly believed the added attention kept her open and honest with her partner. "The Minister made our friends and family promise to help us whenever we needed it. When it looked like our relationship might have gotten a little rocky, they needed to be there to help steady us."

"There has been a little bit of pressure, but not in the way you'd expect," according to Holly. "The Pressure has all been internal — we weren't willing to let breaking up be an option, no matter how hard things got. Some days are fabulous, and when they are fabulous, we love it. But like everyone else, we have some rocky moments. For any couple, the true test of love is whether you can survive those little storms."

Eventually, this couple would like to be legally wed. "We've made plans for it; it's definitely on the

*Continued on Page 42*

protestors, and same-gender couples gathered in front of the Marriage Bureau, hoping to get a license and promote marriage equality.

According to Michael Adams, Director of Education and Public Affairs at Lambda Legal "The victory in Massachusetts is huge and one day we will have recognition and respect for our relationships across the country-until we do, celebrations like the ones taking place are important to help educate the public about why full equality for our families is imperative."

Even some conservatives have taken up the cause. Jonathan Rauch, who wrote an article for the *Atlantic Monthly* titled "*The Marrying Kind: Why Social Conservatives Should Support Same-Sex Marriage*" explained the virtues of liberalizing the definition of marriage, "Those who worry about the example gays would set by marrying should be much more worried about the example gays are already setting by not marrying. In getting this backward, the advocates [Anti Marriage Initiatives] make a mistake that is both ironic and sad. At a time when marriage needs all the support and participation it can get, homosexuals are pleading to move beyond cohabitation.... Someday conservatives will look back and wonder why they undermined marriage in an effort to keep homosexuals out." **Q**



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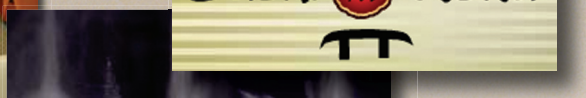




# The Perfect Romantic Evening in Vegas

By Don Jones

If you're heading out for an evening on the town—on Valentine's Day or any other—you'll find that even super-busy Las Vegas can be just as romantic as any other town. Of course, you have to know where to look, and where to go, for the best time. Even locals often miss out on what the tourist-heavy Strip has to offer, despite the fact that many Strip businesses are among the most gay-friendly in town. Start by parking over at the Bellagio and heading...

## Take a Walk

...Just in front of Bellagio's port cochere (where the valet parking is at the front of the hotel), you'll find a small garden and walkway overlooking the hotel's famous

*Continued on Page 44*

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# LONG TERM COUPLES

*Continued from Page 39*

schedule. We just want our children to be old enough to understand the complexities of what's taking place. I want them to be able to comprehend what they witness: I want them to be affected by it, just as it's affecting me."

And how will this success story spend Valentine's Day? According to them, it will be with each other. "We're going to spend it together, maybe go get a good movie, spend some time on the couch with a bucket of popcorn."

## DAN & HOWARD

Another long-term success story comes in the form of Dr. Dan Streifel and his partner of nearly fourteen years, Howard.

Like most other relationships, Dan and Howard's first meeting came almost purely by chance. At the time, Howard was running a coming out support group at the University of Minnesota, where Dan had just begun attending classes.

"All during the first meeting we kept making eye contact," according to Howard. "At the end, he finally introduced himself and told me all about his coming out to his parents. After that, we just sort of started dating, and never really stopped."

Talking with these two, it's difficult to pin either one down on what exactly draws them together, though Dan readily admits that the ability to laugh and have a good time plays heavily in their relationship. "One thing that's always attracted me to Howard was the way we could just instinctively have a good time together. It's great when you can just relax around someone and be yourself." Beyond that, the reason for the obvious and mutual attraction grows murky. "We've both got some of the same interests, and some different ones," Dan continued. "But I like to think of us like any other relationship. I really don't know why we click...I'm just glad that we do."

Howard was a bit more succinct when it came to the reasons for his initial attraction. "It was his smile. His smile and his eyes. I couldn't stop looking at them."

As people change, so do their lifestyles and careers. When Dan finished school, he began practicing dental medicine in Minnesota, where Howard helped run the office. When they moved to Vegas, Howard decided he wanted to go back to construction work.

While the reasons for their attraction may seem vague, the fact that they are attracted to each other remains obvious. The way they talk about each other, even when the other isn't there to hear what is being said, contains an obvious affection in their voice that one can only find in people who have been together as long as they have. For some, words like "commitment" and "devotion" cause a crippling gut reaction, something that denies them the kind of satisfaction evident in Dan and Howard's voice.

As for Valentine's Day? "We haven't really thought about it. Like most other people, we'll probably go for something traditional, like dinner and a movie."

In an age where love seemingly has all the value of a Turkish lira, these two couples have managed to stay together, riding out the rough moments that every relationship has; recognizing that those moments are just that: storms to be weathered. Holly, later in the conversation, put it more poetically. "All relationships are seasonal. At the end of every cold patch you know there's a warmer climate waiting for you." **Q**

THE Love ISSUE



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# PERFECT ROMANTIC EVENING

*Continued from Page 41*

fountains. Lush trees and carefully-arranged bushes keep it separate from the busy driveway, making it one of the most secluded spots from which to watch the fountains. Low lighting in the evening adds to the ambiance. Plus, it's a great stop on your way to…

## Dinner, VIP Style

…Sushi Roku, in the Forum Shops' expansion at Caesar's Palace. While this trendy new spot is a hike from Caesar's proper, it's third-floor location is just a few steps off the Forum Shops' new Strip entrance. Sushi Roku (reservations suggested) offers family (our kind)-friendly management and staff. If you're lucky, cuties Scott or Darby will be behind the bar (ask for the current infusion for your cocktail). Make reservations ahead of time for the swank VIP tatami room and you'll have an intimate, private view of the Strip while you enjoy sushi, sashimi, tempura, and a variety of hot and cold appetizers (the monkfish foie gras sounds weird but tastes amazing). Tell general manager Clinton or restaurant manager Brian what a great time you're having, but don't let them talk you into dessert. You'll need the room for…

## Champagne and a Show

…your pre-show champagne at Celine Dion, just downstairs and through the Forum Shops in Caesar's Palace. What? Romance at a major Strip event? Yep. Best of all, you don't have to be a Celine fan at all because the show's incredible cast of dancers (many of whom are family, of course) are the *real* show. Created by an ex-Cirque fellow, the stylized and skillful dancers, a bazillion-dollar full-width LED backdrop, and charming background music (oh wait, she's actually right there singing, isn't she?) create a real experience. The theater is remarkably intimate, especially during *"Seduces Me,"* a number custom-built for gay men: Celine sings from the comfort of an easy chair while the shirtless male members of her cast slink out in a sensuous display. After the show…

## Dessert and a Drink

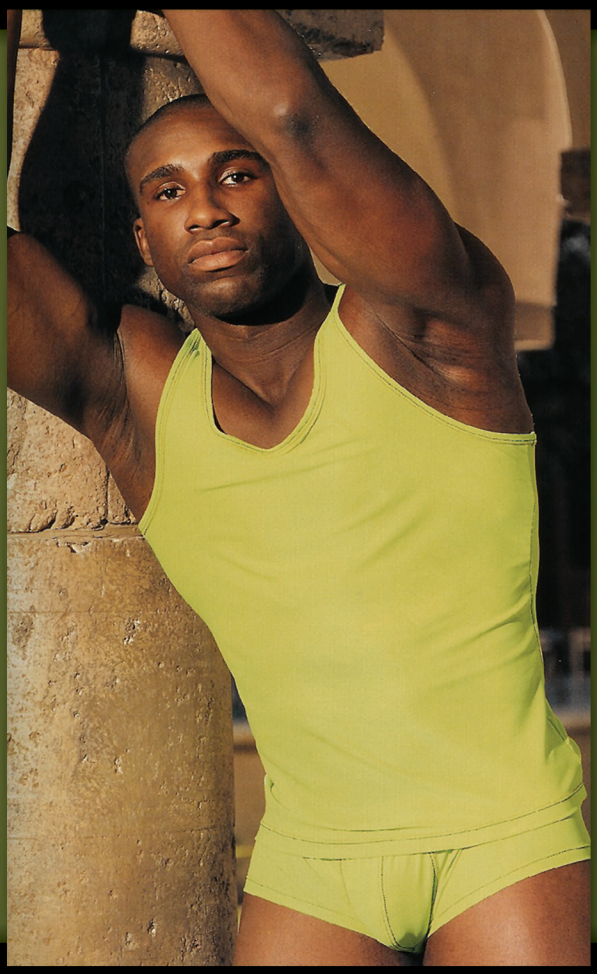
...head across the hall to Bradley Ogden's lounge. Mrs. Ogden, who runs the restaurant, might be there, but you may also run into cast members from Celine (probably with their shirts on) out for an after-show bite. You can enjoy dessert and a nice after-dinner drink (try the port), but don't fill up because you've still got a long evening ahead of you at…

## Let Your Hair Down

…OPM, in the Forum Shops above Chinois. While their midweek "gay night" bombed, bar manager Michelle helps to make sure OPM is a jumpin' place (particularly on weekends) and is as gay-friendly a Strip bar as possible (The Male Bag held their Model Search there, for example). Or, if you're looking for a more intimate way to cap off the evening…

## Room with a View

…Treat yourself to a surprisingly inexpensive (especially off-season) Jacuzzi suite at the Luxor. These spacious rooms are on the corners of the pyramid, and the Jacuzzi tub sits in a raised pedestal right under the pyramid glass, overlooking the Strip. Run some water, turn on the jets, and sit back with your partner to enjoy the view and each other's company. Ring-up Hands-On Therapeutic Massage (458-8777) a few hours ahead of time and ask for an in-room couples massage, and then enjoy the suite's king-size bed! **Q**



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*FINDING THE RIGHT ONE:*

# THE LONG & TORTUROUS ROAD

By Lori Weiner

Some people enjoy the social aspects of gay life, the community events, the circuit parties, the bar scene. Other people are committed to the politics of the movement. Then there are those like I was before meeting my partner — single gay and lesbian people who aren't meant to be single, don't want to be single, and spend most of their free time either fantasizing about, or actively seeking, the elusive Mr. or Ms. Right.

I came out at 17, and finally (FINALLY!) found my life partner at 34. During the intervening years I dated like Elton John on a years-long shopping binge. I was always on the lookout for the alleged "right person," no matter where I was or what I was doing. I tried the bars. I tried the personals, first in the classified section of the local gay newspaper, later online. Occasionally well-meaning loved ones set up introductions with their available friends. For years, I alternated these methods, trying them in new combinations. I experienced lots of near misses, had a few steady girlfriends, and thank the Lord, only dated one bona-fide psycho.

During the lengthy period when I was on my own, there were many times when I asked myself the painful, nagging questions that most, if not

*Continued on Page 48*

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# LONG & TORTUROUS ROAD

*Continued from Page 47*

all, terminally single people need to know: Is it me? Why can't I find someone when everyone else I know has a partner?

These questions are, as anyone who has obsessed over them knows, unanswerable. I also found them to be irrelevant. Only a few people in the world have enough wrong with them to render them undateable, and even these few people might manage to ultimately find and then date each other. Yet even realizing that there is, in essence, nothing wrong with us ultimately doesn't solve the problem of wanting to be coupled when we are not.

**The lessons of dating, parting, and weeding-out-before-getting-serious with everyone else are only preparing you for ultimate victory.**

Ironically, when I did meet the woman who became my partner, the relationship snuck up on me. For all my planning and plotting, I was caught unawares when the person I had been waiting for, for so many years, finally arrived in my life. And if I hadn't learned so many lessons during the 17 years I spent as a more-or-less single lesbian, I might not have recognized — or appreciated — just how special my partner is. In the interest of imparting some of those lessons, allow me to share with you a few of the most important things I learned while I was playing the dating game.

## 4 TRUST YOUR GUT.

The signs can be deceptively simple at first and easily overlooked, like the earliest symptoms of cancer. Perhaps the person you're dating seems overly critical of you. Perhaps a conversation with them is more like a monologue, with you as the audience. Perhaps they never seem to have any money. The list can encompass anything and everything; if you're uncomfortable with any aspect of a potential companion's actions, don't blow it off. You're not being too sensitive; you're being observant, a critically important skill in the first weeks of dating. It's up to you to decide how serious the infractions are, and whether a simple conversation might help your self-centered beau or beauette adjust their attitude (or whether it's time to throw the fish back and dip your line in again). But ignoring your instincts is usually a very bad idea.

## 3 BE YOURSELF.

Especially if it's been awhile, it's all too tempting to only reveal the parts of yourself that you think will make the best impression. If you want a love that will last, resist the temptation. Finding someone who adores you for exactly who you are is one of the best feelings in the world, and it's also one of the best indicators that the person wants you for the right reasons. (Not to mention the fact that we're often blind to our own best qualities until someone else points out how much they like them — another great feeling!)

## 2 GIVE IT TIME.

Though I had a pretty good idea that my partner was "the one" after only a couple of weeks, I forced myself to wait for proof. As it turned out, those extra months of spending time together, getting to know each other and slowly building bonds of love and trust before diving into the 'big R' (for Relationship) paid off big time for us. If this is the right person for you, time will only make it better — not cause it to slip away.

And, lastly but most importantly, so important that it precedes all other tips:

## 1 DON'T GIVE UP.

I waited seventeen years to meet the right person. The lessons of dating, parting, and weeding-out-before-getting-serious with everyone else are only preparing you for ultimate victory. **Q**


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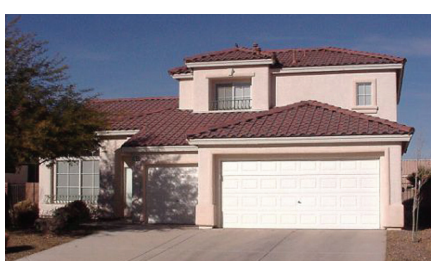

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A *QVegas* Op-Ed Submission

# COMPASSIONATE CONSERVATISM IN THE FACE OF DISASTER

By Eugene Harris

You could almost hear a collective gasp around the world when George W. Bush finally emerged after three days of silence following the December 26 earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Southern Asia. The President of the United States had obviously failed to anticipate the world's need for comforting words and a helping hand.

George Bush's failure to greet the disaster with urgency, and the small initial pledge of $35 million in aid, inspired one diplomat to call the President "stingy," an accusation that prompted the Bush Administration to increase its pledge for aid and send troops into the region almost at once.

The President's initial lack of compassion and empathy contrasted with his declaration to show compassionate conservatism, and was echoed by a few of the right-wing religious extremists. In the days following the disaster, not one of them addressed the death toll or request donations on their websites.

Religious extremists like James Dobson, Jerry Fallwell and Jimmy Swaggart have raised and spent millions of dollars to battle same-gender marriage or used considerable influence to bully politicians into voting against gay rights, all the while ignoring the suffering of their fellow man.

There was a time in America when the Church was more than a bully pulpit for extremist views or political intimidation. It used to be that when disaster struck at home or around the world, the Church rallied to help, assisting in whatever capacity was needed. That traditional role has given way to an inflated sense of self-importance and the modern-day evangelist's desire for more money, glass cathedrals, limousines, and political clout.

The President and the religious extremist's example of compassionate conservatism relies heavy on conservatism and runs a deficit on compassion. **Q**

## Estimates as of 1/14/05

| COUNTRY | CONF. DEAD | EST. DEAD | MISSING |
|---|---|---|---|
| Indonesia | 113,306 | 120,000 | 131,479 |
| Sri Lanka | 30,718 | unknown | 23,000+ |
| India | 10,672 | 16,383 | 5,711 |
| Thailand | 5,305 | 11,000 | 4,499 |
| Somalia | 150+ | 298 | unknown |



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THE Love ISSUE

# MY GAY VEGAS WEDDING

By Beverly Bryan

## SAN FRANCISCO SALLY'S DOES IT.

Chapel of Love and Cupid's does it all the time. Treasure Island only does it on Sundays. The Rio and the Stratosphere have done it for years. The Chapel at The Luxor is open to doing it but hasn't done it yet. The Bellagio and Paris will. So will Las Vegas Villas, the former home of Liberace, for those lucky few who could afford it.

However, if you are shopping for the right location to have your own Vegas wedding you'll get no help from Little White Chapel, Little Chapel of the West, A Chapel by the Courthouse or The Wee Kirk O' the Heather. Don't bother ringing up the hallowed Flamingo, Circus Circus' Chapel of the Fountain or Mandalay Bay. Little Chapel of the Flowers will respond with a very curt "No", and oddest of all, the pastor at the Rainbow Gardens Banquet Hall won't do the job. Although, a BYO (bring your own) Pastor ceremony was suggested as an option.

Officiants can be a bit of a problem here. Graceland Wedding Chapel, for instance, would like to offer ceremonies to gay couples that want to be married by Elvis but they haven't yet found an Elvis impersonating minister who will cooperate.

The good news for those seeking an Elvis themed wedding or a Star Trek or disco themed wedding is that the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel is family. Ron DeCar, the chapel's owner said they typically serve 50 to 80 gay couples in a season. The chapel was voted Best of Las Vegas for 2000 in the *Review Journal's* reader poll and



there is even an A&E Network reality series about the chapel in the works tentatively titled *Married in Vegas*.

DeCar wonders why Gays can't legally wed in Las Vegas when, "They'll allow everything else in this town." He framed the issue economically, in terms of lost revenue, "If the city were to make [gay marriage] legal, since we are the wedding capitol of the world we would get all the other people who are going to other states to be married," he said.

One caveat is that all of the above mentioned do not technically offer weddings. They offer commitment ceremonies to gay couples complete with certificates of commitment. These are not marriage licenses.

So, your gay Vegas wedding won't be recognized by the state. For those such as Pastor David Krueger-Duncan, the state's eyes are not the ones that matter. He resents the state's role in determining the validity of a union and feels the matter is between a couple and their god.

He is not registered in Nevada to preside over weddings and doesn't

*Continued on Page 54*

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# MY GAY VEGAS WEDDING

*Continued from Page 53*

wish to be.

Still, he says, "I do weddings." If you want a commitment ceremony, try a casino.

The Northwest Community Church is a congregation of the United Church of Christ which Krueger-Duncan describes as occupying, "the liberal end of liberal Protestants."

He adds that they are an "affirmative congregation".

"Not only are we willing to receive people we are willing to affirm them as well," he said. There are other churches in Las Vegas with the same openness, Metropolitan Community Church of Las Vegas being one of the most emphatic.

That may be fine for gentiles, but when nice Jewish boys or girls find each other, they can be thankful that they have Rabbi Richard Schachet of the Valley Outreach Synagogue to turn to. Schachet believes he is the first rabbi in the country to begin marrying gay couples, which he has done for 32 years. He has presided over inter-faith ceremonies with Father Michael Mas who is a chaplain at the Nathan Adelson Hospice.

Valley Outreach is a Reconstructionist synagogue where, according to its website, "creativity, innovation and challenge blend and mix with Jewish tradition." The synagogue welcomes all Jews regardless of their sexual orientation and will, in fact, be honoring a gay couple as their "couple of the year."

The couple, Scott and Craig Caulfield-Seidner, was married a year ago by Schachet. They have become friends with the rabbi and members of the synagogue.

In a telephone interview, the Caulfield-Seidners told of a slow start while planning their wedding. The first two casino chapels they approached were Mandalay Bay and the Marriot Hotel Rampart casino in Summerlin. Both turned them down and the third chapel they tried would only accommodate them on a Sunday. Scott speculates that Sunday is their slowest day.

They finally settled on an outdoor wedding at The Silk Purse Ranch. They were married under the gazebo at sunset with 125 guests in attendance.

The Caulfield-Seidners had no other such difficulties aside from a Mormon videographer to whom they were referred by mistake.

They were also unsure of the kind of event they were having. "We were having trouble with the wording," Scott said. They were stumped while trying to write the invitations but, after talking it over with Schachet, they said they wished to be pronounced husbands. "To us it was a wedding," Scott said.

Also, Craig was not Jewish and, at first, they considered a dual-faith ceremony. They had seen dual-faith ceremonies, however, and they were so impressed with the rabbi that they decided against the idea. Craig now considers himself Jewish.

The two retirees wed close to the date of their 20th anniversary. Today they have been married for almost two years. The couple wears matching wedding bands and describes their wedding experience as "totally uplifting".

The couple that is neither Christian nor Jewish may have recourse to The Temple of Goddess Spirituality. Patricia Pearlman will marry you in the new/old Wiccan tradition. She will travel to your chosen location and officiate in exchange for gas money or a small donation to the Temple. Her weddings draw on pagan customs such as jumping over a broom and literally tying the knot. "We tie their hands together with a Lovett knot," said Pearlman. As she put it, "bonding them together not as husband and wife but as one." **Q**



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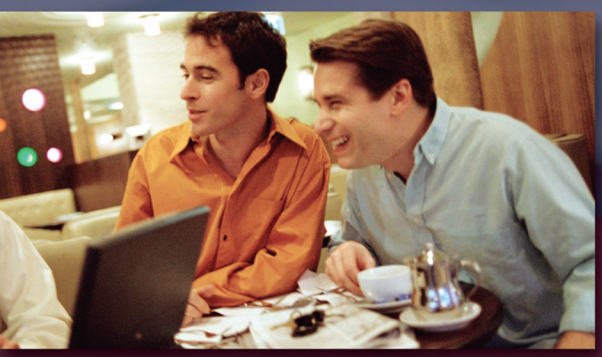



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# Housing Discrimination

By JoSelle Vanderhooft

In March 1999, a gay rights group in Louisville, Kentucky decided they were fed up with discrimination.

Just months before the city's government would vote on approving a "fairness ordinance" to prohibit discrimination on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing and employment, the Fairness Campaign decided to demonstrate the need for such laws. Working with a fair housing attorney and with the help of local NBC affiliate WAVE 3, the Campaign conducted an experiment. They randomly selected two apartment listings and sent volunteers posing as two couples — one straight and one lesbian — to the sites seeking to rent a single bedroom apartment. Both couples came from the same social, economic and ethnic backgrounds and had similar cover stories; they were unmarried and looking to rent a single apartment to save money. As hidden cameras rolled, the proprietors of both complexes showed the straight couple one-bedroom apartments. They were never asked if they wanted to see a two bedroom arrangement or even if they were married. When the lesbian couple showed up only hours later, proprietors refused to let them see the same apartments, or gave them a substantially higher price quote than that given to the straight couple. Why? Both establishments reserved their single bedroom apartments solely for married couples.

After viewing the footage, neutral analysts told WAVE 3 that proprietors had discriminated against the lesbian couple, because landlords have to enforce their policies across the board. That is, if a gay unmarried couple can't rent a one bedroom apartment, then an unmarried straight couple shouldn't be allowed to, either. Yet WAVE 3 anchors pointed out that the proprietors had done nothing to violate current Kentucky law. Still, Campaign workers say that the study exposed many viewers to the problem of housing discrimination in the community for the first time — exposure which may have helped the city's fairness

*Continued on Page 60*

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# HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

*Continued from Page 58*

ordinance pass overwhelmingly just seven months later.

**Currently, no national law exists to protect gays and lesbians from housing discrimination and only fourteen states have such protections…**

While Louisville's story had a happy ending, this isn't the case in many places around the country. Currently, no national law exists to protect gays and lesbians from housing discrimination and only fourteen states have such protections: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin. Out of these states, only four, Minnesota, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Wisconsin include gender identification in their statutes. In states like Kentucky, which lack such overriding laws, the protections offered by individual municipalities like Louisville end at the city or county's borders.

It's an alarming legal landscape for Jason Cianciotto, Research Director at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute.

"It's just something that there's no data collected on," he says. "The federal government will track some statistics on hate crimes or some other forms of discrimination, but they don't track this. There's really no reporting mechanism in place at the state or local level either, and there's really no where to go, if you're in a situation where the landlord says [for example], "you're a dyke, get out".

Although landlords may have to give their tenants a certain amount of time to find new housing before the eviction is final, Cianciotto says little other recourse exists. "You can go to the police, but if it isn't a crime they're not going to help you. You can go to your local Gay and Lesbian Community Center if you happen to live in a place that has one. But they may only be able to offer you some emotional support…or help you find housing in a friendly or welcoming place, but that's not going to officially report it either."

Even worse, housing discrimination can often hurt a community's most needy gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens when it comes to Section Eight Housing, a federal program that provides low cost housing opportunities to people based on income or disability status. According to Cianciotto, while the rules of such housing limit the number of individuals who can live in a Section Eight designated home, there are frequently exceptions for "a married heterosexual couple with children to live in a Section Eight house if they have more individuals than would normally be allowed." As the federal government doesn't recognize same-gender marriage, these families and their children are usually out of luck.

Although gays and lesbians can often do little against a landlord determined to keep them from renting if the law isn't on their side, Cianciotto recommends the following guidelines: Gays and lesbians should be aware of state and local laws which could protect them. They should also know about owner occupied housing exemptions, which may grant proprietors renting a small number of units (often under ten) exemptions from discrimination laws.

But in the end, it seems that tests like those Kentucky's Fairness Campaign conducted may be the first vital step in ending housing discrimination – particularly as many Americans of all orientations may not know this discrimination even exists.

"In public opinion poling when people are asked if they know it's legal to fire someone specifically because they're gay or lesbian, most are really shocked and surprised," he says. Those same polls will also show "that there's overwhelming support for individuals to be protected [from] housing discrimination and being fired because of their sexual orientation." Still, Cianciotto says state and federal governments are often slow to act because of lobbying from "the evangelical Christian right", who see such protections as "special rights."

"It's sad that individuals that claim to represent morality and family would exclude a section of families in the country," he says. "We know that there are 689,000 same-sex couples that identified on the 2000 census. Many of them have children… [and] should be able to house their families where they want without being afraid of being kicked out." **Q**

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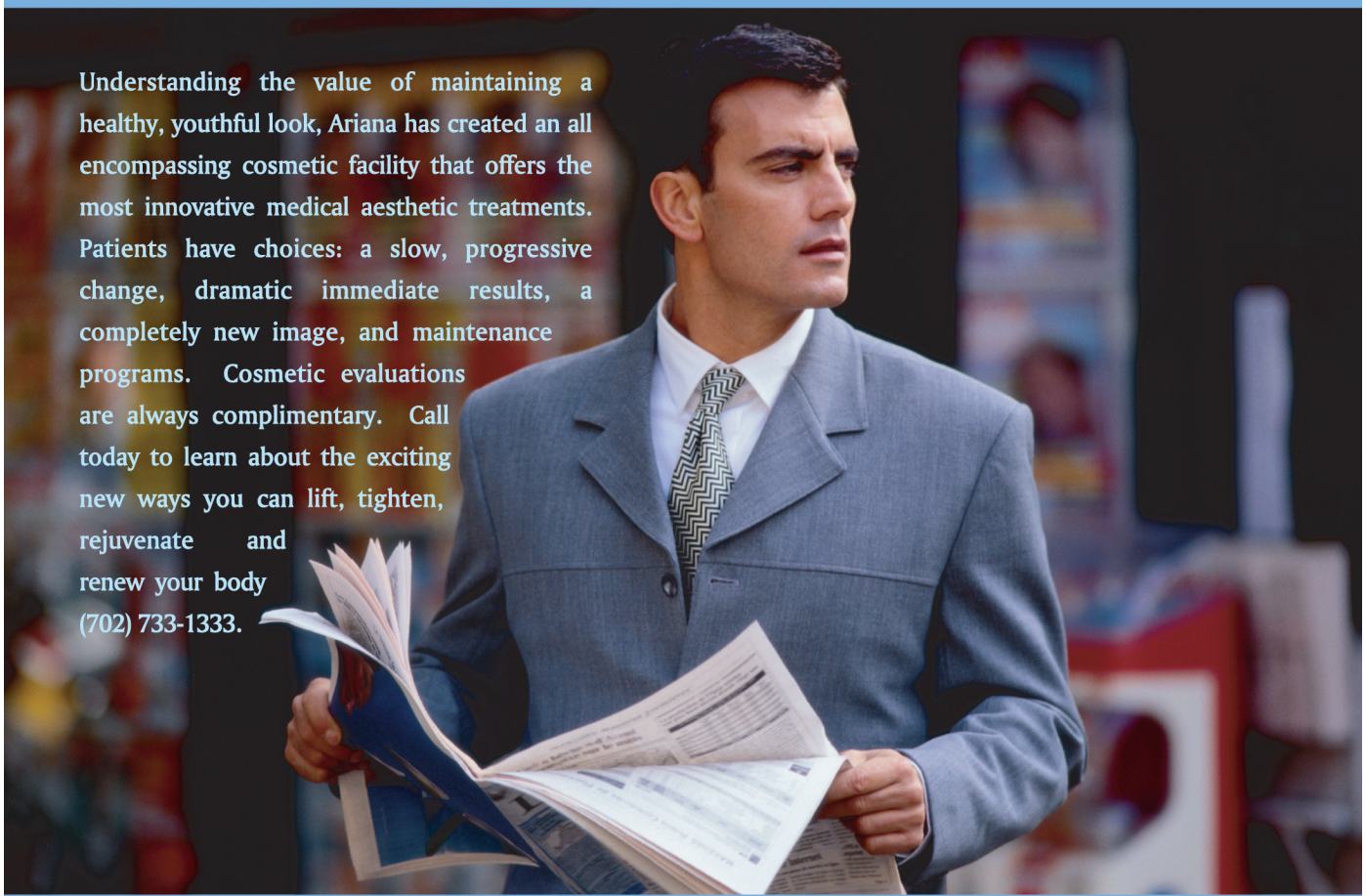

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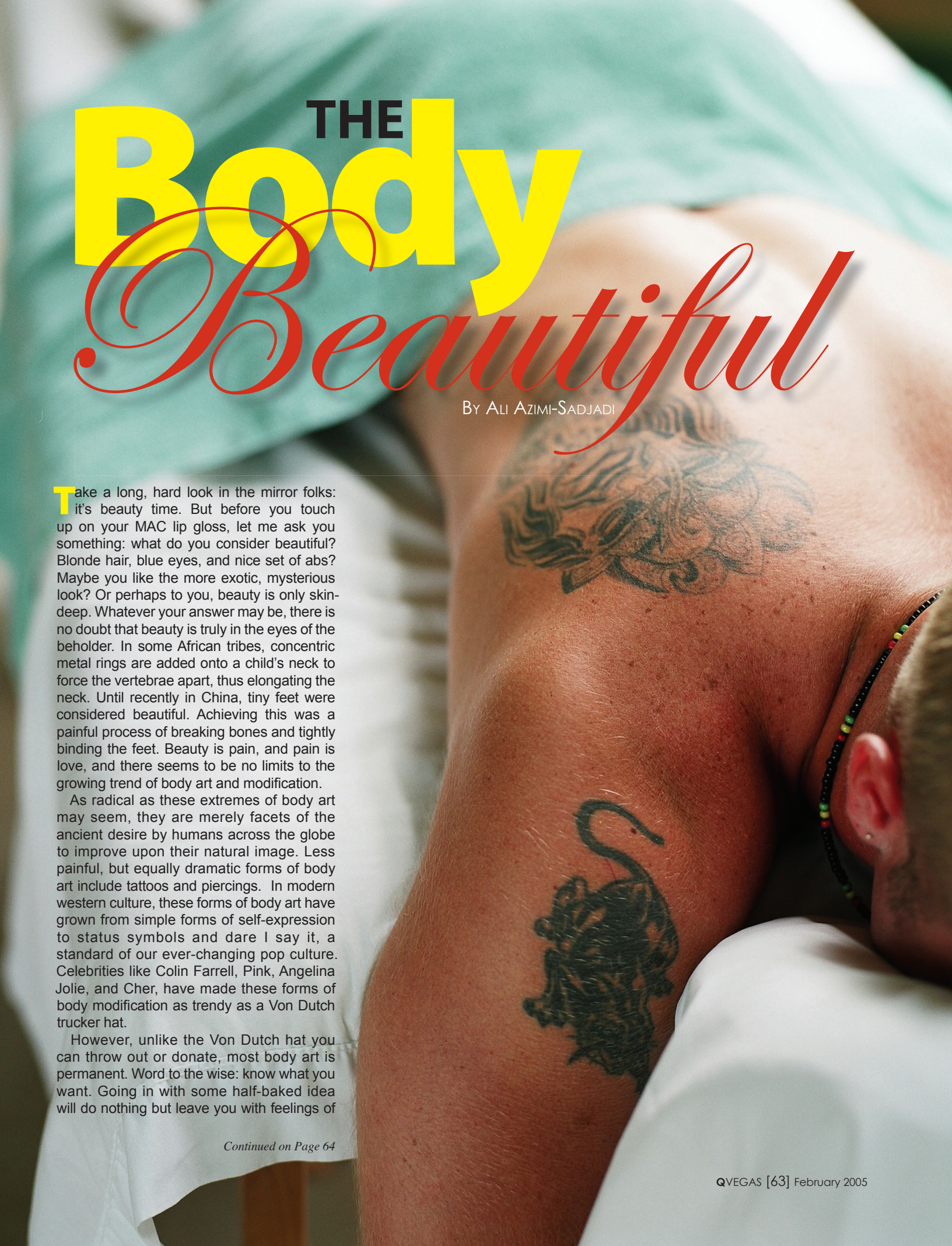
# THE Body Beautiful

By Ali Azimi-Sadjadi



Take a long, hard look in the mirror folks: it's beauty time. But before you touch up on your MAC lip gloss, let me ask you something: what do you consider beautiful? Blonde hair, blue eyes, and nice set of abs? Maybe you like the more exotic, mysterious look? Or perhaps to you, beauty is only skin-deep. Whatever your answer may be, there is no doubt that beauty is truly in the eyes of the beholder. In some African tribes, concentric metal rings are added onto a child's neck to force the vertebrae apart, thus elongating the neck. Until recently in China, tiny feet were considered beautiful. Achieving this was a painful process of breaking bones and tightly binding the feet. Beauty is pain, and pain is love, and there seems to be no limits to the growing trend of body art and modification.

As radical as these extremes of body art may seem, they are merely facets of the ancient desire by humans across the globe to improve upon their natural image. Less painful, but equally dramatic forms of body art include tattoos and piercings. In modern western culture, these forms of body art have grown from simple forms of self-expression to status symbols and dare I say it, a standard of our ever-changing pop culture. Celebrities like Colin Farrell, Pink, Angelina Jolie, and Cher, have made these forms of body modification as trendy as a Von Dutch trucker hat.

However, unlike the Von Dutch hat you can throw out or donate, most body art is permanent. Word to the wise: know what you want. Going in with some half-baked idea will do nothing but leave you with feelings of

*Continued on Page 64*




# BODY BEAUTIFUL

*Continued from Page 63*

regret. The scarring is permanent with a tattoo or piercing, regardless of taking out the jewelry or going through the painful process of laser removal. Think of how your masterpiece will age along with you. Nobody likes to see a faded tattoo on saggy breasts or an image of Brad Pitt on your arm that has begun to resemble a freeway tunnel.

Piercing is, perhaps, the most controversial form of body art. The Punk movement of the early 1970s marked the beginning of some of the more exotic piercing regimes. Prior to that, ears and nose were the normal fleshy bits to feel the puncture of the needle. Lips, noses, eyebrows and nipples, the navel, though not new, entered into popular culture, thanks to Sid Viscious and his fellow Sex Pistol mates. It seems there is no region of the human body that is out of bounds to hole punching. Moreover, a wide array of jewelry from diamonds to bone, have emerged on the scene to adorn these holes.

Dying to get that tribal band around your bicep? Or perhaps you finally got the guts to get that left nipple pierced. Whatever your choice may be, here are a few helpful hints when contemplating body art.

**TIP #1:** Consultation is a must. Sit down with a licensed, experienced professional to talk about your plans to improve your looks. Never make the mistake of going into a tattoo and piercing parlor after a heavy drinking binge, accompanied by your drunken friends all egging you on to get George W. Bush's face etched on your butt. Look for a clean establishment with artists that can show you a comprehensive portfolio of their work. Ask exhaustive questions about hygiene and after care. Most shops will be acknowledged for their cleanliness by the State Health Board, so look for that license somewhere on the wall behind the counter. Skilled professionals will be delighted to show and discuss these aspects of their work. Beware of short and glib responses to these most crucial aspects of altering your appearance.

**TIP #2:** Body art is a personal choice; however, it is rare for anyone to want to do this without considering his or her public image. Even if it is only your other half that you are going to share your latest adornment with, take care to seek opinion and commentary. The pleasure of being on the receiving end of adoration and praise is as intoxicating as the vacant feeling of disapproval when your friends, lover and family hate what you have done. I mean, you wouldn't buy a new suit without asking your girlfriends if it looks cute on you first, right?

**TIP #3:** Avoid tattooing yourself with the names of boyfriends and lovers. Let's face it, nothing lasts forever, and you don't want your new boyfriend, Kevin, waking up each morning to "Shawn" etched across your chest in thick, Roman lettering.

**TIP #4:** Consider the effects of body art. That tongue or labret stud may make you talk differently and the clacking of the surgical steel against your teeth might get on peoples' nerves. Additionally, anytime you introduce a foreign object into your body, there will not always be a physical reaction. It may not be as severe as a keloid (an abnormal proliferation of scar tissue) per se, but the risk of your body rejecting the ink or jewelry is always prevalent. Oral piercings alone can change the formation of your gums and teeth, creating much larger problems in the future. However, infections and abnormalities are not the only effects of body art to be concerned with. Think about your reputation; the nose ring may take you to new social highs with your friends, but are you ready for your stick-in-the-mud boss branding you as white trash?

Body art's resurgence in the 21st century is a new spin on an ancient form of self-expression. It usefully develops the subject of diversity to encompass differences in our appearance that we choose to impose on ourselves. However, expecting that there should be no discrimination that we suffer because of it is incredibly naive. Like Salt n' Pepa said, "opinions are like assholes and everybody's got one." Perhaps body art will help to educate the world that appearances, especially those associated with color, are an addition to one's personality, not a detraction from it. **Q**

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**Celebrities and community leader came out to celebrate Kelly Smith and Steve Moore's (Publisher & Editor) birthday on Jan 15. Over $1500 was raised for the QVegas Foundation.**

*– Photos:*
*M. Cory Burgess*













**The Center's Annual Membership Meeting and Board Elections on Jan 19.**

*– Photos:*
*Ali Azimi-Sadjadi*

















**The Hustlaball at Krave on Jan. 6 brought together the worlds of porn, hustlers and celebrities.**
*– Photos: Steve Moore & Phil Lobel.*













**The Royal Court's Annual Divestiture on Jan. 7 at Hamburger Mary's.**
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# Cinemareno's 2005 Reno Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

By Ali Azimi-Sadjadi

Get ready for a day of laughs, tears, excitement and a tub of buttered popcorn. Cinermareno (a non-profit film society founded for the purpose of promoting the art of motion pictures in Northern Nevada) and Spectrum Northern Nevada are presenting the 3rd annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in Reno on Saturday, February 19th at the Reno Hilton. This event will be premiering six new feature films:

## Harry and Max

Writer/director Christopher Munch pushes every button with the controversial and compelling tale of two brothers who seek to restore their once-close relationship by taking a weekend camping trip together. Twenty-three year old Harry is a has-been member of a boy band while Max, his 16-year-old brother, just finished recording his first pop record and is starting to appear on teen magazines the world over. The plot thickens as you soon learn of the brothers' family past, Harry's issues with his sexuality and the incestuous relationship the two brothers share with one another. Michelle Philips (The Mammas and the Papas) and Rain Phoenix (*Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*) offer some incredible supporting roles.



## The Truth or Consequences of Delmas Howe:

Religion, art and sexuality clash with one another in director Matt Sneddon's documentary about gay artist Delmas Howe. The film takes audiences through four decades of the gay rights movement, Howe's torturous journey of self-discovery, and his personal response to the religious indifference to victims of AIDS. His paintings capture the celebration and devastation that has occurred après the gay liberation movement



## Mango Kiss

Pucker up as director Sascha Rice takes you to some uncharted territory in lesbian love. Lou, the main character, has fallen in love with her best friend, Sassy, and the two soon find themselves in San Francisco's sexy lesbian scene. Starring Michelle Wolff, Daniele Farraro and Sally Kirkland, this story of taking traditional romance to new arenas will have you laughing all the way through.

*Continued on Page 70*

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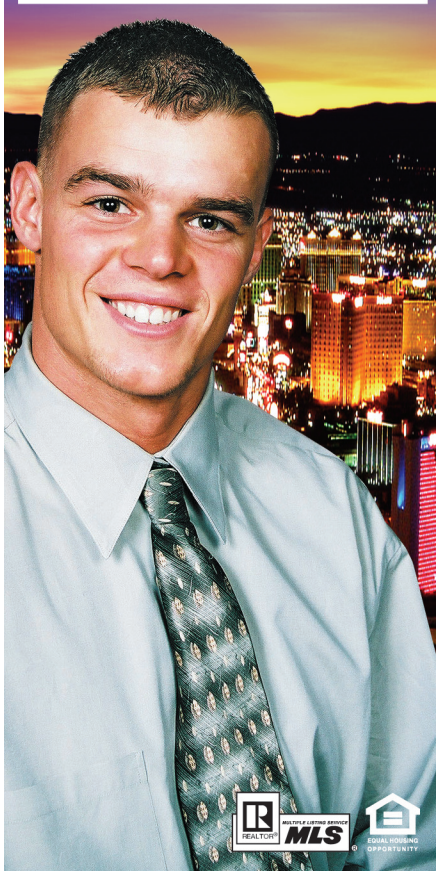

# CINEMARENO

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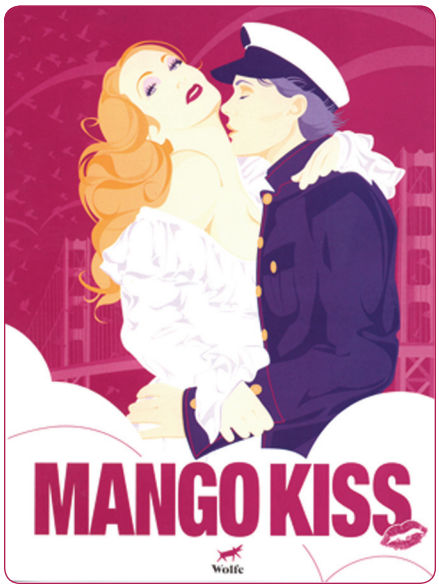



## Dorian Blues

If you think you're the only one with anxiety issues, you're wrong.

Director/writer Tennyson Bardwell introduces you to Dorian Lagatos, a high school student living in the shadow of his jock brother and still dealing with his controlling, homophobic father. Dorian is so upset with his father's reaction to his stereotypically gay behavior that he recruits his brother as his coach to aid him in "thinking straight." Starring Michael McMillian (from TV's *What I Like About You*), *Dorian Blues* is a beautiful and warm coming of age comedy about staying true to one's self and sudden emotional discoveries.



## Cowboys and Angels

If you think Ireland only provided us with Colin Farrell, U2, images of leprechaun and shamrocks, you're wrong. David Gleeson introduces the cute but somewhat nerdy Shane who just feels that his life lacks any real meaning. When he moves in with the sexy Vincent, a gay fashion student, things change, and although the two boys are completely different from one another, they become incredibly close. A tale of the power of inspiration, *Cowboys and Angels*, offers a great story with a beautiful message.

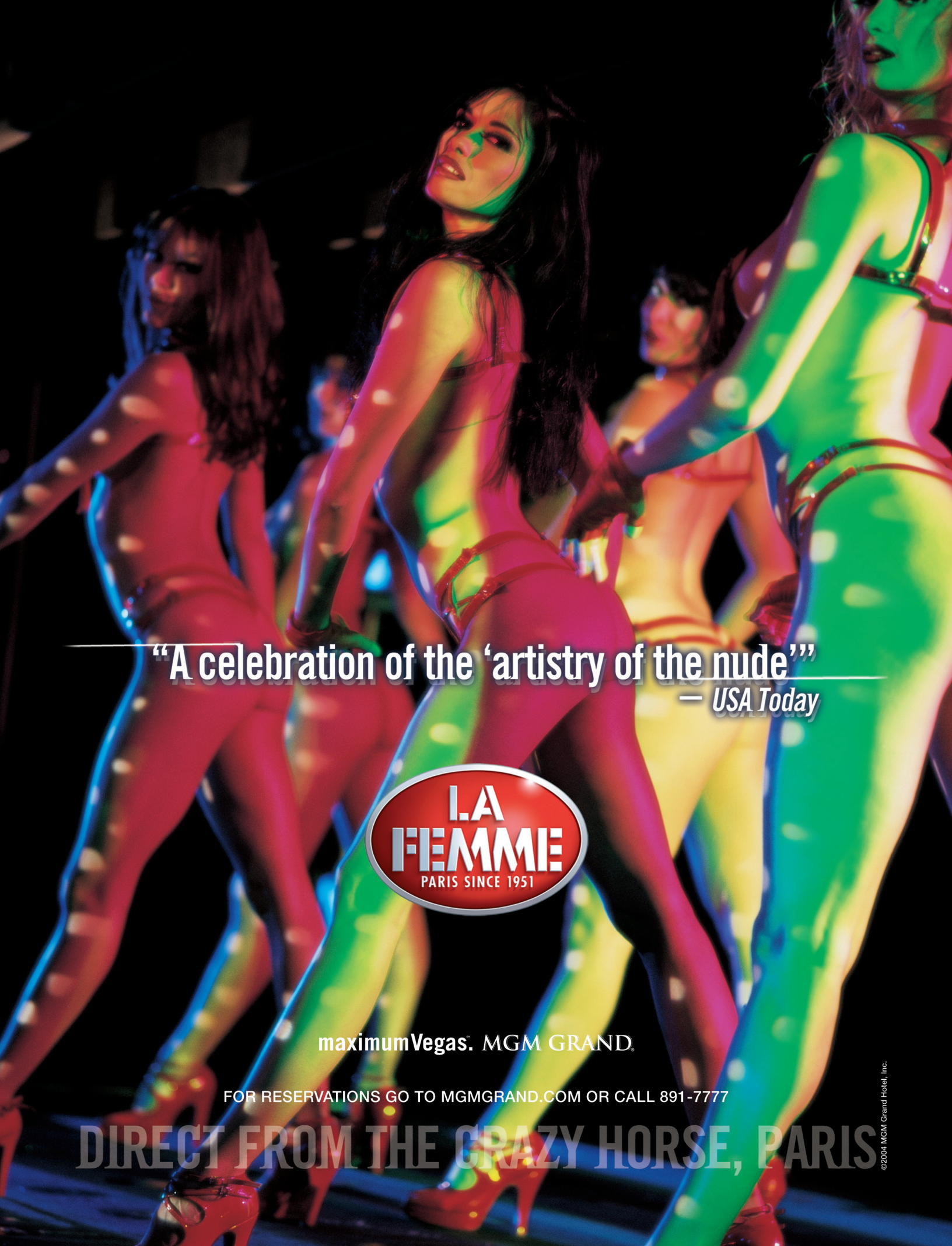


## Inescapable

Things heat up with Helen Lesnick's (*A Family Affair*) erotic and brazen tale of two best friends and ex-lovers. Beth and Susan plan a reunion in Oregon. Chloe and Jesse, their current lovers, feel left out and are forced together when their girlfriends are away. The two women soon find themselves in a steamy affair with the baggage of their current relationships and the fire of a new love.



Tickets are $7 each, or $30 for a full day pass and can be found on the mezzanine level of the Reno Hilton. For more information please visit www.cinemareno.org. **Q**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# Carnal InstinQt

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Stylist & Hair **Jason Bennett at eNVy Artists**
Make-up **Jessi Pagel at eNVy Artists for MAC Cosmetics** Model **Jonaton**
Courtesy of **eNVy Models Las Vegas/ L.A.** Special thanks to our outrageous Vampire, Jimmy, for welcoming us into his fabulous home for location usage.

Over coat $149.99 **Zara**, Trousers by **Tommy Hilfiger** $82.50 at Macy's, Floral Dress Shirt by **Paul Smith** $600 at Neiman Marcus, Shoes Models Own.



Dress Shirt by **Paul Smith** $275, Tan Silk Cord by **Earl Jean** $695, Tie by **Paul Smith** $125, Belt by **HTC** $198. All at Neiman Marcus.



Silk Shirt by **Just Cavali** $375, Grey Velvet Pant by **Earl Jean** $150. All at Neiman Marcus.

Red Cords by **Tommy Hilfiger** $49 at Macy's, Leather Jacket by **Prada** $2195 at Neiman Marcus, Rhinestoned Silk Tie by **Stefano Ricci** $310 at Neiman Marcus, **Burberry** Gloves $250 at Neiman Marcus.





# Q Club Guide

## EVERY NIGHT IS A PARTY

### SUNDAY

**GIPSY**
*ILLUSIONS,10PM & 1AM*
**HAMBURGER MARY'S**
*DISCO BEER BUST, 9PM*

### MONDAY

**GOODTIMES**
*HINRG DANCE, 11PM*
**GIPSY**
*LATIN NIGHT, 2AM*

### TUESDAY

**FREEZONE**
*LADIES NIGHT, 8PM*
**GIPSY**
*BOYS NIGHT, 12AM*

### WEDNESDAY

**EAGLE**
*UNDERWEAR NIGHT, 10PM*
**HAMBURGER MARY'S**
*COLLEGE NIGHT, 9PM*

### THURSDAY

**FREEZONE**
*BOYZ NIGHT, 10PM*
**GIPSY**
*SEDUCTION, 1:30AM*

### FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Depends on what you are looking for. Start with Aloha Fridays at ***Hamburger Mary's*** or Martini Social on Fridays at ***Freezone***, just after work. The Fruit Loop gets going around 11pm and many who seek our Friday & Saturday night cruising, dancing or social fun go from bar to bar. ***Krave***, the only alternative club on the Strip, gives the best big-city club atmosphere and guest DJs. ***Eagle*** is popular for its underwear night and ***Gipsy*** hosts Go-Go Boys at 11:30pm on Fridays. ***Backdoor*** gets going around 12am. Neighborhood bars will also have crowds.

## BADLANDS
**953 E Sahara Ave, 792-9262**
*(C,J)(BB,G,P,EV,ATM)(M) Open 24 Hours*
**MON-THURS:** 2 for 1 domestic & well drinks 4-7pm
**FRI:** $5 Liquor Bust 7pm-12am
**SAT:** $5 Beer Bust 7pm-12am
**SUN:** $3.50 Beer Bust 9pm-12am

## BACKDOOR
**1415 E Charleston Ave, 385-2018**
*(Latin)(D)(DJ)(G,ATM)(M) Open 24 Hours*
**MON:** 2-4-1 Price Is Right Happy Hour 10am-Noon
**TUES:** 2-4-1 Price Is Right Happy Hour 10am-Noon
**WED:** 2-4-1 Happy Hour 4-6pm
**THURS:** 2-4-1 Happy Hour 4-6pm
**FRI:** Latin Fiesta with Edgar 10pm
**SAT:** Gelmi & Her Girls drag show

## EAGLE
**3430 E Tropicana Ave, 458-8662**
*(D,L)(DJ,J)(BB,G,P,EV,ATM)(M) Open 24 Hours*
**WED:** Underwear Night 10pm-3am
**FRI:** Underwear Night 10pm-3am
**SAT:** Underwear Night 10pm-3am

## FLEX
**4371 W Charleston Ave, 385-FLEX**
*(D)(DJ,J)(G,EV,ATM)(M/F) Open 24 Hours*
**SUN:** Hangover Heaven $2 Bloody Marys & Irish coffee
**MON:** Monday Madness 6-9pm; $7 liquor bust 9-11pm
**TUES:** Amateur strip contest, $7 liquor bust 9-11pm
**WED:** Male strippers 10pm
**THURS:** Call for details
**FRI:** Kitty Litter drag show 10pm
**SAT:** Hip-hop night 10pm

## FREEZONE
**610 E Naples Ave, 794-2300**
*(D,R)(DJ)(EV,ATM)(M/F) Open 24 Hours*
**MON:** Gay karaoke new & improved
**TUES:** Ladies Night, Lick-her-bust and Beer Bust 8pm
**WED:** Bed Las Vegas "You've Got Male"
**THURS:** Boyz Night, free Beer Bust w/shot purchase 8pm
**FRI:** 2-4-1 Martini Social 5-9pm; What A Drag 10pm; Dance Party with DJ Lil Pete 11pm
**SAT:** What a Drag 10pm; Dance Party 11pm
**SUN:** Gay karaoke, Beer Bust, free pool

## GIPSY
**4605 Paradise Rd, 731-1919**
*(D)(DJ)(EV,ATM)(M/F)*
**MON:** Latin Night, showtime 2am
**TUES:** Boys' Night $5 Beer Bust/$2 Wells 12am
**WED:** Martini Ultra Lounge 9-11pm; Retro Night 11pm
**THURS:** Seduction with Shannel 1:30am
**FRI:** Martini Ultra Lounge 9-11pm; Dance Party 12am
**SAT:** Dance Party w/Go-Go Boys 12am
**SUN:** Illusions cabaret 10pm & 1am

| | |
|---|---|
| **DESC:** | C=Country, D=Dance L=Leather, R=Restaurant |
| **MUSIC:** | DJ=DJ, J=Jukebox, LM=Live Music |
| **EXTRAS:** | BB=Beer Bust, G=Gaming EV=Events Nightly, ATM=ATM |
| **GENDER:** | M=Male, F=Female, M/F=Mixed, T=Trans |

## GOODTIMES
**1775 E Tropicana Ave, 736-9494**
*(D)(DJ,J,LM)(BB,G,P,EV,ATM)(M) Open 24 Hours*
**MON:** Liquor Bust 11pm-3am
**TUES:** Happy Hour 5-7pm & 5-7am
**WED:** Karaoke 10pm
**THURS:** Happy Hour 5-7pm & 5-7am
**FRI:** Mirror Mondays and Liquor Bust 11pm-3am
**SAT:** Score 11pm; Revival After Hours 3-8am
**SUN:** Happy Hour 5-7pm & 5-7am

## HAMBURGER MARY'S
**4503 Paradise Rd, 735-4400**
*(D,R)(G,EV,ATM)(M/F)*
**MON:** Karaoke with Sheila 9pm-1am
**TUES:** 2-4-1 Burger Night 6-10pm
**WED:** Team Trivia 7pm; Gay Fuel Boys Night 9pm
**THURS:** Will & Grace 8-10pm; Beefcake contest 12am
**FRI:** Aloha Fridays happy hour 4pm; Drag It Out 12am
**SAT:** Club Pride dancing & go-go boys 10pm
**SUN:** Karaoke with Sheila 9pm-1am

## KRAVE
**Corner of Harmon Ave. & Las Vegas Blvd.**
**TUES-SAT:** *The Fashionistas* 9:30pm
**THURS:** Krave Kabaret 11pm
**FRI:** Bitch Bar 9pm; Kaos 11pm
**SAT:** Jeffrey Sanker's "Everything You Desire" 11pm

## LAS VEGAS LOUNGE
**900 E Karen Ave Ste C-108, 737-9350**
*(D)(DJ)(T) Open 24 Hours*
**TUES-SAT:** Transgender go-go-dancers
**FRI & SAT:** Cabaret

## RAINBOW LOUNGE
**900 E Karen Ave Ste H-102, 735-0885**
**MON:** Karaoke with Eric 9pm
**TUES:** An Evening with Valerie James 7pm
**WED:** Wet Wednesday w/strippers 11pm
**THURS:** Leather Night/Beer & Liquor Bust 10pm-12am
**FRI:** Martini Social 5pm
**SAT:** Shirtless Saturday; Jackpot Drawing
**SUN:** Hawaiian Night; Beer Bust 6-9pm

## SNICK'S PLACE
**3rd Street off Las Vegas Blvd, 385-9298**
*(D)(J)(G,P,EV,ATM)(M) Open 24 Hours*
**MON:** $5 Beer & $6 Liquor Bust 7pm-10pm
**MON-THURS:** Happy Hour 2-4pm, 2-4am
**SAT:** $5 Beer & $6 Liquor Bust 9pm-12am

## SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE
**957 E Sahara Ave, 696-0202**
*(D)(DJ,J)(G,P,F,EV,ATM)(M) Open 24 Hours*
**MON:** 2-4-1 9pm-12am
**TUES:** $5 Domestic Beer Bust 8-11pm
**THURS:** $5 Liquor Bust 8-11pm
**FRI:** Leather Night - Free Pizza
**SAT:** Jock Night 12-3am
**SUN:** $5 Beer Bust - Free Pizza 4-7pm

## ZINGERS
**1000 E Sahara Ave Ste 105, 796-9477**
*(D)(J)(BB,G,ATM)(T) Open 24 Hours*
**MON:** Football Night
**TUES:** Talent/Variety Show 9pm
**THURS:** Karaoke 10pm-2am
**FRI:** Live Band Lou Martinez 10pm-2am
**SAT:** Jaime Fox Variety Show 11pm-1am
**SUN:** David Bruce on the Piano 8pm




# HOT NIGHTS EVERY WEEK IN THE ZONE



SUNDAY & MONDAY
## GAY KARAOKE
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*Auditions for Singsations every Sunday at 9:30pm beginning February 6! Singsations is a weekly show which airs on FOX-KVVU, channel 5. TV contestants compete for $5,000 in cash prizes! Visit www.singsations.com for details.*



TUESDAY
## LADIES NIGHT
*LICK-HER-BUST & BEER BUST*



WEDNESDAYS
## BED LAS VEGAS
*"YOU'VE GOT MALE"*
*HOSTED BY TONI JAMES*
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THURSDAY
## BOYZ NIGHT
*FREE BEER BUST*
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# ASCENT: The Winter Party at Lake Tahoe

By Ali Azimi-Sadjadi

## Do the carefree joys of summer seem too far away?

Looking to take a trip soon? Or are you just plain bored with your life and you need a little excitement? Well if you can answer yes to any or all three of these questions, then have we got the solution for you. The Ascent winter party at Lake Tahoe is guaranteed to get your gears crankin' and ready for some action on and off the slopes. The event scheduled February 27 to March 6 is the gay winter escape.

*Continued on Page 84*

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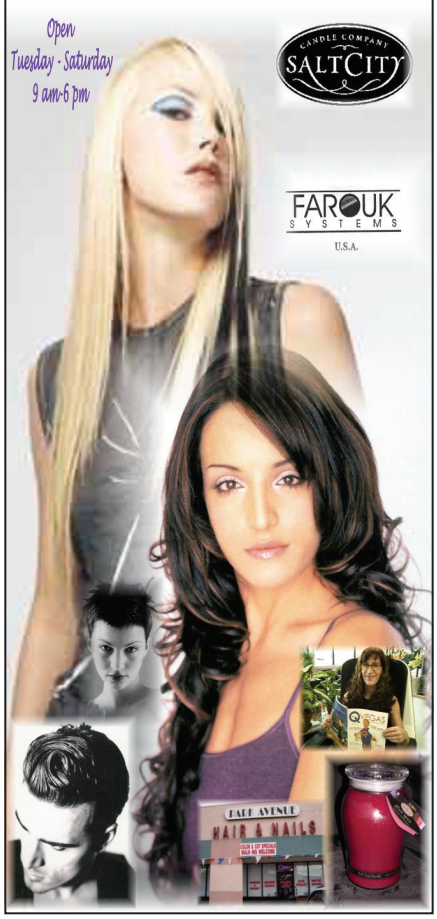


# ASCENT WINTER PARTY

*Continued from Page 83*

Anyone with common knowledge of winter sports knows that Lake Tahoe is one of the most acclaimed winter destinations for hundreds of thousands of snowboarders and skiers. After seeing the success from Aspen and Whistler, a group of Tahoe locals got together and thought about how fun it would be to host a gay/lesbian winter charity event at the South Shore of Lake Tahoe.

Soon this group of local gay and lesbian Tahoe residents formed a nonprofit organization by the name of Lake Tahoe Gay Lesbian Foundation (LTGLF), created to provide funding to various LGBT charities including: Sierra Foothill AIDS Foundation, Tahoe Youth and Family Services, South Lake Tahoe Women's Center, Tahoe Arts Project, the Points of Light Foundation, and the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

According to a statement by David Ewing, president of the foundation, "the emphasis of the event is fun, but the goal is to raise money for our charities. We want people to come to Tahoe to ski, snowboard, see entertainers, attend gay films, party, and discover the area's vast variety of outdoor recreation. But unlike other events, revenue goes to a nonprofit."

If you're looking for variety, the organizers have planned a full series of scheduled activities. Each day of the event will feature a ski mountain (either Heavenly, Sierra-at-Tahoe, and Squaw Valley), winter sports and activities (skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling, ice skating, cross country skiing, inner tubing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, drag races), entertainment (film fests, stand-up comics), and let's not forget the huge parties with superstar DJ's and some of the world's finest selection of gay men and women.

Brenda Knox, a member of the LTGLF board of directors stated, "The support from the local business community has been fantastic. The hotels, casinos, ski areas, restaurants, and tourism organizations have sponsored the event and will welcome the gay/lesbian community with open arms."

The LTGLF has picked up partners from all over the United States to help create and promote this event. Gus Bean, owner of Gus Presents out of San Francisco, will be hosting the large dance parties.

OutWest Global Adventures (OWQA) is another key partner in the creation of Ascent. Serving as the official booking agent, OWGA has served as one of the world's prestigious gay and lesbian travel companies. With ten years of successful gay/lesbian snowboard and ski trips under their belt, including Aspen, Austria, Whistler and Switzerland, it is no wonder OWQA continues the tradition at Tahoe.

Roni Davis, executive director of Ascent said, "We have assembled a great team to promote this national and international event."

Scared that the event may empty out your checking account? Not to fear. You have the option of staying in budget or luxury accommodations, all thanks to the planners who have secured spaces at the larger casinos, a suite hotel, beautiful luxury condominiums, and to top to it, a gay owned bed and bath. You basically pay for what you want; you can add lift tickets, a rental car, ground transportation, passes to the many events, and entertainment. Great discounts are available when you purchase as a package. Visit www.ascentlaketahoe.come or call OutWest Global Adventures at 800-743-0458. **Q**



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MONDAY
KARAOKE WITH ERIC

TUESDAY
AN EVENING WITH VALERIE JAMES

WET WEDNESDAY
STRIPPERS

THURSDAY
LEATHER NIGHT

FRIDAY
MARTINI SOCIAL

SHIRTLESS SATURDAY
JACKPOT DRAWING

SUNDAY
HAWAIIAN NIGHT
BEER BUST 6-9PM




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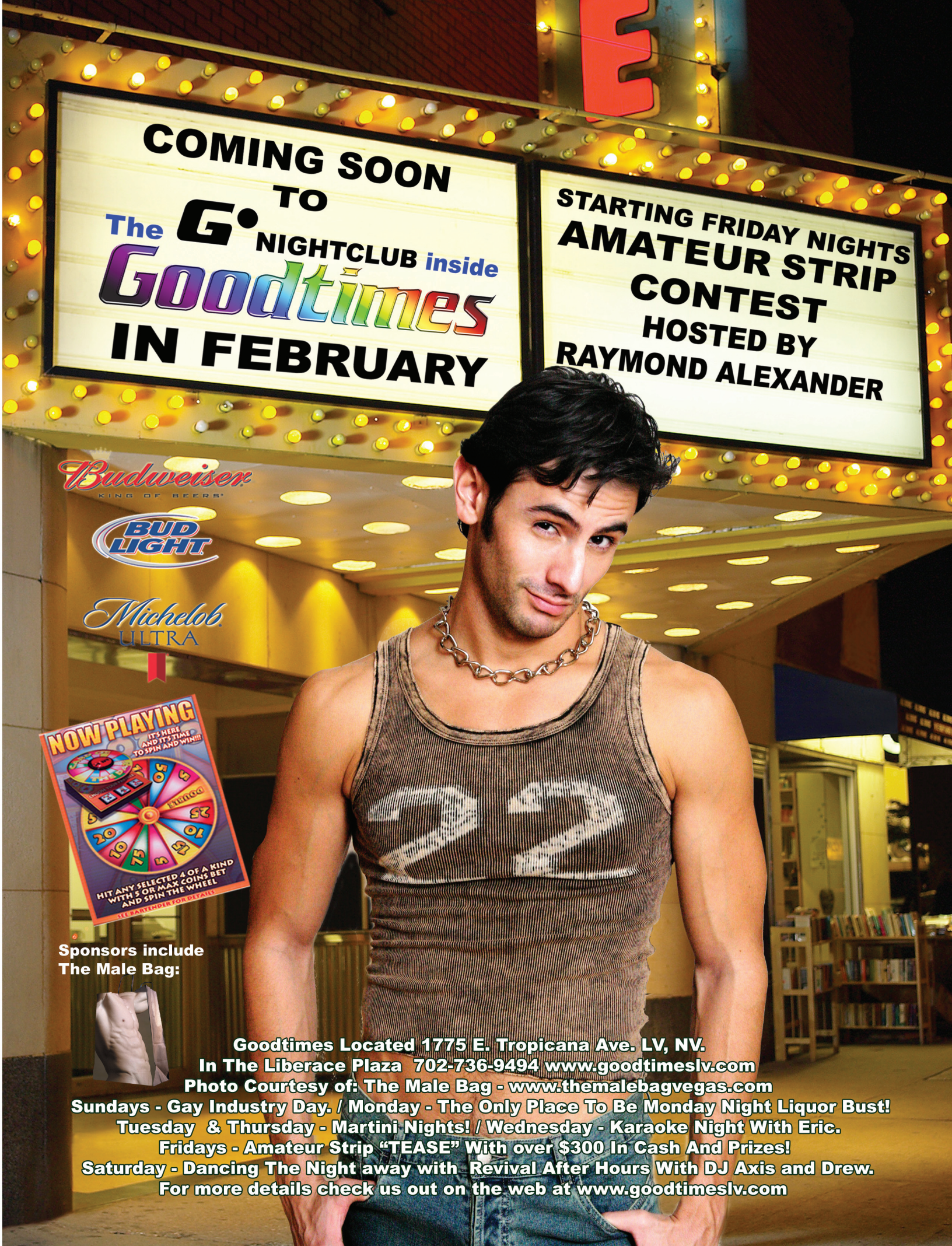
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THE Love ISSUE

# YOUR BIG VALENTINE'S DATE

## A Narrative

By Homer Marrs

It is 4:54 in the afternoon and all you can think about is Jim. You close your document, put your computer to sleep and head out of the office. At 5:07 you start your car to an engine revving, "J-J-J-Jim! Jim!"

You're in the shower by 5:59. You hang your dry-cleaned shirt in the bathroom so the steam can get out the wrinkles, even though there aren't any, because you want to look your best and you're redundant that way. Soaping yourself with Allure body wash, you consider that Jim smells mostly of musk and Marlboros and hope he won't think you're too gay. You dress, opting against cologne.

It's 6:49 on your radio, but 6:46 on your cell phone, which you decide is more accurate and wait until it reads 6:57 to call Jim. Close enough, you justify, to the agreed-upon 7 o'clock.

"Hey, what's up?" Jim answers without saying your name. You wish he had, but understand that Caller ID eliminates the need.

"Nothing — just got out of the shower." You hope he's picturing you naked. "You still want to hang out?" As if you don't care! It is Valentine's Day, but this is only your second date, so you need to be cavalier.

Jim speaks. "Yeah, but I'm gonna take a nap. I'll call you when I wake up, cool?" He clearly didn't hear you say "dinner" the other day, but that's okay, because you're hip, and casual, and you're still going out with Jim. You get off the phone at 7:05 and sit on your bed. For two solid hours.

At 9:05 you feel proud for not calling back, as that would be needy and disturb Jim's sleep. The problem is you're hungry like the wolf. At 9:15 you eat Chex with Silk to tide you over until your real meal, your meal with Jim.

When he finally calls it is 9:48. "Hey. Sorry I didn't wake up sooner. You want some Mexican food?" Mexican, of course, will shift your stomach's tectonic plates, but anything Jim says is great. He's coming for you in 20 minutes; wait outside at the corner.

Thirty-five minutes later you're still patiently counting cars. You wonder if he'll be wearing the same Bears cap and sleeveless tee he had on two days ago, the day of the best date of your life. How romantically it ended: a passionate kiss before leaving the bar, so much sweeter than the standard drunken sex. Feeling his phantom lips against yours, you kiss the air wishfully as if life were a movie. His pick-up approaches.

In the same worn cap and sleeveless tee, Jim is too butch for flowers, candy, or kissing hello, so you shake hands and kind of grunt a salutation.

"Where's a place that's still serving, you think?"

"Right there." You point in serendipity.

"Oh yeah," Jim chuckles. "That's why I keep you around: you're smart."

*Keep you around,* you ruminate. He's such a top.

The Mexican restaurant is fantastically par, but you can't eat because you're nervous. You sip your margarita; Jim downs two shots and a daiquiri. He reminds you of one of your fiery college professors, only cuter, more simian, and laughing at your jokes. "You're cocky," Jim opines. "You say a lot of funny shit, but you get out of line. That's why you need me to put you in your place."

*Put you in your place,* you ruminate again. That's strange, but you let it go, because this guy's into you, and he said "cocky," as in "cock," as in "sex." With you.

After dinner you head for a bar. It

*Continued on Page 90*





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# YOUR BIG VALENTINE'S DATE

*Continued from Page 87*

doesn't show that Jim's had five drinks, but your margarita is making you spin. When you started Wellbutrin a week ago, your doctor told you not to drink—something about exacerbating depression, and something else about dizziness. This warning was filed in your brain under Health Info., Miscellaneous, and summarily ignored. Now Jim pulls marijuana from his glove box.

"Care to partake in the festivities?" he asks. It's important to have things in common, so you say "sure" and inhale, deeply, as if to spite Bill Clinton.

The remainder of the ride takes either five minutes or one hour. All you know is that Jim seems relatively grounded, so you're fine. So fine you start quoting *The Wizard of Oz*. "How would you like it if someone threw apples at you?" you say … repeatedly.

The next thing you know you're standing at a rack of pool cues. "In front of you," says Jim, as if for the third time. You grab one, take a sloppy shot, and sink the white ball, cheering, "I win!"

"Let's stop," your man suggests, and you follow him to a barstool. He takes the only empty one so you stand by his side.

"Happy Valentine's Day, Jim."

"You just said that. And it's been over for ten minutes, anyway."

This is news to you. Gazing at your date, you try to recall everything that's happened since you met, but the music is too distracting. "Jesus, this song's like, so long. Do you believe in life after love?"

"You're stoned," Jim quips.

"Hey—how would you like it if someone threw apples at you?"

"You don't make sense. And stop staring at me with that dippy look on your face."

*Dippy,* you ruminate further. *Is dippy cute?*

Suddenly—or after awhile—Jim heads for the door. Following, you grab the back of his shirt.

"What do want, a kiss?"

*Please*, you're thinking, and Jim pecks you on the cheek with the haste of an uppercut. You're not sure if he says goodbye.

When you wake it is 2:37 p.m. You puzzle together the pieces of the night before, concluding a humiliation so unsettling it shakes you.

Jim will never call again.

You want to tie your body to a tree, and stone yourself with apples, but you can't. **Q**


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Photo: Associated Press.
Bayard Rustin with Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1956 during the Montomery bus boycott.

Q Observes Black History Month

# A Dream Deferred No Longer

By Jasmyne Cannick

***The legacy and dream of Martin Luther King Jr. lives on today, but for so many African-American same-gender loving people, that dream has been deferred. However, it's a new year and it's time for Black gays to reclaim their dreams and celebrate King's legacy.***

When Martin Luther King Jr. marched in the 1960s for the civil rights of African-Americans, he wasn't marching for the civil rights of some, he marched for all Blacks. Side by side, straight Blacks marched with gay blacks and it's important that the contributions of gays to this movement do not continue to be downplayed and overlooked.

The gay rights movement has been compared to the 60's Civil Rights Movement repeatedly and questions surrounding King's views on homosexuality are constantly being asked. We will never know for sure what King thought about homosexuality, but we do know that he apparently had no issue working with gays because one of his closest personal and political advisors was an openly gay man, Bayard Rustin. Rustin is best known for being one of the driving forces behind the march on Washington in 1963.

*Continued on Page 94*

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# A DREAM DEFERRED NO LONGER

*Continued from Page 92*

**King must not have found Rustin's sexual orientation to be a hindrance to the movement and he didn't allow the fact that Rustin was gay to supersede his being Black and having an active role in the movement.**

The fact that King worked with and trusted an openly gay man during this critical moment in African-American history says a lot. King must not have found Rustin's sexual orientation to be a hindrance to the movement and he did not allow the fact that Rustin was gay to supersede his being Black and having an active role in the movement.

At a time when there were very few voices for their own causes willing to stand up, Rustin and other Black gays and lesbians had to put aside gay rights issues for the cause of the greater movement; the Civil Rights Movement. Their contributions should not go forgotten or unnoticed.

When Blacks were drinking out of "colored only" water fountains and forced to use separate bathrooms from that of whites, the signs didn't read "Straight Colored Only" and "Gay Colored Only." No. They simply read "Colored Only." Black gays and lesbians suffered the same mistreatment of Blacks in general and still had no voices of their own.

Flash forward forty years later to the vision of the youngest daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. leading a march in Atlanta to denounce marriage rights to gay couples. Attempting to further divide the Black community on the issue of homosexuality, Reverend Bernice King blatantly ignored the contributions of thousands of Black gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to the Civil Rights Movement. If that wasn't enough, Rev. King and mega church pastor Bishop Eddie Long purposely chose King's gravesite to bring attention to the march and their hateful message. It's unfortunate that there are those in the Black community that find bigotry acceptable towards gays and use misguided ideologies to convey their message.

However, today is a new day and King's dream lives in all of us, straight or gay. King's dream will no longer be deferred for Black gays. We will continue to fight discrimination, homophobia and bigotry in our own communities, whether it be the Black or gay community. The gay rights movement does share common ground with the Civil Rights Movement, discrimination. Blacks suffered discrimination at the hands of whites because of their skin color, while gays continue to be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation and identity.

Gone are the days of silence in the Black community around issues of sexuality, we played that game and it cost some of us our lives.

We will never know for certain what Dr. King thought about same-gender-loving people. The closest person to him, his wife, has already publicly stated that King would have supported gay rights if that were any indication on what his views might have been. But you know, I am not so much worried about what King would have thought about me being a Black lesbian as I am about the direction of our community on this issue. Our community has far more important issues that need our attention and resources than discrimination.

I dream that one day I will be able to legally marry my girlfriend and have our union protected by the 1,049 federal benefits and privileges afforded to heterosexual couples. I have a dream that one day gay youth will no longer be kicked out of their homes and displaced from their families simply because they are attracted to the same sex. I have a dream that our community will address the issues of HIV/AIDS head on and stop this disease from claiming another precious life. I have a dream that one day my same-gender-loving brothers and sisters will be able to free themselves from the chains of internalized homophobia and that our community can move past the issue of homosexuality to focus on the more pressing issues of today like the never-ending war, access to education, jobs, healthcare and social security.

I have a dream that will no longer be deferred thanks to the vision and effort of Dr. King, Bayard Rustin, and the few same-gender-loving voices that dared to stand up back when they could find no one to stand up for their own rights. That's what we should be celebrating on King's holiday, not only the man, but the dream, and it does live on. **Q**

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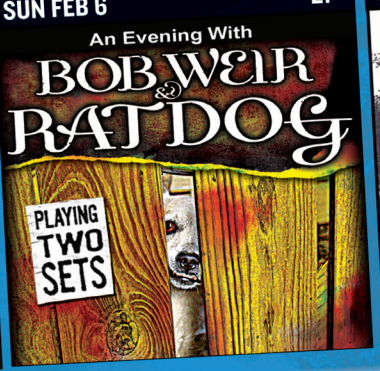
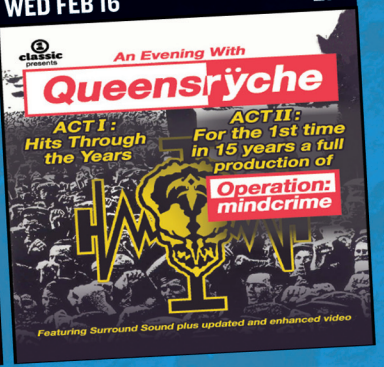



WED FEB 16 21+




SUN FEB 20 21+




SAT FEB 26 21+




| | |
|---|---|
| SAT, FEB 5 | Rise Against w/ Tsunami Bomb, AlexisOnFire and Only Crime |
| WED, FEB 9 | Soulfly and Morbid Angel |
| THU, FEB 10 | XBOX presents Atreyu w/ Unearth, Norma Jean and Scars of Tomorrow |
| SAT, FEB 12 | Something Corporate w/ Straylight Run, Armor for Sleep and TheAcademyIs |
| SAT, FEB 19 | 7th Annual Tales from the Gutter featuring Me First & The Gimme Gimme's, Bouncing Souls and The Briefs |

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# QCalendar

To have your event listed in our calendar, please send details to calendar@qvegas.com by the 15th of the preceding month.




**4**

**Tina Turner CD Release**
QVegas promo party.
FreeZone, 6 p.m.
*earls@qvegas.com*

**5**

**QRADIO**
KLAV 1230 AM, 9 p.m.
**Details on pg. 102**



*Dragapella!* Feb. 9

**8**

**Pride Bingo**
Hamburger Mary's
7 p.m.
*lasvegaspride.org*

**9**

***Dragapella!***
Starring the Kinsey Sicks
Westin Hotel, 8 p.m.
*702-836-8775*
**Details on pg.104**

**10**

**11**

**MCC's "Heart to Heart" Valentine Dance & Party**
MCC, 7 p.m.
*702-369-4380*
**Details on pg. 106**

**12**

**An Evening With... Take II**
QVegas Foundation Fundraiser
Hamburger Mary's
*earls@qvegas.com*
**Details on pg. 108**

**National Freedom to Marry Day**

**QRADIO**
KLAV 1230 AM, 9 p.m.

**13**

**Senior Social Connection**
The Center, 2-5 p.m.
*702-733-9800*

**14**


Feb. 4

**16**

**17**

**HRC Monthly Social**
Wine Cellar at the Rio
5:30 p.m.
*todstory@cox.net*

**18**

**Ultimate Kylie Minogue CD Release**
QVegas promo party.
FreeZone, 6 p.m.
*earls@qvegas.com*

**19**

**QRADIO**
KLAV 1230 AM, 9 p.m.




**23**


Feb. 18

**25**

**Nevada Ballet's *Romeo & Juliet***
Feb. 25-27
Judy Bayley Theatre
UNLV
*895-ARTS*

**26**

**QRADIO**
KLAV 1230 AM, 9 p.m.

**27**

**Golden Rainbow's *The World Goes 'Round***
Cabaret fundraiser.
Luxor/Pharoah's Theater, 2 p.m.
*goldenrainbow.org*
**Details on pg.110**




# FEB

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The weekly program is hosted by Steve Moore, Editor of *QVegas*, Shannon Stevens and will include a variety of guests. Each show will address issues and concerns affecting the LGBT community.

RADIO Q

**Listeners are encouraged to call and express their views during the show at 702-731-1230 or toll-free at 866-820-KLAV.**

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With song titles like *"I've Been Through Parasites (But I've Never Had VD),"* and *"When You're Good to Dubya,"* a political tune on President Bush's devotion to big contributors like Enron and the oil industry, how can you say no?

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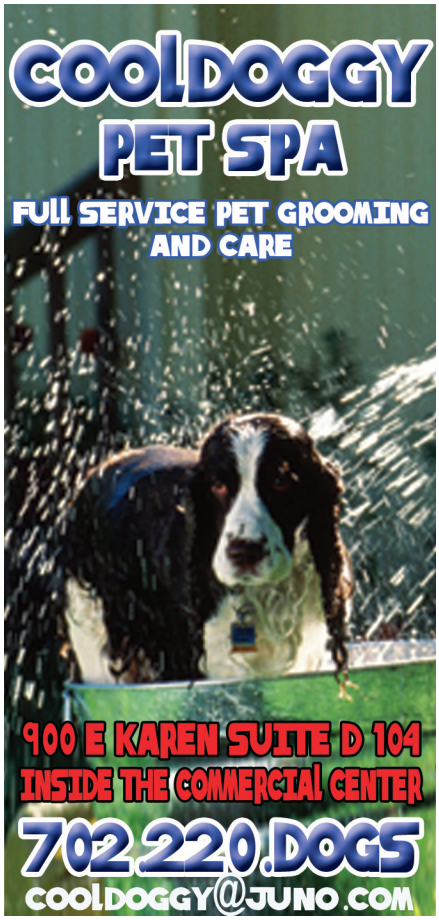




# MCC's "Heart to Heart" Valentine Dance Party

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11 • 7 P.M.
## METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH



In the mood for some romance? Wanna dance with that special someone without people gawking at you from a distance? Maybe you're single and looking to make some new friends or possibly meet someone sweet? The Metropolitan Community Church is holding its annual Valentine's dance Friday, February 11th.

"We're going to have raffles and a lot of other fun little games in addition to the dance," said Joy-Lynd C., MCC member. "These dances are a good reason to party and bring couples together. It's a safe, non-threatening site where couples can share their love and affection for one another without the threat of being bashed or put down."

**Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the dance or by contacting Chuck Velasquez at (702) 369-4380.**



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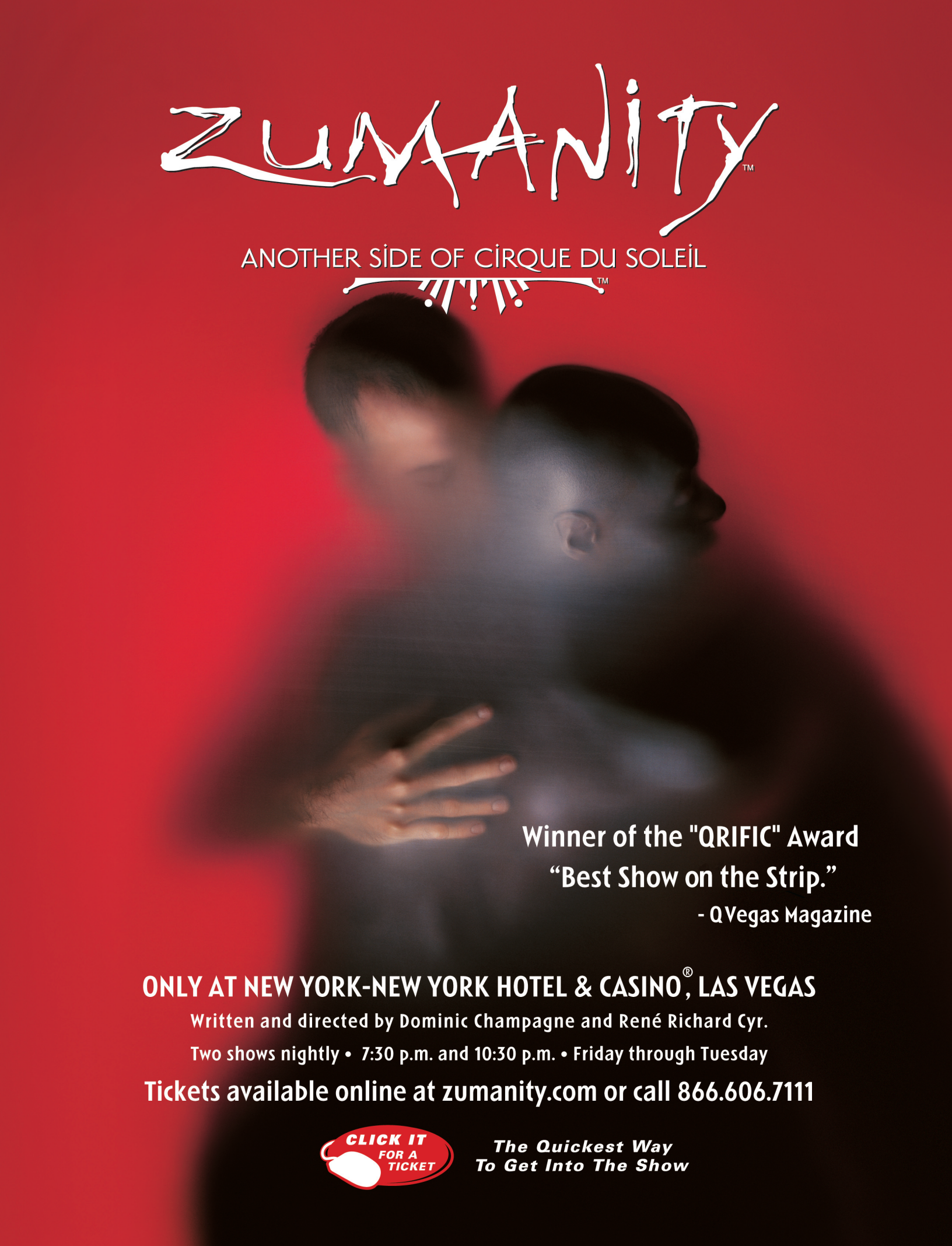

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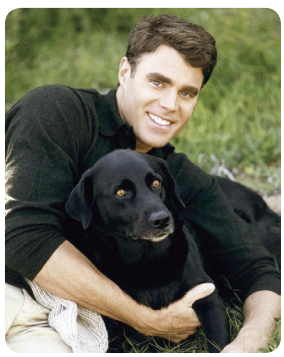
# An Evening With... (Take II)

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 • 6 P.M.
## HAMBURGER MARY'S

With Valentine's Day around the corner, you may find yourself alone and dateless, however, it doesn't have to be so. The QVegas Foundation is hosting its 2nd annual "An Evening With" fundraiser, benefiting the clubs and organizations that help serve the greater Las Vegas community. Members of the community are chosen or they volunteer themselves to be auctioned off.



This year's auction includes community members Kelly McFarlane Smith, Steve Moore, Candice Nichols, Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, Bob Forbuss, Tod Story & Michael Ginsburg, and Assemblyman David Parks. Join us at Krave after the auction for a special VIP meet and greet with CBS's *Amazing Race* winner, Chip Arndt.

**Admission to the auction is free. Tickets for the Chip Arndt meet and greet are $100 and can be obtained by contacting Earl Shelton at earls@qvegas.com.**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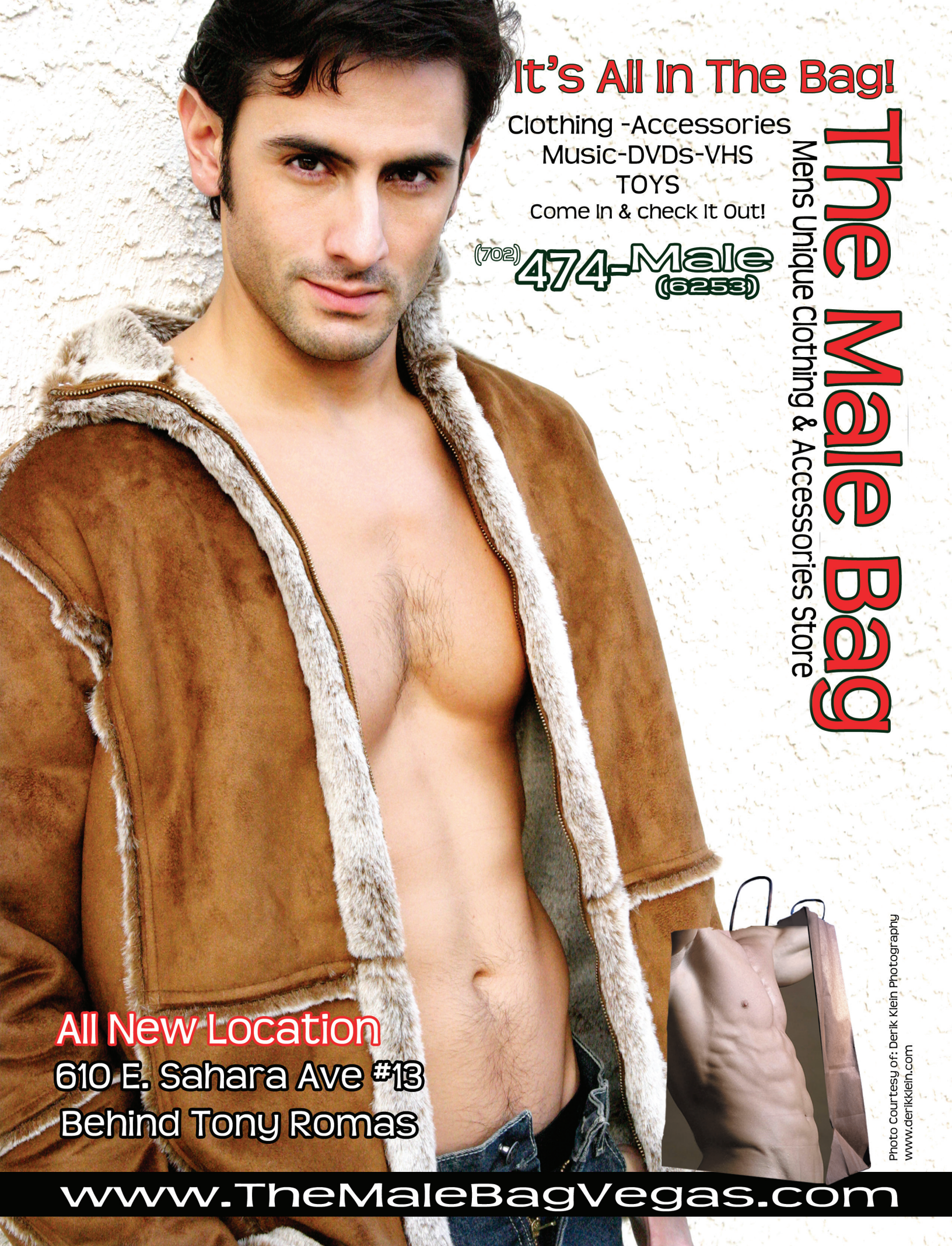
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# Golden Rainbow's *The World Goes 'Round* Cabaret Fundraiser

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 • 2 P.M.
## LUXOR/PHAROAH'S THEATER

Kick up your skirts because Golden Rainbow, an organization devoted to providing housing and financial assistance to men, women and children affected by HIV/AIDS, is presenting *The World Goes 'Round*, a lively cabaret musical featuring hits by Kander and Ebb.

The show's theme celebrates life, and features tunes from such masterpieces as *Chicago*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Cabaret*, and *New York, New York*. All proceeds from the show go towards Golden Rainbow's housing and financial assistance program, and also funding for HIV/AIDS prevention education. If it's romance, drama, and just a bundle of laughs you're looking for, *The World Goes 'Round* is your answer.

GOLDEN RAINBOW

**General admission is $25 and VIP is $40. Tickets can be purchased now by calling Golden Rainbow at (702) 384-2899.**


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The Gay & Lesbian Voice for 26 Years

# CLASSIFIEDS ORDER FORM

**QVEGAS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY. THE CLASSIFIED DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S ISSUE.**

**Non-Service Categories**
$32 for the first 20 words, 50¢ each additional word.

- ❑ Roommates/Rentals
- ❑ For Sale
- ❑ Accommodations
- ❑ Business Services
- ❑ Personals - Men
- ❑ Personals - Women
- ❑ Personals - Transgender
- ❑ Real Estate
- ❑ Employment
- ❑ Announcements

**Service Categories**
$58 for the first 20 words, 50¢ each additional word.

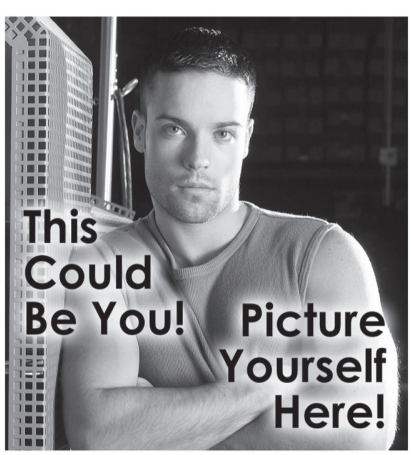
- ❑ Massage (Must have license)
- ❑ Adult Entertainment/Websites

Please print the text of your ad very clearly, one letter to a box. The first three words will be **bolded** at no additional charge.

❑ Please add a black box around my ad (additional $10 charge)

**Word Ad Cost Breakdown:**
20 words for _____ + _____ addtl' words x .50¢ = _____ per issue + ($10.00 for box around ad) x _____issues =_____ Total

## CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT




**1/12 Size - 2.25" W by 2.37" H**

**Classified Displays**
Increase your results with a picture/display ad in the classifieds.

❑ I want a 1/12 ad. ($296.00 charge) per issue.

Please include a photo (no nudity). Photo will not be returned. Include text (keep it breif).

Please contact us if you need to submit a digital photo for size and resolution requirements.

Please call with any other questions or concerns.

We reserve the right to refuse or edit advertisement. We will refuse any advertisement known to violate local, state or federal law. All ads include free bold heading up to 3 words. Optional black box around ad, $10 additional.

**Required Information**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Payment type: ❑ Check/Money Order ❑ Cash ❑ Credit Card

Credit Card # _____ Exp _____

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Email _____

Business Name _____

QVegas ▼ 2408 Pardee Place ▼ Las Vegas, NV 89104
Phone: 702.650.0636 ext. 111 ▼ Fax: 702.650.0641 ▼ Email: classifieds@QVegas.com
Make checks payable to *QVegas*

You can also return this form to The Center or The Male Bag

**This Space For Office Use Only:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ad Cost | $ |
| # of Issues | |
| Balance Due | $ |

## QVEGAS NEW LOCATION

*QVegas* magazine is now located at: 2408 Pardee Place, Las Vegas, NV 89104. Please direct all correspondence to our new location.

**NOTICE: *QVegas*** documents all customer complaints regarding classified advertisements. ***QVegas*** reserves the right to refuse advertisements from individuals or companies who misrepresent themselves and/or advertising claims. Advertisers and clients are kindly asked to conduct their dealings in a moral, humanitarian and mutually respectful manner in keeping with the LGBT community; a community that is strong, proud and united. All related complaints should be made in writing (**no phone calls please**) and addressed to the classified manager at 2408 Pardee Place, Las Vegas, NV 89104 and will be kept strictly confidential.

### RENTALS / ROOMMATES

**East Side** – Males seeks male for furnished room plus private bath in deluxe townhouse near the LV Hilton. Must be employed w/car. N/S, no pets. $495 + sec. Includes utils, maid, cable. Marc 702-369-1396.

**Guard Gated Community** in Southern Highlands. 2350 sq. ft. 3 bdrm/2.5 baths plus an office and loft. $1500 per month. Pets o.k. Call Jarrod at 245-9616.

**"Upgraded to Perfection."** Fabulous 5 BR, 3 BA two-story home in exclusive Southern Highlands! Gated community, fplc, lg landscaped backyard, 3 car garage w/many upgrades incl. Berber carpet, Rosewood cabinetry, stone entry, cobblestone drive. This 3200sf home will rent for $2600/mo. With poss. lease to own. Want to hear more? Call 702-807-0844.

**1 furnished room** 4 rent with pvt bath near Oakey & Decatur includes utils DSL internet for $400. We are looking for non-smoker , non-drug user prefer male to share with male couple employed & references required 434-9810.

**Great Studio For Rent!** Adjacent to a beautiful private home in central Las Vegas. Located in the historic Huntridge neighborhood. Private entrance, off street parking, washer & dryer access, private bath, kitchenette with fridge and microwave. Freshly painted and carpeted. Only $500.00 a month + one month security. Available Feb.1st. (Some furniture available if needed) Includes: AC/Heat, Electric and cable. Great Neighborhood! Call 702-434-3482.

**Room for Rent** $625/month;Utilities Inc Ann Road Call Chris 283-4037.

**Lease-to-own.** Sunset &215. 3bdr, 2 1/2 ba, 2 car garage, 1650sf, 2004 - $1300/mo. Please call james at 501-1688 for more info.

**House for rent** 2bd/2ba, 2 car parking. $1100 per month includes util. Pecos/ Russell area 325-4329.

**SE Condo for rent.** Canyon Willow on Pecos south of Tropicana. 3bdrm (Master $400 with own bathroom; other bedrooms $300 each plus utilities) 2 bath; All appliances;3 pools & gym; 1 covered parking. 3.5 miles from UNLV and airport. Very close to the strip. Deposit required 714-349-1656.

**Gorgeous House** 1 or 3 roommates wanted to share 4bd/3ba house in news community in N/W Las Vegas off Craig rd. High ceilings, granite, tile an wood floors, stainless steel appliances. Must be employed. $500 + share utilities. 1-323-428-7664.

**1 room for rent.** 2br apt. Maryland/ Desert Inn, coin op laundry rm, $350 per month + $100 deposit. Includes utilities. Employed and references required. 361-3458.

**NW 3bed**, 2 1/2 Bath, 2 car. Brand new. Alexander/Shadow peak. Pets ok, no smoking 702.561.7516 1 month free rent with 1-year lease.

*Continued on Page 114*

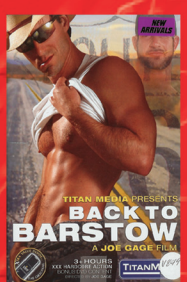


Who's Your Porn Store?

PRICE VIDEO
Vegas' Original Gay Video Store, Est. 1985

We Now Carry DVDs

QVEGAS Magazine's Best of Gay Vegas QRIFIC AWARDS 2004




Package Deal
Rent 4 Movies for $10
2 Nights

Clearance Sale
Old Video Titles
$10 per Video
6 for $50




"Why pay more when you can get all the hot new releases for so cheap?"

| Movies | Nights | Cost |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | $3.00 |
| 2 | 2 | $6.00 |
| 3 | 2 | $8.00 |
| 4 | 2 | $10.00 |
| 5 | 3 | $12.00 |

The Biggest & Best Selection Of Gay Video, Rentals & Sales
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NE Corner Swenson & Naples
Between Harmon and Tropicana



## RENTALS / ROOMMATES, Continued

**S/W home** minutes from strip area. Common pool with view. Brand new house, N/S $400-525. Deposit, references, split utilities. 279-0556.

**SW (Flamingo & Durango)** Share a 3bd, 2bth, single level home with owner who travels 5/7 days. N/S, N/P, bedroom with shared bath $450 includes utilities. Call Dick, 222-0781.

**Roommate wanted** Tropicana and Sandhill area. Only 15 minutes from the strip. 4bd/2ba with hot tub, full house privs. $400.mo + 1/3 utilities. No pets. Sergio or Mike 702-450-4877. No calls after 6pm.

**For Rent**, Spacious 2494 sq ft. home in the NW. 3bdrm, 2.5bth, huge loft, great yard w/pool. $1725 per month. Pets okay. Jarrod/Prudential 245-9616.

**Guest House…**Fully furnished, upscale T/O! Utilities, phone, cable, pool included, $850/mo. $500 secy. No pets. 876-0098.

**BARCLAY SQUARE.** Beautiful Garden Setting. Centrally located. Spacious 1 & 2 bedroom lofts. All amenities. Fireplace covered parking, pool/spa, gated community. $725/$825 732-1081.

**BEVERLY ALEXANDRA** Great one and two bedrooms available, STARTS at $525. Covered parking, 3 pools, 4 laundry rooms, 55+ welcome. $399 move-in costs, mention this ad for $100 off move-in costs. 735-0139. 446 E. Twain Ave.

## REAL ESTATE

**Tenaya & Lake Mead** – 1610 sq. ft. 3 bd/2.5 baths, vaulted ceilings, fireplace. No H.O.A. $289,000. Call Jarrod/Prudential at 245-9616.

**For Sale, Southwest townhouse.** 3bdrm/2.5bth 1598 sq ft. Gated comm. w/pool $248k, Jarrod/Prudential 245-9616.

**LIBERTY REALTY.** James F. Moss, Real Estate Agent. "Through insight and honesty, brings prosperity." Please call me at 501-1668 for your Real Estate needs.

**2bed/1bath** town home, near UNLV, perfect investment or for first time home buyer, all appliances stay, property in great condition, won't last long, call for details Jeremiah 702-353-5622.

**S/W home** Jones & Warm Springs. 2 story 1234sqft, 3bed, 2 1/2 bath, New never lived in. Make $$ buying. View from balcony, community pool & mountains. W/D ref. Micro blinds, garage. $232,500 279-0556.

## EMPLOYMENT

**Part-time/Full-time – Sales Associates** – ISIS Couture, a European Fashion house is looking for exceptionally dynamic and motivated individuals to join the ISIS Las Vegas team in interpreting the glamour and luxury of the ISIS fashion style. Must be energetic and willing to be part of a sales-driven team who are there to make certain that the customer has a fabulous shopping experience. If fashion is your passion, then you belong at the ISIS Temple of fashion & Luxury. Please call Lana at (702) 768-4440 or fax your resume to 702-898-2231.

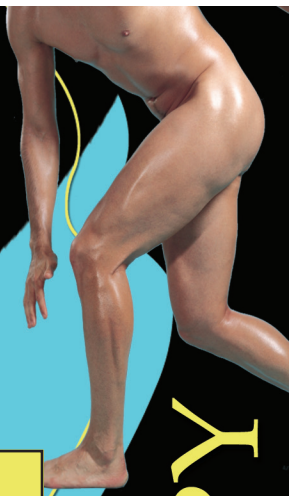
**Loan Officers wanted.** No experience needed, Will train. Please call 702-254-2677.

*Continued on Page 116*

**TO ADVERTISE**
To place a classified ad in *QVegas*, please complete and submit our form found on page 113; visit us at 2408 Pardee Place, Las Vegas, NV 89104; email classifieds@qvegas.com; or call 702-650-0636 ext 111.

*Everything You Wanted To Know About...*

# TREATING CELLULITE & FAT REDUCTION WITH MESOTHERAPY



**Benefits of Mesotherapy over surgical techniques such as liposuction?**

Liposuction does not treat cellulite and, in fact, often ends up enhancing pre-existing cellulite, making it more prominent. Mesotherapy treats cellulite directly, and the result is a smoother skin surface. Mesotherapy also targets fat reduction in trouble areas. The fat deposits flush out of the specific microinjection sites and the body does not gain the weight back in other areas, which often happens after liposuction. Mesotherapy is a non-surgical procedure that does not require hospital admittance, general anesthesia or downtime. There is no extensive medical evaluation or laboratory testing required prior to treatment.

**How fast will I see results?**

Results vary based on your body type and the severity of the condition. On the average, based on condition, the results can be seen in two to three sessions. For certain conditions, you may see results immediately.

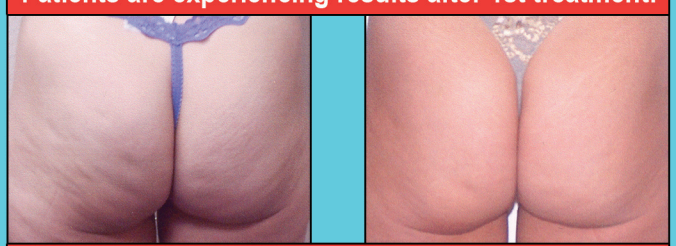
**Will the results last?**

The results do last. Mesotherapy is not an alternative to a healthy lifestyle, but it is a powerful tool for addressing fat, cellulite and aging. Occasional touch-ups may be required. Aging is a dynamic process. As your body continues to age, you will need to address the symptoms of aging as they manifest. Mesotherapy can be used as a preventative treatment.

**Make sure to choose a qualified Doctor:**

At A New You we do not purchase our medications over the internet. Each treatment is mixed to each patient's individual needs - this helps our patients receive maximum results.

**Patients are experiencing results after 1st treatment!**



**Actual Patient at the start & after 6 treatments!**



**Actual Patient After One Treatment!**

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| $198 | $500 | $750 |

** Must be purchased in full. Areas may be used at patients discrection.*

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**1 CC RESTYLANE &..$1090**
**60 Units BOTOX &**
**6 Medical Microdermabrasion**

**1 CC RESTYLANE &..$1490**
**40 Units BOTOX &**
**6 Areas of MESOTHERAPY**

**B-12 Shot &.....$899**
**Weight Loss Consultation,**
**Health Analysis &**
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**Help WANTED/ CM Tech** Needed house/apt/business cleaner's for our growing business Please be willing to work all day great pay, this position can grow to be your own Boss Call for an interview 702-598-4484 or 702-281-9195.

**NEED EXTRA MONEY NOW**? Seeking Cleaning/organizing person for my apartment. Flexible schedule, start working right away! Call 812-8999.

**Male Dancers Wanted.** FreeZone A great place to work. Male dancers wanted. Call Michael at 277-2702.

**Male Models Wanted** for amateur video productions. 18-25 years old. Call 702-474-5282 or Email: FFFproductions@hotmail.com.

**Self Storage Sales Associates**, Full-time/ Part-time. Las Vegas based company is seeking motivated couples and singles. Must be comfortable with computers. Experience with sitelink, MSTC or Uhaul a plus. Fax resume to 702-360-4488.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***QVegas*** is always happy to announce your special events. Weddings, commitment ceremonies, births, adoptions, and more. Contact Michael at 650-0636 ext 111 for details.

**The Las Vegas Men's Chorus** is currently looking for new singers and musicians for its spring season. If you are interested in great music and fellowship, please call 453-lvmc.

**Not just Antiques**. Vintage shops collectables art and EBay drop-off just opened! 1422 Western Between "Charleston/Oakey" 384-4922.

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**Do you have a Dog?** Did it come with instructions? TA-DA! At home dog training. 327-4744. Theoptimum in K-9 manners.

**Get ready now!** Prepare your Taxes. New office for 2005 catering to the needs of the GLBT taxpayer and the special needs they may have. For future appointments mail to TAX: 2408 Pardee Las Vegas, NV 89104.

**Do you want to feel younger**, look younger and stay younger? Look at this anti-aging breakthrough seen on 20/20 with Barbara Walters. www.somalife.net/antoniolopez Call Antonio 702-492-6275.

*Continued on Page 118*

***LOG ON***
Each month, find articles, horoscopes, classifieds, community links and much more online at www.QVegas.com.



# Gay Vacations in Brazil

Brazil has long been considered one of the world's top gay-friendly destinations. Brazil Fiesta, in partnership with TAM airlines, have launched our "Gay Vacations in Brazil" campaign. We have taken special care to identify the best cities, hotels, gay guides/drivers, and more that are catered to gay travelers.

The following packages are designed to give you a guide on arranging your vacations to Brazil. All packages can be customized to your specifications. **Since 1980 – We KNOW Brazil.** For more details on the following packages, please visit our pages online:

**www.brazilfiesta.com**

*All packages include hotel nights, breakfasts, transfers, add-on tours, AND domestic airfare within Brazil. Pricing is based on double occupancy. Specific hotel availability may be limited.*

## Gay Pride 2005 (Sáo Paulo) - May 29th, 2005 – 4 Nights.

Nearly 2 million people attended last year in the world's largest pride event. Brazil Fiesta has put together a package to make your visit to Gay Pride 2005 a memorable one.

• 4-nights in Sáo Paulo • Transfers • City Tour • Shopping Tour • Night-life Tour

$715.00 at 4-star lodging / $875.00 at 5-star lodging

## Discover Brazil – 14 Nights.

This package is designed to give you the best of what Brazil has to offer.

• 2-nights Sáo Paulo • 2-nights Salvador • 3-nights Amazon Jungle Lodge
• 5-nights Rio de Janeiro • 2-nights Iguassu Falls

$2,180.00 at 4-star lodging / $3,097.00 at 5-star lodging

## Discover Rio de Janeiro – 10 Nights.

This package delivers the beauty and splendor of Rio de Janeiro and surrounding jewels within driving distance of this splendid city.

• 4-nights Rio de Janeiro • 2-nights Buzios • 2-nights Angra dos Reis • 2-nights Parati

$1,483.00 at 4-star lodging / $2,012.00 at 5-star lodging

## Adventure Brazil – 12 Nights.

Our adventure package is designed for couples who want the exhilarating experiences Brazil has to offer.

• 2-nights Iguassu Falls • 3-nights Pantanal • 3-nights Amazon Jungle Lodge
• 3-nights Fernando de Noronha • 2-nights Rio de Janeiro

$2,612.00 at 4-star lodging / $3,047.00 at 5-star lodging

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## BUSINESS SERVICES, Continued

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**Chippendales Dancer** Available for outcall services. 702-281-9655.

**Exotic Male Dancers**. We beat all prices, with young gorgeous hunks of all ethnicity. All occasions. Outcall only. Porn stars included. 702-806-7391.

## TOURIST ACCOMMODATIONS

**ACAPULCO "LAS PALMAS"** Mexico's premier gay resort: Nudity, 15 a/c rooms, pool, bar, restaurant, security. For brochure, telephone direct: 011-52-74 (87-08-43) or Fax: 011-52-74 (87-12-82), Web: www.acapulco-laspalmas.com, E-mail: bobbyjoe@acapulco-laspalmas.com.

**San Diego** Near everything you want to see! Hillcrest Inn www.hillcrestinn.net 800-258-2280 or 619-293-7078.

**Palm Springs** Fun & relaxing Desert retreat for Men. 888-541-3777 Tortuga Del Sol.

**Las Vegas' only Gay resort**. Blue Moon Resort. 44 rooms, Lagoon pool, coffee house, Movie room. Day passes available 866-798-9194 www.BlueMoonLasVegas.com.

## ADULT WEB SITES

Places to meet guys in Las Vegas

www.squirt.com

www.qvegas.com

www.queerlasvegas.com

www.Gaylasvegas.com

www.interactiveMale.com

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*Continued on Page 122*

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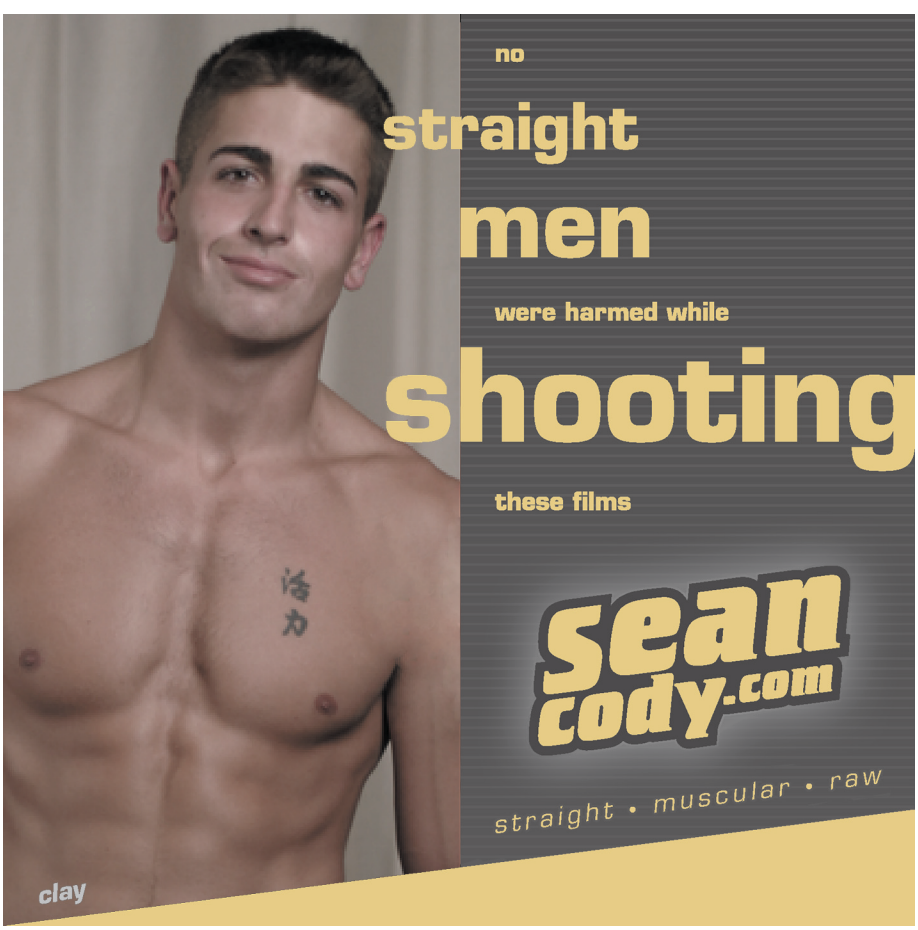


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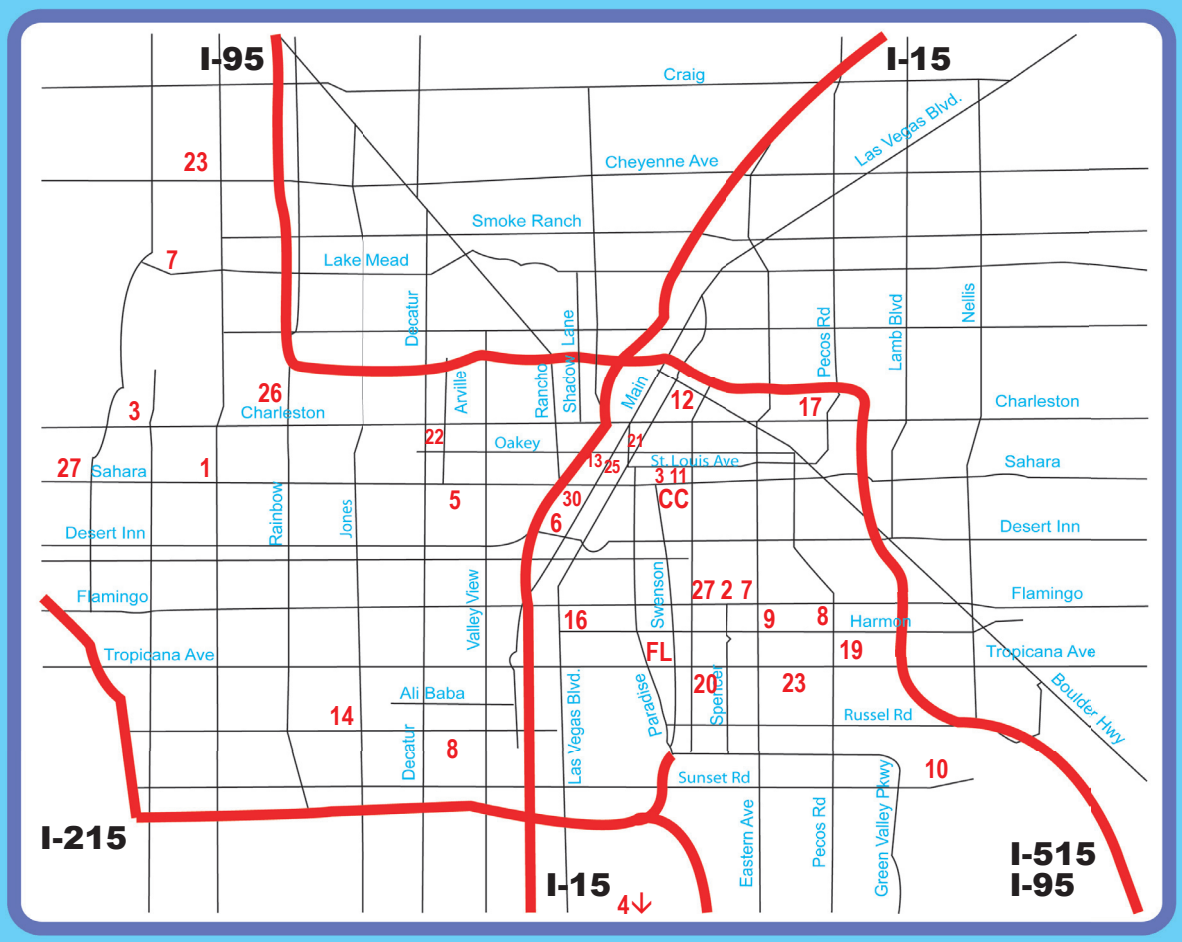


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## PERSONALS: MEN SEEKING MEN

**WARNING**: ***QVegas*** reminds readers to use common sense when placing or answering an advertisement. Meeting people for the first time in a public environment is recommended and letting a friend know your whereabouts and destination is advisable.

**Looking for friends.** GWM early 40's Hiv+ want to meet people like me for friendship and good company. I live close to downtown LV. I smoke and drink socially. Call JD 702.382.2151 anytime except 12-8am.

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OCTOBER 21, 1970 - JANUARY 7, 2005





A FRIEND TO THE COMMUNITY

**This 55 yr. old guy** has been around and done a lot, but never had any photos. Contact me if you're are artistic with a digital and can email me the results. Should be bi/str/male, female, or couple, under 40, lean and, like me, very clean and healthy. A. J. @ 440-8578.

**GPBM seeks Mate** 27 year old Gay POZ blk Male seeks mate in Las Vegas Looking 4 someone that has no hang ups A&R not important contact Jason at 702-612-0635/ choirboi0677@yahoo.com

**Wm 53, 6'3"** 220, masc., smooth, bottom, and seeks WM, Over 40, over 240 for possible LTR. 598-1606.

**Masculine 5'9",** construction guy 160lbs, 30'waist, Hiv-, n/s, Dates, romance, kissing late 40's. Seeks white or Hispanic for same. 279-0556.

**GWM 53 yrs** young, fit, 175lbs, 6', HIV-. Looking for bottom or versatile guy between 40-55 yrs. HIV- 130-160 lbs for friends first. Possible LTR. Must have trim waist. No sex calls please! Call before 11pm. JL @ 565-3360or 277-6917.

*Continued on Page 124*

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the center

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*For more details*
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| | |
|---|---|
| **FEB 1** | **TUESDAY** |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| 7:30 PM | ROYAL COURT MEMBERSHIP MEETING |
| **FEB 2** | **WEDNESDAY** |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| 7:00 PM | FINANCIAL CLUB |
| 8:00 PM | CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS |
| **FEB 3** | **THURSDAY** |
| 3:00 PM | HIV TESTING/HEP A&B VACCINATION |
| 6:00 PM | YOUTH GROUP |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| **FEB 4** | **FRIDAY** |
| 7:00 PM | G-MEN |
| 7:00 PM | LESBIAN RAP GROUP |
| **FEB 5** | **SATURDAY** |
| 1:00 PM | CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS |
| **FEB 6** | **SUNDAY** |
| 11:00 AM | AA |
| **FEB 7** | **MONDAY** |
| 7:30 PM | ROYAL COURT BUNKO |
| **FEB 8** | **TUESDAY** |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| 7:00 PM | LEAGUE OF GENTLEMEN |
| **FEB 9** | **WEDNESDAY** |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| 8:00 PM | CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS |
| **FEB 10** | **THURSDAY** |
| 3:00 PM | HIV TESTING/HEP A&B VACCINATION |
| 6:00 PM | YOUTH GROUP |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| **FEB 11** | **FRIDAY** |
| 7:00 PM | G-MEN |
| 7:00 PM | LESBIAN RAP GROUP |
| **FEB 12** | **SATURDAY** |
| 1:00 PM | CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS |
| **FEB 13** | **SUNDAY** |
| 11:00 AM | AA |
| 12:00 PM | NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION |
| 2:00 PM | SENIOR SUNDAY |
| **FEB 15** | **TUESDAY** |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| 7:30 PM | SCI-FI CLUB |
| **FEB 16** | **WEDNESDAY** |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| 8:00 PM | CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS |
| **FEB 17** | **THURSDAY** |
| 3:00 PM | HIV TESTING/HEP A&B VACCINATIONS |
| 6:00 PM | YOUTH GROUP |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| **FEB 18** | **FRIDAY** |
| 7:00 PM | G-MEN |
| 7:00 PM | LESBIAN RAP GROUP |
| **FEB 19** | **SATURDAY** |
| 1:00 PM | CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS |
| **FEB 20** | **SUNDAY** |
| 11:00 AM | AA |
| 1:00 PM | NGRA BOARD MEETING |
| 7:00 PM | DELTA LAMBDA PHI FRATERNITY |
| **FEB 21** | **MONDAY** |
| 7:30 PM | GAY & LESBIAN BOOK GROUP |
| **FEB 22** | **TUESDAY** |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| **FEB 23** | **WEDNESDAY** |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| 7:00 PM | NEVADA OUTDOORS |
| 8:00 PM | CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS |
| **FEB 24** | **THURSDAY** |
| 3:00 PM | HIV TESTING/HEP A&B VACCINATION |
| 6:00 PM | YOUTH GROUP |
| 6:30 PM | AA |
| **FEB 25** | **FRIDAY** |
| 7:00 PM | G-MEN |
| 7:00 PM | LESBIAN RAP GROUP |
| **FEB 26** | **SATURDAY** |
| 1:00 PM | CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS |
| 5:00 PM | LV PRIME TIMERS |
| 7:00 PM | NGRA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING |
| **FEB 27** | **SUNDAY** |
| 11:00 AM | AA |
| 2:00 PM | NATIONAL LEATHER ASSOC EDUC |
| **FEB 28** | **MONDAY** |
| 7:30 PM | ROYAL COURT BOD MTG |

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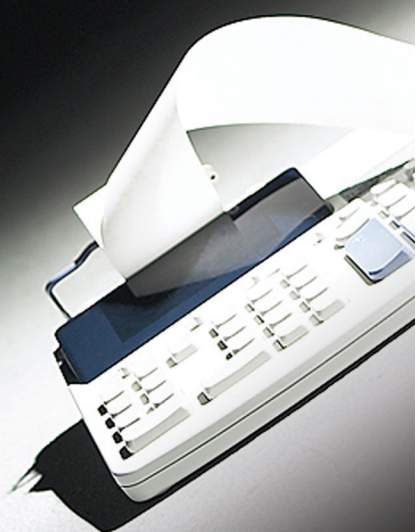
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# Qmarket

## PERSONALS: MEN SEEKING MEN, Continued

**Hispanics, Blacks or Asians**. Retired Jazz Pianist seeks young very slender to 150 lbs. (max) Possible relationship. Please call Larry at, 432-5832.

**Good looking "47" 6 ft-185**- looking for a guy who is nice looking, my age or younger, masculine and not overweight. Not looking for just sex with this ad. Looking for someone who wants to share a good life, a comfortable life, which I have. A completelymonogamousrelationship with someone who you can look into each other's eyes and know, all is ok, all is safe with love and joy. It may take time to reach that point, but I know you're out there. Thanks, GJ 565-3535. Please don't call if you're looking just for sex.

**My sensuous lips** and lovely fanny desire you while attired in silk and satin lingerie. Call anytime. Discretion a must. Safe and discrete. 253-1223 JoAnne.

**Is there a beautiful** Black/olive skin male under 40 out there who wants love caring and a good time with a WM 53 who is secure, loving and all you'll ever need. Why be lonely? No Jerks, genuine only. Bi, Closet ok. 630-2770.

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# THE GIFT OF MUSIC

By Scott Sherman

January 2005 brought a unique and generous gift to both the congregation of Northwest Community Church (NWCC) and the music community of Las Vegas. The story of this gift begins back in the summer of 2004 when I was newly called as Minister of Music for NWCC. I ran across an ad for a church organ in Indiana. After several years of opportunities back east in playing organs, I had thought the chance of this happening in Las Vegas was pretty slim to almost none.

Plymouth Church of Fort Wayne Indiana was getting ready to proceed with a multi-million dollar renovation of their sanctuary including replacement of their large organ. Their ad was placed requesting a donation of nearly twenty thousand dollars, but near the end of the ad was a statement that the church would be open to a donation. Donation was the only way this would work for NWCC, since that was my deal with Rev. Dr. David Krueger-Duncan, pastor of Northwest Community Church.

The subject of an organ for the church had come up my first week after accepting the church's call. The message back was clear. If I wanted an organ I'd have to find a donated one. An email was off to Indiana that day and a reply came a few weeks later asking why NWCC should receive this gift.

The proposal was drawn up and one of the key points that was made was that both Northwest Community Church of Las Vegas and Plymouth Church of Fort Wayne Indiana had a shared unique trait that set them apart from being just another church. Both churches are open and affirming congregations in the United Church Christ. These congregations are separated by thousands of miles, with one in the Bible belt, yet both held an open and warm welcome to gays and lesbians. Northwest's commitment to this is built right into their bylaws and is witnessed each and every Sunday in its sanctuary. Plymouth church's commitment was evidenced by it's donation of one of Las Vegas' largest organs to a congregation one seventh their size.

In September we received word that the organ was to be donated to Northwest Community Church and when could we pick up the seven hundred pound console, pedal board, four amp, and eighteen eighty-pound speakers? After the shock had worn off, some of the new challenges were presenting themselves. How would it get here and how would we get it into the sanctuary? With standard sized doors, the concept of getting the extra-large console inside was a challenge. Getting it here proved easy with some generous contributions and a borrowed corporate FEDEX account. Having a pastor with a construction fetish who was not afraid to tear down the back wall of the church with a fork truck also helped. Strong backs and willing hearts moved over two thousand pounds of equipment into the sanctuary.

On January 9 the organ, although still only partially installed, was used for its first service. The challenge has been incorporating an instrument that used to play in a room that seats seven hundred to a room seating two hundred.

Doug Lemmon, Allen Organ representative from Southern Nevada Music, is putting the final adjustments on the organ. You're cordially invited to the church to hear this magnificent instrument and plans are in the works now to have one of Las Vegas' many talented organists properly dedicate the organ this spring.

Northwest Community Church is located at www.lvucc.org on the web. Since this organ was given in love from one open congregation to another, it will be dedicated to all open and affirming congregations around the world who embrace all people in love and respect. **Q**

A QVEGAS SPECIAL REPORT

# Sri Lankan Gay Group Provides Disaster Relief

## 36 MEMBERS DEAD, 9 MISSING, 131 HOMELESS

By Rex Wockner

The latest information from the Sri Lankan gay organization Companions on a Journey is that 36 of its members were killed in the Dec. 26 tsunami, another nine remain unaccounted for, and 131 others were made homeless by the disaster.

The deaths occurred in the southern parts of the country while the homelessness problem is greatest in Dehiwala, Koralawella, Moratuwa and Mt. Lavinia, which are coastal suburbs of the capital, Colombo.

"Lots of gays discarded by their families due to their sexuality are living [in these suburbs] in clusters in slums," said Companions Executive Director Sherman de Rose. "Most of these people are illiterate, underemployed and earn their living through sex work and other odd jobs."

Companions is providing aid at its drop-in center in the form of dry rations and clothing. In addition, the organization has given money for temporary lodging, repairs, and cooking and cleaning supplies to 17 of its members.

The group also is involved in general relief work in Matara and Wadduwa, distributing clothes, clean drinking water, sanitation supplies, cooked food and dry rations.

"Many of us have lost family members, lovers, friends, neighbors and colleagues — not to mention the loss of possessions, homes, shelters, livelihood and other social spaces," said de Rose.

Some Companions members living in temporary camps have reported homophobic harassment, mostly cat calls and name-calling.

The good news is that "most of the gay people who are in temporary camps set up by local authorities for the victims of the tsunami are starting to rebuild their lives again," de Rose said. "Some have already moved out from these camps. But some others couldn't do that because they simply don't have anything or anybody to return to. The waves have destroyed everything that they have ever possessed."

The tsunami also destroyed many of Sri Lanka's gay-friendly venues, which tend to be in tourist areas frequented by Western Europeans. The nation has no out and open gay venues, de Rose said.

Members of the Sri Lankan "LGBTIQ" organization Equal Ground also are helping with disaster relief.

"The magnitude of the catastrophe that affected Sri Lanka on Boxing Day is something that is hardly describable," said Executive Director Rosanna Flamer-Caldera. "Members of Equal Ground have not only given of their time and energy to volunteer for relief efforts, but also have spent their own monies buying essentials like medicine and food, and donating it to the larger organizations sending the trucks to the north, east and south."

Flamer-Caldera said "many of the gay 'spaces' in the south and also in Negombo to the north of Colombo were damaged or wiped out by the tsunami.... this horrible, horrible disaster has knocked Sri Lanka so bad that it will take years and years to rebuild."

### INDONESIA

In Indonesia, gay groups have been unable to get any information from the most-affected areas.

"We don't know about the effect of the tsunami on gay people in Aceh and North Sumatra," said Dédé Oetomo, head of GAYa NUSANTARA. "We never had any organized contact in Aceh or the island of Nias in North Sumatra, which have been hardest-hit.

"Medan, the major city on the eastern coast with a sizeable gay population, was spared due to its distance from the epicenter," Oetomo said. "The good news is that gay organizations are involved in fundraising and collecting donations together with other community groups."

### THAILAND

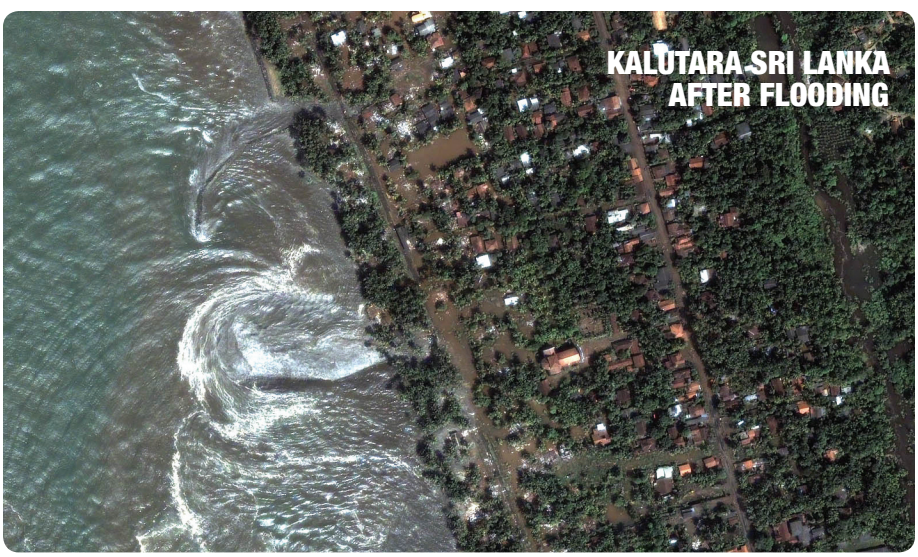
In Thailand, the gay resort of Phuket was hard-hit. It has many gay guest houses, restaurants, bars, shops and coffeehouses. But, according to Ulf Mikaelsson and Börje Carlsson, two Swedes who run the Connect Guest House and Coffee Bar, most of the gay businesses are "far enough from the beach to be untouched by the tragedy."

"The day of the tsunami disaster, the Connect, with its satellite television connection, was one of the only sources of news coverage of the tragedy as it unfolded," the couple wrote in an e-mail. "Scores of native and foreign gays gathered around the mounted television and ate, drank and bonded with each other as news came in as to the losses being sustained.

"Right now, the Phuket gay community is busy raising funds for those Thais and foreigners who suffered injury and loss due to the tidal wave," the couple said. "It will take some months to clean up and rebuild the beach area, but everything else on the island, 500 yards or more from the beach, is exactly as it was -- untouched by the tsunami. ... If you want to help us in Patong, do not cancel your tour to Patong Beach. Now more than ever we need your support."

Carlsson described his own experience of the tsunami.




*Images courtesy of DigitalGlobe.com.*

"It was a clear blue sky and we were having our morning coffee at Connect when we heard people screaming that the beach had disappeared," he said. "When I got close to the beach I heard more screaming and suddenly I saw this huge wave, taller than the palm trees, coming to crash down on us. ... We rushed into a hotel as the huge wave rolled into Patong Beach. The giant wave flooded the lobby within seconds and dragged furniture onto the street. I had to wrap myself around a pillar to avoid being swept away. As I was standing there, a car actually floated into the lobby and overturned because the current was so strong. The water was up to my chest and I was holding on to my boyfriend's hand because he can't swim."

"It's a strange feeling to walk from one side of Rath-U-Thit road to the other," Carlsson said. "On one side it looks like a war zone and on the other side nothing had changed." **Q**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**SRI LANKA**

Companions on a Journey, 46/50 Robert Drive, Robert Gunawardhane Mawatha, Colombo-06, Sri Lanka. Telephone: 011-94-11-251-4680. Fax: 011-94-11-555-7660. E-mail: coj@sri.lanka.net. Web: www.companions-lanka.org.

Equal Ground. Telephone: 011-94-11-268-2278. E-mail: graycat@sltnet.lk and donate@equal-ground.org. Web: www.equal-ground.org.

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# Qvibrations

By Rev. Bill Morin

## Aquarius
***(January 20-February 18)***
Not much "of note" goes on through the 7th. New Moon in your sign on the 8th really heightens career momentum, with no one getting in the way. Stress aspects make the 14th & 15th difficult to cope with. An old emotional "wound" is temporarily opened around the 21st. Your "steely resolve" makes things happen on the 26th.

## Pisces
***(February 19-March 19)***
Grousing & complaining won't do you much good on the 5th. Have facts and figures to back up any claims on the 13th. Pressures on the job reach a productive peak on the 19th. Don't allow an insensitive "ex" to rain on your parade. Extra cash comes in at month's end.

## Aries
***(March 20-April 19)***
Most of your best-laid plans are locked into place throughout February. Leave some room for last minute changes. A pushy authority figure pushes your buttons on the 11th. Avoid the usual "watering holes" on the 18th. An exciting new friend enters your life around the 28th.

## Taurus
***(April 20-May 20)***
You get to tie up so many loose ends this month. The financial picture brightens amazingly well due to the clearing of estates. That weight loss regimen continues to show terrific results. Getaway from the 18th-20th helps to heal some old wounds. Encourage your sweetie on the 26th.

## Gemini
***(May 21-June 21)***
Variety in all things continues to be your spice of life. There's not a dull day all month long, and that could be a problem. Those poor Gemini nerves need a rest now and then. Don't spread yourself too thin on the 16th. A long sought career shift could manifest itself on the 25th.

Channel 1 Releasing presents the models of Live and Raw (www.liveandraw.com) This month features Aquarius **Danny Vox.**

**Born:** February 3
**Sign:** Aquarius
**Hair:** Brown
**Eyes:** Blue
**Body Type:** Swimmer
**Position:** Top
**Videography:** "2nd Gear" and "Stone Fox"

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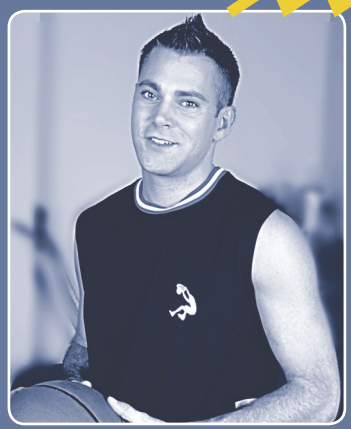
## Hot Aquarius



## Cancer
***(June 22-July 22)***
Doors seem to open & close all month long. Don't be resistant to changes, Cancer. They keep life from becoming "arthritic." After the 14th is best for seeking financial backing. Let your significant other have the last word on the 19th. The month ends with a much-needed getaway.

## Leo
***(July 23-August 22)***
The aura of success & magnetism just clings to you. People will be drawn to and hang on your every word. So, be sure to speak the absolute truth. Keep a low profile on the 9th. Let someone else win a "round" on the 13th. Planetary shift on the 23rd will test your humor & mettle.

## Virgo
***(August 23-September 22)***
Cupid will be shooting arrows at your heart all month long. A few can be ducked, but you can't avoid hitting a romantic bull's eye. Finances look to be a bit tight until the 12th. Refinancing is not the best option at this time. Social gala on the 26th proves to be delightful.

## Libra
(September 23-October 22)
It looks like you'll be calling the shots for most of February. It's only the last few days that things will come unglued. Don't make demands on the boss before the 15th. That new relationship is finding it's pace. Let it evolve naturally. Night out on the 20th proves enchanting.

## Scorpio
***(October 23-November 21)***
February gets off to such a roaring start, you might not even notice how it wimps out near the end. Don't make promises that can't be kept just to impress people. Avoid clashing with authority figures on the 18th. Curtail that natural urge to take charge of things on the 25th & 26th.

## Sagittarius
***(November 22-December 21)***
The month's pace is hectic but the rewards are so gratifying. Make sure not to overtax your physical energies, especially on the 10th & 26th. Finances look extremely solid and an old debt is finally paid off. Events/cycles culminate in a joyous celebration on the 27th.

## Capricorn
***(December 22-January 19)***
The month starts out with more than it's share of challenges. Since you thrive on this energy, it'll be like "making lemonade from lemons." Much smoother vibes take over on the 14th. Proposal for out of town business deal should be studied carefully before committing.

Rev. Morin has been a psychic channeler since the age of 5. For a private consultation, call (702) 893-0611 or email MCentaur35@aol.com. Catch Rev. Morin at the Pride Factory every Thursday 8 to 11 p.m.

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THE Love ISSUE

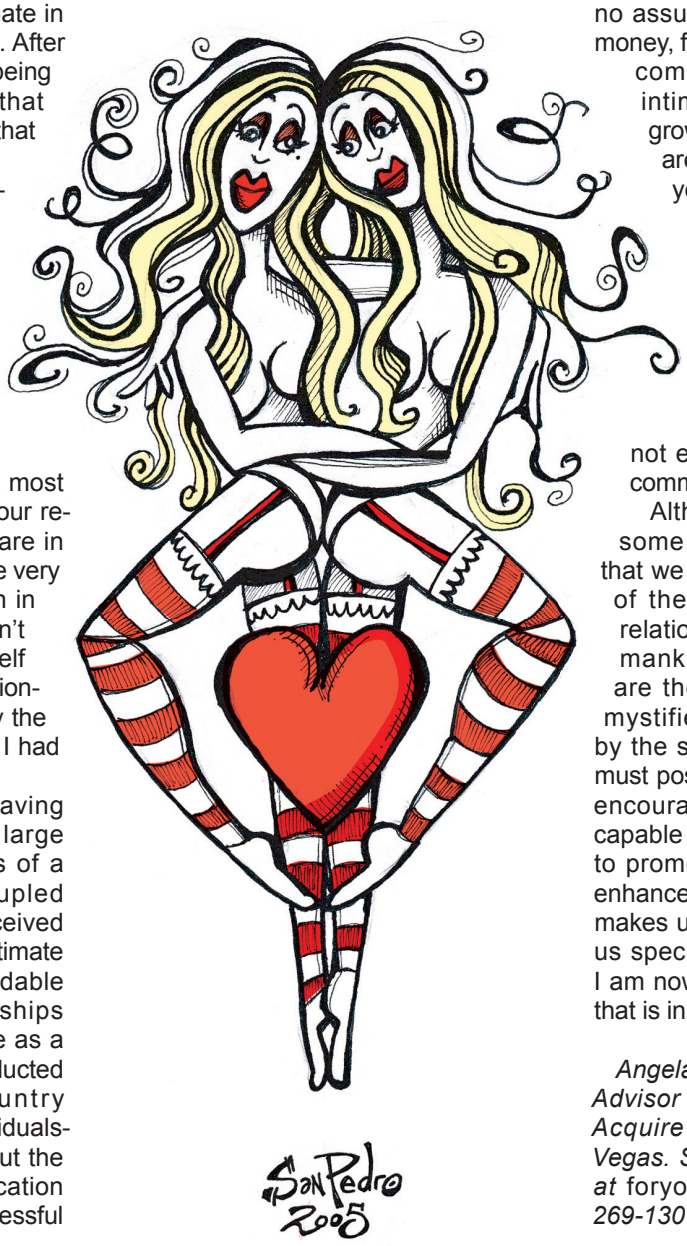
# The Language Of Love: Communication

By Angela Harvey

Love is in the air. I can remember falling in love. After I had finally come to terms with my sexuality, I was so excited about the possibility of being loved by and loving another woman. I can recall bragging to my straight girlfriends that I would be embarking on a truly equal relationship where I would have total understanding, unconditional love, respect, trust, and the ultimate in open and honest communication. After all, one of the greatest perks of being in a same-sex relationship is that there is an unspoken sameness that is shared and embraced. NOT!

After being mystified at the reality that my lesbian relationship was not only short of my expectations, but it appeared that it was more difficult to relate to another woman than I ever thought. I didn't know what the problem was. I had gotten along with my mother, my sister and I could tell my aunt anything. I quickly realized what most of us come to know, and that is our relationships are not easier; they are in fact a little more difficult with some very unique challenges. I've not been in a single relationship where I didn't have to define and explain myself as a woman, a lesbian, a professional, a parent and an individual. By the way, all of these things I thought I had in common with my partner.

I guess I went wrong with having expectations supersized with large assumptions. The uniqueness of a homosexual relationship, coupled with the fact that none of us received adequate (if any) lessons about intimate love, makes challenges unavoidable in our relationships. Relationships are one of my areas of expertise as a personal growth advisor. I've conducted workshops around the country speaking to and motivating individuals-especially in our community-about the importance of honest communication and how essential that is to a successful relationship. Communication is the key to understanding and embracing our uniqueness as individuals and as a couple, while making that uniqueness work for us and not against us. Being in a same-sex relationship poses many more issues, as many of us are still unsure about whom we are, what we want and why we exist.



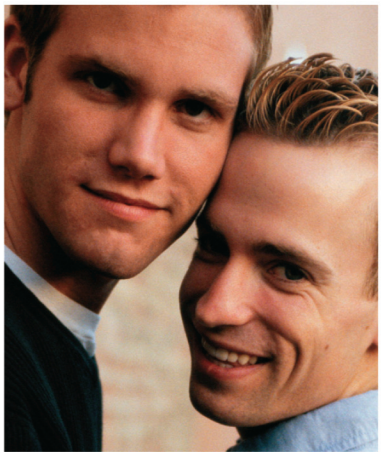

My conclusion: this relationship thing is work. I'm often heard saying, "You don't go from work to home but from work to work, and if you are not working as hard at home as you do at work, it isn't going to work." We've probably all come to know that although we are in same-sex relationships, there can be no assumptions made about the sex, money, family, long term goals, honesty, communication, children, work, intimacy, quality time, personal growth, and outness. The chances are slim to none that just because you are two women or two men in one relationship that you will think, feel or behave the same. Not all women are affectionate, not all men are unemotional, not all women want children, not all men are dishonest, everyone isn't gay and proud, and not everyone is able to effectively communicate their feelings.

Although our relationships pose some challenges, I firmly believe that we are capable of creating some of the most loving and nurturing relationships known to woman and mankind due to the fact that we are the same sex. I am no longer mystified, but instead empowered by the strength and courage that we must possess to be who we are. I am encouraged by the oneness we are capable of displaying as a community to promote equality. And I'm further enhanced by the knowledge that what makes us different is also what makes us special and that makes us strong. I am now open, very open to the love that is in the air. **Q**

*Angela Harvey is a Personal Growth Advisor with Let's T.A.L.K. (Together Acquire Lasting Knowledge) in Las Vegas. She can be reached via email at* foryourmind702@cs.com *or 702-269-1301.*

*Illustration: NickSanPedro.com*





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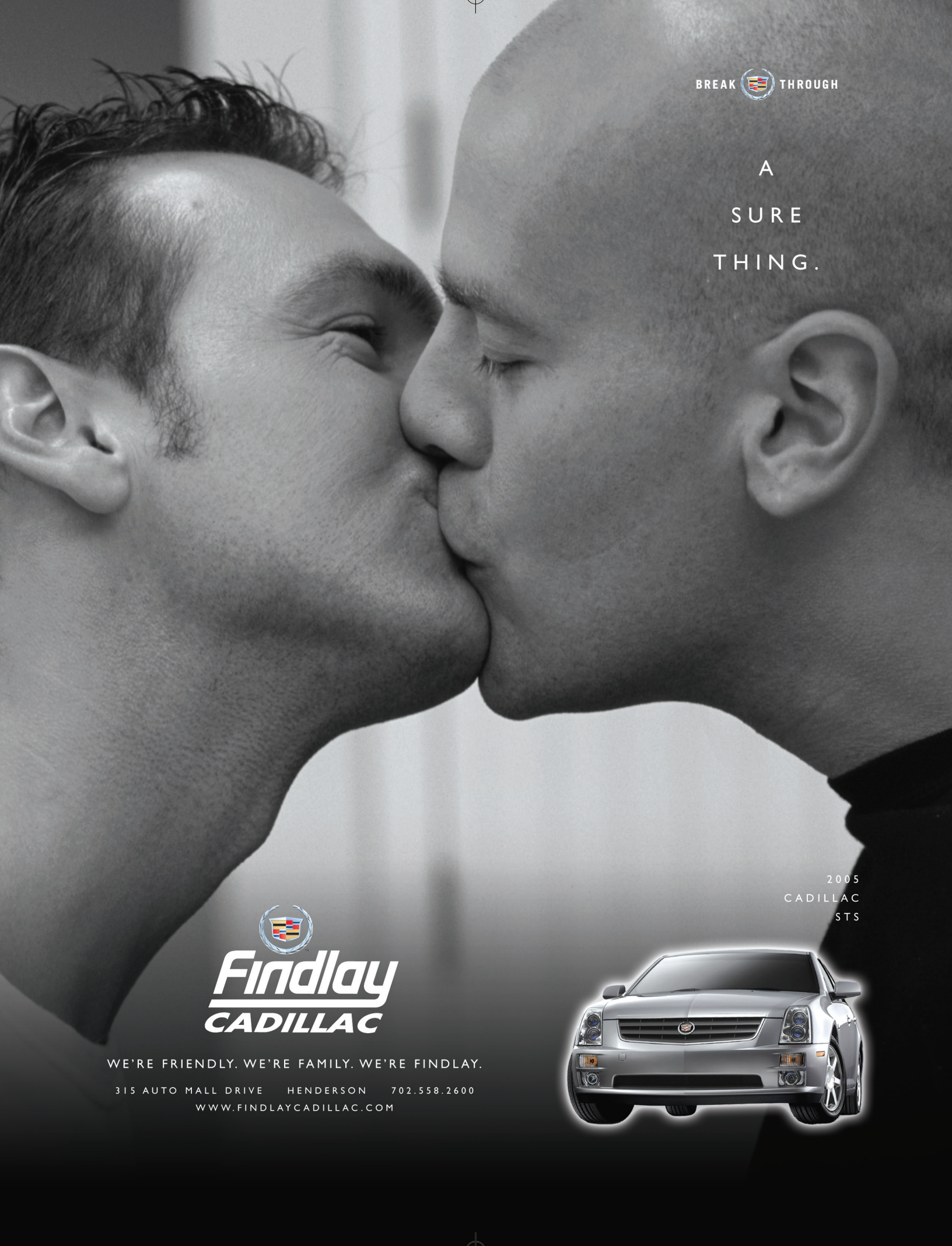
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