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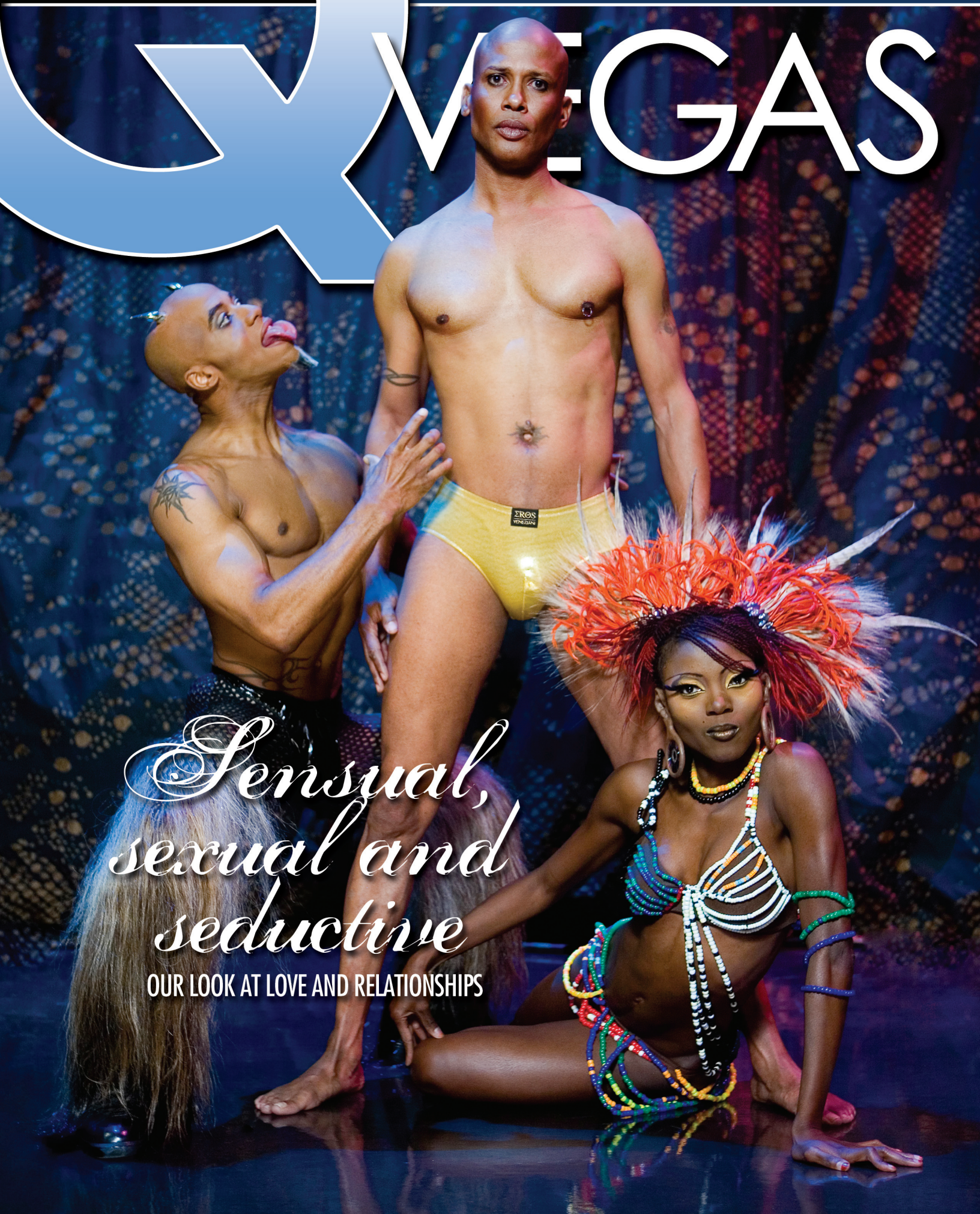

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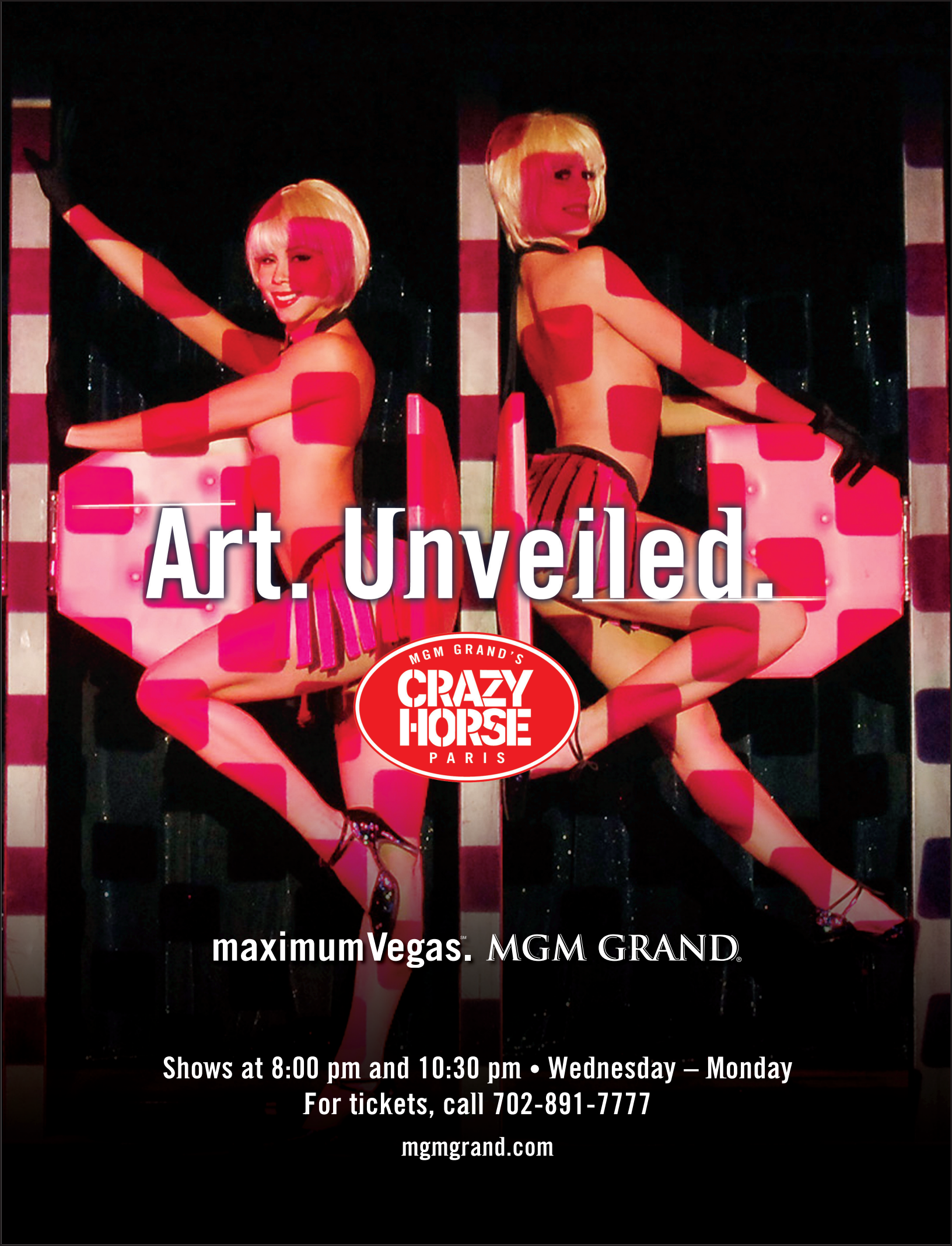
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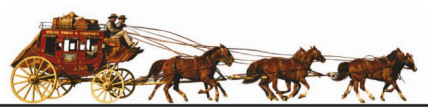

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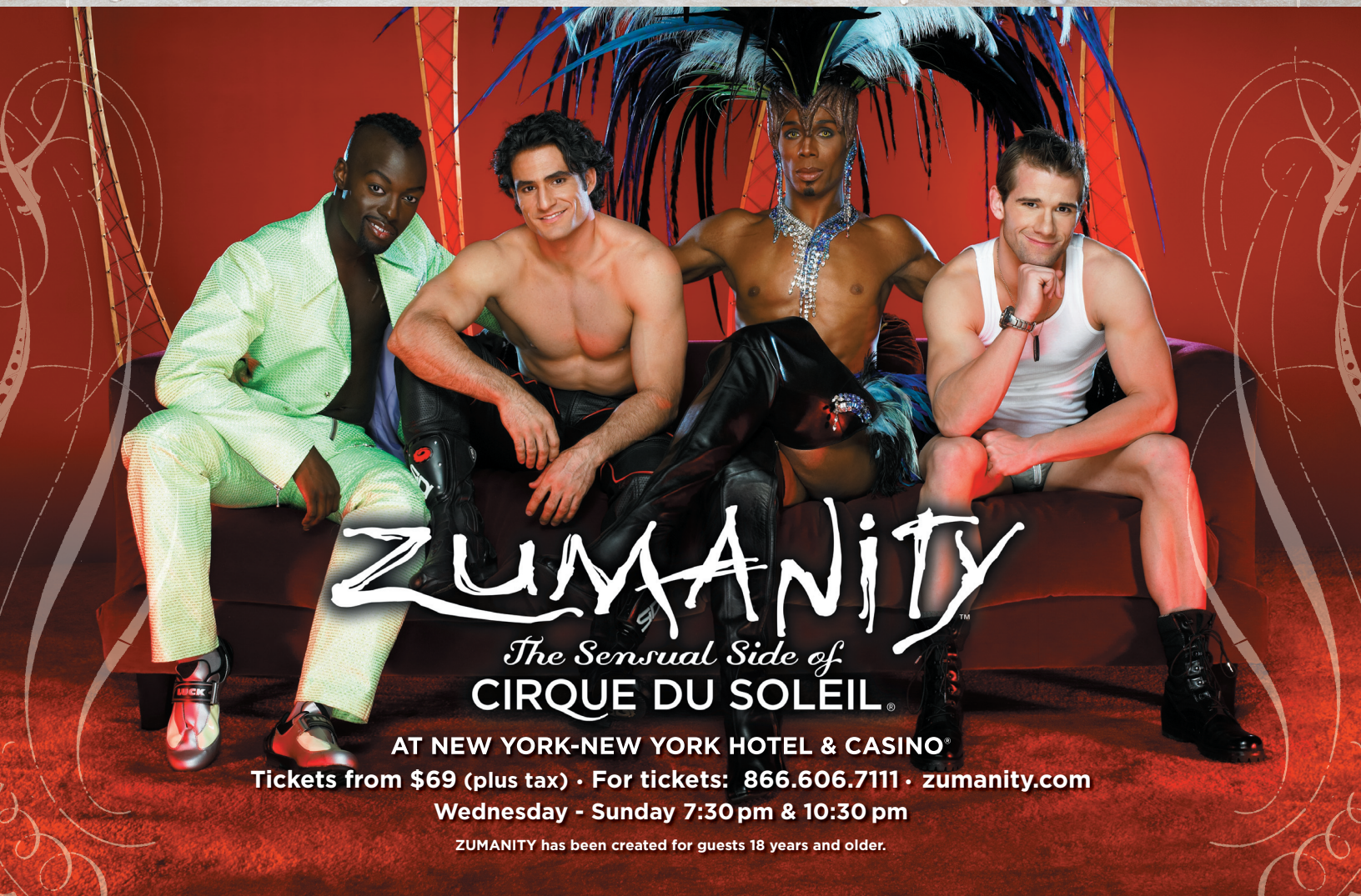

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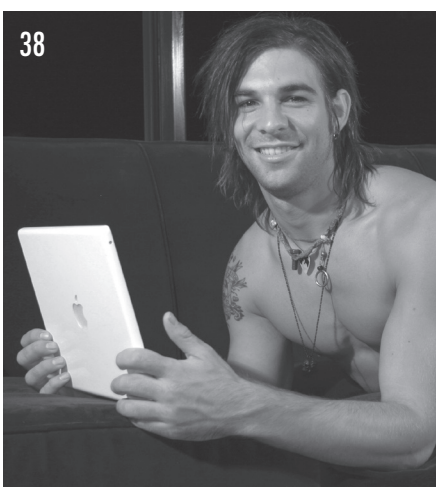



QCONTENTS

13 COMMUNITY

13 **Out of the Blue**
A review of the recently renovated all-gay Blue Moon Resort.

16 **The Truth is Out There**
Shawn Kessler of TruthFinder Investigations reveals all about the world of private investigation.

18 **Now Serving *SPAMALOT***
The humor and antics of Monty Python's *SPAMALOT* invades Las Vegas this March.

20 **Love for Hire**
Three male escorts tell all about the thriving sex industry.

33 LIVING

33 **No Fats, No Fems, No Dates**
Do you have a dating type? If so, you may be missing out on possible love.

36 **I Do. I Don't. I Ain't Sure.**
Gays and marriage—is it really a right fit?

38 **A Different Kind of D-List**
Are you on MySpace? Well, check out this new similar site for the urban gay hipster.

40 **Sappho's Mulatto Nest**
In honor of Black History Month, Danaeca Scott explores African-American lesbians who have made strides in the community.

55 IMAGE

55 **His and His...Hers and Hers**
A Valentine's Day gift guide for the special man or woman in your life.

66 **Simply INTRIGUEing**
K-Y Brand offers a brand-new, scintillating lubricant.

71 ENTERTAINMENT

71 **Queen of the Night**
A profile of Crystal Woods (aka Whitney Houston in superstar show, *La Cage*).

74 **All Porned Out**
A week of porn, porn, porn in Las Vegas.

76 **Diddy's Girls**
Music Editor Arjan Timmermans chats with *Making The Band 3* superstars, Danity Kane.

ON THE COVER

Model Cali is seduced by *Zumanity*'s Ebon and Wassa, from this month's Qfashion, "ConQuered." Cali wears metallic gold, French cut briefs by Eros Veneziani ($69.95), available from The Rack. Photo by Serge Nikolich. Cali appears courtesy of Impact Models. Cover design by M. Cory Burgess.



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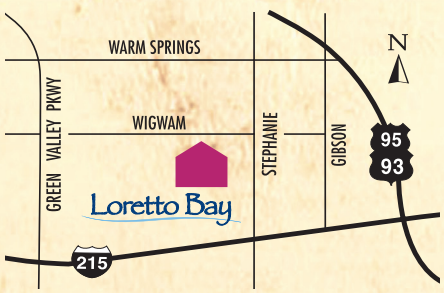



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OFF TO A GOOD START



Here we go: 2007 is off to a roaring start. Congress returned to the people, and the president finally has to answer for his decisions. Oh, Joy! Here at *QVegas* we are planning to do something special for this year's Pride. In 2007, we are going to concentrate on the most important factor of any Gay Pride in any city. That's right—*the people*. Over the years many different people have stepped up to the plate and made a difference in the community. In the past we have found ourselves concentrating on the fluff of Pride: the entertainment, the venues, the parade and the exhibitors. Well, out with the fluff and in with the substance. There is a lot of work to be done, but in this, our 29th year, we at Q are going to feature 29 people who have made a difference in this city. Look out for *QVegas* in May; it will be different and very, very special. You will need to make sure you get a copy because they will fly off the shelves.

Now that we have a more reasonable Congress with the majority in the hands of more caring people, 2007 could be the year when we may see some real advances in basic human rights. Minimum wage may actually begin to look realistic instead of being little better than subsistence living. The health-care debate may actually get some attention instead of the privileged few sticking their head in the sand and talking from there asses about choice being the crucial factor. How about *some* health care instead of none at all? That seems to be the choice everyone wants.

As for improved opportunities for the LGBT community in this city, we'll have to wait and see. Be sure of one thing though: The advances made at the last election are ephemeral to say the least and may be blown away for good if the usual lethargy in our community about politics sets in. My advice to everyone (if I may be so bold) is to make 2007 a year of preparedness. Be ready in 2008 to ensure that the Republican Party, with all its religious zealots, carnivorous capitalists, homophobic bigots and hypocritical—do as I say and not as I do—representatives, is consigned to the political wilderness where they belong. Wise up to the reality of whom makes the decisions that affect your life and be prepared to make them accountable at the ballot box where you should plan to be in 2008.



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Q

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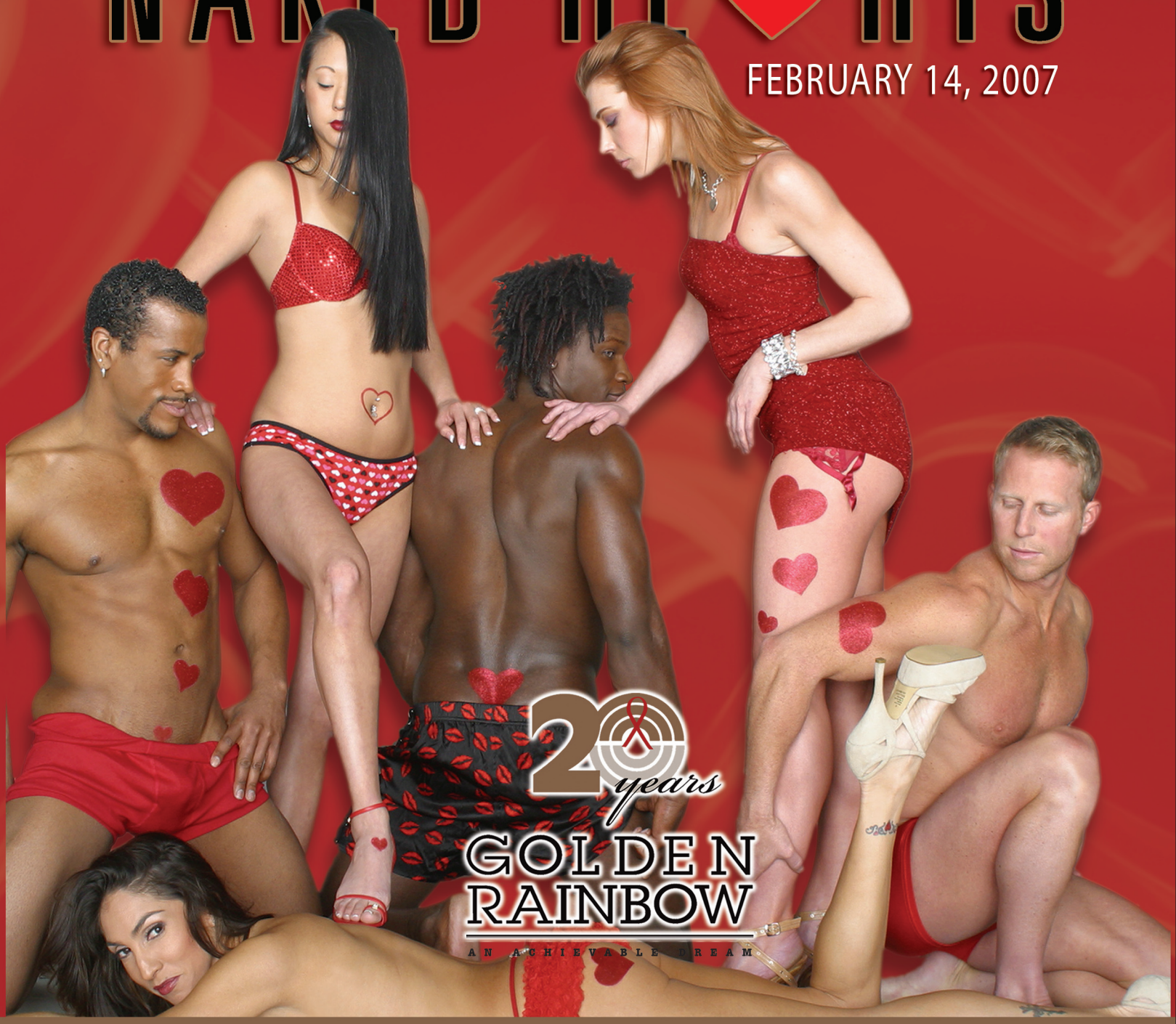

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OUT OF THE BLUE

BY JON AFALLA

From the outside, it doesn't look like much. But on the inside of the Blue Moon Resort, Las Vegas' only all-gay hotel, is one of the city's best kept secrets. And after completing recent renovations, the Blue Moon is better than ever.

The lobby of the resort is just as welcoming as its staff. With comfortable couches and rack stands complete with various community magazines (as well as *Instinct*), the lobby is a great place to lounge while waiting for a cab or greeting visitors. An Internet lounge located on the first floor is also a great place to sit back and relax. Inside the comfortable atmosphere you can surf the Net (perfect for quick e-mail checks and chatting with locals), watch programming on a wall-mounted, crystal-clear TV and enjoy a free continental breakfast on tables near the back.

The walls of the hallway—as well as the rooms—are coated with fresh, vibrant paint. Coupled with a few polished oak tables holding up vases of flowers, the halls of the resort feel quite regal.

At the end of the first-floor hall, a dark video room awaits. Inside the black curtained room, two large mounted TVs and a scented candle illuminate the space. Both televisions play various gay adult films throughout the day. Rounding out the sensual atmosphere are hard, black leather

Continued on Page 14



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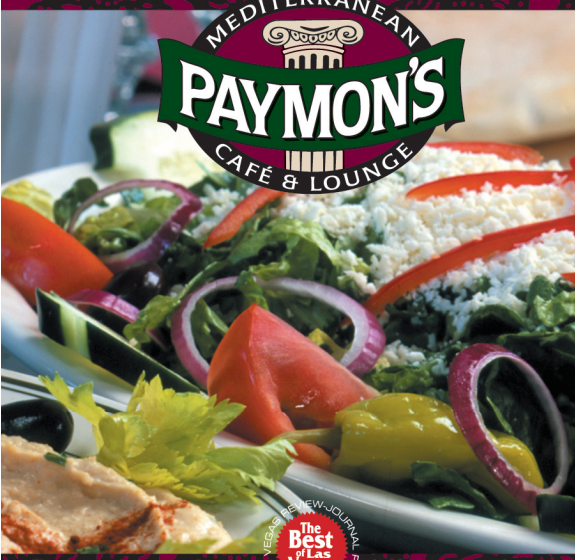

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OUT OF THE BLUE

Continued from Page 13

seats that hug the walls giving viewers a glimpse of what's on from every angle. The room oozes sex. Literally.

Adjacent to the video room is a dark steam room. Sit back and relax while the steam soothes and forces out a good sweat. The zero visibility at night also makes this spot perfect for a good cruise.

Outside, a beautiful lagoon-style pool perfectly complements the interior. A waterfall shoots out crystal-blue water continuously from an immaculate stone structure. Lying out in the sun while listening to the sound of cascading water is the perfect way to kill a few hours (when it's not below zero, that is). Beneath the waterfall is a cozy alcove complete with hot tub—a perfect place to relax during the cold winter months. A mix of dance, house and contemporary hits also filters through outdoor speakers, enhancing the poolside experience.

The newly renovated rooms are the icing on the cake. The parlor suites seem more like a small apartment. When you walk in, a small parlor awaits. Inside, you can find a leather L-shaped couch, a square black table and a polished black oak dresser—perfect for storing shirts and pants—beneath a mounted TV. A small refrigerator sits next to the dresser—convenient for any visitor looking to store cold drinks or dinner leftovers. The TV, identical to the one found in the Internet lounge, comes with five free stations of gay porn, Logo, a station that plays *Queer as Folk* episodes on loop and select cable stations. Free porn and Lifetime movies—a gay man's dream come true! From the parlor, double doors open up into the bedroom, where a King-sized bed positioned in front of an oversized, plush headboard creates a veritable sex shrine. With low, sensual lighting and melt-against-your-skin sheets, you won't want to leave your bed. The bedroom also comes with a spacious, walk-in closet, a desk—great for setting up that laptop—and another mounted TV. The bathroom is just as elegant as the rest of the room. Near the sink you'll find a convenient two-tiered mounted stand to place your toiletries. Or bottles of lube. The shower also sports a spacious tub if you want to indulge yourself with a bubble bath. The deluxe suites aren't as spacious but just as charming. The only major differences are the lack of a parlor and the TV resting on the dresser rather than being mounted on the wall. A poolside view is also a must-get.

My one complaint—and complaint is a stretch—is the lack of electrical outlets. But, then again, not everyone travels with an iPod charger, a laptop charger, a cell phone charger, a Nintendo DS charger and a host of other electronic gadgets. What can I say? I'm Asian.

Blue Moon Resort is located at 2651 Westwood Dr. For rates and availability, call toll free at (866) 798-9194 or (702) 361-9099. For more information, log onto to www.bluemoonlv.com. **Q**



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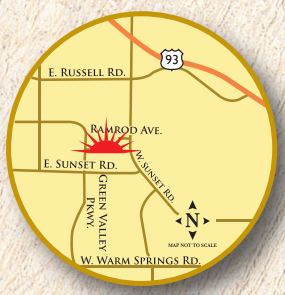

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THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

By Jon Afalla

When Shawn Kessler was in high school, he saw something on *The Oprah Winfrey Show* that caught his eye. She had a private investigator on the show, and Kessler was impressed with the work that he did. "I was like, man, that sounds like great work. You're helping somebody, and it's kind of a different day, every day," he recalls.

So he picked up the phone and called around to every investigator company in the phone book, wanting to learn every facet of private investigation. Finally, he found one company that would train him personally. And after 12 years, the rest was history.

Different skills are learned depending on the type of work the investigator specializes in, Kessler says. Studying under a domestic investigation specialist, he learned how to tail someone, how to use camera equipment and how to make cold calls—calls necessary to make in order to find out certain information. "I just moved my way through each thing. I would move on to the next so I would become an expert in everything."

And after honing his investigation skills and learning every aspect of the business—repossessions, process serving, undercover work, and infidelity—he decided it was time to start his own business. So just over a year ago, Kessler launched his own private investigation company, TruthFinder Investigations, LLC, specializing in infidelity.

It starts with a phone call. "Usually somebody calls me with a problem," Kessler explains. "We just ask them, 'tell me a little bit about your situation.' And they say, 'I think my spouse is cheating on me because he's coming home late from work.'" Other signs of infidelity, he says, include smelling like cologne or perfume, wearing different kinds of undergarments, hiding cell phone bills and coming home late from work. But what usually tips people off, Kessler adds, is breaking out of one's daily routine.

After Kessler is contacted, he tries to break down what services clients need. "We try to gear them towards an avenue that's best to take and for their situation," he says. Services offered range from standard surveillance to reverse bank account searches. "We can do a lot of things. If the spouse—if that name is on that vehicle—we can do a tracking device on the car, then it's legal to do that. Whatever they need us to do basically," he says.

About 85 percent of the people that contact TruthFinder Investigations are women. A large portion of clients is heterosexual wives and husbands, but gay and lesbian customers call in as well. "We handle everybody—whoever calls us," Kessler says. "They're just like you and me. They're in a regular relationship with somebody that they care about, and their partner strays from the norm. They start getting this gut feeling and they sit back for a while and watch it happen. Then they say, 'I should do something about this.' We get men. We get women. It's all the same. You get cheated on, you get cheated on, and it hurts."

When people cheat, Kessler says, they morph into teenagers. "They're real happy-go-lucky, and they'll drive their date to the parking lot and make out with them in the parking lot in the mall. You know, stuff you'd do in high school. I'd have some funny ones like that. Windows are all steamy and you gotta film it."

Gay cheaters are harder to track, he says. "It's harder to catch them because a lot of times they do it behind closed doors. So if they are a couple, they are real cautious."

People are usually emotional from the first phone call, but Kessler tries to treat everyone with respect. He transforms into a veritable counselor. "I listen to their story. I try to get deep into their situation to try and help them because that's what I'm here to do. Of course I'm in the business to make money, but I do care about providing a qual-



"I think I have a different outlook on people in general. I'm a little more cautious. There are a lot of scumbags out there."

ity service and helping them," he says.

People that contact him react differently to their results. "You get a lot of 'thank-you's' and 'good job' and that kind of stuff. They're disappointed. Some people cry. Some people are pissed off. Some people are just numb to it. It's a touchy situation and you got to kind of handle it in a certain way."

Currently Kessler has four other investigators that work with him locally. TruthFinder Investigations also selects two to four investigators from all 50 states as well as select countries.

TruthFinder Investigations also runs a Web site dedicated to anything regarding infidelity: www.infidelity.com. "You can find a lawyer on there, you can advertise on there, we're gonna have pay-for-click advertising, and if you want to create a social group—basically people who have been through infidelity or [have] problems in their marriage—you can get some advice or talk to somebody on that," Kessler says.

Does his work ever get to him? "Not so much anymore. But I think I have a different outlook on people in general. I'm a little more cautious. There are a lot of scumbags out there."

For more information visit www.TruthFinderInvestigations.com or call (702) 444-9667. Also visit www.infidelity.com. **Q**



Photos of the Broaday and First National Tour casts by Joan Marcus.





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1969 is remembered as the year that man walked on the moon. The year that Elvis Presley took up residency in Las Vegas. And the year that *Monty Python's Flying Circus* first aired on BBC television.

2007 will go down in history as the year that the inspired lunacy of Monty Python came to The Grail Theater at Wynn Las Vegas with the smash-hit show Monty Python's *SPAMALOT*.

Following their famous comedy show, which aired from 1969 to 1974, Monty Python—a group of British actors and writers (and one American)—changed the face of comedy with their series of popular motion pictures and live tours.

Monty Python's *SPAMALOT* has been honored with dozens of awards, including the Grammy Award for Best Original Cast Recording and three Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The production has been proclaimed "the world's funniest show" by audiences and critics around the world. Joel Siegel of WABC-TV and *Good Morning America* said, "I loved every minute! They're going to have to reupholster the seats at the theater once a week—that's how hard you'll be laughing."

With *SPAMALOT*, writer Eric Idle has created a raucous live spectacle that tells the legendary tale of King Arthur, the Knights of the Round Table and their quest for the Holy Grail. The show features lusty maidens, dancing divas, a killer rabbit and

Continued on Page 82

Love FOR HIRE

By Erica Grimaldo

Love, romance and passion is what Valentine's Day is all about, but not everyone has a sweetheart lined up. Some prefer to *buy* their dates. And in Sin City, finding a hired companion is as easy as walking down the Strip and accepting one of the many flyers shoved in your face, or looking under the right headings in the phone book.



"My customers call me because they can get exactly what they want—without any drama," said "Raul," who described himself as a 21-year-old "young, hot, Boricuan lover." Raul is one of many "entertainers" who can be found listed under "body rubs" and "escorts" in several local magazines. Another is "Jack," who said he is a "27-year-old Italian man with dark hair and green eyes." Both declined to disclose their full names during phone interviews. They said most of their customers are tourists who hire them for a couple of hours of "private entertainment" at their Strip hotels. "I get a lot of bi-curious, married men who come down here and decide 'Hey, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. I'm going to live my fantasy!'" Jack said.

"Ray," who described himself as 25, "blond and fit," and whose voice and attitude are reminiscent of the bartender played by Woody Harrelson in *Cheers* said about half of his customers are regulars who hire him a couple of times per month; the other half are Johns who find him through magazine- and online ads. "I think I get a lot of repeat business because I'm easy to get along with, and I love older men," he said. "I'm very friendly and I don't bite. Unless you pay me to."

All three men said their hourly rates start between $100 and $150 and increases depending on the services their

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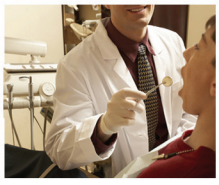





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VEGAS GAY TIMES

Issue No. 4 September, 1978 FREE

FOCUS

Finding a "gay" rock band is not at all difficult after the glitter rock phenomenon of the early seventies - but finding one that actually sings good gay songs is an exciting event, particularly when it's as dynamic as the Tom Robinson Band (TRB). For a closer look, see page three.

We're out a week early this month (did you notice?) for just one reason, and that reason happens on Tuesday, September 12. It's Nevada's primary election, and it's one in which your vote could make a big difference in the way gays live in this state. Whether you follow our voting recommendations (page three) or select your own choices from the ACLU's Human Rights Survey (special insert), just putting in your say on election day can't but help.

And, finally, our LETTERS column is starving for lack of nourishment. Please write, OK?

CONTENTS

Editorial - - - - - 2
Newsfronts - - - - 2
Tom Robinson Band - 3
Voters' Guide - - - 3
Around the Silver State - - - - - - 4

VEGAS GAY TIMES is a nonprofit, noncommercial newsletter published by and for the gay community of Las Vegas in conjunction with the Human Rights Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the staff and do not necessarily reflect those of the ACLU. The appearance of any person by name or photo is not necessarily an indication of the sexual orientation of that person.

'In the Can' for Over a Year

NBC AIRS GAY MOVIE

"Sergeant Matlovich Versus the United States Air Force," a made-for-television drama about a much-decorated officer discharged for being gay, finally received an airing at 9 p.m. on Monday, August 21. Based on the life of Leonard Matlovich, who made national headlines in 1975 with his struggle to remain in the Air Force after coming out to a superior officer, the film was shot in the summer of 1977 and originally scheduled for NBC's fall season. Matlovich has since become active in the gay rights movement since his return to civilian life, and is currently a member of the National Gay Task Force.

The film, produced by Tomorrow Entertainment on a commission from NBC, was premiered on June 19 of this year by the American Film Institute at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center. Allegedly the film's broadcast was delayed by the transfer of one of its prime supporters at NBC to a new position and his replacement by a less sympathetic vice-president for programming. Finally, following an inquiry in July by Boston's Gay Community News, network public relations spokesperson Jim Murray announced that the network "made some revisions in the August schedule," and decided to air the film. Matlovich himself has charged that the network may not be promoting the film adequately.

Production of the film, starring Academy Award nominee Brad Dourif as Matlovich, was hampered by a number of rather confining restrictions. The network, for example, refused to permit any scenes depicting two men kissing, and this and other inhibitions are probably to blame for the fact that what ten years ago would have been considered a shockingly daring film actually wound up being considered rather dull by most critics. Very little of the film actually depicted any homosexuals other than Matlovich himself, most of them appearing in a very brief (and rather colorless) scene in a gay bar.

Matlovich, meanwhile, has taken his case through several Air Force boards of appeal and is currently awaiting a decision from the Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia.

Sex Ed Film Under Attack

Threatening to use armed security guards to evict anyone attempting to speak up, Senate candidate Bill Baker (R - S.D.3) spoke to an estimated crowd of 400 at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Thursday, August 17, attacking the award-winning sex-education film "About Sex" as "animalistic and garbage." The meeting, sponsored by a group calling itself the Christian Coalition, preceded Baker's remarks with a screening of the film.

The Christian Coalition, which numbers about 45 members, was founded by Baker. Baker is currently executive director. The organization, which is not registered with the Secretary of State, advertised the screening through Las Vegas clergymen and Stop-ERA advocates.

The film in question has been used in sex-education classes across the nation. It received an award in 1973 at the American Film Festival in New York City, and has been distributed in several foreign countries. The basic point of the film is tolerance for the differing sexuality of others. Included are discussions of homosexuality, abortion and masturbation.

Most of Baker's remarks were of a generally anti-sex nature ("The answer for VD and abortion is 'don't get in bed unless you are husband and wife'"), though at one point Baker did insinuate that passage of "the amendment" would legalize homosexuality.

The meeting has stirred considerable controversey, both because of its purpose and numerous irregularities about the organization itself. Bil-

(continued on p.2)

U.S. Government vs. "Gaysweek"

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS - The Patent and Trademark Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce has rejected an application to register the name "Gaysweek" because the proposed trademark was "immoral or scandalous."

In a letter addressed to Gaysweek general counsel Michael J. Lavery, C.J. Condro, examiner for the Patent Office, wrote, "registration is refused because the mark is considered to consist of or comprise immoral or scandalous matter."

"It is remarkable that anyone, even the federal government, could find the word 'gay' to be immoral or scandalous in this day and age," said Lavery. "Certainly Gaysweek intends to challenge this medieval attitude."

The examiner found the proposed trademark acceptable in all other respects but requested "one complete issue of the publication from which the specimens filed were obtained."

Alan Dell, Gaysweek publisher, said, "I'm surprised, but again I'm not. You can't take anything for granted."

Some idea of what the Patent Office considers acceptable may be gleaned from the fact that Patent No. 2,026,077 was issued during the Thirties to James True, inventor of a short rounded club labeled a "kike-killer."

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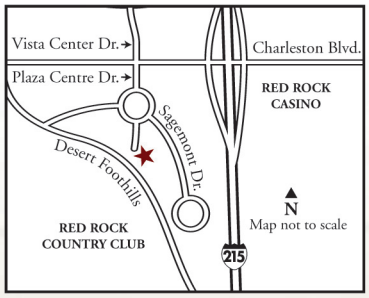

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BY JON AFALLA

BRIAN MARCUS ▪ RENAISSANCE HOTEL

WORKING THROUGH THE BUSINESS

Brian Marcus has been in the hotel business for 24 years. Over the past two decades, he's worked for Hyatt International. He's worked for three standing restaurants. And now he's going into his third year as the director of food and beverage for the Renaissance Hotel (3400 Paradise Rd.).



BRIAN MARCUS, DIRECTOR OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE FOR THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL

He learned the business by working through the business. After attending San Francisco State University, Marcus transferred to Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. "That's where I first started getting into the business because I needed a part-time job, and I got a job polishing glasses and carrying ice between the hotel bars and just really got hooked on the whole hotel business," Marcus says. "And I've taken culinary courses here and there, mostly overseas, and I've been very privileged for working with some of the best chefs in the world and working with some of the best food and beverage directors and general managers and getting information from them."

After working in nine different countries—mostly with Hyatt International—Marcus picked up as many languages as he could. "Well, every country I worked in, I made it a point to learn the language so I could assimilate into their culture and their way of doing things rather than forcing people to assimilate to me." Over the years, he's picked up Japanese, Hebrew, Spanish and a little bit of French.

As the food and beverage director, 40-year-old Marcus is responsible for the operations of the food and beverage division, which includes ENVY: The Steakhouse, the Café, room service, hotel kitchen and banquets. He is also in charge of all other aspects of operations: financial, marketing, public relations and creativity. "Obviously I do that with a phenomenal team of people," he assures.

ENVY: The Steakhouse, the hotel's flagship fine-dining restaurant, tries harder than any of the other steakhouses in Las Vegas, Marcus says. "Because we are not a big, mainstream major player in one of the huge mega resorts, business matters a little bit more. When you go to some of the other restaurants, you're just another diner that comes in. We take what we do very seriously. It truly makes a difference for us," he adds. "We cater a lot to the local market. … Here, we've got regular guests that come once a week."

Marcus adds that ENVY invites all walks of life to dine with them. "We are a restaurant where anybody and everybody is welcome. There was quite an eccentric after-dinner party for a couple of drag queens at a commitment ceremony. And they had a great time at the restaurant. Being in Vegas, we're not in San Francisco or West Hollywood or New York. There's not every restaurant in the city where people could walk in and feel comfortable. We, on the other hand—anything goes here."

Through his work at ENVY, Marcus does a lot of outreach within the community. "We were the first people last year—as well as the first people this year—to sign up with Dining Out For Life," he says. The restaurant has also done charitable work for Positively Kids, an organization that is trying to build a facility to take care of southern Nevada's medically fragile children, and cut a check for approximately $30,000 toward Hurricane Katrina relief. "For all different charities across the board, in any city I've ever worked in, I've always tried to pick up a couple really worthwhile charities to work with—not so much on a national level but more on a local level—that impacts the city. We've picked some pretty good ones here."

Outside of work, Marcus enjoys skiing, shopping, spending time with family and friends and cooking. His favorite cuisines are French and Asian. "I do all the cooking at home," he says. "Not here (Renaissance Hotel), though. My chef would probably be afraid to let me in the kitchen [laughs]."

Where does he see himself in 10 years? "Hopefully retired. Having my own little place—nothing major. I don't know where yet. Something where it's warm all year long," Marcus muses. "I have no aspirations to be the CEO of Marriott or anything like that." **Q**



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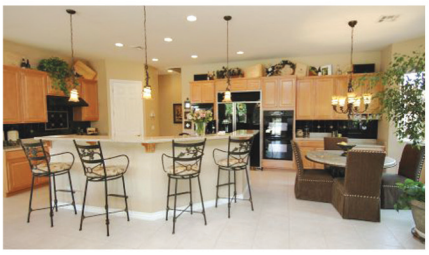

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BY JON AFALLA

PAULA SADLER ▪ A HARMONY NAIL SPA

BEAUTY INSIDE AND OUT

After graduating from high school, Paula Sadler didn't know what she wanted to do with her life. So when a friend suggested beauty school, she entertained the idea. "I've always been interested in beauty and fashion and personal hygiene, so it seemed somewhat natural," she says.

She started school in 1997, but withdrew several times from the program. "I didn't know if I really wanted to do it, so what usually takes people four to five months took me four to five years." When 2002 rolled around, Sadler was practically finished with school. All that stood in her way was an $800 balance owed to the school, which was necessary to settle in order to take her licensing test. She lacked the money needed and her window of opportunity was getting smaller. Then a "divine intervention" occurred.

A fellow transgender woman—someone Sadler had only met once yet had profoundly inspired—called her and left her a message. After Sadler informed her friend of her situation, she was given the money to pay off her schooling. "She said, 'you know what? I'd really like to help you. I really want to see you succeed.'"

Sadler also needed $75 to pay for her licensing test. So after praying for a miracle, she received a check in the mail for the needed amount from a furniture consignment store she had forgotten about. "I really felt it was divine intervention," Sadler says. "And the way everything fell into place—I knew it was the right thing to do."

After finishing school, the 31-year-old passable woman worked on commission at Beauty Palace. She eventually rented a small room in the back of Charm Salon where she did nails. At the end of that year, she decided to go on her own. So, she started up her Web site and searched around for a location. "And a good friend of mine, who happened to be gay, told me about the location I'm in now," Sadler says. "So I went and checked it out, and the rent was about the same price for the whole space that I was paying for the room rental. The difference would be a little more insurance and utilities. I moved right in." Sadler's business, A Harmony Nail Spa, thus joined the Commercial Center family.

And after being in business for nearly three years, A Harmony Nail Spa has been very lucrative. "I like to think of my salon as giving world-class service—the same that you'd get in the finest spas anywhere. That's been my constant goal and constant work," Sadler says. "Whenever I've had staff on board, I tell them it's very important to treat clients who come in like they are our closest loved ones and friends. We want to take care of them completely—whatever they want."

Not only is the customer service at A Harmony Nail Spa top notch, the atmosphere and equipment is also unique. About 90 percent of the furniture in her business, Sadler says, is custom built by hand. Customers can get their manicures around a custom-made Eucalyptus tree. A little Tinkerbell sits in the tree, and the chimney houses a fog machine. The theme Sadler was going for was a whimsical cottage.

"I like to think of my salon as giving world-class service—the same that you'd get in the finest spas anywhere. That's been my constant goal and constant work."

Since opening up her business in the Commercial Center, Sadler has worked diligently to beautify the once-vibrant area. "I'm worried for the small business owner who may not make it if the outside isn't nice," she says. "If we don't have the kind of curb appeal that would attract clientele and keep them. I just felt intuitively that this was needed."

So over a period of two and a half years, Sadler wrote constant letters to property managers and Clark County Access, pleading for assistance to beautify the area—graffiti removal, new paint, etc. But her efforts seemed futile. She bought some paint, painted some curbs and light poles, filled a pothole and other businesses started to take notice. Finally, someone from Clark County responded to her e-mail. And she got the support and acknowledgement she had been looking for over the past two and half years. **Q**

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NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION GIVES OVER $16,500 TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association Board of Directors announced at its last meeting that the association gave over $16,500 in cash and in-kind gifts to Las Vegas community organizations in 2006.

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada received the largest amount from NGRA, totaling over $10,000 in donations. The Center was the community partner chosen by the 2006 Rodeo Planning Committee to receive the proceeds from BigHorn Rodeo 2006 - $7,000.

NGRA President Brian Rogers said, "We're very happy to be giving such a large donation to The Center, our long-time community partner. The Center does wonderful work in the community, and we're proud it serves as our home."

Candice Nichols, executive director of The Center, said, "We rely so much on the donations we receive from all of our community partners. NGRA's unrestricted donation will help us further develop in 2007, after our most successful fund-raising year ever in 2006."

Other NGRA donations for 2006 include: $879 in cash to the St. Therese Center, $2,670 in in-kind gifts to St. Therese Center, $190 to Noah's Wish and $150 to the Imperial Royal Sovereign Court of the Desert Empire, Inc. Rogers noted, "All the cash and in-kind donations are in addition to the hours our members spent volunteering for various organizations, including the Southern Nevada Association of Pride, Inc." Q

CALLING ALL YOU BRITISH QUEENS

Andy Walmsley is a British television and theater set designer brought to the United States by Simon Cowell to be part of the team that created *American Idol*, the U.S. version of the hit British TV series. He fell in love with Las Vegas and has resided here for two years. Walmsley and his friend Steve Lee are going to throw a huge networking party for all the ex-patriot Brits living in Las Vegas and surrounding cities. It promises to be a massive event. Andy wants to hear from anyone who can help or just wants to come. The more the merrier. This is an LGBT friendly event and a good networking opportunity.

For more information or to RSVP to this event, e-mail Walmsley at andywalmsley@mac.com or call (310) 210-9222. Visit his Web site at www.uklv.org. Q

VALENTINE'S DAY FOR A CAUSE

Hip fashion and gift boutique Get Booked launched its Valentine's Day Card Charity drive Friday, Jan. 5 at 6 p.m. with a special "Best Box" event. Each employee created a special and unique Valentine's Day box reminiscent of grade school. To fill the boxes, employees will sell Valentine's Day cards for $1 each through Feb. 14. Each employee has selected a favorite Las Vegas charity to benefit from the proceeds of their card sales. Charities include the Community Counseling Center, St. Therese Center, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Aid For AIDS of Nevada.

The drive launched with a special "Best Box" event judged by Jimmy Drake, manager at Executive Floral. Winner of the "Best Box" was Jimmy Garcia, with his box decorated with hot male magazine cutouts. Cards went on sale immediately following the judging. As a bonus, the Valentine's Cards will be used as entries in a special drawing Feb. 15 for a gift basket provided by B. Cumming and featuring a new Fusion product line.

Get Booked is located at 4640 Paradise Rd. It has been open since 1993. For more information call (702) 737-7780 or visit the Web site at www.getbooked.com. Q

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HOW COULD I FORGET YOU?

It was once named No. 1 show in Las Vegas by Mike Weatherford of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. It's played to rousing success all over the world. And it broke all box office records at the Mandalay Bay. Now *MAMMA MIA!*, the smash hit musical based on the songs of ABBA, will celebrate its fourth anniversary at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino Tuesday, Feb. 13.



Photo by Joan Marcus.

Inspired by the story-telling magic of Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus' songs, writer Catherine Johnson's sunny, funny tale of family and friendship unfolds on a Greek island. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings 3 men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago. Songs including "Dancing Queen," "The Winner Takes It All," "Money, Money, Money" and "Take A Chance on Me" are all featured in this feel-good night of fun and laughter.

MAMMA MIA! plays nightly (dark Friday) at the Mandalay Bay Theatre Sunday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets are priced at $49.50, $82.50 and $110 (tax inclusive). They can be purchased by calling the Mandalay Box Office at (702) 632-7580, Ticketmaster at (702) 474-4000 or logging online at www.mandalaybay.com or www.mamma-mia.com.

For more information on the show, visit the official Web site at www.mamma-mia.com. **Q**

IN MEMORY OF... GEORGE SAPPHIRE III

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He taught me so much. He was able, through his loving relationship with James, to show me what and how true love is supposed to be. It is not glamorized but real and raw. It's full of passion and humility. It's full of laughter and beauty. But most importantly, true love is filled with sacrifice and a strong will.

I take with me a grand desire to live life to its fullest never allowing our circumstances to stand in the way of our dreams. Following through with our desires, fulfilling our dreams and giving to those who have not had the blessing in this time the opportunity to know life through the reckless abandonment of one so filled with creativity to beam ambassadors to change the world.

—submitted by Jennnifer O'Connor



WORDS THAT DESCRIBE GEORGE

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Strongest and most precious man in his family
Sensitive guy on the inside,
tough man on the outside
Proud of who he was
Carefree, yet vain
Pet Lover...English Bulldog owner
(Mongee is her name)
Amazing sense of humor
Always wanted the best
Loved and lived to party
World traveled and educated

—submitted by college friend, Kate

SAINT OR SINNER?

Are you a Saint or a Sinner? That's the decision people will have to make if they attend.

The Sin Sity Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's Sisters, Saints and Sinners Carnival-style dance party will be held at Krave (3663 S. Las Vegas Boulevard) Feb. 23. Ticket sales will launch the scholarship fund for the Sisters Drug Assistance Program for the HIV/AIDS community.

Jim St Marie, Ryan White Council board member, AKA: Sister Sioux Saint Semen Sloth states, "SADAP will address the AIDS community of working poor that are just above the county standards. The Scholarship will provide coordinated medical co-pays and drug assistance alternatives. SADAP will become a community Aids service organization resource that is not addressed at this time, and because of the drastic cost of living increases in the valley, it is more imperative than ever to tackle this issue."

In order to reach their goal, The Sisters and The Sin City Chamber of Commerce will host Saints, Angels and Grants: The VIP Reception inside the Liberace Museum Thursday, Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Guests will witness a theatrical evening of gifting and rituals granted by The Sisters for select community members and deserving local non-profits. They will also be introduced to the purpose and goals of the SADAP scholarship program. The event continues Friday, Feb. 23 at 11 p.m. as Krave After-hours, Findlay Volkswagen and The Sin Sity order present Sisters, Saints and Sinners. Guests will choose to be a saint or sinner then dance to the hottest sounds from Carnival in Rio as circuit star DJ Roland Belmares and Las Vegas' own recording diva, Kristine W, take the beautiful revelers higher and higher.

Tickets for the Thursday and Friday event are $99 (Friday only at Krave is $69). Tickets are available at www.Vegas.com or by visiting www.SinSitySisters.org.

Ongoing support of the Sisters is provided by *QVegas*/Stonewall Publishing, Erich Christjansen at Findlay Volkswagen, The Sin City Chamber of Commerce and Krave. For further information about these two events or the Sin Sity Sisters, contact Jim St Marie at (702) 205-7794 or Eugene Godina at (702) 524-9176. One can also visit www.thesisters.org for a complete Sistory and to experience the worldwide order. **Q**



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NO FATS, NO FEMS, NO DATES

By Cody J. Phillips

If your love life is a checklist, you may be in trouble. Many people keep a mental inventory of requirements a person needs to meet before they accept a date or extend an invite to their bed.

Some of these items on a person's list may be necessary to avoid conflict in a potential relationship. (Can you *really* expect on opera lover to live in the same house as a fan of techno without installing soundproof walls?)

But have some of these standards that are tacked onto a person's mental checklist gone past the level of sensible selectiveness to an absurd level of pickiness?

The blunt language of the Internet best demonstrates it with language like "no fats, no fems" and even more precise language such as "looking for slim, smooth, white guys" or "I want a middle-aged man with a bit of chest hair but not quite a bear."

This leaves a miniscule margin of negotiation for dating when someone is that picky. But on the positive side, at lease these people know what they're looking for and aren't going to waste their time—or yours.

Everyone has a type of guy or girl that catches his or her eye and blinds him or her from noticing anyone else. People can get stuck dating the same type of person over and over again, even if it's bad for them.

"Generally speaking, people are attracted to what's new, different and refreshing," said Tina B. Tessina, PhD., a psychotherapist with 25 years experience in couples counseling and author of *Gay Relationships: How to Find Them, How to Improve Them, How to*

Continued on Page 34

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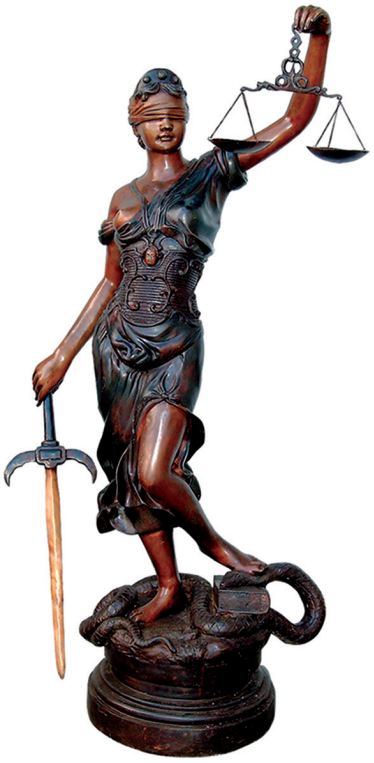

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NO FATS, NO FEMS, NO DATES

Continued from Page 33

Make Them Last. "A quiet person may be attracted to a verbal one, because the verbal person would carry the conversational load. However, after being together for a while, the very qualities that were first attractive can become annoying."

Opposites attract…then repel? This isn't always the case.

"These relationships can last, depending on whether the couple builds trust, partnership and a life together," Tessina said. "The key to building a lasting relationship is whether the couple can find enough in common and work through problems as a team."

If common ground is where people meet, this can explain why bears usually end up with bears and twinks stay in the Twinkie box together.

Chuck Conarroe, 42, thinks everyone settles into a type eventually. "I think that as we get older we start to settle in different groups and categories and then you start to look for that certain type," said Conarroe, who likes muscle leather bears, although at first he was in search of a thin body type. "It seems like most everyone is looking for that perfect body and that perfect relationship."

Tessina pointed out the obvious that gay men are even more focused on outward attractiveness than straight people. "Things like *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* shows that gay men have a sense of style that straight men don't," Tessina said. "But the downside is a lot of anxiety about how you look."

Conarroe said that the type of guy most gay men go for is the "GQ" look because that's what is implanted in them from the media. "Overall, most gay men are focused on age, weight, buffness, style of dress," said Tessina, noting that she has worked with overweight gay men in relationships and they *do* exist.

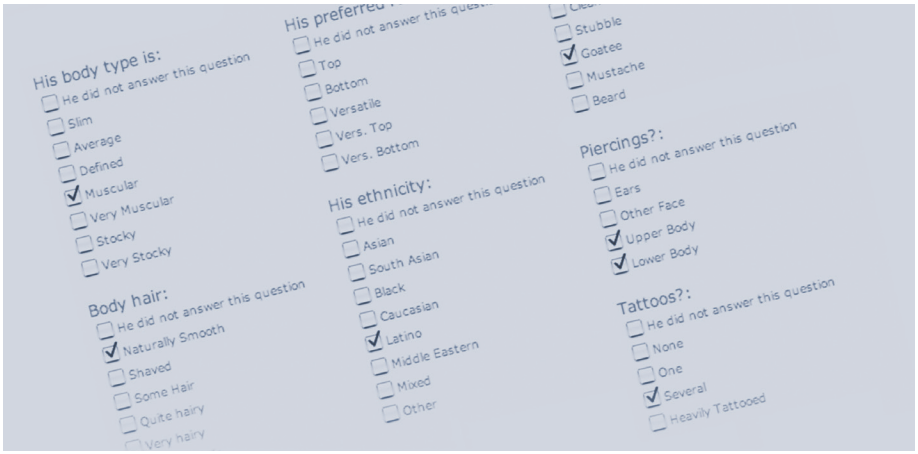
With the term "no fats, no fems" and other picky phrases suffocating many ads and profiles on sites like gay.com and craigslist.com, it's no wonder the field of dating vision for most gay men is narrow.

Some may call it unfair and a form of dating discrimination in which those "fems" and "fats" have no hope penetrating, even if they have a dynamite personality. "How they look is not enough to say whether that's a good person for you," Tessina explained.

She also said dating discrimination can affect how a person presents themselves, especially in an online profile. "A lot of really good, loving, caring, wonderful people don't even bother to go online because they don't think they're going to get anywhere," Tessina said. "It's endemic to the online process because the online thing is an advertisement with a picture, and you can't really tell anything from that."

It can be argued that you can't judge someone for having a type that doesn't include you, but how does someone end up being pulled toward one certain type over another, like "chubby chasers"? "That kind of a preference generally comes from childhood," Tessina said. "The most loving person that person ever knew may have been heavy and that's comfortable and familiar for them."

Tessina also explained how difficult it is to date outside of one's type because of the comfort zone. "If you dated one alcoholic then you get familiar with that and you know how to deal with alcoholics and then you develop a tendency to fly back into that same time," said Tessina, noting this is true for everybody, gay or straight. "You have to get out of your comfort zone and try the unfamiliar before you can begin to change this pattern." **Q**



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I do. I don't. I ain't sure.



By Andrew Georgiou

Gay marriage, like Madonna in a leotard, is a topic of heated debate. There are those who would love nothing more than to say "I do," and others who think that joining the rest of the world in such an iconic institution loses our cultural edge. Whether you're for or against, the bigger picture outside of the rings, doves and rice in your eyes is our fundamental right to equality. When Spain opened its doors to gay marriage, many people were surprised to see that few couples actually registered to marry. Is it the permission we are seeking, or do we actually want same sex monogrammed towels in our bathrooms?

I DO. Let's get married. So you've been together for three years (that's 21 in dog and gay years) and think it's time that your parents stop referring to your partner as your "special friend" and make it official. This is a great idea; apart from declaring your love in front of your family, friends and a lesbian celebrant named Dawn, you can finally throw in that housewarming party you never had and people can stop nagging you about it. This is an emotional day, as you are declaring your love to one person and promising to cherish him or her through sickness (post-circuit party), health (that one-month gym membership), richer (you wish), poorer (you know). This is one of the rare occasions where you will mix your friends and family in one room. Glancing across the garden you see your grandmother Gladys chatting with Liz from the Houston chapter of Lesbian Two Steppers. She later comments on what a lovely young man he was. Your dad is getting cruised by three bears, your mother has suddenly turned camp and has used the word "fuck" 18 times in under a minute and your sister and her husband left 10 minutes ago with a swinger. It takes a gay wedding to make us realize that many people are in fact a lot more comfortable with the idea of same-sex unions than we often give them credit for. That's a good thing. We like that.

Post wedding day, you've settled into married life and there's nothing nicer than introducing you partner as your husband or wife. You feel an amazing sense of pride and it's nice to shock the crap out of people with it, like Mormons accosting you in the street. "I'm sorry, my husband and I are in a rush and Jesus loves us."

I DON'T. Whether you're single or committed, you may feel that marriage is not necessarily something that defines gay relationships. The same way that owning two copies of *Funny Girl* on DVD doesn't. Yes, you agree that the equality issue is very important as to how we are received into the wider community, but does slow dancing to Lionel Ritchie's *Hello* in front of guests really give you that? If gay marriage was to be officially recognized in Australia, would this automatically guarantee us the rights as heterosexual married couples? Yes, we would still have better dress sense than straight married couples and choose not to watch *Seventh Heaven* every afternoon at five, but would we be treated equally?

What about the pressure of marriage? Many of us have watched our straight friends live together for over 10 years and then suddenly split up whilst unwrapping their wedding gifts. Not because they received six George Foreman Grills, but because of the sudden pressure they felt being labeled or owned. For us, marriage is a new concept being applied to a very old institution. You could say, "If it ain't broke don't fix it," but then again, if Cher had thought that way she would have never released *Believe* and made a come back. Like cat lovers versus dog lovers, the debate for and against gay marriage is a healthy discussion that raises a number of valid issues. However, one rule should be applied at all times when considering marriage: "Papa Can You Hear Me" and "Somebody Bring Me Some Water" don't make good wedding waltzes. **Q**

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SAPPHO'S MULATTO NEST

An Op-Ed by Danaeca Scott

What does February mean to you? Is it the month of your birthday? Valentine's Day? Is it still winter? It is all of these things, but it is also Black History month.

My black history affords me the right to dine anywhere in a restaurant, to sit anywhere on a bus and the privilege to never know Jim Crow; however, myself and other African-Americans dance a jig. We dance a jig to get a job, we dance a jig for equal housing, we dance a jig not to be seated next to the restroom or kitchen in a fine-dining establishment and we dance a jig for equal rights. But after all these years, black Americans still only have a month of 28 days. To believe that black *lesbian* women do not have a struggle is ignorance. My understanding of identity is focused on understanding the people who shape the identities of African American lesbian and bisexual women.

Historical Impact: Evolution of the African-American Lesbian

Beverly A. Greene, author of *Internalized Racism among African Americans*, believes that black lesbians in the Diaspora have been integral members of black communities. Throughout history they have experienced varying levels of tolerance for their sexual orientation and share the same devalued position borne of racism and sexism as their heterosexual counterparts. The intolerance of black lesbians expressed in homophobia/heterosexism within the black community has a range of determinants. While many are similar to the determinants of homophobia within the dominant culture, others are connected to internalized oppression/racism within African-Americans. She goes on to say that the presence of black women who have sex with women throughout the Diaspora and their experiences are worthy of attention; however, all black women do not share the same socializing experiences. Thus, this discussion is limited to the unique experiences of black women who were born and raised in the United States. Greene goes on to say black women also reflect more flexible gender roles than those of whites and other minority groups. This flexibility may be attributed, in part, to cultural values that stress interdependence and greater levels of gender roles and leadership observed in some pre-colonial African tribes.

Based on conservative population estimates, there are some 1.8 million African-American women who could be defined as lesbian and bisexual in the United States; however, it is also a sad fact that the Census count may be off due to the lack of a significant numbers of African-American lesbian and bisexual respondents, raising questions about the accuracy of the count.

Slavery defined African women as workers and required that they work outside the home from the very moment they arrived on these shores to a greater degree than their white counterparts. While this may have facilitated a greater level of cultural gender role flexibility among African-American families, it deprived slave women of the customary perks of femininity afforded to other American women. Despite that flexibility, sexism is still a visible phenomenon in African-American communities throughout the world.

African-America Lesbian-Produced Film and Video

Black Americans are not new to finding ways to vent sexual—as well as racial—frustrations. It is noted that there are not many African-Americans in media, whether it be writing, directing or producing, and I find that disheartening. There most certainly are not many lesbians in this genre. I felt it was important to touch on this topic and note a few black lesbians who are making their mark in our community.

MICHELLE PARKERSON—*...But Then, She's Betty Carter* (1980, color, 16mm) An unforgettable portrait of legendary vocalist Betty Carter, one of the greatest living exponents of jazz.

DR. YVONNE WELBON—*Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis at 100* (1999, color, video) This film offers a rare opportunity to experience 100 years of our history as lived by one inspiring woman, the oldest known out black lesbian.

CHERYL DUNYE—*Potluck and the Passion* (1992, color, video) An anniversary feast is the backdrop for this innovative focus on contemporary lesbian relationships. Politics and humor are dished up by the hostesses and guests alike in a savory narrative-and-documentary gumbo.

Angela Davis and Ruth Ellis: Women of Change

These extraordinary black women are amazing and have made trails by being who they are, not what they are, and yes they are lesbians. Angela Davis is an over-the-top activist who some would call a revolutionary. She, and others like her, advanced time forcing Americans—blacks and whites alike—to open their eyes to a new and ever-changing world.

ANGELA DAVIS: ACTIVIST, TEACHER, LEADER—Angela Yvonne Davis was born in Birmingham, Ala. Jan. 26, 1944. In July of 1968, she became an active chapter member in the Che-Lumumba Club of California. That same year, she also became a member of the Black Panther Party. In 1980 and 1984, Davis ran for vice president of the United States on the Communist Party ticket.

Davis's book, *Women, Race, and Class* was published seven years later in 1981. It became an instant feminism classic.

To this day Davis continues her fight and remains politically active. Presently, she is now the presidential chairperson for the African-American and Feminist Studies departments at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

RUTH ELLIS: SAPPHO'S FIRSTBORN—Ruth Ellis was the oldest known open lesbian and a die-hard LGBT rights activist.

Ellis came out as a lesbian around 1915. In the 1920s, she met the only woman she ever lived with, Ceciline "Babe" Franklin.

Throughout her life, Ellis was an advocate for the rights of gays and lesbians, as well as for the rights of African-Americans. She became a role model for African-Americans, lesbians, and seniors. **Q**

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A DIFFERENT KIND OF D-LIST

By Jon Afalla

Todd Sowers, CEO of DList, heralded a new era when he joined forces with NYC Club Promoter/Producer Daniel Nardicio ("The Willy Wonka of Queer New York") to create DList.com—a MySpace-type site crafted specifically for gay men.

Nardicio joined with Sowers in early 2006 to create a sorely needed social networking site specifically for healthy, fun-loving, well-rounded gay men. "DListers don't subscribe to the tired old idea that only men who have pumped up muscles and a salon tan all year round are hot. The 53,000 DListers who have signed up in the last four months are confident in their own bodies no matter what shape they are and they're also confident about who they are as people," Nardicio says.

In the tradition of MySpace.com, DList members build their own personal pages and invite other members to become their friends. DList surpasses MySpace in its appearance. Members say it's much easier to build personal pages with the software on DList than it is on MySpace. Furthermore, the technology behind the DList music player is faster and more sophisticated than anywhere else. Plus, DList.com is owned and operated by gay men for gay men.

On DList, users may put up sexy images in their own "private pics" area, and they can be as hardcore as they want. Unlike MySpace, DList doesn't censor profile images.

DList is also a large blog hub. Unique blogs are handpicked from the Web by DList staff and are featured on the homepage, but any guy can start a blog in his profile or he can easily syndicate his existing blog to his DList profile. Among the most popular blogs are written by Drag Icon Jackie Beat and the simple-but-effective DudeTube.

In addition to all these features, the site includes technology to support videos, podcasts of DList Radio, Nardicio's popular weekly nightlife Internet radio gabfest, information on official DList events and other parties thrown by Nardicio himself who is well known in New York City for his over-the-top, dirty, fun pre-Republican vibe.

So far, scandalously popular DList parties have been held in New York City; however, they will begin touring nationwide this winter.

Fifty-three-thousand gay men already subscribe to DList.com. About 1,500 new members are added each week. Membership (at least currently) is free and open to anyone 18 years of age and older (members must be 21 to attend a DList event).

"Most of our growth to this point has been from positive word of mouth," Sowers says.

DList.com recently scaled its technology to be able to handle 100,000 members to accommodate the forecasted growth by mid 2007.

"The new generation of gay men may not be as political as previous generations were, but they are more socially integrated," Nardicio explains. "They mix with the mainstream and gay communities as they wish and demand to be accepted as equals. These are the men who make up DList." **Q**

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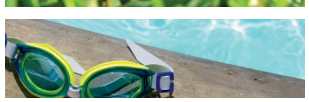
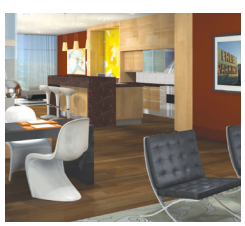


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BY CHRIS GANNON & DON JONES

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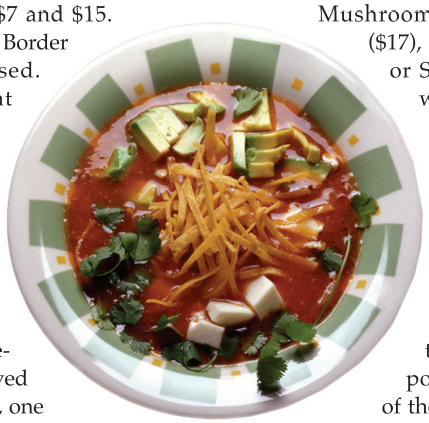
Located between the events center and the casino at Mandalay Bay, Border Grill is often overlooked by locals and tourists alike. That is not to say that business is bad for the celebrity-chef-owned venue, it just means that not a lot of us have gotten to experience the fantastic fare offered. I know a lot of you avoid going to Strip restaurants to avoid the crammed garages or overflowing valets. It is easy to avoid the crowds of Mandalay by parking at the events center and going in the door next to the Shark Reef. This way Border Grill is only a few short steps away from an uncrowded entrance.

Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken, of Two Hot Tamales fame, brought their concept of true Mexican Food to Las Vegas nine years ago. The duo stresses the use of authentic flavors and dishes inspired by rustic Mexican cuisine. The food at Border Grill has lots of flavor without the traditional burn-your-mouth spice found at many Mexican restaurants. They achieve this balance by the appropriate use of spice for maximum flavor not maximum heat. Appetizers, or little bites, will cost you between $7 and $15. The Guacamole ($8.50) at Border Grill is not to be missed. Creamy and chunky at the same time, this dip has a pronounced avocado flavor that is brought out by fresh lime and enhanced by the other spices used. Rock Shrimp Cheviche ($11) consists of grilled shrimp with a crisp exterior and soft interior. Served with two sauces (one hot, one mild), this dish packs a lot of flavor and texture. Plantain Empanadas ($9) are sweet plantains wrapped ravioli style in pastry and drizzled with a spicy Mole Sauce. Baja Ceviche ($13), a mixture of halibut and shrimp marinated in cilantro, onion, jalapeno, lime juice and tomato is served over a crispy corn tortilla. This light dish would be perfect for a quick lunch; have it with a bowl of the Tortilla Soup ($7) for a complete meal with lots of flavor. The menu has a selection of Tacos for lunch ranging in price from $12 to $17. The Chicken Tacos ($16) are a mild selection in that there is not much spice to the dish; flavor comes from the citrus roasting process used and the salsa fresca that the dish is topped with. Entrees, or Special Plates as they are listed on the menu, range in price from $15 to $20 with a nice selection of vegetable, pork, chicken and seafood items. Cochinita Pibil ($19) is Achiote marinated pork slow roasted in a banana leaf. The spicy but not burning sauce has a hint of cinnamon that brings out the flavor of the chilies and the sweetness of the accompanying plantains. A From the Grill section of the menu is Border Grill's interpretation of Fajitas. Warm flour tortillas are served with all the traditional trimmings and your choice of Portobello Mushrooms ($16), Turkey Breast ($17), Chicken al Carbon ($18) or Skirt Steak ($19), which was grilled and left alone. The steak was tender with a fantastic charred note that was accentuated by the onions and peppers.



Desserts at Border Grill (which all cost $7.50) are made in house to the point that the components making up some of the dishes were also made in the kitchens. The Tres Leches cake served at the restaurant is soaked in condensed milk that the kitchen prepares for this dish. This dessert is rich and flavorful; its accompanying sauces of passion fruit and prickly pear send it over the top. On the chocolate side, there are two offerings: a Mexican Chocolate Cream Pie and an Aztec Chocolate Cake. The pie is piled high with a fluffy but not light chocolate cream with cinnamon spice throughout, while the cake is a dense hunk of chocolate served with spiced pecans and whipped cream. The Sorbets are not the typical water ice with a fancy name. The texture of these treats will have you believing that they are cream based. They are smooth with a powerful fruit flavor that is a perfect ending to a flavorful Mexican meal. **Q**



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BY JON AFALLA

GIVE ME A GAY BREAK

The Key West Business Guild is hosting a new event this spring, Gay Spring Break, expected to draw thousands of young gay men and women in February, March and April to the island paradise.



"Spring break is a yearly tradition for college students around the world," said Ian Whitney, chairman of new events for KWBG and one of Gay Spring Break's organizers, "and Key West has long been rated as the top gay spring break destination. This year, gay business leaders decided to take spring break to the next level by featuring a series of events geared toward young gay men and women and their friends that will make this one of the nations' hottest gay parties."

Gay Spring Break will feature six weeks of beach parties, dance parties, boat parties, drag shows, men-only and women-only events, meet-and-greet receptions, contests and several recreational opportunities on the island and on the surrounding barrier reef. Organizers expect that Gay Spring Break will have over 150 events geared toward gay and lesbian spring breakers. Because Gay Spring Break is expected to draw many gay student leaders, there will also be activities that allow for networking and leadership development.



Of course, Gay Spring Break in Key West has no age limit and is at the height of Key West's tourist season, so expect a diverse collection of gay and lesbian tourists in addition to the thousands of college-aged revelers. Gay Spring Break events are open to anyone. "Gay Spring Break is not just for college kids," Whitney said. "We are reaching out to all young gay men and women, the circuit party crowd and all others who enjoy the types of events that we are planning, good music, palm trees, nightlife, fun people and all of the many things that Key West has to offer."

According to Steve Smith, president of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association, "This event is unique in that it will introduce the next generation of gay and lesbian tourists to events and facilities that specifically cater to them. Key West is excited to play such an important role in the development of the gay and lesbian tourism market."

Key West has been rated as the top gay spring break destination by planetout.com, gay.com and travelchannel.com. Also, it was named as a favorite gay resort town by *The Out Traveler* and OutTraveler.com in November 2006.

For more information, visit www.gayspringbreak.org. **Q**

Photos by Talmadge Hayward.


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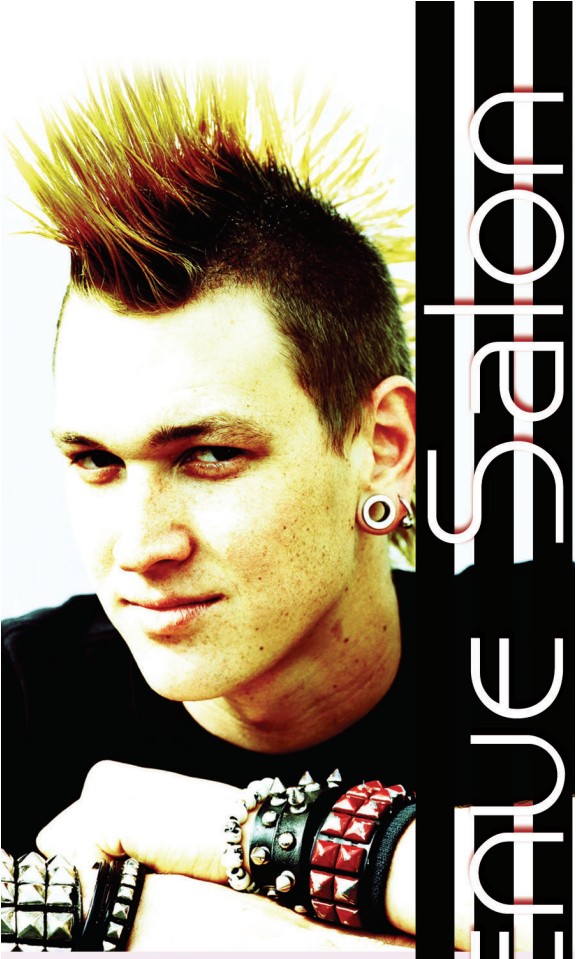

BY JOSELLE VANDERHOOFT

LOVE'S CATCH 22

Any lesbian relationship worth keeping is not for the faint of heart. I remember this even as heart-shaped confections sprout up through the piles of discounted tinsel and wreaths like mushrooms through crabgrass. I remember this every Valentine's Day, because this holiday, and the month which revolves around it well past the point of ridiculousness, is still a sore point for me. Even though I've been in a solid romantic relationship with a wonderful, considerate and altogether not soul-destroying woman for close to three years, bad memories are like scar tissue; they remind you of an injury so deep it nearly became a part of you. And they're still ugly, despite all the healing time.

You see, the relationship I'm in now is the only successful one I've ever had. The others had a few watermarks of catastrophe in common: they all ended within two months and none ever had the decency to coincide with Valentine's Day. Surrounded as I felt I was by happy lesbians who were all having a great time, I came to the conclusion that I was alone because something was wrong with me. All those "it's not you, JoSelle, it's me" spiels be damned! I mean, a normal woman wouldn't run off romantic partners like rats from a burning building, would she? So, Feb. 14 became not only a day to lament my failure to find a woman, but a day to remember that I was probably one of the most pathetic women in the world.

Yeah, yeah, I know. All I needed was a misty English moor and I could have been a lost Bronte novel. What can I say? I was a lonely and socially inept college student, and eventually I gained some perspective. Most people do. But what I don't think a lot of lesbians ever truly gain is the notion that we're still lovable, capable and yes, worthwhile people if we don't have a girlfriend to gift with roses and chocolates on holidays, birthdays and other special occasions. Although women are currently told that we are equal to men in dignity, old cultural habits tend not to go down without a long and hard fight, if they ever go at all. As women, we're still taught that domestic bliss is the highest goal for which we can aim however "nice" being an individual may be, that we still need someone else to complete us. As queer women, we've simply adapted the paradigm of husband + wife = happy, functional adult to fit our orientation. If you don't believe me, try remembering that joke about what lesbians bring on a second date. The U-Haul in the punch line isn't just a coincidence.

All of these things, past pain and current frustration with cultural messages, are the reasons why Valentine's Day leaves a bad taste in my mouth that has nothing to do with cheap chocolate. And why I say that lesbian relationships aren't for the faint of heart. In order to be truly content in one, you can't use your girlfriend or partner as a means to make yourself feel better, to sate the fear that you'll crumple like a rag doll if she ever leaves. That turns her into an object. You also can't expect her to be your savior, especially not from loneliness or self-hate. That's what I wanted in a woman as a scared and lonely queer girl who had just exited the closet. The fact that I subconsciously tried to turn my girlfriends into objects and saviors to sate my own fears also probably did more to drive them away than some great, mysterious character flaw on which I blamed my singleness. But that's the Catch-22 isn't it? In order to get the love and romance you want on Valentine's Day, you have to first learn not to put it at the center of your life. You have to learn to accept that you're a complete and valuable woman with or without it.

Believe me, not doing that is a hell of a lot harder than writing it in a column. A hell of a lot harder. **Q**

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BY ANGELA HARVEY

THAT'S NOT LOVE, THAT'S STUPID?

Ah, February! The month for lovers. The month that love is in the air and relationships and those in them get the recognition they deserve. NOT!

I originally created the workshop, "That's Not Love, That's Stupid" for young adults. I wanted to put some helpful information out there as I have vivid memories of what love did to me in high school and college. I quickly realized that the workshop and its message was not only needed for those young and in love but also for those of us who have been there and didn't do that, those that are still in love but just not clear with whom or what and those that are still looking for love.



Most of us can recall who taught us how to ride a bike but none of us quickly recall who taught us about love. We came to understand love based on our family, our environment and our friends. That would have worked out well if they knew what they were doing and if someone had explained a few things to them. We also enhanced our understanding with what we saw on TV and heard in music. That's entertainment, not real life. Most of us are still walking around without a clear definition (or at least a baseline) of what love is or what we want it to feel like and look like and, more important, what love *isn't*.

In order to do love right, you need a few basic things. You should be open to loving and being loved. You need understanding, trust, compromise and honest communication. And the biggie: some Aretha Franklin R-E-S-P-E-C-T. Keep in mind that open means being exposed and vulnerable to attack or question. Understanding means putting yourself in your partner's shoes and not necessarily agreeing with him or her. Trust doesn't have to be giving someone your PIN number but trusting that they are not cheating if they don't answer their cell phone when you call. Compromise is *not* 50/50 (that's just two people pissed off). It's 70/30, and that is why it's called a compromise. Communication is honestly expressing yourself keeping in mind if you feel it, think it and believe it you should communicate it. Although the absence of any of these things can cause damage and demise to any relationship, the absence of respect for your partner strips you of calling it a relationship at all.

I hear people say that they love unconditionally. I beg to differ. Most of us—practically all of us—want something in return: acknowledgement that you got the love, some love back or at least a smile. In an intimate relationship, loving unconditionally leaves you vulnerable and might give off the impression that it's OK if you don't get any in return. This is why it is so important that you define love for yourself. That way when you find yourself asking someone to love you, you at least know what it is you are asking for and they can have a clearer picture of what is needed to connect with you.

OK, let's shed some much-needed light on some of the stupid things we do: attempting to buy someone's love, attention and/or companionship, staying in a relationship because you can't afford to get your own place, putting your partner's thoughts and feelings before your own, staying in a relationship that doesn't enhance your happiness, remaining in a relationship where the trust has been permanently damaged and not following through with what feels strongest in your heart. Oh, and I can't forget the oldest, dumbest trick in the book: mistaking sex for love. Yes, we still have to say that out loud: That's not love; that's stupid! **Q**



Angela Harvey is the founder of Let's T.A.L.K.—Together Acquire Lasting Knowledge. For more information, visit www.lets-talk.net and www.growthbyphone.com.

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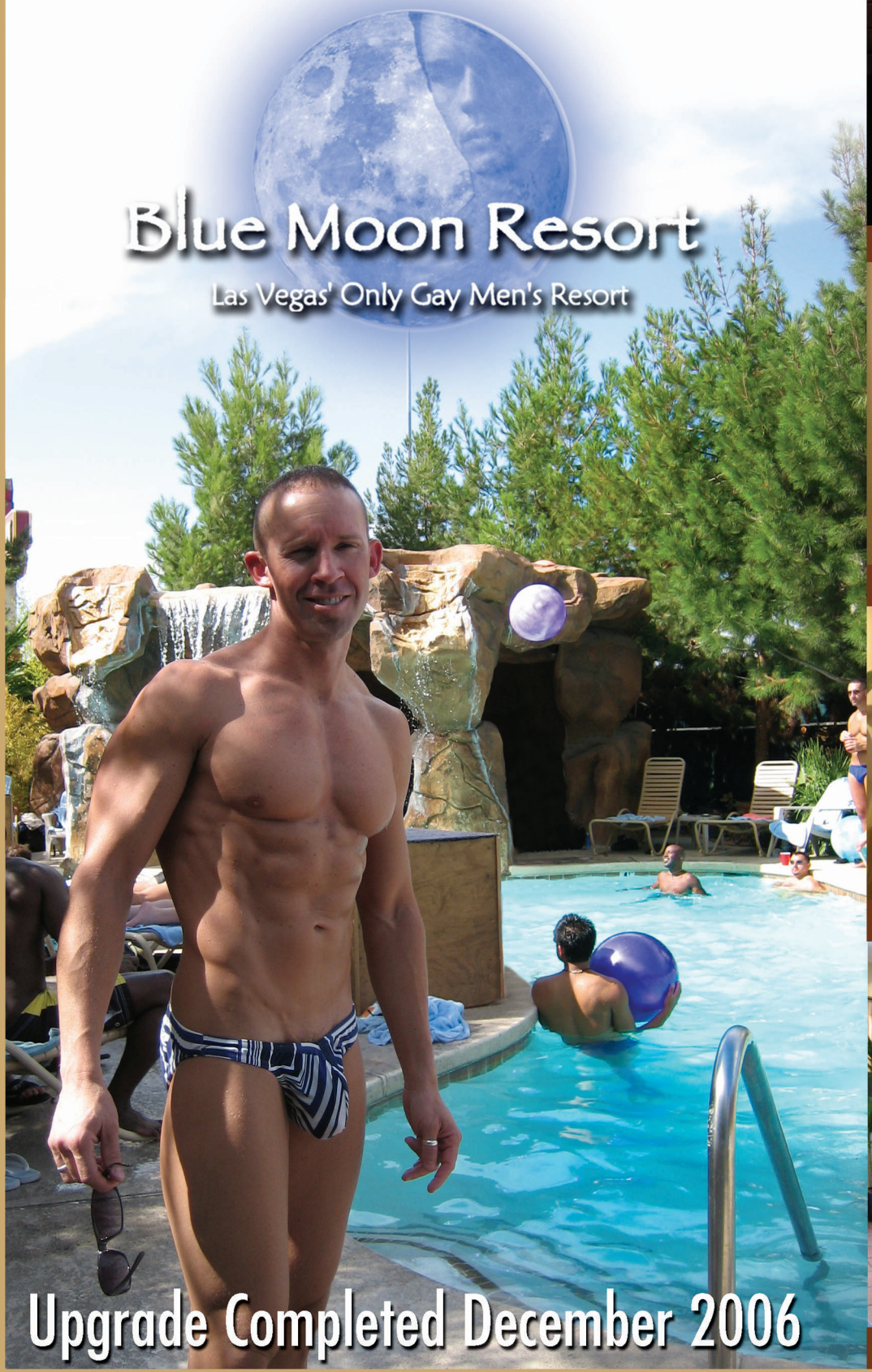

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PARTY LIKE A PORNSTAR

Party Like a Pornstar contest winner Mel Avecilla and his guest DJ Keller enjoyed a weekend of festivities including meeting 2007 GayVN Performer of the Year nominee Benjamin Bradley at the AVN Adult Entertainment Expo, Saturday, January 13. The contest was sponsored by *QVegas* magazine and Channel 1 Releasing.





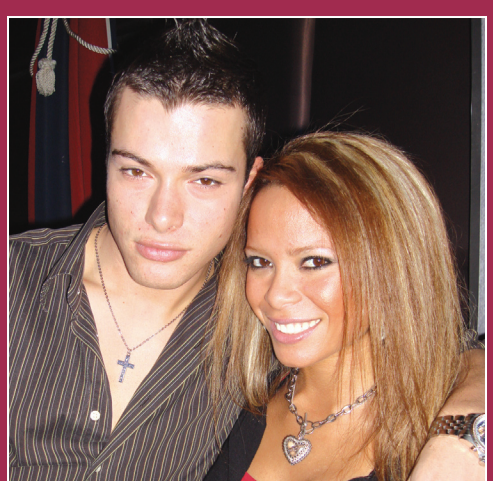












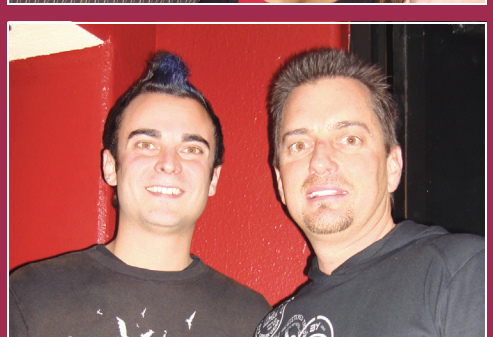


CIRQUE NOIR

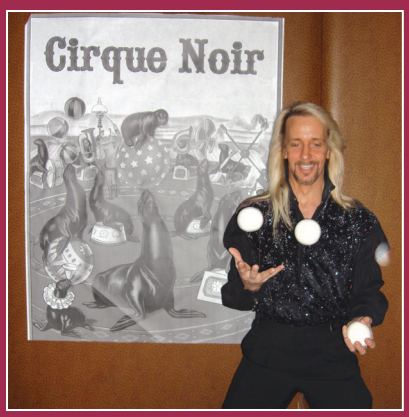
Blown-Out Productions put on a Big Top Circus themed charity event, Cirque Noir, at Barcode Tuesday, Jan. 23.

Photos by Earl Shelton

























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The Cupcakery, a delicious specialty bakery in the Silverado Ranch area, celebrated its first anniversary Tuesday, Jan. 23.





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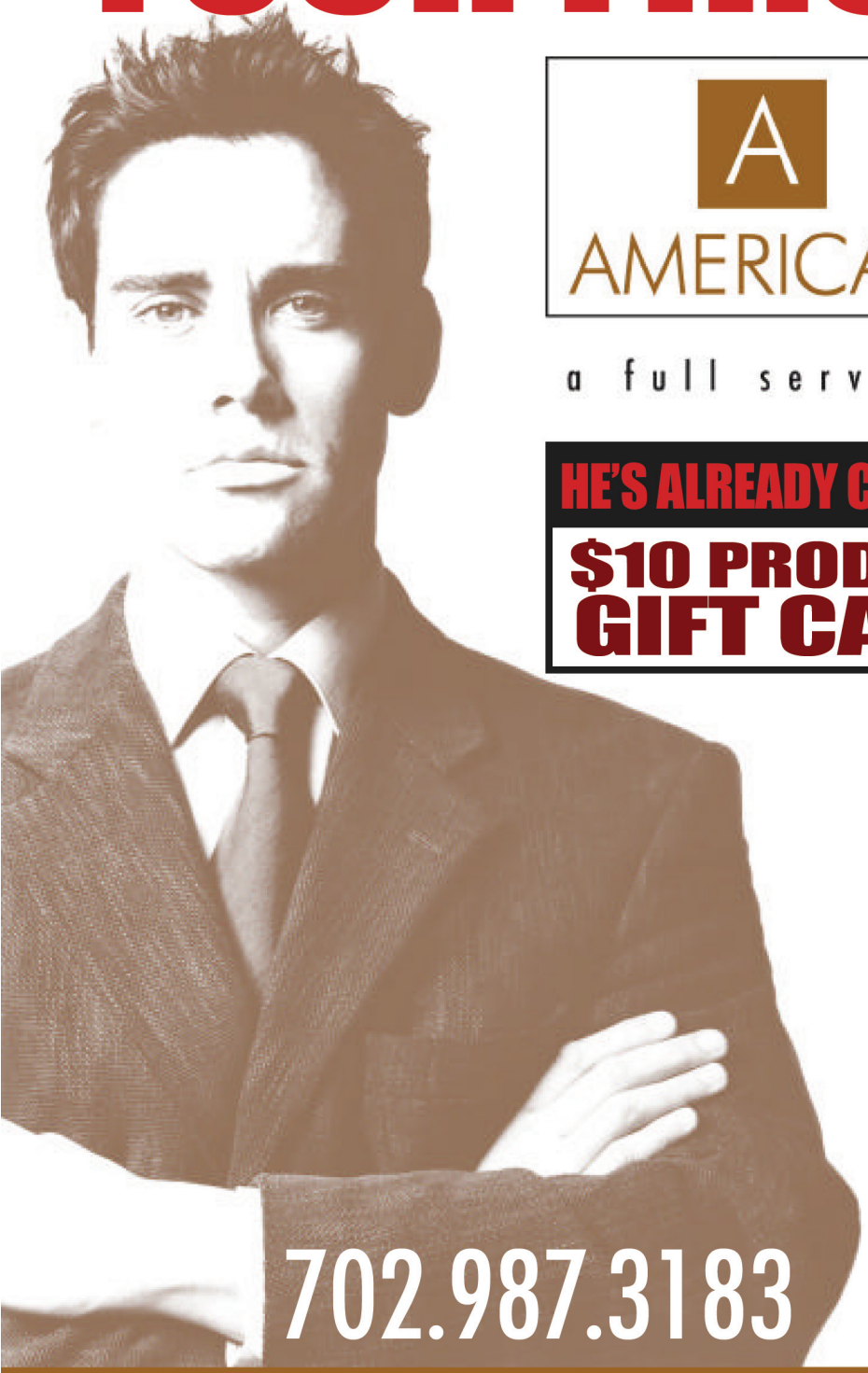

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Paul Smith Fragrance Extreme for Men, $48-62 from Neiman Marcus.
Rietveld, 1918 Rood Blauwe Stoel Chaur miniature, $200 from Blank Space at Mandalay Place.



Black Sapphire Cross Necklace by John Hardy from Neiman Marcus.
Le Corbusier/Jeanneret/Perriand, 1929 Faut, à Grand Comfort miniature, $575 from Blank Space at Mandalay Place.

HIS & HIS...HERS & HERS

Womens Fragrance Rock and Rose by Valentino, $78 from Neiman Marcus.
Bertoia, 1952 Diamond Chair miniature, $245 from Blank Space at Mandalay Place.



Black Leather Mens Watch by Philip Stein Teslar from Neiman Marcus.
Studio 65, 1970 Bocca seat miniature, $200 from Blank Space at Mandalay Place.



Continued on Page 56

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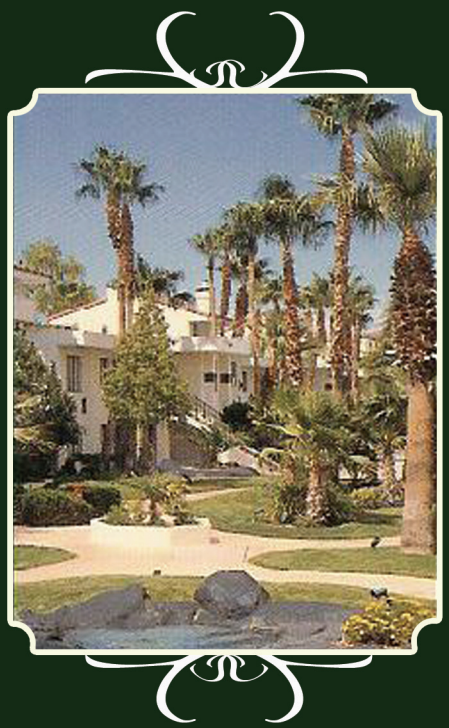

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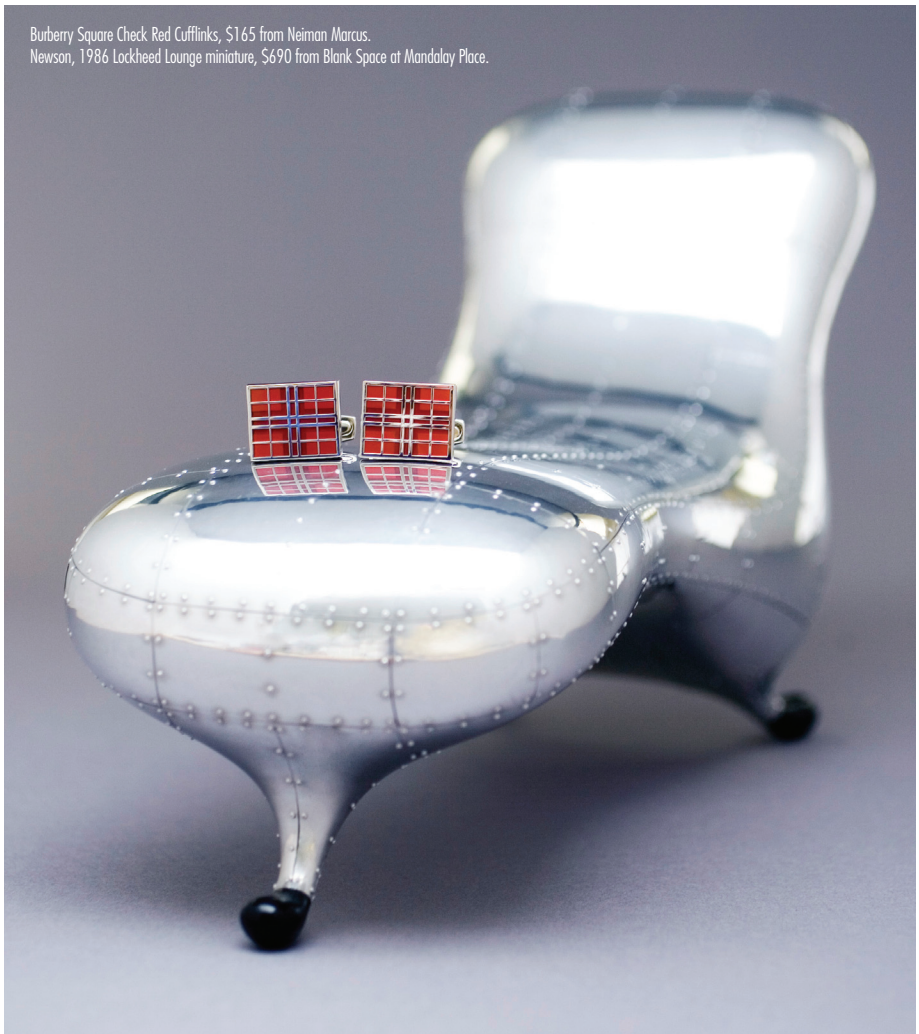
HIS & HIS...HERS & HERS

Continued from Page 55



John Hardy Black Sapphire Ring, $750 from Neiman Marcus.
Wright, 1939 Johnson Wax Chair miniature, $300 from Blank Space at Mandalay Place.



Burberry Square Check Red Cufflinks, $165 from Neiman Marcus.
Newson, 1986 Lockheed Lounge miniature, $690 from Blank Space at Mandalay Place.

Photos by Serge Nikolich (www.sergenikolich.com).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Heather and Julia wear
pink lace ruffle booty-short panties ($19.99)
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Kevin wears a white Juggernaut bodyjock ($45.95) and white mesh Stealth boxer briefs by **California Muscle** ($24.95) with white stretch stripe pants by **Wiwat Wis** ($129.95).

Cali wears a white lace up lycra shirt ($21.95) by **MUW Design**, and a white basic racer thong by **Colt** ($21.95).

All items are available from **The Rack**.



Julia wears a baby blue zippered bustier ($89.99) and baby blue micro-booty shorts ($19.99), while Heather wears two-piece baby blue lingerie with ruffles ($59.99), all from **Bare Essentials**.



Heather wears a red, tartan-plaid underwire bra ($24.95), garter belt ($19.95) and pleated mini-skirt ($44.95), all by **Kookie International**, with black Electra thigh-high lace-up vinyl boots ($99.99) by **Pleaser**.

Julia wears a red, PVC demi-cup bra ($64.95) and 3-zippered skirt ($69.95), both by **Catherine Coatney**, with black Electra 5" vinyl ankle boots with red flames ($99.95) by **Pleaser**.

All items are available from **The Rack**.



Cali wears a black neoprene singlet with yellow piping ($149.95) by **665 Inc.**, with black lycra and neoprene restraint arm cuffs with silver grommets ($29.95) by **Shrine**.

Kevin wears black neoprene Nasty Pig Chaps with yellow stripe ($189.95) by **Nasty Pig** and an aluminum chainmail jock ($139.95), aluminum chainmail chest and back plate ($219.95) and polished nickel Gauntlet cuffs ($114.95 each) by **JT Stockroom**.

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Cali wears a red Flopper thong ($24.99), red lace garter belt ($29.99), black Money garter ($4.99) and red thigh high stockings ($6.99), all from **Bare Essentials**; with a red lycra sheer mesh pinoir with maribou and turkey feathers ($129.95) by **Catherine Coatney** (available from **The Rack**).

Kevin wears a black Flopper thong ($24.99), black lace garter belt ($29.99), red and black garter ($5.99), black stockings ($6.99) and red lace short gloves ($9.99) from **Bare Essentials** with black thigh-high, lace-up vinyl boots ($99.99) by **Pleaser** (available from **The Rack**). The black feather boa is model's own.



Heather in black, long sleeve maribou feather and PVC halter top ($69.95) by **Catherine Coatney**, silk nude male photography boxers ($29.95) by **Masterbedding**, polished nickel Gauntlet Cuffs ($114.95 each) by **JT Stockroom** and a rubber and stainless steel **Eric Snap** collar-necklace ($59.95)

Julia in black lace, demi-cup garter-grip-strp bra ($49.95) by **Catherine Coatney**, silk goddess-female nude photography boxers by **Masterbedding**, black fishnet lace-up armwarmers ($19.95) by **Tripp NYC** and a large chain collar-necklace with lock ($24.95) by **Achella**.

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By Jon Afalla

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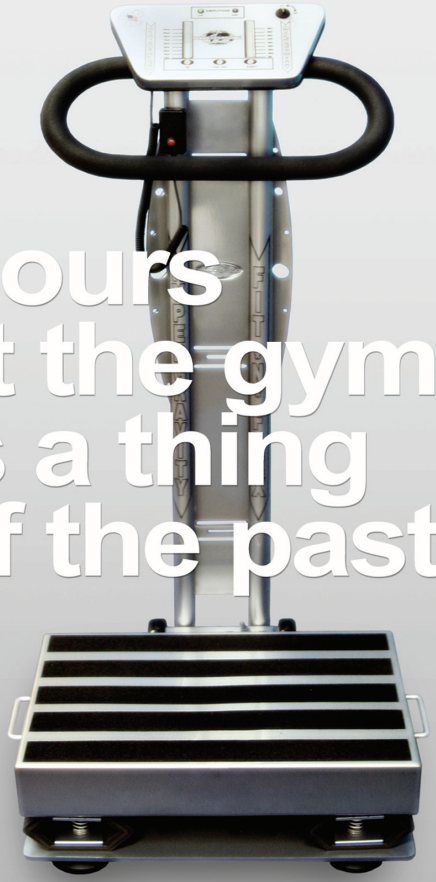

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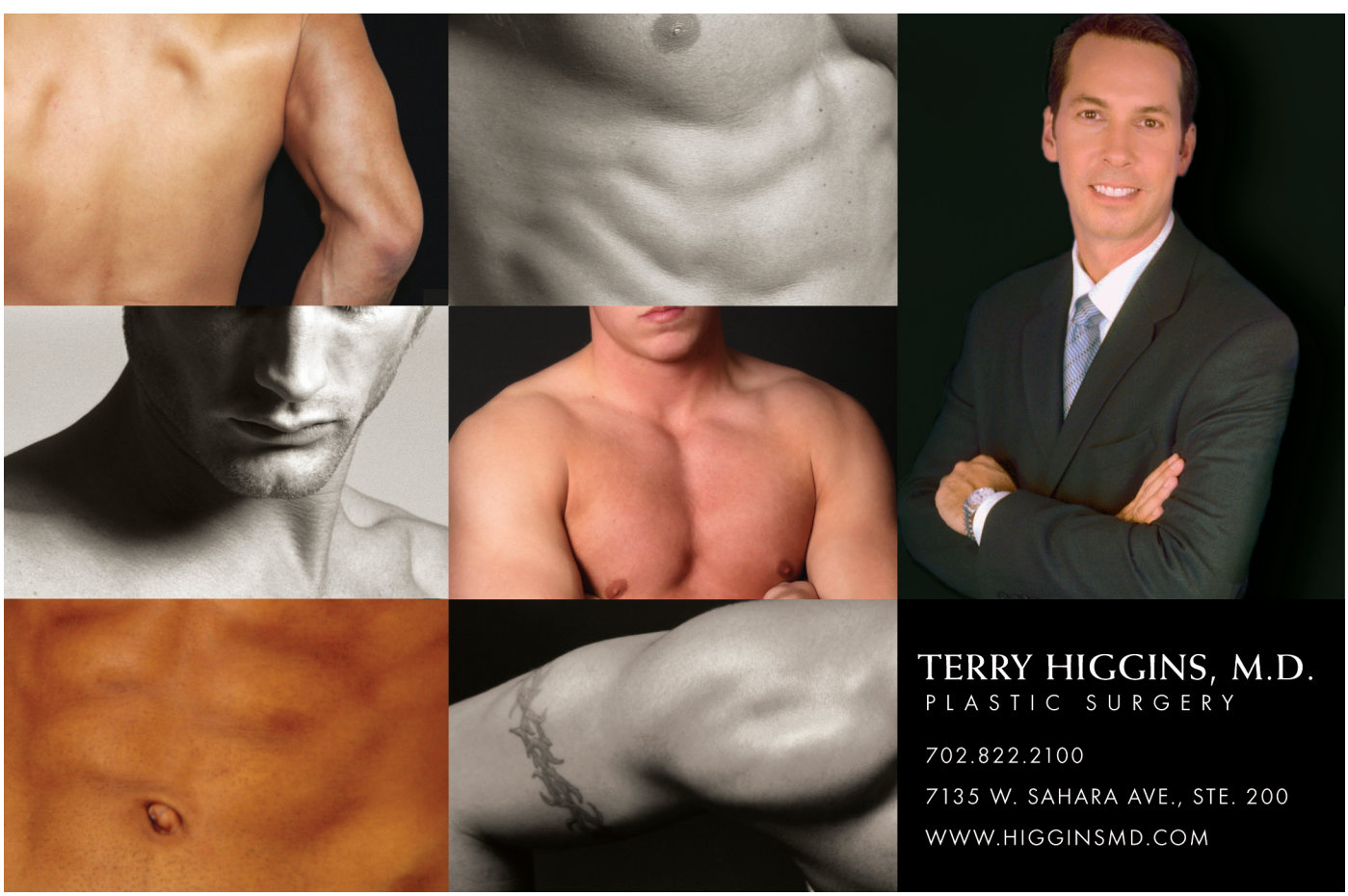

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BY MARK LANI

FITNESS RESOLUTIONS

It's that time of year again—the infamous New Year's resolution. If you are like most people that I know then one of your top resolutions will be to get into better shape this year. Shaping up for the new year is a phenomenal goal to have.

DID YOU KNOW THAT 80 PERCENT OF NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL?

That means that out of your 10 closest friends, eight will fail to meet their goal—I'm not too excited about those odds, are you? The good news is that *you* have what it takes to be one of the elite 20 percent who does meet their goal. How? Read on for five guidelines that will guarantee your 2007 fitness goals.

1. WRITE YOUR RESOLUTION AS A CONTRACT AND SIGN IT

I know it sounds strangely official, but that is precisely the point. First take your resolution and write it out in very specific detail. Below your resolution make a to-do list of activities that goes hand-in-hand with accomplishing your goal. Now sign and date the contract.

Here is an example:
In the year 2007 I resolve to drop 25pounds at a consistent rate of two pounds per month.
In order to meet my goal I will:
1. Walk 1 mile three times a week
2. Only eat one dessert item per week
3. Meet with my personal trainer three times a week

2. VISUALIZE YOUR SUCCESS

This is the easiest step to take to make sure that you attain your goal, but it is also the most overlooked. The power of creative visualization is undeniable and has been proven time and time again by go-getters like Michael Jordan, Einstein and Andrew Carnegie.

The way to use creative visualization to reach your goals is to let yourself visualize what it would be like to have already achieved this goal. Take a moment to let yourself feel the excitement. Your goal has been met and you are now 25 pounds lighter, you can see how amazing you look, you can feel new confidence building, you can even see the reactions of those that you love as they see the new you emerge.

3. BE REALISTIC IN YOUR GOAL

As you go about choosing your goal, it is important that you find one that is realistic. Dropping 100 pounds in one year (though not impossible) is probably not the most realistic goal. Be careful not to aim too low either (losing 2 pounds in a year may be too easy) You should challenge yourself and expect substantial change within a practical realm.

4. TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW

I know what you are thinking: Why tell everyone your goal when you may not ever meet it? Isn't that just embarrassing? No - because you *will* meet your goal once you place this added motivation on your shoulders.

Friends and family members can be a treasure chest filled with support and encouragement. You may even find that someone close to you also shares a similar goal - and now you have a built-in buddy for motivation.

If your family isn't very supportive, take heart. You still have a good reason for telling them your goal—it's a little thing called the guilt factor. Even if you aren't being showered with support, you will still feel a shade of embarrassment or guilt when your resolve begins to slip—but this only works if those around you are clued into your goals to begin with.

5. MEET WITH A PROFESSIONAL

The ultimate way to guarantee your fitness success in 2007 is to meet with a trained professional. Every pro in every industry has a coach. Top athletes have coaches that give them the edge. The most successful business people have wealth coaches who guide them to riches. Well, fitness *is* my specialty—and since you are serious about creating a healthy and fit physique—guarantee **your results by teaming up with me, your fitness coach.** Together we will come up with a fitness plan that is uniquely yours, one that fits your lifestyle and brings you maximum results in minimum time—something that you will appreciate as your resolutions are checked off. **Q**



Mark Lani, CPT, CSN, is a Certified Personal Trainer and owner of PerfectImage4Life Fitness. He may be reached by calling 702-341-6052 or by e-mailing mark@perfectimage4life.com.



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QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

BY FRANK ARMAND ALBANO

It was 1977, and she was just 18 years old. But unknown teenager Crystal Woods donned the clothes, put on the hair and performed Natalie Cole in drag at Fort Lauderdale's Sunrise Musical Theatre. "I didn't know anything about female impersonators. I had no clue—that I had any talent. But the club owners liked what I did, and I was put in the show."

Finally free and out of the closet, this openly gay African-American woman trapped in a man's body rocketed to stardom practically overnight. "For others, trapped by society norms and afraid to reveal their true self, [they] are defeated within the gay community."

Not so for Woods with a forum, and so for the next six years came the followups in *Vogue* Magazine, national talk show appearances and an acting cameo appearance in TV's *Real Life Show*. But the ride was just beginning.

Eventually she was cast by *La Cage*, and Crystal took to the road with appearances in Japan and Germany, finally coming home to where it all began—America.

By 1984, the show opened at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. "It was supposed to be only a six-week engagement, but that was 22 years ago, and I'm still here," she said.

And as they say, ladies and gentlemen, the rest is history.

Spend a night at *La Cage* and wonder at the magic. "It's really hard to tell the difference," Woods said. "Sometimes, out-of-towners think they are seeing the real Diana Ross.

Continued on Page 72



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QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

Continued from Page 71

Audiences are really impressed that real actors are impersonating superstars."

Donning a skintight floor-length blue sparkling ensemble, high heels and, of course, complete with an extravagant curl after curl black wig, she performs her raison d'être, impersonating Diana Ross in drag. "It's the thrill of being an actor. The make-up. The hair. The clothes," Woods said.

But there's more to being on stage at *La Cage*. "I meet new performers all the time. Good impersonators are invited to come up on stage."

From NYC's Blue Note on to San Francisco and finally landing in Florida, *La Cage* met Woods. And it was love at first sight.

Now a superstar herself, what are her future plans? "I plan on staying with *La Cage* and Frank Marino [who impersonates Joan Rivers], in the show and all the other kids. Shows come and go. If a show isn't good, they won't come and that's showbiz."

And how are things at the Riviera? "With my impersonation of Whitney Houston, The Riviera took *La Cage* to a whole new height," she said, "and audiences loved it."

Woods spent a few minutes talking about her childhood. "It was at a very early age, I discovered my true sexuality," Woods said. "I was forced by society's norms to live life normally—in school especially!"

As we all know kids can be cruel. Even more so perhaps with gays. But Woods said, "I had no problem staying in the closet. Until I had enough, and I came out. And it was then that I could do what I wanted to do," she continued. "When I did come out, my family was very supportive. And I was very proud of them."

She went on to say, "There are gays and straight types in showbiz. What matters is being the real thing."

Was it fate? Was it a chance meeting? Was it coincidence meeting chance at the right place, at the right time? Or was it what Woods said? "I took a dare." **Q**

Celebrating its 21st year in September, La Cage, *the second longest running show on the Strip, Woods and the cast, including Frank Marino, can be seen nightly turning actors into superstars and superstars back into actors.*

"It was on a dare, that I auditioned for *La Cage*. I took the dare!"



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All Porned Out

MY WEEK AT THE PORN CONVENTION

By Jon Afalla

I love January. It's the start of a new year. TV shows return with new episodes. And, most importantly, it houses my favorite week of the year in Las Vegas: porn week.

Who wouldn't love porn week—a near-weeklong convention of fun and debauchery? Hot porn stars run rampant, free porn samples circulate everywhere and every night hosts a wild party. And depending on what you have access to, it's better than Christmas and your birthday combined.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

I got to this year's Adult Entertainment Expo early on opening day. It was a media- and trade-only day, so I didn't have to worry about being overshadowed by crazed fans. Apparently I arrived too early because not all of the booths were set up and a lot of the entertainers weren't there yet. But the general atmosphere of the large-scaled convention was intoxicating nonetheless.

As soon as I walked in, I could see big-screen monitors showing clips of the entertainers present. A few months ago I was at an anime convention, where monitors filtered clips from cute Japanese cartoons. *These* monitors showcased girls and guys of all shapes and sizes swapping bodily fluids. It was an interesting contrast from "Sailor Moon transform!" to "Pound me, baby! Pound me!" Some of the porn trailers shown were more humorous than sensual. *Kill Jill* and *Porn of the Dead* particularly stick out in my mind.

All the big-league porn companies—Adam and Eve, Digital Playground, Club Jenna and Hustler Video—dominated the front of the Sands Expo and Convention Center, with booths bigger and bolder than their competition. A slew of photographers congregated around each porn star at every booth, igniting a sea of flashes throughout the convention center. The actors signed autographs one second, and then stood up to don their pouty, come-and-get-it-big-boy faces. It seemed all too natural for some, like riding a bicycle. Or long division. The girls also seemed too sweet to be in adult entertainment, but having them sign a topless photograph while they were being worked over on a monitor behind them quickly changed my mind.

Actors weren't the only thing at the annual AEE. No porn convention is complete

without novel sex toys and products. It's amazing what people come up with these days in terms of self-gratification. A hydraulic-powered dildo machine made me do a double take. Also, a Johnny 5 type sex robot sat somewhere in the middle of the rows of booths and bondage demonstrations. It looked like it had a chainsaw attached to one arm. I was too afraid to ask.

About 90 percent of the convention catered to the heterosexual audience. Most of the stars there were female. There were very few straight male actors. Nestled in the far left corner of the convention was the GAYVN, a portion dedicated to gay vendors and actors. But compared to the rest of the convention, its size was abysmal. Not a lot of the actors were available on opening day. At least not when I was there. The models from the popular StraightCollegeMen.com were huddled in full force at their booth, all topless and built like chiseled gods. They kiss, they fondle, they have sex. But they're straight. (Yeah, I know. Who are they kidding?) A couple of models were also shirtless at the Hot House booth, a porn company famous for its older, muscle daddy stars. Twink stars from Helix Studios and a pair of hotties from NakedSword.com rounded out the gay talent. The hotties from Channel 1 Releasing, alas, had not yet arrived.

The highlight of my day was running into Dustin Diamond. "Who's he?" you ask? Screech from *Saved by the Bell*! I got to meet and greet the man who set the tone for nerds all around the world. He now sports a beard, looks healthy (and not anorexic) and seemed really down to earth. Aside from the fact that he was promoting his amateur sex tape. Doing it with Screech. *Shudder.*

Thursday, Jan. 11

I didn't go to the convention, but I was invited to a pre-Hustlaball party at Alexis Park Resort that evening. I rolled in around 7 p.m., and the event was practically dead. The handful of people that were there were enduring the unusually freezing weather for the pool party were either huddled around gas heaters or relaxing in the hot tub.

The main pool area adjacent to the lobby was tented off for the party. A DJ set up in front of the pool pumped out energizing circuit beats. A massage tent was set up off to the side. While it was interesting to observe such an open display of sexuality, the risqué activity caused a negative chain reaction. Not only was the massage party broken up, but an undercover cop was there witnessing a virtual Boyz Gone Wild. Party promoter Tom Weise of Rentboy.com was taken aside later in the evening and chastised for what happened by the liquor and gaming licensing authority. According to Catrinea Houston, director of hotel operations at the resort, they were told that public displays of nudity were impermissible near the sale of alcohol. After some ace public relation skills by Houston, the party was able to continue for a while longer. It's strange how of all the parties going on throughout the night, the one gay event was targeted for reprieve. Alexis Park remains commited to hosting more gay events in the future. "We have zero tolerence for discrimantion and are excited about future community events," Houston says.

Friday, Jan. 12

Rentboy.com threw its annual Hustlaball at Krave. Porn stars, hustlers and escorts, oh my!

Saturday, Jan. 13

I returned to the convention on the last day, this time as a consumer. So I ran around the convention rounding up photographs with different porn stars (male and female alike) and getting signed autographs from the especially cute ones. A plastic surgeon or silicone distributor could have made a fortune that day in referrals alone. I stood in line to be photographed with straight porn superstars Jesse Jane and Carmen Luvana. They were both beautiful and endearing.

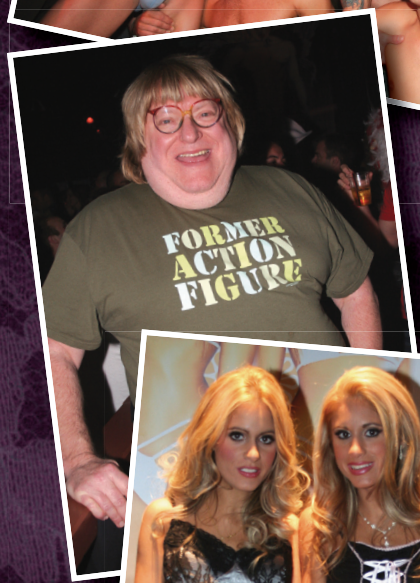
The crowds were chock full of fans and media alike. It was difficult to navigate through hordes of people surrounding each booth and porn star like a point guard in a tied-game rivalry. It was a claustrophobic's worst nightmare.

My friends and I made our way to the back of the convention to the relegated gay section, and there were more models to idolize. Gay porn stars present included Benjamin Bradley and Josh Vaughn from Channel 1 Releasing, a group of hot, chiseled models from Titan Media, Marc Sterling, Alex Cross and more.

Japanese men in business suits ran one of my favorite areas of the convention. They had a screen set up with 3D porn, which was the most spectacular demonstration of the day (in my humble opinion). Leave it to the Japanese to create something technologically savvy. Even in porn!

By the end of the day, my feet hurt and I was exhausted. My eyes had reached sensory overload. I was all porned out. *And I thought I'd never say that!* Q













SHANNON BEX, DAWN RICHARD, AUNDREA FIMBRES, D. WOODS AND AUBREY O'DAY

Diddy's Girls

By Arjan Timmermans

The ladies from Danity Kane were personally picked by music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs on MTV's *Making The Band 3* to be the next big girl group. Groomed by the best of the best in the hip-hop and R&B industry, Shannon Bex, Aundrea Fimbres, Aubrey O'Day, Dawn Richard and D. Woods found out quickly that a superstar endorsement and a hit reality TV show does not sell records. It takes hard work, endless performing and very little sleep to make it in the music business—more than they had ever expected. But they take it in stride, because at the end of the day the girls are living their dream. *QVegas* spoke exclusively with the sexy and talented fivesome who recently released their new single "Ride For You" from their self-titled debut album. The group supports Christina Aguilera on her current U.S. tour, which makes a stop in Las Vegas March 3.

Everybody was so tough on you during *Making The Band*. Was that all a matter of clever editing by MTV?

Shannon: It was really that intense when the show was taped. But it was bittersweet. Diddy and his crew made us hit rock bottom, but they also made us stronger. Looking back, everybody helped us prepare for this industry. No one holds your hand. You have to be strong no matter what you do. So the experience turned out to be somewhat of a blessing.

Did your life slow down after the show?

Dawn: Oh, no. The entire year has been a whirlwind for us. We get little sleep and perform all the time. We respect the show for what it taught us, because we are really prepared for all the work now. Nothing ever runs on time and we travel at least three times a day on planes. The show took it a little over the edge so that we were really, really ready for this industry.

If you don't have to work, how do you relax?

Aubrey: Oh my gosh. I don't know even know. We haven't relaxed in like two years. [Laughs] But Shannon gives great massages. Seriously, I've had tons of professional massages and she has golden hands!

Who of you gets the most guys?

Aubrey: We all get tons of guys! [Laughs]

What's the worst rumor you've heard about yourself?

Dawn: The worst rumor I've heard is that we had a thing with Diddy. You know it is such an easy thing to say that about girls in a girlband. We had a show on television that showed how hard we worked so to come up with a rumor like that was kind of crazy to me. A better rumor would be that Shannon would be with Johnny Depp, or I would be with some other hot guy, come on please.

If you'd take a drug test tomorrow, what would they find?

Dawn: They wouldn't find anything. They just would find a lot of chocolate in Shannon's system. [Laughs]. We have to take care of our bodies. We don't do stuff like that. We're high on life.

Did you ever try out for reality TV talent competition like *American Idol*?

Shannon: Yes. I was on a show called *Fame* with Debbie Allen, and I was the runner up.

I saw you pass by on the Red Carpet at last year's MTV Video Music Awards and some reporters thought you were the Pussycat Dolls. Do you get that comparison a lot?

Dawn: I don't really understand people think that. We don't look anything like them. We love them and are excited about touring with them and Christina Aguilera.

Who looks the best in the morning?

Aubrey: Is there anybody that looks great in the morning? We all have terrible bedheads!

Do you know if have any gay fans?

Aubrey: Of course we have gay fans!

Andrea: They love us!

Dawn: We love it. A lot of people we work with are gay and have been very supportive.

Why do you think gays love you?

Aubrey: I think we are completely uninhibited and open about who were are. We are not scared to have our good moments, our bad moments. Because of a reality show we have been very open about our lives. Unlike many others, gays can respect the fact that we are everyday girls who had a dream and fought very hard. Through perseverance and determination we were able to achieve our dreams. It was a very honest way without any smoking mirrors.

Diddy is going to put together a new boyband on the next season of *Making The Band*. If you could be Diddy for a moment, what band would you like to put together?

Dawn: Wow. Prince, Michael Jackson, James Brown...

Shannon: And Elvis!

Aubrey: Yeah! Hot!

Dawn: That would be a crazy, hot band! It would be dancing, it would be entertainment and it would be singing. We need a country singer in there though...

Aubrey: Garth Brooks! No, Johnny Cash!

You work together so closely all the time, how do you keep a good atmosphere?

Aubrey: We just like to be silly at times, if you haven't noticed yet. It is all about having fun while working hard. We also console each other and give each other space. If Dawn doesn't feel that great, for example, we just let her be and let her have her moment by herself. Just respecting each other's space is important. **Q**

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LOVE FOR HIRE

Continued from Page 20

clients request. "On a weekend, I'll usually make about $2,000," Raul said. "That's pretty normal if I do just a couple of dates per night. But this line of work—[it's] not all about good times and easy cash."

"I like the money I make, but I keep wanting to stop because it is dangerous," Jack said. "I'm always hearing about entertainers who go out to a house or a hotel room and never come back." Raul and Ray said they've had to fight their way out of a dangerous situation more than once. "Back in LA, some guy picked me up at a bar and took me back to his hotel room," Ray said. "He started massaging my neck and then his hold started getting tighter and tighter. That was a close call."

It's that type of risk associated with today's sex industry, not the sex itself, that makes the oldest profession a dangerous business, said Crystal Jackson, a UNLV graduate student in sociology. "Las Vegas is unique in the sense that we embrace a certain level of comodified sexuality. We allow strip clubs because we want to sell an image of sex and mystery, but there is definitely a conservative backlash," she said. "We want people to come here ready to spend their money on a highly sexualized experience, but we don't want them to actually get sex for their money. And we still attach a negative stigma to the entire sex industry."

Jackson is a queer activist and a founding member of the Desiree Alliance, a network of non-profit organizations in favor of decriminalizing prostitution and advancing an emerging sex workers' rights movement in the United States. The term "sex workers" describes not only prostitutes, Jackson explained, but includes adult-film actors, strippers, nude models, phone-sex operators, escorts and anyone who profits from sexual services.

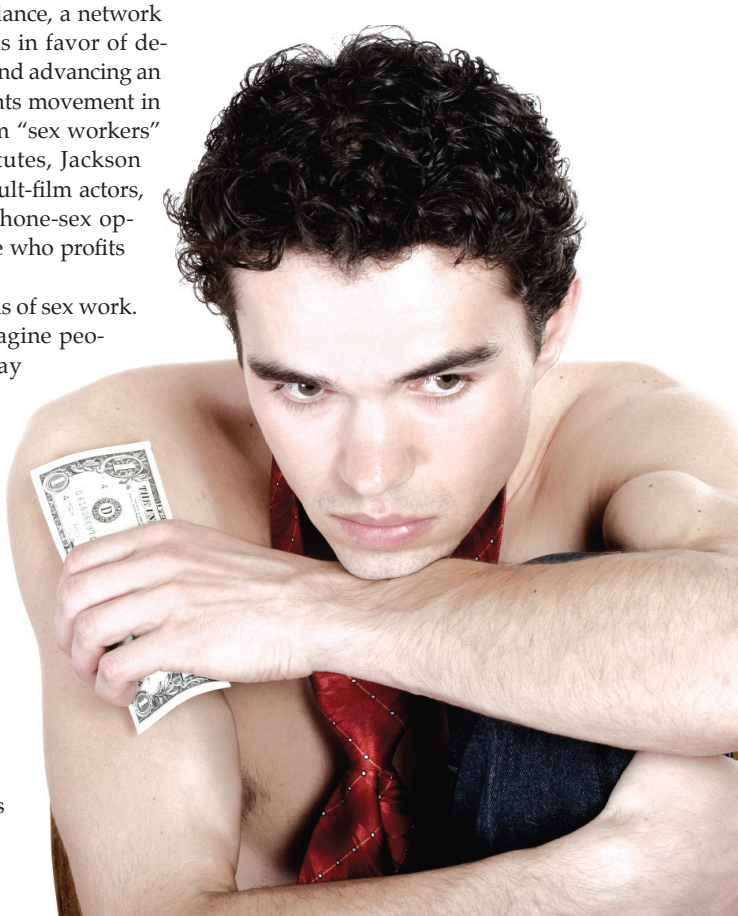
"There are so many realms of sex work. Any way that you can imagine people having sex, they'll pay for it," she said. "That's why sex workers' rights are about human rights, civil rights and labor rights."

Desiree Alliance was among the sponsors of a conference entitled "Re-visioning Prostitution Policy: Creating Space for Sex Worker Rights and Challenging Criminalization," which took place July 9-12 in Las Vegas. The conference attracted a mix of sex workers, academics, social researchers, brothel owners and health workers.

The alliance also sponsored a Jan. 3 workshop led by Tim Barnett, an openly gay member of New Zealand's parliament and the main sponsor of the 2003 law that decriminalized prostitution in that country. "Prostitution is illegal in Las Vegas itself, but you can open the phone book and find 100 pages advertising prostitution services. That says something about what the reality is compared to the lore of the law," he said during the workshop, adding that current laws criminalizing prostitution and the resources spent every year trying to enforce those laws have not been effective in trying to eliminate the practice.

How does one become a part of the sex industry? Ray said he got started out of necessity. "I got into this when I was 18," he said. "My dad is a Baptist preacher in Tennessee. He kicked me out of the house when he found out his son was a fag. I've been doing it on and off ever since."

Ray hopes to save enough money within the next couple of years to leave the sex industry and become a real-estate investor. And maybe get a real sweetheart. "I work just about every day, at whatever time my phone rings,' he said. "I have a lot of sex. But it's really hard to have an actual lover." **Q**



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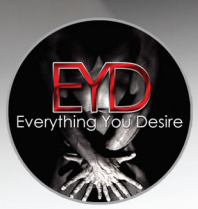

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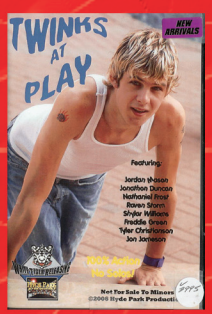

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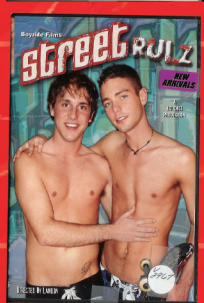

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5150 SPRING MOUNTAIN RD., 702-221-5150

Tired of the same clubs dominating the Fruit Loop? Try something that's new and different. One of Vegas' recent nightlife additions, Barcode is a trendy alternative club away from the Strip.

CHARLIE'S LAS VEGAS
5012 S. ARVILLE ST., 702-876-1844

Part of the popular Chicago, Denver and Phoenix scene, this country western gay bar is a popular local hangout. With special events daily, this bar is great to grab a drink with a few friends.

ESCAPE LOUNGE
4213 W. SAHARA AVE., 702-364-1167

Another new bar away from the Strip, Escape Lounge offers customers great specials, friendly bartenders and a quaint atmosphere. Anyone looking for an escape should stop here on the west side.

FLEX
4371 W. CHARLESTON AVE., 702-385-FLEX

Flex Nightclub offers drinks, strippers, games and more. A quaint neighborhood bar, Flex is perfect to stop by for an after-work cocktail. Watch their calendar of events carefully; they always have something new and different going on.

FREEZONE
610 E. NAPLES DR., 702-794-2300

As the name implies, there is never a cover at this popular bar/club (excluding holidays and special events). Freezone offers cheap drink specials (including the famous free beer bust), good times and an ever-friendly staff.

GIPSY
4605 PARADISE RD., 702-731-1919

Gipsy, one of Las Vegas' first dance clubs, pumps out good music, cheap drinks and an intimate, sultry setting. Classics never die.

GOODTIMES
1775 E. TROPICANA AVE., 702-736-9494

Home of the Monday night alcohol/beer bust, this local bar is a great place to start your week. Goodtimes is popular with the gamers as they have some of the most liberal video poker machines off the Strip.

KRAVE
HARMON AVE. AT LAS VEGAS BLVD., 702-836-0830

Las Vegas' first alternative club on the Strip, Krave is the spot for a good weekend party. Hosting world-renowned DJs and high-energy dance music, this nightclub is perfect for anyone wanting to bust a move.

LAS VEGAS EAGLE
3430 E. TROPICANA AVE., 702-458-8662

More into the leather, bear and mature scene? The Las Vegas Eagle is just the place for you. This bar is also perfect for a guy looking to save money on drinks—just strip down to your boxers or briefs every Wednesday and Friday night and get free well drinks and beer.

SNICK'S PLACE
3RD ST. OFF LAS VEGAS BLVD., 702-385-9298

Las Vegas' oldest gay and lesbian bar, Snick's Place is the gay equivalent to Cheers. Located near downtown Las Vegas, Snick's is the best place to go for a sociable drink.

SPOTLIGHT LOUNGE
957 E. SAHARA AVE., 702-696-0202

Located in the Commercial Center, Spotlight Lounge is not only a casual, friendly bar, but also a great community supporter. Lending its space to political fund-raisers and various group meetings, the Spotlight has shined brightly over the past few years.

SUEDE
4640 PARADISE RD., 702-791-DINE

Love a good drag show? Suede's got a great one! Home to famed performer Kenny Kerr, Suede is the perfect place for a martini and an enjoyable performance.

THURSDAY
BOYZ NIGHT
GO-GO BOYS
FREE BEER BUST*
DJ QUE

TUESDAY
LADIES NIGHT
LICK-HER-BUST
AND BEER BUST
WET T-SHIRT 2ND TUE

DANCE PARTY
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
FREE BEER BUST*
DJ MILES
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SHOW 10PM

FRIDAY
MARTINI'S
2-4-1 MARTINI MIXER, 5-9 PM

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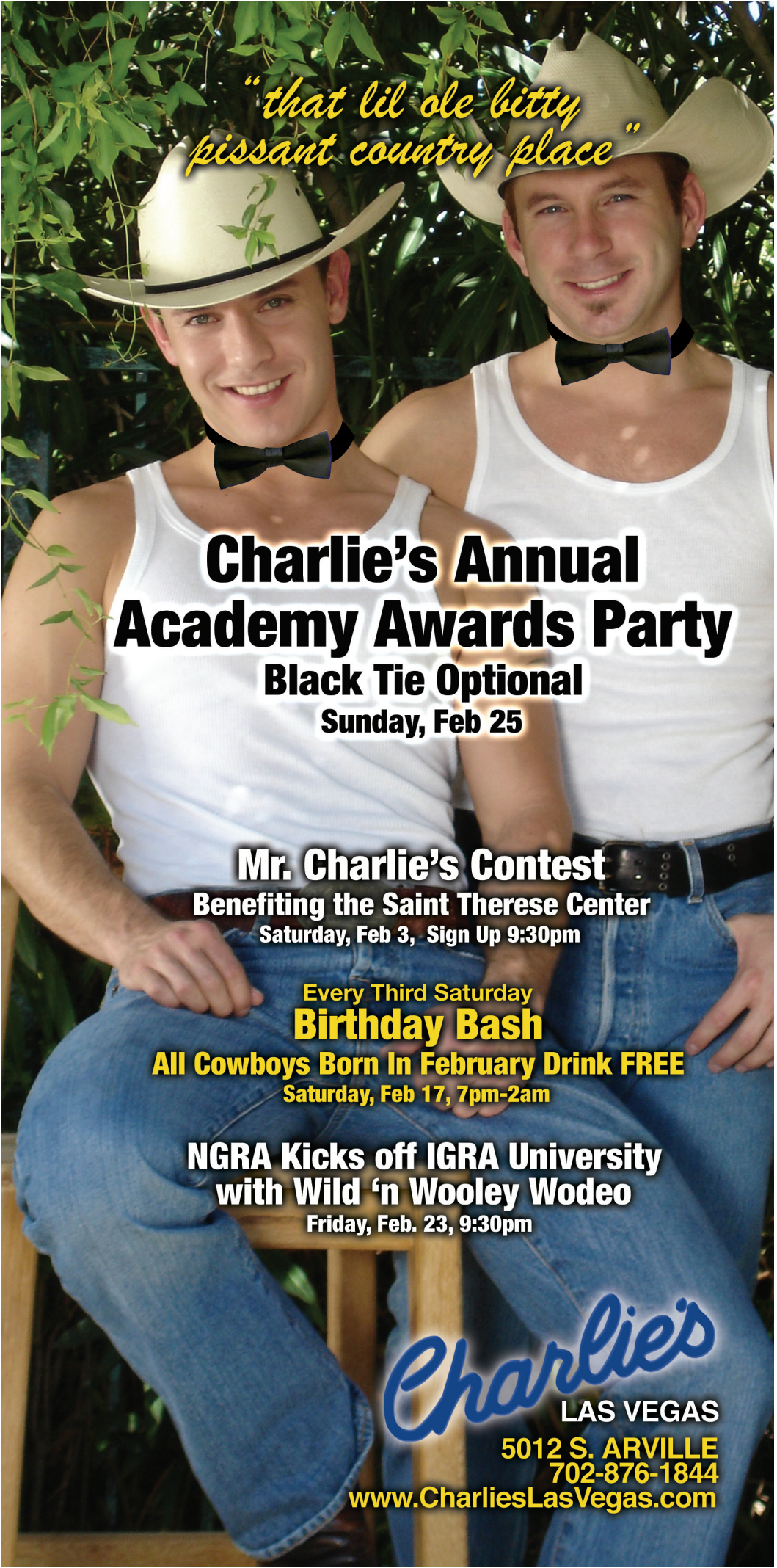

SPAMALOT

Continued from Page 19



the only legless knight appearing on the Las Vegas Strip.

The show will star John O'Hurley (J. Peterman on *Seinfeld*). O'Hurley was the ultimate champion on season one of *Dancing with the Stars* and is the new face of *Family Feud*. He has worked on stage throughout his career, starring on Broadway in *Chicago* as Billy Flynn.

Monty Python's *SPAMALOT* is lovingly based on the motion picture *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin. The show features lyrics and a Grammy Award-winning score by Idle and longtime Python collaborator John Du Prez. The show is also directed by Oscar- and Tony Award-winning legend Mike Nichols, choreographed by Casey Nicholaw and costumed by Tony Award-winner Tim Hatley.

Nichols has been acclaimed as one of the great American directors in film, theater and television. His best known works include *Closer*, *Primary Colors*, *The Birdcage*, *Working Girl*, *Silkwood*, *Carnal Knowledge* and *The Graduate*.

Tickets are now on sale. Ticket prices are $49, $69, $89 and $99. All ticket prices include local entertainment tax. They can be purchased by phone by calling (888) 320-7110 or (702) 770 WYNN (9966). Tickets may also be purchased online at www.montypythonsspamalot.com or www.wynnlasvegas.com.

Preview performances will be held March 8-30 and will be discounted 25 percent. Opening night will take place Friday, March 30. Regular performances will begin Sunday, April 1. *SPAMALOT* will play regularly Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. and Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. The show will be dark Thursday.

For more information, visit www.montypythonsspamalot.com or www.wynnlasvegas.com. **Q**

Photos of the Broadway and First National Tour casts by Joan Marcus.

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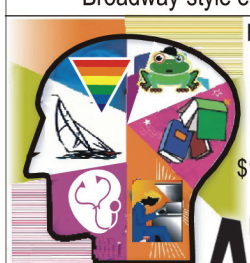

Friday evening, Mar. 2 is a special fundraiser for The Gay and Lesbian Center of Southern Nevada. $10.00 from each ticket sold for this performance will go to the Center.

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QHAPPENINGS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY



If you have an event you wish to promote in QHappenings, send via e-mail to **calendar@qvegas.com** by the 15th of the month preceding the event.

4 **SIN SITY SISTERS SUPER BOWL PARTY** Escape Lounge, 2-7 p.m. *www.escapeloungelv.com*	**5** **THE CENTER'S MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING** The Center, 5:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com* **NGRA RPC MEETING** The Center, 6:30 p.m. *www.ngra.com* **BLONDE BOMBSHELL KARAOKE WITH SHIELA** Alexis Park Bar, 8 p.m. to midnight	**6** **IMPERIAL COURT GENERAL MEETING** The Center, 7:30 p.m. *www.desertempire.org* **SIN SITY SISTERS** The Center, 8:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com*	**7** **CENTER BOARD MEETING** The Center, 6 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com*
11 **SENIOR SOCIAL CONNECTION** The Center, 2-4 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com*	**12** **NEVADA OUTDOORS DINNER NIGHT** *www.nevadaoutdoors.org* **BLONDE BOMBSHELL KARAOKE WITH SHIELA** Alexis Park bar, 8 p.m. to midnight	**13**	**14** **LAMBDA FEBRUARY LUNCHEON ($18)** Suede *www.lambdalv.com* **GOLDEN RAINBOW PRESENTS NAKED HEARTS** Chippendales Theater, Rio All Suite Hotel & Casino *www.goldenrainbow.org*
18	**19** **LGBT BOOK CLUB MEETING** The Center, 7:30-9 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com* **BONDE BOMBSHELL KARAOKE WITH SHIELA** Alexis Park bar, 8 p.m. to midnight	**20** **SNAPI MEETING** The Center, 6:30-8 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com* **SIN SITY SISTERS** The Center, 8:30-10 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com*	**21** **LGBT FINANCIAL CLUB** The Center, 7-8 p.m.
25 **CHARLIE'S ANNUAL ACADEMY AWARDS PARTY** Charlie's *www.charlieslasvegas.com*	**26** **SCI-FI BOOK CLUB** The Center, 7:30-8:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com* **IMPERIAL COURT BOARD MEETING** The Center, 7:30-8:30 p.m. *www.desertempire.org* **BLONDE BOMBSHELL KARAOKE WITH SHIELA** Alexis Park bar, 8 p.m. to midnight	**27** **HRC VOLUNTEER NIGHT** The Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m. **QVEGAS MARCH ISSUE LAUNCH PARTY** Krave, 9 p.m. *www.qvegas.com*	**28** **STONEWALL DEMOCRATS** The Center, 6-7 p.m. www.stonewalllv.org

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
February 1 **FREE HIV TESTING** The Center, 3-6:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com*	**2** **FIRST FRIDAY** Downtown Art District, 5 p.m. *www.firstfriday-lasvegas.org* **MARTINI SOCIAL** Freezone, 5-9 p.m. *www.freezonelv.com*	**3** **UNWRITTEN LAW** House of Blues, 6 p.m. *www.ticketmaster.com* **THE NEXT GENERATION WORKSHOPS** The Center, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com* **QRADIO** KLAV 1230 AM, 9pm *www.qvegas.com*
8 **FREE HIV TESTING** The Center, 3-6:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com*	**9** **VIP SWEATHEARTS PACKAGE** Backdoor, 2 a.m.	**10** **NGRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOW** Charlie's Las Vegas *www.ngra.com* **LATINO LOVERS NIGHT** Backdoor, 2 a.m.
15 **THIRD THURSDAY HRC SOCIAL** www.hrc.org **FREE HIV TESTING** The Center, 3-6:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com*	**16**	**AMARGOSA OPERA HOUSE TRIP** **17** Marta beckets Amargosa Opera House & Hotel *info@nevadaoutdoors.org/amargosaoperahouse.com* **AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SOCIAL** The Center, 7:30-9:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com* **BIRTHDAY BASH (ALL FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS DRINK FREE)** Charlie's, 7 p.m.-2 a.m. *www.charlieslasvegas.com*
22 **SIN SITY SISTERS VIP RECEPTION** The Liberace Museum, 7:30 p.m. **FREE HIV TESTING** The Center, 3-6:30 p.m. *www.thecenterlv.com* **IGRA UNIVERSITY—LAS VEGAS (UNTIL FEB 25TH)** Tuscany Hotel *www.ngra.com*	**23** **SISTERS, SAINTS AND SINNERS ($69)** Krave After Hours, 11 p.m. *www.kravelasvegas.com* **WILD N WOOLEY** Charlie's *www.ngra.com* **KATHY GRIFFIN LIVE** Mandalay Bay Resort, 8 p.m./11 p.m. *www.ticketmaster.com*	**24** **DISCO BALL** Badlands *www.ngra.com*

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SEE AD ON PAGE 12 FOR FULL EVENT DETAILS

For more details on these and other exciting community events, please visit the Web sites listed below.

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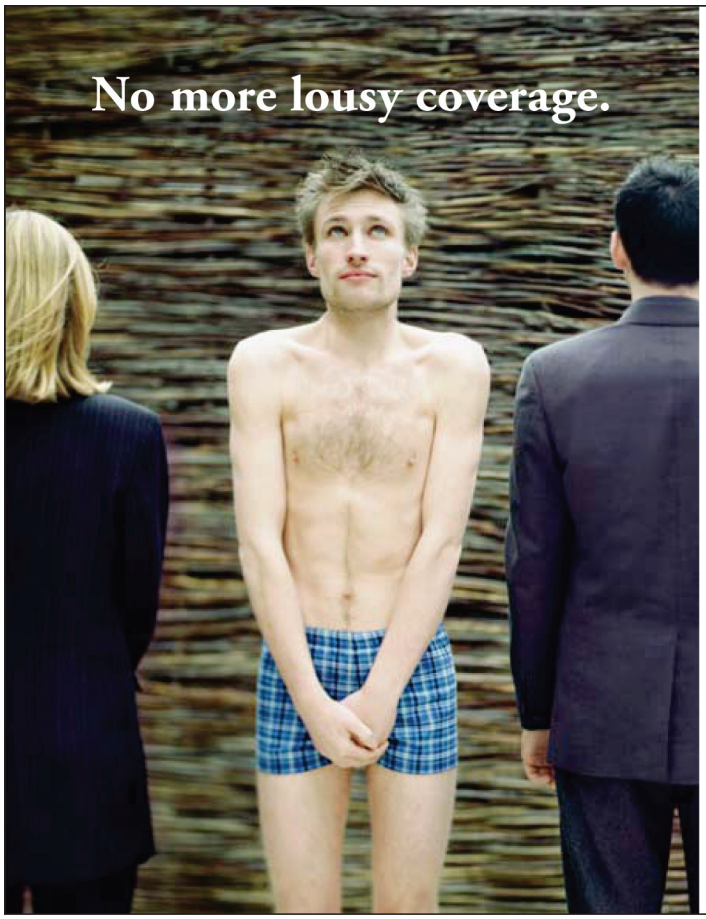

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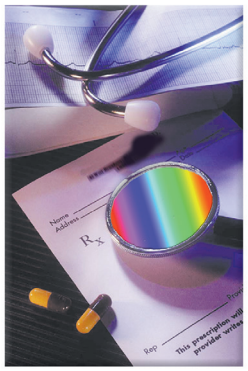

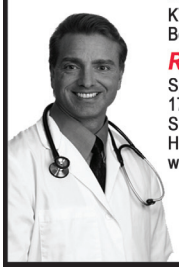

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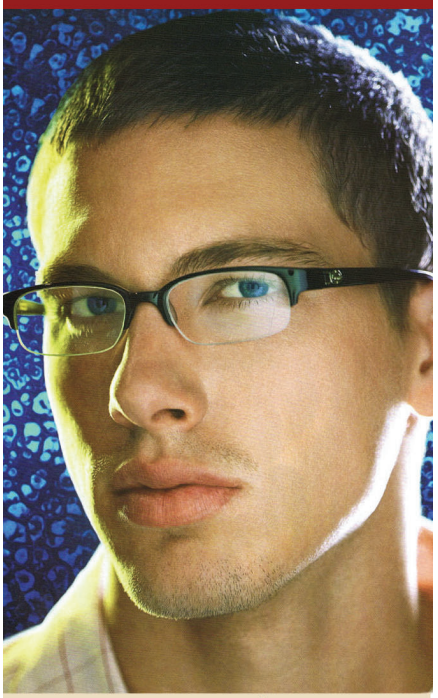

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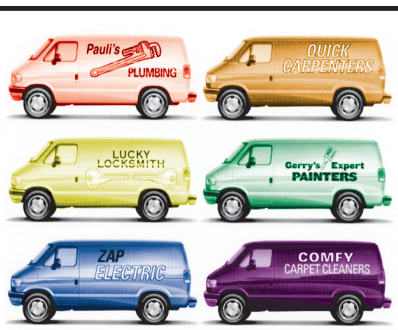

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FEB 1	**THURSDAY**
3:00 PM	HIV TESTING
6:00 PM	YOUTH GROUP
6:30PM	AA MEETING
FEB 2	**FRIDAY**
7:00 PM	G-MEN, L-GROUP, VEGAS MPOWERMENT
FEB 3	**SATURDAY**
10:30 AM	TNG
FEB 4	**SUNDAY**
11:00 AM	AA MEETING
FEB 5	**MONDAY**
5:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
6:30 PM	PARENTAL ALIENATION
6:30 PM	NGRA RPC MEETING
7:00 PM	VEGAS MPOWERMENT
FEB 6	**TUESDAY**
6:30 PM	AA MEETING
7:30 PM	IMPERIAL COURT GENERAL MEETING
8:30 PM	SIN SITY SISTERS
FEB 7	**WEDNESDAY**
12:00 PM	WISE WOMYN
6:00 PM	CENTER'S BOARD MEETING
FEB 8	**THURSDAY**
3:00 PM	HIV TESTING
6:00 PM	YOUTH GROUP
6:30 PM	AA MEETING
FEB 9	**FRIDAY**
7:00 PM	G-MEN, L-GROUP, VEGAS MPOWERMENT
FEB 11	**SUNDAY**
11:00 AM	AA MEETING
2:00 PM	SENIOR SOCIAL CONNECTION
FEB 12	**MONDAY**
6:30 PM	PARENTAL ALIENATION
7:00 PM	VEGAS MPOWERMENT
FEB 13	**TUESDAY**
6:30 PM	AA MEETING
FEB 14	**WEDNESDAY**
12:00 PM	WISE WOMYN
6:30 PM	AA
7:00 PM	VEGAS MPOWERMENT
8:00 PM	LUC OF LV
FEB 15	**THURSDAY**
3:00 PM	HIV TESTING
6:00 PM	YOUTH GROUP
6:30 PM	AA MEETING
FEB 16	**FRIDAY**
7:00 PM	G-MEN, L-GROUP, VEGAS MPOWERMENT
FEB 17	**SATURDAY**
7:30 PM	AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SOCIAL
FEB 18	**SUNDAY**
11:00 AM	AA MEETING
FEB 19	**MONDAY**
5:30 PM	MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
6:30 PM	PARENTAL ALIENATION
7:00 PM	VEGAS MPOWERMENT
7:30 PM	LGBT BOOK CLUB
FEB 20	**TUESDAY**
6:30 PM	SNAPI MEETING
6:30 PM	AA MEETING
8:30 PM	SINS SITY SISTERS
FEB 21	**WEDNESDAY**
12:30 PM	SNAPI MEETING
6:30 PM	AA MEETING
7:00 PM	LGBT FINANCIAL CLUB, VEGAS MPOWERMENT, LGBT FINANCIAL CLUB
FEB 22	**THURSDAY**
3:00 PM	HIV TESTING
6:00 PM	YOUTH GROUP
6:30 PM	AA MEETING
FEB 23	**FRIDAY**
7:00 PM	G-MEN, L-GROUP, VEGAS MPOWERMENT
FEB 24	**SATURDAY**
4:00 PM	LV PRIME TIMERS MEETING
FEB 25	**SUNDAY**
11:00 AM	AA MEETING
FEB 26	**MONDAY**
6:30 PM	PARENTAL ALIENATION
7:00 PM	VEGAS MPOWERMENT
7:30 PM	IMPERIAL COURT BOARD MEETING,
7:30 PM	SCI-FI BOOK CLUB
FEB 27	**TUESDAY**
6:30 PM	AA MEETING
6:30 PM	HRC VOLUNTEER NIGHT
FEB 28	**WEDNESDAY**
12:00 PM	WISE WOMYN
6:00 PM	STONEWALL DEMOCRATS
6:30 PM	AA
7:00 PM	VEGAS MPOWERMENT, NEVADA OUT DOORS

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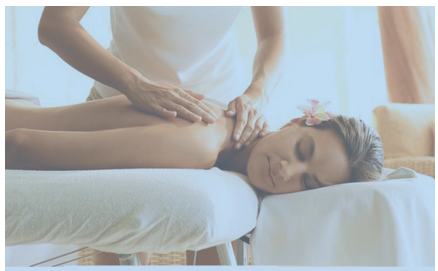





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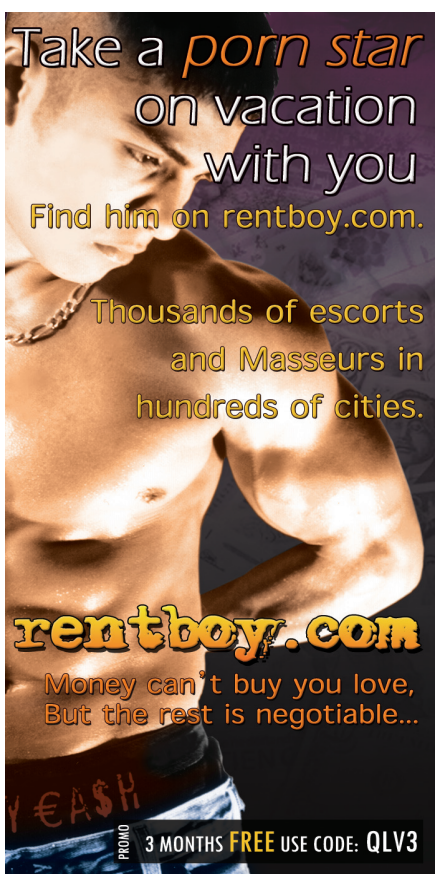

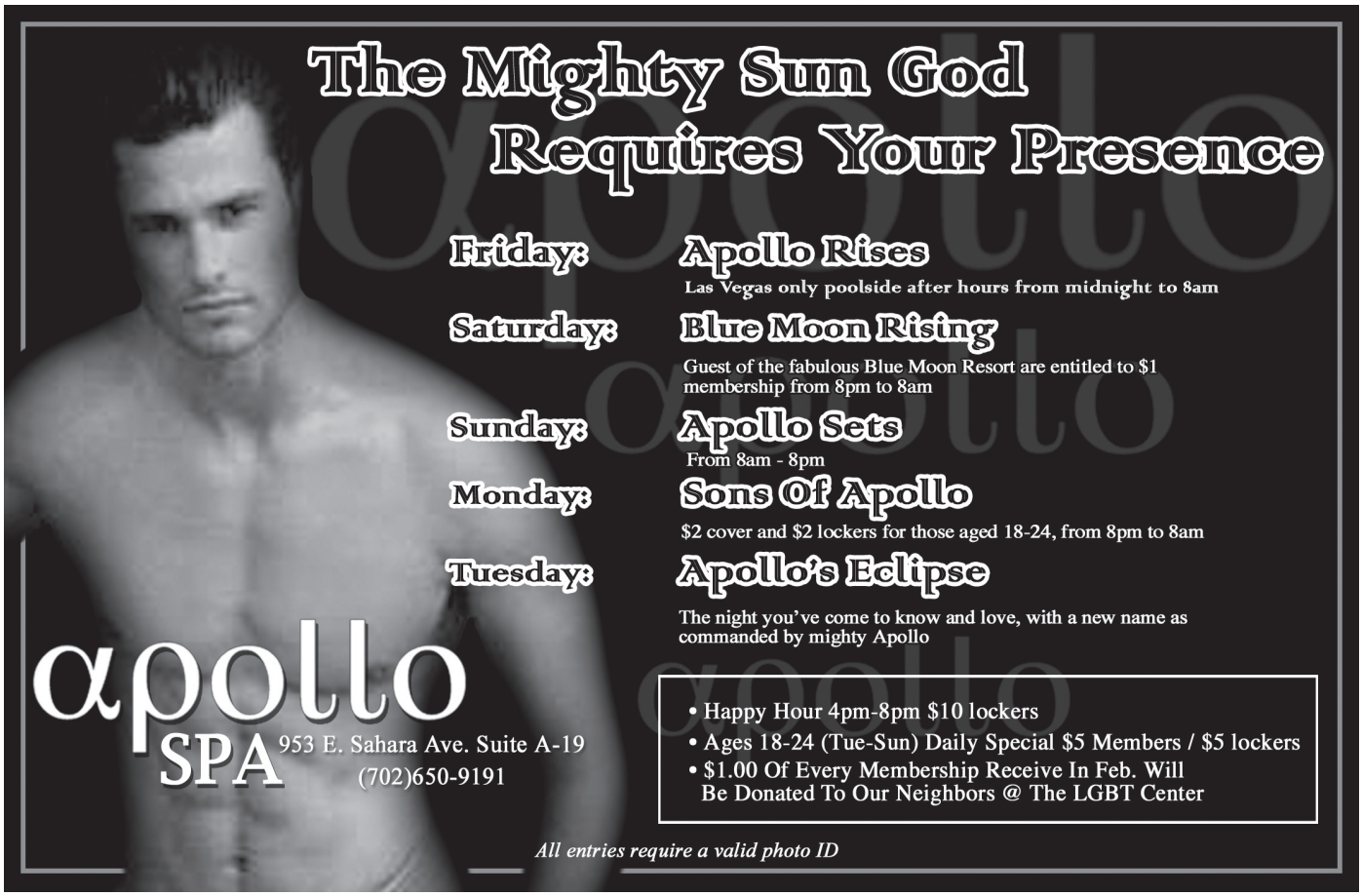

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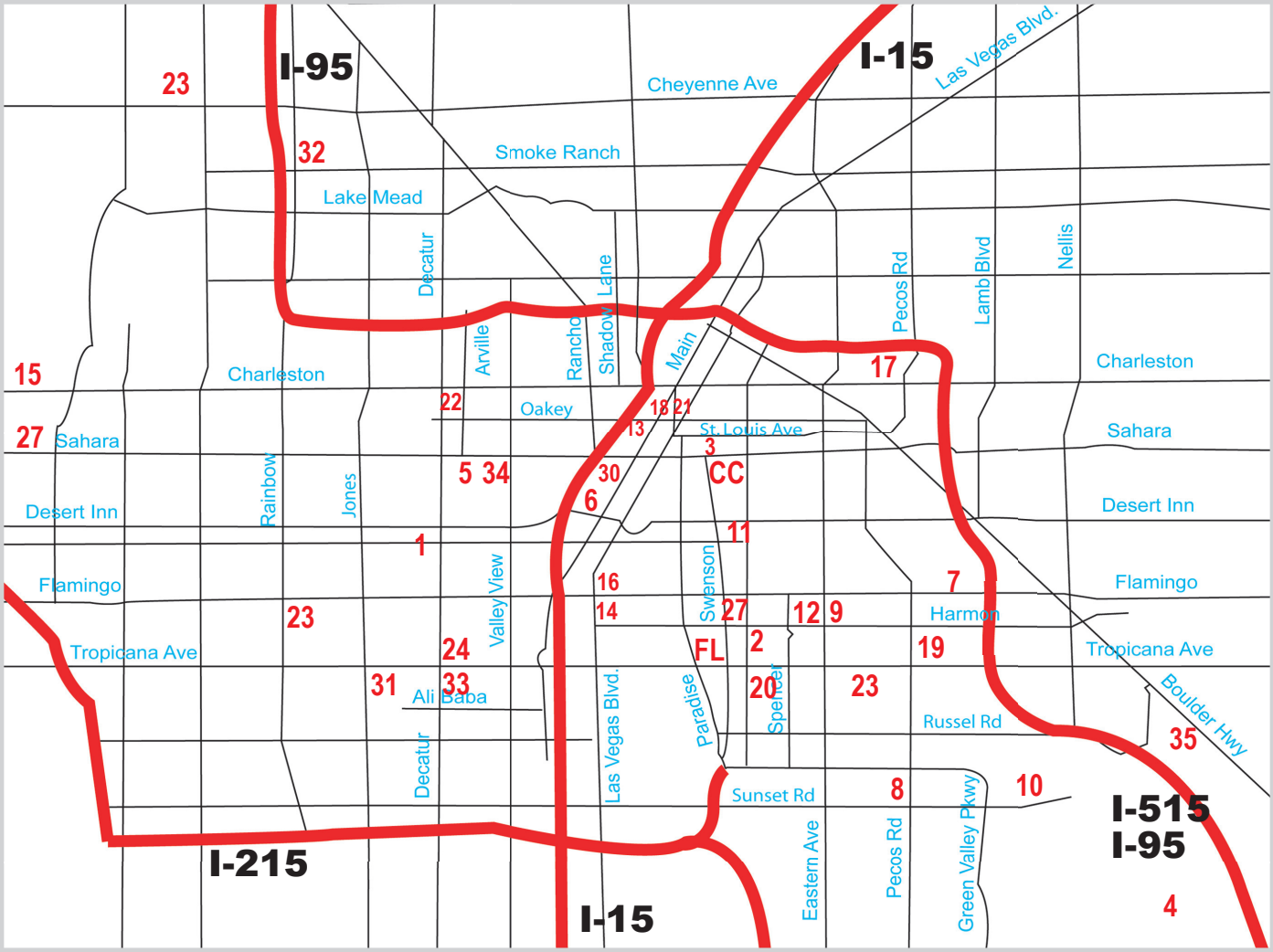

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9 **A NEW YOU MEDICAL AESTHETICS** • 4440 S. Eastern Ave., 702-735-4201
5 **BARE ESSENTIALS** • 4029 W. Sahara Ave., 702-247-4711
8 **BLUSH SALON** • 6360 S. Pecos, Ste. 4, 702-851-3100
11 **FLOWERS AND GIFTS** • 3319 S. Maryland Pkwy., Ste. D, 702-733-7732
FL **GET BOOKED** • 4640 S. Paradise Rd., 702-737-7780
18 **GOOD STUFF ADULT STORE** • 1500 S. Main St., 702-396-6900
35 **THE HAIR GARAGE** • 400 S. College Dr., Ste. G, 702-639-1010
FL **LEATHER ADDICTIONS** • 700 E. Naples Dr., Ste. 103, 702-558-2223
6 **LOVE BOUTIQUE** • 3257 S. Industrial Rd., 702-731-5655
3 **MALE BAG** • 610 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. 13, 702-474-6253
13 **PES THE STUDIO** • 1509 W. Oakey Blvd., 702-474-2991
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4 **TOWER OF JEWELS** • 1300 W. Sunset Rd., Ste. 2509, 702-435-6976
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32 **VIDEO WEST** • 6663 Smoke Ranch Rd., 319-4500
FL **VIDEO WEST** • 4637 S. Paradise Rd., 735-1469
15 **WHOLE FOODS MARKET** • 8855 W. Charleston Blvd., 702-254-8655
12 **ZIA RECORDS EXCHANGE** • 4225 S. Eastern Ave., 702-735-4945

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1 **BARCODE** • 5150 Spring Mtn. Rd., 702-221-5150
33 **CHARLIE'S** • 5012 S. Arville, 702-876-1844
2 **COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF** • 4550 S. Maryland Pkwy., 702-944-5029
16 **DRAI'S** • 3585 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-737-0555
34 **ESCAPE LOUNGE** • 4213 W. Sahara Ave., 702-364-1167
22 **FLEX** • 4371 W. Charleston Ave., 702-385-FLEX
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20 **GOODTIMES** • 1775 E. Tropicana Ave., 702-736-9494
14 **KRAVE** • Corner of Harmon Ave. & Las Vegas Blvd., 702-836-0830
19 **LAS VEGAS EAGLE** • 3430 E. Tropicana Ave., 702-458-8662
CC **LAS VEGAS LOUNGE** • 900 E. Karen Ave. Ste., C-108, 702-737-9350
27 **PAYMON'S MEDITERRANEAN CAFE** • 4147 S. Maryland Pkwy., 702-731-6030
21 **SNICKS PLACE** • 1402 S. 3rd St., 702-385-9298
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SPECIAL NOTES

FL = FRUIT LOOP • Near Paradise at Harmon **CC = COMMERCIAL CENTER** • 953 E. Sahara Ave.

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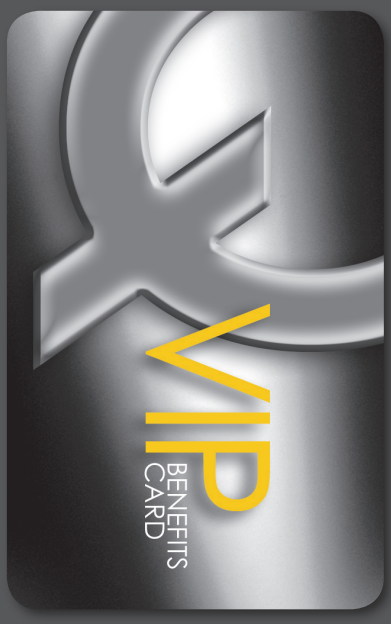

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The Male Bag Vegas
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610 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. 13

QVIBRATIONS

BY REV. BILL MORIN

AQUARIUS

(JANUARY 20-FEBRUARY 18)

From the full moon Feb. 1, most of the month looks all systems go. All you need to do is obey the speed limit and stay between the lines. The 5th looks best to ask the boss for a favor. A party on the 10th rocks your world. Keep a super low profile on the 26th.

PISCES

(FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 19)

Unlike Aquarius, your month runs more hot and cold. Ask for the world right up to the 8th. But, from the 9th-14th you'll be swimming upstream. Temper that impatient streak on the 19th. Don't pressure partners on the 23rd or it could backfire. Get away to a day spa on the 28th.

ARIES

(MARCH 20-APRIL 19)

"Happy days are here again" could be your theme for this month. Career momentum is with you, especially on the 10th and 11th. Listen to what superiors have to say on the 21st. Financial relief comes from an unexpected source on the 25th. Don't spread yourself too thin on the 30th.

TAURUS

(APRIL 20-MAY 20)

Physical energies look to be off as the month begins, but shall be back in gear by the 6th. A calm after the storm prevails around the 12th. A major financial choice made on the 18th affects you for years. Go off and be by yourself on the 24th. This triggers some major inspirations.

GEMINI

(MAY 21-JUNE 21)

Don't take sides in ongoing work disputes. Your patience gets put to the test on the 9th. Changing financial planners is the way to go as of the 15th. Be sensitive to your sweetie's needs on the 20th. Physical energy soars on the 23rd and 24th. Put it to good use, Gemini!

CANCER

(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

The 4th brings many work-related distractions. Watch those back/shoulder muscles on the 11th. Your intuition is quite strong on the 17th and 18th. Don't overeat on the 22nd. Finalize plans for that overseas trip by the 26th. February ends on a calm and collected note. Enjoy this while it lasts.

LEO

(JULY 23-AUGUST 22)

Annual full moon in your sign on the 1st triggers an avalanche of social invites. You're magnetic and super popular on the 13th. Incoming financial flow is much stronger after the 19th. A real-estate sale/purchase closes on the 24th. Don't hesitate to make your views known on the 28th.

VIRGO

(AUGUST 23-SEPTEMBER 22)

This month is higher octane than you'd actually like, but much will be accomplished. It's best to just follow orders on the 8th. A friendship that's been on the outs shall remain that way. You're charming and romantic on the 14th. A lovely surprise awaits you that night.

LIBRA

(SEPTEMBER 23-OCTOBER 22)

Beware of wet floors and ankle injuries on the 3rd. Keep that temper in check on the 9th. Financial aspects solidify on the 16th. Resist the urge to run on empty Feb. 21. Avoid that tempting financial golden idol on the 25th. You'll liven the party on the 27th.

SCORPIO

(OCTOBER 23-NOVEMBER 21)

The oh-so-serious Scorpio actually lightens up a bit on the 5th (someone take a picture, please!). The boss has good news for you on the 15th. You'll pass a test of faith with excellence on the 20th. Good news from back home lightens your heart and soul on the 26th.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 21)

No one shines brighter than a Sagittarius in love; it's a joy to behold. Financial aspects soar for you as of the 8th. A mini getaway from the 16th-18th bears unexpected fruit. The 25th finds you in a bright social spotlight. Moving in together is the next logical step.

CAPRICORN

(DECEMBER 22-JANUARY 19)

You'll need four hands and two heads to handle that workload on the 6th. The 10th looks fine for throwing a bash at home. Avoid caffeine on the 9th. New clients heighten your financial prospects as of the 19th. Oozing charm and enthusiasm brings about the best results on the 27th.

Rev. Bill Morin has been a psychic since the age of 5.
For a private consult, call 702-893-0611 or e-mail Mcentaur35@aol.com.



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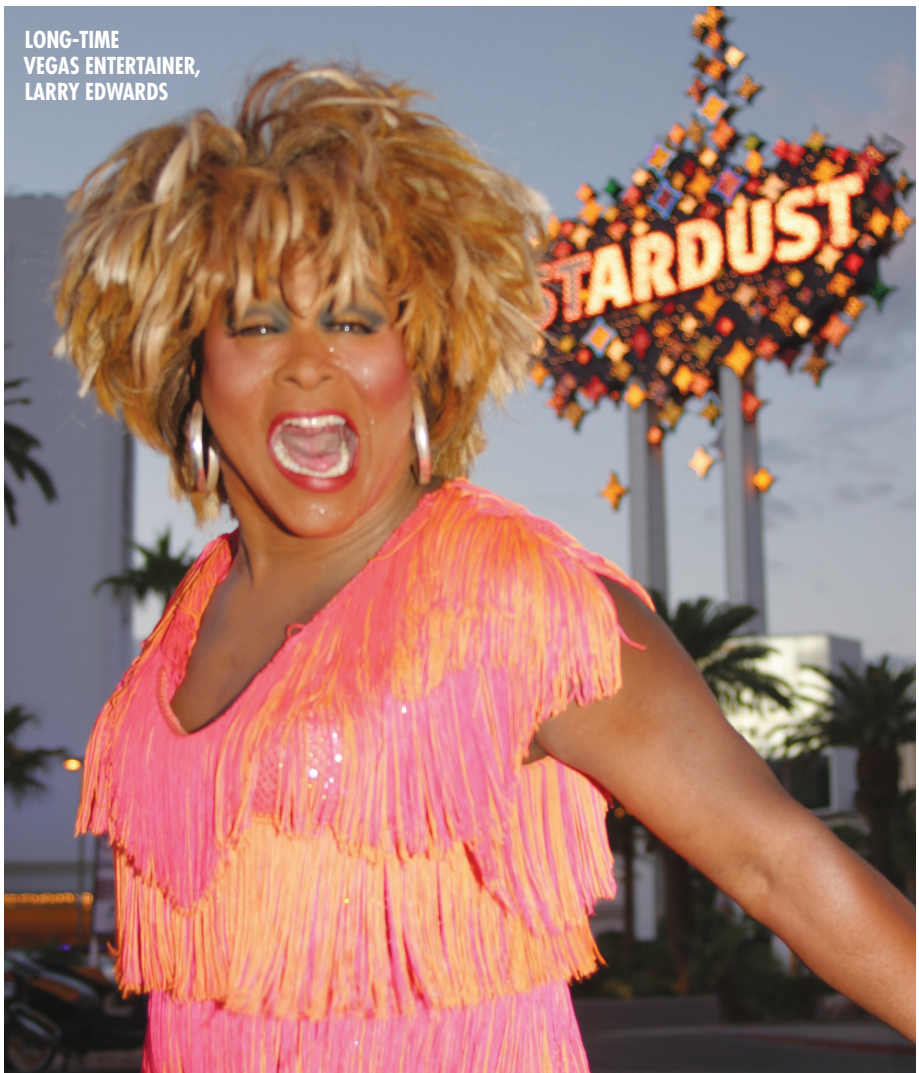
BY LARRY EDWARDS

A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT

The first person that comes to mind for accomplishments in entertainment is Oprah Winfrey. Oprah is amazing with her contribution to the Afro-American community. Bringing *The Color Purple* musical to Broadway is a major stepping stone in black entertainment. What a fabulous way to showcase the talents of Afro-American women and men. She's been dedicated to *The Color Purple*—producer of the movie and now the musical. That's wonderful.

Oprah recently opened a school in South Africa for African women. What a great donation from Oprah. All the time and effort—most importantly her generous donation—to go toward educating the people from her heritage. Oprah is also bringing awareness of AIDS in Africa. Seeing her contribution televised all over the country was incredible. Hats off to Oprah!



LONG-TIME VEGAS ENTERTAINER, LARRY EDWARDS

RELIGION AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Jesse Jackson is by far the BEST candidate for the Civil rights movement. Jesse has dedicated most of his life for this cause. He has traveled all over the world for civil rights. I'm still amazed that he flew to another country to try to bring world peace during the war. He deserves an award and much praise for his kind efforts while putting himself in jeopardy. Jesse is well respected by politicians all over the country. He's done so much for Afro-Americans today, and Jesse will go down in history as being the top civil rights leader of all time. I'm proud to have him representing Afro-Americans of today.

SPORTS

Tiger Woods winning The Masters of golf speaks for itself. Tiger is the first Afro-American to win such an award for golf. I'm so proud to see a true athlete win an award on a sport that not many Afro-American men can say they have won. Tiger you're looking good in that green jacket. Most athletes are *green* with envy. Tiger is a true professional and has proven twice that he deserves to win such a prestigious award. Tiger is GREATTTTTTTTTTTTTTT!

Magic Johnson is another Afro-American athlete I'm proud of. First of all, for him to admit on national television that he was HIV positive is very courageous. Being an athlete in a sport notorious for homophobic players (who believe HIV is only for gay men) was quite an eye opener for many athletes. Magic showed a lot of small-minded people that *everyone* can get HIV regardless of their sexual preference. Magic Johnson is a true athlete that cares for all mankind, and he's still going strong.

Happy and Healthy and willing to open the eyes of many people—now that's a team player! **Q**

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